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# THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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

**GOOD NEWS III** 

## Public gathers to honor board

December event celebrated statewide honor

By Randy Keck

January is School Board Recognition Month, and if statewide recognition is a gauge, residents in Aledo ISD have a lot to be proud of.

Back in October, the Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA) named the Aledo ISD Board of Trustees the 2021 Outstanding School Board — the top honor in the TASA School Board Awards program.

The AISD hosted a special program on Dec. 13 when Kevin Brown, the executive director of TASA, officially presented the plaque to the board.

Also present was Crystal Dockery of the Texas Association of Community Schools, regional education officials, community leaders, and past and present Aledo ISD board members.

After the introductions, those present watched a video of the award presentation in October. "The outstanding school board is made up of trustees who dedicate countless hours working on behalf of their students and their schools because they truly care about the future of our children. And it takes the entire board and the superintendent working together as a leadership team to be effective," the announcer said on the video. "We applaud you for your selfless service, for your dedication to your students, your schools, your community, for all of the greatness that's happening in Aledo ISD."

Aledo ISD Superintendent Dr. Susan Bohn told the group at the Dec. 13 event about the process of selection in the school board competition.

"There was paperwork and an application to put in for the process. And then also they had to go interview — we all went and interviewed with a panel of superintendents from across the state of Teyas"

Bohn also shared what she told the judges about the board.

"I told them that when I was hired in 2018... the board asked that we put students first and their learning, that we gain trust, especially in our community and with our staff, and that the board and the superintendent to be really good at governance for the benefit of every one of the students, the staff, and of course our community. And they, as a group, are exceptional.

"They take their obligation to this community, to our children, to our staff, to all of you incredibly seriously and they work very hard at it. If you are on our school board, it is not an easy thing. And



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Former AISD board member Terry Hyles (right) shows the school district's chief financial officer Earl Husfeld a financial audit from 1982 for the school district. The school district's total expenditures that year were \$2,712,966. That amount would cover about two-and-a half weeks of payroll in the district today.



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Aledo ISD school board members (from left) Jennifer Taylor, David Lear, Jennifer Loftin, Julie Turner, Forrest Collins, Jessica Brown, and Hoyt Harris.

you don't just come to one board meeting a month — there is a lot of other work. What they've accomplished in a short time together is huge student achievement gains, more exceptional experiences for students, more fine arts, more extracurriculars, more academic opportunities for students, and broad community trust."

TASA President Kevin Brown spoke about his impressions of Aledo ISD after visiting some AISD campuses.

"Not only do you look good on paper and in an interview, but you're really doing the work for kids," Brown said. "It plays out in the classroom every day. And that's impressive to see."

Turn to **AISD**, page A3



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEW

Kevin Brown, the executive director of the Texas Association of School Administrators, presents the outstanding school board award to AISD board president Hoyt Harris. Also shown are board members Jessica Brown and Jennifer Loftin.

## Outside the walls

Church collecting items for foster care alumni

By Randy Keck

There is no shortage of worthy causes in this world, but one group that might not have made it to many lists is foster children who have turned 18. A local congregation is working to remedy that.

Turn to **SERVE**, page A3

WILLOW PARK

## Council votes to consider new members to park advisory board

By Brandi Addison
The Community News

The Willow Park City Council during its first meeting of the year voted to consider the appointment of three new members to its park advisory board.

Places 2, 4 and 6 are due to expire this month.

Corey Tucker, who currently holds Place 2, has reapplied for his leadership role, while Place 4 Marisa Williams has not yet reapplied for her seat.

Place 4 Larry Johnson has moved from the city and resigned.

#### Other action items

Willow Park voted and approved a few action items during Tuesday's meeting, including:

- A correction to the ordinance that established the parks and recreation advisory board The ordinance previously issued a duplication, but the city's vote corrected the error.
- An amendment to the membership terms of the city's parks and recreations board.

Currently, two members serve a one-year term, while three others and the ex-officio serve two year-terms. Additionally, new appointments are made in September, and the board meets on the first Thursday of October, January, April and July.

The amendment changes terms to begin in January and two-year terms will alternate for even and odd years.

It also removed the meeting day and month to allow for more scheduling flexibility.





# St Around Parker County

## Father and Sons Tree Service provides exceptional care for all tree needs



Father and Sons Tree Service is a locally owned, family-owned business committed to a job-well-done.

Owner and founder Randy Grier said they provide for all tree needs — whether the tree is healthy and needs pruning or the tree is dying and requires total removal.

Grier said the company has some of the best trained climbers in North Texas and state-of-the-art equipment.

"Plus, we will always do the job right," Grier

Since its founding in 1997, the company has expanded to serve Hood, Johnson, Parker, and Tarrant counties and surrounding areas.

They also vow to provide the utmost care to your lawn and all nearby plants and property, he said.

"We strive to do a perfect job for each customer," Grier said. "Customer satisfaction is our top priority, and our work is always guaranteed."

Services range from tree and stump removal to pruning and trimming.

In addition, Father and Sons can provide 24 hour storm response, dead wood mistletoe removal, sick tree treatment, tree repair cabling, stump grinding, and lot clearing.

Grier provides tree services year-round and can be contacted at 817-296-2880.



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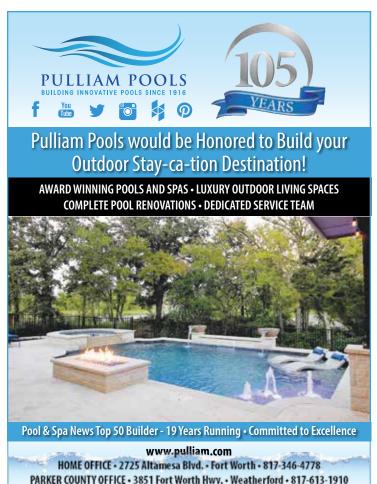




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#### **SERVE**

The Well, located in the Willow Crossing area of Willow Park, has a program called "Serve Sunday." Pastor Jack Hunt described the program.

"The original idea was to get outside the church walls, go somewhere and serve the community, serve a nonprofit; usually it's Christian-based, or just reliefbased mission and mindset," Hunt said.

In Serve Sunday, which usually occurs when there is a fifth Sunday, the church cancels its regular Sunday Morning programming and services and goes out to serve.

"The first one we ever did, we scheduled March of spring break 2020," Hunt said. "And we all know what happened March of spring break 2020. The schools sent our kids home and didn't take them back."

The first Serve Sunday was going to benefit a school, but the school told them not to come.

"We totally understood," Hunt said, and so we switched gears and we did a food drive for that first one. So instead of people serving together, it was sort of a 'go buy this and drop it off at the church' and we distributed it."

The church's Serve Sunday program has done several projects for Sanctified Hope, the ministry for women coming out of the Texas prison system, and it has done COVID care packages as well.

"It is really a God thing because one of our adherents or members will hear about something and

#### **ITEMS NEEDED**

The church is requesting the following new items for Serve

- Large Backpacks and medium-size rolling suitcases
- Men's Underwear and Socks (Size: S-XXL)
- Women's Underwear and Socks (Size: S-XXL)
- Men's Basketball Shorts/Sweatpants and T-shirts (Size:
- Women's Basketball Shorts/Sweatpants and T-shirts (Size: S-XXL)
- Women's and Men's Winter Jackets (Size: S-XXL)
- Laundry Kits (Detergent, Dryer Sheets, TidePods)
- Men's Hygiene Kits (Shampoo, Conditioner, Body Wash)
- Women's Hygiene Kits (Shampoo, Conditioner, Body Wash)
- Body Wash Kits (Old Spice, Axe, etc.)
- Wireless Headphones
- **Motivational Books**
- Simple Cookbooks
- Cookware
- Journal and Pen Sets

calendars," Hunt said.

Such was the case on the current project involving the above-mentioned foster children. The church got the idea from one of its members, an employee of Tarrant County College.

"We are collecting items for children who are aging out of foster care," Hunt said. "Unfortunately, older kids that have spent their entire adolescence in foster care — when they turn 18 they have to move out. The need is just too great to keep them in a foster home. And I know that not many people are prepared for the world at 18. especially, what these kids have been through."

The church is collecting items that a young person would need who is just starting out on his or

they know Serve Sunday is on our her own — "everything from personal care items, pots and pans, easy-to-make recipes, bedsheets and linens, kitchen utensils, anything that you would imagine moving into a one-bedroom apartment somewhere and having nothing because these kids, they don't have anything and so so that's what we're collecting,"

> Once the items are collected they will be delivered to Tarrant County College.

> Serve Sunday will be Jan. 30. items can be delivered to The Well at 700 Willow Crossing E in Willow Park. For more information, email hello@thewellaledo. com or visit thewellaledo.com.

We are collecting items for children who are aging out of foster care. Unfortunately, older kids that have spent their entire adolescence in foster care when they turn 18 they have to move out. The need is just too great to keep them in a foster home. And I know that not many people are prepared for the world at 18, especially, what these kids have been through.

**Jack Hunt** 

### **Obituaries**

#### **William McDonald**

William Sanford 69, passed away on Wednesday, December 29, 2021.

William was born December 11, 1952, in Enid, Oklahoma to James and Mary Lou Montgomery McDonald. His passion in life was ministering to others through God's word. During his early life, he ministered to col-



McDonald,

Will McDonald

lege students through his affiliation with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. He carried this purpose throughout his life seeking to connect with others by teaching, preaching, and mentoring.

He was dedicated to his role as vice president and principal of Freese and Nichols, Inc., and was an integral part of their client development for more than 23 years.

William was an avid reader with an extensive library in addition to his love for running. He loved his family and was greatly loved by them. He was a devoted friend and mentor to many.

William is survived by his wife of 46 years, Sarah Wallis McDonald; his daughters, Hannah Ware and husband John of Flower Mound, Allie Ricks and husband Case of League City, and Jillian North of Willow Park; sisters, Donna Knight of Texarkana, Kathleen Stewart of Benton, Louisiana, and Cassie Scrivner of Texarkana; brothers, Jack McDonald of Shirley, Arkansas, Jimmy McDonald of Rockwall, David McDonald of Litchfield, Arizona, Mark McDonald of Texarkana, Michael McDonald of Victoria, and Paul McDonald of Fouke, Texas; grandchildren, Tennyson, William, Declan, Kieran, Callen, Isla, and a baby girl on the

A memorial service will be held at at 2 p.m. Thursday, January 20, at the Christ Chapel Bible Church Chapel in Fort Worth. The service will be live-streamed at www. ccbcfamily.org/memorials. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to The American Association of Critical Care Nurses at https://www.aacn.org/give-aacn-a-gift.

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from page one

"The board sets the tone for everything," Brown added.

Brown presented a large plaque to the district and an individual award to each board member.

"You have a legacy that will go beyond your time on the board of trustees. And you have done your work on the shoulders of the prior trustees," Brown said.

AISD Board President Hoyt Harris spoke about continuity.

"This wasn't a one-year award," Harris said. "This award has been building and building." Harris recognized former

trustees in the audience before adding: "We learned a lot from previous successes they had and maybe some mistakes we had as a board as well — but that's part of working with the community and that's part of working with your

team of eight. If you pull all that together, when you have those bumps in the road, you'll have that trust built up and you can move forward. But if you don't have that trust with your community, it's a tough road to keep moving forward when you do hit a roadblock."

# MEET OUR ANCER-FIGHTING ROCK ST RS



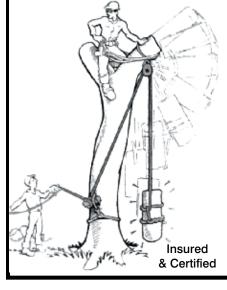
Talha Riaz, MD Medical Oncologist/Hematologist | Aaron Laine, MD, PhD Radiation Oncologist



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# Commentary

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Capital Highlights

## **Emergency SNAP** benefits again extended



Gary Borders gborders@texaspress.com

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission is again extending emergency food benefits this month, with more than \$307 million in emergency allocations expected to help more than 1.5 million Texas households.

"As Texans ring in the new year, this additional support will help families start 2022 with food on the table for themselves and their children," said Wayne Salter, HHSC deputy executive commissioner.

The agency received approval from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to extend the maximum allowable amount of benefits provided through the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. That means recipients will receive at least \$95 in emergency SNAP allotments by Jan. 31, in addition to their regular allotment.

Texans in need can apply for benefits at YourTexasBenefits.com.

#### **Former Houston NFL player** pleads guilty to fraud

A former linebacker for the Houston Texans has pleaded guilty to taking part in a scheme to defraud a player health care reimbursement fund by submitting false claims totaling more than \$129,000.

Shantee Orr is one of eight former NFL players accused in a case led by Texas Department of Insurance investigators working with prosecutors from the Harris County District Attorney's office.

"Those claims were for rehab therapies and medical treatments that were never actually provided," TDI prosecutor Rick Watson said. "The players and the trainer would each get a cut of the money that was reimbursed by the fund."

Orr pleaded guilty to a third-degree felony, paid restitution and will serve five years probation.

#### Insurance companies line up to sue ERCOT

As the one-year anniversary of the winter storm that left millions without power approaches, more than 100 insurance companies are suing the state's main power grid operator and a number of electricity providers, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

Defendants are the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, as well as companies that supply power through ERCOT. The power failure caused more than \$10 billion in property damage, primarily to residences.

The suit claims ERCOT "failed to adequately prepare for the 2020-2021 winter season, and in fact, planned to fail," noting that the agency had projected the state would end up in the highest state of emergency in the event of an extreme weather event, the *Statesman* reported.

ERCOT controls nearly all the state's power grid.

#### Abbott sues feds over vaccine mandate for Guard

Gov. Greg Abbott last week announced he will sue the federal government to fight a COVID-19 vaccine requirement for members of the Texas National Guard.

In a letter released last week, Abbott prohibited the Texas National Guard from punishing any service member who does not receive the vaccine.

"Unless President Biden federalizes the Texas National Guard in accordance with Title 10 of the U.S. Code, he is not your commander-in-chief under our federal or state Constitutions," Abbott wrote. "And as long as I am your commander-in-chief, I will not tolerate efforts to compel receipt of a COVID19 vaccine."

The Biden administration maintains the secretary of defense has the legal power to require vaccines. In a mid-November press conference, Pentagon press secretary John F. Kirby said, in part, "When (guardsmen are) called up for their monthly training, they're still federally funded. So (the secretary) has those authorities. And he believes, and this is a larger point, that vaccinated forces are a more ready force."

#### **COVID-19** cases more than triple in past week

The omicron variant of COVID-19 has sent cases skyrocketing throughout the state, with a record-high 413,994 new cases reported by the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University in the past week — nearly four times the number reported the previous week.

A total of 717 new deaths were reported, up 70% from the previous week.

The Texas Department of State Health Services reported 9,803 lab-confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations as of Sunday, an increase of 77% from the previous week. Just a month ago, hospitalizations had dropped below 3,000, according to DSHS. The number of new cases this past week is more than ten times the total reported a month ago.

#### Second round of vaccine funding begins

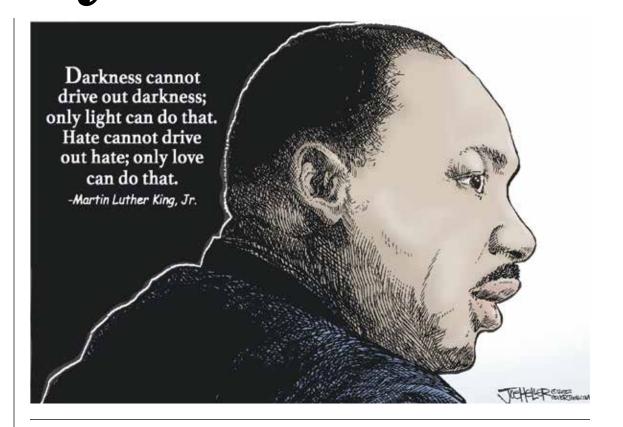
A second round of funding for the state's COVID-19 vaccine outreach program has begun. Organizations can apply for grants ranging from \$50,000 to \$1 million "to engage in vaccine education and outreach with the goal of increasing the number of fully vaccinated Texans against COVID-19."

Money will be awarded for projects that increase access to COVID-19 vaccines or provide outreach to populations disproportionately affected by the virus.

"As with the first round of funding, DSHS is confident that community-based organizations are perfectly positioned to offer local support for those who seek access for and information about COVID-19 vaccine services," said Imelda Garcia, DSHS associate commissioner for laboratory and infectious disease services.

To learn more about the program, visit https://health.tamu.edu/vaccinegrant/ round-2.htmlhttps://health.tamu.edu/vaccinegrant/round-2.html

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

## My coffee cup



Randy Keck

We all receive gifts at one time or another along life's journey, but some gifts inevitably mean more than others.

My late aunt Joyce knitted or crocheted (I'm not sure which) an afghan that she gave me as a gift when I graduated from Iowa Park High School in 1975.

Now, some 46 years later, I still use it when it gets chilly, and I always think of her when I do.

I want to tell you about another such gift.

I was honored to serve as president of the Texas Press Association (TPA) from the summer of 2016 to the summer of 2017. As a magician by hobby, I used a magical theme when we planned the 2017 TPA convention.

Two of my great friends, Jim and Suzanne Bardwell, have always been mainstays at pretty much every press convention I have ever attended. In fact, Jim was the president of the North and East Texas Press Association in my early years at this newspaper, and he is the one who originally nominated me to a leadership position in that organization.

Jim and Suzanne have always come as a couple. They met at church camp when they were 13 years old, and a few years later they became husband and wife.

Jim was always publisher material and was hired to run several newspapers over the years, and Suzanne was a teacher — a very good one. every gathering, teaching her

She taught journalism for many years until she and Jim decided to venture out on their own and buy their own newspaper, the Gladewater Mirror. Later, they added the White Oak Independent and the Lindale News and Times.

They worked hand-inhand to produce those three small newspapers.

As my presidential year came to a close at that 2017 Texas Press convention, Suzanne and Jim gave me a gift - a coffee cup.

The cup has a rabbitin-the-hat magical theme. On one side it says "POOF! My work here is done." On the flip side, the cup says "I always manage to pull it out of somewhere."

The cup had profound meaning for me in many ways. Of course, the magical theme was there. But the message on the front side of the cup marked the end of a journey. My work there was done.

The flip side, "I always manage to pull it out of somewhere," could be the mantra for pretty much every community newspaper publisher I know!

More often there are weeks when any given publisher wonders if it is going to happen, wonders if the pages will be ready for the printer, but we always manage to pull it out.

Since Jim and Suzanne gave me that cup, with very few exceptions I drink my coffee from it every morning.

And just as I think of my aunt when I use the afghan, I think of Jim and Suzanne when I drink my coffee each

I am a part of a Texas newspaper family that is coping with the loss of Suzanne, who died in a car accident last Friday.

She was a bright spot of





students not only journalism,

She wrote personal letters to many of her students, and handed out "Bard's Life's Little Instruction Book" containing a couple of hundred "rules" such as "The secret of happy living is not to do what you like, but to like what you do." Another is "Joy is not the absence of suffering but the presence of God.'

One of her former students wrote: "She was truly one of a kind, and one of the greatest gifts God could have given to the people she touched, inspired, encouraged, and meant so much to. To this day, I always tell people of 'that one teacher' that really encouraged me and saw something in me that I didn't even see myself."

Suzanne left those who knew her, and especially her students, gifts that they will use all their lives — gifts much more substantial than a coffee

Her gifts were tools to a better life..

If I could say one thing to Suzanne today, it would be to quote the coffee cup. "Your work here is done. I don't think you could have done it any better."

## The Community News

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#### SUBMIT STORIES, **PHOTOS OR IDEAS**

We're always on the lookout for story ideas. To share one, call Randy Keck at 817-441-7661, ext. 207 or email news@community-news.com. Please provide the basic story information as well as contact information in case we have questions.

We welcome letters, articles and guest opinions from our readers. Opinions expressed in this newspaper will be labeled as opinions, editorials or letters, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the ownership. Letters should be signed, and limited to approximately 300 words. All submissions to the newspaper should include a telephone number in case we have questions. Letters are due by Monday at noon for that week's paper. Community announcements, achievements and obituaries are due by noon Friday for the following week's paper. Send submissions to news@community-news.com.

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

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

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#### NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL **CITY OF WILLOW PARK**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Willow Park, Texas, will receive written Proposals only, for MOWING AND LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE SERVICES, as stated in the Request for Proposal documents.

The City shall receive Proposals from qualified professional lawn service companies specializing in commercial lawn maintenance for the City of Willow Park as outlined in the Request for Proposal.

Said Proposals must be in the office of the City Secretary, City of Willow Park, 516 Ranch House Road, Willow Park, Texas 76087, and NO LATER THAN 2:00 P.M. CST on FEBRUARY 11, 2022. Proposals that are postmarked but not received until after this deadline will not be accepted. Proposals received after the posted cut-off time will not be accepted.

#### All Proposals are to be marked clearly on the outside "PROPOSALS FOR MOWING AND LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE SERVICE".

Proposals may sent electronically via email to tfisher@willowpark. org; mailed to City of Willow Park, Attn: City Secretary, 516 Ranch House Road, Willow Park, Texas, 76087; or, delivered by courier or in person to the City Secretary's office, Willow Park City Hall, 516 Ranch House Road, Willow Park, Texas 76087.

Request for Proposal documents may be downloaded at www. willowpark.org, or obtained at the City of Willow Park City Hall, 516 Ranch House Road, Willow Park, TX 76087. Proposal documents will be available for download/pickup on and after JANUARY 24, 2022. Further information may be requested by email to Toni Fisher at tfisher@willowpark.org.

The right is reserved to reject any and all Proposals or to accept the Proposal which is deemed by the City of Willow Park to be in the best interest of the City of Willow Park. The City of Willow Park also reserves the right to waive any irregularities and/or informalities in the Proposal process.

For additional information, contact the City of Willow Park at (817) 441-7108.

#### ALEDO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT REQUEST FOR **COMPETITIVE SEALED PROPOSALS**

**2019 BOND PROGRAM VANDAGRIFF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CONVERSION TO ALEDO ISD EARLY CHILDHOOD ACADEMY** CSP 22-011422

The Aledo Independent School District (the District) will accept Competitive Sealed Proposals for Vandagriff Elementary School Conversion to Aledo ISD Early Childhood Academy until 2:00 PM on Thursday, February 3, 2022, in the Business Department at the Aledo Independent School District Administration Building, 1008 Bailey Ranch Road, Aledo, TX 76008. A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held at 10:00 AM on Monday, January 17, 2022, at Vandagriff Elementary School, 408 FM 1187 South, Aledo, TX 76008. A building tour will follow the Pre-Proposal Conference. Proposal evaluation criteria are published in the Instructions to Offerors section of the proposal documents. Plans and specifications will be released on Friday, January 14, 2022, and are available to interested parties from the following address upon deposit of \$250.00 per set: PBK Architects, Inc., 100 Throckmorton, Suite 1550, Fort Worth, Texas 76102, 817-332-4333. Link to digital copies may be found on the Business Department Bid Documents page of the District's website: https://www.aledoisd.org/Page/4288. The District reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals, to accept the proposal that provides the best value to the District, and to waive all formalities with respect thereto.

#### QUOTABLE

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."

**Martin Luther King, Jr.** 

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A public hearing is being held on February 22, 2021 at 7:00 PM at 516 Ranch House Road to discuss the City of Willow Park's proposed project to build a new wastewater treatment plant and pipeline North of IH-20 near Crowne Point Boulevard. One of the purposes of this hearing is to discuss the potential environmental impacts of the project and alternatives to it. The total estimated cost of the project is \$14.31 million. The estimated monthly bill for a typical resident is currently \$50.90. A user rate increase of \$3.00/ month will be required to finance this project. In addition, a connection fee/tax/surcharge/other fee of \$0 will be required. An application for financial assistance for the project has been (will be) filed with the Texas Water Development Board, P.O. Box 13231, Austin, Texas, 78711-3231. An Environmental Information Document for the project has been prepared which will be available for public review at Willow Park City Hall at 516 Ranch House Road between the hours of 9:00 AM and 4:00 pm for 30 days following the date of this notice. Written comments on the proposed project may be sent to Jacob & Martin Engineering 3465 Curry Lane Abilene, TX 79605 or to the Texas Water Development Board.

#### Floodplain/Wetland: Incorporate into Public Meeting Notice for projects in a floodplain or wetland

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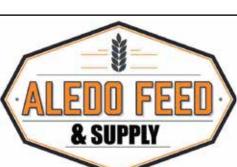
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## ON THE SIDE

#### Winter Sports

Please note sports schedules are subject to change.

#### JAN. 13

Soccer - AHS Boys - Moritz KIA Tournament JV: TBA; V: TBA

Soccer - AHS Girls - Moritz KIA **Tournament** JV: 10:30 a.m. vs. Waxahachie; V: 12 p.m. vs. Waxahachie

Basketball - AHS Boys - at Azle 9A: 6:15 p.m.; JV: 5 p.m.; V: 7:30

Basketball - AHS Girls - at Azle 9: 7:30 p.m.; JV: 5 p.m.; V: 6:15 p.m.

Soccer - AHS Girls - Moritz KIA Tournament JV: 9 a.m. vs. Arlington Heights; V: 12 p.m. vs. Arlington Heights

#### **JAN. 15**

Soccer - AHS Girls - Moritz KIA Tournament JV: 10:30 p.m. vs. Midlothian; V: TBA

#### <u>JAN. 18</u>

Basketball - AHS Boys - Witchita Falls Riders 9A: 6:15 p.m.; JV: 5 p.m.; V: 7:30

Basketball - AHS Girls - Witchita Falls Riders

9: 7:30 p.m.; JV: 5 p.m.; V: 6:15 p.m.

Soccer - AHS Boys - Northwest

V: 7 p.m

Soccer - AHS Boys - at Northwest JV II: 4 p.m.; JV: 5:30 p.m.

Soccer - AHS Boys - at Birdville **Tournament** JV: TBA; V: TBA

Turn to SIDE, page A8



The Trinity Christian Academy swim team competed against a number of large DFW area public schools at the Western Hills shootout on Saturday, Jan. 8. The boys team placed fifth overall and the girls team placed seventh. The boys freestyle relay took home a third-place standing. Jack Mendoza placed sixth in the 50 freestyle shootout and fifth in the pentathlon. All swimmers obtained new personal bests in their events. Shown are (front row, from left) Taylor Hale, Matthew Loritz, Rio Lipsky, Belle Huffman, Chance Wortham, Graham Morrow, Wilson Winchester, and Ben Camp and (back row) Jack Mendoza and Ty Miller.

SOCCER

## Injuries and illness plague Bearcats

**By Nolan Ruth** 

It is just the way things go in sports sometimes. An injury benches one player, an illness benches another. From youth teams to the professionals, there is no escaping it. Unfortunately for the Aledo Bearcats soccer team,

that is where they are in right now. It all started on Tuesday, Jan. 4, during a win against Abilene Wylie that captain and star midfielder

Clay Murador got raked by a cleat as the only players with varsity and hurt his achilles. The injury kept him out of the Colleyville Heritage tournament the weekend of Jan. 6-8. On top of that, junior defenseman Jackson Tucker was held out due to illness.

From there, everything snowballed. Going into the tournament, almost the entire starting eleven was battling some form of injury or illness, leaving senior Taylon Kessler and junior Sawyer Storck

This is Where

experience to take the pitch.

With so many players not playing and the inexperience of the starters, the Bearcats struggled in the tournament, falling 1-0 to Burleson in the first match. The next day was not any better for Aledo, as they fell to Irving Nimitz

Things looked grim going into the final day. Having to face

Turn to **BEARCATS**, page A7

SOCCER

## Ladycats on the upswing after slow start

**By Nolan Ruth** 

Despite being hopeful in the preseason and with three returning stars, the Aledo Ladycats soccer season got off to a bit of a rocky start. From Thursday, Jan. 6 to Saturday, Jan. 8 the Ladycats competed in the Waxahachie tournament to start the

The first game took place on Thursday against familiar foe, Midlothian Heritage. McKenna Vela and Emaree Gibson both scored goals to keep it a competitive game, but it was not enough to match the three goals scored by Heritage.

"I felt like we played well," head coach Bryan Johnson said about the match. "I thought getting those two goals was good, but of course we gave up that one at the end that lost it for us."

On Friday, Aledo took on Forney and much like the first game, the defense struggled as Forney jumped out to an early lead and never looked back en route to a 3-1 win. Jourdan Hart scored the lone goal for the

"We looked like we were running around in mud," Johnson said. "It was an ugly game. Forney was good and talented; they had some speed and quickness. I felt that two of the goals we gave up were soft, but we'll get that rectified."

In the final game of the tournament, Aledo took on Red Oak in an early morning match. The game was defined by the constant midfield battle for possession. Ashlyn Laughly buried the first goal of the game in the 14th minute. The constant

Turn to LADYCATS, page A7



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BASKETBALL

## Tough weeks for AHS varsity teams

Staff Reports

Returning from the Christmas break has not been easy for the Aledo High School varsity basketball teams.

The Bearcats lost to Fort Worth Christian on Jan. 4 and then to Abilene Wylie on Jan. 7.

The Ladycats fell to Glen Rose on Jan 3, Brewer on Jan 7, and lost a close game against Granbury on Jan. 11.

The Aledo Middle School girls swept Joshua Loflin on Jan 6.

> Boys' box scores on page 8

#### Varsity Girls vs Dallas Parrish Episcopal

Dec.	2.

DCC. ZI					
Aledo:	15	11	9	11	46
Parrish	12	11	8	14	45
Presley Hull Byars 8, Rea Kandle Bogg	gan Da	vis 5, <i>i</i>	Abby	Morris	

#### JV Girls vs Glen Rose

Aledo: 7 6 10 5 28 GlenRose: 0 2 9 8 19						
GlenRose: 0 2 9 8 19	Aledo:	7	6	10	5	28
	GlenRose:	0	2	9	8	19
Kennis Marx 8, Haley Farmer 4, Presle Bergen 4, Addi Durrand 2, Julian Caggiano 2, Caroline Browning 3, Hanna Good 5	Bergen 4, A Caggiano 2, Ca	ddi	Durra	nd 2,	Jul	iann

#### Varsity Girls vs Glen Rose

va	r	SII	ιy
Jar	1.	3	

Aledo:	5	11	4	9	29
GlenRose:	19	17	13	11	60
Reagan Davis	7, Add	dy Heb	el 5, F	resle	/ Hull
4, Kinley Elm	ıs 4,	Haley	Lowe	4, S	ophie
Smith 2, Kenz	ie Gra	au 2, K	andle	Boggi	us 1

#### JV Girls vs Brewer

Jan. 7					
Aledo;	8	16	7	6	37
Brewer:	9	7	5	8	29
Caroline Brov	vning	6,	Hannah	Go	od 4,
Taylor Paetzolo	d 4, P	resle	ey Berger	ı 2,	Haley

#### **Varsity Girls vs Brewer**

Jan. 7					
Aledo:	11	6	8	16	41
Brewer:	7	7	16	14	44
Claire Byars : 2, Reagan Da					y Hu

#### IV Girls vs Granhury

Jan. 11		ai aii		,				
Aledo:	2	6	3	19	30			
Granbury:	7	8	5	6	26			
Caroline Browning 15, Hannah Good 6,								
Taylor Paetzolo	d 5,	Haley	Farm	er 2,	Addi			
Durand 2								

#### Varsity Girls vs Granbury

Juli. 11					
Aledo:	11	21	9	18	59
Granbury:	14	15	13	21	63
Addyson Hebe	1 24,	Claire	Byars	22, K	andle
Boggus 5, Pre	sley	Hull 3,	Soph	ie Sm	ith 3

#### Frosh Girls vs Granbury

Aledo:	16	8	18	5	47
Granbury	: 45	4	6	19	
Ella Isbell 2 Evans 3, Reb	ekah Ja	rrell -	4, Add	lie Sm	ith 8
Jaley Hockad	day 3, M	addo	x Luca	s 2, A	ugus

#### **Aledo Middle School Girls** vs Joshua Loflin

Jan. 6 7th grade A - 50-8, B - 23-0, C - 32-58th grade A - 46-5, B - 47-12, C - 31-0

## **LADYCATS**

struggle continued into the second half until Red Oak tied it in the 51st minute on a corner kick. Neither team could break the stalemate from there and the match ended in a 1-1 draw.

"It's disappointing," Johnson said after the draw. "Giving up that goal off of the corner, again a soft goal and not being where we need to be. However we came out in a new formation and may have found our new left back. I think we're going to be alright."

Already on the upswing, the tournament the Ladycats hosted the Richland Royals on Tuesday, Jan. 11. Almost immediately Aledo came out and swung

momentum in their favor. Laughley delivered the first blow in the third minute with an assist from Gibson. Still in the first half, Laughley made another great play when she sliced through the defense and passed back to Vela who buried the goal in the lower right corner. In the second half, Reece Warren's shot was deflected by the Richland goalkeeper and right to Ella Bertram who put it in the empty net with

**A7** 

Goalkeeper Emma Davis continually squelched any Richland attack and secured the shutout with a 3-0 win.

"It was a positive result against a quality opponent," Johnson said after the first win of the season. "I feel that we got better as the game wore on. We came out pretty strong in the first half, and we looked way better than we did last week."

The girls start the Moritz Kia Tournament on Thursday with a noon match against Waxahachie at Bearcat Stadium, looking to build on the win and their 1-2-1 record.

## **BEARCATS**

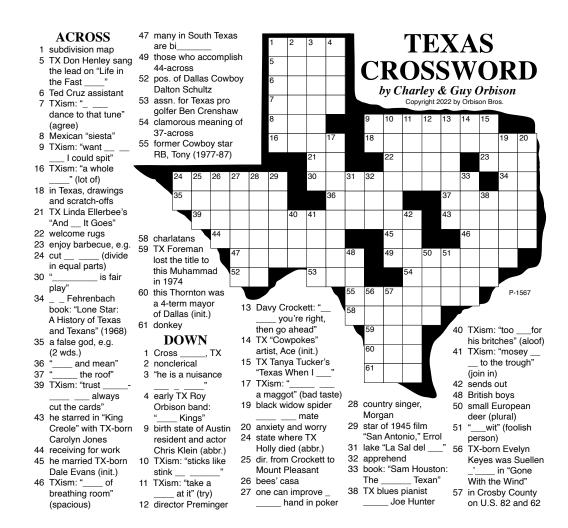
from page six

Keller Timber Creek, who had beaten Irving Nimitz 6-1, the young Bearcat squad had a tall task ahead. Unfortunately their fears were realized when Timber Creek dominated from start to finish, dropping Aledo easily by a score of 7-0. The final result was the worst defeat in the history of Aledo soccer.

Head Coach Derek Vierling hoped to get some of his players back after the tournament in time for their match with Crowley on Tuesday, Jan. 11. However none of the players were able to return, and Aledo once again was forced to go in short handed.

Much like the game with Timber Creek, Crowley took advantage of the weakened Bearcats and rolled to a 6-0 shut out. The four game stretch is among the worst in program history, also including the two worst defeats.

The good news is that most of the players who have been out are expected to return in time for the Moritz Kia Tournament from Thursday, Jan. 13 to Saturday, Jan. 15 at Bearcat Stadium and the surrounding grass fields. The Bearcats will look to get back on track and boost their 1-4 record with strong performances at





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## SIDE

from page six

Soccer - AHS Girls - at Justin Northwest Tournament JV: 1 p.m. vs. Hebron; V: 1 p.m. vs. Timber Creek

#### JAN. 21

Basketball - AHS Boys - at Witchita Falls High 9A: 6:15 p.m.; JV: 5 p.m.; V: 7:30 p.m.

Basketball - AHS Girls - at Witchita Falls High JV: 5 p.m.; V: 6:15 p.m.

Soccer - AHS Girls - at Justin Northwest Tournament JV: 3 p.m. vs. Mansfield Legacy; V: 9 a.m. vs. Mansfield Legacy

#### JAN. 22

Soccer - AHS Girls - at Justin Norhtwest tournament JV: 11 a.m. vs. Prosper; V: 9 a.m. vs. Hebron

#### JAN. 25

Basketball - AHS Boys - Brewer 9A: 6:15 p.m.; JV: 5 p.m.; V: 7:30

Basketball - AHS Girls - Brewer 9: 7:30 p.m.; JV: 5 p.m.; V: 6:15 p.m.

Tennis - AHS Boys - JV: Parker County Peach Bowl

#### JAN. 26

Soccer - AHS Boys - Crowley JV II: 5 p.m.

#### JAN. 28

Basketball - AHS Boys - at Granbury 9A: 6:15 p.m.; JV: 5 p.m.; V: 7:30 p.m.

Basketball - AHS Girls - at Granbury 9: 7:30 p.m.; JV: 5 p.m.; V: 6:15 p.m.

Soccer - AHS Boys - Springtown V: 7 p.m.

#### FEB. 1

Basketball - AHS Boys - Azle 9A: 6:15 p.m.; JV: 5 p.m.; V: 7:30 p.m.





RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

LEFT: Camden Yoelding looks for an open man. | RIGHT: Peyton Wiggins drives to the basket.

#### Varsity Boys vs. Fort Worth Christian

Jan. 4						
Aledo	6	2	14	21	43	
FWC	2	13	13	21	49	
Drow Close 17	Dovet	on Wi	raine 1	11 Ca	mdon	Violdin

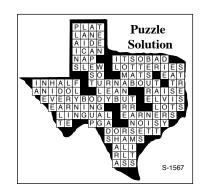
Drew Closc 17, Peyton Wiggins 11, Camden Yielding 7, Isaaac Sohn 4, Cody Pokrifsak 2, Todd Jackson 2

## **Varsity Boys vs. Abilene Wylie** *Jan. 7*

 Aledo
 4
 13
 2
 14
 33

 Wylie
 6
 3
 19
 14
 42

 Drew Clock 18, Ethan Pierce 6, Camden Yielding 4, Peyton Wiggins 3, Isaac Sohn 2



#### TCA

## Basketball teams fall to tough opposition

Trinity Christian Academy boys basketball opened up district play last week competing on the road facing Lubbock Trinity, the no. 2 ranked team in TAPPS 4A, and Lubbock Christian, the no.8 ranked team in TAPPS 4A.

The Eagles fell short in both contests against very tough opponents. Trinity will be back in action this week playing at home on Jan. 15 in a rematch against Lubbock Christian.

Kanyon Kelley led scoring against Lubbock Trinity with 15 points. Toby Thomes and Brody Blauser contributed 10 and 8 respectively. Kelley also led TCA against Lubbock Christian with 21 points. Others with double digit scoring were Blauser with 17, Landry Crumpler with 12, and Thomes with 11.

TCA	13	11	8	6 38
LBK Trinity	25	25	26	12 88
Kanyon Kelley 15	Tohy Th	omes	10 R	rody Blauser 8

TCA	13	14	13	21	61
LBK Christian	22	18	21	14	75
Kanyon Kelley 21, Brody Blauser 17, Landry Crumpler 12. Tohy Thomes 11					

Lady Eagles fall to Lubbock schools

The girls basketball team opened district play with back to back games against Lubbock Trinity (no.7 in the state) and Lubbock Christian (no. 1 in the state).

The Lady Eagles dropped Friday night's game with Lubbock Trinity 75-12.

Defensively, the team was led by Paige Bull (4 steals) and Meredith Miller.

Macy Prestwood and Caroline Thompson led the team in rebounding with 8 each.

Saturday afternoon, the Lady Eagles tipped off against Lubbock Christian. Losing 59-19. Paige Bull and Caroline Thompson led the team in scoring with 6 points each. Followed by Macy Prestwood (4 points and 7 rebounds).

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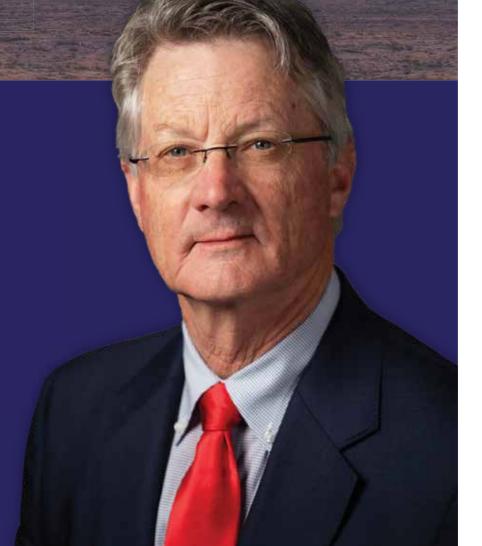
As state representative, one of my top priorities is securing our border. The Biden Administration's disastrous policies have put all of Texas in danger. The lack of a secure border puts all our communities at risk, not just those on the border. Crime rates are rising as drug cartels, gangs, and human 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.



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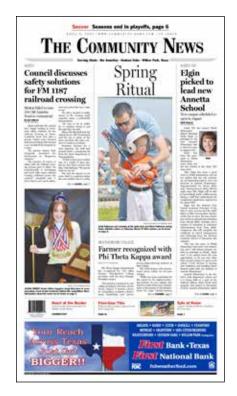
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JANUARY 14, 2022 THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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#### 2021 - The Year in Review



#### APR. 2

Aledo staff and city council began looking at short-term safety solutions for the railroad crossing at Farm-to-Market Road 1187, after viewing drone footage that showed a car seconds from being hit by a train.

The council has considered several options for the intersection, but is thwarted by the fact that 1187 is a state road and state approval must be sought to change the intersection. After a majority residents of the Parker Station subdivision — 48 of 51 homes — signed a petition against the zoning change for 500 Old Annetta Road and several spoke out during public hearings, Aledo City Council voted against the change during the March 25 council meeting.





KRISTINMORALES.NET/EXCLUSIVE TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

McKenna Vela wrestles with a Centennial defender in the Ladycats' area championship game at Castleberry. The Ladycats fell in the area championship. April 2 issue.

#### APR. 9

Aledo ISD leadership turned the first ceremonial dirt on the new McAnally Middle School, which will be north of I-20 on Old Weatherford Road. The school is named for Charles McAnally, who was one of the pioneers of the district. Ater attending Aledo schools, McAnally became was a teacher and later served as a coach, a principal and a superintendent.

#### APR. 16

Aledo ISD gained unwanted national attention when a social media "game" developed by three students at the Don Daniel Ninth Grade Campus riled the community. The game was referred to as "Slave Trade" as students "bid" on their black classmates. The next name change was to "Ni\*\*er Farm," and another change was to "Ni\*\*er Auction."

Emoticons showed devils and guns pointed at black farmers.
The incident cast an ugly light on racism in the community.



KRISTINMORALES.NE

Tristan Thurman cleared 6-0 to win the boys varsity District 5-5A medal at the district track meet. April 9 issue.

In Willow Park, the Fort Worth Water Project continued to move forward, with For Worth agreeing to provide a temporary meter station, so that once the line is in place, residents can immediately get water from it.

#### APR. 23

Aledo Mayor Kit Marshall announced at the April 22 city council meeting that a potential agreement is in negotiation that would bring property on the east side of 1187 into the



**April 16 Cover** 



April 23 Cover

city's ETJ (extra-territorial jurisdiction).

The move was in response to the pending sale of the Dean Ranch. The transaction would not immediately put the land in Aledo's city limits, but it would make it available for Aledo to annex in the future.

In an event spawned by news of a "Slave Trade" game among a group of Aledo ISD students, more than 20 people spoke out about racism at a school board meeting.

Many expressed dissatisfaction with what they considered a lack of response to the issue and called upon the Aledo ISD Board of Trustees to act.





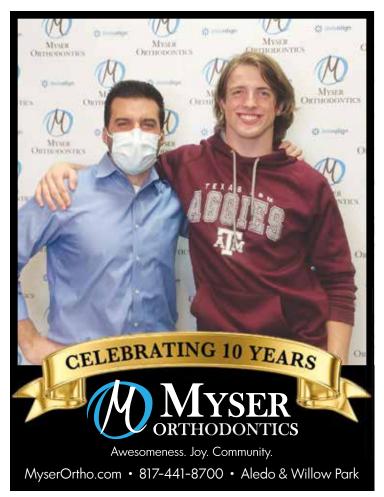


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**B2** January 14, 2022 THE COMMUNITY NEWS



JACKIE HAYSLIP/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Marissa Powell blasts a home run during the Flower Mound Marcus game.

#### **APR. 30**

The City of Aledo entered the earliest phase in its attempt to add a portion of Dean Ranch into itsExtraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ), a 243acre property located along the east side of Farm-to-Market Road 1187, which is currently in Fort Worth's

Mayor Kit Marshall said she had signed a non-binding proposal to allow the city to begin the Extraterritorial jurisdiction agreement with Fort Worth.

Voters prepared to go to the polls on Saturday, May 1, to select school board and city council representatives. In addition, voters in Emergency Services District No. 1 were to decide whether to approve a one-cent sales tax in those areas that have not already reached the statutory maximum of 8.25%.

#### <u>MAY 7</u>

Voters in the May 1 municipal and school board elections expressed support for all three challenged incumbents in the Aledo ISD races, but turned out two City of Aledo incumbents.

The Parker County Sheriff 's Office, working in collaboration with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and Fort Worth Police, spearheaded an investigation leading to the arrest of a suspect



in connection with the drug-related death of an Aledo teen.

On April 14, the suspected supplier. Brosnon Marquis Ashton, 29, of Fort Worth, was arrested by Tarrant County Sheriff 's deputies as a felon in possession of a firearm. Ashton is accused of supplying fentanyl that led to the death of an Aledo teen.

#### MAY 14

The Willow Park City Council unanimously approved the city's entry into a public network that will allow the



city to provide and receive public works aid to and from participating cities in emergencies and disasters at its regular meeting on May 11. The Public Works Emergency Response Team is made of 60 cities across North Texas, including Fort Worth and Dallas. It also includes Collin, Ellis, Kaufman, Rockwall, Tarrant, and Wise counties.

#### **MAY 21**

Trinity Christian Academy celebrated the groundbreaking of its new out-



Samuel Herman, 4, sports a new Willow Park fire hat with his dad. Tim. May 7 issue.



door athletic facilities with a public ceremony on Friday, May 14. The project, set on Bankhouse Road behind TCA, will include a football field with artificial turf, bleachers to seat at least 1,000 people, a press box, a competition eightlane track, a field house, public

restrooms and concessions, and parking for about 350 cars.

The Aledo ISD began considering hiring additional staff members to help close learning gaps with funds from the state.

The board of trustees heard about the need for additional staffing from Superintendent Susan Bohn and Chief Financial Officer Earl Husfeld at its May 18 meeting.

#### **MAY 28**

The Willow Park City Council voted to issue the certificates of obligation for a loan that will allow the city to begin construction and improvements of wastewater system properties and facilities.

The loan is not to exceed \$14.13 million. Interest rates range from 0.60% to 2.11% over 30 years for an average of 1.59% each year.

The much-anticipated Parker County Ice House neared completion, offering a unique blend of indoor and outdoor music and dining amenities in this area.



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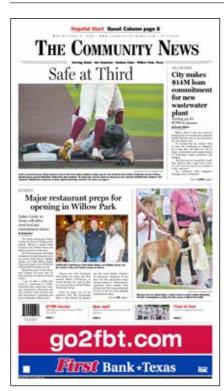
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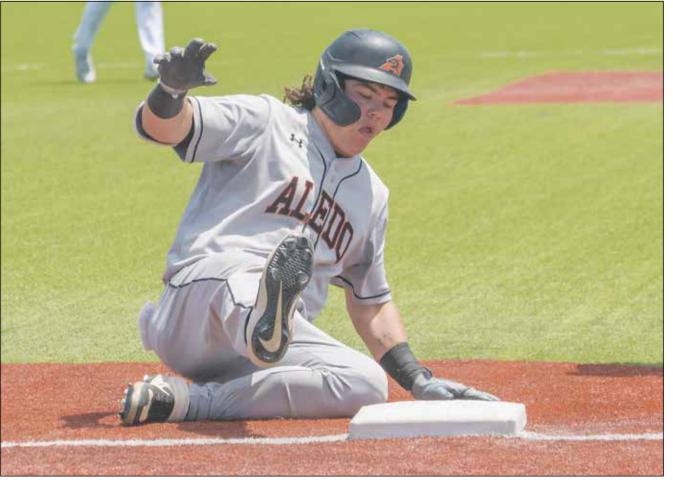
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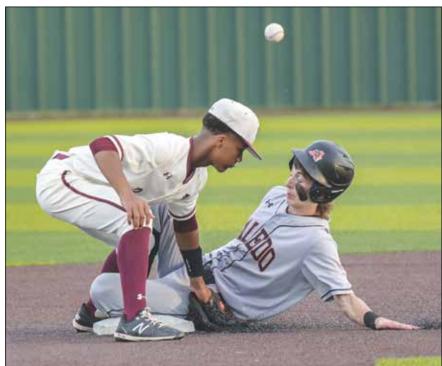
#### **JUNE 4**

The possibility of a portion of Dean Ranch becoming a part of Aledo's extraterritorial jurisdiction took another step forward when the



KIRSTEN GALLON / THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Creed Willems slides safely into third base after hitting a triple in bi-district against Northwest. May 21 issue.



city council unanimously approved its part of the joint ordinance and boundary agreement during the May 27 council meeting — less than a month after signing the initial proposal with Fort Worth. Currently part of the larger neighboring city, the portion of the Dean Ranch is a 243-acre property located along the east side of Farmto-Market Road 1187. Mayor Kit Marshall described this as a "monumental moment" for Aledo.

Wagners Composite Fiber Technologies (CFT), an Australian company that manufactures materials for use in civil engineering construction, was set to locate its first

U.S. plant here in Parker County, according to a release from Gov. Greg Abbott's office. According to the company's website, Wagners CFT pioneered the use of a unique process that allows fiberglass to be used in the manufacturing of beams for use in bridges, boardwalks, and marine infrastructure. A Texas Enterprise Fund (TEF) grant of \$1,799,984 has been extended to Wagners CFT, LLC.



#### **JUNE 11**

This summer may be the first in many that Willow Park will not utilize Weatherford water in the wake of a near water shortage. While the Fort Worth Water Project is expected to be fully completed in April 2022, Willow Park may receive water from Fort Worth as early as next month. Crews officially began work in early March after the cities spent more than five years negotiating and planning.

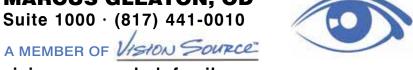
LEFT: Aledo shortstop Sam Sisk slides safely to second base as the ball flies over both players' heads. May 28 issue.





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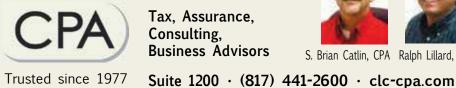


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**B4** January 14, 2022 THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Parker County Sheriff 's Criminal Investigations Division investigators arrested a male suspect June 2 in connection with multiple vehicle burglaries which occurred in Aledo in May.

Parker County Sheriff Russ Authier said the suspect, a 17-year-old male from Aledo, was arrested on charges of credit card/debit card abuse and a prior warrant for manufacturing delivery of a controlled substance.



#### **JUNE 18**

The City of Aledo is inched closer to a significant expansion of its extraterritorial jurisdiction as it awaited a vote by the Fort Worth City Council to finalize the arrangement. In one of her last acts in office, Fort Worth Mayor Betsy Price hosted Aledo Mayor Kit Marshall to shake hands on the deal.



Ladycats cheer "we're going to state" after defeating Northwest 8-1 in the regional final in a two-day playoff game that started May 28 and ended May 29. From the June 4 issue.

The City of Willow Park officially connected to the City of Fort Worth water supply at the northeast corner of FM 1187 and I-20 on Tuesday, June 15.

The connection, three years in the making, is the first step in supplying both Willow Park and Hudson Oaks with surface water from Fort Worth.

#### **JUNE 25**

Several Aledo ISD sports fields will receive updates and turf replacements following the Board of Trustees' unanimous approval at its June 21 meeting.

The proposal was first brought to the board at its regular May meeting by Chief Financial Officer Earl Husfeld, Director of Construction and Facilities TylerBoswell, and Athletic Director

Steve Wood. The project, which will cost the district over \$3.163 million, includes updates to the synthetic turf where it is near the end of its useful life cycle and converting to synthetic turf at certain sports fields. Paragon Sports Constructors will complete the updates.

The on-again, off-again D1 fitness center in Aledo is back on again with the purchase of the local franchise by former NFL quarter-back Landry Jones.

Jones, who played for the Jacksonville Jaguars and Oakland Raiders after spending most of his career with the Pittsburg Steelers, is also opening a D1 franchise in Argyle.





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RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

**David Lasater sings the National** Anthem at the beginning of the 2021 Aledo High School Graduation May 29 at Bearcat Stadium. More than 440 graduates received diplo-

> The Year in Review will continue in the Jan. 21 issue.







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