

THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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WILLOW PARK

Fire and ice highlight council meeting

More houses on the way

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

Before Tuesday, Willow Park Fire Chief Mike Lenoir could only warn his citizens of the danger of outdoor burning during a ban. Those who would not heed such a warning were in danger of paying a dangerous price.

Now, thanks to a new ordinance approved by the city council, if they don't listen to him, folks in town will have to pay a different price — the monetary kind.

The ordinance allows for enforcement of burn ban violations with fines up to \$2,000. This also includes violations such as the burning of unauthorized materials.

"It's still okay to burn, but when they post no burning in Parker County, folks have to follow it," Lenoir said. "This gives us a little more teeth to enforce more burning, to prevent loss of life or property."

"Sometimes people just don't realize the conditions. A simple spark could light off multiple acres."

Lenoir said the idea behind the ordinance isn't to get people's money, it's to help them learn the dangers of when and when not to burn. He encouraged citizens to read more information on the City of Willow Park or Parker County websites.

"Hopefully, we can help educate people so everyone can stay safe," he said. "We really want to raise awareness. We don't want to have to write a citation."

More Ice House controversy

The Parker County Ice House was once again the subject of controversy at Tuesday's meeting as a pair of citizens addressed the council concerning the noise from concerts at the venue that has been raising the ire of residents in the area.

"I like to consider myself a reasonable, considerable adult person and this is interfering with my peace," said Buddy Wright, who lives a mile from the Ice House. "In this town

Turn to **NOISE**, page A3

ALEDO

New city hall in the works



Facility to meet future needs of city

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

With Aledo growing more than a young Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, city officials are planning on a new city hall to be a part of that growth.

The city is issuing certifications of obligation (CO) of \$17.42 million to raise funds for the project. CO bonds are typically used to fund capital improvement projects that will serve the community, such as roads, bridges and facilities.

CO Bonds are backed by the full faith and credit of the City of Aledo. This means the City is obligated to pay back the bonds by pledging its ad valorem taxing power, or in other words its ability to collect property taxes, to repay the debt.

"Like buying a house, major capital improvement projects, such as a city hall, have a long useful life, so their cost is spread out over many years and paid for by current and future citizens who use them,"

CITY OF ALEDO

Aledo's new planned city hall will house all city offices and will include space for a police department and council chambers for public meetings.

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TRANSPORTATION

TxDOT proposing four new interchanges

By Randy Keck
The Community News

The good news is that within the next five years or so, if you take the wrong split you won't have as far to turn around.

The bad news is: road construction.

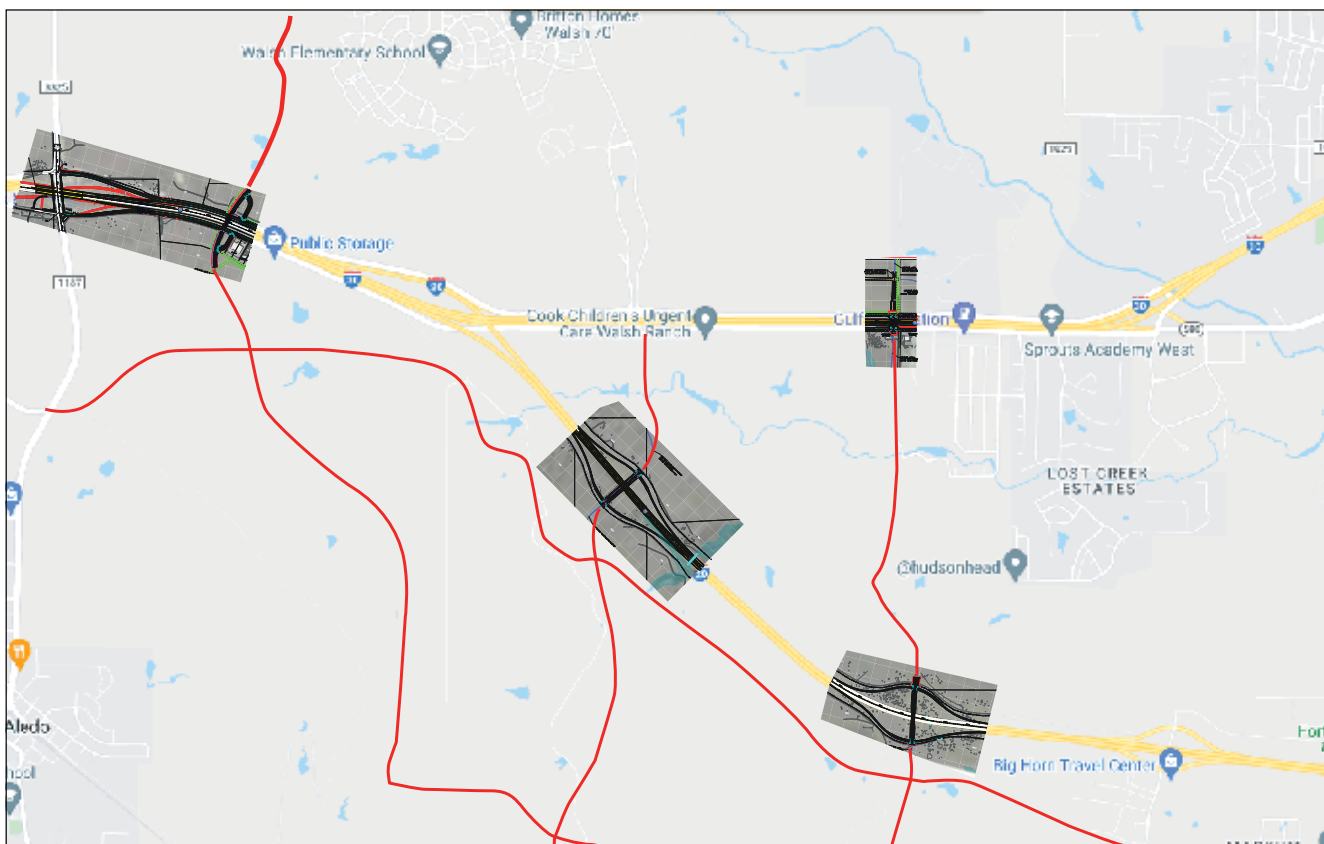
The Texas Department of Transportation is proposing three new interchanges between FM 1187 and Markum Ranch Road on Interstate 20 and one new interchange between FM 1187 and on Interstate 30.

The projects would include reconstruction of some frontage roads in the vicinity of the interchanges as well as reconfiguring ramp configurations to Walsh Ranch Parkway. Shared-use paths for pedestrians and bicycles would also be included in the project.

All existing facilities related to the project would be upgraded to TxDOT design criteria.

On I-20, one interchange would be just west of the I-20/I-30 split, and a proposed road would travel north to the western side of the currently-developed Walsh Ranch, and south to a proposed extension of Bankhead.

Two other interchanges would be roughly equally-spaced between the 20/30 split and Markum Ranch Road. One of those crossings would be for a proposed southern extension of Walsh Ranch Parkway. The



SOURCE: GOOGLE MAPS AND TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

TxDOT proposed interchanges are shown above. Construction could begin in 2024 or 2025. The red lines on the map are proposed future roadways which are not a part of the current project.

other would be for a proposed road that would lead north to a new interchange just west of Linkcrest.

According to TxDOT documents, right-of-way acquisition and utility relocations would begin this year, with Phase I construction anticipated to begin in 2024 or 2025.

According to TxDOT, "Any environmental documentation or studies, maps and drawings showing the project location and design, tentative construction schedules, and other information regarding the proposed project are on file and available for inspection Monday through Friday between the hours of

8 a.m. and 5 p.m. at the TxDOT Fort Worth District Office, 2501 S.W. Loop 820, Fort Worth, Texas 76133, and (817) 370-6500. Project materials are also available online at www.txdot.gov. In the "Search TxDOT" box in the upper right-hand corner, enter the keyword 'I-20/I-30 Operational Improvements.'"

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In & Around Parker County

Texas Butane Co. promises safety, quality service to all customers

Founded in 1958, Texas Butane Co. is a true family-run business with deep roots in Parker County.

Co-owner Judy White — who shares the business with her husband, Morris — can recall riding to Austin with her parents Mary and V.E. Kemp Jr. for her father's TRRC exam, which certified his familiarity with gas and the safe delivery of it.

Judy and Morris, who met as some of the company's earliest employees in 1964 and married the following year, purchased the business from Judy's mother when her father passed.

The couple vowed, then, that Texas Butane Co. would continue to be recognized for its same great quality and high standards despite the change in ownership.

"One of my sons who works here once said, 'It's not a job, it's our heritage,' and that's how we all feel about it," Judy said. "We stick to ethical business practices and we think our customers recognize that."

Today, the company can store up to 150,000 gallons and has nearly a dozen delivery trucks. Judy and Morris are joined in company operations by their three sons, a daughter-in-law, two granddaughters, and many other valued employees.

"We have the greatest employees in the world," Judy said. "Everyone here is community driven. We all think it's a wonderful community to be part of, and we do everything we can to give back to Parker County and the surrounding areas."

The company offers a wide range of services, including the sale and lease of propane tanks, as well as tank installation. They offer propane delivery to residential homes and commercial businesses both.

Judy said propane is a multipurpose fuel used for several reasons: warming the house, heating swimming pools, cooking and grilling, RV travel, and more.

"If it's propane related, we pretty much take care of it," Judy said.

Over the last few months, Texas Butane Co. has seen increased interest in tanks for generators due to the recent winter storm.

One of the only differences in company operations, since the company's inception, was the shift from butane to propane for customers' benefit. The product is more consistent and stable in the winter's cold weather.

Judy said the company's point of pride lands in their priority for safety. The first step for all customers is a complete evaluation of systems to ensure there are no potential safety issues, such as leaks.

"Safety will always be our number one goal," Judy said.

The business has been awarded the Small Business Award from the Weatherford Chamber of Commerce and four consecutive Reader's Choice award for propane from 2017-21. It also received the Texas Treasure Business Award, which recognized businesses that have been owned by the same family for 50 years.



Now in its fifth generation of family, Texas Butane Co. has operated in Parker County for 64 years. Judy can date her family's history here back to her ancestors who signed the petition to create the county.

"We love Parker County," Judy said. "This is our home and where we want to be."

Texas Butane is located at 103 W. Church (on the square) in Weatherford. For more information, call 817-596-8758 or visit texasbutane.com.



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Obituaries

Rayfield Wright

Dallas Cowboys Legend and NFL Hall-of-Famer Larry Rayfield "Big Cat" Wright passed away on Thursday, April 7, 2022, at the age of 76.

Rayfield was a great football player and earned his nickname "Big Cat" because he was quick on his feet. But what defined him was his faith, among many other wonderful qualities. God was front and center in all he did. He was a loving husband, a devoted friend, a mentor to many, a strong leader and an outstanding community role model. At 6' 6", he was often referred to as a "gentle giant" because of his generosity, which knew no bounds.

Rayfield is survived by his devoted wife Di Wright, brother Lamar Wright, children Courtney Minor and son-in-law Dave Harrison, LaRay Wright, Anitra Hernandez, Larry Jr. Wright, Ariel Wright, beloved mother-in-law



Rayfield Wright

Margie Darnell, sister-in-law Kim and husband Stephen Duncan, and brother-in-law Chuck and wife Tracy Darnell.

Visitation will be from 6-8 p.m. Thursday, April 14, at Galbreath Pickard Hilltop Chapel in Willow Park. The Celebration of Life will be at 10 a.m. Friday, April 15, at Willow Park Baptist Church in Willow Park.

In lieu of flowers, consider a donation to:

Willow Park First Responder Donation Fund c/o Willow Park Police Department, 101 Stagecoach Trail, Willow Park, TX 76087 (memo line: in memory of Rayfield Wright).

"Big Cat", you were a tremendous blessing to your family and touched the lives of all who knew you. We love you and will miss you dearly.

The Community News
April 15, 2022

ALEDO

from page A1

explained Interim City Manager Sharon Hayes.

Hayes said all CO funds will be used to design and construct the facility. This also includes all site work and parking.

She said the facility is designed to meet the needs of all city departments now and in the future. The process started with council authorizing a facility needs assessment, and part of that was looking at staffing levels now, in 2026, and 2031.

The facility also includes room for a police department and ancillary services. The council chamber will be in the building, so all city meetings will be held here. She added that technology will be greatly improved, and with improved audio video capabilities, so that the council and the audience can better understand what is being presented.

"It will better serve those who choose to listen to the meetings remotely. There is also a training room that can be used for staff training and scheduled for use by the public," she said.

The building as proposed is 33,220 square feet and is a two-story building. The downstairs will house the council chambers, all customer service functions, public works department, the training room, and the police department. The second floor will house the city manager, city secretary and support staff, finance, human resources, information technology, and the parks department

The design of the facility will take about nine months, and that process should begin in May or June, Hayes said. The construction is expected to take between 18 and 24 months with an anticipated opening in the summer of 2025.

Hayes focused on two areas where the new facility will be beneficial to the city. She noted that during the past few years, the city was actively engaged in developing a vision for the downtown area. This included citizen involvement and numerous public meetings.

The culmination was the creation of the Downtown Master

Plan that was approved by council in July 2021. The plan created several downtown districts, one of which was designated the Civic Center District, and the new city hall was a key feature and catalyst.

The building will be located close to the current city hall and will also utilize the adjacent property that the city purchased in 2019. The site will also provide additional parking for public events and other amenities that will be available to the public.

The second benefit, she continued, comes from additional space for staff, the council, and the public. The existing building is more than 50 years old and was designed to accommodate less than five employees and included the council chamber. Several years ago, the city needed the additional space, and the decision was made to move all council and board meetings to the city owned community center.

"The center was never intended for that purpose and has challenges with the audio and video needs, even with upgrades," she said.

"In 2021, the city purchased a modular building to ease overcrowding at city hall. Before that time, multiple employees shared offices, and in one case shared a desk. At the current time all offices in city hall and the modular building are filled."

Hayes said the new city hall will accommodate all existing employees and provide space for all positions anticipated during the next 15 years. There is also "shell" space included that can be used for storage and additional future offices.

"The need for a new building has existed for many years. This is something that the council and community has thought about and discussed for approximately 20 years," Hayes said. "This building is a culmination of those meetings, a lot of discussions, and actions. It will provide the city with a facility that will be an anchor for downtown and meet the needs of the community for many decades."



First Bank President Dan Herbert teaches students how banks handle money.

Fiscal Exercise

First-graders from Coder Elementary School recently learned first-hand how banks handle money, where it comes from, and how it is counted. Along the way some received gift cards for answering questions correctly, and at the end everyone enjoyed hot dogs.



Five students found room at the counter for their learning experience. They are (from left) Samuel Rodriguez, Javier Arreola Ramirez, Charlie Saenz, Jackson Chapman, and Brant Burke.

PHOTOS BY RANDY KECK
THE COMMUNITY NEWS

NOISE

from page A1

we take care of our neighbors. If my neighbor knocked on my door and said my music was too loud I'd turn it down. Parker County Ice House is a neighbor in our community and they should be held to community standards."

James Novak, a Fort Worth detective who lives almost a mile away from the Ice House, said his wife called him one night recently while he was working security at an event in Fort Worth. She complained that she could hear the lyrics to the song "You Shook Me All Night Long" inside their bedroom.

Novak added that after 10 years of marriage he's certain "My wife is not a big AC/DC fan, so I wondered what was going on."

"She told me she could hear the lyrics in our bedroom with the windows closed," he said.

These complaints were on the heels of several more citizens attending a previous meeting in March to also complain about the concert noise from the Ice House.

City Administrator Bryan Grimes said he would like to put the item on the next council agenda for the May 10 meeting.

"We need to get this fixed permanently," he said. "I know right now we have an ordinance, but there's no teeth behind it. Tonight, we saw an ordinance, the fire ban one, that actually has teeth behind it."

Place 1 Council Member Eric Contreras recommended the city purchase a decibel reader so authorities can confirm how loud the noise is at the time it is happening. Also, Place 4 Council Member Lea Young suggested the city look into ways to communicate with residents better at the time of the noise violation,

noting that it's happening at a time when it's difficult to communicate.

"We need to recognize what we can do at 10 p.m., at 9 p.m.," she said.

Grimes and officials from the city met with Ice House management recently, he said. He called the meeting "spirited" and said it ended with assurances from Ice House management that they would work with the city toward a solution.

He added that some recommendations were also made to Ice House management to help with the problem.

"I am disappointed and frustrated that the Ice House, as I can tell by the crowd here tonight, has done nothing," Grimes said. "What I plan to do is not going to be popular and it could be punitive."

"I recognize it is a business. I recognize they do provide jobs, they do provide sales tax, they do provide a benefit. I also recognize that every time they have a concert that these residents here are having issues. If it's a guy playing acoustic guitar, I don't think there's a problem."

Grimes then delivered a personal message to Ice House management.

"If you're serious about fixing the problem, we have given you some solutions to start working on it," he said. "If you're not serious, if council gives me the authority, we will fix it."

Wastewater treatment plant

As the City of Willow Park continues to move toward the construction of a new wastewater treatment plant and pipeline, the city council held a public hearing at its Tuesday meeting.

While no one from the public spoke, Derek Turner of Jacob and Martin Civil Engineers addressed the environmental impacts of the project.

Turner said the discharge will empty into Squaw Creek Reservoir No. 23, not into the Clear Fork Trinity River like the current pipeline does. He also assured the council and those in attendance that all components will be raised so as not to interfere with the flood plain.

The proposed location of the new plant is north of Interstate 20 near Crown Point Boulevard, not far from the site where Willow Park Baptist Church is building a new church. It's only a few hundred yards from the current location on the north end of the new Crown Point Development.

The city and WPBC agreed to a land swap, with the church getting property where the current treatment plant sits for development.

Turner said hopes are to begin construction late in 2022 with a time frame of approximately 12 months for completion.

More homes coming

Also at Tuesday's meeting, the council approved rezoning that will allow for the construction of nearly 300 new single-family homes in the area.

In an area that used to be where the now defunct Trinity Meadows Raceway used to sit, the council rezoned areas that were once thought to be going for a treatment plant (yes, the same one now going up elsewhere), an event center and green belt (park space), with some small acreage retained for green belt. This will make way for 189 single-family homes in the Wilks Development known as The Reserves at Trinity.

"I do feel like this will be a strong, positive step forward," Young said.

Also, the council rezoned another area south of Extreme Exteriors that will allow for another 98 single-family homes.

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Capital Highlights

Traffic deaths spike in highway work zones



Gary Borders
gborders@texaspress.com

The Texas Department of Transportation wants motorists to be aware of dangerous conditions in road construction zones after crashes in those zones killed 244 people last year.

The death toll is an increase of 33% over 2020 and is the highest in 40 years. The majority of those who died were drivers or their passengers, according to TxDOT.

"It's important for drivers to remember that driving conditions in work zones can be especially challenging because of extra congestion, slow-moving heavy equipment, temporary barriers and vehicles that make sudden stops," Marc Williams, TxDOT executive director, said. "That's why it's crucial for everyone to give driving their full attention and drive a safe speed in areas where construction and maintenance are underway."

Among the tips offered by the agency to cut accidents:

- Slow down and follow the posted speed limit.
- Pay attention, put down the phone and keep your mind on the road.
- Watch out for road crews and follow flaggers' instructions.
- Don't tailgate. Allow enough room to stop safely.
- Plan for extra time to reach your destination, since road construction can slow traffic.

Traffic fines double in work zones when workers are present.

Wildfire risk continues with dry, windy conditions

The risk of more wildfires continues this week with much of the state under drought conditions.

"Critical fire weather includes above-normal temperatures, increased wind speeds and low relative humidity levels," according to a Texas A&M Forest Service news release. Wildfires that start under these conditions may be difficult to control, the agency said. The risk is nearly statewide, as virtually all of the state remains under drought conditions.

During the first week of April, the forest service and local fire departments responded to 117 wildfires that burned 23,560 acres.

Texas history instruction expanded

The State Board of Education decided last week to expand instruction in Texas history to six grade levels, meaning students in those grades will have their knowledge of the state's history tested on the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills exam.

For decades, Texas history has been taught in fourth and seventh grades. Now it will also be taught in kindergarten through second grade, and sixth and eighth grades.

"With this significant increase, students will study Texas and the people and events that define it in most grade levels prior to high school," according to an SBOE news release.

The board will consider proposed revisions to the social studies aspect of TEKS at the June meeting to include Texas history content. Final revisions are scheduled for November.

Please don't touch the wildlife

With the balmy weather of a Texas spring, more folks are enjoying the outdoors. Experts at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department urge people who encounter wildlife to avoid lending a helping hand.

Often, the young offspring of wild animals can be mistaken as having been abandoned. Many of these human-animal encounters are unnecessary and can be detrimental to wildlife.

Newborn fawns, for example, are often left for hours at a time by the doe as she forages for food. "During that time, people may spot a fawn lying alone in tall grass or in a brushy area. Many people interfere with the fawn, thinking it has been abandoned by its mother and needs help. This is rarely the case," according to TPWD.

TPWD experts advise folks to leave all young animals alone unless obviously injured. Spend some time observing from a distance to determine if the animal truly is injured, since the mother may not return if humans are close by.

The same principle applies to young birds. "If the bird's eyes are open, it has feathers and is hopping around, mom and dad are likely nearby. Grounded fledglings will usually be up and flying within a few days," according to TPWD.

If a wild animal is sick or injured, people are encouraged to contact a permitted wildlife rehabilitator, which can be found on the TPWD Wildlife Division website: tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/rehab/.

COVID-19 cases rise while deaths, hospitalizations decline

The number of new Texas cases of COVID-19 reported by the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University jumped by more than 100% in the past week to 46,375, though deaths dropped to 252 during the same time period.

Lab-confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations in Texas have dropped to 875 patients, the lowest level in months. The highly contagious subvariant of Omicron, dubbed BA.2, has become the dominant version worldwide and is accounting for the majority of new cases.

Like the original omicron variant, this strain is more transmissible but generally has less-severe symptoms, according to health experts. The best protection continues to be getting vaccinated and getting a booster if already vaccinated, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services.

DSHS says unvaccinated Texans are eight times more likely to test positive for COVID-19 and 42 times more likely to die of a COVID-19 associated illness.

As of Sunday, 17.479 million Texans — or nearly 60% of the state's population — were fully vaccinated, with 6.6 million getting a booster dose.

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.

Thistles & Roses

Water is key to the future



Richard Henderson
richard@rahenderson.com

It is spring 2022 in North Texas and we are experiencing drought again. Water is the key to sustainable development for all of the DFW Metroplex, both cities and unincorporated areas. It is a complex subject, but a long-term, stable water supply is the solution.

The key agency providing water to Fort Worth and surrounding areas is the Tarrant Regional Water District (TRWD), created in the 1920s after a major flood. Today that agency with its non-partisan elected board operates four major reservoirs, including Bridgeport and Eagle Mountain Lakes that feed into Lake Worth. They also operate Cedar Creek Lake near Athens and Richland-Chambers Lake near Corsicana.

The TRWD used eminent domain to obtain the lands in East Texas to build these lakes. Amon Carter, the father of Fort Worth, was a shrewd man who saw that the cycle of floods and droughts had to be controlled by these lakes. No water — no Fort Worth.

You can imagine how the citizens of Corsicana felt about Tarrant County's condemnation of their farmers' land to capture water for Tarrant County. There were a lot of lawsuits to say the least. A pipeline connecting Richland-Chambers to Benbrook Lake was completed around 1998.

I invite you to look at the TRWD website to study the history. Some very forward-thinking people understood what flood control and the capture of water into reservoirs meant.

Climate changes are not the subject of this essay. The purpose here is to help our local citizens realize that even here in Parker County we need a reliable source of water to continue the phenomenal growth. Well water is not a long-term, reliable source. Hard to believe, but there can be more water

captured into lakes than into subsurface aquifers.

When it rains around here, it rains hard and the reservoirs need to be there to capture the water before it flows to the Gulf of Mexico.

Aledo was the first city in this area to tie onto the TRWD water, followed by Willow Park. Others have to follow because the wells do not provide enough water for these cities.

Those of us who live in unincorporated areas, meaning part of no city, rely on personal wells. Our unincorporated areas may eventually have to form water districts to contract with TRWD for a permanent supply.

You may say that the drought and flood cycles are part of nature and that things balance out. That may have been true for the past 100 years. The population growth and demand for water will eventually upset the balance of nature.

We need to calmly and deliberately plan for water for the future so that there will be water for people living here for the next 100 years to come.

Slings&Arrows

Just say 'No' to negative campaigning



Randy Keck
rkeck@community-news.com

As we approach the month of May a couple of important elections are coming up. On Saturday, May 7, voters will decide the fate of a couple of amendments to the Texas Constitution at the state level, and who the next mayor of Aledo will be at the local level.

Anyone on our readership area who lives in the City of Fort Worth, and that number is increasing daily, has the opportunity to vote on a number of bond proposals (see section B).

Local elections tend to be "cleaner" than elections for offices higher on the ladder. I would say they are cleaner because they are non-partisan, but there was a good deal of nasty campaigning going on inside the recent Republican primaries in our area, and that's among people who are

presumably all on the same side.

During the recent primaries our mailboxes were flooded with campaign mailers, most designed and mailed by highly-paid political consultants who do not have a clue about life in Parker County.

As the Republican primary runoff slated for May 24 approaches, our mailboxes will again be awash in campaign mailers, though not to the extent as earlier since there are fewer races to decide.

Most people find negative campaigns to be distasteful if not downright disgusting, but for some reason negative campaigning seems to work — or at least it works well enough to make a difference in some voters' minds.

The problem is that in most negative campaigning, a candidate tends to define the opponent by making accusations, using innuendo, and by labeling.

In a Republican primary, one of the worst things someone can call you is a "liberal." That word gets thrown around as an epithet. There are people I know among Democrats who are liberal. I can tell you that, among the Republicans on the

local runoff ballot, there is not a liberal in the bunch.

But that doesn't mean you won't get campaign mailers claiming otherwise.

So I'll tell you to be careful. Just because a campaign mailer says it doesn't make it so. If you are disgusted with negative political campaigning, then don't vote for the people who do it.

There is a lot at stake, especially in the race for State Representative District 60. When all has been said and done, a lot of money will be spent. Some of it will be spent on attack mailers.

I invite you to apply the Golden Rule in this situation. When you get an attack mailer, ask "what if that was me being attacked?" "What if that was my photo they are deliberately running fuzzy and granulated?"

We can make a difference in our own small way by refusing to award that kind of election campaign. The answer is not to refuse to vote — that is often what negative campaigners want. The answer is to vote for people who run clean campaigns.

Just vote "for" — not "against."

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.

Events

APRIL 15, 2022
THE COMMUNITY NEWS

WWW.COMMUNITY-NEWS.COM

More events can be found at www.community-news.com/events



APRIL 18

Rotary Club of Aledo
The Rotary Club of Aledo meets from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. the first and third Monday of each month at Sunny Street Cafe, 229 Shops Blvd. Suite 103 in Willow Park. For more information, visit aledorotary.org.

APRIL 21

It's Not Opera...It's Sondheim
Weatherford College opera will present "It's Not Opera... It's Sondheim" at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 21, in the Alkek Fine Arts Center. Doors open at 7 p.m. and admission is free. This opera workshop is presented in memory of the prolific Broadway composer Stephen Sondheim. Although he never composed an opera, many of his works have been adopted and presented by opera companies around the world. WC fine arts students will showcase duets, trios, and

large ensembles from some of his most famous shows—along with a few of his most notable solos.

APRIL 24

Rewind: Totally 80s
The Aledo Class of 2023 Project Celebration Committee has announced this year's fundraising event: "Rewind: Totally 80s!" The adults-only event will take place from 6-10 p.m. on Sunday, April 24, at Studio Eighty, 500 Taylor Street in Fort Worth. For event and raffle tickets, visit: <https://www.aledo2023.org> Project Celebration is a nationwide program that provides a drug-free and alcohol-free event after prom. For more information about sponsorships or the event, email Penny Shelton at pennyskelton@att.net.

APRIL 25

Business Women of Weatherford Luncheon
Fort Worth Mayor Mattie

Parker will be the guest speaker at the kickoff luncheon for the Business Women of Weatherford from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Monday, April 25 at the Emerging Technologies Building at Weatherford College. The cost is \$20 per person or \$200 for a reserved table of eight. RSVP is required and space is limited. To register, visit <https://www.chamberdata.net/webforms/EvtRegistration3.aspx?dbid2=tx-wea&evtid=5201198>

APRIL 28

Do Well Be Well with Type 2 Diabetes
Do Well Be Well with Type 2 Diabetes classes will be offered from 10 a.m. to noon on the following Wednesdays: April 28, May 4, 18, 25, and June 1. Presented by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Parker County, classes will be at the Parker County Extension Office, 604 North Main Street in Weatherford. To register, call the Parker County Extension Office at 817-598-6168 or email Kathy Smith at kl-smith@tamu.edu.

The Lion King Jr

Trinity Christian Academy will present four performances of The Lion King Jr. on April 28-30 at the Scott Theater, 1300 Gendy Street in Fort Worth. Performances will be at 7 p.m. all three days, with an additional 2 p.m. performance on Saturday, April 30.

Adult tickets are \$15, and student tickets are \$10. To order tickets, visit <http://www.tcaeagles.org/>.

APRIL 30

Breakfast with Friends
Lakeshore Baptist Church, in partnership with Flames Seafood Restaurant, will host a community breakfast from 8-10 a.m. on Saturday, April 30, at Flames Seafood Restaurant, 1917 Martin Drive in Weatherford. Funds from the event will help complete the restoration of the facilities at Lakeshore Baptist Church after suffering extensive water damage in the freeze of February 2021. Breakfast will include pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, and a beverage: orange juice, water, or hot coffee. No substitutions or special orders. To-go orders are available. There is a recommended minimum donation of \$10. Meals can be purchased at the door or in advance at <https://onrealm.org/Lakeshore/give/Flames>. For more information, visit www.lakeshorebaptist.com/event.

MAY 1

Sunset On The Square
Downtown Weatherford, Inc. will host the second annual Sunset on the Square outdoor dining event beginning at 5 p.m. Sunday, May 1, in downtown Weatherford. Social hour begins at 5 p.m. with appetizers served from local favorite restaurants. Guests will then enjoy an al fresco dining experience with food served

by Fire Oak Grill, Zeno's on the Square, and Downtown Cantina.

Individual tickets are \$150 and include a four-course dinner (hors d'oeuvres, steak dinner with salad entree and a side, refreshments, and dessert). A full table for eight guests is \$150.

To purchase tickets, visit <https://sunsetonthesquare.com/pages/buy-tickets/>. For sponsorships and information, email Info@sunsetonthesquare.com or call 817-381-8796.

MAY 10

Cancer Support Group
A support group to create a space for those who have battled or are battling cancer meets at 6:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month at Aledo United Methodist Church, 100 Pecan Dr. in Aledo. For more information, email Joan.Ward@jcjk1959@gmail.com.

MAY 13

Parker County Women's and Newcomers' Club

The Parker County Women's and Newcomers' Club meets at 9:30 a.m. on the second Friday of every month at First United Methodist Family Life Center, 301 S. Main in Weatherford. The social hour, including Club Shop, begins at 9:30 a.m. The business meeting, including program, is at 10:30 a.m. Lunch is \$11. Please make lunch reservations by calling Shirley at 817-757-7379. For more information on the organization, visit pcwnc.org.

JUNE 3

Aledo Summer Blast

The annual Aledo Summer Blast will run from 6-10 p.m. Friday, June 3, in the Aledo High School south parking lots.

The event features numerous free activities for families and children in addition to food trucks, live music by Sonny Burgess and Jolie Holliday Burgess, and a fireworks show after dark.

JULY 9

Parker County Peach Festival

The 37th annual Parker County Peach Festival will run from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, July 9, in downtown Weatherford.

Peachy treats are always featured, including homemade peach ice cream, peach cobbler, peach pie, peach tea, peach smoothies, ice cream topped with fresh peaches, or just regular peaches.

In addition to the vendors, many antique and specialty stores will have specials throughout the day.

Two entertainment stages will feature local celebrities and entertainers.

For easy transportation to the festival, air-conditioned shuttles will run from Weatherford 9th Grade Center, Weatherford College, or Heritage Park. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$5 for ages 5-12, and free for younger than 5.

For more information, visit <https://www.parkercountypeachfestival.org>.

ACROSS

- TXism: "___ of bones" (skinny)
- former Fort Worth mayor Willard
- healing plant
- TXism: "ain't got a ___" (puzzled)
- Texas singer of "Six Pack to Go" (2 wds.)
- TXism: "at the ___ of my rope"
- TX-based 1936 film: "___ Ride"
- Texas actress, Darnell (init.)
- TXism: "squeaks like a rusty ___"
- tax due April 18
- Jacksonville hosts "___ Fest"
- TX Phyllis Coates was this Lane on TV "Superman" in 1952
- this TX Gent wrote "North Dallas Forty"
- TX Wills line: "Ah ___ take it away Leon"
- this company has shows for kids: "___ Network"
- TXism: "___ grip like a snappin' turtle"
- not a Texas fish
- dismounts a horse
- TXism: "you ___ teach an old dog new tricks"
- residence hall at UNT or UT, e.g.
- Swisher County seat
- this TX Steve sang "Copperhead Road"
- ex-Cowboy Noonan

DOWN

- TXism: "___ under a honky tonk moon"
- before 7-11's Slurpee
- TXism: "out of ___" (irritable)
- long time Houston mayor Lanier (init.)
- aquarium & fish hatchery: "___ Texas"
- TX ___ Ann Lawson won sixth "Nashville Star"
- TX Kristofferson's "Why ___ Lord?"
- Padre Island was named after one ___
- Rosa, TX
- TXism: "went to the well ___ too often"
- TX convenience store: "Stop '___"
- Hook '___'!
- TX George H. slip: "___ lips, no new taxes"
- TXism: "what's good for the ___ good for the gander"
- TX choreographer Tune (init.)
- in Hale County on I-27 (2 wds.)
- TX George H. was VP during the Iran-___ affair
- fountain treat: ice ___
- challenges
- TX George Strait 1989 hit: "___ in the Hole"
- "picture show" candy
- short cuts
- John Steinbeck's last wife, a Texas native

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WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

In a music studio

Caileen Tallant-Adams teaches music to young and old

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

Her mom made her do it. And a lot of folks are glad she did because now Caileen Tallant-Adams is sharing her musical talent with many others.

The 2012 Aledo High School graduate is the owner of Tallant Music Studio near Cincinnati, teaching piano and music to students from kindergarten to the twilight of life.

"My mom put me in lessons. I think I was 8, so yeah, basically, my mom made me do it," she said with a laugh. "I was pretty good at it as it turns out. Then I switched to private lessons."

Not only was she adept at playing the piano, she also had a good voice, having sung in choir. Before she knew it she was even writing her own music.

"My piano teacher, Aaron Garmon, encouraged me," she said. "I was just interested in it and I had a knack for it. It was great that he urged me to explore all possibilities."

"Even my own students, I encourage them to push themselves with anything that interests them. They'll come in and say, 'Miss Caileen, I made something up.' I'll say, 'Let's explore that and see if we can build on it.'"

Her students range in age from 5 to 74.

"They took piano when they were younger, retired and wanted to get back into it," she said of the older students. "They're pretty good."



COURTESY OF CAILEEN TALLANT-ADAMS

Caileen Tallant-Adams, a 2012 graduate of Aledo High School, now operates her own music studio in Fort Thomas, Kentucky.

In a bit of irony, Tallant-Adams didn't plan on becoming a professional musician. After a standout career as a basketball player for the Aledo Ladycats she went to Trinity University in San Antonio to play basketball and study to be a doctor.

However, thanks to a bit of curiosity she's playing piano instead of wearing a stethoscope for a living.

"I saw a flyer for the music department's piano studio and just thought 'I should audition for that,'" she said. "I got accepted and said, 'I guess I'm pretty good.'"

So she quit basketball and started working on a new major - a second major, in fact. She graduated Trinity in 2016 with bachelor degrees in music competition and chemistry.

"It sits on my wall," she said with a chuckle of her chemistry degree. "But if you think about it, musicians and scientists think similarly. Both solve problems and create."

Following her graduation from Trinity, Tallant-Adams surprised herself once again. She applied to and got accepted to the University of Cincinnati-College Conservatory of Music.

"When I got into CCM, one of the best conservatories in the country, I was like 'What? Oh wow, more proof,'" she said.

So she and her husband Nate Adams, a native of Cincinnati who she met at Trinity, made the move up north in 2018. Two years later, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, she made the courageous decision to open her studio on July 1, 2020.

"It was a crazy time," she said. We required masks for voice lessons, we had shields made from plexiglass and PVC. We basically followed the



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schools (on closing their doors for COVID).

“We were very fortunate we didn’t have an issue. We never had an outbreak in the studio. We had some teachers get COVID and they, of course, had to stay home. I’ve had it twice, but we were all fortunate to get vaccinated early with all the teachers so it wasn’t worse.”

Her studio returned to in-person instruction in January of 2021.

Were it not for the pandemic she would have likely taken over her business sooner. She was teaching in nearby Fort Thomas, Kentucky (five miles from Cincinnati), where her studio is located, and the owner announced she was retiring and closing the school.

“I said, ‘Oh no, this is my main income!’ She asked if I was interested in buying,” she said.

Before Tallant-Adams could finish the purchase, however, the pandemic hit and the deal was pulled. Then, in June of 2020, the economic adviser for the city of Fort Thomas contacted her and said she had a space for rent. Tallant-Adams reached out to some of her teacher friends, and before she knew it she was running her own studio.

“You’ve got to get used to taking risks. I’m finding this out as a business owner,” she said.

Since they bought a building and moved the studio. She went from renting a 900 square-foot space to owning a 3,200-square foot building. Her student enrollment has grown from 67 to 225 as well.

“It’s going very well. I’m not going to get rich, but the point is to do what I love,” she said.

Along with teaching music, Tallant-Adams plays and sings live music, mostly folk and country, throughout the Cincinnati and northern Kentucky area. She is often joined by her friends, one who plays mandolin and guitar and another who plays fiddle.



COURTESY OF CAILEEN TALLANT-ADAMS

LEFT: Caileen Tallant-Adams is shown with her husband, Nate Adams, and Vinnie, a Beagle mix. | Caileen Tallant-Adams said her teacher Aaron Garmon encouraged her to explore all possibilities.

Tallant-Adams can play guitar as well as piano.

“We’re working on finding a drummer so we can do a full-on production,” she said.

Her friends will also be on her album when she finishes, she noted, adding, “It’s still a work in progress, but it will happen.”

Tallant-Adams said she was influenced by a variety of artists growing up. As a result, her musical writing ranges from folk and country to classical.

“I grew up listening to Johnny Cash and Robert Earl Keen with my dad,” she said, adding that she also frequently listened to the likes of Chopin and Beethoven.

Nowadays she has added artists such as Little Big Town, Miranda Lambert, Lake Street Dive and

Mumford & Sons to her repertoire of influences.

As for high school influences, Tallant-Adams credits English teacher Myrna Sam, who is now at Fort Worth Country Day and an adjunct professor at Weatherford College.

“She was the first one who taught me to think outside the box,” Tallant-Adams said.

Tallant-Adams said some of the greatest satisfaction she gets from teaching is when a student has a “a-ha” moment. She also said she learns from her students as well.

“When they feel like they’ve done well, I feel so good,” she said “Teaching is a two-way street. For one thing, they teach me patience. I have one student who is easily frustrated and when I watch her walk

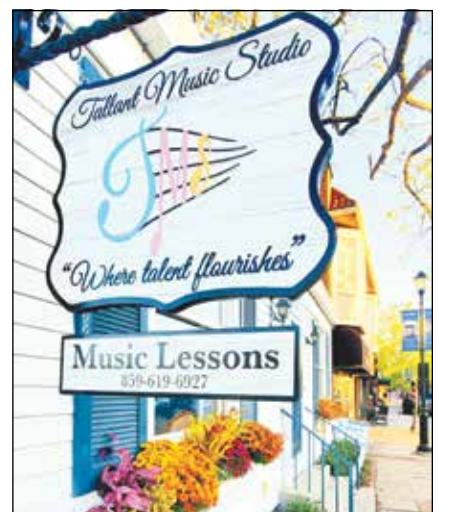
through a problem, it reminds me that we’re not always going to get it the first time.

“One day I had a student come up to me and say, ‘Miss Caileen, did you know Twinkle Twinkle and the alphabet song are the same?’ It was definitely a wow moment for me.”

But her greatest joy in life is soon to arrive in September. She and Nate are expecting their first child, expanding their family, which currently includes a beagle mix named Vinnie and a border collie named Lulu (after Emilou Harris).

As for the future?

“I just want to continue to do the best I can, balance work and being a mom - I’m a bit of a workaholic,” she said. Ten years down the road I see other locations (for the studio). I’d like to start a nonprofit, bring music



to kids who might not have access to private lessons.

“It took a lot of ups and downs to get here, and I want others to benefit as well.”

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Notice
Opportunity for a Public Hearing
I-20/I-30 Operational Improvements Project
I-20 from FM 1187/FM 3325 to Markum Ranch Road and I-30 from I-20 to Linkcrest Drive
CSJs: 0008-03-094, 0008-03-133, 0008-16-044, 1068-01-220 & 1068-05-014
Parker and Tarrant Counties, Texas

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is proposing operational improvements to Interstate 20 (I-20) from Farm-to-Market Road (FM) 1187/FM 3325 to Markum Ranch Road and I-30 from I-20 to Linkcrest Drive in Parker and Tarrant Counties, Texas. This notice advises the public that TxDOT is affording an opportunity for a public hearing on the proposed project.

The proposed project would include three new interchanges on I-20 and one new interchange on I-30. Portions of the existing frontage roads along I-20 and I-30 would be reconstructed, and shared-use paths for bicycle and pedestrian accommodations would be provided. The project would also include operational improvements to existing cross streets, main lanes, ramps, and auxiliary lanes. The existing facility would be upgraded to meet current TxDOT design criteria. Additionally, the project would evaluate necessary drainage improvements. The first construction phase is anticipated to begin in 2023. Phase 1 would include two proposed interchanges on I-20, frontage road improvements, shared-use paths, and ramps reconfigurations on I-20 and on I-30 from I-20 to Walsh Ranch Parkway. Future construction phases are subject to funding availability.

The proposed project would, subject to final design considerations, require approximately 13.9 acres of additional right of way (ROW) and would potentially displace one non-residential structure. Phase 1 ROW would be acquired through early acquisition. Relocation assistance is available for displaced persons and businesses. Information about the TxDOT Relocation Assistance Program and services and benefits for those displaced and other affected property owners, as well as information about the tentative schedule for ROW acquisition and construction, can be obtained from the TxDOT Fort Worth District Office by calling (817) 370-6696.

The proposed project would involve construction in wetlands and would involve an action in a floodplain. Any environmental documentation or studies, maps and drawings showing the project location and design, tentative construction schedules, and other information regarding the proposed project are on file and available for inspection Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. at the TxDOT Fort Worth District Office, 2501 S.W. Loop 820, Fort Worth, Texas 76133, and (817) 370-6500. Project materials are also available online at www.txdot.gov. In the “Search TxDOT” box in the upper right-hand corner, enter the keyword “I-20/I-30 Operational Improvements.”

The project materials are written in English. If you need an interpreter or document translator because English is not your primary language or you have difficulty communicating effectively in English, one will be provided to you. If you have a disability and need assistance, special arrangements can be made to accommodate most needs. If you need interpretation or translation services or you are a person with a disability who requires an accommodation to review the project materials or submit information, please contact Natnael Asfaw, P.E., PMP, Fort Worth District, at (817) 370-6603 no later than 4 p.m. CT, at least three business days before the date on which you would like to review the project materials or submit information. Please be aware that advance notice is required as some services and accommodations may require time for TxDOT to arrange.

Any interested person may submit a written request for a public hearing on this project. Written comments from the public regarding the proposed project are also requested. Written hearing requests and comments may be submitted by mail to the TxDOT Fort Worth District Office, Attention: Natnael T. Asfaw, P.E., PMP, 2501 S.W. Loop 820, Fort Worth, Texas 76133, or by email to Natnael.Asfaw@txdot.gov. All hearing requests and comments must be received on or before May 2, 2022. A hearing will be held if ten or more individuals submit timely written requests for a hearing, or if an agency with jurisdiction over the project submits a timely written request for a hearing that is supported by reasons why a hearing will be helpful. Responses to comments received will be available online at www.txdot.gov, search keywords “I-20/I-30 Operational Improvements,” once they have been prepared.

If you have any general questions or concerns regarding the proposed project, please contact Natnael T. Asfaw, P.E., PMP, at (817) 370-6603 or at Natnael.Asfaw@txdot.gov.

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried-out by TxDOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated December 9, 2019, and executed by FHWA and TxDOT.

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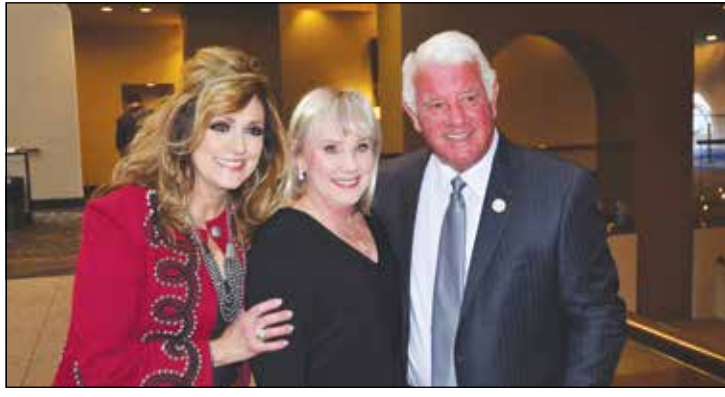
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Bearcats & Boots

The Aledo Education Foundation's annual Bearcats & Boots fundraiser was held April 8 at the Hilton in Fort Worth. PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHER AMOS.



LEFT: Monica Espinoza, Alyssa Clader, Elmi Martinez, and Leroy Martinez of Aledo. | CENTER: Gloria Gilbert, Linda Moss, and Willow Park Mayor Doyle Moss | RIGHT: Joel and Jennifer Pauly, Daniel and Alyssa Seay, Chris and Reina Bailey, and Emily and Cody Visone of Aledo



LEFT: Chris and Erin Frazier of Willow Park look at a pair of custom Aledo boots at the silent auction. | CENTER: Amanda and Matt Sudderth with Laurel and Matt Zohfeld of Aledo. | RIGHT: Deana Tillotson of Aledo looks at guitars autographed by country artists Pat Green and Eric Church in the silent auction.



LEFT: Kelli Knox-Thompson and Amy Parnell with Beth and Matt Richter, all of Aledo | Bearcats N Boots event charwoman Stefny Nance receives a gift from Aledo Education Foundation director Shawn Callaway. | RIGHT: Featured entertainer Neal McCoy

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Last of Laughleys plays for Ladycats, but legend will live on

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

Beginning in 2012 the Laughley sisters gave Aledo Ladycats soccer opponents nothing to laugh about and the home fans plenty of reasons to smile.

And now that the last of the trio has played her final game, it's bittersweet for Ashlyn Laughley, her older sisters Sydney and Peyton, and the Ladycats faithful.

"It's going to be different. There's been a Laughley in this program for a long time. I haven't really thought about it coming to an end. I didn't want to think about it," Ladycats head coach Bryan Johnson said.

"Soccer is not about just winning and losing for these girls. All were in leadership roles, captains. I love these girls like they were my own daughters. Very special family."

Ashlyn, a senior, played her final game as a Ladycat when they were ousted 4-0 in bi-district by Colleyville Heritage. It was a rare early exit from the playoffs for the program that has, with a great boost from the Laughley sisters, become renowned.

Sydney is a 2015 graduate. Peyton graduated in 2017, and Ashlyn will graduate this year. In their time playing for Aledo the Ladycats posted a record of 177-60-25. They were five-time district champs and five-time runners-up.

"I looked up to them growing up. I was always at their games. I definitely wish I would have played with them. They set a standard," Ashlyn said of her older siblings.

"Growing up, I was always motivated to play soccer when I watched my older sister, Sydney, play. I tried to carry that torch and be a role model for Ashlyn, too," Peyton said.



COURTESY OF THE LAUGHLEY FAMILY

Ashlyn Laughley is shown with coach Bryan Johnson. This is the last of three sisters to play soccer in Aledo.

"It has been immeasurably special to share a passion like soccer with my sisters," Sydney said. "Being the oldest, I always only ever wanted my siblings to do what makes them happy, and it has been such a special journey getting to share soccer as a passion with my sisters."

"Ever since we were little, we have been able to cheer each other on along the sidelines, and as we got older it was even more memorable to grow up with one another on and off the field. Soccer has bonded us for life."

Ashlyn leaves with a team-record 115 career goals, along with 48

assists. Peyton registered 72 career goals and 36 assists, while Sydney scored 26 career goals with 38 assists. In all, they tallied 213 goals and 122 assists as Ladycats.

"I always wanted to be number one. I remember my junior year when I broke Peyton's goal-scoring record (for the family) I called her

that night and apologized," Ashlyn said with a smile. "We are all really close."

Other career highlights include Peyton leading the 2017 Ladycats to the 5A state championship game. Ashlyn was a member of the 2019 regional finalists.

"I loved being an Aledo Ladycat. One of my favorite games I've ever played in was beating Leander Rouse in the state semifinal," Peyton said.

Though they didn't win state, the Ladycats' 5-3 loss to Highland Park in the title game saw them score more than any other team all season against the Lady Scots, who posted 18 shutouts and had surrendered just 10 goals previously. Peyton scored one of those goals in the state final.

And, of course, the Ladycats were playoff regulars during their entire tenure.

In addition to leading the Ladycats to much success, they each played for their father, Charles Laughley, in club soccer and enjoyed great success there as well.

"Their dad is a pretty important part of their life," Johnson said. "They're an amazing group of people."

Johnson said Ashlyn continued in the footsteps of her older sisters in leading by example, which she said is the only way she knows how to lead because "It's the best way people can learn."

So when Ashlyn broke Ally Swift's record of 106 career goals, he wasn't surprised.

"I knew coming in she was going to break the record," he said. "Her statement was, 'I wanna break it to where no one can break mine.'"

Turn to **LAUGHLEY**, page B2

Mayor Kit Marshall Endorses Dr. Glenn Rogers

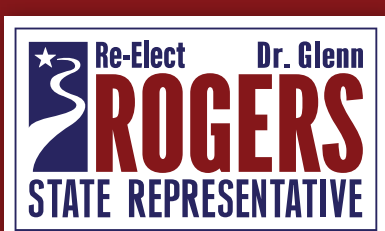
After much candidate research and a firm belief that what happens at the local level is an important priority, I am endorsing Glenn Rogers in the runoff for HD 60. He will listen, communicate, and work to find solutions on issues that impact us.

-Aledo Mayor Kit Marshall



I am proud to earn the endorsement of Mayor Kit Marshall. From bringing surface water to Aledo and leading the effort to manage Aledo's growth and development, Mayor Marshall has a long track record of delivering results for Aledo and Parker County. I thank her for her many years of public service and I am grateful to have her support in the Republican Primary Runoff.

-Dr. Glenn Rogers



www.RogersforTexas.com

Republican Primary Runoff
Election Day: Tuesday, May 24
Vote Early: May 16 - 20

PD POL ADV BY GLENN ROGERS CAMPAIGN

LAUGHLEY

from page B1

“But she’s unselfish. She’s not afraid to give the ball to someone else.”

Along with their play on the field, other individual accomplishments include:

- Sydney was a two-time first-team all-district selection and two time second-team all-district;
- Peyton was a four-year first-team all-district choice, and in 2017 she was selected to all-state, along with being chosen to play in the Texas Association of Soccer Coaches All-Star Game, which Johnson coached and in which she scored a goal. She was also named an All-American;
- Ashlyn is a two-time district MVP and in her freshman season was selected as Offensive Newcomer. She has been selected three times as an all-state player.

“I would assume she will be selected for a fourth time this season, which hasn’t been accomplished in Aledo,” Johnson said excitedly.

There is actually a younger sister, Karly, a junior at Aledo High, but she has opted to go the gymnastics route — and successfully so, Ashlyn said. She added that Karly, who is also a varsity cheerleader, was very good when she did play soccer at a younger age.

All three have been named academic all-state, signifying their success in the classroom is just as important to them as what they do on the field. Sydney graduated from Texas A&M and is a training coordinator for Dell, now living in Houston. Peyton, a graduate of Arkansas-Little Rock, lives in Dallas and codes programs for a healthcare company.

“It was such a special experience, especially getting to share the field with Peyton. Then to watch Ashlyn grow up into this beautiful young woman and one heck of a soccer player,” Sydney said. “It means so much that we are able to share the bond of Aledo Ladycat Soccer.”

Peyton also had a successful playing career in college. Sydney opted not to play past high school and Ashlyn, who is going to attend Texas Tech, has also chosen not to play at the next level.

“It was on my mind for a while. I did some camps, but ultimately



From left: Peyton, Sydney, and Ashlyn Laughley

FILE PHOTOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

I decided I want to be a student,” Ashlyn said.

Ashlyn said she is going to take over the family business following college, Laughley Bridge & Construction.

As she says goodbye to that chapter in her life, Ashlyn reflected on her favorite memory of being a Ladycat.

“Playing with my teammates since second grade. A bunch of us played on a team called the Little Ladycats in Fort Worth,” she said.

“Now that it is over, it’s a wonderful time in my life that I love to look back on. My sisters make me so proud and I loved every minute I got to watch them play. Our mutual love for the sport has brought us even closer as siblings,” Peyton said.

“There really are no words to describe how proud I am to have watched my younger sisters accomplish so much in their soccer careers. Whether they know it or not, they have taught me so much, on and off the field,” Sydney said.

“It has been an incredible journey. Throughout all the wins and all the losses, I am grateful for all the memories. As this chapter closes, I am excited to see what the future holds and all that is to come.”



Karly, Peyton, Ashlyn, and Sydney

COURTESY OF THE LAUGHLEY FAMILY

RODEO

Area hopefuls throughout NTHSRA standings

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

A plethora of area athletes, including several from Aledo, find themselves in position to advance to the finals of the North Texas High School Rodeo Association as the regular season heads into the final few weeks.

The top 15 in each event will earn a berth in the finals May 13-15 in Saginaw.

Poised for a finals berth in saddle bronc is Aledo’s Mason McElroy, who is in fifth place with 224 points (1,011.5 leads). Also in the top five in his event from Aledo is Tyson Douglas in chute dogging with 406 points (553 leads).

Among the girls, Aledo’s Ashtyn Coufal is sixth in walk-up goat tying with 329 points (1,036 leads).

Aledo has three barrel racers in contention for a spot in the finals, led by Adrianna Ruckteschler in eighth place with 329 points (784 leads). Ashlyn Coufal is 11th with 196 and Nicole Altieri is 15th with 140.

Here is a complete list of Area competitors in the top 15 in their respective events:

- Calf roping (938 leads): 9. Clayton Praytor, Weatherford, 385; 13. Haiden Smith, Weatherford, 70.
- Breakaway roping (546): 4. Lilly Hamilton, Weatherford, 441; 7. Reagan High, Weatherford, 350.
- Saddle bronc (1,011.5): 5. Mason McElroy, Aledo, 224.
- Ribbon roping (889): 7. Clayton Praytor, Weatherford, 399; 15. Haiden Smith, Weatherford, 98.
- Walk-up goat tying (1,036): 6. Ashtyn Coufal, Aledo, 448.
- Steer wrestling (945): 4. Caden Farrell, Weatherford, 469.
- Barrel racing (784): 8. Adrianna Ruckteschler, Aledo, 329; Ashlyn Coufal, Aledo, 196; 15. Nicole Altieri, Aledo, 140.
- Chute Dogging (700): 4. Cade Farrell, Weatherford, 462; 5. Tyson Douglas, Aledo, 406; 14. Caleb Smith, Aledo, 182.
- Poles (756): 2. Savannah Letson, Weatherford, 721.
- Bull riding (623): 3. Carter High, Weatherford, 294.
- Teams: 5. Weatherford, 4,131; 11. Aledo, 2,023.

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Easter Weekend

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Remembering Rayfield

By Randy Keck
The Community News

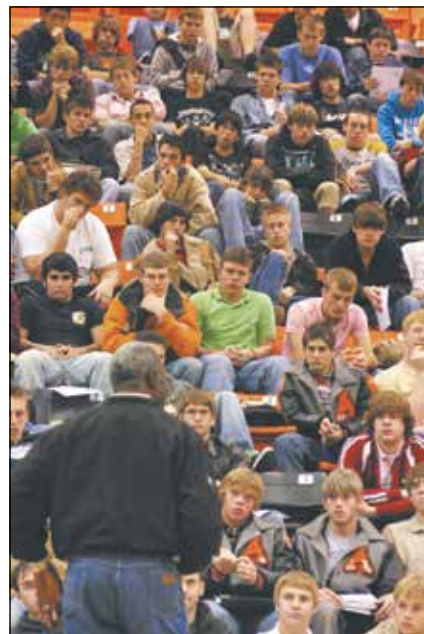
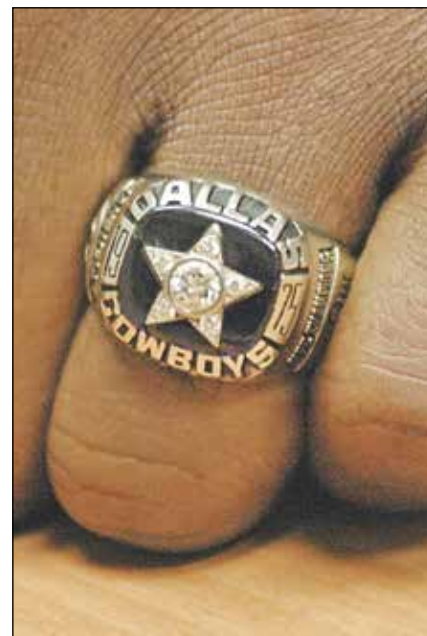
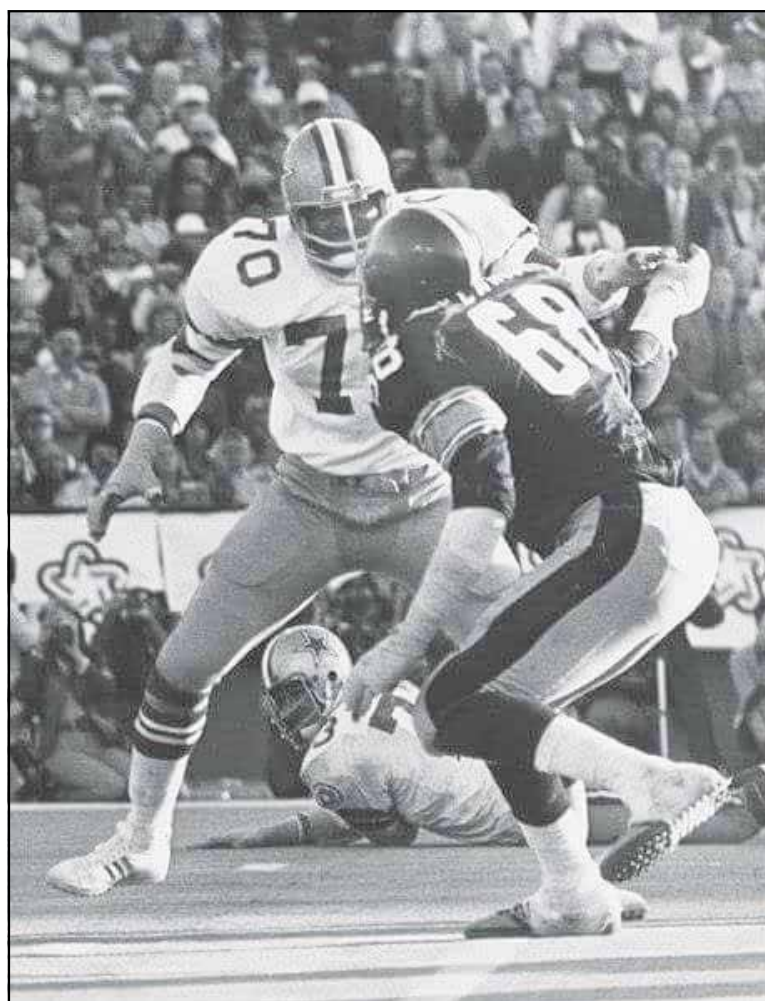
It's difficult to reconcile the Rayfield Wright that faced off against Deacon Jones on the offensive line for the Dallas Cowboys with the gentle giant who who moved to Willow Park almost 20 years ago.

A legend even before being named to the NFL Hall of Fame, Rayfield never flaunted his celebrity status. Instead, he leveraged it for the good of the community. He couldn't help but know he was "famous." He just didn't act like it.

He somehow managed to keep a low profile while at the same time taking time to speak to Aledo High School athletes, speak at a local church, or participate in a United Way Celebrity Dinner.

At that particular dinner, my brother and I played the parts of Eli and Peyton Manning, Joe Tison was Tom Landry, and Rayfield Wright was — well, he was Rayfield Wright.

Along the way, he was inducted into the NFL Hall of Fame, leading to a unique thought. How



FILE PHOTO/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Rayfield Wright speaks to Aledo High School athletes in 2005.

SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Wright pulls outside to block for Calvin Hill.



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Dallas Cowboys Hall of Famer Rayfield Wright presented a check for \$54,335 to Willow Park Fire Chief Mike LeNoir and Police Chief Carrie West from the inaugural Rayfield Wright Celebrity Golf Tournament.

many small communities are there who could have the headline, "Local resident inducted into NFL Hall of Fame?"

In 2007 he was named Man of the Year by the East Parker County Chamber of Commerce. He sat at a table with our staff, and while dinner was going on, he passed one of his Super Bowl rings around the table.

I don't think any of us realized how much that thing weighed, or how big it was. I think my thoughts were along the lines of, "how could anyone have fingers that big?"

But they were big fingers that belonged to a big man, and he put his hands and his mind and his actions to work to benefit this community.

Back in 2006 he furnished a weekly column for this newspaper. One of my favorites was about "Big Mama." It was published Dec. 22,

2006, and is reprinted on the next page.

In 2011 he provided five scholarships of \$1,500 each to local area high school seniors. He was quoted as saying, "When I was growing up, there were often times when we didn't even have money for food so a college education was never on my radar. Yet there was one person, one person, out there who believed in me. That's how I got into college. That's why we do what we do."

Then, in 2019, he brought a whole slew of NFL greats and others to Willow Park for the first Rayfield Wright Celebrity Golf Tournament to benefit the Willow Park Police and Fire Departments, raising \$54,000 the first time out.

Rayfield Wright was a gentleman in the truest sense of the word. He gave of his talent and resources. "Big Cat" was a big man — he had big hands, he had a big heart, and he leaves big shoes to fill.

In My Eyes

Rayfield Wright and the road less traveled



Nolan Ruth

As I sat down this past week and mourned the loss of one of the greatest men I have ever known, I was struck with something that does not happen often — I was at a loss for words.

Willow Park resident and former Dallas Cowboys Hall of Fame

offensive tackle Rayfield Wright passed away at the age of 76.

I wish I could do his legacy justice, but what else am I to say about a man who let all of his actions do the talking? He was a man who came from such humble beginnings to end up one of the greatest offensive linemen to ever live. Still, though, he never lost his humbleness.

All too often, successful athletes tend to get "big heads" and become egotistical. They forget about the humble backgrounds from which they came, and they trade it all for the glamor of a celebrity lifestyle. But not Rayfield.

Every honor, every accolade, every dollar he ever earned, he made certain to give it all back to

his community. From his time in Georgia, to Arizona, and back to Texas, he knew what was really important.

Even in his playing career where he won two Super Bowls with the Cowboys and appeared in three more, his humbleness stood out to his teammates. As I read what his colleagues had to say in the wake of his passing, it confirmed everything that made Rayfield a great man.

He held onto his principles until his final breath, but the words he spoke in his 2006 Pro Football Hall of Fame induction will continue to echo as long as his legacy lives on:

"I learned of a poem in the eighth grade entitled, 'The Road Not Taken.' It's about two roads.

One was well traveled. The other one was grassy and wanted wear. Through the poem, I discovered that life would give me choices. It was recognizing those choices that proved to be the greatest challenge.

"Success didn't come my way instantly. In fact, I went out for football in high school, and I couldn't make the team in my first three years.

"I've had many mentors in my life who always said 'Let honor and success come to you only if it's deserved, not because it's sought after.'

"I wish to tip my hat to the Dallas Cowboys fans, especially the ones who remember my playing days and America's Team of the 70's.

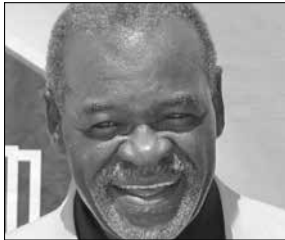
"Now, parents, teach your children well. Encourage them with your faith and leadership. Remember that you are the windows through which your children see this world.

"To every young athlete within the sound of my voice, it takes courage to dream your dream. Don't let them sit in the locker room. Take a leap of faith. Listen to your parents and respect your elders. Learn from your successes and your losses.

"Be satisfied you gave the game everything you had and remember this: Don't be afraid to travel the road less traveled, because Larry Rayfield Wright did, and you can, too."

Rayfield Writes

Remembering Big Mama



Rayfield Wright

bigcat@rayfieldwright.com

My grandmother, Miss Prentice Williams, would have celebrated her 114th birthday this week. She was born December 23, 1892. Because she stood 6 feet tall, we called her "Big Mama."

You've heard me refer to Big Mama on several occasions. Since this is the holiday season and because 2006 has been such a momentous year for me, I really want to capture the essence of what she stood for and the powerful role she played in my life.

Big Mama was a strong, healthy lady. She knew the meaning of hard work and carried out her daily domestic chores in a highly energized manner. As a child, I can't recall her ever having a sniffle or spending one day in bed with the flu or any other ailment.

In September 1981, I returned home from my job at the National Bank of Commerce in Dallas to find a message on my answering machine. "Larry," my sister Earline exclaimed, "call home immediately!" Frantically I dialed the number to my mother's house in Griffin, Ga., but there

was no answer. That was odd because there was always someone at home. I quickly called my Aunt Myrtice's where my cousin answered the phone. She tearfully said "Big Mama has had a stroke! She's at the hospital in Griffin."

Without giving it a second thought, I called the airlines and book the first available flight to Atlanta. Sitting on that plane was the most desperate experience of my life. I think I relived every moment between me and Big Mama that ever existed.

I remembered how she taught me to pray and the power of those prayers. As a child, I knelt beside her every morning and listened to her pray. She was always praising God and thanking Him and asking Him to help others.

I could see the twinkle in her big brown eyes.

I could hear her voice and she was singing. Big Mama always had a song in her heart and was constantly singing. Whatever she was doing, dishes, laundry, sweeping, picking cotton or walking to the market, there was a joyful song coming from her mouth. *Amazing Grace. Take My Hand Precious Lord.* Sometimes she composed her own melody and the words to go with it. The memories made me smile and cry at the same time.

I recalled how she would put pennies and small change in the collection plate at church, even when we didn't have enough money

for a loaf of bread. "The Lord will provide," she reassured me.

I relived all the times when she spanked me because I needed one.

I could see her white, frayed apron strings and the old black shoes she wore every day.

Her strength amazed me when my grandfather, a Baptist minister named Judge Williams, passed away in 1950. I was just five years old. It was Big Mama who picked up the mantle of our family. Back in Georgia, folks would say that she "covered our house."

Her soul, her spirit and her passion for life were all so beautiful.

As the flight touched down in Atlanta, I dried my tears and raced my rental car toward Griffin. Reaching the hospital, I bypassed the elevators and sprinted up the stairs to the second floor. The hallway was filled with family members and friends. Earline met me with an unyielding hug which told me that Big Mama's condition was grave.

Inside the hospital room, I found my mother, my aunt, Reverend Stinson and Mary Ann, a nurse and family friend. "Big Mama isn't expected to make it," they told me.

For the next three days I stayed by her side praying to God; asking Him to keep her with us and pleading with Him to let me talk with her just one more time. I held her hand constantly and placed numerous kisses on her hands, her

cheeks and her forehead.

On the third night, I saw the bed sheet move by her right leg. "Big Mama?" I asked. Her eyes blinked once and then opened. Incredibly, her eyes were as blue as the sky. After a few seconds, she blinked again and her then brown eyes focused on mine.

"Larry, why are you crying?" she asked. "Everything's going to be alright." I was laughing through my tears.

"By the way," she added, "you've sure been giving me lots of kisses!"

"Welcome back, Big Mama," I softly said to her.

"Larry," she exclaimed, "I've been to the valley and I've talked to Judge! But I didn't see Mary Ann." I remember thinking what an amazing testimonial that was. I understood why she mentioned Judge, her husband, but the only Mary Ann we knew was the nurse who would be back on duty the next morning.

"Let me call Mama and let her know you're awake," I said.

"No, son, you can call her in the morning. She needs her rest," she replied. "Let's just you and I talk for a while."

And so it was. We talked for hours. Laughing. Crying. Singing. Praying. It was such a beautiful night.

Around 6 o'clock the next morning there was a loud commotion in the hallway. Big Mama asked me to check and see what it was all about. Arriving at the

nurse's station, I discovered that Mary Ann, the nurse and family friend, had just been brought in to the hospital with a gunshot wound. She passed away within the hour.

The Lord answered my prayers for Big Mama and our family. She was with us for the next five months... full of spirit and with a song in her heart. On January 15, 1982 my grandmother passed away, peacefully, in her sleep.

As you know, I try to convey a message with each story I tell and this one is no exception. If you *have* parents or grandparents in your life, love them with all your heart. Talk with them, listen to them and learn something new about them. And if you *are* a parent or a grandparent, spend some time with your child. Express the joy inside your heart. Love them, hold them close and teach them well.

Most importantly, remember that we celebrate the **greatest** birth of all this week. Keep the reason of this season in front of you and your family.

I hope your Christmas is filled with love, laughter and a joyful song.

And to you, Big Mama, happy birthday. I love you and I miss you.

Rayfield would like to answer questions from his fans, friends and neighbors. E-mail your questions about football or life in general to bigcat@rayfieldwright.com. Please put "Question" in the subject line. Your inquiry may be answered in an upcoming issue of The Community News.

TRINITY CRISTIAN ACADEMY

Seven tennis players compete at state

The Trinity Christian Academy tennis team competed in the district tournament March 28-29 in Midland, and emerged with seven out of 12 players qualifying for state.

The girls finished in third place as a team, and the boys won district, TCA's second district championship in a row.

Macy Prestwood and Faith Rodgers finished third in girls doubles.

Lauren and Jordan Nachlinger finished fifth in girls doubles.

Micah Breisch finished fifth in girls singles.

Bo Blausner finished second in boys singles.

Teegan Thomas finished fifth in boys singles.

At the state tournament in Waco on April 4-5, Bo Blausner made it past the first round but fell short in the second, placing in the top eight in the state as a freshman.

Macy Prestwood and Faith Rodgers competed in the first round at state. They lost the first set but

fought hard to win the second set and force a third set tiebreaker. They just fell short 6-10.

Baseball

TCA baseball traveled to Lubbock for a district matchup with the Lubbock Trinity Lions. The Eagles came up short in both games, losing 12-2 and 19-4.

Softball

The Lady Eagles hosted Lubbock Trinity Friday and Saturday in White Settlement. The Lady Eagles dropped two games 17-2 and 19-0. The young and inexperienced squad continues to grow and develop as the year progresses. Paige Bull led the Eagles on Friday going 1 for 1 with a double and a walk. Karter Kelley continues to build confidence on the mound and is building her consistency while also driving in two runs on a single. The Lady Eagles were unable to push a run across on Saturday but took great strides on the defensive side of the ball.



Shown are the TCA state tennis qualifiers (from left) Coach Culberhouse, Lauren Nachlinger, Jordan Nachlinger, Faith Rodgers, Micah Breisch, Bo Blausner, Teegan Thomas, and Macy Prestwood.

TRINITY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

GOLF

Aledo teams seek return to state

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

Over the past 12 years the only thing that kept the Aledo golf program from having a team at the UIL State Tournament was a worldwide pandemic that prevented the tournament from even taking place in 2020.

Otherwise, either the Bearcats or Ladycats have competed in Austin annually since 2011. Both teams were represented on four occasions, either as a whole or with an individual competing.

"It's really the expectation and the norm with Aledo golf," Ladycats head coach James Mullins said. "Golfers new to the program immediately learn of the previous success of the program and they want to have the same success and carry on the winning tradition. The success of the program itself is inspiring."

The Ladycats have previously qualified as a team in 2012 (seventh), 2013 (10th), 2014 (fourth, with now LPGA golfer Cheyenne Knight winning individually), 2015 (second, Knight repeated as champion), 2016 (12th), 2017 (10th, 2018 (fourth) and 2021 (10th).

The Bearcats qualified as a team in 2011 (fourth), 2015 (12th), 2017

(10th) and 2019 (12th). They also sent individuals in 2012 (Logan Lambert), 2014 (Lambert) and 2018 (Evan Pennington).

In 2017 both complete teams qualified for state, something they are hoping to duplicate next week at the Rawls Golf Course at Texas Tech University in Lubbock. The Bearcats compete Monday and Tuesday, April 18-19, while the Ladycats take to the course Wednesday and Thursday, April 20-21.

The top three teams and top three individuals not on those teams will advance to their respective Class 5A State Tournament at White Wing Golf Club in Georgetown. For the boys, it's May 9-10 and the girls will compete May 16-17.

Boys

Bearcats head coach Joe Roquemore believes his team has some unfinished business at regionals this year, and it's like returners Braylon Mahaney, Jett Moore and Jake Phillips do as well.

"We did not play well last year at regionals. Some of it was due to terrible weather and some of it was our inexperience," Roquemore said. "There were three freshman and one sophomore on last year's team. We

finished in seventh place, 28 shots out of a spot in the state tournament. When you play that out over 36 holes and five players, 28 shots is not a lot of strokes to make up."

And once again the field is strong. Not only are Aledo Black and Granbury Purple competing, but so are other always tough programs, such as returning state qualifiers Canyon Randall, Burleson Centennial and Lubbock Cooper. Other strong competitors include Abilene Wylie and Amarillo Tascosa.

Rounding out the field are El Paso High, El Paso Chapin, El Paso Bel Air, El Paso Hanks, Grapevine, Denton, Arlington Heights, Saginaw and Mansfield Legacy.

The Bearcats' are coming in with back-to-back victories in their District 5-5A Preview Tournament and the actual district tournament itself. They also have one other tournament championship, playing a rigorous schedule.

"We have played against some of the best 5A and 6A teams in the state and have held our own," Roquemore said.

"We are looking to peak on April 18-19," he continued. "The game of golf is hard and full of ups and

downs. We are planning to be our best at the right time."

Girls

Mullins returns all but one player from last season's squad, including Aly Saunders, Mallory Miller, Sanaa Lemen and Madison Warner. Also, Kyla Morales was an alternate last year so she has seen the course.

This year's alternate is freshman Reagan Gilliland, who Mullins said has a great opportunity to possibly play the course next year.

As for the teams to beat in Lubbock, along with his own, Mullins said, "Grapevine will always show up with a solid team and performance. We never count them out. Coach Humphries does an excellent job with that program's success.

"Last year Amarillo was the team to beat, so they have become a force that we feel will show up this year as well with some solid scores. I have heard that Mansfield Legacy is the team to beat at regionals this year. It wouldn't surprise me, with the talent Mansfield has in many athletic programs, that they can put together a winning team.

"I honestly try not to focus on the teams to beat because it will all

come down to us versus the course on those days."

Also in the field are Granbury (District 5-5A runner-up behind Aledo) El Paso Burges, El Paso High, El Paso El Dorado, El Paso Del Valle, Lubbock Cooper, Lubbock High, Lake Dallas, Fort Worth Arlington Heights, Saginaw, and Burleson Centennial.

The Ladycats ran away with both the District 5-5A Tournament and the district preview a week earlier. They also won a third at Cross Timbers in Azle in February, along with runner-up finishes at Harbor Lakes in Granbury in September (won by perennial state power Mansfield) and March (Oklahoma power Jenks won).

"The scores have been slowly improving this spring. I would say that the Ladycats are peaking physically and mentally in their golf game at the right time," Mullins said. "The regional tournament should be a very competitive field and will require all golfers to play their best to get out to state. I'm confident in the team to put together two days of solid golf to make the top three teams at regionals."

TENNIS

Siddons, Posey bring home bronze from regional

By **Andrea Garnett**
Special to The Community News

Aledo High School girls doubles team Katie Siddons and Georgia Posey brought home third place medals from the UIL Regional Tennis Tournament held in Lubbock on April 11-12.

Coach Joe McCoy took two teams to Regionals this year, boys doubles duo Jax Joiner and Hogan Posey and girls doubles Siddons and Posey. Both teams won first place at the qualifying district tournament two weeks prior.

Joiner and Hogan Posey had to play the fourth seeded team from Canyon Randall High School and lost (3-6)(1-6), eliminating them in the first round.

Siddons and Georgia Posey, who were seeded third, beat Colleyville Heritage (6-1)(6-1) in round 1. In round 2 they faced Arlington Heights, winning (6-2)(6-3) and this advanced them into the semi-finals where they faced the number 2 seeded team from Amarillo High School. The RacquetCats lost (4-6)(5-7) in a very competitive match holding their own throughout.

Tuesday morning the duo played for third place against Randall where they split sets (6-3)(2-6) and went into a third set tie breaker for the nail-biter victory, winning it (7-6)8-6. This win set them up for a playback chance to advance to State if they could beat the number 1 seeded Abilene Wylie team that lost in the finals to number 2 Amarillo High in an upset match. Unfortunately, the girls lost that match (2-6)(3-6) but retained their third place finish.

Siddons, Georgia Posey, and Joiner are all seniors while Hogan

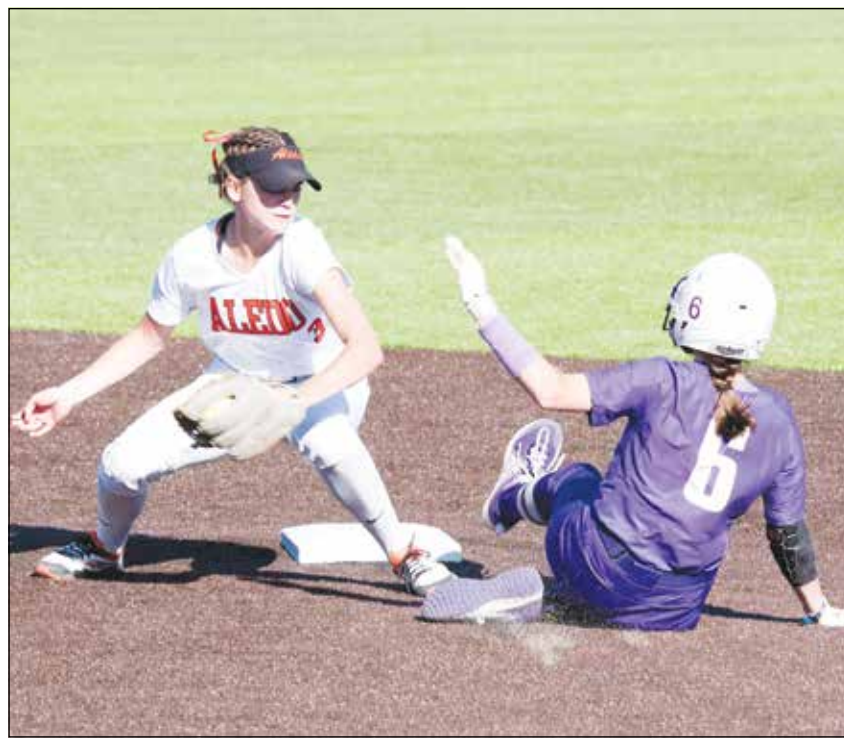


Katie Siddons and Georgia Posey brought home bronze medals from the regional tennis tournament.

ANDREA GARNETT

Posey will be returning as a senior next year for the RacquetCats. This coming fall Katie Siddons will attend Texas Christian University,

Georgia Posey will attend the University of Texas, and Jax Joiner will attend Southeastern Oklahoma State University.



JACKIE HAYSLIP/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Reagan Davis tags a runner on second base for an out during Friday Night's game against Granbury

SOFTBALL

Ladycats continue dominance

By **Nolan Ruth**
The Community News

The Aledo Ladycats softball team expected to have a big year after a memorable run in 2021. The expectations have been met as Aledo (20-2 overall, 8-0 in league) completed two more sweeps in District 5-5A play with wins over Granbury and Azle.

Granbury

On Friday, April 8, sophomore standout Brenlee Gonzales stepped into the circle to pitch against Granbury (9-10-2, 3-4). Gonzales had a stellar night as she pitched five innings, only allowing one hit and one walk while striking out 10.

Chole Cox started the scoring in the third inning when she took home plate on an error. Two batters later, Marissa Powell singled in Reagan Davis to make it a 2-0 lead for the Ladycats.

In the bottom of the fifth, Aledo walked it off by scoring eight runs to end the game by run-rule. Powell drove in four more runs in the inning, driving in the first run to start the inning, and tripling with the bases loaded for the final three runs. Madysen Boutwell also drove in two with a home run to left field. The Ladycats took the game by a score of 10-0.

Turn to 'CATS, page B6

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JACKIE HAYSLIP/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Marissa Powell slides safe into second base first inning of Friday Night's game against Granbury

'CATS

from page B5

Azle

Just days later, despite a massive storm pushing through the area, Aledo traveled north to Azle on Tuesday, April 12. After a delay stopped the game after the first inning for nearly two hours, Azle (14-10-1, 5-3) jumped out to an early lead with a run in the second.

The Ladycats immediately responded with a seven-run third inning. However, Azle would not back down easily and scored three more runs in the bottom of the third to make the score 7-4.

Boutwell made it a four-run game again in the fourth inning with a solo home run. In the sixth, she singled to left field, scoring Powell and Maddy Jarvis. Azle managed to score two more runs, but Aledo also added two more of its own for good measure to secure a 12-6 victory.

The Ladycats will travel to Wichita Falls on Thursday, April 14, to take on Rider High School, before closing out the regular season with Wichita Falls High on Tuesday, April 19.

BASEBALL

Bearcats split non-district contests

By Nolan Ruth
The Community News

Due to a gap in the baseball schedule, the Aledo Bearcats got a week off from District 5-5A play, but filled the gap with two non-district series. After falling to the Southlake Carroll Dragons 6-0 at home, the Bearcats(15-8 overall, 3-1 in district) traveled to Southlake for the rubber match on Friday, April 8.

The game was all it was hyped up to be and more. Carroll (18-8) got out to a 3-0 lead after the first three innings. Down to their final out, the Bearcats scored three quick runs in the seventh to tie the game and send it into extra innings.

After scoreless eighth and ninth innings, Estevan Flores broke the stalemate with a sacrifice fly to score David Jones. Adrian Guzman took the mound in the bottom of the inning and called the game as he retired all three batters he faced.

Euleus Trinity

The following day, April 9, Aledo played host to Euleus Trinity (10-11-1) for a doubleheader. The Trojans are a familiar opponent for the Bearcats as they have faced off in each of the past two years.

Three early runs for Aledo proved to be the difference as Penner Unruh and Matthew Clark held Trinity at a distance. Despite two late runs for the Trojans, it was not enough and the Bearcats held on to win 3-2.



KIRSTEN GALLON

Centerfielder Max Belyeu slides safely into third on a steal from second base against Azle on Wednesday.

The following game proved to be very different as the teams combined for 15 runs. Trinity jumped out early with a three-run first inning, followed by a three run second inning for Aledo.

Both scored three runs in the third inning, and traded runs in the fourth making the score 7-7. However the pitchers took over from there and Trinity scored the only other run in the sixth inning

to claim the win 8-7 and split the doubleheader.

The Bearcats continue district play against the Azle Hornets (12-1, 4-0) at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 13 at Azle High School.

**Congratulations
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INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Invitation to Bid on construction for the City of Aledo, Parker County, Texas on: 2022 Paving Improvements. The work is to include furnishing of all labor, materials, equipment, and performing all work necessary for the construction and other associated improvements detailed in the contract documents and specifications.

Sealed bids addressed to Ms. Deana McMullen, City Secretary, City of Aledo City Hall, 200 Old Annetta Road, Aledo, Texas 76008 will be received until 2:00 P.M., May 6, 2022 at which time and place the proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud and retained by the City for tabulation, checking, and evaluation.

Bids shall be submitted upon the blank form of proposal furnished. Sealed bids shall be marked "BID FOR 2022 PAVING IMPROVEMENTS. DO NOT OPEN UNTIL 2:00 P.M., May 6, 2022."

Prebid Conference Date: Friday, April 29, 2022.

Plans and Contract Documents will be available beginning at 8:00 a.m. on April 15, 2022. Contract Documents, including Drawings and Technical Specifications, will be on file at that time at the Aledo City Hall and may be examined without charge. Copies may be obtained from the City of Aledo, 200 Old Annetta Road, Aledo, Texas 76008, Attention: Public Works, for a non-refundable deposit of forty dollars (\$40.00) per set. Submit check, cashier check or money order for payment. Cash will not be accepted. Questions related to the procurement of the project should be directed to Ms. Gretchen Vazquez, P.E. at 817-441-7016 or publicworksdirector@aledotx.gov or Kristian Sugrim at 817-441-7016 or adofpublicworks@aledotx.gov.

A majority of the work on the referenced project consists of the approximate:

10,330 SY	10"	Pavement Pulverization w/Cement
10,330 SY	2"	HMAC Type D Surface Course
1,510 SY	11"	Pavement Pulverization w/Cement
1,510 SY	3"	HMAC Type D Surface Course

A prebid conference may be held at 2:00 PM on April 29, 2022 in the Aledo Community Center located at 104 Robinson Court, Aledo, Texas.

A certified check or bank draft, payable to the City of Aledo, negotiable U.S. Government Bonds (at par value), or a satisfactory Bid Bond executed by the Bidder and payable to the City of Aledo in an amount equal to at least five percent (5%) of the total amount of the proposal must accompany each Bid as a guaranty that if the proposal is accepted, the Bidder will execute the contract and furnish the required performance, payment, and maintenance bonds in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the contract price.

No bids may be withdrawn within (90) days after date on which the bids are opened. In case of ambiguity or lack of clearness in stating proposal prices, the City reserves the right to adopt the proposal that provided for the most advantageous contract and pricing for the City. The contract will be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder; however, the City reserves the right to reject any and all bids. The low bidder shall be prepared to submit such evidence as the City may reasonably require to establish their experience, possession of such equipment, qualification of personnel, and financial responsibility necessary to complete the work on this project in an expeditious, safe, and satisfactory manner.

Deana McMullen, City Secretary, City of Aledo, Texas

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Aledo Independent School District CHILD FIND

If you live in the Aledo ISD school district and have a concern about the development of your child or suspect your child has a disability? Please contact the Special Programs office at 817-441-5199 for information regarding evaluations or if you have any questions.

Cost: No Charge
***Call for appointment: (817) 441-5199**

Aledo Independent School District Special Education Department will conduct an evaluation to identify children with disabilities or developmental delays who may need special services and reside in the Aledo Independent School District.

School districts and public charter schools must ensure that a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) is provided for children who are identified as needing special education and related services.

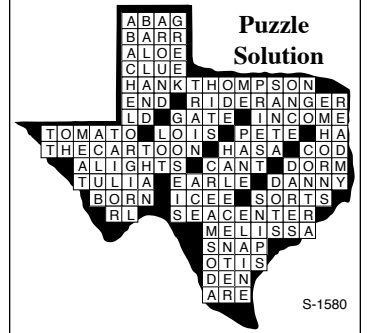
Distrito Escolar Independiente de Aledo BÚSQUEDA DE NIÑOS

Si vive en el distrito escolar de Aledo ISD y tiene alguna duda sobre el desarrollo de su hijo o sospecha que su hijo tiene una discapacidad? Por favor, póngase en contacto con la oficina de Programas Especiales al 817-441-5199 para obtener información sobre las evaluaciones o si tiene alguna pregunta.

Costo: Sin Cargo
***Llame para más información: (817) 441-5199**

El Departamento de Educación Especial del Distrito Escolar Independiente de Aledo realizará una evaluación para identificar a los niños con discapacidades o retrasos en el desarrollo que pueden necesitar servicios especiales y residan en el Distrito Escolar Independiente de Aledo.

Los distritos escolares y las escuelas públicas concertadas debengarantizar que se proporcione una Educación Pública Gratuita y Apropiaada (FAPE, por sus siglas en inglés) para los niños que tienen la necesidad de recibir educación especial y servicios relacionados.



Find the crossword on page A5.



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Voting system and joint election

An electronic voting system, as defined in Chapter 121 of the Texas Election Code, shall be used for voting at the regular polling places for said election and for counting the ballots and the tabulation of the results.

The election shall be held as a Joint Election pursuant to a Joint Election Agreements and Contracts For Election Services by and between the City of Fort Worth and the Tarrant County Elections Administrator; the City of Fort Worth and the Denton County Elections Administrator; the City of Fort Worth and the Parker County Elections Administrator; and other political subdivisions located in those counties.

Notice and publication

- (a) That a substantial copy of this Ordinance, in English, Spanish and, in Tarrant County, Vietnamese translations, shall serve as proper notice of said election, which notice shall be given as follows:
i. substantial copies of this Ordinance shall be published on the same day in each of two (2) successive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the City, the date of the first publication to be not less than fourteen (14) days nor more than thirty (30) days prior to the date of said election;
ii. substantial copies of this Ordinance and the Voter Information Documents (as defined below) shall be posted on the bulletin board at the City Hall of the City of Fort Worth used for the posting of notices of meetings of the City Council of the City and at three (3) other public places within the City not later than the twenty-first (21st) day prior to the date upon which said election is to be held;
iii. no later than the twenty-first (21st) day before the election, a complete copy of this Ordinance, the Voter Information Documents, and any sample ballot prepared for the election, shall be posted on the City's official website together with the notice of the election and the contents of the Propositions and shall remain so posted through the date of the election; and
iv. a complete copy of this Ordinance and the Voter Information Documents shall be posted on election day and during early voting by personal appearance in a prominent location at each polling place at which this election is conducted.

ORDINANCE EXHIBIT A

The following information is provided regarding City of Fort Worth Proposition A (Streets and Mobility Infrastructure) in accordance with Section 1251.052(b) of the Texas Government Code.

Language that will appear on ballot:

CITY OF FORT WORTH, TEXAS SPECIAL ELECTION
CITY OF FORT WORTH, TEXAS PROPOSITION A

FOR _____) THE ISSUANCE OF \$369,218,300 OF PUBLIC SECURITIES FOR STREETS AND MOBILITY INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS AND THE IMPOSITION OF TAXES SUFFICIENT TO PAY THE PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST ON THE PUBLIC SECURITIES
AGAINST _____)

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Rows include Principal amount of debt obligations to be authorized (\$369,218,300), Estimated interest for the debt obligations to be authorized (\$189,224,266.25), Estimated combined principal and interest required to pay on time and in full the debt obligations to be amortized over 20 years (\$558,442,566.25), As of the date the election was ordered (February 8, 2022), The principal amount of all outstanding City debt obligations (\$857,075,000.00), The estimated remaining interest amount on all outstanding City debt obligations (\$200,741,378.24), and The estimated combined principal and interest required to pay on time and in full all outstanding City debt obligations, amortized over 20 years (\$1,057,816,378.24).

Property Impact on Average Homestead:

Based on the City's financial assumptions, repayment of these public securities, if approved, would impose an estimated maximum annual increase of \$0.00 in the amount of taxes on a residence homestead in the City with an appraised value of \$100,000.

Additional Information (City Financial Assumptions):

The above-quoted figures do not reflect payments made on existing debt or additional debt issued after February 8, 2022 and assume the following: the amortization of the City's debt obligations, including outstanding debt obligations and the proposed debt obligations; changes in estimated future appraised values within the City based on a growth of the City's taxable assessed valuation at a rate of 4% in 2022 through 2028, 2% in 2029 through 2033, 1% in 2034 through 2038, and 0% thereafter; and the assumed interest rate on the proposed debt obligations of five percent.

The following information is provided regarding City of Fort Worth Proposition B (Park and Recreation Improvements) in accordance with Section 1251.052(b) of the Texas Government Code.

Language that will appear on ballot:

CITY OF FORT WORTH, TEXAS SPECIAL ELECTION
CITY OF FORT WORTH, TEXAS PROPOSITION B

FOR _____) THE ISSUANCE OF \$123,955,500 OF PUBLIC SECURITIES FOR PARK AND RECREATION IMPROVEMENTS AND THE IMPOSITION OF TAXES SUFFICIENT TO PAY THE PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST ON THE PUBLIC SECURITIES
AGAINST _____)

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Rows include Principal amount of debt obligations to be authorized (\$123,955,500), Estimated interest for the debt obligations to be authorized (\$63,527,081.25), Estimated combined principal and interest required to pay on time and in full the debt obligations to be amortized over 20 years (\$187,482,581.25), As of the date the election was ordered (February 8, 2022), The principal amount of all outstanding City debt obligations (\$857,075,000.00), The estimated remaining interest amount on all outstanding City debt obligations (\$200,741,378.24), and The estimated combined principal and interest required to pay on time and in full all outstanding City debt obligations, amortized over 20 years (\$1,057,816,378.24).

Property Impact on Average Homestead:

Based on the City's financial assumptions, repayment of these public securities, if approved, would impose an estimated maximum annual increase of \$0.00 in the amount of taxes on a residence homestead in the City with an appraised value of \$100,000.

Additional Information (City Financial Assumptions):

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The following information is provided regarding City of Fort Worth Proposition C (Public Library Improvements) in accordance with Section 1251.052(b) of the Texas Government Code.

Language that will appear on ballot:

CITY OF FORT WORTH, TEXAS SPECIAL ELECTION
CITY OF FORT WORTH, TEXAS PROPOSITION C

FOR _____) THE ISSUANCE OF \$12,505,200 OF PUBLIC SECURITIES FOR PUBLIC LIBRARY IMPROVEMENTS AND THE IMPOSITION OF TAXES SUFFICIENT TO PAY THE PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST ON THE PUBLIC SECURITIES
AGAINST _____)

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Rows include Principal amount of debt obligations to be authorized (\$12,505,200), Estimated interest for the debt obligations to be authorized (\$6,408,735), Estimated combined principal and interest required to pay on time and in full the debt obligations to be amortized over 20 years (\$18,913,935), As of the date the election was ordered (February 8, 2022), The principal amount of all outstanding City debt obligations (\$857,075,000.00), The estimated remaining interest amount on all outstanding City debt obligations (\$200,741,378.24), and The estimated combined principal and interest required to pay on time and in full all outstanding City debt obligations, amortized over 20 years (\$1,057,816,378.24).

Property Impact on Average Homestead:

Based on the City's financial assumptions, repayment of these public securities, if approved, would impose an estimated maximum annual increase of \$0.00 in the amount of taxes on a residence homestead in the City with an appraised value of \$100,000.

Additional Information (City Financial Assumptions):

The above-quoted figures do not reflect payments made on existing debt or additional debt issued after February 8, 2022 and assume the following: the amortization of the City's debt obligations, including outstanding debt obligations and the proposed debt obligations; changes in estimated future appraised values within the City based on a growth of the City's taxable assessed valuation at a rate of 4% in 2022 through 2028, 2% in 2029 through 2033, 1% in 2034 through 2038, and 0% thereafter; and the assumed interest rate on the proposed debt obligations of five percent.

The following information is provided regarding City of Fort Worth Proposition D (Police and Fire Public Safety Improvements) in accordance with Section 1251.052(b) of the Texas Government Code.

Language that will appear on ballot:

CITY OF FORT WORTH, TEXAS SPECIAL ELECTION
CITY OF FORT WORTH, TEXAS PROPOSITION D

FOR _____) THE ISSUANCE OF \$39,321,000 OF PUBLIC SECURITIES FOR POLICE AND FIRE PUBLIC SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS AND THE IMPOSITION OF TAXES SUFFICIENT TO PAY THE PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST ON THE PUBLIC SECURITIES
AGAINST _____)

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Rows include Principal amount of debt obligations to be authorized (\$39,321,000), Estimated interest for the debt obligations to be authorized (\$20,151,812.50), Estimated combined principal and interest required to pay on time and in full the debt obligations to be amortized over 20 years (\$59,472,812.50), As of the date the election was ordered (February 8, 2022), The principal amount of all outstanding City debt obligations (\$857,075,000.00), The estimated remaining interest amount on all outstanding City debt obligations (\$200,741,378.24), and The estimated combined principal and interest required to pay on time and in full all outstanding City debt obligations, amortized over 20 years (\$1,057,816,378.24).

Property Impact on Average Homestead:

Based on the City's financial assumptions, repayment of these public securities, if approved, would impose an estimated maximum annual increase of \$0.00 in the amount of taxes on a residence homestead in the City with an appraised value of \$100,000.

Additional Information (City Financial Assumptions):

The above-quoted figures do not reflect payments made on existing debt or additional debt issued after February 8, 2022 and assume the following: the amortization of the City's debt obligations, including outstanding debt obligations and the proposed debt obligations; changes in estimated future appraised values within the City based on a growth of the City's taxable assessed valuation at a rate of 4% in 2022 through 2028, 2% in 2029 through 2033, 1% in 2034 through 2038, and 0% thereafter; and the assumed interest rate on the proposed debt obligations of five percent.

The following information is provided regarding City of Fort Worth Proposition E (Natural Area and Open Space Improvements) in accordance with Section 1251.052(b) of the Texas Government Code.

Language that will appear on ballot:

CITY OF FORT WORTH, TEXAS SPECIAL ELECTION
CITY OF FORT WORTH, TEXAS PROPOSITION E

FOR _____) THE ISSUANCE OF \$15,000,000 OF PUBLIC SECURITIES FOR ACQUISITION, SITE PREPARATION, AND ACCESSIBILITY ENHANCEMENTS FOR NATURAL AREA AND OPEN SPACE IMPROVEMENTS AND THE IMPOSITION OF TAXES SUFFICIENT TO PAY THE PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST ON THE PUBLIC SECURITIES
AGAINST _____)

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Rows include Principal amount of debt obligations to be authorized (\$15,000,000), Estimated interest for the debt obligations to be authorized (\$7,687,500), Estimated combined principal and interest required to pay on time and in full the debt obligations to be amortized over 20 years (\$22,687,500), As of the date the election was ordered (February 8, 2022), The principal amount of all outstanding City debt obligations (\$857,075,000.00), The estimated remaining interest amount on all outstanding City debt obligations (\$200,741,378.24), and The estimated combined principal and interest required to pay on time and in full all outstanding City debt obligations, amortized over 20 years (\$1,057,816,378.24).

Property Impact on Average Homestead:

Based on the City's financial assumptions, repayment of these public securities, if approved, would impose an estimated maximum annual increase of \$0.00 in the amount of taxes on a residence homestead in the City with an appraised value of \$100,000.

Additional Information (City Financial Assumptions):

The above-quoted figures do not reflect payments made on existing debt or additional debt issued after February 8, 2022 and assume the following: the amortization of the City's debt obligations, including outstanding debt obligations and the proposed debt obligations; changes in estimated future appraised values within the City based on a growth of the City's taxable assessed valuation at a rate of 4% in 2022 through 2028, 2% in 2029 through 2033, 1% in 2034 through 2038, and 0% thereafter; and the assumed interest rate on the proposed debt obligations of five percent.

ANEXO A-3

ORDENANZA nro 25326-02-2022

Una Ordenanza que decretal una eleccion de votantes calificadados de la ciudad de Fort Worth, Texas, el 7 de mayo de 2022 sobre la emision de valores publicos apoyados en impuestos Ad Valorem para el Programa General De Obligaciones de Deuda

El ayuntamiento de la ciudad de Fort Worth, Texas, ordena lo siguiente:

Orden de realizar una eleccion

Por el presente, el Ayuntamiento ordena que se lleve a cabo una eleccion el sabado 7 de mayo de 2022. Por el presente, el Ayuntamiento considera que la fecha en la que se llevara a cabo dicha eleccion debera ser no menos de setenta y ocho (78) dias despues ni mas de noventa (90) dias despues de la fecha de promulgacion de esta Ordenanza.

Propuestas

En esa eleccion, se presentaran las propuestas siguientes de acuerdo con la ley:

PROPUESTA "A" DE FORT WORTH

¿Debe autorizarse al Ayuntamiento de la Ciudad de Fort Worth a emitir valores publicos de dicha Ciudad segun lo autorizado por la ley en el momento de la emision, en una o mas series de emisiones, por un monto principal total de \$369,218,300, con los vencimientos de dichos valores publicos de cada serie o emision, respectivamente, en las fechas especificadas en los instrumentos emisores, fechas que no podran exceder cuarenta años desde la fecha de dicha emision, para venderse a los precios y devengar intereses a las tasas que determine el Ayuntamiento, para los siguientes propósitos relativos a infraestructura vial y de movilidad: construir mejoras permanentes en calles y drenajes; reconstruir, rehabilitar, reestructurar y extender calles, vias publicas, intersecciones, calles de parques y estacionamientos, aceras, puentes, vias peatonales, bicisendas, paisajes urbanos, colectoras, señalización, cartelaria, otros controles de trafico y señales, alumbrado publico y mejoras medianas, y la adquisicion de tierras para las mismas en dicha Ciudad; y mejoras relacionadas con todo lo anterior; o contribuir al financiamiento de todo lo anterior, y debe autorizarse a dicho Ayuntamiento a imponer y hacer que se evaluen y cobren impuestos ad valorem anuales en un monto suficiente para pagar los intereses anuales de dichos valores publicos y proveer un fondo de amortizacion para pagar dichos valores publicos al vencimiento?

PROPUESTA "B" DE FORT WORTH

¿Debe autorizarse al Ayuntamiento de la ciudad de Fort Worth a emitir valores publicos de dicha ciudad segun lo autorizado por la ley en el momento de la emision, en una o mas series o emisiones, por un monto principal total de \$123,955,500, con los vencimientos de dichos valores publicos de cada serie o emision, respectivamente, en las fechas especificadas en los instrumentos emisores, fechas que no podran exceder los cuarenta años desde la fecha de dicha emision, y para venderse a los precios y devengar intereses a las tasas que determine el Ayuntamiento, para los siguientes propósitos relativos a parques y recreacion en dicha ciudad, a saber: diseñar y construir instalaciones de parques, recreacion y centros comunitarios; construir instalaciones nuevas o de reemplazo; renovar las instalaciones existentes; ampliar otras instalaciones similares; mejorar la tierra; construir, renovar o agrandar parques infantiles, caminos, estacionamientos, desagües u otras instalaciones de infraestructura de apoyo en instalaciones de parques y recreacion, o integrados en estos; adquirir tierras para ellos en dicha ciudad, y mejoras relacionadas con todo lo anterior; o contribuir a la financiacion de todo lo anterior, y se debe autorizar a dicho Ayuntamiento a gravar, imponer y recaudar impuestos ad valorem anuales en un monto suficiente para pagar los intereses anuales de dichos valores publicos y proveer un fondo de amortizacion para pagar dichos valores publicos al vencimiento?

