

THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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Battling Back

Hetherington returned from surgeries to play for beloved Bearcats

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

Riley Hetherington remembers being excited about his forthcoming appearance on the Aledo Bearcats varsity baseball roster for the 2021 season.

However, fate squelched that excitement, as an elbow injury forced that appearance to be delayed until this season.

“My junior year I started on JV, but the week I hurt my elbow Coach (Chad) Barry was going to add me to the varsity roster for a tournament,” Hetherington recalled.

And when his dream did become a reality, it was in a different form. He had hoped to pitch for the Bearcats, but after his second surgery was told that would not be possible.

“I knew to make the team, I had to find somewhere else to play. I had played first base in summer ball, so I decided that is where I would go try out.”

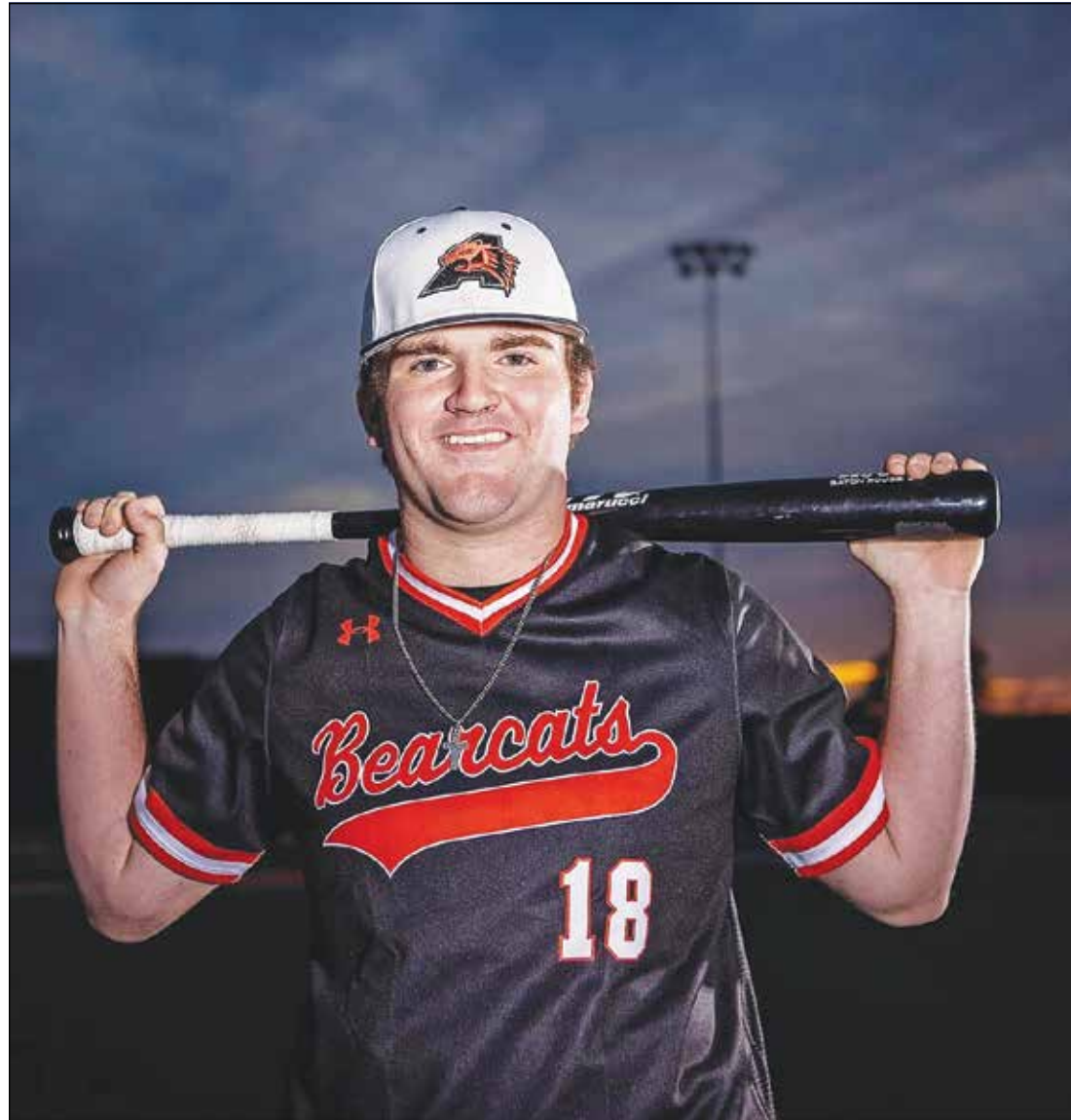
Hetherington did indeed make the team, and he and the Bearcats advanced to the Class 5A Region I final, finishing the season with a 29-12 record, including the District 5-5A championship.

“This season has meant everything to me. When the varsity roster was released and my name was on there, my phone blew up with texts from my teammates saying things like, ‘Congrats, you deserve this, glad you will be on the team,’” Hetherington said.

Shortly after that his phone rang again. It was coach Barry.

“He told me congratulations and that I was an inspiration to so many of the guys on the team. He told me ‘I need you to be a leader, I need you to use that fight, perseverance and determination you used to get back on the field to help us win a state championship,’” Hetherington remembered.

“I am a believer in Christ, and after injuring myself, I asked God to show me something to ‘lean on’ through my recovery,” he continued. “He showed me Proverbs 16:3, which says



KRISTIN MORALES

Riley Hetherington battled back from major arm surgery to make the Aledo Bearcat varsity baseball team in 2022.

Commit to the Lord in whatever you do and your plans will succeed.’ This verse became my battle cry during my recovery.”

Hetherington said the most difficult part of his return to play was once again facing live pitching.

“My freshman year I played outfield and pitched. That was the last time I had stepped

into the box and faced a live pitcher,” he said. “The moment I was released to swing a bat, I started to hit off a tee. Every day in my garage for hours I would hit trying to get my swing ready for tryouts.”

Hetherington was first injured during the summer of his sophomore year, playing with

Turn to RILEY, page 3

WILLOW PARK

City moves closer to drainage improvements

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

At the Willow Park City Council meeting on June 14, council members voted to approve posting a notice of intention to issue certificates of obligation in an amount not to exceed \$4.25 million. The funds are for the purpose of designing, constructing, acquiring, improving, enlarging, and equipping the city’s municipal drainage utility system.

The city has been collecting fees since October of 2021 to fund storm drainage improvements throughout the city. The rates, reflected in the utility bills of residents, are \$5.50 per month per 1,500 square feet of living area. For example, 2,000 square feet is \$7.32 per month, 2,500 is \$9.19 and 3,000 equals \$11.

City manager Bryan Grimes said about \$220,000 has been raised this fiscal year and he anticipates all the fees will bring in approximately \$330,000 annually. Funds raised through these fees will go toward paying the debt service charges connected with the certificates of obligation.

“Some are small, some are large, but this will take care of most of it,” Grimes said of the work needing to be done with the funds.

The council vote now means they will move forward with posting a newspaper advertisement on Aug. 9 announcing the issuance of the certificates for the funds, of which Grimes said \$4 million will go for construction costs and the rest for processing fees.

Grimes clarified to a citizen who expressed concern with the spending that the money will not come out of the general fund.

Grimes recommended a 20-year repayment plan, which, with interest, would be a total payback of just over \$6 million and would conclude in 2042. While a 15-year-plan would mean less in interest payments, each of the annual payments would be over \$350,000, whereas all of the payments on a 20-year plan would be around \$300,000.

Grimes said the lower annual payments would allow some funds to be left over from the storm drainage improvement fees should some surplus money be needed outside the debt service payments.

Discussion of north side sewer service

City Engineer Derek Turner, of Jacob & Martin Engineering in Weatherford, gave a presentation to the council on the cost of providing sewer service to residents on the north side of the city. Households in that part of town are currently septic.

Turner said to provide sewer service to approximately 1,000 residents north of Ranch House Road would be around \$19 million. To provide service to approximately 300 residents south

Turn to SEWER, page 3

PARKER COUNTY

New animal shelter surgical center opens

‘First in the nation’ partnership

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

A union that began in 2019 between the Weatherford Parker Animal Shelter (WPCAS) and Weatherford College (WC) grew exponentially Friday, June 17, as the WPCAS held a grand opening for the Rees-Jones Foundation Medical and Surgical Center on the grounds.

The more than 3,000 square-foot state-of-the-art facility is beside the longstanding building that once housed the medical and surgical department and remains the welcoming area. The animals are housed in another building as they wait for adoption. The WPCAS has a rate of more than 95 percent of returning animals to the community to qualify as a “no-kill shelter.”

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RICK MAUCH/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Community supporters and chambers of commerce gathered for the ribbon cutting of the Rees-Jones Foundation Medical and Surgical Center.



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In & Around Parker County

The Helms family behind Overture Home Care keeps their focus on helping Parker County residents live independently and safely

In the seven years since Denise and Rob Helms of Parker County founded Overture Home Care to provide local residents with a more personal level of care so that they can age with dignity and as much independence as possible, they've been proud to watch their business and their family grow together.

"Denise and I made the decision to launch a home care business focused on caring for the elderly in their home, which is their number one desire — to age in place," Rob said. "Denise has a long history of experience in the senior care arena. In the geriatric business as a registered nurse, she spent 30 years working in skilled nursing, hospice, and home health care and it seemed like a good transition."

"As people age, it becomes difficult to remain independent," Rob continued. "We help people with a wide range of services. Our professionals do a customized plan of care specifically for each client, with everything from assistance with bathing and dressing, eating, light housekeeping, and errands. Then we also do chronic illness support for people with conditions like diabetes or for folks that may be suffering with Alzheimer's,



and we provide care for people with Parkinson's or Multiple Sclerosis, and stroke recovery. In addition, we do quite a bit for people who are trying to overcome an illness that resulted in a hospital stay, whether it's surgery or a cardiac event, something where

they need a little help for a short period of time at home."

Recently, the Parker County contingent of the Overture Home Care family has grown to include not just Denise, Rob, and former McAnally Intermediate School principal Zach

Tarrant, who serves as Overture Home Care Executive Director, but also Denise and Rob's grown children: son Austin Helms, who serves as Operations Manager and daughter Alex Helms, who serves as Intake Coordinator.

To continue growing and providing the highest level of service, Overture has moved swiftly to address the challenges and rising costs facing our communities. Overture has increased wages across the board, instituted weekly payments and added quarterly bonuses as well as referral bonuses to their compensation packages. They have also added an onsite skills lab and provide essential Dementia Live® education to all new hires.

In the wider community, Rob, Denise, Zach, Austin and Alex are all active in charitable organizations and events such as Aledo Children's AdvoCats, the Thanksgiving Trot, Wilson's Warriors, and Hearts of Hope.

Overture would like to assist you and your loved ones. They offer a complimentary consultation to assess the home care needs of each client. As a family-oriented business, they understand the challenges that families face, and encourage family members to participate in this process.

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RILEY

from page one

his select team, the Fort Worth Cats, in a tournament in Missouri.

"I had all my pitches working and all of a sudden things changed. I lost feeling in my fingers and could not control the baseball," he said. "We played several more games that week, and after the last game my coach suggested we see an arm doctor."

An MRI showed major damage to his ulnar nerve and the only way to fix it was surgery. He had decompression surgery in June of 2020.

"The doctor told me my nerve moved all the way under my elbow and had to be surgically reattached in the proper location," he said.

He spent the next eight months in rehab working through various throwing programs. He made the JV his junior year and had pitched in three games with no pain.

Then, during an intersquad game, he threw a breaking ball and felt a pop in his arm.

"I looked directly at coach Barry with tears in my eyes and told him I hurt my elbow again," he said, almost tearing up at the memory of that moment.

The next day Hetherington was back at the doctor and had another MRI, which revealed a complete tear of his Ulnar ligament. His doctor, John Conway, former team orthopedic doctor for the Texas Rangers and TCU baseball teams and current team orthopedic for the Houston Astros, had performed surgery on Hetherington's dad for a torn rotator cuff while pitching in college.

"He said in 35 years of practice only five times had he seen an ulnar ligament torn that severely," Hetherington said. "A piece of bone from my elbow broke off — the pop I heard — and severed my ligament in half."

Hetherington had Tommy John surgery (named after the former major league pitcher who was the first to undergo it and return to his sport) to replace the ligament.

"After surgery the doctor told me he would understand if I did not want to play baseball again. I looked at my parents and said I am not done playing baseball," he said. "The rehab was the hardest thing I have ever done in my life. I basically



COURTESY OF DIANE WOMACK BELYEU

Riley Hetherington running the bases during a Bearcat baseball game.

was reteaching the ligament how to throw again."

He created a countdown log, which, on the top of the page read "Varsity 2022" and below that were numbers. They started at 296 and ended at 1.

"My goal was to be ready to play by the time I reached 1 (the first official day of high school baseball practice). And with the help of my doctors, therapists, coaches, teammates, and my family I was ready to play on Jan. 18, 2022," he said.

"Tommy John surgery is the most severe arm surgery any baseball player can undergo. They took a ligament out of my left wrist and sewed it into my right arm. Just that is amazing. But all the hours of rehab, all the hours in my room doing exercises and stretches, all the throwing sessions (starting at 25 feet and moving back to 300 feet), all the days of soreness, pain and not being able to sleep, all the days of simply lying in my bed wondering if I will ever be able to get back on that field, makes each day I am on the field special."

Hetherington also drew inspiration from remembering his older brother Reid battle back

from a serious injury while playing basketball.

"He also had surgery and I watched him fight through rehab and work extremely hard to get back on the court. He used to tell me, 'I refuse to let an injury tell me when I cannot play basketball anymore.' Watching him go through this time inspired me on my journey back to playing," Hetherington said.

Reid said Riley's comeback was, likewise, an inspiration to him.

"I am really proud of my brother. He's an incredible kid and an incredible fighter," Reid said.

Barry said Riley's comeback epitomizes Bearcat spirit.

"I think he encompasses this team M.O. They're fighters with a fighting spirit," Barry said. "It just says how much he loves the game. He's a unique kid, a true fighter, and he was an inspiration to all of us."

Growing up, Riley's dad taught him every player has a role on a team and a team will only do great things if everyone knows their role and accepts it. While every athlete dreams of being a star, he understands that is not what he was called to do and is happy being a part of the success.

The dream of an athletic scholarship out of high school has also gone by the wayside — for now, at least, though he has been offered the opportunity to walk on at several colleges. He's also going to return to playing summer baseball and hopefully find a place to play through that.

"All I want is a chance to play," he said.

He plans on majoring in secondary education and becoming a history teacher, as well as getting his special education certificate and working with special needs children, he said.

"I also want to coach baseball and told coach Barry he should hire me once I finish college," he said with a grin.

"The support I have received over these past two years, from my family, doctors, therapists, coaches, teammates, and others has been tremendous," he continued. "I read an article on Tommy John surgery, and it said in order to return to play after you must be willing to put in the work and surround yourself with a great support system. I had the very best support system."

SEWER

from page one

of Ranch House Road would be about \$9.2 million.

"I think in this situation phasing is what you're looking at," Turner said. "You put your name in the hat every year and get the best funding."

Place 3 Councilman Greg Runnebaum suggested the city gather data from the homeowners in that area to see if they are interested in switching over.

"The compelling factor is we don't have the ability to require them to get on," Grimes added. "The first question is going to be how much does it cost? I can tell you what our sewer rate is now, but that may not be the rate for them (when the changeover takes place)."

Hoffman garners state accolades

Willow Park Marketing and Communications Director Rosealee Hoffman was recently honored by the Texas Association of Municipal Information Officers as one of the top 10 "Small Shop" PR offices in the state. She was also a speaker at their recent convention in Houston.

Grimes noted that a judge said of Hoffman, "Solid and professional work. You are making the best use of your resources and are clearly well organized."

Then, Grimes added his own praise, "She makes this thing run smoothly and seamlessly."

Hoffman, who is in her fourth year with the city, said of the honor, "This year we were definitely improved and definitely in the hunt (for the top prize), and hopefully next year we'll bring home some hardware."

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CENTER

from page one

Previously, medical and surgical services were performed in a single room with less than 300 feet.

“What you’re going to see is a top-of-the-line medical center, a medical center that’s going to save lives,” Dustin Deel, City of Weatherford Director of Municipal and Community Services, told the crowd. “The partnership is in full swing with Weatherford College. It’s truly a first-in-the-nation partnership.”

“We’re raising the bar in Parker County. We’re being looked at nationally here in little old Weatherford, Texas.”

The opening of the facility is also the next step in the partnership that began in 2019 with WC. The two entities partnered with the goal of raising both the vet care and animal standards in the county, as well as expanding educational and career opportunities in the community through an innovative and what is believed to be a one-of-a-kind partnership.

The partnership enables Weatherford college to offer a new associate degree in veterinary technology to students looking to become registered veterinary technicians. These types of programs are very expensive and difficult for colleges to offer due to capital requirements, staffing, and liability.

However, Deel said these are all responsibilities the shelter currently takes on regularly. So as students earn their degree they will also be bringing more help to the shelter as sort of an internship.

The college also contributed an x-ray machine, sonography equipment, and more.

The first class in this program recently graduated from WC.

“We could give them all the lectures and material in the world, but that is not the same as working with live animals,” said Dr. Kathryn Garofalo, director of the vet tech program at WC.

“It’s just been a sea of change in what we can offer. It’s been such a win-win.”

Then, Garofalo continued with a chuckle, “If you’ve ever dealt with accrediting bodies, you know they have to say some things bad. Well, they couldn’t find anything here.”

In 2018 the Rees-Jones Foundation granted the WPCAS \$500,000. The foundation, based in Dallas, has granted more than \$400 million around the world in 15 years.

“They’ve never given to an outside municipality before, but they saw our vision,” Deel said.

Deel also introduced Dr. Stacy McLeod, DVM as the facility’s first-ever full-time staff veterinarian.

“To be able to find one that is a high speed vet like we need, one with 20 years of experience, one that knows small animals and large animals, we are so fortunate,” he said.

Prior to joining the Shelter team, Dr. McLeod spent nearly 20 years in private, mixed animal practice, the last six years of which have been at the North Texas Veterinary Hospital in Weatherford. She graduated from Oklahoma State University with a bachelor’s degree in animal science in 2000 and became a doctor of veterinary medicine in 2004. That was followed by a one-year internship in theriogenology, which focuses on veterinary reproduction, with a



RICK MAUCH/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

The new surgical center is state of the art.

focus on diseases and physiology of animal reproductive systems.

Beyond her professional life, Dr. McLeod is a mother to three daughters and an animal lover to the core.

Together, they raise goats, cattle, and bees, plus own dogs, cats, chickens, and horses.

“I feel blessed to be a part of something the community has made

a priority,” McLeod said. “We’re trying to prevent the problem, we’re going out and finding animals that aren’t spayed and neutered. We’re trying to be more proactive instead of reactive.”

“And it’s a great union with the college.”

Drew Springer of Springer Financial Services in Weatherford, a donor for the project, said, “It costs a lot more to save a dog than to kill a dog. The money raised has been fantastic.”

Springer told a story about how he and his wife adopted a westie (a West Highland white terrier) more than a dozen years ago and how much it still means to them.

“You guys are changing people’s lives,” he said of the shelter staff and volunteers. “There should be more love in the world, and having animals is one of the greatest ways.”

The WPCAS has been in operation since the 1960s, starting first as a holding facility for loose livestock, later growing in size to the present-day facility that has 184 kennels for dogs and cats, the state-of-the-art Rees-Jones Foundation Medical and Surgical Center, plus various pastures and livestock pens all situated in a park-like setting. WPCAS sees more than 6,300 animals a year.

The Shelter also offers citizens a Trap-Neuter-Release program to sterilize feral and community cats, plus various microchip and vaccination clinics throughout the year. For more information on animal adoptions, making a financial contribution, or volunteering, visit www.WeatherfordTX.gov/AnimalShelter.



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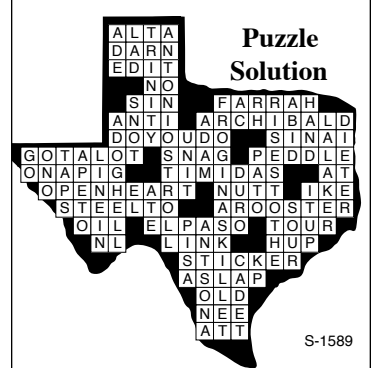
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Capital Highlights

Comptroller releases broadband plan



Gary Borders
gborders@texaspress.com

State Comptroller Glenn Hegar last week released his agency's plan to support the expansion of broadband internet access to areas with limited or no access. Hegar and his agency's Broadband Development Office received feedback through a series of town halls, virtual discussions, and more than 16,000 responses to a survey.

"An important, recurring theme has been the reminder that though high-speed internet may once have been a luxury, it is now a necessity," Hegar wrote in a letter to Texas legislators. "Texans need reliable, high-speed connectivity for a wide range of potential applications including public health, safety, education, and modern agriculture."

Census data collected in 2020 indicates as many as 7 million Texans — nearly one-fourth of the state's population — do not have broadband access. The issue disproportionately affects rural communities, low-income families, and communities of color, the report said.

The report notes the statewide plan will require additional funding. The Legislature provided \$5 million to jump-start the Broadband Development Office, and the federal American Rescue Act allocated \$500.5 million for broadband expansion. In addition, the recently passed infrastructure bill allocates at least \$100 million.

By early next year, the BDO will:

- Establish a broadband-focused, federal-compliant grant program.
- Publish a broadband availability map.
- Manage recurring coordination and communication opportunities across stakeholder groups.

"Texas faces a huge challenge: Connecting over 1 million households to high-speed broadband, improving connectivity for over 5.6 million households, improving affordability of broadband for 3.6 million households, and assisting 3.8 million Texans with digital literacy challenges," Hegar said.

Test scores rise slightly in three subjects

Test results released last week by the Texas Education Agency showed modest improvement in three subject areas over last year. However, they still are lower than they were before the pandemic.

High school students took the State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness in four subjects required to graduate: algebra, English I and II, biology, and U.S. history. Compared to last year, scores rose in all but English I and II, which were largely unchanged.

Test score results are still short of the pre-pandemic results from 2019. In algebra, for example, scores are 16 points lower than spring 2019.

"We have made some progress to date, but there is still work to be done to fully recover from the academic effects of the COVID slide," TEA Commissioner Mike Morath said.

Results for STAAR tests taken by students in grades 3-8 will be made public this week.

Texas again leads nation in jobs created

May employment numbers released by the Texas Workforce Commission show the state has added 762,400 nonagricultural jobs since May 2021. The seasonally adjusted jobless rate in May was essentially unchanged at 4.2%.

"Texas continues to set records for employment growth with more than 250,000 jobs added from the beginning of this year through May," said TWC Chairman Bryan Daniel. "Training and upskilling are crucial to maintain this level of employment growth, and TWC remains committed to offering innovative training programs."

The job increase is the highest in the nation, with a record 13.357 million Texans employed, according to TWC.

Ex-boy band member wrangling litter

Wearing a cowboy hat, spurs, and a fringed vest, singer and actor Joe Jonas is lassoing litter in the latest "Don't mess with Texas" campaign.

The former member of the Jonas Brothers Band, whose hometown is Dallas, filmed a video in which he goes around the Don't mess with Texas office, dragging a barrel and gathering trash, according to the Austin American Statesman.

"Joe understands the pride that we have in our state and in keeping it clean for everyone to enjoy its beauty, now and in the future," said Becky Ozuna, coordinator for the Don't mess with Texas campaign. "We are thrilled to have Joe join us in bringing attention to our litter-free message through his comedic talent and timing."

The humorous video with a serious message can be viewed at <https://tinyurl.com/vp4hfb4x>.

State launches nation's first Driving with Disability program

A collaborative effort between state agencies has led to a first-in-the-nation program that gives Texans the option to identify communication impairments, such as being hearing-impaired, on both the driver's licenses and vehicle registrations.

In addition, all Texas law enforcement agencies have access to video training modules to gain a better understanding of people with a communication impediment, which also includes autism, cerebral palsy, Parkinson's disease, and other disorders drivers might have and still legally be able to drive.

"This simple addition to a driver's license or vehicle registration removes a potential barrier and can give officers the knowledge they need to help make sure everyone feels comfortable and safe," Steve McCraw, Texas Department of Public Safety director, said.

COVID-19 cases in state stay steady

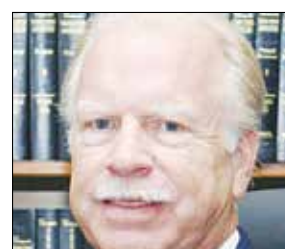
The number of new COVID-19 cases reported in the past week in Texas stayed fairly steady at 48,073, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University. However, new deaths rose sharply to 454, compared to 77 reported the previous week. The Texas Department of State Health Services reported 1,747 lab-confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations, up for the second straight week.

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



Guest Column

Don't let the foxes guard the henhouse



Donnis Baggett
dbaggett@texaspress.com

Editorial cartoonist Ben Sargent once penned a masterful sketch of a newspaperman — a skinny, bug-eyed fellow in a baggy suit with a press card in the band of his porkpie hat.

The unnamed journalist was depicted in the simple act of entering a dark room at city hall and switching on a light. The cartoon had no caption. It didn't need one. In your mind's eye you could see cockroaches scurrying for cover.

Sargent's message to *Austin American Statesman* readers was clear and timeless: Light is the best disinfectant, and nothing shines light on the activities of government like a newspaper. That's especially true in this era of real-time news coverage, instantaneous online commentary and partisan electronic echo chambers.

Governments today are larger, more pervasive, and more powerful than any time in our history. Fortunately for those of us who believe in self-governance, newspapers are still around. And they're the best source for information on how government spends your money and what government plans to do to you. That's because newspapers still cover the behind-the-scenes goings-on at city hall and not just the horse-race aspect of political campaigns. It's also because newspapers are still the home of public notices, and some of the most important journalism in your newspaper arrives in the form of public notices.

Public notices are mandatory announcements of what a governmental body plans to do or what it has already put into motion. They are not universally popular among government officials. Public notices are printed in newspapers — the civic journals of their communities — because they're required under scores of laws passed over the past two centuries. The idea behind those public notice laws was to foster transparency to keep government open and accountable.

If you're a parent and you need to know ahead of time that the school district is drawing up new school attendance zones, you should appreciate public notices. The law requires the district to print that plan in a newspaper. Without even knowing you should look, you can stumble across new information on where Little Johnny may be attending school next year while sipping your latte and reading the morning paper. You become aware of this important development in your family's existence whether or not you follow the superintendent's social media posts. If you don't like what you see, you can take action to oppose it.

If you're a taxpayer and you want to learn out about property tax rates planned for next year before they're passed, you can appreciate public notices. State law requires cities, counties and school districts to notify you of their intentions before tax rates are set in stone. How? In a public notice printed in the newspaper.

And if you're a property owner like the folks of Fayette County, you'd appreciate knowing if an out-of-town company is seeking a permit to dump Austin sewage sludge in a field beside the Colorado River. A modest legally required public notice in the *Fayette County Record* brought that plan to light. It didn't pass the smell test with citizens, and they raised a stink with state officials. The permit application was quickly withdrawn.

Public notices in newspapers get noticed. When they do, readers may decide to share a thought or two with the officials involved. Let's face it: those officials' jobs would be ever-so-much less stressful if they didn't have to interact with upset voters who pay the taxes that fund their paychecks. Some officials are particularly galled that state law requires them to pay newspapers to publish these notices. They complain to legislators that it's a waste of money — that the notices could simply be posted on the governmental entity's website without paying newspapers to spread the news.

Their argument doesn't mention the fact that public notice rates are among the lowest charged by newspapers. It also fails to note that creating, operating, and maintaining a government-public notice site would also cost taxpayers money. And it conveniently ignores the immense watchdog value of a newspaper serving as an

Turn to COLUMN, page 7

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.

Golf Shorts

Aledo golf coaches resign

There will be two new faces leading the Aledo High School golf teams next season as both Joe Roquemore of the Bearcats and James Mullins of the Ladycats resigned recently. Athletic Director Steve Wood said both will remain with the school district, Mullins as a teacher and Roquemore as middle school athletic coordinator.

Both coaches led their respective teams to District 5-5A championships and berths in the Class 5A State Tournament this past season. It was the first time since 2017 that both teams qualified for state.

Mullins also led the girls to the 2021 state tournament. There was no state tournament in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"James stepped in and has done a great job leading our girls program," Wood said, adding of Roquemore, "We were lucky to have him when we needed him."

Both coaches were at the helm of their program for almost three years.

Wood said he hopes to have two new coaches in place soon.

Oeste Ranch golfer third in NTPGA event

Armando Villarreal, representing Oeste Ranch Golf Club in Willow Park, finished third in the Northern Texas PGA's Prize Possessions/E-Z Go Championship recently. This 36-hole championship, played at the Dallas Athletic Club, is the first of four stroke play events that comprise the Player of the Year Points Challenge.



Villarreal

Villarreal posted a 2-under-par 142 over two rounds. He opened with a 4-under-par 68 and was the leader after the first round, but followed with a 2-over-par 74.

For his performance, Villarreal won \$2,000.

JJ Killen, of Red Feather Golf and Social Club in Lubbock, won with a 7-under-par 137 (71-66), while Jon Antunes, of Heart of Texas Golf Academy in Waco, was second at 3-under 141 (73-68).

- Rick Mauch
The Community News

WEATHERFORD COLLEGE

Women win national rodeo national title

Helton wins team roping

By Crystal Woerly
Weatherford College

For the first time in school history, a Weatherford College athletic team can call themselves national champions.

The WC women's rodeo team came from behind in the standings on the final night of the College National Finals Rodeo, overtaking Southwestern Oklahoma State University by 8.3 points to win the title in Casper, Wyoming, on Saturday, June 18.

The WC women were the best of 35 teams at the event and 125 National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association schools, including institutions like Texas A&M University, Tarleton State University, Texas Tech University, University of Wyoming, and Oklahoma State University.

"It was unbelievable," said Johnny Emmons, WC head rodeo coach. "Two of our girls were at the CNFR last year, and all four were consistent and smart. They knew what they had to do to win."

Emmons said the team got better and better as the week went on.

"We were sitting at sixth place as a team, but we had all four girls in the top ten," he said. "I had a feeling all week that we would make a run, and we did. It came down to the very end. I'm so proud of this team!"

The women's team title wasn't the only national championship won by WC this year. The team roping duo of Weatherford's Jace Helton and Cisco College's Riley Kittle moved from second to first with an 11.3 in the championship round to win the title.

"They were outstanding," Emmons said. "Looking back, their second steer could have taken them out of it. It jumped real wild, but Jace was patient and salvaged a 9.9. They wouldn't have even made the finals with a no-time there."



WEATHERFORD COLLEGE
The Weatherford College championship rodeo team (from left): Kodey Hoss, Kristin Reaves, Bradi Good, Brie Wells, and coach Johnny Emmons

It was WC's fourth individual national championship in school history (Cody Tew, 2007 team roping header; Arena Robertson, 2008 women's All-Around; Cole Wheeler, 2016 team roping header).

Brie Wells continued her consistent run through the CNFR with a 2.7 in the short go of breakaway roping. She was named reserve national champion, finishing in second place with 10.3 total over four rounds.

Weatherford goat tyer Kristin Reaves had the fastest time in the history of the CNFR with a



5.5 Saturday night. She brought home third place with 25.0 overall, just 0.1 second behind the two athletes that tied for the national title. Kodey Hoss finished seventh in the event with a 7.1 Saturday and 26.2 total.

Bradi Good took home third place overall in barrel racing. She jumped from fifth to third after posting her best time of the rodeo, 14.03, Saturday night. Good also finished 39th in breakaway roping.

Cash Enderli finished 13th in tie down roping and Chance Thiessen was 24th.

The WC men finished 18th out of the 89 teams represented at the CNFR. This was the 18th consecutive CNFR for the WC rodeo program.

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COLUMN

from page five

independent, verifiable, and archived third-party source for these important notices.

Today, newspapers are making their notices more visible than ever, and it doesn't cost the taxpayer an extra dime. In addition to printing the notices for a fee, Texas publishers make public notice information available at no extra charge online. Citizens can even sign up at no charge to electronically receive notices by subject matter and by jurisdiction.

A few months ago, the state of Florida updated its public notice laws by requiring newspapers to provide this additional electronic service for public notices at no additional charge. But only eight weeks after the new law went into effect, the Florida legislature backtracked. It passed another law allowing governmental entities to post notices on their own government websites and bypass newspapers altogether. In doing so, the state of Florida legalized the concept of the fox guarding the henhouse.

If you think that sort of thing can't happen in Texas, think again. Like Texas, Florida is a conservative state with voters who want to hold government accountable. That's a good thing. But some overzealous legislators committed to cutting taxes, supporting local control and promising to "work with" local officials can be misled by a local official's suggestion to eliminate newspaper notices

and put the money into pothole repair. That, combined with the reckless labeling of all traditional media as "fake news," means a toxic environment for newspapers that have faithfully served their communities for a century or longer.

Not only should government not be in the business of disseminating their own public notices; government shouldn't want to. By handling the publication, verification, distribution, and archiving of official notices, newspapers keep government from serving as its own publisher, distributor, certifier of the record and archivist. By handling public notices, newspapers give government officials legal protection from accusations of releasing incomplete or untimely information — or of surreptitiously changing the record for the officials' convenience.

So it comes down to this: if you want to know what's going on in your hometown, tell your local officials and your legislators to keep public notices in newspapers. It's the civically healthy thing to do.

Don't risk waking up one morning to the aroma of something foul being spread in your neighborhood.

Donnis Baggett is executive vice president of the Texas Press Association. TPA represents some 400 Texas newspapers, including this one. TPA campaigns in Austin for open records, open meetings, public notices and government accountability. Baggett may be reached at dbaggett@texaspress.com.

TENNIS CAMP

Last week was the first week of tennis camp in Aledo. Top photo: 7-9 graders; Center photo: 4-6 graders; Bottom photo: 1-3 graders.



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TOWN OF ANNETTA NORTH NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is given that the Town Council of the Town of Annetta North will hold a public hearing at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, July 12, 2022, at the Annetta Methodist Church, 2836 FM 5, Annetta, Texas. This public hearing will be to receive public comments about both a special use permit application (accessory dwelling) and a variance request (side set back) related to real property located at 109 Dixon Rd. For more information you may contact the Town Secretary, Sheila Elmore, at 817-222-8405.

//Robert Schmidt, Mayor

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ORDINANCE NO. 220

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF ANNETTA, TEXAS, BY APPROVING A SPECIAL USE PERMIT FOR THE USE OF AN ACCESSORY DWELLING ON LOT 3, BLOCK 1, WINDMILL ESTATES MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS 1381 OLD ANNETTA ROAD; PROVIDING FOR THE AMENDMENT OF THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP TO REFLECT SUCH CHANGE; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR A PENALTY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION IN THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Any person, firm or corporation who violates, disobeys, omits, neglects or refuses to comply with or who resists the enforcement of any of the provisions of this Ordinance shall be fined not more than Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) for each offense. Each day that a violation is permitted to exist shall constitute a separate offense.

This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication as required by law, and it is so ordained.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 16TH DAY OF JUNE

(s) Sandy Roberts
Mayor

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(s) Jamee Long
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More events can be found at www.community-news.com/events

JUNE 28

Let's Cook - for kids

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension will host a cooking class for kids 5 - 8 from 9:30 a.m. to noon on June 28 and 29. The classes are targeting young children and will focus on My Plate, safety in the kitchen, easy healthy foods to prepare and fitness activities. The cost for the two-day class is \$30 per person. Sign up by calling Parker County Extension Office at 817-598-6168.

JULY 5

Art Camp

The Weatherford Art Association will host Art Camp from 10 a.m. to noon for four weeks in July. The first week will run from Tuesday, July 5 to Friday, July 8. The remaining weeks will run from Monday-Thursday at Central Christian Church Cupped Hall, 1602 S. Main Street in Weatherford. Campers will be divided into two age groups: grades K-2 (ages 5-7) and grades 3-5 (ages 8-10). The cost for the camp is \$60 per student per week (t-shirt included). To register, visit www.weatherfordart.com and look for payments/donations. For more information, call K. Cuning at 817-694-0245 or Jill Harper at 817-980-6159.

JULY 6

Peach Walk

The Tarrant Area Food Bank West will host a Peach Walk from 5:30-7 p.m. on Wednesday, July 6, at 112 Winners Circle in



Weatherford. Participants will journey through the new TAFB facility, sampling peach-themed bites while learning how they can be a part of alleviating hunger in the community. A single \$30 ticket will provide 150 meals. Two tickets (\$50) will provide 250 meals. To register, visit <https://tafb.org/events/>.

JULY 8

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.

JULY 9

Peach Pedal Bike Ride

Registration is under way for the annual Peach Pedal Bike Ride on Saturday, July 9, at Weatherford High

School, 2121 Bethel Road in Weatherford.

The 61-mile ride starts at 7:30 a.m. The 39-mile ride starts at 7:45 a.m. and the 28-mile and 8-mile rides start at 8 a.m.

The registration fee is \$35 if you register in the month of June. The fee is \$40 if you register between July 1-7. In-person registration will be available from 3-6:30 p.m. on Friday, July 8, at the Weatherford High School cafeteria, and ride-day registration is \$45.

The ride benefits the United Way of Parker County and the Weatherford Chamber of Commerce.

Each rider will receive a t-shirt and additional swag. Rest stops will also be provided.

For more information, visit <https://www.peachpedal.com/>.

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

ACROSS

1 middle name of "Lady Bird" Johnson

5 repair socks

6 get ready for publication

7 TXism: "a shy dog don't get ___ biscuits"

8 TXism: "old as ___"

9 late TX actress and model, Fawcett

15 "against" prefix

16 TX Leon Jaworski became Watergate prosecutor after this Cox was fired

19 TXism: "that's a fine how ___" (something irritating)

21 where Moses got the commandments

22 TXism: "___ of arrows in his quiver" (capable)

27 tear in a sweater

28 sell door to door

29 TXism: "useless as perfume ___"

30 TXism: "___ a whipped pup"

32 Austin band: "Asleep ___ the Wheel"

33 TX Cooley is known for his work in ___ surgery

36 Granbury historic hotel: "___ House"

37 nickname of president born in Denison

38 TXism: "attracted like ___ a magnet"

39 male fowl (2 wds.)

41 "black gold"

TEXAS CROSSWORD
 by Charley & Guy Orbison
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DOWN

1 suffix for "lemon" or "lime"

2 young man

3 Groveton is the seat of this county

4 TX Tanya Tucker sang "San ___" (1975)

8 TXism: "___ slinging drunk"

9 TXism: "a ___ would have more fun" (bored)

10 summer necessity in Texas (abbr.)

11 actor Rock in Texas epic "Giant" (init.)

12 TXism: "cream ___ top" (good quality)

13 head nod at an auction (2 wds.)

14 TX Woodward was the walking boss in "Cool ___ Luke"

15 TXism: "if he's ___ bark"

16 Eve's mate in Eden

17 TX Shaquille won 3 titles as this (city abbr. + team)

18 calorie counter

20 the family ___

22 TX Jim Reeves hit: "He'll Have to ___"

23 Lennon's widow

24 it's played at military funerals

25 "took to it like an ___ a banana"

26 Travis drew a ___ the dirt at the Alamo

28 he starred with TX Ann S. in 1937 film "San Quentin"

31 Palo ___ Canyon

34 Metroplex Mexican eatery: "___ Fenix"

35 TXism: "___ some gravel" (fell)

37 TXism: "lapped ___" (believed)

40 "___ grapes"

43 "The Leaning Tower of ___"

44 TXism: "numerous as ___" (dead worm)

50 a "Corps" member at Texas A&M

51 military kitchen duty (abbr.)

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>.

JULY 12

Cancer Support Group

A support group to create a space for those who have battled or are battling cancer meets at 6:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month at Aledo United

Methodist Church, 100 Pecan Dr. in Aledo. For more information, email Joan Ward at jcjkat1959@gmail.com.

JULY 24

Howdy Party 2022

The Parker County Aggie Moms' Club will host its annual Howdy Party to welcome new Aggies and celebrate all things Texas A&M from 6-10 p.m. Sunday, July 24, at Shep's, 202 Fort Worth Hwy in Weatherford. This event is their annual fundraiser for student

scholarships. The evening will include live and silent auctions, Yell Practice, Aggie Mom Boutique, catered chicken fried steak dinner, keynote speaker Cliff Dugosh '86, recognition of 2022 scholarship recipients, and more.

Tickets are \$25 and may be purchased at <https://parkercomoms.aggienetwork.com>.

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NOTICE OF INTENTION TO ISSUE CITY OF WILLOW PARK, TEXAS CERTIFICATES OF OBLIGATION

TAKE NOTICE that the City Council of the City of Willow Park, Texas, shall convene at 7:00 o'clock P.M. on the 9th day of August, 2022, at the City Hall, 516 Ranch House Road, Willow Park, Texas, and, during such meeting, the City Council will consider the passage of an ordinance authorizing the issuance of certificates of obligation in an amount not to exceed \$4,250,000 for the purpose of paying contractual obligations to be incurred for (i) designing, constructing, acquiring, improving, enlarging, and equipping the City's municipal drainage utility system, including any repair, replacement, and relocation of streets and utilities in connection therewith, and the acquisition of land and rights-of-way therefor, and (ii) professional services rendered in relation to such projects and the financing thereof; such certificates to be payable from ad valorem taxes and a pledge of the net revenues of the City's Municipal Drainage Utility System. In accordance with Texas Local Government Code Section 271.049 (i) the current principal amount of all of the City's outstanding public securities secured by and payable from ad valorem taxes is \$14,973,544; (ii) the current combined principal and interest required to pay all of the City's outstanding public securities secured by and payable from ad valorem taxes on time and in full is \$20,334,709; (iii) the estimated combined principal and interest required to pay the certificates of obligation to be authorized on time and in full is \$6,007,428 (iv) the maximum interest rate for the certificates may not exceed the maximum legal interest rate; and (v) the maximum maturity date of the certificates to be authorized is February 15, 2047. The above information excludes \$37,241,456 in principal amount of outstanding debt obligations the City has designated as self-supporting in Resolution No. 2021-06 which the City reasonably expects to pay from revenue sources other than ad valorem taxes; provided, however, that in the event such self-supporting revenue sources are insufficient to pay debt service, the City is obligated to levy ad valorem taxes to pay such debt obligations. The certificates are to be issued, and this notice is given, under and pursuant to the provisions of Texas Local Government Code, Subchapter C of Chapter 271.

Crystal Dozier City Secretary
City of Willow Park, Texas

INTERESTED IN SERVING THE CITY OF ALEDO?

The City of Aledo is currently accepting applications for an opening for the vacant City Council Place 3 position. This is for an unexpired term and will be valid until the next regular Election held in May of 2023. To qualify you must be at least 21 years of age, shall be a registered voter in the State of Texas, shall be a resident of the City of Aledo and shall have resided in the corporate limits of the City for at least one year, shall not have been convicted of a felony criminal offense or a crime involving moral turpitude, and shall not be in violation of any other provision of the City Charter.

Interested persons can apply for this open position by going to the City website at www.aledotx.gov and clicking on the link on the front page and completing the application and returning back to the City Secretary no later than 5:00 pm on July 1, 2022 in order to be considered. For any questions please contact City Secretary Deana McMullen at citysecretary@aledotx.gov or 817-441-7016 during regular business hours.

ORDINANCE NO. 221

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF ANNETTA, TEXAS, BY APPROVING A SPECIAL USE PERMIT FOR THE USE OF AN ACCESSORY DWELLING ON LOT 10, BLOCK 1, ROSEMEADE ADDITION SUBDIVISION, MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS 105 ROSEMEADE COURT; PROVIDING FOR THE AMENDMENT OF THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP TO REFLECT SUCH CHANGE; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR A PENALTY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION IN THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Any person, firm or corporation who violates, disobeys, omits, neglects or refuses to comply with or who resists the enforcement of any of the provisions of this Ordinance shall be fined not more than Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) for each offense. Each day that a violation is permitted to exist shall constitute a separate offense.

This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication as required by law, and it is so ordained.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 16TH DAY OF JUNE

(s) Sandy Roberts
Mayor

Attest:
(s) Jamee Long
Town Secretary

City of Annetta South, Texas

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS BEFORE THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION AND THE CITY COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given that Planning and Zoning Commission of the City of Annetta South, Texas will hold a public hearing at a meeting that begins at 6:00 PM on Tuesday, July 12, 2022 at New Faith Baptist Church, 3303 W. FM 5, Aledo, Texas 76008.

Further notice is hereby given that, a second public hearing is scheduled where the request and the recommendation of the Annetta South Planning and Zoning Commission will be considered by the City of Annetta South Council at a meeting that begins at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, July 12 2022 at New Faith Baptist Church, 3303 W. FM 5, Aledo, Texas 76008.

At such time and place, the Council will hear and take action on an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance No. 2018-4-10, as amended, Zoning Map to rezone property from Agricultural to Single Family-1 generally described as 7070 Fm Rd 5 South, Aledo, TX 76008, generally located south of Canyon Lake Estates on the corner of Fm Rd 5 and Canyon Lake Drive.

Citizens are invited to attend and participate in the public hearings. For more information contact cityofannettasouth@gmail.com.

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ASSIST Camp

Aledo Summer Soccer Intensive Strength Training (ASSIST) camp is under way and will continue through Aug. 4.

PHOTOS BY NOLAN RUTH



AHS soccer coach Derek Vierling leads the ASSIST camp.



Seniors Jackson Tucker (left) and Alan Karisk



Freshman Robbie Sloan works with freshman defender Peyton Shaffer.



Will Schmidt



Sophomore goalkeeper Muaax Choudhry

Thanks for the memories!



Photo by Kirstin Gallon



Photo by Jackie Hayslip

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