

THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Designing Buildings

AHS grad Shannon Bearden makes her mark in local design

By Randy Keck
The Community News

Back when what is now Aledo Middle School was Aledo High School, Shannon Carpenter (now Bearden) took Gloria Andrews' photography class in a corner of the Bearcat Den. The photos she took as a part of that class — photos of buildings around town — inspired in her the desire to become an architect, and she has never looked back.

Her trail brought her back to Aledo, at least temporarily, as the principal architect for the new McNally Middle School and the renovations to her old campus, the current Aledo Middle School.

Bearden started in Aledo ISD back when there was half-day kindergarten.

"Mrs. Lozano was my teacher and I actually ran into her when we started the renovation and construction projects for the two middle schools," Bearden said.

Spending 12-plus years in Aledo ISD, she got a good look at the architecture in the current high school during her junior and senior years there, graduating in 2003.

After a year at the University of Oklahoma, Bearden transferred to the Environmental Design architecture program at Texas A&M,



Shannon Bearden (center) goes over plans with Varini Nathany (left) and Salvatore Buccellato in Tryba's Denver office.

where she completed her bachelor's degree.

While working on her master's degree she went to work for Gensler, a global architecture firm with 50 offices around the globe, including Dallas.

"I did retail, automotive, mixed use, high-rise office, interior and exterior buildings with what we

call repositioning," Bearden said. "It was basically a major overhaul and renovation of the office towers."

Bearden stayed at Gensler after receiving her master's degree, working there a total of 10 years.

Among the projects she worked on were the renovation of Reunion Tower, the renovation of

Parkside tower at 3500 Maple, and Thanksgiving Tower in downtown Dallas.

"One of the biggest ones to note is Toyota Music Factory in Las Colinas. It's a 16-acre mixed use development with an office tower, retail, restaurant, and an indoor/outdoor amphitheater programmed

Turn to **BEARDEN**, page 3

ALEDO

Sunday night shooting strikes residence

No injuries reported

Staff Reports
The Community News

Parker County Sheriff's investigators are seeking the public's assistance in identifying and locating suspects involved in a residential shooting which occurred Sunday evening, July 3.

Parker County Sheriff Russ Authier said more than one dozen people were in attendance at a birthday party in the 100-block of Meadow Lane in Aledo, including several young children. Around 11:30 p.m., attendees reported hearing several "pops" outside of the home.

Those in attendance initially believed the sounds were fireworks until they located several bullet holes in the exterior walls and inside the home. Sheriffs deputies located several spent bullet casings in the front yard and roadway in front of the home.

Sheriff Authier said the case is under active investigation. No injuries were reported.

Turn to **SHOTS**, page 5

WEATHERFORD COLLEGE

Gough elected to head WC Foundation

Glenn named president emeritus

Staff Reports
The Community News

Aledo business owner Brent Gough has been voted in as the new president of the Weatherford College Foundation Board of Directors.

Gough succeeds Bob Glenn, who died shortly after he stepped down as president in May.

After naming Gough president, the group gave Glenn the distinction of president emeritus, the first in the history of the foundation, shortly before he died one week later at the age of 80.

"Bob was one of a kind, no one can replace him," Gough said. "He inspired the rest of the board to continue his mission

of changing the lives of WC students through scholarships and other support."

Glenn, a past recipient of the WC Alumnus of the Year Award and the Carlos Hartnett Award, had served as president of the foundation since 2014. As a volunteer since his retirement from banking in 2019, Glenn raised more than \$600,000 in new endowed scholarship funds for WC students.

Gough, also an alumnus of Weatherford College, has served on the board since 2014, including several years as treasurer, chairing the investment committee. The Graham native earned his bachelor's degree in business from Tarleton State University and has been in the financial services industry for almost 25 years, now

Turn to **GOUGH**, page 5



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Quinn Romero and Alexa Miller play in the bubbles at a foam party during Camp Fire Day Camp at Walsh Elementary School on June 20. See more photos on page 4.



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In & Around Parker County

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“We work hard to take good care of our customers and we are committed to building our business with sound principles and ethics in mind,” said Tim Green, one of the owners. “We strive to be a helpful and positive influence in the community, to be fair and honest in our business practices and to always make our decisions based on what is in the best interest of our customers, our employees and the community while maintaining a healthy company.”

Many of us are cutting back, and being careful about what we spend in this economy. We want to save money on household necessities, but when it comes to services around our home, we don’t want to sacrifice our peace of mind to save a few dollars. We want our service providers to be honest and dependable, worthy of our trust.

Billy Green is that kind of man, and he raised his son, Tim, to treat others with respect. He encouraged and developed Tim’s heart of service. Watching his father, Tim had an example of great moral character and strong work ethic. Together they are a glowing example of honesty, reliability and self-sacrifice. When you have the opportunity to visit with them, you instantly feel at ease. Their positive attitudes are contagious, and you will leave with a smile.

Together, Billy and Tim started Atex Trash Service as a way for them to serve their community - their neighbors. Being able to make a living serving others is a dream come true for Tim. Atex Trash Service has been helping area residents save money on their residential trash pick-up since July 2010. Tim and Billy Green are the dynamic duo of father and son teams, proving that you can provide Superior Quality Service at the Lowest Price.

Atex provides weekly trash pick-up for a flat rate of \$35 a month for their standard service. “We realize however, not every family’s needs are the same,” said Tim, “We are able to customize plans for smaller and for larger families.” They serve Parker, Tarrant, and Wise County areas

outside of Azle, Springtown, Weatherford, Poolville and Aledo, and the area continues to grow! Just call and see if they can help you. Since they are a local, family-owned company, you know who will answer the phone when you call. Tim and Billy are available Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and later if you need them. Just call 817-344-8464.

You can also contact Atex through their website 24 hours a day at www.atextrash.com. It’s an easy-to-navigate website where you can contact Tim, sign up for new service, and even securely pay your bill online. You can also see what others have to say on their Testimonial Page or look them up on Facebook.

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

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

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BEARDEN

from page one

by Live Nation,” Bearden said. “And then I worked a little bit on The Star, the Cowboys’ headquarters up in Frisco. I was responsible for the piece called “The Knuckle,” which served as a connector between the hotel and the office building”

Bearden didn’t arrive at the plum projects overnight.

“I’ve worked my way up through the ranks,” she said. “When I first started at Gensler, I was in the automotive studio, what they call retail automotive. And I worked on Toyota dealerships. And I was working as an unlicensed architect before I went through the rigorous process of intern hours and testing to get my license. So you would, as an intern architect, start out working on restrooms, or laying out the plan and the tedious little tasks so you can get your feet wet and learn the basics of putting a building together.

“People always joke that the first thing you do when you come up right out of school is work on a restroom because every building has to have a restroom and everyone needs to know how to put it together. And no one else wants to do it.”

Career progression

Obtaining a license as an architect is not an easy process. After 4,000 working hours and seven exams, she was licensed as an architect. It was then she got the assignment working on Reunion Tower.

Bearden married another Aledo alum, Colt (known as “Bucky” in school) and later had a son, Brooks, who will be 5 years old in August. The family lived in north Arlington as a middle ground between her work in Dallas and his work in Fort Worth.

After the birth of Brooks the family decided to move back to the Fort Worth area to be closer to family.

Bearden went to work for Huckabee Architects, which only

does education. For the past four years she has been working on k-12 facilities throughout Texas.

It was that association that brought her to full circle back to Aledo as the lead on the two middle schools.

One of her favorite parts of the process goes back to one of her favorite memories — the Bearcat Den, and maintaining its integrity.

“Everyone knows the Bearcat Den, and I think it’s a pretty sacred moment for that building and place,” Bearden said. “So revamping it but keeping it — I think that was something pretty special to me. When we had the interview with Dr. Bohn and other members from Aledo I teared up and got really choked up because in that building, in the back corner of the Bearcat Den, is where we had art class.”

When she made that decision those years ago, Bearden said she didn’t know what that meant at the time.

“But I just knew that I fell in love with what I was photographing in downtown and these buildings that were under construction and I decided in that moment, in that building,” Bearden said. “So being able to come back and work on that space where I had not only gone to school, but decided what I wanted to do for my career, was pretty special. So keeping that part of the building, and really bringing new life to it, was a great moment.”

Bearden has fond memories of her time in Aledo ISD. She felt her parents, Larry and Denise Carpenter, made the right move when they relocated to Aledo, where she and her brother received the instruction that prepared them for their further education.

“My mom went to school in Dallas and my dad in Weatherford, and they wanted a more hands-on curriculum for my brother and I. It was the best decision,” she said.

“Back when I was going to school there and graduated, the class sizes were small,” Bearden said. “They’re much larger today, right? The

district has grown a lot. But the one thing that has remained constant is the teachers and the staff that work at Aledo, and how much emphasis they put on the students and making sure that you feel noticed and prepared, and just how much they really care.”

“That was one thing that I think really helped prepare me for the future. That and the curriculum, I think has always been top notch.”

Bearden said during the middle school design process, they brought in someone to evaluate the curriculum that Aledo had put together.

“The word out of her mouth was, ‘they don’t need any help. They’re light years above everyone else.’”

New opportunity

Because Huckabee only does educational spaces, the company allowed Bearden to work on some side projects, and that has led to a new opportunity for her.

“Doing commercial architecture and retail-type projects and headquarters buildings has always been something I’ve been really gravitated towards,” Bearden said. “So I’ve had some opportunities to make some really great connections with people in Fort Worth. And one of them is the Churchill family.”

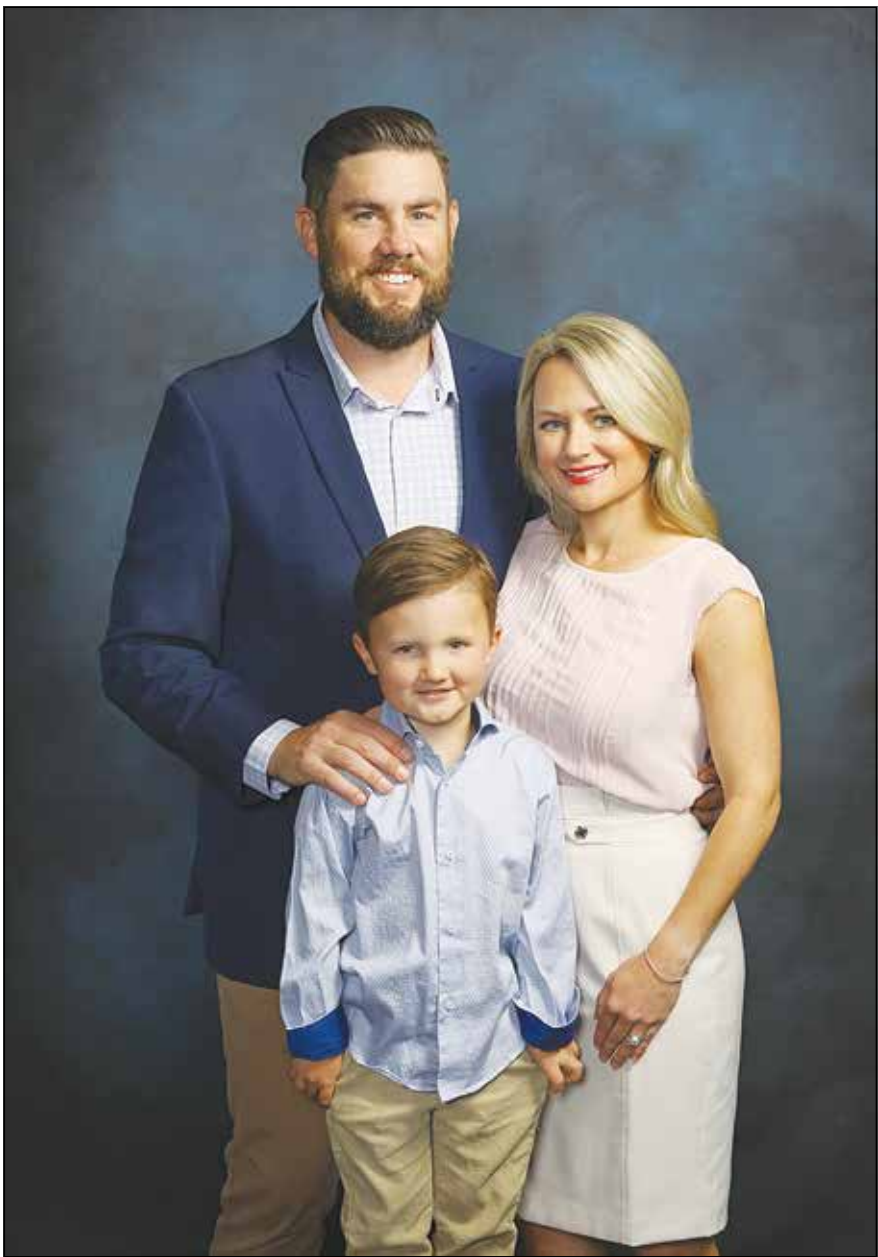
In the process of doing work for the Churchill family, Bearden had the opportunity to partner with another Aledo High School alumnus, Jessica Bond Pipkin.

She and Pipkin did the new headquarters for Frank Kent Cadillac, and they are working on the new Heim Barbecue in Burleson.

“Doing that work on the side made me realize that I still love that part of architecture,” Bearden said. “And I just want to do it all.”

A recent opportunity came her way when Denver-based Tryba Architects opened an office in Sundance Square in March.

Among Tryba’s projects are the renovation of Union Station in Denver, the Google campus in



CHRISTIAN ROMERO PHOTOGRAPHY

The Bearden family: Shannon, Colt, and Brooks, 4

Boulder, and the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center.

Bearden’s new role will be to manage the Fort Worth office and her new title is Managing Director.

“When I think back on it, and I look back at my going to school at A&M and getting my initial degree in environmental design, you think about the purpose of why you got into architecture, and for me, it was always about wanting to create meaningful, inspirational spaces,

and really have a hand on the place that I live and work and play, which, in Aledo, Fort Worth is your backyard,” Bearden said. “So if you can have a hand in developing what this city looks like, then why would you not take that opportunity? So here I am.”

“Where are they Now” is an occasional feature tracking the careers of local school alumni. Send your suggestions for features to news@community-news.com.



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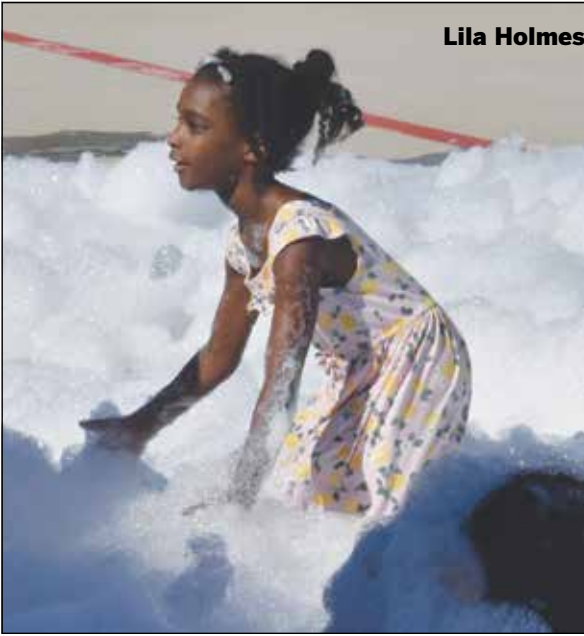
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SHOTS

from page one

Anyone with information regarding the identity and location of the suspects is encouraged to contact Parker County Sheriff's Office at 817-594-8845 or Parker County Crime Stoppers at 817-599-5555. Crime Stoppers will pay up to a \$1,000 reward



Parker County Tip Link: Anyone with information about the incident can remain anonymous.

for information leading to the arrest of the suspects involved. You may remain anonymous when contacting Parker County Crime Stoppers. You may also submit tips online at parkercountysheriff.net under the tip411 link.

The Community News will report additional details as they become available.

SHOTS

from page one

as president of Gough Wealth Management in Aledo.

"Weatherford College was very good to me and is so important to this community," Gough said. "It's my honor to help this foundation and support WC President Tod Allen Farmer in all of the great



Gough

things the college is doing for our students."

He and his wife, Meredith, have four children and two grandchildren and reside in Parker County. They established the Brent and Meredith Gough Scholarship Endowment several years ago.

For more information on the Weatherford College Foundation, visit www.wc.edu/about/foundation.

PARKER COUNTY

Fireworks-related damage contained despite defiance of ban

By Nolan Ruth
The Community News

On June 30, Parker County Judge Pat Deen received a letter from the Texas Division of Emergency Management that officially extended Parker County's burn ban and sufficiently quelled any thoughts of a back-yard, fireworks-filled Fourth of July.

While the sale and distribution of fireworks was not banned, discharging them was — aside from approved events run by the communities.

As many expected, some still launched their fireworks in the days leading up. The Parker County Sheriff's office instructed citizens to report any discharge and the response was overwhelming.

For the day of July 4, a line was set up for fireworks reports so that 911 emergency lines would not be overwhelmed.

Aside from a small fire breaking out in Hudson Oaks during the Boomin' 4th event, the night of the fourth went along without any major issues. Though the Parker County Sheriff's office received hundreds of fireworks complaints, none of them proved to be a big threat.

After 9 p.m. 11 grass fires were reported and were dealt with swiftly, including one on Aledo-Iona Road shortly after 11 p.m.

However, in the early hours of July 5, two calls came in reporting fires that

required assistance from multiple agencies. One call came just outside of Poolville, south of Jacksboro Highway, the other off White Settlement Road and Apollo. Both were reported within minutes of each other. The latter was determined to have been caused by fireworks and resulted in major damage to three structures. No casualties were reported.

There was more activity to the east, as the Fort Worth Fire Dept. responded to 203 grass fires during the 24 hours of July 4, 1,000% increase from the previous two years. The department responded to 1,155 total calls and was dispatched to 77 grass fires between 9:30 and 10:30 p.m.

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Commentary

July 8, 2022
THE COMMUNITY NEWS
www.community-news.com

Capital Highlights

Three arrested in deaths of 53 migrants



Gary Borders
gborders@texaspress.com

Three people were arrested last week by federal authorities in connection with a human smuggling incident that left 53 migrants dead.

The migrants were discovered inside a tractor-trailer on San Antonio's Southwest Side, according to the *San Antonio Express-News*. The victims were from Mexico, Guatemala and Honduras.

Eleven other people were rescued from the trailer.

"We are devastated by the news," Cesar Espinosa, an immigrant advocate with FIEL Houston, an immigrant rights organization, told the *Express-News*. "Unfortunately, this is not the first time, and unfortunately, it won't be the last time that it happens as long as we don't have a pathway for people to migrate safely into the U.S."

Meantime, Gov. Greg Abbott announced additional truck checkpoints would immediately be established targeting semi-trucks, and strike teams consisting of 20 troopers are being sent to the Eagle Pass region "to detect and defer unlawful border crossings and apprehend illegal migrants."

The trailer had passed through a federal Border Patrol checkpoint.

More cases of monkeypox reported

Multiple cases of monkeypox have been reported in Texas by the Texas Department of State Health Services and local health departments. A dozen cases have been identified in people who did not travel outside the state, meaning they were exposed in Texas.

"With the sharp increase in monkeypox cases worldwide, it's not surprising to see the virus spread in Texas," said Dr. Jennifer Shuford, chief state epidemiologist. "We want people to know what the symptoms are, and if they have symptoms, to avoid the types of close contact with other people that can spread the disease."

Monkeypox is a viral illness with symptoms such as fever, headache, muscle aches, swollen lymph nodes, chills, and exhaustion. People who develop a rash should avoid direct contact with other people and contact their health-care provider for next steps.

A vaccine is available and can be given to people within four days of exposure.

Additional funding for school safety, mental health

Abbott and other state leaders last week announced the transfer of \$105.5 million to support additional school safety and mental health initiatives through the end of August 2023.

"This additional funding will boost actions the state of Texas has already taken to make schools safer and support

the mental health of children, teachers, and families following the tragedy at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde," according to a news release.

Roughly half of the funds are going for bullet-resistant shields. Funding is also being provided for mental-health services and other school safety services.

Texans urged to 'stay dry' while boating

Boaters are being urged to fight back against the aquatic invasive species that threaten Texas lakes.

"The best way to prevent the spread of many destructive aquatic invasive species is to clean, drain, and dry your boats and equipment – every time," said Brian Van Zee with the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department.

Zebra mussels and giant salvinia remain the biggest threats to Texas lakes, though other invasive species are being spread, including water hyacinth, crested floating heart, and quagga mussels.

Zebra mussels are found in 33 Texas lakes, while giant salvinia is present on 23 East Texas lakes and numerous rivers, creeks, and marshes between Houston and Beaumont.

"Boaters need to remove all plants, mud, and debris from boats, trailers, vehicles, and gear and drain all water from the boat, equipment, and on-board receptacles before leaving the lake. In addition, boats should be dried completely before visiting another lake, preferably for at least a week," according to TPWD.

Transporting prohibited aquatic invasive species is illegal and punishable with a fine of up to \$500 per violation.

No surprise: It's still hot and dry

Above-normal temperatures and a lack of rainfall in the past month mean the risk of wildfires remains high across the state.

"State and local first responders have been incredibly busy this year without much reprieve and forecast conditions indicate that we may be facing a very busy summer season as well," said Wes Moorehead, Texas A&M Forest Service fire chief. "We urge Texans to be cautious and prevent wildfire ignitions this summer."

There are three active wildfires, the largest being the Dempsey Fire which covers 11,598 acres and is 60% contained. A total of 181 counties are under burn bans.

COVID-19 cases rise once again

COVID-19 cases in Texas during the past week rose to 74,652, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University, up 21% from the previous week, with 111 deaths reported. The number of lab-confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations rose to 2,460 up 19.7% from the previous week, according to DSHS.

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



Slings&Arrows

Buckle up — it's going to be a roller coaster ride



Randy Keck
rkeck@community-news.com

I couldn't help but feel a bit of panic when I covered last week's Aledo ISD School Board workshop, wherein the district's demographers gave their predictions about enrollment numbers for the next 10 years.

The things we've been saying for years were going to happen are happening — it's no longer theoretical, and it's going to change the fundamental nature of the community.

Folks have so grown accustomed to the Aledo "brand," but what happens when there is a second high school, as there will most likely be sometime in the next six years or so?

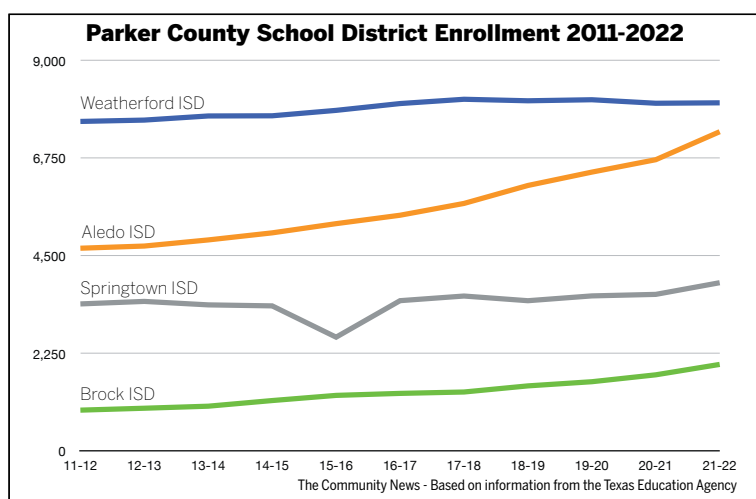
We have a few years to get used to the idea of a second high school with a second mascot, and perhaps a new, friendly, inter-school rivalry.

In the mean time, if the trends continue, in a couple of years Aledo ISD will be the largest school district in Parker County, and most likely be 6A.

I did some amateur charting, looking at Aledo, Springtown, Weatherford, and Brock ISDs and their enrollment numbers over the past 10 years.

Seeing it in graph form was a bit startling, and you'll see it with this column.

One of the things I hope we don't lose is the "Aledo Way." This community has its roots in a behavioral ethic that is



generous, compassionate, and courteous. As we reach the point that "newbies" outnumber community veterans, it will be incumbent on us to educate our new neighbors on the local ethos.

Of course, community newspapers around the state and around the country play a critical role in community cohesion and self-identity, and we don't take that mission lightly here.

Our communities have done as good a job as can be expected in preparing infrastructure, zoning, and local amenities to accommodate the growth. But those are physical things. It's up to the rest of us to maintain the intangible infrastructure that has made the community so vital and responsive to the needs of its residents.

We need to keep supporting organizations like the Aledo Children's AdvoCats, the Thanksgiving Trot, and other organizations that respond to community needs.

With the growth in population will come growth in social issues that we will need to find ways to deal with.

We will look for ways to respond appropriately as a

newspaper, and we look forward to hearing ideas from members of the community on how to welcome the wave of new neighbors that are headed our way.

On another topic

All of the above being said, there are others among us who don't seem to understand the concept of looking out for your neighbors.

Right now we live in a tinder box as far as fire danger is concerned. The county appropriately banned the discharge of fireworks to the extent Texas law would allow, and the state stepped in and extended the ban under an emergency declaration.

I feel for the first responders who have gone out in blazing heat on extended shifts in heavy gear to fight fires caused by the irresponsibility and stupidity of others who put the responders' lives and their neighbors' property in danger.

Lately at least one big fire was caused by fireworks use and another was caused by a cigarette being thrown from a vehicle.

Surely we are better than that.

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

July 8, 2022
THE COMMUNITY NEWS
www.community-news.com

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

A Midsummer's Night Dream

The community is invited to a night of enchantment and dreams in the Weatherford College Alkek Fine Arts Center with the community production of William Shakespeare's "A Midsummer's Night Dream" July 1-3 and July 8-10. Director James Brownlee promises this production will be a feast for the eyes, with gorgeous sets designed by two WC students, original music compositions by a local artist and a story that will draw in the audience with its themes of love and conflict. "It is a comedy despite the serious themes," Brownlee

said. "And it is one of Shakespeare's most popular plays because the dialogue is typically more palatable than in his other works." Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. on Sundays. Doors open a half hour prior to the start, and admission is free.

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 \$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. 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 home-made peach ice cream, peach cobbler, peach pie, peach tea, peach smoothies, and more. 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>.

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.

ACROSS

- 1 Middle East prince
- 5 TXism: "so broke I couldn't buy hay for a night"
- 6 cattle
- 7 TXism: "pay ___ never mind"
- 8 Fossil
- 9 Wildlife Center arose (2 wds.)
- 16 Oklahoma town pre-game
- 21 exercising (2 wds.)
- 22 disfavored group: ___ Klux Klan
- 23 TXism: "does a ___ office business"
- 24 groove-billed bird at Bentsen State Park
- 24 TXism: "risky ___ leak in a match factory"
- 30 in Hall County on U.S. 287
- 34 ___ Bissinger book "Friday Night Lights"
- 35 "Texas Wheelers" fictional town
- 36 Texas basic skills test (1991-2002)
- 37 this Warren starred with TX Quaid in "Tough Enough"
- 39 runway with no terminal (2 wds.)
- 43 TXism: "___ it with kid gloves"
- 44 Texas town where no cars are made
- 45 famed TCU coach
- 46 "Dutch" Meyer
- 46 this TX Martin was TV's "Peter Pan"

DOWN

- 11 spoken
- 12 big theatre in Fort Worth
- 13 "Did so" response
- 14 this world org. has depository library at UT (abbr.)
- 15 Tom Kite assn.
- 17 TXism: "Panhandle rain"
- 19 "___ of" (rare)
- 20 mom's description of messy room
- 24 Ranger & Astro leag.
- 25 "My Gal ___"
- 26 TXism: "got ___ on" (angry)
- 27 TXism: "___ the dogs" (ruined)
- 47 people can take ___ the Alamo
- 49 in Davy Crockett National Forest on highway 7
- 52 TX V.T. Hamlin's comic strip "Alley ___"
- 53 Amarillo's "___ State Fair & Rodeo"
- 54 TX Jayne Mansfield was born Vera Jane
- 55 Eagle Pass is the seat of this county
- 58 TXism: "took to it like a kitten"
- 59 this Randle was a Texas Ranger from 1972-76
- 60 explosive letters
- 61 newspaper income sources
- 61 TXism: "won't work ___ lazy to steal"
- 29 TXism: "___ a hornet's nest" (cause trouble)
- 31 "tit for ___"
- 32 TXism: "cute as a bug's ___"
- 33 reserve funds for a special purpose
- 38 the Mysterians only hit, "96 ___," was recorded in Texas
- 40 TXism: "couldn't find hide ___ hair of it"
- 41 the central idea
- 42 they are prepared before publication
- 48 foreign car
- 50 George W. brother
- 51 TXism: "in this ___ of the woods"
- 56 African river
- 57 improve by editing

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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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.

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://parkercmomms.aggienetwork.com>.



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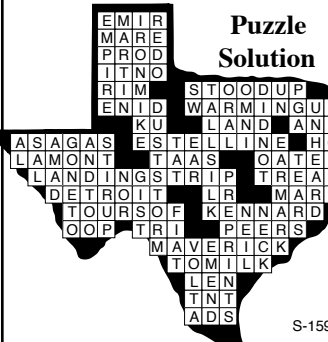
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Notice is hereby given that Letters Testamentary upon the estate of JON R. VANDAGRIFF, Deceased, were given to the undersigned Independent Executor on the 24th day of June, 2022, in the proceeding indicated below my signature hereto, which proceeding is still pending, and that I now hold such Letters Testamentary. All persons having claims against said estate, which is being administered in the county below named, are hereby required to submit the same to me at 777 Main Street, Suite 2700, Fort Worth, Texas 76102, before suit upon same is barred by the general statutes of limitation, before such estate is closed, and within the time prescribed by law.

(s) PHILIP J. VANDAGRIFF
Executed: July 5, 2022

Independent Executor of the Estate of Jon R. Vandagriff, Deceased, Cause No. 22P262, in the County Court of Parker County, Texas

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What’s in a number?

Din-Mbuh honors Bates by changing number to 32

By Nolan Ruth
The Community News

Every athlete has a number. It’s on their jerseys, sleeves, helmets, and even their shoes. For many athletes their number is just as important as their name.

Recently the number 32 has been fresh on the minds of the Aledo community due to the passing of Noah Bates.

Bates, 11, died in a tragic UTV accident on May 15.

The community rallied around the family in a dark time and remembered Noah by wearing pink (Noah’s favorite color) while the Bearcats baseball team marched through the playoffs.

While the baseball season came to a premature end, the Bates family received another nod when Bearcats defensive tackle Ansel Din-Mbuh came to them wanting to change his football jersey number from 38 to 32.

“I’ve never really had a special number,” Din-Mbuh said. “I’ve always liked the lower digit numbers, but 38 is what I got my sophomore year so I just wore that.”

Din-Mbuh got to know the Bates family while his younger brother Akhil played on a youth football team coached by Noah’s father, Glenn.

“I’ve coached since Noah played flag football,” Glenn explained. “Akhil has always

been on my team and Ansel would come to the practices and games; he would run the chains and just wanted to be on the sidelines with the boys.”

Din-Mbuh had the privilege to truly know Noah as the personalities of the two blended from the start.

“He thought Ansel was a beast,” Noah’s mother Katy remembered. “He was always telling Ansel that he was going to make it big someday. There was just a special bond between them.”

“I looked up to Noah,” Din-Mbuh said. “Even though he was younger than me, it was just the energy he gave off and the type of person he was. I wanted to be like Noah, he was a great kid, he was happy and he always put others before himself, and that’s something I want to be big on.”

After Noah’s passing, Din-Mbuh decided that he wanted to do something special for his friends and went to the Bates family with a request.

“He asked for one of Noah’s jerseys,” Katy recalled. “He came by and picked it up and every varsity player signed it and the coaches, and they brought it back to us in a shadowbox on the day of the service.”

That was not the only thing Din-Mbuh had prepared. Not long after receiving the shocking news, Din-Mbuh made the decision to go from number 38 to number 32.

“I texted coach (Tim) Buchanan immediately,”



Noah Bates

Din-Mbuh said. “I asked if I could wear 32 and he said ‘of course.’ I wanted to make stickers too and he said we’ll find more ways to honor him. Then I went to their house and I asked for their blessing. Thankfully they said yes.”

Glenn recalled, “We were blown away by the offer. Like, what kid does that? So we were thrilled, of course we said yes.”

Din-Mbuh’s senior year will be spent wearing a number that truly means something to him for the first time ever, and he knows it.

“I think personally that when I go out on the field, I already have the most energy,” Din-Mbuh said. “So now when I go out there I want to make sure that everyone knows when they leave the field that I outplayed them, and they’re going to know who number 32 was.”

The Bates family has set up the nonprofit Noah Hudson Bates Memorial Foundation through First Financial Bank to promote and advance education of off-road safety. Donations can be made at any branch of First Financial Bank.



KRISTIN MORALES

Defensive tackle Ansel Din-Mbuh celebrates after a stop against Weatherford in the 2021 season.

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Performance Course in full swing

By Nolan Ruth
The Community News

Summer has arrived and that means it is time for everyone to take a vacation. Some will go to the beach, some will go on cruises, and some will go overseas. However, for athletes at Aledo High School, it is time to keep working.

Performance Course started before sunrise on Monday, June 6 and both Bearcats and Ladycats began the long summer grind. The summer workout program has been in place at Aledo since 2008 and has benefited athletes from all sports at Aledo.

The program at Aledo is one of 40 across the states of Texas and Oklahoma. It is designed to improve athletic ability for students from sixth grade through 12th grade over the summer.

Before Performance Course came to Aledo, the summer workout program was basically the unlocking of the weight room and the athletes would come and go. Due to UIL restrictions on coaches working directly with the athletes over the summer, Performance Course bridges the gap and has been an integral part in Aledo's athletic success.

"It's been pretty big," Athletic Director Steve Wood said. "We used to do it ourselves and it was mainly just for football players, but now it's grown. Every program



NOLAN RUTH/THE COMMUNITY NEWS
LEFT: Football player Hauss Hejny works out in this summer's Performance Course. | RIGHT: Chad Thomas works on conditioning for the next wrestling season.

benefits from it so it's been huge."

Helping to run the program is a number of Aledo alumni who went through Performance Course when they were growing up and now volunteer. Former Bearcat Calvin Loftis joined the company after graduating

from TCU, and now runs the program at Eaton High School in Haslet.

Aledo's Performance Course is led by the company's Executive Director Kirk Byerly. A graduate of Texas Tech, Byerly has worked on strength and conditioning

the University of Tennessee before starting his own program.

Before joining Performance Course in 2006, Byerly owned and operated the southwest region of Fast Twitch Sports Performance Training Inc. and Athletic Enhancement Systems. In

that time his client list included Dallas Cowboys Emmitt Smith and Charles Haley, and Dallas Stars Mike Modano and Eddie Belfour.

"The key to it is having someone like Kirk running it," Wood commented. "We've been lucky to have him. He's very professional and very

good at what he does. He's great with the kids and has a unique way of motivating them. It's summer time, they could do something else yet they come work and sweat. The key is the great leader and we're lucky to have Kirk."

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