

THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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ALEDO ISD

Aledo Growth Committee to plan for ongoing influx of students

Application available for community members to join through Aug. 12

By Randy Keck
The Community News

The rapid enrollment growth in the Aledo ISD was on everyone's mind when the school board voted to convene a growth committee to formulate a plan for needed future facilities and to develop the inevitable bond proposal that would fund them.

At the special meeting on Monday, July 25, Superintendent Dr. Susan Bohn reviewed the presentation from the district's demographers in June (See The Community News, July 1, 2022).

"What we're talking about tonight is moving forward to make sure that we're planning ahead to take care of the needs of our kids as we grow," Bohn said, adding that "one of every four kids has moved to Aledo over the last five years."

Another reality that might be difficult for many long-time Aledoans is Bohn's look into the far future.

"I just want to make sure you guys know that when we hear about what our buildout might be like, we're not talking about one or two high schools; we're talking about multiple, probably four or five, depending on what high school is like in Aledo in the future," Bohn said. "And so that's just a little context to give our community with respect to this. I think one thing that is our responsibility, the responsibility of our partners, media partners, and others in the community, leaders in the community, is that we're in a different type of growth scenario now than we've ever been."

"And it's different for the entire community to come to terms with; it's not bad, it's just different. It's something that we certainly have to plan for, because we know it's coming."

Based on data from Population and Survey Analysts (PASA) and current

Turn to **GROWTH**, page 3

CORRECTION

In recent photos published of the Mach I Track Club, Nicholas Walden was mis-identified. We regret the error.

Marching Time



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

The Bearcat Regiment has begun marching drills in the Aledo High School parking lot. Can fall sports be far behind?

ALEDO

Dean Ranch 'Gateway to Aledo' property purchase closes



This conceptual plan shows a water feature at the entrance to the Dean Ranch on the east side of FM 1187 at Bailey Ranch Road.

Lynch Legacy Group of Willow Park represents Levens Capital LLC in transaction

By Randy Keck
The Community News

Stacy Lynch and Stephanie Rich with Lynch Legacy Realty Group in Parker County have announced the closing of a 1,495-acre purchase of a portion of the Dean Ranch. Lynch represented Levens Capital LLC in the purchase of the historical site.

The mixed-use, master-planned development is underway in becoming a new 'Gateway to Aledo.'

About 238 acres of the property that faces FM 1187 will be in the city limits of Aledo, with the remainder being in the city limits of Fort Worth.

Infrastructure improvements on streets, sidewalks, drainage, and utilities will be accomplished without burdening Aledo taxpayers. Those improvements, projected at up to \$41 million, will be financed in part by the developer by way of a Public Improvement

District (PID). This is the first PID ever created in the City of Aledo. Such districts are a financing tool frequently and commonly used by Texas cities to provide specific types of improvements or maintenance within a designated area.

Two parcels of land are being donated to Aledo ISD for future education sites. The tracts equal about 117 acres, saving millions of tax dollars for current Aledo residents.

This project will focus on nature and conservancy, outdoor health, and

Turn to **DEAN**, page 5

ALEDO ISD

Board approves application for Chapter 313 program

Possible \$3.7 billion facility seeks tax agreement

By Randy Keck
The Community News

Members of the Aledo ISD Board of Trustees got a quick education on Chapter 313 of the Texas Tax Code at a special meeting on Monday, July 25, in the wake of a request from an unnamed company to approve an application that would mitigate property taxes on a possible \$3.7 billion solar panel facility on Walsh Ranch.

Dubbed "Project Redeemer," representatives from KPMG representing the manufacturer told the board that the Walsh Ranch location is one of four possible sites for the facility: another site is also in the DFW area, one is in Georgia, and one is in South Carolina.

Ulrich Schmidt, principal, tax with KPMG's Global Location Expansion Services, explained his company's role.

"We provide the analysis and the methodologies for companies to go from the many options to the few," Ulrich said. "Our purpose is to help the company check off all the little risks that they may perceive in terms of timeline or financial risks, or risks to operation, to make sure that once they are down to this short list, they actually have the best site."

David MacNamara, senior manager, tax, for KPMG, told the board the proposed site is about 1,100 acres between I-20 and I-30 to the east of Aledo. If Project Redeemer ends up there, MacNamara said it would ultimately employ about 3,000 full-time employees with salaries averaging about \$85,000 inclusive of benefits.

KPMG's request of the school board was that it accept a Chapter 313 Value Limitation Application to Aledo ISD from Project Redeemer.

What is Chapter 313?

Earlier in the meeting, Kathy Mathias and Mali Hanley with MoakCasey, explained the Chapter 313 program to the board.

Texas Tax Code Chapter 313 is a state tax incentive program through which certain large businesses can receive a 10-year limitation on their appraised value for school district tax purposes in exchange for developing property and creating jobs in the school district.

"Most of the local tax revenue the school district forgoes under Chapter 313 is replaced with state funding. Thus, the act uses state revenue to promote local economic development," according to the Texas State Comptroller's website.

Turn to **REDEEMER**, page 3



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Capital Highlights

Walking billboards promote pedestrian safety



Gary Borders
gborders@texaspress.com

If you happen to visit a high-traffic area in one of the state's larger cities, you might come across some folks wearing sandwich boards, such as one seen during tax season or mattress sales. The Texas Department of Transportation has adopted this marketing device to promote its "Be Safe. Drive Smart" pedestrian safety campaign this month.

Pedestrians account for one in five traffic fatalities in the state. Last year, 5,366 traffic crashes involving pedestrians occurred, with 841 people killed. TxDOT is using the highly visible sandwich boards to remind both drivers and pedestrians to follow the rules of the road and watch out for each other. The boards are being worn by members of TxDOT's street teams.

"Only 1% of traffic crashes in Texas involve pedestrians, yet pedestrians account for 19% of all roadway deaths," said TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams. "That's because pedestrians lack the protective equipment—airbags, seat belts and bumpers—common to vehicles. To keep our most vulnerable road users safe, we urge motorists to always be on the lookout for people walking. Pedestrians also have the responsibility to be aware of their surroundings and follow the rules of the road."

July 31 deadline for newborn enrollment in TTPF

The deadline to open a Texas Tuition Promise Fund college savings account for a child younger than 1 year old is July 31, according to the state comptroller's office. Participants can lock in 2021-2022 tuition and fee prices for their loved little ones at Texas public colleges and universities by establishing an account by then.

The comptroller's report states: "According to the 2020 edition of Sallie Mae's Higher Ambitions: How America Plans for Post-secondary Education, planners save two times more for college than non-planners. Planners are also more likely to start investing for college when their child is young, which is associated with less expected student loan debt."

Contributions to what are known as 529 plans, such as TTPF, are partially exempt from the federal gift tax. Up to \$16,000 annually (\$32,000 for married couples) can be given without triggering the gift tax.

Wildfire risk remains high across state

As the nearly statewide drought shows no signs of abating, wildfire danger continues to spread across the state. The Chalk Mountain Fire in Somervell County and the 1148 Fire in Palo Pinto County caused local officials to urge residents to evacuate. Several lakefront homes were destroyed around Possum

Kingdom Lake last week as a result of the 1148 Fire, which involved 457 acres and was about 50% contained as of Sunday, according to the Texas A&M Forest Service.

There were 16 active wildfires across the state, the largest being the Chalk Mountain Fire involving 6,705 acres. It was 10% contained as of Sunday. A total of 215 counties in Texas now have burn bans in place.

Tree-killing beetle spreads to more counties

The invasive emerald ash bore has been confirmed in two additional counties this month, according to the forest service. The invasive wood-boring pest is now confirmed in 11 Texas counties, with the addition of Morris and Rusk counties. It has killed millions of trees across 35 states since its arrival in the United States 20 years ago.

"The pest is a major threat to urban, suburban and rural forests as it aggressively kills ash trees within two to three years after infestation," said Demian Gomez, with the forest service.

Counties where the emerald ash bore has been detected have their ash timber and lumber quarantined to prevent the spread of the pest. The beetle was first detected in Texas in 2016 in Harrison County. Since then, EAB has been confirmed in Bowie, Cass, Dallas, Denton, Marion, Morris, Rusk, Wise, Parker and Tarrant counties.

State again shows large job gain

Texas added 82,500 nonfarm jobs in June, the largest gain this year. The state again set new employment highs, as total nonfarm employment reached 13.43 million, according to the Texas Workforce Commission.

"This type of sustained economic success is only possible when employers and job seekers have maximum opportunities to reach their full potential, and TWC works hard to support those opportunities," Bryan Daniel, TWC chairman, said.

Jobs in the oil and gas industry led the increase with 4,900 new jobs, while the construction sector lost 3,000 workers. The state's unemployment rate dropped a tick to 4.1%, down from 4.2% in May.

Nearly 90,000 Texans have died of COVID-19

Approximately two-and-a-half years after COVID-19 began to sweep the country, nearly 90,000 Texans have died as a result of the disease, according to Texas Department of State Health Services, with more than 6 million cases reported since 2020. The BA.5 variant is now causing most of the infections, with a rolling seven-day average of 11,905 cases reported daily. The number of lab-confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations on Sunday in Texas totaled 3,454, according to DSHS, which is up slightly from the previous 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.



Thistles & Roses

No respect for negative-ad-producing political consultants



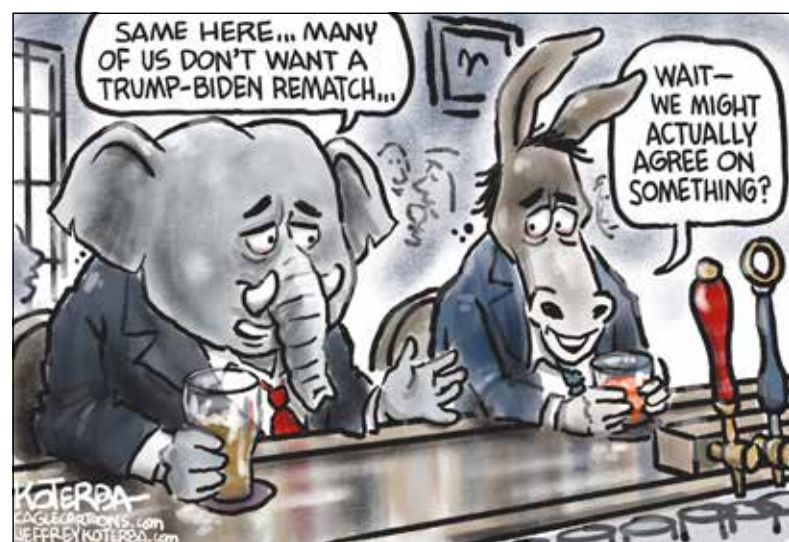
Richard Henderson
richard@rahenderson.com

As we endure this seemingly unending hot dry summer, I was thinking that, for now, we are not being bombarded with negative political attack ads. They are coming as sure as September.

I imagine that the political consultants are working hard on these ads right now. They are trying to dig up dirt on opponents. I don't know whether to call them bottom-feeding scum suckers or scum-sucking bottom feeders. I have no respect for those whose profession is, for money (lots of money), to demean and ridicule another human being. I imagine they are already producing those ads where the person being attacked is depicted in one of those dark, evil looking photographs with some sinister quote taken out of context.

They use focus groups to refine these ads to have the most negative effect. It seems they are better called unfocused groups. What we are lacking these days is a majority of the population that has critical thinking skills.

Republicans and Democrats are equally at fault. Those of us who are truly in the middle of the road don't have much say so. As the saying goes, the person in the middle of the road will get



run over by vehicles going both directions.

I really think that the most qualified candidates have a hard time getting elected. I can think of several recent races in the Republican primaries where I knew the candidates well and knew the ones that had the best skills for the office. They finished distant thirds when the count was made. They did not attract much money and they did not go negative with their ads. I knew they were capable, experienced, dedicated people.

In today's climate there is little room for moderate views. I think because I am a Democrat that some folks make assumptions that are fundamentally wrong.

It seems when I have sat on various non-profit boards, I end up on the finance committees. Just a few of these include the Mental Health Association of Tarrant County, The Botanical Research Institute of Texas, and the East Parker County Library. As president of the library board, I employed unyielding

conservative fiscal controls until we had paid off our debt and had money in the bank. There were many Republicans on the board that recognized my financial skills. I was no free-spending liberal. I was and am a practical thinking moderate human being. I have many conservative ideas and many liberal ideas.

It is megabucks and dark money that is fueling these ads and campaigns. If we can't stop it through legal means, we need to stop it with our minds when we go to vote.

It is quiet now on the airwaves. We also have hot, dry, parched earth.

But the storms of political and negative saturation will arrive in September and lambast us until the election in November.

Richard Henderson is a local resident who practices law and provides regular columns to The Community News.

The Community News

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- Texas Press Association
- North and East Texas Press Association
- West Texas Press Association
- East Parker County Chamber of Commerce
- Weatherford Chamber of Commerce

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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.

REDEEMER

from page one

The program ends in December of 2022, although the expiration will not affect existing applications.

The school district voted to accept the application in three action items. First the board adopted a policy that would "outline the procedures the district will use for the filing, accepting, and reviewing of applications made under the Texas Economic Development Act, as set forth in Chapter 313 of the Texas Tax Code."

The board then voted to accept the Project Redeemer application. The board set an application fee of \$90,000 to be paid by the company. Finally, the board voted to retain the services of MoakCasey to assist the district in processing the application.

Under the Chapter 313 program, the appraisal limitation would only apply to the Maintenance and Operations (M&O) tax rate, not the Interest & Sinking fund rate.

The board is not obligated to approve the application, but if it does, the application then goes to



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

David MacNamara (left) and Ulrich Schmidt urged the school board to consider the application for "Project Redeemer," a possible \$3.7 billion project that lies partially within the school district.

the State Comptroller's office for its findings. Negotiations would then begin between the school district and Project Redeemer on the terms of the agreement.

The agreement would then be sent back to the comptroller 20

days before the school board would vote to accept the final agreement.

For more information on Chapter 313, visit <https://comptroller.texas.gov/economy/fiscal-notes/2016/april/chap313.php>.

GROWTH

from page one

attendance zones, three of the district's six elementary schools (Coder, McCall, and Walsh) will reach their capacity by the next (2023-24) school year. Another two campuses (Annetta and Stuard) will max out in the following 2024-25 school year.

In fact, overall K-5 student population will exceed the district's capacity in 2024-25.

In addition, based on projections of new growth, the yet-to-open McAnally Middle School will reach its capacity in four years; overall district capacity for grades 6-8 and Aledo High School will max out in five years.

The board is faced with how to provide facilities for the virtual flood of students expected at all levels in the next 5-10 years, but Bohn pointed out to the board that the task must begin now for the onerous task of planning for secondary schools.

One attribute the school district has in its favor is its handling of bond finances.

Bohn pointed out to the board that through its financial advisors (BOK), the district has saved local taxpayers \$48.2 million through managing bond debt. She said BOK has begun an analysis of the district's available debt capacity for an upcoming bond election.

Another plus in the district's favor is its historic overall tax rate, which has dropped steadily from \$1.5950 to \$1.3929 over the past four years.

Because new learning space will be necessary in two years at the elementary level, new learning space will be needed in five years at the high school level, and because the construction market and supply chain issues are challenging, the district will convene a committee for bond and long-range planning.

Bohn's proposal, which the board adopted, is for an "Aledo Growth Committee" constituted of the following:

- Two community co-chairs
- Approximately 40-45 members:

- 1 parent recommended from each campus (10-11 total)
- 1 teacher recommended from each campus (10-11 total)
- 1 community member appointed by each board member (7 total)
- District administration recommendations (approx. 5 total)
- Remainder from community member application process (approximately 8-10)

"We're in a different type of growth scenario now than we've ever been."

Dr. Susan Bohn

The charge to the Aledo Growth Committee is to:

- represent the priorities, expectations and values of the entire community,
- consider the needs of all of the district's students,
- use facts and data to make informed decisions,
- understand the district's finances to develop a program that is fiscally sound and efficient,
- recommend a long-range facility master plan that meets the district's building capacity needs into the future, and
- recommend to the Board of Trustees a bond program for a possible upcoming bond election.

The growth committee will commit to meet 10 times for about 2.5 hours each meeting. With one exception, the committee will meet on Mondays at 6 p.m.

Anyone wishing to serve on the Aledo Growth Committee can apply at <https://bit.ly/3Je6UwE>. Deadline to apply is Aug. 12, 2022.

More information on the Aledo Growth Committee can be found at <https://www.aledoisd.org/age>.



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

The East Parker County Chamber Foundation donated \$9,000 to Parker County Fire Departments to help with fuel cost on July 25. To date, the East Parker County Chamber Foundation has donated more than \$35,000 in disaster recovery efforts. To make a tax deductible donation, mail a check to East Parker County Chamber, 100 Chuckwagon Trail, Willow Park, TX 76087 or call 817-441-7844. Shown is Chamber President Lisa Flowers with members of the Willow Park Fire Department.

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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

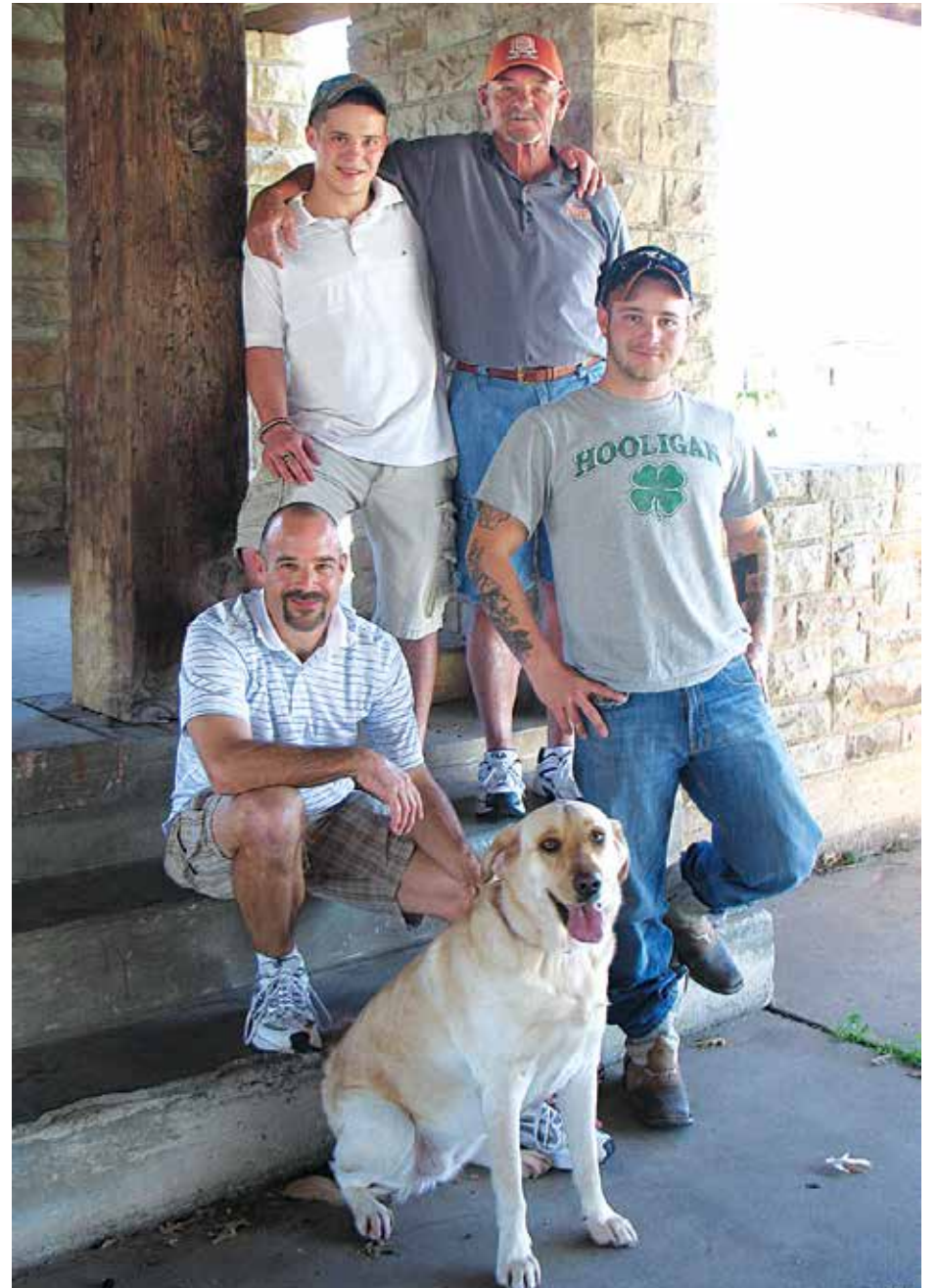
outside of Azle, Springtown, Weatherford, Poolville and Aledo, and the area continues to grow! Just call and see if they can help you. Since they are a local, family-owned company, you know who will answer the phone when you call. Tim and Billy are available Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.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

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



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PARKER COUNTY

Deputy recognized for life-saving action in Aledo

By Danie Huffman
Parker County Sheriff's Office

Parker County Sheriff's Deputy Adam Rozneck was honored by the Parker County Commissioner's Court on Monday, July 25, for his life-saving actions on July 4.

On that day Rozneck responded to the 500-Block of Sagebrush Court in Aledo shortly after 10 p.m. on a call regarding a 54-year-old male who had fallen and was unresponsive.

Rozneck arrived on scene, located the man, and determined he needed immediate medical attention. Rozneck immediately began administering Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), and continued to for more than five minutes until paramedics arrived on scene.

The man was taken to a local hospital for medical treatment, where he made a full recovery.

The on-duty sheriff's patrol supervisor was later notified by the Lifecare Supervisor that Deputy Rozneck's actions were directly responsible in saving the man's life.

In recognition of the immediate efforts to preserve the life of another, the Parker County Sheriff's Office awarded Deputy Rozneck with the Lifesaving Award.

"Rozneck did a great job and



PARKER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Parker County Sheriff's Deputy Adam Rozneck is shown receiving recognition from the Parker County Commissioner's Court. Shown are (from left) Commissioner Pct. 3 Larry Walden, Commissioner Pct. 2 Craig Peacock, County Attorney John Forrest, Sheriff Russ Authier, Rozneck, Rozneck's father Adam, County Judge Pat Deen, County Clerk Lila Deakle, Commissioner Pct. 1 George Conley, and Commissioner Pct. 4 Steve Dugan.

handled the situation well," said Patrol Lt. Rick Crosley.

Parker County Sheriff Russ Authier also commended Deputy Rozneck.

"Deputy Rozneck's actions reflected his training and displayed his ability to maintain a calm demeanor while taking the appropriate actions in saving a man's

life," Authier said. "We are proud of his actions and we are proud to have him on our team."

PARKER COUNTY
Former JPS administrator convicted of Capital Murder

Life sentence handed to Christopher Mark Wall

A former John Peter Smith Hospital administrator was convicted by a Parker County jury Thursday evening of murdering two Arlington women in a Willow Park bank parking lot in 2017.

The jury convicted Christopher Mark Wall, 38, of Weatherford, of capital murder for shooting 21-year-old Krista McClellan and 23-year-old Ashley Pohorence on Nov. 4, 2017. According to trial testimony, he met the women at the bank because they were extorting him for trying to hire prostitutes. Since the death penalty was not being sought by the prosecution, Wall was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

"We believed that Mr. Wall killed Krista and Ashley to keep them quiet and keep them from coming back to him for more money," said District Attorney Jeff Swain, who tried the case with Assistant District Attorney Kathleen Catania.

Turn to WALL, page 6

DEAN

from page one

multi-generational communities. Dean Ranch will provide outdoor connection opportunities such as trails, workout zones, and multi-use open spaces. An additional water tank will be erected and all water usage will be coming from the City of Fort Worth resources.

Major roadways will be built throughout the development connecting to I-20 east of the Aledo exit and will bring relief to FM1187

traffic. Through the work of the developers, the Cities of Aledo and Fort Worth, a collaborative effort was made to relieve traffic and supply sufficient water to the area.

Phase 1 land use will include open space, parks, natural areas, commercial, single-family residential, and a state of the art amenity center valued at \$4.5 million.

"This two-year project has been a result of many entities working together to build a development Parker County will be proud of," said brokers Stacy Lynch and Stephanie Rich. "Two tracts on the corners

(northwest and southwest) of I-20 and FM1187/3325 will be added to this project in the next two months making the 2,000 acre Dean Ranch the largest real estate deal in Parker County history, totaling \$107.5 million dollars."

Aledo Mayor Nick Stanley said if Dean Ranch was going to happen in Fort Worth, immediately adjacent to Aledo, it was critical that this part of the development be brought into Aledo and thoughtfully designed as an eastern "gateway" to the city.

"This is a major win for Aledo," he said. "Not only will we add

high-quality, single-family homes on substantial lots and well-designed townhomes, but there will also be a private amenity center, public parks, trails, green space, and substantial new commercial development, all of which adds to our tax base. Most importantly, we get to decide what this gateway to our community will look like, by having a portion of the development actually within Aledo and distinctively shaped by the design standards in this carefully negotiated agreement.

"We know our residents may have concerns about this project,

so it is important to understand that the city council and staff are already taking purposeful steps to plan for and address the dynamic growth happening in and near our community."

For more information, visit dean-ranchaledo.com. or contact Stacy Lynch (stacy@lynchlegacyp.com | 817.908.9567) or Stephanie Rich (stephanie@lynchlegacyp.com | 817.304.5939). The Lynch Legacy Group began in 1972 and joined eXp Realty in January 2020. The team has 42 agents.



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Obituaries

Luke Parchman, Jr.

On June 14, 2022, Msgt. Luke W. Parchman, USAF, Retired, passed away on June 14, 2022.

Luke Parchman, Jr., was born on Nov 20, 1939, in Atascosa County, Texas.

He attended and graduated from Freer High School in 1957, where he met his future wife, Martha Lee Velau Parchman.

Luke joined the United States Air Force in 1958. He started his training at Lackland AFB in San Antonio. Luke then trained in Wyoming before being transferred to Tyndall AFB in Florida. Luke and Martha were married in 1958, and their first son, Robert, was born while they were stationed in Florida. Robert was born on Luke's birthday, and each year they would celebrate their special day together. Luke was then transferred to Nova Scotia, Canada, and then to Niagara Falls, New York.

Their second child, Cindy, was born while they were in New York. Luke and family were then transferred back to San Antonio to Lackland where he served as a training instructor. He was deployed to Vietnam in 1968-69 and then returned to Lackland.

Their third child, David, was born in San Antonio. Luke and family were then transferred to Eielson AFB in Fairbanks, Alaska, where he served for three years before returning to Lackland.

Luke retired from the Air Force in 1977. He worked briefly with his father in the oil fields of Freer before moving to Somerset, Texas. Luke started working for Somerset as Director of Public Operations. He then spent more than 30 years planning and developing the streets, sewer, and water system for Somerset.

Luke was very active in the community. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge at Somerset, where he is a Past Master. Luke was also president of the Lions Club.

Luke will be remembered for being a humble servant, father, and friend to many.

Luke is survived by his loving wife, Martha; children, Robert (Cheryl) Parchman of New Braunfels; Cindy Parchman McCoy of Fort Worth; David (Elizabeth) Parchman of Somerset; and Rosa Parchman of Portland; brother-in-law, David (Lourdes) Velau of Freer; seven grandchildren, and six great grandchildren.

A funeral Service was held Saturday, June 18, 2022 at Hurley Funeral Home Chapel in Lytle with Interment following at Bexar Cemetery in Somerset.



Luke Parchman

WALL

from page five

"The defense contended that it was self-defense or that he was defending his daughter, who was at home 10 miles away."

The day before the murders, Wall used a website notorious for illicit activities like prostitution, to solicit two women to come to his office at JPS to have sex with him, according to testimony from Wall and Sierra McMahan. Instead, McClellan and McMahan came to his office, confirmed that Wall wanted to have sex with them, and told him that if he didn't pay them a large sum of money, they would tell his supervisor and his wife that he was trying to hire prostitutes. Wall then took the two women to three different Fort Worth banks and withdrew \$6,600, which he gave to them.

The next day, according to the testimony, the three women reached out to Wall again and demanded that he pay them more money for their silence. Wall met them in the bank parking lot and, after a brief meeting in his car, shot both women in the head between his car and Pohorence's car. McMahan, who was in a different car, saw the shooting and fled the scene. Wall fled shortly thereafter, running over McClellan's body on the way.

In Wall's testimony, he said the women threatened to kill him that day and that McClellan had shown him a gun in her purse the day before. He said that McClellan tried to drag him out of his car and believed she was going to kidnap him. Wall said that he got out of his car with his gun, McClellan reached

into her purse, and he shot her. He said he then shot Pohorence when she charged him.

When Wall was interviewed by Texas Ranger Tony Bradford the day after the shooting, he initially told him that the women were extorting him but denied killing them. 23 minutes into the interview, Wall said that they had threatened to sexually traffic his 14-year-old daughter. In an interview lasting around 90 minutes, he said nothing about the women having a gun, trying to kidnap him, or charging at him.

Willow Park Police Department and Parker County Sheriff's Office investigators found no gun or other weapon on scene. They also located McClellan's purse in her car, not near her body, and noted that it had no blood on it. Wall shot both women in the head causing the presence of large amounts of blood on the ground at the scene.

During Wall's testimony, he admitted that he hid the gun he shot the women with in a pile of rubble near his home. However, he said he did not do so to hide evidence, as the prosecution suggested. He said he hid it because he could not stand to be near the gun anymore since he had used it to kill two people.

Wall also admitted that he washed his car at a car wash shortly after the shooting. He said he did not do so to wash off blood or other evidence, but rather to give himself time to think while he the car was being washed. Despite the carwash, law enforcement found blood and hair underneath Wall's car that DNA testing revealed belonged to McClellan, according to

testimony from Department of Public Safety analysts.

Win addition, Wall told jurors that he deleted all communications with the three women off of his phone after the shootings. He wasn't trying to destroy evidence, he said, but rather he didn't want it on his phone because it was embarrassing.

On cross-examination by Swain, Wall admitted that he had hired prostitutes he found on the website on ten occasions in the 12 to 18 months prior to the murders. He denied ever being extorted previously. However, Swain introduced a screenshot of an extortion demand related to Wall trying to hire prostitutes that was on Wall's phone from earlier in 2017.

McMahan testified that she saw Wall pursuing McClellan around the back of the car before he shot her and that he then shot Pohorence right after she got out of his car.

The defense called a crime scene reconstruction expert who testified that both women fell forward toward Wall after he shot them, which could indicate they were coming at him at the time. However, he said that Pohorence was in the process of getting out of the car and standing up when she was shot.

At length, McMahan told jurors how the three women would be solicited by men on the website, they would meet the men, record their in-person solicitation for sex, and then blackmail them to remain silent in exchange for money. From her testimony, the scam appears to have been lucrative. She said they never threatened violence or carried weapons and that they

would flee from any threat of violence.

Parker County District Attorney Investigator Marc Gray testified that he viewed more than 250,000 digital files on the phones of Wall and the three women. He said he reviewed hundreds of recordings of the women's interactions with their "Johns" or "tricks," the people they extorted who were soliciting prostitution. Gray said that they never used or threatened violence, kidnapping, or trafficking. The threats were always that the trick's misconduct would be exposed to their spouse, work, or friends, or that they would call the police and report that they were being solicited for sex. He also never saw them in possession of any weapons.

"Under Texas law, a person may use force but not deadly force in response to a daytime theft," Swain said. "However, for robbery, kidnapping, or sexual assault, deadly force may be employed if the person reasonably believes it is immediately necessary."

"This whole case came down to whether or not you believed Mr. Wall," Swain said. "Between his failure to tell the Texas Ranger about his purported defenses, his efforts to destroy evidence after the murders, the irreconcilable differences between his version of events and the physical evidence, and the unlikely story about a women half his size trying to kidnap him, we just didn't believe him. I think our jurors must have felt likewise."

The case was tried in the 43rd District Court with Judge Craig Towson presiding.

QUOTABLE

"If you pick up a starving dog and make him prosperous he will not bite you. This is the principal difference between a dog and man."

"Heaven goes by favor. If it went by merit, you would stay out and your dog would go in."

"The dog is a gentleman; I hope to go to his heaven, not man's."

Mark Twain

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Sinatra is a tan and white mix breed, about 3 years old; 55 lbs; good with dogs.; well behaved. Email Deborah Haller, volunteer rescue coordinator, at dshrescuedogs15@gmail.com for more information about Sinatra.



One stunning girl, Truffles, is a Husky full of life. About 1-2 yrs old. This breed is Smart, very energetic so be prepared. They are typically fence jumpers. She needs to be an indoor companion out of the Texas heat. This breed loves the cold and lots of exercise. Truffles can be visited at the Weatherford-Parker County Animal Shelter. Call 817-598-4111 for more information.



Diamond is a black and white Pit mix; good with dogs, affectionate and cuddly; about 1-2 years old; 50 lbs. Email Deborah Haller, volunteer rescue coordinator, at dshrescuedogs15@gmail.com for more information about Diamond.



Diesel is a Blu Lacy mix; about 5-6 years old; shy, well behaved; wonderful temperament; seems good with other dogs. Urgent - Diesel is the shelter's longest resident. Diesel can be visited at the Weatherford-Parker County Animal Shelter. Call 817-598-4111 for more information.



Electra is 2-3 years old, active, ready for adventure, seems good with other dogs. Email Deborah Haller, volunteer rescue coordinator, at dshrescuedogs15@gmail.com for more information about Electra.



Timothee is a very smart boy that loves for someone to train him fetching balls; he likes and needs brain stimulation. Stunning boy. About 1-2 years old. Email Deborah Haller, volunteer rescue coordinator, at dshrescuedogs15@gmail.com for more information about Timothee.



Luna - longest resident. Urgent. Beautiful, Sweet girl. Shy and ready for a family. Young about 2 years. Luna can be visited at the Weatherford-Parker County Animal Shelter. Call 817-598-4111 for more information.



Grizzly is about 6 years old; dog friendly. Email Deborah Haller, volunteer rescue coordinator, at dshrescuedogs15@gmail.com for more information about Grizzly.



Oso is a very happy, playful boy, about 1-2 years old, Pyr/Lab mix, slow introductions with other dogs. Should do fine with female dogs. Email Deborah Haller, volunteer rescue coordinator, at dshrescuedogs15@gmail.com for more information about Oso.



Tulip is a friendly girl ready to go home with you! Email Deborah Haller, volunteer rescue coordinator, at dshrescuedogs15@gmail.com for more information about Tulip.



Scarlet is a young German Shepherd. She adores people, kids; insecure from being shuffled around so she needs someone who can work her separation anxiety. Prefers not to have other dogs in her face. mail Deborah Haller, volunteer rescue coordinator, at dshrescuedogs15@gmail.com for more information about Scarlet.



Cash is a muscular, super friendly boy. One fun boy! Seems dog friendly especially with the females.



Tipper: If you're looking for a sweet senior to bond with, look no further. Still spunky and full of life this gal is smart! She is ready to retire in the air conditioning and comfort of her humans loving home. About 6 yrs old. Tipper can be visited at the Weatherford-Parker County Animal Shelter. Call 817-598-4111 for more information.



Shauna is young - about 1-2 years; loves people, very affectionate, likes other friendly dogs. May chase cats. Email Deborah Haller, volunteer rescue coordinator, at dshrescuedogs15@gmail.com for more information about Shauna.



Rebel is a sweet girl who loves to play. She is active with lots of facial expressions; about 3 years old. Email Deborah Haller, volunteer rescue coordinator, at dshrescuedogs15@gmail.com for more information about Rebel.

Events

July 29, 2022
THE COMMUNITY NEWS
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More events can be found at www.community-news.com/calendar

FRIDAY, JULY 29

Finalists announced for 4th annual International Piano Competition
Finalists for the fourth annual Weatherford College International Piano Competition will perform live in the Alkek Fine Arts Center on July 29 and 30. Contestants from all over the world submitted online entries including pianists from Canada, Poland, China, Korea and the United States.

The Junior Division Final Round will begin at 8 a.m. Friday, July 29, followed by an award ceremony and masterclass at 3 p.m. The evening will conclude with a concert by Dr. Steven Spooner at 7 p.m. Competition will continue Saturday, July 30, with the Young Artist Division also beginning at 8 a.m. followed by an award ceremony and masterclass at 4:30 p.m.

Peabody Conservatory piano professor to perform free concert
World renowned pianist Dr. Steven Spooner will perform a free concert in Weatherford College's Alkek Fine Arts Center at 7 p.m. on Friday, July 29. Spooner, a professor of piano at the Peabody Conservatory at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, is one of the judges for the final round of the fourth Annual Weatherford College International Piano Competition taking place in the Alkek July 29-30. "We are fortunate to have him as a judge and to host this recital," said Dr. Hyeyoung Song, WC's master pianist and founder of the competition. His

program includes works by Scarlatti, Chopin, Schubert/Liszt, Rhenzi along with his own compositions. Spooner studied at the Tbilisi Conservatory, Moscow Conservatory, and at Indiana University. He has released more than 30 recordings, his latest being a 10-volume project "Aspects of Liszt" that explores the many facets of the Liszt repertoire.



SATURDAY, JULY 30

Animal Adoption Event
The Weatherford Parker County Animal Shelter will host a special adoption event from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, July 30, at Film Alley, 825 E Interstate 20 in Weatherford. All adoptions will only cost \$25. For more information, visit <https://weatherfordtx.gov/15/Animal-Shelter> or call the shelter at 817-598-4111.

WC Summer Stage presents 'Little Red Riding Hood'
The Weatherford College Summer Stage Children's Series presents "Little Red Riding Hood" by Heath Thompson July 23-24 and July 30-31 in the Alkek Fine Arts Center, 239 College Park Drive in Weatherford. Showtimes are 11 a.m. on Saturdays and 2 p.m. on Sundays. Admission is free and doors open 30 minutes prior to showtime. The cast consists of Tyle

Sabbatini as Little Red, Nickoli Wooten as the Wolf, Saphira Buchfink at Betsy and Nate Field as Chuck. Ethan Sebree, a WC theatre student, is directing the production. The high-energy, interactive play follows the traditional story of Little Red Riding Hood with a few silly twists. The show runs approximately 30 minutes and is targeted toward children ages 10 and younger.

MONDAY, AUGUST 1

Golf Team Tryouts
The Aledo High School golf teams will hold tryouts on Monday, Aug. 1 and Tuesday, Aug. 2 at Squaw Creek Golf Club, 1605 Ranch House Road in Willow Park. Tryouts for the women's team will run from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 1. Tryouts for the men's team will be the same hours on Tuesday, Aug. 2. Anyone wishing to try out should send the name of the student athlete, grade, and number of years playing competitive/tournament golf to Coach Brian Mourning at bmourning@aledoisd.org by 5 p.m. on July 29. All players must bring up-to-date physicals, their own golf clubs and balls, wear collared shirts (tucked in), a knowledge of the game with a good understanding of the basic rules, a copy of last year's report card, and their own water bottles. The tryouts will consist of a short game evaluation, a full swing evaluation, play three holes, golf etiquette, and commitment to the team.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 5

Walsh Kinder Camp
Walsh Elementary School will host Walsh Kinder

ACROSS

1 TXism: "take a ___ at it" (try)

5 TXism: "dry ___" (bad oil well)

6 TX or IA town

7 Paris, TX FM

8 TXism: "table graze"

9 low mil. rank (abbr.)

12 TX Eric Nadel radio feature: "___ from Baseball's Past"

17 Alamo's Travis drew ___ the dirt

19 international bldg. at Houston airport is named after this U.S. Rep. Mickey

21 this "Deke" was an original astronaut

22 TXism: "___ Angelo 'til something better comes along"

23 TXism: "he's ___ as greased lightning"

28 actress Patricia of TX-based "Hud"

29 they're "upon you" in Texas

30 this Gary had last hit (a homer) in old Arlington Stadium

31 this Lovett was 1st president of TX Rice University

35 fancy word for "dry"

36 Great Storm sent ___ tidal waves over Galveston (1900)

42 sources of Lyme Disease (2 wds.)

44 TX Patrick Swayze 1989 film: "Next ___"

46 before Jewel Osco ads, consumers knew Jim Meskimen as this (2 wds.)

48 chicken-fried steak, e.g.

49 Sam Houston State mascot "Bear ___"

50 luminous radiation

51 TXism: "___ snake can still bite" (be cautious)

DOWN

1 TXism: "more than you can ___"

2 in Harris County on highway 249

3 Alaskan islands

4 former First Lady, Truman

9 this Nocona was Chief Quanah Parker's father

10 1986 drama with TX Spacek (3 wds.)

11 former country music net.

12 this Muhammad beat TX Foreman

13 "Easy Rider" actor (2 wds.)

14 meaning of Indian word "tejas"

15 TX Storm of TV's "My Little Margie"

16 TXism: "tie up the loose ___"

18 TX poet Naomi Shihab

20 "let's ___ it!"

23 Ken Paxton's title

24 jazz instrument

25 TXism: "got two left ___" (clumsy)

26 rude yankee in a Texas honky tonk? (2 wds.)

27 TXism: "___ fork in 'em, they're done" (can't win)

32 "fleur-_-lis" once flew over Texas

33 American conglomerate

34 TXism: "fits like ugly on ___ ape"

36 ___ Newton cookie

37 TX Tanya's "___ Cowboy-Lovin' Night"

38 leg bone

39 TXism: "many a time"

40 Texans like it fried

41 TXism: "hog ___"

43 LBJ beat this Gold-water for pres. (init.)

45 Llano to Dallas dir.

47 "United ___"

48 freedom from worry

55 TXism: "don't get yer shorts in a ___"

TEXAS CROSSWORD
by Charley & Guy Orbison
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Camp from 10-11:30 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 5. All kinder students and their families are welcome to participate in a Q&A with the principal, meet the kinder team of teachers, learn about campus procedures, connect with other kinder families, and learn about campus volunteer activities. The event will end with popsoles on the playground.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 6
Summer Sidewalk Shop
Carve & Cask will host a Summer Sidewalk Shop from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 6 at 243 Willow Bend Drive in Willow Park. A variety of local

small businesses will be on hand, and the shopping will be on Tax Free Weekend.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13
Pythian Home to hold fundraising concert
The Texas Pythian Home on Bankhead Highway in Weatherford will host a fundraising gospel concert featuring the band Sacred Call at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 13, in the Durant Auditorium at Weatherford High School. The Pythian Home has been caring for children since 1909. In the beginning it was established to care for widows and orphans and through the years has changed to

presently care for children with families in need. The goal of the home is to supply a loving atmosphere so children entrusted in their care will have a role model after whom to pattern their lives and homes. Over the years the Pythian Home has served as a home for more than 1,000 children. Tickets are on sale in increments of five, ranging from five for \$50 to 50 for \$500. For more information or to order tickets, call 817-594-4465 or mail Texas Pythian Home, PO Box 2798, Weatherford, Texas 76086.

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Sports

July 29, 2022
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GOLF

Aledo's Mahaney wins FW Junior title

Other AHS golfers also in top ranks

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

While it was his first Fort Worth Junior Golf championship, the setting had a familiar feel for Aledo senior Braylon Mahaney.

Meanwhile, recent Aledo graduate Aly Saunders placed sixth in the girls tournament, along with bringing home the Wendell Conditt Award for leading after the opening round.

In capturing the title at Fort Worth's prestigious Colonial Country Club last week, Mahaney bested an old foe, Burlington Centennial's Blake Keen. When Mahaney parred the fourth playoff hole and Keen posted a bogey, the Bearcat won the right to hoist the trophy high.

The two had ended regulation tied at 10-over-par 290 following four rounds in the intense heat. Keen had overcome a two-shot deficit entering the final day to force the playoff.

"It was a pretty big bump to win it this year," said Mahaney, who finished seventh in 2021. "My game is just a lot better this year."

Mahaney said he got a boost of confidence when he and his fellow Aledo Bearcats advanced to the Class 5A State Golf Tournament in May. On the way to state he and his team bested Keen and Centennial twice, first to win the District 5-5A championship and then at the Region I Tournament, placing third to qualify for state.

"Going to state was a big confidence booster, for me and the entire team. It was awesome to play with such great players," Mahaney said.



CANDACE MAHANEY

Aledo's Braylon Mahaney holds two trophies after winning the Fort Worth Boys Junior Golf Championship. The one on the right is for winning this year's tournament and the one on the left has the names of every winner since the tournament started in 1936.

Mahaney shared the tourney lead after an opening round of 1-over-par 71. His second-round 73 left him in the lead alone by a shot, and when he came back with a second 71 he extended that margin to two strokes.

The tournament was played in the midst of one of the hottest summers in Metroplex history. Despite starting at 10 a.m., the temperatures were higher than 100 degrees before each round of 18 holes was finished.

"The good thing is there are a lot of trees out there," Mahaney said. "I made sure to be under one as much as possible when I wasn't hitting."

Mahaney added with a chuckle that, fortunately, he wasn't hitting from under a tree too often.

Saunders, who led the Aledo Ladycats to a state berth this past season as well, is going to play at the University of Texas at Tyler in the fall. She led the Fort Worth Junior after the first round, shooting an even-par 70.

For that performance, she was given the Wendell Conditt Award, which is named after the tournament's long-time director who retired in 2013 and passed away in 2018.

Saunders followed with a 78 and was in second place after Day 2. She had subsequent rounds of 81 and 88 to finish at 317.

Also competing from Aledo, Ladycat Mallory Miller, a senior, won the second flight in the girls

Turn to **JUNIOR**, page 11

Bushaw second in nation in high school cutting

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

Will Bushaw may live in a small community, but his performance recently at the National High School Finals Rodeo in Gillette, Wyoming was anything but little.

Bushaw, a sophomore at Peaster High School, finished as the reserve champion (second place) in boys cutting at the elite event held July 17-23.

"I'm proud of myself for getting second out of hundreds of kids from all over the country," Bushaw said. "I had hoped to win it all, but getting second is definitely an accomplishment and a learning experience."

In fact, it seemed Bushaw learned a lot during his first season in high school rodeo - and he got better with each lesson. After placing fourth in Region 3 of the Texas High School Rodeo Association, he captured a state championship and was named Rookie of the Year after qualifying for his first national competition.

His first two performances in Gillette resulted in scores of 148 and 147. Then, in the short-go he posted a 146 to miss the top spot by four points.

"Going into the finals I was second overall, and I just tried my hardest to go in there and win, but it didn't turn out the way I had hoped," he said.

"I had a lot of fun being a part of Team Texas, and doing my part to

Turn to **BUSHAW**, page 11

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 Special Meeting of
 Parker County Emergency Services District NO. 1**

In compliance with chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code, Parker County Emergency Services District No. 1 will hold a Public Hearing and Special Meeting on the Petition for Inclusion of a Defined Territory in Parker County, commonly known as the Willow Park Fire Service Area, including in full, properties within the corporate boundaries of the City of Willow Park, and all areas of the Willow Park Extra Territorial Jurisdiction not currently in an emergency services district, per the petition filed with the District on June 29th, 2022. The public is invited to speak.

**The Public Hearing and Special Meeting will be held on
 August 17, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.
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COURTESY PHOTO

Aledo graduate Aly Saunders, who will play for the University of Texas at Tyler in the fall, finished sixth in the Fort Worth Girls Junior Golf Championship. She received the Wendell Conditt Award for leading after the first round.

JUNIOR

from page nine

competition. She finished with a four-day total of 355 (88-91-87-89).

In the first flight, senior San'a Lemen placed third, shooting a 334 (84-80-82-88), while senior Madison Warner was seventh, shooting a 359 (80-94-93-92). Sophomore Reagan Gilliland was third in the third flight with a 410 (96-103-105-106).

Additional Aledo boys competing were senior Dylan Kiser, 13th in the championship flight, 312 (77-71-80-84); junior Jett Moore, ninth in the first flight, 313 (78-78-76-81); sophomore Helton Mosiello, eighth in the second flight, 324 (84-78-78-84); senior Logan Ban, fifth in the third flight, 331 (82-87-78-84); while sophomore Ethan Elmore and junior Cade Moore did not advance to the final round.



Read this story online



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Mallory Miller won the second flight championship in the Fort Worth Girls Junior Golf Championship at Colonial Country Club.

MAJOR

from page 12

"They were really pushing for me to go and they put my name out there. They reached out to me and said they would love to have me."

Due to renovations at Memorial Stadium in Wichita Falls, the game was moved to nearby Iowa Park.

Representing the East All-Stars, Youngblood did not get the start but saw quite a bit of playing time. With a little less than five minutes remaining in the first half, Youngblood brought his offense to the line, dropped back and delivered a perfect strike to Whitesboro's Jake Hermes for a 12-yard touchdown.

"I was nervous because I hadn't played in seven months," Youngblood recalled. "There were definitely some jitters, but after the first time getting hit, it brings you back to focus. Then that first touchdown felt just incredible. It was just like - wow!"

The score put the East up 21-0, and they would end up taking a 28-0 lead into halftime. The West responded in the third quarter, but Youngblood put it away just three seconds into the fourth quarter with a 17-yard scoring strike to Lake Worth's Nathaniel Sessions.

"That one was equally as cool," Youngblood reminisced. "I definitely helped my team and contributed to our success. That was the coolest thing to me."

Youngblood finished the affair going 7-for-12 for 68 yards and two touchdowns, and the East came out victorious 42-14.

Youngblood's future is in the air at the moment, but he is leaning towards walking on to play football somewhere close by if no baseball offers come his way.



COURTESY PHOTO

Will Bushaw of Peaster (left) finished second in boys cutting at the National High School Finals Rodeo in Gillette, Wyoming last week. Also shown are first place winner Cody Gann of Leighton, Alabama (center) and third-place winner Billy DeLong of Winnemucca, Nevada.

BUSHAW

from page nine

bring home a record seven national championships. It was a great experience going to the rodeos and supporting all of Team Texas."

Bushaw's horse is Velvets Revolver, a 10-year-old with earnings of almost \$300,000.

Bushaw is following in the footsteps of his older brother, Charles Russell, a two-time THSRA state champion and national qualifier in cutting.

The high school event is over, but Bushaw is still quite busy competing. After he and his family arrived home from Gillette around 4:30 Monday morning, he turned right around and is competing in the National Youth Cutting Horse

Association Youth Week this week in Fort Worth.

Both Will and Charles are also National Cutting Horse Association champions. Charles is a past Amateur and Limited Non Professional Futurity winner. Will won the 2020 National Youth Cutting Horse Association Junior Youth world title and the 2020 NCHA Summer Spectacular Derby after previously being named the 2017 NYCHA Junior Rookie of the Year.

As for how his experience in at the National High School Finals Rodeo will help him moving forward, Will said, "This will push me to do better in the future, and hopefully win a national championship before I graduate."

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FOOTBALL

Youngblood caps off career as all-star

Former Aledoan hits pay dirt in Oil Bowl

By Nolan Ruth
The Community News

High school athletes have strange journeys sometimes. Often it involves multiple moves, such as the case of former Aledo student Major Youngblood, who found himself at three different high schools throughout his career.

Youngblood moved to Aledo in the fifth grade and started playing football right away. However, he found himself playing behind the youngest of the Bishop brothers, Jake. Youngblood spent his sophomore year at the junior varsity level.

After the 2019-20 school year came to a remote end because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Youngblood's father moved from his north Fort Worth home to an apartment in Weatherford. Youngblood made the decision to move in with his father and attend Weatherford in the 2020-21 school year.

"We were very fortunate to be able to do that," Youngblood said. "It just really seemed to be in God's plan. It wasn't meant to be here in Aledo."

Playing under Aledo alumnus Billy Mathis at Weatherford, Youngblood was named the backup to starting quarterback Ryan Clark. The first game of the 2020 football season saw the Kangaroos take on Aledo at Globe Life Park in Arlington.

"I knew that it wasn't going to be given to me," Youngblood recalled. "I had to go out there and earn it at Weatherford. There was some

kind of feeling about playing Aledo. That's a tough first varsity game. It was surreal."

On the third drive of the game, Clark went down with an injury and Mathis turned to Youngblood.

"They threw me out there and it was definitely 'baptized by fire,'" Youngblood explained. "Guys were all over me, we were able to come up with a scoring drive and that felt amazing."

Clark eventually came back and the two quarterbacks alternated playing time throughout the season, ultimately leading the Kangaroos to a 5-5 record and a playoff berth. However, Weatherford fell to Haslet Eaton in the first round of the playoffs 21-14.

After the season, Youngblood's father was looking to upgrade from his apartment and buy a house. After a long and tedious process, he bought a house in Benbrook and Youngblood was again on the move.

"I figured I'd give it a go at Benbrook," Youngblood remembered. "It was kind of one last hoorah for senior year, let the chips fall where they may. That's exactly what we did and it was great, I loved Benbrook."

The Bobcats dropped their first three games of the year, including a tough loss to Mineral Wells. When district started, Benbrook needed a spark and found it against Fort Worth Dunbar with a 23-12 win. The Bobcats then won their next five games, setting up a district championship matchup with Kennedale.

However, the Bobcats were no match for Kennedale and they fell unceremoniously by a score of 63-0.



BRANDACE LASKA
Major Youngblood drops back to pass in the Oil Bowl held in Iowa Park.

In the first round of the playoffs, the Bobcats faced 4A contender Midlothian Heritage, who came out of one of the toughest districts in the state.

Benbrook fought hard but came up short 49-20. One consolation was that Youngblood's final high

school football snap was a 33-yard touchdown pass.

It seemed as though Youngblood's football career was over, and he would turn to baseball. Then one fateful day, he got a call that gave him one last opportunity in one of the oldest all-star games in Texas.

The Oil Bowl has been played in Wichita Falls since 1938. It used to feature all-stars from Texas playing all-stars from Oklahoma. However, it has recently changed to East Texas vs. West Texas.

"My coaches are from the Wichita Falls area," Youngblood mentioned.

Turn to MAJOR, page 11

Good Luck Chief Lenoir



John Schneider (left) will take over as the new fire chief/fire marshal/emergency management coordinator in Willow Park following the retirement of Mike Lenoir on Aug. 2.

and congratulations to new fire chief John Schneider

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