

THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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

On the March

Special birthday parade set for 6-year-old battling leukemia

By Rick Mauch

The Community News

What kid doesn't love a parade?

Lincoln Finley is getting one of his own on Saturday, Sept. 10. The 6-year-old first-grade Coder Elementary School student has leukemia. He was diagnosed July 6, and while the long battle is in the early stages, it prevents him from having much human contact. In fact, Lincoln is currently being educated at home as he undergoes treatment.

So, while a party might normally take place, that can't be the case for Lincoln, at least not this year.

But when he turns 7 on Saturday he will be treated to his own personal parade, courtesy of his many neighbors in the city of Aledo.

"He's a fighter and he's such a character, the funniest and most creative kid," said event organizer and family friend Cori Hoffman-Ellis, whose son Luke Ellis is best friends with Lincoln.

"Originally I said let's get some friends to drive by and people just kept getting involved. He's missing his friends and the normalcy of what you do at 6 years old."

The parade will include a group of classic cars from the Aledo Auto Club and a classic Corvette, the Aledo Fire Department, the Aledo ISD Police Department, and numerous others from around the area. It will begin at 10 a.m. at Coder and go to Faith Presbyterian Church, where Lincoln will be sitting in a tent, protected from the elements, watching and hopefully having the time of his life.

"We're adapting to this new world we live in. I'm so glad to be a resident of Parker County and 25 minutes from the best care in the world," said his mother, Ashley Cunningham, in reference to Cook Children's Medical Center in Fort Worth.

"We are so abundantly blessed to have such a great neighborhood support group. People I haven't talked to since high school are sending cards, and people are donating platelets and just being so wonderful."

One of those donating platelets is former neighbor and good family friend Scott Smith. His daughter, now in college, used to babysit Lincoln and his 12-year-old brother Price. Lincoln also has a five-month-old brother, Ford.

"To go from being a rambunctious little kid to battling cancer, and me being a dad, it's hard to see, but he's a great kid and he's got the best spirit," Smith said. "He's a little socialite. He misses



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Lincoln Finley (center) is shown with older brother Price and younger brother Ford.



LEFT: Lincoln Finley is shown with younger brother, Ford. | RIGHT: Lincoln is shown with his older brother, Price.

his friends. This will be great for him."

Cunningham added that her hope is when Lincoln sees the parade it will be a visual for how many people are by his side. After all, though his battle has just begun he's already become an inspiration to many himself, including her, as he undergoes treatment and chemotherapy constantly.

"He's spunkier and spicier than ever. He reminds me daily that I need to raise the bar," she said. "He pounds pills no kid should have to. He gets poked several times a week and he sits attached to a pole."

"He's so strong. He inspires me every day."

Turn to LINCOLN, page 3



Read this story online

**"He's
spunkier and
spicier than
ever. He's so
strong. He
inspires me
every day."**

Ashley Cunningham

HELPFUL LINKS

Here is a link to Lincoln's Facebook site: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/lincolntnthebrave/>.

Other sites where folks can visit and help children such as Lincoln and their families include:

<https://skyhighforkids.org/> - Texas-based group that helps with financial support.

<https://giving.cookchildrens.org/AnnualGiving.aspx> - generic link to give to Cook Children's hospital.

<https://jzips.org/> - port shirts for ease of access during chemo/transfusions.

<https://www.carterbloodcare.org/> - blood and platelet donations.



Read this story online

ALEO ISD Board approves tax rate

Rate to decrease tax for fourth-straight year, staff pay increased

By Mercedes Mayer

Aledo ISD

The Aledo ISD Board of Trustees adopted the 2022-2023 budget of \$102,668,054 and approved a decrease to the district's overall tax rate for the fourth-straight year.

The vote was held at a special meeting on Monday, Aug. 29.

"We are thankful for the many months of work by our trustees that went into this budget that focuses on meeting the expectations of our community in both how we serve our children and how we manage the district's finances," Superintendent Dr. Susan Bohn said. "The budget supports increased operating costs caused by fast growth and significant inflation, providing for exceptional experiences for our students, and continuing to compensate our staff well."

Over the last four years, the overall tax rate for Aledo ISD has been lowered by \$0.2271 as Maintenance and Operations tax rates have been compressed after the passing of House Bill 3 in 2019. The previous overall district tax rate was \$1.3929, and the Board adopted the new tax rate of \$1.3679, a decrease of 2.5 cents.

"We are grateful to be able to lower our tax rate for the fourth-straight year for our community while still increasing salaries for our staff," Board President Hoy Harris said. "Our Trustees remain committed to this important work and to being all in on all of the things that make Aledo ISD such a great district."

The budget includes a 4% general pay increase that will keep Aledo ISD among the top salaries among area school districts for the 2022-2023 school year. The 4% is a minimum increase of \$2,400 for teachers and librarians and a 4% of the pay range midpoint for all other staff plus targeted adjustments. Trustees also increased the starting salary for teachers and librarians to \$60,200, keeping Aledo ISD among the most competitive starting salaries in the DFW Metroplex. The Board approved raising the minimum hourly rate for nonexempt (hourly) staff to \$15 per hour in an effort to be more competitive in the market.

Trustees also voted to prepay \$3,310,000 in outstanding bonds prior to maturity, saving \$2,813,500 in future interest costs. The district has saved more than \$51 million since 2006 by refunding, refinancing, and pre-paying bonds and by taking advantage of lower interest rates.



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BRING ON THE SPIRIT!

PHOTOS BY BRELEIGH MAYER.

The Aledo Bearcats took the field for the first official game of the season on Friday, Aug. 26 at Dallas Parish Episcopal.



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SOHN

from page five

"I am very excited to go back to A&M and play on Kyle Field. It's a huge stadium and a very large opportunity to get to point to Jesus," Sohn said. "My girlfriend still goes to A&M and is excited to watch me on the field, as is my family."

"It is my dad's birthday on game day and he will get to see me play in front of 110,000 people. God's hand of favor has certainly been upon me in my time here. I started fall camp at the very bottom of the depth chart. For the first game against A&M I am starting on kickoff return as well as field goal and PAT (point after touchdown). I will also likely get reps at tight end."

"I have been playing football for about a month now, and am very excited to play my first game on one of the biggest fields. It truly points to how big God is. On my own, none of this would have been possible."

Competing for coach Tiffany Williams at Aledo High School, Sohn was a four-time letter winner and a Class 5A state champion in the 200-yard freestyle. His time of 1:37.02 in 2020 is a state record.

He set eight school records as a Bearcat in the 500 free, 200 free, 100 free, 50 free, 100 fly, 100 back, 100 breast and 200 individual medley.

Sohn was also named the 2019-2020 Texas Christian Athlete of the Year.

LINCOLN

from page one

People are also welcome to drop off presents to help Lincoln celebrate.

Meanwhile, Ellis said Cunningham has asked how many youngsters will be attending because she wants to make goodie bags for them. His mother is also leading an awareness charge, including creating T-shirts for children with cancer at Cook's, along with encouraging folks to donate to Cook's to help families in lengthy stays get food, gas cards, etc.

"That's just the kind of person she is and the kind of family they are," Ellis said.

September is, by the way, National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month.

For those wishing to donate blood, Lincoln is a type B-Negative, his mom said.

WILLOW PARK**The Field of Flags returns for 9/11**

The Rally Project will again pay tribute to the 343 firefighters who perished on Sept. 11, 2001, with its Field of Flags on Patriot Day weekend, Sept. 10-11 at the Shops at Willow Park, 210 Shops Blvd.

The field will open at 10 a.m. on Saturday with a Firefighters Challenge course for all ages and abilities to participate in the fun. On Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022, bells will be rung at 7:46 a.m., 8:03 a.m., 8:37 a.m., and 9:07 a.m. in remembrance of those strike times on Sept. 11, 2001.

"Sept. 11, 2001 is a date that will always be etched into our minds," said Chaplain Doug Pruitt, director of the Rally Project.

"It is the date that shook our nation to the core and was the beginning of Americans uniting without hesitation. In the uncertain times we find ourselves in now, it is the perfect time to show our love for the Flag as the symbol of sacrifice, unity, and patriotism. We will honor and remember all those that have fought for our freedoms, serve

to protect, and that are always there when we need them (military and first responders).

The project will place 343 American flags in the field for the public to dedicate to their heroes.

"Everyone is welcome to come and see this beautiful display as a reminder of how America still stands strong today," Pruitt said.

Anyone wishing to dedicate a flag to a personal hero can do so by visiting TheFieldofFlags.com.

"The proceeds of The Field of Flags assists the

men and women who have served our great Nation and sacrificed so much to protect and maintain our freedoms," Pruitt said.

"We have started a capital campaign to build a Warrior's Village, To create a refuge for Warriors that will become "home", a true Warriors Village. RALLY homes (Small High Performance Homes) will be not just housing but homes for warriors in need ..for the displaced, unsheltered, and transitioning ... building healing homes for all ages and abilities."

Aledo cross country competes at Southlake

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

job all around by our Bearcats and Ladycats!"

As a team, the Ladycats placed 12th among the varsity girls, while the Bearcats were 18th among varsity boys.

Individually, Molly Garrison was 15th with a time of 18 minutes, 39.31 seconds over the 5K course. Also for the Ladycats, Liz Griffin was 53rd in 19:39.85; Sophia Brandenburg, 57th, 19:44.83; Sidney Tillotson, 74th, 20:05.43; and Aubrey Connally, 180th, 21:59.56.

Jack Fink led the Bearcats, placing 34th with a time of 15:54.48.

Also competing for Aledo were Tuin, 133rd, 20:39.17; James Price, 156th, 20:58.75; Caden West, 216th, Henry Zedler, 135th, 17:10.44; 21:37.31; Ian Robbins, 327th, Dominick Barrera, 164th, 17:22.76; 23:07.62; and Alex Gasper, 458th, Luke Schabel, 180th, 17:33.49; and 26:45.32. Anderson Smith, 184th, 17:54.61.

Sam Haught was injured and did not compete.

The junior varsity boys also placed 18th as a team, with Daniel Stephens pacing the Bearcats in 31st individually, clocking an 18:59.85. The remaining JV boys were Chad Thomas, 113th, 20:30.37; Lincoln

Four junior varsity girls also competed, with three finishing in the top 65. Sadie Williams was 34th, posting a 23:20.46; Caroline Browning's 23:44.63 placed her 48th and Emily Lewis ran a 24:02.27 for 61st. Catie Weimer came in at 25:28.04 for 137th.

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NOTICE OF HEARING TO VOTE ON TAX RATE

A tax rate of \$0.538450 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of CITY OF WILLOW PARK.

PROPOSED TAX RATE \$0.538450 per \$100

NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE \$0.558828 per \$100

VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE \$0.597921 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2022 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for CITY OF WILLOW PARK from the same properties in both the 2021 tax year and the 2022 tax year.

The voter-approval rate is the highest tax rate that CITY OF WILLOW PARK may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that CITY OF WILLOW PARK is not proposing to increase property taxes for the 2022 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING TO VOTE ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON September 13, 2022 AT 07:00 pm AT 516 Ranch House Road, Willow Park, TX 76087.

The proposed tax rate is also not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, CITY OF WILLOW PARK is not required to hold an election to seek voter approval of the rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate by contacting the members of the Willow Park City Council of CITY OF WILLOW PARK at their offices or by attending the public hearing mentioned above.

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE RATES MENTIONED ABOVE CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

Property tax amount= (tax rate) x (taxable value of your property)/100

FOR the proposal: Lea Young Eric Contreras

Chawn Gilliland Nate Crummel

AGAINST the proposal:

PRESENT and not voting: Doyle Moss, Mayor

ABSENT: Greg Runnenbaum

Visit Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by CITY OF WILLOW PARK last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by CITY OF WILLOW PARK this year.

	2021	2022	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.566650	\$0.538450	decrease of -0.028200, or -4.98%
Average homestead taxable value	\$287,863	\$296,517	increase of 8,654, or 3.01%
Tax on average homestead	\$1,631.18	\$1,596.60	decrease of -34.58, or -2.12%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$3,241,709	\$3,214,123	decrease of -27,586, or -0.85%

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for CITY OF WILLOW PARK at 817-596-0077 or parkercad@parkercad.org, or visit www.texas.gov/propertytaxes for more information.

Commentary

Capital Highlights

Flooding prompts disaster declaration



Gary Borders
gborders@texaspres.com

Heavy rains through Texas last week caused flooding, particularly in the Dallas area, prompting Gov. Greg Abbott to issue a disaster declaration for 23 affected counties. Texans who were affected by the rain, which dumped more than 10 inches in Dallas, are encouraged to file insurance claims with their providers and to complete the voluntary Self Reporting Damage Survey issued by the Texas Department of Emergency Management by visiting damage.tdem.texas.gov. The survey helps the state identify damage across Texas to gain an understanding of what areas were affected during the recent severe weather.

Counties included in the disaster declaration are Camp, Culberson, Dallas, Duval, Ellis, El Paso, Henderson, Hopkins, Hudspeth, Kaufman, Kerr, Live Oak, Marion, Montague, Navarro, Pecos, Rains, Smith, Tarrant, Upshur, Van Zandt, Webb and Wood. Additional counties could be added as damage is assessed.

Burn bans lifted; fire danger drops

The heavy rains across a chunk of the state have reduced the wildfire risk, with the Texas A&M Forest Service for the first time in months not responding to any active wildfires. The number of counties with burn bans has dropped to 166. At its high point, 224 counties in the state were under burn bans.

The number of counties under extreme or exceptional drought has dropped as well. The percentage of Texas in the "exceptional drought" category dropped by more than half to 12.4%, according to kut.org.

Battleship Texas headed to Galveston for repairs

The Battleship Texas will leave its home at the San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site on Aug. 31 and make its way to the Galveston Shipyard for repairs, weather and tides permitting. A livestream video of the departure will be available to the public on the Battleship Texas Foundation's YouTube channel and Facebook group page.

The former U.S. Navy battleship was launched on May 19, 1912, and saw action in World War I. It also escorted war convoys across the Atlantic during World War II, fought at Normandy on D-Day, and provided naval gunfire support in the Pacific during the Battles of Iwo Jima and Okinawa. The ship was decommissioned in 1948.

While in dry dock, the ship's hull will be repaired or replaced from four feet above the waterline down to the bottom, thanks to \$35 million in funding provided by the 2019 Texas Legislature. The grand reopening of Battleship Texas is expected to be sometime in 2024.



Read this story online

Coastal policyholders protected by emergency rule

An emergency rule issued by the Texas Department of Insurance will protect Weston Property & Casualty Insurance Company policyholders who live along the Texas coast. Weston, a Florida insurance company licensed in Texas, is in liquidation and has been ordered to end its operations by Sept. 7, possibly leaving Texas policyholders in danger of not being covered against wind and hail damage.

More than 23,000 Weston policyholders live in possibly affected areas, according to TDI. They will be eligible to be insured through the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association for free for three months, after which a payment plan can be set up. Homeowners are encouraged to work with their insurance agent to find coverage.

Conditions heating up for dove season

An especially scorching summer might make it trickier for dove hunters with the season opening just around the corner.

"Hunters will likely see larger concentrations of birds at watering holes and food sources than they have in the past due to limited resources," said Owen Fitzsimmons with Texas Parks & Wildlife. "Agriculture production has been hit hard by drought so birds may be more reliant on native foods this September. Look for stands of common sunflower, croton and other native annual forbs and grasses."

In general, dove season begins on Sept. 1, depending on the geographic zone. Go to the TPW website at tpwd.texas.gov for specific dates.

PUC creates Office of Public Engagement

The Public Utility Commission has created an Office of Public Engagement to "provide a single point of contact for consumers, stakeholders, legislators, and other affected parties to make their voices heard at the PUC."

"We're very excited to build a team dedicated to bringing together all the parties and all the resources necessary to resolve what are often complex issues in a way that emphasizes collaboration among everyone involved and ultimately benefits customers and rate payers," Peter Lake, PUC chairman, said.

COVID-19 cases, deaths drop slightly

The number of documented COVID-19 cases during the past week in Texas dropped again, with 53,874 reported along with 192 deaths, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University. That number is almost certainly underreported with the prevalence of home tests, whose results are not usually included, according to numerous health officials.

The Texas Department of State Health Services reported 2,733 lab-confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations, down about 10% 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@texaspres.com.



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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

September 2, 2022
THE COMMUNITY NEWS
www.community-news.com

Slings&Arrows

Yes, we are very late this week



Randy Keck
rkeck@community-news.com

This issue (Sept. 2) of *The Community News* will reach you very late.

We in "the media" are always pushing for transparency of government bodies, and I feel we as a newspaper, and I in particular as a publisher, should be transparent as well.

The problem this week was multi-pronged, but in the end the responsibility lies with me.

I haven't written much about it lately because it hasn't been an issue lately. In 2008 I shared my experience of spending six weeks of intensive outpatient therapy at what was then Baylor All Saints in Fort Worth for treatment of issues related to depression and bipolar disorder.

Since that time I have been much healthier emotionally, though some weeks are better than others.

The last two years have been a disruption for everyone. It is almost to the week two years ago that Tony Eierdam, our sports reporter, passed away from COVID-19.

Then came shutdowns and, out of an abundance of caution, I asked staff not to come in to the office. As a result, at the time that meant pretty much everything fell on my shoulders.

There are a lot of functions that need to be done to get a weekly newspaper produced. The more obvious to the public might be the writing and photography. There is also maintenance of subscriptions, billing for advertising, posting payments, taking phone calls, sales, collections, page layout, deliveries, and mailing — to name a few.

My focus at the time, as the owner of the business, was first to stay in business during COVID, and to produce the paper and get it to the readers each week.

All in all, it ran very well, and after the shutdowns we brought back some staff.

But there has been a shortage of qualified people

to work in some areas of the business, and to be honest, in my single-minded focus to get the paper done each week, I allowed some important business matters to go unattended.

I also devoted a great deal of time and energy to getting our new website up and running.

And I have never really stopped operating in COVID mode despite the availability of willing people in the business who could take on some of those tasks.

In my arrogance, I thought I could do it all.

Well, I can't.

About a week ago I and the business hit a wall. We weren't paying proper attention to some important aspects of the business, and depression came down with an intensity I haven't felt in a very long time. It ground me personally to a halt.

Because I am the only person who knows how to get the paper laid out and to press, it ground the paper to a halt as well.

I have thought myself bullet proof.

Well, I'm not.



Read this story online

SIGNS OF DEPRESSION

If you experience some of the following signs and symptoms of depression nearly every day for at least 2 weeks, you may be living with depression:

- feeling sad, anxious, or "empty"
- feeling hopeless, worthless, and pessimistic
- crying a lot
- feeling bothered, annoyed, or angry
- loss of interest in hobbies and interests you once enjoyed
- decreased energy or fatigue
- difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions
- moving or talking more slowly
- difficulty sleeping, early morning awakening, or oversleeping
- appetite or weight changes
- chronic physical pain with no clear cause that does not get better with treatment (headaches, aches or pains, digestive problems, cramps)
- thoughts of death, suicide, self-harm, or suicide attempts

The symptoms of depression can be experienced differently among males, females, teens, and children.

healthline.com

QUOTABLE

"The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall."

Nelson Mandela

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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/contact.

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.

Life & Community

September 2, 2022
THE COMMUNITY NEWS
www.community-news.com

Sohn switching from pool to football field

Now a Bearkat with a 'K'

By Rick Mauch

The Community News

The collegiate journey of former Aledo Bearcat swimmer Elijah Sohn continues. This time, however, he's switching sports and he's becoming a Bearkat again — albeit now with a "K."

Also like Aledo, Sam Houston State has orange in its color scheme.

Sohn, a two-time state swimming champion at Aledo, has officially transferred out of Southern Methodist University's swimming program to the Sam Houston State University football team.

"I decided to switch to football not on my own strength, but through prayer and wise council. It was a decision that took a lot of faith to walk out while not seeing a lot of results," Sohn said. "The process started when I was swimming at SMU and the new head coach Rhett Lashlee came into the weight room, introduced himself, and asked what position I played. At the time I was sitting at 220 pounds, the heaviest elite level swimmer in the world."

Ultimately, Sohn said his reason for change was a religious one.

"God has blessed my family with physical talent and size. I knew I wanted to use it to glorify my King and Savior. However, swimming had become something in my life that was no longer glorifying the one who gave me my talent as it had become a 'Look at me and what I can do,'" he said. "I never want my life

to point to me, but rather Jesus as He has changed and saved my life forevermore. It was time to step away from swimming, but I still had this athletic talent that I knew God wanted to use, on and off the field."

Sohn hasn't played football since his freshman year at Aledo, when he was much shorter than his current 6-5 height and weighed less than half of the 245 pounds he does now.

"It has been an adjustment for sure, as the last time I played football I was 5-6, 110 pounds. However, as a testament to God who has placed me here to glorify Himself, I have adjusted very quickly," Sohn said. "My body feels great and it has been so fun learning and getting better every day. Every practice I get to thank God for the opportunity He has given me."

Sohn, a tight end, will wear number 89. It was his younger brother Isaac's number all throughout Aledo youth football.

Sohn said he got advice and support from legendary Aledo Bearcats football coach Tim Buchanan concerning his decision.

"Coach Buc has always said I should have played football. When I first started talking to him about it he had told me I could have a future in this sport and make a lot of money doing it," Sohn recalled. "I am not concerned with the money involved as I live my life 'seeking first His Kingdom and His righteousness and all else will be added unto you.' But I am very grateful for his support and connections to the college football world. He never doubted that I could not only play college football, but also be very successful doing it."

Buchanan said of Sohn, "He's a tremendous athlete. When he came in about a year ago and worked out he took his shirt off. I said, 'Put your shirt on, you're embarrassing me.'

"For somebody who hasn't played since ninth grade, that's amazing. He's a special athlete - and a good kid."

A 2020 Aledo graduate, Sohn has enjoyed success as a collegiate swimmer. His career began at Texas A&M, where he earned honorable mention All-American status as a freshman as the anchor of the Aggies' 400 free relay at the 2021 NCAA Championships.

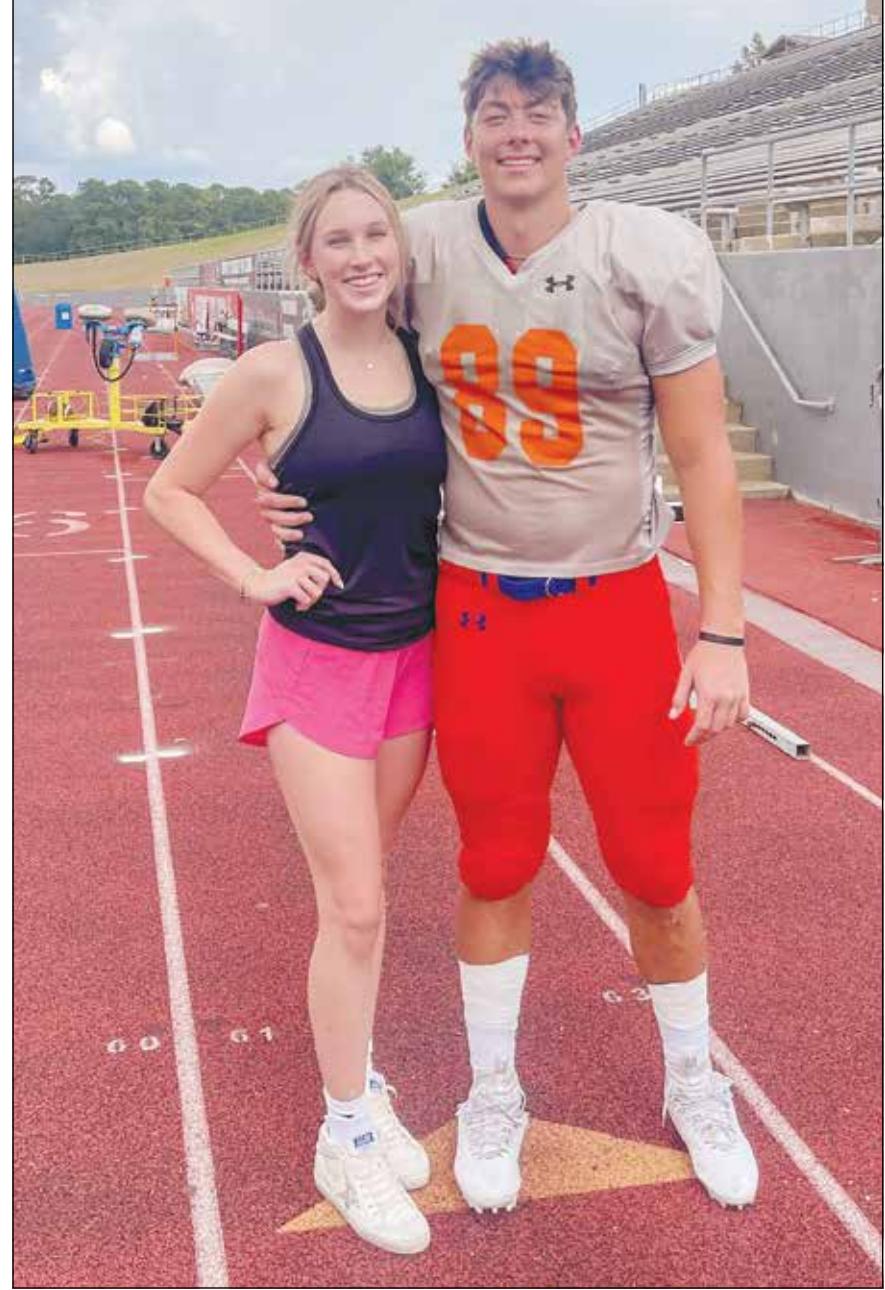
He transferred to SMU, but saw limited action for the Mustangs due to an injury, competing only in the season-opening SMU Classic. He was named to the American Athletic Conference All-Academic Team this past season.

Sohn enlisted the assistance of former Green Bay Packers tight end Jermichael Finley for training and began attending college football camps before signing with Sam Houston.

"I haven't done it alone. The very first day I decided I was going to embark on this journey I met Jermichael Finley at the Aledo indoor (facility). Looking back it was no doubt a God-given relationship," Sohn said. "He instantly saw my potential and started training me. He pushed me and encouraged me every day. What started a relationship built around physical training quickly grew into a relationship centered around a gratitude for Jesus."

Ironically, Sohn's first game with Sam Houston State will be Saturday, Sept. 3 at Kyle Field against Texas A&M.

Turn to **SOHN**, page 3



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Former Aledo Bearcat state swimming champion Elijah Sohn is switching from swimming to football and transferred from SMU to Sam Houston State. He is pictured with his girlfriend Sydney Stafford following a pre-season scrimmage. The Bearkats open the season Saturday at Texas A&M, where Sohn began his college career.



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Notice of Public Hearings

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Adjustment of the City of Aledo, Parker County, Texas will conduct a public hearing in the Aledo Community Center, 104 Robinson Court, Aledo, Texas.

Public Hearing

Location: Aledo Community Center

104 Robinson Court

Aledo, Texas 76008

Date: Tuesday, September 20, 2022

6:00 P.M.

- 1) Consider a request for a variance to the Aledo Zoning Ordinance, Special Street Frontage Standards Section 16.8.5 requiring the primary entrance of a building be oriented towards the primary street for Lot 2R, Block 1, Mangum Addition, generally located at 395 S FM 1187, Aledo, Parker County, Texas.

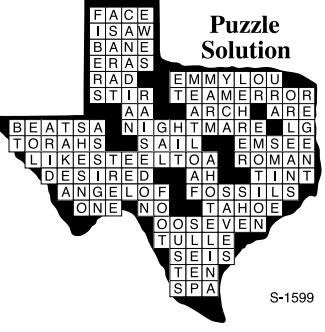
Published in *The Community News*, September 2, 2022, and posted at Aledo City Hall August 30, 2022.

Deana McMullen, City Secretary

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Sports

FOOTBALL

Taking it on the chin

Aledo's second half comeback falls just short in season opener.

By Jim Zimmerman

The Community News

The 2022 Aledo Bearcat football season opened Friday night, Aug. 26, taking on the three-time defending TAPPS Division 1 State Champions Dallas Parish Episcopal Panthers at Gloria H. Snyder Stadium in Dallas. The season opening game cannot make or break your season, but do not tell that to these two teams.

Season opening games have a certain air of anticipation. All the off-season work that the student athletes put in finally gets to be tested and the individuals take the first step in becoming a team.

The Bearcats are a young team, and this would be a great test for both sides of the ball.

Aledo won the coin toss and decided to receive. Junior quarterback Hauss Hejny took the reins as Aledo's signal caller and was guiding the Bearcats' offense with a pass to Junior Tyson Timms to the 35-yard

line. Aledo's first drive stalled out at the 29 after an incomplete pass on fourth down.

The Panthers started on the 29-yard line, and it was clear from the start that they were going to try to throw the ball on the Bearcat defense. Sophomore quarterback Sawyer Anderson's main target was Senior Tre Williams. As running back and wide receiver, Williams was a threat all night for Aledo.

The Panthers' first possession took a lot of time off the clock but, it did pay off for them with a touchdown to take a 7-0 lead with 4:03 left in the first quarter. Aledo's second possession started on the 25.

They started the second quarter with a third-and-two from the Panthers' 12. After three plays Aledo had a fourth-and-three from the 3. The next play was very controversial and did not go the way for the Bearcats.

Hejny took the snap and went to the left side and was being chased by three Panthers heading into the end zone. As Hejny was stretching out the ball to break the plane of the goal line, the ball was knocked out of

Turn to FOOTBALL, page 9



BRELEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Aledo senior Ansel Din-Mbu (32) wraps up a Parish rusher during the Bearcats' season opener at Dallas Parish Episcopal on Friday, Aug. 26. Also shown is junior Cooper Kohan (4).

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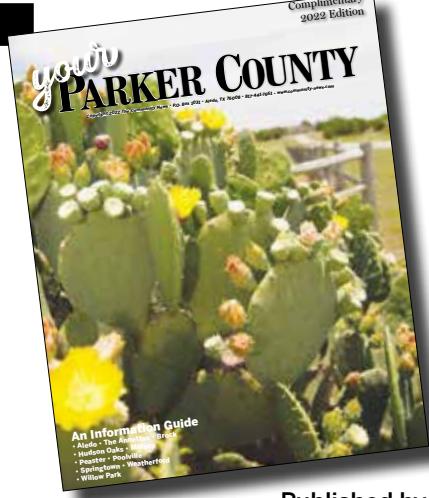
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GUYER

from page 12

Mooney and another 66 from quarterback Hauss Hejny.

"Last spring I thought he was going to be a JV player," Buchanan said of Johnson, adding of Arana, "He's the littlest guy on the offensive line."

Mooney will miss this week's game due to an injury, Buchanan said, but he expects him to return next week when the Bearcats travel to Justin Northwest for a Thursday contest.

Game at a glance

Denton Guyer Wildcats (1-0) at Aledo Bearcats (0-1)

7:30 p.m. Friday, Bearcat Stadium

Last season: Aledo, 12-1, lost in third round of 5A Division II playoffs to eventual state champion Dallas South Oak Cliff. Guyer, 14-2,

lost in 6A Division II state final to Austin Westlake, 40-21.

Last meeting: Guyer won 60-57 in Aledo to open the 2019 season. Aledo went on to finish 15-1 and won the 5A Division II state championship. Guyer went on to finish 14-2 and was the 6A Division II state runner-up, also losing in the finals to Westlake that season.

Last week: Aledo lost 24-17 at Dallas Parish Episcopal. Guyer defeated Rockwall Heath at home, 47-14.

Offense: Aledo 308 yards vs. Parish Episcopal (165 rushing, 143 passing), Guyer 374 yards vs. Heath (171 rushing, 203 passing).

Defense: Aledo surrendered 316 yards vs. Parish Episcopal (91 rushing, 225 passing), Guyer gave up 295 yards vs. Heath (148 rushing, 147 passing). The Guyer defense scored 21 points off of Heath turnovers, while the Aledo defense forced a turnover on the Parish Episcopal half-yard line that resulted in a TD.

Aledo offensive leaders: Rushing - Hauss Hejny, 10-66; Cap Mooney, 18-62. Passing - Hejny, 7-14, 127 yards, 1 TD, 2 int. Receiving - Jalen Pope 5-106, 1 TD, Tyson Timms 2-35.

Guyer offensive leaders: Rushing - Jackson Arnold 5-86, 1 TD; Ahmed Yusseff, 6-40. Passing - Arnold 12-18, 203 yards, 3 TD, 0 int. Receiving - Landon Sides, 2-86, 2 TD; Peyton Bowen, 3-34.

Aledo defensive leaders - Dahvon Keys, 9 tackles (5 solo); Andrew Parkhurst, 7 tackles (6 solo), 1 sack, 2 tackles for loss; Chris Johnson 1 interception returned 52 yards.

Guyer defensive stats not available.

Note: Aledo has not started a season 0-2 since 1993. The last time the Bearcats lost back-to-back games was 2007. Twice under coach Tim Buchanan the Bearcats have lost their season opener only to rebound and win a state championship (2011 and 2019).



BRELEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Senior running back Cap Mooney takes a tumble against Parish Episcopal.

FOOTBALL

from page eight

his hand and went out of bounds in the end zone.

From this reporter's point of view, roughly 20 feet behind the end zone, Hejny's knee was down at the 2-yard line before the ball was knocked out of his hand. In that case, the Panthers would have had the ball on the 2-yard line. Instead, it was going to be placed on the 25. Coach Tim Buchanan had a rare penalty for arguing the call and the Panthers started on the 40.

Aledo's defense was able to hold the Panthers to a field goal and the lead was 10-0 at the 7:30 mark. Aledo's offense was forced to punt on their next possession. The Panthers' multi-purpose back Cedric Mays, took a handoff on their second play and ran into the end zone giving Parish a 17-3 lead heading into halftime.

The Panthers received the second half kick and started on the 29. On the second play of the third quarter, Anderson threw a 71-yard touchdown stretching the Panther lead to 24-3 with 11:43 remaining in the third quarter.

Aledo's offense started to control the line, giving Hejny time to find Jalen Pope for a 39-yard touchdown pass at the 4:09 mark of the third quarter. The PAT was blocked, and Aledo had closed the lead to 15, 24-9.

The Panthers received the kick and started at the 32. After a first down conversion, Anderson was looking for Benson across the middle but, the pass was broken up and Jaden Allen picked up the deflection and returned the ball to the 1-yard line.

Aledo was able to score and succeeded on a 2-point conversion, bringing the score to 24-17 going into the fourth quarter.

Aledo could not capitalize on a few opportunities during the fourth quarter to move the ball; penalties

and an interception kept them from the end zone. Parish had an opportunity to put the game away with a 35-yard field goal, but the ball hit the right crossbar and Aledo took the ball with 7:47 left in the game.

The Bearcats were energized with the opportunity to go down and to try and tie the ball game with 3:38 remaining. Aledo moved the ball down to the 31, but it came down to a 4th and 9 at the 1:38 mark.

Hejny was unable to complete the pass across the middle and the Panthers took over and ran out the clock.

"Our kids played hard. It was not the lack of playing hard," Buchanan said after the game. "Our defense played well most of the night. Holding them to 24 points was good job by our defense. Offensively we just need to score more efficiently."



BRELEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Aledo's Jalen Pope had five receptions for 106 yards and a touchdown against Parish Episcopal.



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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2022-2023 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF WILLOW PARK

The City of Willow Park City Council will hold a public hearing on the proposed 2022-2023 fiscal year budget at a City Council meeting at 7:00 p.m. on September 13, 2022, in the Willow Park City Hall, Council Chambers, 516 Ranch House Road, Willow Park, Texas.

This budget will raise more total property taxes than last year's budget by \$50,431 or 3.24% and of that amount \$50,431 is tax revenue from new property added to the tax roll this year. The public is encouraged to review the City's proposed budget on the City of Willow Park website at www.willowpark.org or view a paper copy of the budget in the City Secretary's office.

The public may comment by providing written comments either through the mail at the following address: 516 Ranch House Road, Willow Park, Texas 76087, or by email at cdozier@willowpark.org. Any written comments received by the City on or prior to 6:00 p.m. on the day of the public hearing will be included with information provided to the City Council for their consideration.

Members of the public are encouraged to provide input through any means available and/or to participate in the public hearing in person.

Crystal Dozier
City Secretary
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THE COMMUNITY NEWS

VOLLEYBALL

Ladycats sweep Paschall

Middle Schools begin season with wins

The Aledo Ladycats volleyball team is rolling on its way to district competition.

On Tuesday, Aug. 23, the Ladycats played Arlington Lamar in a clean sweep. 9A won in two sets 25-8, 25-10. 9B won 25-12, 25-10. JV won 25-5, 25-12. Varsity won 25-11, 25-13, 25-23. The Varsity Lady Cats dominated from start to finish.

Kills: Alyssa Gonzales 5, Maddie Frank 8, Lauryn Mack 11, Vivian Parker 10

Aces: Alyssa Gonzales 2, Natalie Anderson 2, Rylee Metts 2, Vivian Parker 2

Digs: Lauryn Mack 12, Vivian Parker 17, Alyssa Gonzales 6, Ava Reding 6

Assists: Rylee Metts 19, Ava Reding 7, Catie Messer 6

Block Assists: Maddie Frank 3

Then play continued Thursday-Saturday with the infamous Leander Volleypalooza Tournament. The Ladycats competed well.

Thursday, Aug. 25

Match 1: Aledo vs. Leander

High

Scores: 25-14, 17-25, 25-11

Kills: Alyssa Gonzales 7, Vivian Parker 5, Lauryn Mack 5

Aces: Rylee Metts 4, Lauryn Mack 2, Alyssa Gonzales 2

Digs: Alyssa Gonzales 16, Lauryn Mack 9, Vivian Parker 10, Mia Little 10

Assists: Rylee Metts 17, Ava Reding 4

Match 2: Aledo vs. Katy Seven Lakes

Scores: 25-19, 21-25, 25-18

Kills: Alyssa Gonzales 10, Lauryn Mack 7, Vivian Parker 7

Aces: Alyssa Gonzales 2, Rylee Metts 2

Digs: Lauryn Mack 17, Alyssa Gonzales 14, Mia Little 12, Vivian Parker 11

Assists: Rylee Metts 18, Ava Reding 4, Catie Messer 6

Blocks: Maddie Frank 2



NOLAN RUTH/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Rylee Metts (11) sets up a kill earlier this season. Metts had 27 assists against Paschall on Tuesday.

Match 3: Aledo vs. Brandeis

Scores: 21-25, 25-19, 20-25

Kills: Lauryn Mack 13, Alyssa Gonzales 9, Vivian Parker 9

Digs: Lauryn Mack 15, Vivian Parker 15, Alyssa Gonzales 14, Mia Little 11, Ava Reding 10

Assists: Rylee Metts 18, Ava Reding 11



Read this story online

Mia Little 6, Lauryn Mack 5, Rylee Metts 5

Assists: Rylee Metts 6, Ava Reding 5

Block Assists:

Maddie Frank 3, Alyssa Gonzales 2

Match 2: Aledo vs. Barbers Hill

Scores: 21-25, 23-25

Kills:

Vivian Parker 11, Maddie Frank 6, Lauryn Mack 4

Digs:

Mia Little 13, Lauryn Mack 12, Vivian Parker 11

Assists:

Rylee Metts 16

Match 3: Aledo vs. Woodlands

Scores: 20-25, 25-27

Kills: Maddie Frank 6, Vivian Parker 6, Alyssa Gonzales 3

Aces: Morgan Estevez 2

Digs: Lauryn Mack 10, Mia Little 9, Rylee Metts 8, Vivian Parker 8

Assists: Rylee Metts 15

Block Assists: Maddie Frank 3, Haley Lowe 2, Payton Hilmer 2

Saturday, Aug. 27

Match 1: Aledo vs. Stratford

Scores: 16-25, 23-25

Kills: Lauryn Mack 8, Vivian Parker 6

Digs: Vivian Parker 12, Mia Little 10, Alyssa Gonzales 9

Assists: Rylee Metts 10, Ava Reding 10

Match 2: Aledo vs. Flower Mound

Scores ONLY- 13-25, 22-25

The Ladycats swept the Paschall Panthers on Tuesday, Aug. 30. 9A won 25-10, 25-16. 9B won 25-21, 25-19. JV won 25-4, 25-14. Varsity won 25-21, 25-19, 25-23.

Kills: Vivian Parker 15, Maddie Frank 13, Lauryn Mack 10, Alyssa Gonzales 8

Aces: Alyssa Gonzales 2, Rylee Metts 1

Digs: Vivian Parker 15, Rylee Metts 15, Mia Little 14, Alyssa Gonzales 13, Lauryn Mack 10

Assists: Rylee Metts 27, Ava Reding 10, Catie Messer 6

Middle School Results

Aledo Middle School played its season opener on Sept. 1 Summer Creek.

7th Grade:

A Team: Win (25-5, 25-4)

B Team: Win (25-11, 25-9)

C Team: Win (25-5, 25-11)

8th Grade:

A Team: Win (25-16, 25-8)

B Team: Win (25-8, 25-4)

C Team: The C team played each other and did a great job!

The McAnalley Middle School team swept its first ever match, defeating Brewer.

7th Grade:

A Team: Win (25-20, 25-17)

B Team: Win (25-7, 25-5)

C Team: Win (20-25, 25-11, 15-1)

8th Grade:

A Team: Win (25-14, 25-10)

B Team: Win (25-20, 25-18)

C Team: Win (25-19, 17-25, 25-17)

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TENNIS

Racketcats off to strong district start

By Cathy Mason
Special to the Community News

The Aledo varsity team tennis squad is off to a 2-0 start in District 5-5A play, opening with a thrilling 10-8 home win over Wichita Falls Rider last week and following this week with a 14-0 home whitewashing against Northwest.

The win over Rider, who eliminated Aledo from the post-season last season in the third round, came after a rain postponement and a six-hour match that included the lights going out. This was a highly competitive match, with seven of the 18 completed matches ending with tiebreakers.

For the girls the No. 1 doubles team of Bryanna Orr and Kenley Germany split sets (2-6, 6-7), but lost in the tiebreaker. No. 2 doubles Elli Kate Bussmeir and Paige Federman also split sets (6-7, 6-2) and won with a tiebreak score of 10-7. No. 3 doubles Patrice Loftin and Natalie Nawrocki won their match (6-4, 6-2).

The boys' top doubles duo of Ian Leslie and Hogan Posey split sets (6-3, 3-6) but lost in a close tiebreaker (11-13). No. 2 doubles Craig Mason and Ben Farmer also split sets (6-4, 4-6) and lost in another close tiebreaker (8-10). The No. 3 doubles tandem of Jacob Heckathorn and Francois Britz lost their match (1-6, 0-6).

In mixed doubles, Scott Mason and Eleanor Jack won their match (6-3, 6-0).

With 10 matches necessary for the win, the team headed into singles competition with a deficit of 3-4. Winning their matches for the girls were No. 2 singles Elli Kate Bussmeir (6-3, 3-6, 10-8), No. 4 Paige Federman (6-2, 6-4) and No. 6 Gracie Heydman (7-5, 6-3). Winning their matches for the boys were No. 2 Scott Mason (2-6, 7-6, 10-6), No. 3



Read this story online



The Aledo tennis team opened district with a win against Rider

CATHY MASON

Hogan Posey (6-2, 6-3) and No. 5 Craig Mason (6-4, 6-4).

With Aledo up 9-8, all eyes were on sophomores Jacob Heckathorn and Eleanor Jack as they finished their matches. Aledo was ahead in both matches and both matches were at match point as Heckathorn finished first (6-4, 7-5) for the Bearcat win.

On Tuesday, Aug. 30, the team took on Northwest High School, new to the district this year, and earned a shutout victory over the Texans/Lady Texans.

Girls doubles easily won their matches, with Orr and Germany winning 6-0, 6-0, Bussmeir and Federman winning 6-0, 6-0 and Natalie Nawrocki and Patrice Loftin coming away 6-1, 6-3.

Boys doubles Mason and Farmer won 6-2, 6-0 while Heckathorn and Britz won 6-3, 6-2. Leslie and Posey split sets, (6-4, 1-6), but won in the tiebreaker (10-8). Mixed doubles Mason and Jack split sets (6-1, 4-6), but also won in their tiebreaker, (10-3).



Ian Leslie

CATHY MASON

Girls singles numbers 1-4 won their matches and clinched the win for the team. Boys numbers 1-3 were allowed to finish and also added to the winning tally.

Leslie played for over two hours, split sets (7-6 with a 7-3 tiebreaker, 1-6, tiebreak 11-9)

and ended the last match of the night for the 14th win.

The Bearcats/Ladycats record currently stands at 8-2, with 2-0 in district play. The team will travel to Saginaw on Tuesday, Sept. 6 for the next district match.



Read this story online

FOOTBALL

Eagles drop opener

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

In this past Friday's season opening football game, the Willow Park Trinity Christian Eagles fell on the road to Fort Worth Temple Christian 28-14.

Temple Christian built a 21-7 halftime lead before the teams exchanged second-half touchdowns.

Among the highlights for Trinity, senior running back and linebacker Caleb Nelson led the Eagles in rushing and total tackles. Nelson scored TCA's first TD on a 14-yard run in the second quarter.

Junior Jake Anderson scored on a 12-yard pass from senior Evan Chrane to start the fourth quarter, drawing TCA within seven points.

Freshman punter/placekicker Riley McCracken connected on both extra points, had two punts downed inside the Temple 10-yard line and had two touchbacks on kickoffs.

In all, Temple Christian ran 64 plays to 53 for Trinity and had a 23-16 first downs advantage.

Trinity did win the battle of the flags. The visiting Eagles committed six penalties for 50 yards compared to eight for 55 yards for the host Eagles.

The game was also the Trinity debut for new head coach Bryan Marmion. He had high praise for his young team that closed the deficit to 21-14 in the final stages before Temple scored a sealing TD.

"Considering this was the first high school football game, not just varsity game, for almost half our squad, our coaches could not be prouder of the effort our kids showed. They very easily could have lost heart down 14-0 in the first quarter," Marmion said. "So, to have a one-score game midway through the fourth let our coaches know more about the character of this squad and let our players know what they are capable of when tested."

"In most close games if you change two or three plays, you change the outcome. That was certainly the case in this game. We were able to see some things on video that our kids understand they can fix in the short-term that will have a significant impact on our performance."

Trinity Christian is on the road again this week as they travel to Reicher Catholic Friday. The Cougars are coming off a 41-7 loss to Milano to open the season.

On Sept. 9 Trinity will play its first game in their new stadium when they host Dallas Christian Home Educators at 7:30 p.m.

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FOOTBALL PREVIEW

Guyer Coming to Town

Bearcats to face another power in home opener

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

Tim Buchanan has never been one to back down from a challenge. Of course that is one of the reasons he is one of the most successful high school football coaches in America ever to walk the sidelines, with seven state championships and an average of 11 victories per season in 24 years.

So, on the heels of a 24-17 season-opening loss at Dallas Parish Episcopal, No. 9 in this week's MaxPreps state rankings, the Bearcats return for their home opener against No. 3 Denton Guyer at 7:30 p.m. Friday at Bearcat Stadium.

Guyer, last season's Class 6A Division II state runner-up, is coming off a 47-14 drubbing of Rockwall Heath to open the season.

"They're better than they were last year. They look like they're in Week 12 or 13, it didn't look like the first week of the season. Their defense scored 21 points on Rockwall (Heath)," Buchanan said.

Of course, the Bearcats have lost season openers before under Buchanan and always rebounded well. A couple times they even went on to win a state championship, including 2019, Buchanan's first season back as coach after five years as Aledo athletic director. Ironically,

they lost 60-57 to Guyer before bouncing back to win their next 15 games.

"When you lose to a team like Parish Episcopal, if you learn from it, there's no shame from that," Buchanan said. "You ask yourself, 'What can I do better?' And then you work toward that."

"I hate to lose, but if you learn from it and it helps make you better, there's no shame at all."

It has been a long time, however. It has been a long time, however, since the Bearcats began a season 0-2. Not since 1991, two years before Buchanan, have they dropped their first two games.

In reflecting on the Episcopal loss, Buchanan said, "We played really hard. Us losing was not from a lack of effort. We made some mental mistakes that cost us the game."

The Bearcats had trouble with their red zone offense. The only touchdown they managed inside the 20-yard line was following a forced turnover by the defense that gave them the ball at the Episcopal half-yard line.

Buchanan praised several players as standouts, including cornerback Chris Johnson on defense and center Alex Arana on offense. Johnson returned an interception 52 yards and Arana anchored an offensive line that helped the offense accumulate 308 total yards, including 62 rushing by Cap

Turn to GUYER, page 9



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BRELEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Junior cornerback Chris Johnson returned an interception 52 yards against Parish Episcopal.

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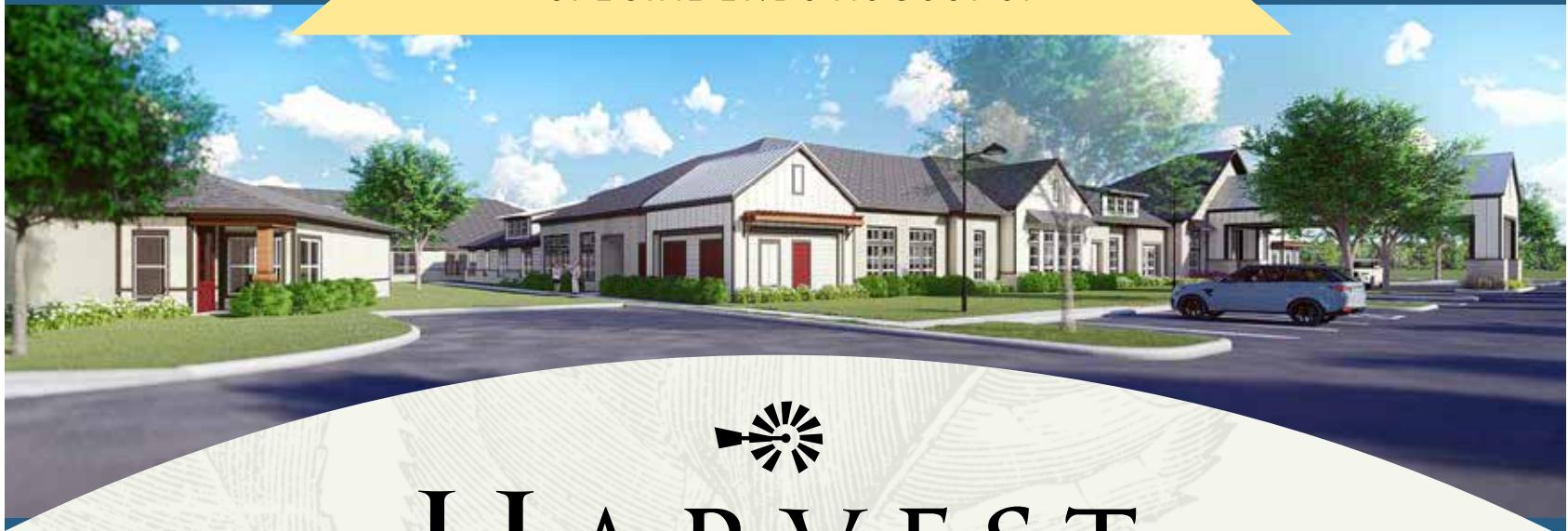
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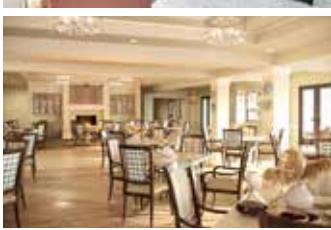


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