

THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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ALEDO Council amends ordinance to increase safety around schools

By **Ryan Wade**
The Community News

The Aledo City Council addressed several key issues facing the growing community during its Oct. 24 marathon session. A key measure resolved during the three-hour affair will enable City Manager Noah Simon to place and maintain traffic control devices and parking limitations within the Aledo city limits.

The amendment made to Chapter 77 of the Code of Ordinances came following several close calls involving students from Aledo Middle School nearly being struck by automobiles when attempting to cross FM 1187 after school.

Changes to the ordinance will allow the city to be more nimble in addressing opportunities such as this one in a timely manner to help ensure public safety.

The meeting began with Mayor Nick Stanley making a proclamation that going forward, October will be recognized as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Aledo. Stanley was accompanied at the podium by Debbie Buckman representing Freedom House — a non-profit organization based in Weatherford that provides free services such as shelter, advocacy, and counseling to survivors of domestic abuse.

All about the water

Several discussions relating to the water system in Aledo followed during the official business of the meeting.

First, the council discussed increases in water usage rates that went into effect in October, but residents will not see reflected until their November bill. The council is preparing for an increased number of calls coming in once those bills arrive to residents later in the month.

Next, the meeting shifted gears as a representative from Aqua Metric updated the council regarding the pilot program to install smart water meters on 100 residences across the city. The new meters are not only more accurate as it relates to reading the amount of water being used, but also can alert the city when there is a potential leak.

Another feature boasted by Aqua Metric is the meters give the residents the ability to log onto an online portal to view their current usage and billing in real time, thus, providing residents with more control over how much water they use during a billing cycle.

All 100 meters have been installed with the 90-day pilot program officially underway. Once the pilot ends shortly after the end of the year, the results will come before the council with Simon expected to pitch a proposal for full

Turn to **COUNCIL**, page A3



RICK MAUCH/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Clara Whisenant holds a painting of herself in her younger days created by an old friend, Daniel Norris. He worked for she and her husband Ray when they owned the Mobile station near downtown Aledo and it was a present for her recent 100th birthday.

Forget being like Mike, I wanna be like Clara

By **Rick Mauch**
The Community News

One of my goals in life is to live to be 100 years old and shoot a 99 in golf (over 18 holes, not nine, I know what some of you are thinking).

And while I still aspire to do that, I now have added inspiration.

Remember the old Gatorade commercial with the jingle "Be like Mike"? Well, with all due respect to Michael Jordan and his greatness, I want to be like Clara.

Clara Whisenant, that is.

I had the pleasure recently of spending a couple hours visiting with Clara, who turned 100 years old on Oct. 11. It was two of the best hours I

will spend this year as she is as sharp as a 35-year-old, whipping off dates and memories as if they were written down on paper in front of her.

When I told her she didn't look even close to 100, her quick response with a chuckle was, "That's what everybody keeps telling me. I'm about to get a complex.

"God takes care of me. There's a purpose for all of this."

I don't doubt that for one second, and the purpose might just well be to remind the rest of us that age is indeed just a number. That while our time on this mortal coil is limited, we should milk every bit of

positivity we can out of every second.

Clara's seen a lot in her life. Joe Biden is the 16th president to sit in the Oval Office in her lifetime. She saw the creation of the polio vaccine, lived through the hippie generation of the 1960s, disco in the 1970s, and doesn't understand today why "many people would rather tinker with the tiny screen on their phone than hold a conversation."

I don't understand that, either, Clara. I'm reminded of the time the eccentric college football coach Mike Leach once said when there is only one person remaining on this planet and humankind

Turn to **CLARA**, page A2

POLITICS

Election Day is Tuesday

Governor, other races contested

Staff Reports
The Community News

Early voting comes to an end on Friday, Nov. 4, but voters who have not cast their ballots will have an opportunity one last time on election day, Nov. 8.

The county will have 38 polling locations open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on that day. Registered voters in the county can cast their ballots at any of those locations.

Depending on where you live, the top race on the ballot will either be the contested U.S. Rep. Dist. 12 race between Kay Granger (R) and Trey Hunt (D), or List. 25 Rep. Roger Williams (R), who is running unopposed.

The southern portion of Parker County was added to Williams' district during the last redistricting process by the Texas Legislature.

Statewide, the highest-profile race is for governor, where Democrat Beto O'Rourke is challenging Republican Governor Greg Abbott.

Republican Lieutenant Governor Ken Paxton is challenged by Democrat Mike Collier, and Democrat Rochelle Mercedes Garza is challenging Attorney General Ken Paxton.

There are several judgeships statewide on the ballot as well. Sample ballots can be found at <https://www.parkercountytx.com/477/Sample-Ballots>.

Locally, Republican Sheriff Russ Authier, serving the unexpired term of the late Larry Fowler, is challenged by Libertarian Russell Hess.

Also locally, residents of Willow Park and those in the Willow Park Extraterritorial Jurisdiction will vote on whether to have their fire department annexed into Emergency Services District No. 1. Voters who currently live in Emergency Services District No. 1 are also voting on the measure.

For a mapped list of Tuesday voting locations, visit the link associated with this article.



★ YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE ★



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MERCEDES MAYER/SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

U. S. Congressman Roger Williams recently met with business representatives at the Aledo ISD Administration Building. Shown are (from left) Amy Fennell, Lynch Legacy Group; Jennifer Loftin, Aledo ISD Board; Eric Poland, Nextlink; Patrick Lawler, Parker County Economic Development; Adam Feriend, JRJ Construction; Williams; Randy Keck and Loydale Schmid, The Community News; Zan Prince, First Bank Texas; Kim Raymond, Aledo ISD; Melissa Watts, Sri County Electric; and Rob Helms, Overture Home Care.



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CLARA

from page A1

is virtually gone, that person won't realize it because they are too busy trying to text someone.

Parker County her whole life

Clara's life is not one of adventurous travels. She's barely left Parker County, where she was born and raised in the Center Point community by farmer parents.

"I've visited a lot of places, but it always looks good to get back home," she said.

Clara met her husband Ray and, after they married in 1940, they lived in and around Aledo for seven decades before he was moved to College Park Rehabilitation and Care Center in 2010. He passed away in 2012, the year Clara moved into the same facility and where she still lives today.

For the first couple of decades or so in their marriage they each had jobs, Ray at a dairy farm and her at the long since closed R.E. Cox department store in Fort Worth. Then, in the 1960s they purchased what was then the Aledo Mobil filling station, near downtown, which they operated until selling it in 1991.

"I was the gofer from morning 'til night," Clara said, smiling. "And I helped take care of the books. We had an accountant, but I kept the daily stuff."

"We knew everyone in town then. And ours was mostly an information center. People would come in trying to find a place and I'd draw them one of my famous maps. That's what I called them. I'd say, 'Let me just make you one of my famous maps.' And they always got them where they were going."

"I guess they wouldn't be so popular today, but folks sure got a lot of use out of them back then, let me tell you."

Quite the seamstress

Clara even made some extra money by making clothes. In fact, she made her own clothes until she moved into College Park. She learned the skill from her mother.

"I made all my children's clothes and my clothes. People liked what they saw, and it supplemented the family income," she recalled. "My mother taught me to sew. She was a beautiful seamstress and she had four daughters she had to keep clothed. We were poor, but we always had nice clothes."

"I don't understand some of the clothes I see today. People are actually paying money for clothes with holes in them? If there was a hole in our clothes, it got mended right away."

Clara was the youngest of six children (four girls, two boys). She remembered that during the Great Depression — she was 7 when it began — she and her sisters would gather eggs and sometimes get to keep the money from selling them to purchase fabric for their mother to make them a new dress.

"We had our chickens, livestock, grew our own vegetables, we managed during that hard time, but it was hard on everyone," she said. "We girls would gather eggs every evening and when we were allowed to keep the money, it was a lot to us. We'd usually have about 10 to 12 dozen and they'd go for about 12 cents a dozen."

"We'd go get some fabric, which was about 15 cents a yard, about 25 cents if it was really nice, and we'd take it back to mamma and she'd make us a nice dress."

Clara and her siblings were all born in the same farmhouse, where her father was also born, as was one

of his grandchildren. For grades 1-8 she attended Dixon School before then attending Weatherford High, though her family moved and it was simply too far of a drive for her to go school as a senior, she said.

"I always wished I could have finished school, but back then it was just too far and would cost too much money," she said. "But I'd say I didn't do too bad in life."

Meeting Ray and raising a family

Clara vividly remembers the day she met Ray and it was pretty much love at first sight. She was working as a housekeeper and taking care of a little girl for a family and Ray worked on a dairy nearby.

"It was cold, hog killin' time, and they were rendering lard (fat from the hogs) and he had a can to put some in, but the can had ice on it because it was so cold, so he brought it in to defrost and that's when we met," she reminisced, a smile coming across her face as her eyes lit up at the memory.

"He asked me out about two weeks later. That was December (1939) and we were married in October (1940). There was never any doubt for us."

They had five children; one, David, died at the age of 21 months. Her four other children, son Steve Whisenant and daughters Marlene Hoover, Sonja Spain and Neysa Clark, all live in the area.

She has eight grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren.

She's seen so much

A century of living brings a lot of testimony after witnessing so many things. When asked what is the most amazing thing she's seen in her life, Clara said, "The most amazing thing is there's been so many things in my life."

She remembered when her family got their first telephone in 1951.

"We had lived next to someone who had one, but we didn't get our own until we moved into a house that already had one," she said. "It was an old one with a crank. You'd get on and ask an operator to connect you. It was called a party line."

And she remembers exactly where she was the day President John F. Kennedy was assassinated.

"I'd been to lunch. I was working at R.E. Cox and as I opened the door



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

TOP: Claire Whisenant shows off her 100th birthday cake. | **BOTTOM LEFT:** Claire is shown with her four children: Steve Whisenant, Marlene Hoover, Sonja Spain, and Neysa Clark | **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Claire is shown with Danny Norris, who painted her portrait several years ago.

the news came over the radio. It was like a cloud came over the town," she said. "They closed the store and sent us all home. It was a terrible feeling to know our president had been killed."

When the polio vaccine was made public in the 1950s, she and her family immediately rushed out to get it.

"We brought the children, they were giving the vaccine out, and we stood on the east steps of the courthouse waiting our turn. Everybody couldn't wait to get it," she said. "One of my sisters in California, her daughter got polio. She lived, she grew up to have children, but it left its mark on her."

Family and war

Ray avoided having to serve in World War II because he worked on a farm and by the time it hit its apex he and Clara had two children. But that didn't keep her from being frightened that her husband might be called away from her following one of our nation's most devastating incidents.

"The day Pearl Harbor was bombed, I'll never forget. We went to church that evening and there was a peaceful feeling as we all knew we needed each other more than ever. There were people coming to church I hadn't seen in a long time," she said.

"I just knew he was going to have to go to war, but the work he was in was considered defense work. But he passed his physical and was ready had they called him."

Then came a similar scare with Steve when the Vietnam War was taking place.

"I prayed he wouldn't pass (his physical) and God answered my prayers. He was double-jointed and they wouldn't take him," she said.

"I know our country needs defending and I would have been so proud if either or both had to go, but I'm so glad God saved them from that danger. I'm so sad for the many who did have to go, though, and for the families of the many who didn't come back."

Red letter day

Without hesitation, Clara said the moment that brought the biggest smile in her entire life was "The day my husband became a Christian in 1942, that was a red letter day. We went to church before that, but he wasn't a Christian."

They were members of First Baptist Church in Aledo for decades before moving to New Faith Baptist Church in Annetta in 2008.

"No one's had a better life than I have," she said. "I had good parents who loved me, a great family, even great in-laws. I love my family so much."

Then, she added with a laugh, "I don't have any presidents in my family, I wish I did, I could tell them what to do."

And they'd be wise to listen. I certainly learned a thing or two from my time with her.



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Aledo Lions Club offers chance for scholarships

The Aledo Community Lions Club will choose high school juniors or seniors to represent them in each of three annual scholarship contests sponsored by the Lions of District 2-E2.

The first is a drug awareness speech contest: "Pharmaceutical Fentanyl vs. Illegal Fentanyl." The contest is a 5-7 minute oration of a prepared text from memory. Scholarships of \$1,500, \$1,000, and \$500 will be awarded.

The second is a Diabetes awareness essay contest: "Diabetes: Knowing Your Number, Health Complications, Treatment Alternatives, and Healthy Living." The contest is a written composition of up to 1,500 words that is read. Scholarships will be \$2,000, \$1,500, and \$1,000.

The third is an outstanding youth contest; "The Impact of Technology on Society," with two \$2,000 scholarships. The contest consists of a 750 word theme and a 15-20 minute interview of biographical information submitted by the applicant.



The contests will be held on Saturday, Jan. 21, 2023, in Fort Worth.

The winner of each contest will represent Lions District 2-E2 in the State Lions competition where the three top prizes will be \$3,000, \$2,000, and \$1,000 scholarships. Those contests will be held on Saturday, May 6, 2023, via Zoom. No more than 16, and likely fewer, contestants will participate in each of the State contests.

For more information and details email Youth Contest Coordinator Bob Carlson of the Aledo Community Lions Club at robert_a_carlson@msn.com, or call 817-718-4902.



Read this story online

COUNCIL

from page A1

implementation 30-45 days after the conclusion of the pilot.

Tidal wave of water upgrades

The most significant amount of time for the evening was dedicated to a presentation by Chris Ekrut from NewGen Strategies & Solutions regarding proposed upgrades to the current water and wastewater systems in Aledo.

While community growth is generally viewed as a positive, that growth often comes with challenges to infrastructure. Solutions to those challenges often come with lofty price tags. This is one of those times.

Ekrut spent the better part of 90 minutes breaking down where Aledo currently stands in regard to its financial obligations to the City of Fort Worth and the Texas Water Development Board, giving a brief history of the charge rates for water and wastewater in Aledo, and pitching his proposal for what the council needs to do in short order to tackle issues with the current water and wastewater systems.

"We rely heavily on these professionals — these consultants — to come in to advise the council on what they see as our greatest needs in the coming years," Stanley said. "Looking out here in Aledo, especially over the next decade, seeing the growth trends that we've all identified that are there, and that are coming, there's some really difficult decisions, that as the elected representatives of this community, we're going to have to make. We're going to have to make those decisions with as much information as we can get to make a concerted effort to protect this community as we grow; to make sure the infrastructure's there to deliver to our citizens consistently in



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Aledo Mayor Nick Stanley is shown with Debbie Buckman of Freedom House. Stanley issued a proclamation that going forward, October will be recognized as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Aledo.

a fashion they can have confidence in."

Among the key points of Ekru's presentation were discussions regarding a 10-year span from 2012 to 2021 where the city absorbed rising costs associated with water rate hikes rather than passing on those costs to residents. He also touched on the on-going challenges related to changes in regulatory requirements at both the state and federal levels impacting the city's water utilities.

The point burdened with the most emphasis from Ekru had to do with needed upgrades and expansion to the existing water supply systems to meet the rising demand related to the continued growth in Aledo. Ekru estimated the current cost to expand the water supply capacity to meet the impending demand tallies \$3.5 million. As large as that bill seems, it is but a splash in the bucket when compared to his recommendations

for the wastewater treatment facilities. The initial proposal put before the council neared \$16 million. However, as the cost of materials continues to increase due to inflation rates climbing to 40-year highs over the last year, the latest price tag for the same proposal is now an estimated \$24 million.

"As we put more rooftops in Aledo, and more businesses, we must ensure that we can deliver through our utilities. Whether that's through water, our wastewater treatment facility, electrical grid, fiber internet — all the things that come with the pains of a growing community," said Stanley. "This is why you see all these people up here choosing to volunteer their time to represent the city. It's because we're all citizens here who care about our future. We care that we're making decisions that provide assurances to our families and our neighbors that this is still going to be a great place to live in 10 to 20 years."

Obituaries

Ocie (O. C.) Dugan

Ocie (O. C.) Dugan passed away on October 28, 2022, at the age of 83, after a fall.

O. C. was born April 29, 1939 in Aledo. Interment to follow at Aledo Brown Cemetery, Aledo.

In the 1950s O. C. worked for American Manufacturing and Aledo Feed Mill in Aledo (now known as Bryant Grain), Texas State Highway Department, and General Motors. He retired from General Motors after 34 years.

O. C. was a Director for the Aledo Fire Department and was Wyatt Earp for the Aledo centennial celebration. He volunteered for years with the Ag

Backers at the Aledo schools. O. C. loved Aledo and the Aledo Bearcats football team.



Ocie (O.C.) Dugan

He was preceded in death by his parents; his eldest son, Randy; his brothers, L. D. Dugan, and Lester Dugan; and sister, Doris Reynolds.

Survivors include his wife of 64 years, Glennetta; daughter, Sheri Flowers; son, Toby; daughter-in-law, Charlotte; two granddaughters; four great-grandchildren; and many nephews and nieces.

The funeral service is scheduled for 2 p.m. Friday, November 4, 2022 at Aledo Church of Christ, 201 FM 1187 South, Aledo, with visitation from 1-2 p.m. at the church prior to the service.

The Community News
November 4, 2022

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Dancing among the clouds

Willow Park man honors son with scholarship organization

By **Randy Keck**
The Community News

Out of tragedy often comes new life and new opportunities.

So it is for Joe Johnson of Willow Park, a pilot for American Airlines who shared a passion for flying with his late son, Ashton.

Michael Ashton Johnson was born in Fort Worth Texas on Dec. 3, 1992. As a boy he attended Keller schools, and after graduating from Keller High School he attended Tarrant County College for a while.

As a talented athlete Ashton played soccer, baseball, basketball, inline hockey, and ice hockey, and he ended up playing for the Dallas Jr. Stars and the Fort Worth Brahmas.

But after high school Ashton's love was paintball, and he dropped out of college for a spot on the roster of the San Antonio X-Factor Professional Paintball team.

Ashton lost his spot on the paintball team after fracturing his ankle, and found himself wondering what to do with his life.

Joe wanted Ashton to see if he could get in the Navy. Because Ashton was a body builder, he thought he might be able to get a waiver despite the broken ankle, and felt fire fighting might be a good fit.

"We were asking if there's fire-fighter positions in the Navy, and of course they were telling us yes," Joe said. "But later we found out steel boats don't burn. You know, fire-fighters in the Navy do everything but fight fires."

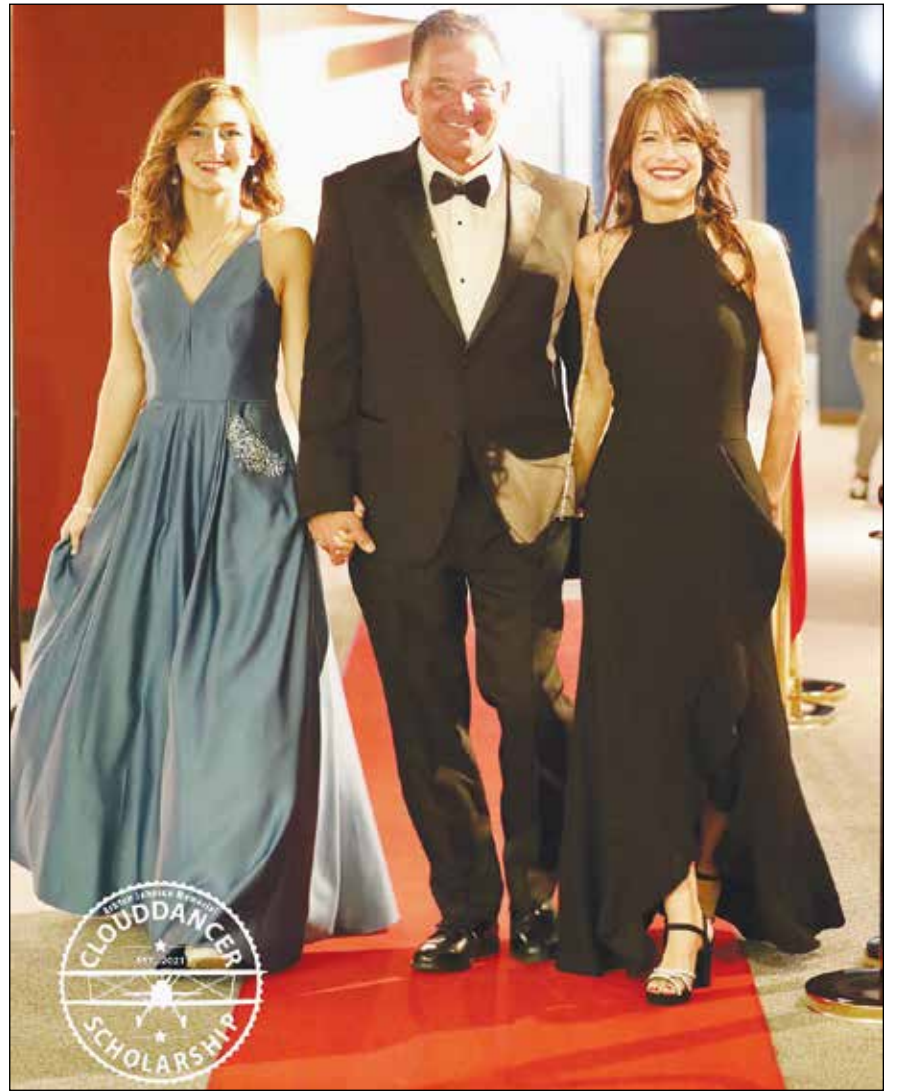
When the Navy declined his application, Ashton and his father visited the joint recruitment base in Weatherford. Both the Air Force and the Army expressed an interest, as well as the Marines.

Ashton opted to join the Army, and there he learned about air defense systems. He was sent to Fort Sill, Oklahoma, where his studies continued.

"They taught him how to work on Patriot missile systems and, and C-RAM, which is kind of rocket artillery, mortar, and all the computer engineering goes with all that," Joe said.

Ashton was moved to El Paso and then to Fort Bliss. Fort Bliss was then deployed to Afghanistan, but due to the technical nature of Ashton's work, he was not sent because the Army needed infantry for that deployment.

But about six months later Ashton was informed that a staff



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Capt. Joe Johnson with daughter Kaylee on the left and wife Shelli on the right at the inaugural CloudDancer Black Tie Gala.

sergeant in Afghanistan had a death in the family, and Ashton was sent to Afghanistan to take that position.

Joe said when a person is deployed to a combat area, "they prepare you as if you're going to die. So he had to have a signed will, we had to have power of attorney, there's all kinds of things that you have to do when you get sent into a combat zone."

Ashton's first stop on the way to Afghanistan was El Paso, and Joe was the pilot on that flight.

"I remember putting a post on Facebook saying I'm delivering my son into the hands of evil, because he's being deployed to go fight in Afghanistan.

"Now, he wasn't gonna be given a gun to do hand-to-hand, but he was being sent to a forward operating

Turn to **CLOUDS**, page A5



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Captain Joseph Johnson (second from left), founder and president of the CloudDancer Scholarship, is shown with social media manager Autumn Jacobs, corporate sponsor Adam Plunkett of Plunkett Aviation, and vice president Capt. Neil Raaz.



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TOP: Ashton Johnson | **BOTTOM:** Ashton Johnson, right, receives recognition from the U.S. Army.

SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS



CLOUDS

from page A4

base, where he was going to be running all this highly specialized technical equipment.”

Ashton was in the middle of helping coordinate helicopter operations.

“So he's he's talking with the helicopter pilots, the Blackhawks and the Cobras and all the Air Force guys and all that on the radio. And he's working the midnight shift. And typically when they're going to do an operation, that's when they do it. So he's seeing and hearing everything that's happening.”

One day Ashton called home alarmed. His base had been hit by mortar fire. The mortar hit the dining area, and Ashton suffered a concussion from the explosion.

After a year and a half in the Army, Ashton returned home. He used his G.I. Bill to study aviation and get his private pilot's license.

“That's when he found out the G.I. Bill doesn't pay for the private pilot certificate,” Joe said.

In his personal life Ashton enjoyed dancing, flying, and was known for his smile and his kindness.

But about a year ago Ashton lost his life.

In memory of Ashton, Joe started the Ashton Johnson Memorial CloudDancer Scholarship, now a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization “focused on serving veterans who want to pursue a career in aviation.”

The aim of the scholarship is to raise funds to help fill the gap for military veterans who want to obtain their private pilot's license.

The dream of funding that scholarship came to fruition last month with the inaugural Black Tie Gala on Oct. 15 at the CR Smith Museum in Fort Worth.

The museum was an appropriate venue for the event, as those who attended dined in the midst of American Airlines and aviation history in the shadow of a “meticulously restored 1940 Douglas DC-3 aircraft called the ‘Flagship Knoxville’ which was used in the 1940s.

The keynote speaker at the event was Lieutenant General Steven R. Polk. And in the end the event raised in the neighborhood of \$60,000 for the scholarship fund.

It was a fitting tribute that a young man's love of flying can be passed on to others.

For more information, visit <https://cloud-dancerscholarship.org/>.



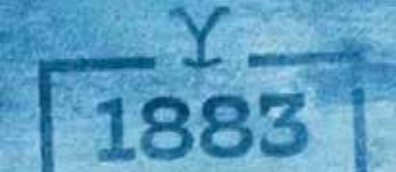
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TOP: A framed picture of Michael Ashton Johnson. | **BOTTOM:** The Old Ironsides award presented to SPC Michael A. Johnson.





meets





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

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5

TCA Gift Market
 The 11th Annual Trinity Christian Academy Gift Market will run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Nov 5, at 4954 E. I-20 Service Road in Willow Park. The Gift Market serves as a way for Trinity Christian Academy to reach out to our area communities and invite them in. Admission is free.



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Ladycats Charity Golf Tournament
 The Aledo Softball Boosters will host the second annual Aledo Ladycats Charity Golf Tournament on Friday, Nov. 11, at Squaw Creek Golf Club. Proceeds will go to the Aledo softball program to cover expenses the school



district may not provide for. The largest portion of the funds will go to the Senior Class Scholarship Fund. Sponsorships are available as well as registrations to play (\$500/foursome or \$150 per individual player.) For more information, email Matt Byars or Dwayne Cox at 2023Ladycatssoftball@gmail.com.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Shop for the Trot
 The annual Shop for the Trot will run from 12-5 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 13, at Aledo Volleyball Club, 425 FM 1187 in Aledo. Vendors at the event will donate back to the Marcia Walters Memorial Thanksgiving Trot. For more information, visit www.aledothanksgivingtrot.com.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17

Bearcat Blast Clay Shoot
 The Aledo Education Foundation will hold its annual Bearcat Blast Clay Shoot on Thursday, Nov. 17, at Defenders Outdoors Clay Sports Ranch, 8270 Aledo Road in Fort Worth. Registration begins at 8 a.m. and the tournament begins at 9 a.m. For more information, visit <https://www.aledoef.org/copy-of-events-2>.

EVENTS



TEXAS CROSSWORD
 by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

- start a Dallas Stars game: "___-off"
- TXism: "get your ducks in ___"
- Texas-based 1973 film: "The Thief Who ___ to Dinner"
- TXism: "busy as ___ tender on payday"
- loud noise
- stop sign shape
- "___ and every one"
- TX B.J. country hit: "New Looks ___ Lover"
- TXism: "___ two-steps to his own beat"
- TXism: "bone ___" (study)
- Texans like it iced
- Cowboys not making the playoffs, e.g.
- Aggie reaction when A&M wins title, e.g.
- ___ Pepper
- missing portion of a manuscript
- loyal dog: "___ best friend"
- former Mavericks point guard, Harper
- Amarillo's "___ & Rodeo"
- western film: "___ horse"
- Ann Richards was ___ the 45th governor of Texas
- TXism: "he ain't ___ spring chicken" (old)
- TX ZZ Top album: "___ Hombres"
- not a common description for a politician
- "glam," for short
- word meaning the same as another word (abbr.)
- dir. from Crockett to Linden
- 2nd play in "A Texas Trilogy": "___ Hampton Laverly Oberlander"
- TXism: "store bought molars"
- in Jackson County on U.S. 59
- TX Buddy Holly hit: "Rave ___" (1958)
- TXism: "it's ___ worth didley squat"
- TXism: "___ hawed" (stalled)
- this Francis starred with TX Ginger in 1935 film "Romance in Manhattan"
- TXism: "___ the bottom of a well"
- Cowboys first coach (init.)
- found in Texas: Trans-Pecos ___ snake
- 4,840 square yards
- craftiness
- maps within maps
- memorable tune
- TXism: "chuckle-head"
- state nurses org.
- subatomic particles such as electrons
- "Dallas" episode today, e.g.
- "he's got ___ ear" (bad at music)
- state employment org. before TWC
- "they ___ sidewalks at 9:00 p.m." (small town)
- related to the onion
- supposed emanation surrounding somebody
- TX Ella ___ Morse sang "Cow-Cow Boogie"
- Mount Everest country
- poke fun at

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Commentary

November 4, 2022
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Capital Highlights

Early voting ends Friday; election is Tuesday, Nov. 8



Gary Borders
gborders@texaspress.com

Early voting for the general election ends on Friday, Nov. 4, with the closely watched governor's race pitting incumbent Gov. Greg Abbott against challenger Beto O'Rourke headlining the ballot. A number of other statewide races are on the ballot, including lieutenant governor, attorney general, land commissioner, agriculture commissioner and comptroller.

Voters can find polling places in their county by visiting VoteTexas.gov. Those voting early can visit any location in the county in which they're registered. However, those who choose to vote on Election Day must go to the specific precinct in which they live.

DPS director says he won't resign

Texas Department of Public Safety Director Steve McCraw is fending off calls for his resignation in light of his department's handling of the mass shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde last May, in which 19 students and two teachers died. However, McCraw said "every responding officer needs to be accountable for their actions," according to the Austin American-Statesman. The Texas Rangers, an arm of the DPS, reportedly are investigating several troopers among the 90 who were on the scene. DPS Sgt. Juan Maldonado was fired recently for his role in the shooting response.

As the Statesman reported, officers from multiple law enforcement agencies delayed confronting the gunman for 77 minutes even as those trapped inside called for help.

McCraw said the Rangers' investigation will be complete by year's end.

Report card: Texas students lag in math

Like students across the country, students in Texas are struggling to recover from learning losses stemming from the pandemic, particularly in math, the Nation's Report Card indicates. Officially called the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), the test is administered in reading and math for a sample of students in 4th and 8th grade roughly every two years, according to the Texas Education Agency.

The bright side appears to be that students in Texas showed more progress than most in their academic recovery, TEA reported. Reading scores for Texas students are not statistically different than in 2019, the last time the test was administered — and before the pandemic struck. However, math scores are significantly lower than they were in 2019.

"Results from the 2022 Nation's Report Card highlight the hard work of Texas teachers and students. While we are largely recovering from the effects of the pandemic in reading, much work remains in math," said Texas Education Commissioner Mike Morath.

Statewide veterans' hiring event

Texas veterans, service members, and their spouses are invited to participate in this year's Hiring Red, White & You! statewide

hiring event, which began Nov. 1 and runs through Nov. 18 with in-person and virtual events across the state.

Hosted by the Texas Workforce Commission, along with workforce development boards and other agencies, the hiring fair connects veterans, transitioning service members, and spouses with Texas employers seeking their skills and experience. The state is home to more than 1.7 million veterans and current military members.

Employers who hire veterans could be eligible for a tax credit of up to \$9,600. The event in the past 10 years has worked with more than 20,000 employers, connected more than 144,000 job seekers to job opportunities, and helped facilitate 3,198 same-day hires.

The events are free. Job seekers can find more details at twc.texas.gov/hiring-red-white-you.

Agriculture still significant economic driver

While the state's large cities are experiencing considerable population growth, agriculture continues to be a big part of the Texas economy. Farming and ranching operations can be found in every part of the state — citrus crops in the Rio Grande Valley, cotton in the High Plains, rice paddies in the Coastal Plains, cattle ranches in West Texas, and timber in East Texas.

The state comptroller's office reported nearly \$25 billion in cash receipts in 2021 from the Texas agricultural industry, the fourth-highest among all states — trailing only California, Iowa, and Nebraska. The U.S. Department of Agriculture reports the state has 247,000 farms (ranches are considered a type of farm), more than double the next two states, Missouri and Iowa.

Cattle represent the state's top ag commodity, with 40.4% of the cash receipts generated. The top three commodities are cattle, dairy, and poultry, according to USDA.

Dry weather tempers deer season expectations

Dry weather throughout much of the state as deer season approaches is tempering expectations for the general white-tailed deer season, which begins Saturday, Nov. 5.

"A number of hunters and landowners report seeing lots of deer, especially younger deer," said Alan Cain of the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. "Part of that is a result of good fawn crops the last couple of years, so there's more bucks in those younger age classes relative to bucks in that four- to six-year-old range. As we move into November and closer to the rut, those older bucks should increase movement activities in search of does, hopefully presenting an opportunity for a lucky hunter."

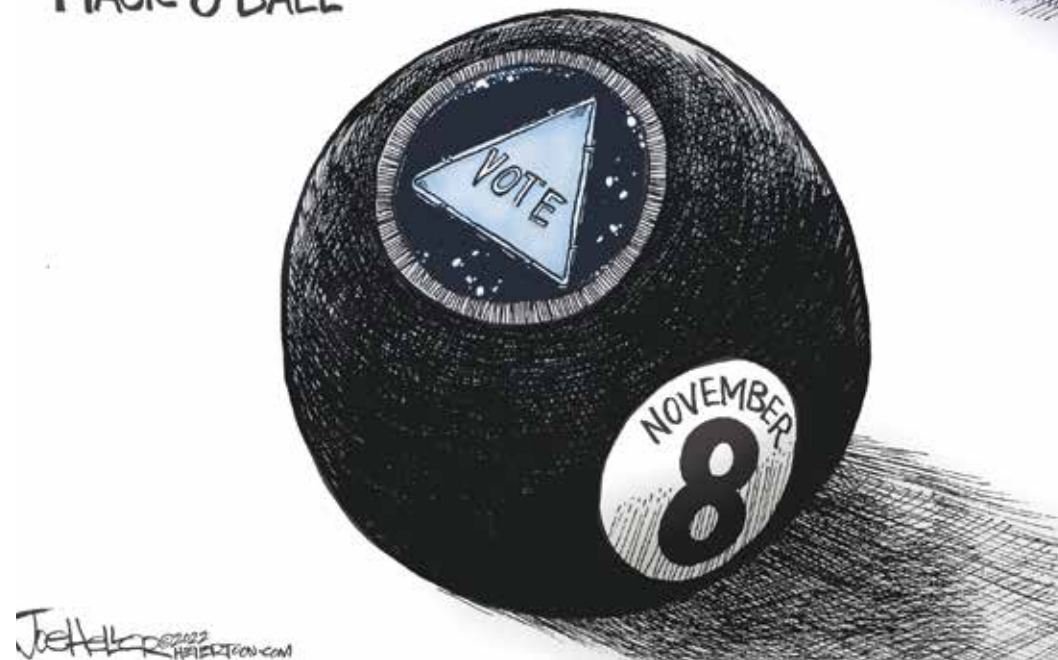
Drought impacts on deer habitats have adversely affected antler quality, Cain added.

COVID-19 cases stay steady

The number of new COVID-19 cases reported by the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University in Texas during the past week stayed steady at 11,667, with 81 new deaths reported. The number of lab-confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations in Texas, as reported by the Texas Department of State Health Services, was essentially unchanged at 1,042.

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.

MAGIC 8 BALL



Your Views

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Note of thanks

The Aledo Ex-Student Association board members would like to say THANKS for helping us to have a great year. We had about 65 ex-students and guests attend the banquet. Monetary donations and our silent auction will enable us to present scholarships to two graduates of the Aledo High School Class of 2023. These scholarships are given in memory of Jimmy Jackson and Don Homsley, who gave their lives in Vietnam. If there is an ex-student who is not receiving information on the banquet and you would like to do so, please send your name and address to PO Box 737, Aledo, TX 76008.

If we have inadvertently left your name off of the list, please accept our apologies. Again, THANKS, especially to the following generous supporters.

Ace Hardware Willow Park, Aledo ISD, Ben and Mari Whiteman, Bettie Sue Cook, Brenda McKenzie Johnson, Cracker Barrel, Clear Fork Materials, Dillard's Feed Store Weatherford, Debbie Garrison, Glen King, June King, Jan Tonroy, Jim Hardick, Johnny Bell, Kelly and Pat Riley, Lula Kirk, Mesquite Pit, Mona Fields, Margaret and Vaughn Morris, Norman Morton, Nykaza's Auto Repair, Outback - Bone Fish, Olive Garden, Pam Bean, Pat Whiteman, Railhead, Russell and Virginia Tanner, Sharon Vinson, Squaw Creek Golf Course, Salt Grass, Sharon Canafax, Terry and Helen Hyles, Texas Road House.

- The 2022 Board Members: Kelly, Ben, Margaret, Ann, June, Bettie Sue, Pam, Sharon, Jan, Jo and Lillian

Slings&Arrows

Catching Up



Randy Keck
rkeck@community-news.com

Well, it's been a while since I wrote anything in these pages and I thought I'd try to catch up a little.

Things have been crazy busy here at TCN what with all the fall activities going on.

I am saddened that we have lost three Aledo institutions lately.

Barbara Smiley, in addition to being the mother of former Mayor Kit Marshall, was a kind and gentle woman.

Barbara was a devout Christian who, in life, lived out her faith.

Likewise, O.C. Dugan was an Aledo institution. I never got a chance to know him real well, but we would exchange greetings at various local events.

He was an ardent supporter of the Aledo Ag Science program, and could always be found at the Aledo Ex Student's Association dinners at homecoming time.



The person I knew best was Charlie McLain who, like the rest, put his personal faith into action.

When we moved our office (literally, the building was moved) to Pecan Street in 2007, Charlie installed the new breaker box for us.

He was active in Aledo United Methodist Church, where he organized and let uncounted youth mission trips.

He was also a mainstay at Bearcat Valero. I'll miss walking in and seeing him sitting there having lunch.

And I know they miss him, too.

The Community News

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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.

In & Around Parker County

Ring Leaders — 40 years of serving Parker County

Ring Leaders Kennel has served Parker County and its surrounding cities for 40 years, making it one of Aledo's oldest businesses.

Alaina Tenseth and her late husband, John founded the grooming and boarding business together in the mid-1970s.

When they decided to move west, the small-town business relocated from its original Fort Worth facility in October 1981 — and has stayed in Aledo ever since.

Its local facility offers 30 inside-outside runs that are climate-controlled and eight luxury suites, which are 8-foot-by-10-foot rooms with a patio area. Additionally, all animals have access to play areas.

When boarded, Tenseth, who shares property with the facility, said there's always someone physically present to watch the dogs and cats. There are also surveillance cameras.

"We never leave the animals unattended," Tenseth said.

Ring Leaders Kennel offers overnight boarding to all breeds and sizes of cats and dogs. It also offers full-grooming services to dogs and can provide specialized grooming for cats on an as-needed basis, though it is not a common service offered by the kennel.



Tenseth she has been grooming and boarding animals for more than 45 years. It's a career she receives joy from and doesn't plan on changing.

Many have used Tenseth's services through a long lineage of pets.

Her longest-lasting clients have been with her for nearly 40 years — since 1975 — through the move from Fort Worth to Aledo.

"We've gone through several generations of pets and several generations of people," Tenseth said. "And we've never taken any of them for granted."

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Sports

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CROSS COUNTRY

Aledo runners back at state

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

The fall is nice in the Austin area this time of year. Just ask Aledo cross country coach Mike Pinkerton.

For the third time in four years he is accompanying his cross country runners to the Class 5A State Meet in Round Rock. The Ladycats will compete as a team Saturday at Old Settler's Park, where they will be joined by Bearcat Jack Fink.

Fink is making his second straight appearance at state as he also qualified in 2021 with the entire Bearcats team. The Aledo boys also qualified in 2019.

"They are absolutely peaking at the right time," Pinkerton said. "They are looking really good right now."

The Ladycats placed fourth at the Region I Meet on Oct. 25, led by freshman Molly Garrison's second-place individual time of 18 minutes, 30.3 seconds over the 5K course. Two other Ladycats were in the top 13 as Sofia Brandenburg was 11th in 19:22.1 and Elizabeth Griffin was 13th in 19:26.9.

Garrison's time at regionals is the 17th fastest in the state this season.

Fink, a sophomore, qualified with a 13th-place individual finish among the boys, clocking a 16:11.9. The Bearcats narrowly missed returning as a team, placing fifth at regionals.

Also running for the Ladycats are junior Sidney Tillotson, junior Aubrey Connally, freshman Sadie Williams and sophomore Emily Lewis.

"Luckily, the state course is a little easier than the course we run for regionals. It will all boil down to weather conditions," Pinkerton said.

The forecast at press time for Round Rock around race time Saturday is cloudy with temperatures around 60 degrees and a slight chance of rain (10%). However, the course could be wet from the expected overnight rain (up to 70% chance).

At state, the 5A girls will race at 10 a.m. and the boys will follow at 10:40 a.m.

Fink made news last season when he was hit by a deer — literally — while running during a practice. While he required surgery on his head to recover, he has done so and is running better than ever it seems.

"Jack is also peaking at the right time. He continues to improve each day. It is such a joy watching him work in practice," Pinkerton said.

Fink is looking to improve on his 94th-place finish at state last season when he posted a time of 17:01.2. Pinkerton said that experience can only help him this weekend.



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

The Aledo Ladycats will run as a team at the state cross country meet on Saturday morning in Round Rock.

Fink's career-best time is 15:54.5, which he posted in the Southlake Carroll Invitational this season.

"He knows the course, which will benefit him greatly. He also either knows or is aware of most of the top

runners in our division," Pinkerton said. "He knows what he has to do, and he is working very hard to get there. I know he will be ready."

"The field in both the boys and girls 5A races is stacked with talent.

It will be tough, but we are going to give it everything we've got.

"I am so proud of these athletes, and their work ethic. Can't wait for state!"

VOLLEYBALL

Ladycats dominate North Side in bi-district action

By Randy Keck
The Community News

The Aledo Ladycats took the bi-district volleyball championship in commanding fashion, defeating North Side High School 25-3, 25-13, 25-9.

Aledo came out strong early, taking the first two points before North Side got on the board. From there, Aledo ran off a string of 12 points under the serve of Lauren Mack with a combination of strong play at the net and miscues on the part of North Side.

North Side put another point on the board when Aledo had a miscommunication and the ball dropped to the floor. Up 14-2, Aledo added another three points before North Side added their third and last point of the set.

The second set was not the same picture for Aledo, as North Side came to life and took an early 9-4 lead.

"It was just a couple of unforced errors," head coach Claire Gay said after the match, "not adjusting on the front row as much as we needed them to."

After that, Aledo put together a run of six straight scores behind the service of Rylee Metts to take a 12-10 lead. Up 14-11, Aledo strung together six more points and finished the second set 25-13.

After that the Ladycats smelled blood and reeled off the first six points of the third set. Up 7-2, Alyssa Gonzales began her serve. On the first play Vivian



Read this story online

Parker sent down a kill and Gonzales served an ace to put Aledo up 9-2. The teams traded points, but Aledo was putting up two points at a time and was up 14-7 when Mack began serving and the Ladycats put together a seven-point run to go up 21-7. Another three-point run and the Ladycats were up 23-9 before closing out the set and the match, 25-9.

"We came out ready to play," Gay said of the match. "The girls were consistent; we had a long talk about

staying focused, playing ahead a couple of plays in their head, thinking about decision making, serving top, playing good defense where we can adjust quickly on our toes."

With a strong victory, Gay said the team accomplished its goals for the match.

"We definitely took over the game plan that we had in place to play this team. Everybody got it got a chance and got touches on the ball — that was important. And they got that

Turn to VOLLEYBALL, page B7



LEFT: The Ladycats celebrate their victory Tuesday after defeating Northside in three sets to win the bi-district crown. | RIGHT: Vivian Parker leaps for a kill against Northwest.

RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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FOOTBALL

Bearcats making final preparations for playoffs

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

The Aledo Bearcats were finishing the regular season at press time, hosting the Brewer Bears. The Bearcats (7-2 overall, 7-0 in District 3-5A Division I) had already secured the league championship, while the Bears (2-7, 2-5) will start focusing on next season this weekend.

So, while on paper the game may not seem like much more than a fine-tuneup for the Bearcats before moving on to bi-district next week, it was also Senior Night. Yes, the Bearcats will host a first-round playoff game next week, but this week was the final district game, the final regular-season game for the 45 seniors on the roster.

And head coach Tim Buchanan had a message for them, not just for last night but also for as far as the Bearcats advance in the postseason.

"They need to enjoy what they have left of their football season. They'll never get this back," he said. "Ninety-five percent will never put on a football uniform after this season. They put so much into it, they work so hard during the season, during the offseason.

"It's really tough on kids when they finish playing high school football. They don't have a next week, a next year. So make sure you do everything you can to make your senior year your best year."

Bidistrict foe

The Bearcats' opponent in the first round in the playoffs is still up in the air as the final week of the regular season is being played. They will face the fourth-place team from District 4-5A Division I.

But who that will be is a complete mystery entering the weekend.

Killeen Shoemaker and Lake Belton are both 5-2 and tied for

third, with Killeen Ellison a game behind at 4-3. Shoemaker travels to Granbury (2-5) while Ellison and Lake Belton will play in Belton.

Then, there's Red Oak, currently second at 7-1 (8-1 overall). The Hawks travel to district-leading Midlothian (9-0 overall, 7-0), with a Red Oak win giving them the district title and a loss creating a possible three-way tie for second.

So, the only thing the Bearcats know for sure is they won't be playing Midlothian or Red Oak, who have secured the top two seeds, (Red Oak owns a tie-breaker in a three-way tie). However, it will definitely be this weekend before Aledo can zero in on who exactly to prepare for.

"You don't worry about what you can't control," Buchanan said. "You can't control the weather, officials, and you can't control your opponent."

Whoever settles into the fourth spot has the unenviable task of trying to end the Bearcats' streak of 25 consecutive bi-district victories dating to 1996.

Open week

Buchanan said the Bearcats' open week was "Uneventful, how you want your bye week to be."

Of course, they were coming off back-to-back emotional wins, their two biggest of the season. On Nov. 14 they defeated Burleson Centennial 64-21 in Burleson, followed by a 35-21 win at Denton Ryan that clinched the district championship.

And, as the team took on Brewer in the final regular-season game, he said the focus was "Continue getting better. We're still young. We didn't grow up overnight. Getting back in the swing of things isn't always easy."

Murador's back

Clay Murador, the Bearcats' top kicker and punter last season, has



Cornerback Chris Johnson (6) dives for a Denton Ryan runner in the penultimate district game on Oct. 21.

BRELEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

returned to the team. He had not played this season because he was focusing on getting a scholarship to play soccer in college.

Buchanan said the University of Indiana made an offer to Murador and he's expected to accept it on early signing day in December.

Last season, Murador scored 75 points. He was a perfect 63-for-63 on extra points and was 4-for-5 on field goals, with a long kick of 49 yards.

He also averaged 39.7 yards per punt with a long kick of 62 yards, along with 55.6 yards per kickoff.

"I asked the captains because I didn't want it to just be my decision — but I definitely welcome him back — and everyone said certainly," Buchanan said. "He's a little rusty. He hasn't kicked since the South Oak Cliff game last year (third round of the playoffs and the Bearcats' final game).

"We're going to still utilize what Cole (Crawford) and Nathan Wood can do as well. We are very fortunate."

Crawford has scored 40 points this season on 34 PATs and two field goals. He's also averaging 53.1 yards on kickoffs. Wood is averaging 37.7 yards punting.

State rankings

The Bearcats remained No. 3 in Class 5A Division I in both the Dave Campbell's/AP state rankings and MaxPreps. Burleson Centennial is not in the top 10 for Dave Campbell's/AP and is No. 9 in MaxPreps.

Teams to watch in postseason

As the Bearcats chase their 11th state championship, the road will not be easy. Possibly waiting in the post-season in Region I are Midlothian (No. 5 in Dave Campbell's/AP and

No. 8 in MaxPreps), along with Red Oak (No. 20 in MaxPreps). Of course, there's always the possibility of a rematch with Centennial and/or Denton Ryan.

Beyond their own region but still in the Metroplex are Mansfield Timberview (No. 2 DC/AP, No. 7 in MaxPreps), Lancaster (No. 4 DC/AP, No. 2 in MaxPreps) and Frisco Reedy (No. 7 DC/AP, No. 6 MaxPreps).

The No. 1 team in the state in both polls is Longview.

District 3-5A Division I standings

Team	District	Overall
x-Aledo	7-0	7-2
y-Burl. Centennial	6-1	8-1
y-Justin Northwest	5-2	6-3
y-Denton Ryan	5-2	5-3
The Colony	4-4	4-6
Azle	3-4	3-6
FW Brewer	2-5	2-7
FW South Hills	0-7	1-8
Saginaw	0-7	0-9

Turn to FOOTBALL, page B3

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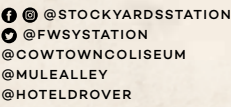
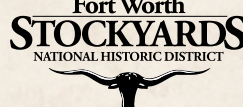

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FOOTBALL

from page B2
 Last week's results
 Centennial 28, Northwest 27
 Ryan 31, Brewer 6
 The Colony 59, Saginaw 3
 Azle 73, South Hills 6

This week's games (end of regular season)
 All at 7 p.m.
 Thursday
 Brewer at Aledo
 Friday
 Azle at Centennial
 Northwest at Ryan
 Saginaw at South Hills
 The Colony season over

Game at a glance
 Brewer Bears (2-7, 2-5 in District 3-5A Division I) at Aledo Bearcats (7-2, 7-0)

When: 7 p.m. Thursday, Bearcat Stadium
 Brewer offensive players to watch: QB Chris Wigington 453 yards, 4 TD, 2 int. Passing, 11 carries, 33 yards rushing; RB Mehki Elmore 66 carries, 645 yards, 8 TD; WR Tre King 19 catches, 180 yards, 2 TD.

Aledo offensive players to watch: QB Hauss Hejny 61-for-102, 1,242 yards, 13 TD, 3 interceptions passing, 61 carries, 643 yards, 8 TD rushing; RB Hawk Patrick-Daniels 114 carries, 842 yards, 12 TD, 4 catches, 33 yards; WR Jalen Pope 36 catches, 698 yards, 10 TD; RB Caleb Pope 47 carries, 299 yards, 9 TD, 4 catches, 59 yards.

Brewer defensive players to watch: ATH Cameron Clay 55 tackles, 2 sacks, 1 fumble recovery; DB Dakories Moment 30 tackles, 4 interceptions, 1 fumble recovery.

Aledo defensive players to watch: LB Dahvon Keys 52 tackles, 2.5 for loss, 1 interception returned 73 yards for a touchdown; LB Andrew Parkhurst 33.5 tackles, 8.5 for loss, 2.5 sacks; S Jake Gillespie 39 tackles, 2 for loss, 1 interception, 1 fumble recovery; S Boogie Owens 30 tackles, 1 for loss, 1 interception, 2 fumble recoveries; CB Chris Johnson 22 tackles, 2 for loss, 2 interceptions returned a total of 60 yards, 1 fumble recovery.

Team rushing yards per game: Aledo 262.0, Brewer 170.4.

Team passing yards per game: Aledo 188.4, Brewer 83.9.

Team rushing yards surrendered per game: Aledo 117.6, Brewer 174.7

Team passing yards surrendered per game: Aledo 160.0, Brewer 129.0.

Turnovers: Aledo 11, Brewer 7.

Takeaways: Aledo 15, Brewer 24.

All-time record: Aledo leads the series 16-2 and has won the past 14 meetings. Their last meeting was in 2017, a 59-7 Bearcats victory.

WRESTLING

Season 2 set to get underway

By Rick Mauch
 The Community News

The inaugural season of wrestling at Aledo High School was a success with six boys qualifying for the 5A Region I Meet.

Now, coach Austin Stockon and his team are ready for even more.

"Now that we have a year under our belts, and I am hopeful that this team can go out and compete week-in and week-out," Stockon said. "My hope is to get more out of our district level this year and on to regionals."

The season is going to begin in a special way. Instead of the customary indoor match, Aledo is going to open its season against Weatherford in an event called Parker County Dual under the stars at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 8, at Kangaroo Stadium.

"We're doing outside that evening so it'll be unique event. I want to get the word out to our community so we can pack the

stands and cheer our group on," Stockon said.

Varsity boys returning include seniors Zach Attaway (150-pound division), Britton Collins (190), Jason "Colonel" Douglas (157), Jacob Ellerbusch (132), Ty Hand (157), Jason Rudnick (126), Chad Thomas (120), Max Toth (165), Bryce Vonasek (190) and Bryon Moreno (285), along with sophomore Grady Saunders (126).

Thomas placed third in district last season and qualified for regionals, while Hand was a regional alternate after placing fifth in district.

Three sophomores return for the Ladycats, Caroline Gartner (138), Avery Kernan (107) and Kyra Wright (114). Kernan and Wright were each sixth in district.

"Brice Bohn comes in to our 106-pound spot, filling a weight we did not have last year," Stockon said. "He also comes with some wrestling experience, so I am looking for him to make



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

TOP Jacob Ellerbusch will wrestle this season in the 132 class. | BOTTOM: Jackson Rudnick returns to the Bearcats in the 126 class.



an immediate impact on our team."

The Bearcats/Ladycats will return to Weatherford — this time to the high school — on Nov. 18 for the Outback Invitational. Their first varsity home meet will be a tri-meet against Benbrook

and Carter Riverside on Dec. 14, though the junior varsity will host a meet on Dec. 5.

They will also compete in tournaments at Midlothian Heritage (Nov. 12), Colleyville Heritage (Dec. 2-3), Burleson Centennial (Dec. 10), Azle (Jan. 7) and Arlington Bowie (Jan. 20-21). The District 4-5A Tournament is in Azle Feb. 2-3, where the top four in each weight class will advance to regionals Feb. 10-11.

"We have a tough district that reaches all the way out to Lubbock. Azle is returning to a great group and is bringing back most of their girls who made a run at state last year," Stockon said. "My hope is that we go into districts healthy this year and can make a better run at getting more kids onto the regional stage.

"I'm excited to watch this team compete. Last year it was completely new for everyone."

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LADYCAT OF THE WEEK



Sarah Michaelis - golf
She led the Ladycats Orange team to first place in the Battle at the Creek at Squaw Creek. She shot a career-low 78 to take first place among individuals as well.

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BEARCAT OF THE WEEK



Skyler Frank - football

Frank was a hero when he secured the District 4-5A Division I championship for the Bearcats by pouncing on a muffed kickoff return by Denton Ryan late in the contest. It sealed a 35-21 Aledo victory on the road, giving the Bearcats a 15th consecutive district championship dating to the 2008 season.

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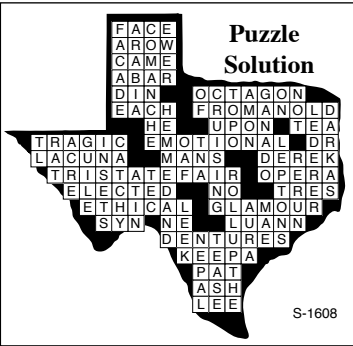
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PUBLIC HEARING to Consider Special Use Permit regarding request to add Boat Dealership/Sales/Service as an allowable use for Lot 3, Block 1 in the Porter Addition, currently zoned as Commercial/I-20 Overlay District in the City of Willow Park, Parker County, Texas.

City Council: Tuesday, November 15, 2022
 Time: 6:00 PM
 Location: Willow Park City Hall
 516 Ranch House Rd
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Any member of the public has the right to appear at the Public Hearing. Please contact the Development Department at 817-441-7108 or tfisher@willowpark.org with any questions.

The above notice was/will be posted on the bulletin board at the Municipal Complex at the City of Willow Park City Hall, Willow Park, Texas on/before November 4, 2022 by 5:00 p.m.

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 2022 DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS – PHASE I**

Separate sealed bids for the construction of 2022 Drainage Improvements – Phase I will be received by the City of Willow Park, Texas, until 3:00 PM on Wednesday, November 30, 2022, at City Hall, 516 Ranch House Road, Willow Park, Texas 76087, and then at said location publicly opened and read aloud. This project consists of a 4' x 8' box culvert and associated endwalls under Pleasant Ridge Road, regrading of an earthen channel off Sam Bass Road, and channel improvements including a three barrel 3' x 5' box culvert, concrete channel lining and grading.

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Copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS must be ordered online at www.jacobmartin.com. Orders for CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may include hard copies for pick up, mail out or digital download via www.jacobmartin.com. Upon verification of online payment, hard copies may be picked up at Jacob & Martin, LLC, located at 1508 Santa Fe Drive, Suite 203, Weatherford, TX 76086. Cost for hard copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS will be \$100.00 for 11x17 half size plans. Cost for digital download of CONTRACT DOCUMENTS will be \$0.00. Contractors must purchase a set of CONTRACT DOCUMENTS to be considered a registered plan holder eligible to bid the project.

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City of Willow Park Doyle Moss, Mayor October 28, 2022

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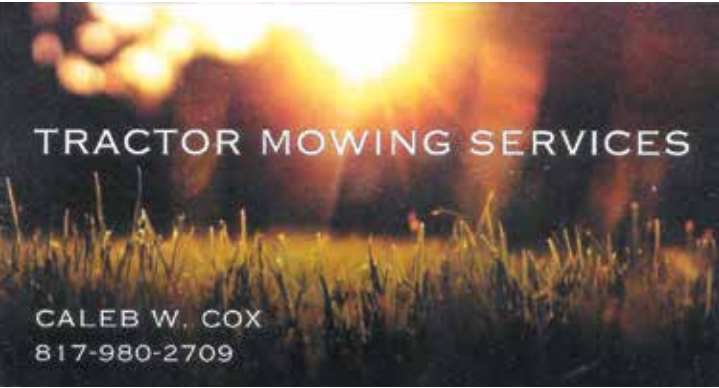


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VOLLEYBALL

from page B1

experience in a playoff setting. And we won one.”

Aledo advances to the Area match and will face the winner of the Midlothian vs Argyle match being played a bit later than the Aledo-North Side match.

Kills: Maddie Frank- 12, Vivian Parker- 12, Alyssa Gonzales- 9

Aces: Lauryn Mack- 4, Alyssa Gonzales- 2, Ava Redding- 2

Assists: Rylee Metts- 27, Ava Redding- 5, Catie Messer- 3

Digs: Alyssa Gonzales- 11, Lauryn Mack- 11, Vivian Parker- 10, Rylee Metts- 10

Blocks: Maddie Frank- 3, Haley Lowe- 2, Alyssa Gonzales- 2



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

TOP LEFT: Charlee Mae Stockon was the youngest fan at the Aledo volleyball game on Tuesday. She came decked out to support the Ladycats. | **TOP RIGHT:** Lauryn Mack elevates to serve against Northside. | **BELOW:** Mia Little gets a dig against Northside in action Tuesday night at Castleberry High School.





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BASEBALL, GOLF

Coaches like pending UIL changes in their sports

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

The University Interscholastic League recently approved moving forward with a couple of proposals that have Aledo baseball coach Chad Barry and golf coach Brian Mourning happy.

The approved changes, pending final approval by the UIL, are for baseball teams in Classes 5A and 6A to play a best-of-three series in all playoff rounds before the state tournament. Currently, if coaches cannot agree on a playoff format, it is determined by a coin flip.

In golf, assistant coaches could now be allowed to also coach players during a competitive round, whereas currently only the head coach can work with them from tee to green, and not once they are on the green. That rule has not changed.

"I think it is a good thing for baseball, especially at the larger classifications. I think it allows the best overall team to advance," Barry said of best-of-three series, which he added has always been his personal choice. "I do prefer a best-of-three series and always have. I think it's what is best. I feel like if my team can't beat the other team twice, then we don't deserve to advance."

"It keeps people who have one dominating pitcher from being able to coin flip their way through the playoffs. I think a series is the best way to showcase who the best overall team is."

Barry would like to see another change, which would take this one even further.

"If we can keep this type of format for the playoffs, then maybe down the road we can turn the state tournament into a championship series later on," he said. "Not sure how the format would look. I think maybe you send two teams instead of four. Basically, taking the state-semifinal rounds out of the state tournament and having Regions 1 and 2 play for a trip to state, and Regions 3 and 4 meet for a trip to state. Then you have a championship series in Round Rock."

Barry has led two Aledo teams to state, winning in 2014 and reaching the semifinals in 2015.

Mourning said having an assistant coach will help alleviate the pressure on a head coach trying to help all players.

"They're kids, they're going to make mistakes, and having the additional set of eyes to help eliminate those mistakes is good," Mourning said. "I've heard coaches across the state

say all the time, 'I'm one coach, one set of eyes.'

Mourning said the rule change will be especially helpful if there are more than one team entered in a tournament, a common thing for the Aledo program.

"With us having an Orange and Black team, I have to decide which to coach. Having an extra coach out there, it's going to be great," he said. "We had our district preview and I had 20 kids on the course. It was hard."

"It's an emotional game. If a kid gets upset, if I'm three holes over I can't get there quickly to calm him down. But having an assistant to be able to help, he can walk them off of that emotional rollercoaster."

Mourning also believes it will help control spectator interference, which is not a problem with Aledo fans, but is possible for his players or any others to experience at any tournament.

"Our fans are good, but sometimes there are parents who try to coach their kids. Some of them just don't know better, but it can be a distraction."

"I like this change. I think it's coming with the growth of the sport. When you have growth, you have to grow with it."

GOLF

Ladycats win Battle at the Creek

From Staff Reports
The Community News

The Aledo Ladycats Varsity Orange golf team won the Battle at the Creek at Squaw Creek Golf Course. Though it was played on one of the Ladycats' home courses, the tournament was hosted by Denton High School.

The Ladycats had a team score of 351 to easily outdistance runner-up Northwest Eaton with a 414.

Sarah Michaelis played her personal best, posting a 78 and taking home individual tournament champion honors. Reagan Gilliland shot 86 for third place individually, Kennedy Parker had a 91 for fourth and Karlee Shaw shot 96 for fifth. Abby Gray came in with a 115.

The four lowest scores comprised each team's total score.

The Ladycats Varsity Black is competing in the State Preview at White Wing Golf Club in Georgetown Friday and Saturday before wrapping up the fall in the Lady Tiger Invitational in Texarkana Nov. 11-12. The Ladycats Varsity Orange was wrapping up their fall schedule in the Burleson Centennial Tournament at Southern Oaks in Burleson at press time.

The Bearcats Varsity Black and Orange are concluding fall play Friday and Saturday at the Pioneer Invitational hosted by Keller Fossil Creek at Iron Horse Golf Club in North Richland Hills.



Read this story online



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

The Aledo JV boys and girls golf teams won first place at the Burleson Centennial Tournament. Pictured are (girls, from left) Harper Price, Catherine Haney, Chandler Edwards, Taylor Thurman, Aubrey Morin, (boys, from left) Noah Graham, Cade Moore, Johnnie Reed and Maddox Jessup.

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