

# THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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ALEDO

## Garage burglar receives 30-year sentence

Thefts occurred in unlocked cars in open garages

**Parker County District Attorney's Office**  
Special to The Community News

A 41-year-old Fort Worth man pleaded guilty to burglarizing three Aledo homes and was sentenced to 30 years in prison in court in Weatherford last week.

In August of 2021, Leonard Demond Green entered the open garage door of each of the three homes, entered an unlocked vehicle parked in the garage, and stole a purse from each.

"The case was solved when the Parker County Sheriff's Office posted a picture of Mr. Green and a woman using credit cards taken from the stolen purses," District Attorney Jeff Swain said. "The following day, they received tips from both the Fort Worth and Benbrook Police Departments identifying the suspects. Information sharing is so critical in modern law enforcement and it really paid off in this case."

Under Texas law, an attached garage is considered part of the home to which it is attached and unauthorized entry into that area of a home to steal is considered burglary of a habitation, a second degree felony, Swain said. Were the garage detached from the home, it would instead be burglary of a building, a state jail felony, which is a lower level offense.

"Mr. Green had multiple prior burglary of a habitation convictions, but the biggest sentence he ever received was 15 years," Swain said. "We wanted to make sure he understood that this was not something we would tolerate in Parker County."

The woman caught on camera using the credit cards with Green pleaded guilty to three fraudulent use or possession of identifying information charges last October and was sentenced to 15 months in a state jail facility.

"We would encourage everyone to close their garage doors and lock their cars, even if they are only going to be inside their home for a few minutes," Swain said. "Most of the vehicle burglaries we see these days are done by opportunistic thieves who will move on if the car is locked."

The case was handled in the 43rd District Court, Judge Craig Towson presiding.



PARKER COUNTY

## Second Chances

Pretrial Diversion programs provide some offenders a chance to start over

*"Sometimes life gives you a second chance because just maybe the first time you weren't ready."*

- Unknown Author - from S.K. Lessly Quotes and others.

**By Richard Henderson**  
Contributing Writer

Parker County District Attorney Jeff Swain has instituted a first offender policy, called Pre-trial Diversion, during his first three years of office. Swain was elected in 2020.

The policy began in May 2021. There are three programs:

- Young Offender Pretrial Diversion Program
- First Offender Pretrial Diversion Program
- Veteran's Pretrial Diversion Program

These are the first programs of their kind for the Parker County District Attorney's Office. There are some similar programs for misdemeanors administered by County Attorney John Forrest. A felony charge is much more serious than a misdemeanor.

A felony criminal charge can have permanent life-changing results. There can be a loss of civil rights to vote, hold office, and admission to certain licensed professions. These include law school, law enforcement, teaching, and medical school to name a few.



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Parker County District Attorney Jeff Swain (right) converses with Community Supervision Officer Chad Hetrick at the Community Supervision and Corrections Department. Hetrick carries a pretrial diversion caseload.

"The program is designed to help high school and college kids to have a charge expunged so that the charge does not permanently affect their lives," Swain said.

Expunction of certain offenses means the record of

the arrest and charge is permanently removed from public and law enforcement computers. It includes erasing the records from judicial records, including the clerk's office. It is as if it never happened.

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ALEDO

## Ordinance streamlining project updates revealed

Designed to relieve number of inquiries

**By Ryan Wade**  
The Community News

Earlier this year the City of Aledo embarked on a plan to streamline city ordinances and processes online to relieve the number of inquiries received by the city and to keep city staff from having to make so many administrative decisions related to permits, waivers, and the like. The City contracted Place Strategies to aid in this endeavor.

During the city council meeting on Thursday, Sept. 7, Ivan Gonzalez and Brad Lonberger stood before the council to provide an update on where the project stands at this point.

Gonzalez and Lonberger have worked thus far on codifying all the various ordinances actively on the books for the City of Aledo. Gonzalez stated during the meeting the goal is to simplify language and make the terminology consistent, so that when entrepreneurs, business owners, or developers search the website, they are easily able to understand exactly what steps and documents they need in order to comply with the city codes for doing business in Aledo.

"I want the City of Aledo to be open for business, but I also want developers to be held to a high standard that yields quality development that reflects the desires of our community," Mayor Nick Stanley said in an official statement issued by his office. "Those expectations need to be clearly communicated and understood by developers so they can be successful."

"Growth is inevitable and there is nothing we can do to stop it. But one thing we do have control over are the policies that set the guidelines and the standards for how we will develop. We have one chance to get this right. Otherwise, this town, our residents, and our school district could be negatively impacted, and we simply cannot and will not allow that to happen."

Creating a user-friendly online interface will free up city employees to focus more on the tasks related to their specific roles even as the city continues to grow. One of the ways Place Strategies plans to do this is by including charts and diagrams to walk people step-by-step through processes, such as obtaining waivers or licenses, necessary for building projects within city limits.

Gonzalez advised the council his team is just a few weeks away from being ready to publish the first draft of the site for all the department heads of the city to review for accuracy. At that time, he plans to meet with department heads to ensure information is correct, as well as inquire about any critiques they may have to offer before seeking approval to publish the site for use.

Turn to **ALEDO**, page A2

## A new sign for home



PHOTO BY ROBBY JONES

When the Aledo Bearcats play their next home game, homecoming against Saginaw on Sept. 22, fans entering the stadium on the east side will walk under this sign signifying the new name of the stadium.

## Hi, We're Your Mortgage Team.

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WILLOW PARK

# Council approves new wastewater rates

## Noise ordinance revamped, juvenile curfew lifted

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

Following a recommendation from last month, the Willow Park City Council approved a new wastewater rate increase proposed by NewGen. The rate will immediately increase from \$20 to \$24.80 for residential and from \$20 to \$31.74 for commercial monthly service.

This is the city's first rate increase since 2017.

At the Aug. 22 meeting, NewGen Chief Financial Officer Chris Ekrut gave a presentation to the council. He said that due to rising costs and construction of a much-needed wastewater plant, a three-year model - which was the one approved Tuesday - is needed to make the water and wastewater funds financially healthy. Assistant City Manager Bill Funderburk noted at that meeting that the city has been transferring money from the water account to the wastewater account to offset a deficit.

"This is what we need to do to make it whole," Funderburk told the council at Tuesday's meeting.

Other changes include requiring a \$50 deposit on garbage only accounts and an after-hours fee for non-emergencies and standbys. A separate category of residential rental was also created with a deposit amount of \$200.

City officials note that the current deposit of \$100 does not usually cover the bills left behind by renters. They said the increase, while it may not cover the entire bill, will reduce the amount lost when renters move out unexpectedly.

### Noise ordinance revamped

Citing the previous noise ordinance as being confusing and difficult to enforce, the Willow Park City Council approved a revamped ordinance that is more clearly defined and easier to understand at its meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 12.

The previous ordinance had several sections that contradicted other sections, numerous terms that were

easily misinterpreted and led to creating violations, and failed to make clear who was responsible for the violation, noted Willow Park Police Chief Daniel Franklin.

The new ordinance not only clears up these discrepancies, but is also more easily enforced, city officials state. It clearly defines what constitutes a violation and lists who is responsible for the violation.

"This ordinance simplifies it. The violations haven't changed, this just makes it so we can enforce it," Franklin said. "This ordinance makes it a lot more simple."

The new ordinance also provides for the authorization of temporary noise permits. It also has a penalty not to exceed \$500 for violations.

For example, when an establishment such as the Parker County Ice House is hosting a musical concert, they can get a temporary permit that would allow for a slight deviation in noise level as long as reasonable measures are taken. Up to six temporary permits are allowed per year.

Also, much like a traffic ticket, if another violation occurs before the first citation is settled, it will be considered a separate violation with a separate penalty.

City officials said complete details of the city's new noise ordinance will be on the city website in the near future at [www.willowparktx.gov](http://www.willowparktx.gov).

### Juvenile curfew lifted

Following a new law from the state, the city council rescinded its juvenile curfew ordinance at Tuesday's meeting. The ordinance had been in place for the past couple of years.

The Texas 88th Legislature in its recent session passed House Bill 1819 that prohibits a political subdivision from adopting or enforcing an ordinance that imposes a curfew to regulate the movements or actions of person younger than 18 years of age.

"Because they passed this house bill our curfew is no longer valid," Franklin said. "I wouldn't say we used it a lot, but we had curfew violations we had to enforce at 1 or 2 o'clock in the morning."



### Red River rezoning

The council approved a zoning change to planned development for the proposed Red River Development's single-family dwelling subdivision of Country Hollow. The slightly more than 19 acres of individual lots was annexed by petition in November of 2021 and the council approved the planned development district in April of 2022.

Rob McClain, Director of Development for HistoryMaker Homes, said the company hopes to start development as soon as December.

"I expect within eight months we'll be sold out," he said. "We like the suburbs of Fort Worth. You guys are a perfect fit for where we are."

The applicant requested a change to the PD zoning to accommodate the existing architectural plans of the new home builder who has issued a letter of intent to purchase and develop the subdivision.

### Road repair renewal

The council agreed to renew the city's agreement with Parker County for road repair assistance in Willow Park. The annual agreement was approved by Parker County officials at an Aug. 28 meeting.

The county will deliver all materials with the city paying vendors directly for those materials. Also, the city will reimburse the county for all labor and equipment.

The first order of duty under the renewed agreement will be work on Emsley Road at a cost to the city of \$227,349.

### Dispatch contract renewed

In another agreement with the county, the council voted to renew the city's contract for the inter-local cooperation agreement for law enforcement dispatch services to Willow Park, effective Oct. 1. However, the cost for this service will increase from \$77,048 to \$91,967.

"This will allow us to continue to use the sheriff's office for our dispatch services," Franklin told the council.



Aledo Mayor Pro Tem, Nelson Rowls listens in during the recent Aledo City Council meeting on Thursday, Sept. 7.

RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

## ALEDO

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### Storm shelter requirement

During the Aug. 24 meeting, Aledo ISD requested an amendment be made to the 2015 International Building Code. Specifically, due to the renovations being made to the high school campus as part of the 2023 bond package, the district would require a storm shelter to be constructed in the indoor practice facility building in order to be in compliance.

However, since the renovations were not adding additional headcount to the high school, the city worked with the district to reach a compromise that will still meet safety requirements for all students and faculty at the high school, while also saving the district a significant amount of money by not having to construct a separate storm shelter.

The amended portion of the 2015 IBC now states additions to existing buildings with a maximum occupancy of no more than 250 people are permitted to use a hardened space alternative for a shelter. The hardened space is defined as 12-inch-thick concrete masonry walls, which must be fully grouted.

The structure must contain a concrete lid roof, or metal roof deck with lightweight composite topping. It must be centrally located in the building, containing minimal windows or doors. And it must accommodate the additional occupancy load of 250 people.

After Aledo ISD requested the amendment during the previous city council meeting in August, the council was not prepared to make a ruling on the amendment at that time. Opting instead to table the discussion to a later date, the two entities worked together to reach a proposal that accomplished the goal of keeping students and faculty safe in the event of a significant weather event, while also helping the district adhere to its financial obligations.

"What we did in the interim is we just made sure that we had clear communication about the process of getting to where we are right now, and then of course what the plans would be for student safety," Aledo ISD Superintendent Dr. Susan Bohn said after the meeting. "That's helped us come to a situation that helps us both feel good about moving forward - giving kids the spaces they need, but then also making sure they're going to be safe in those spaces."



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For more information contact the Parish Office at 817-441-3500

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[www.thewillowparkchurchofchrist.com](http://www.thewillowparkchurchofchrist.com)

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**EXPLANATORY STATEMENTS FOR THE NOVEMBER 7, 2023 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ELECTION****Proposition Number 1  
(HJR 126)**

**HJR 126** proposes a constitutional amendment to protect a person's right to engage in generally accepted farm, ranch, timber production, horticulture, or wildlife management practices on real property that the person owns or leases. The proposed amendment would not affect the authority of the legislature to authorize the regulation of these practices by: (1) a state agency or political subdivision as necessary to protect the public health and safety from imminent danger; (2) a state agency to prevent a danger to animal health or crop production; or (3) a state agency or political subdivision to preserve or conserve the natural resources of the state under the Texas Constitution. Additionally, the proposed amendment would not affect the legislature's authority to authorize the use or acquisition of property for a public use, including the development of natural resources under the Texas Constitution.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment protecting the right to engage in farming, ranching, timber production, horticulture, and wildlife management."**

**Proposition Number 2  
(SJR 64)**

**SJR 64** proposes a constitutional amendment to allow the governing body of a county or municipality to exempt from property taxation all or part of the appraised value of real property used to operate a child-care facility. The proposed amendment would authorize the governing body to adopt the exemption as a percentage of the appraised value of the property, but that percentage could not be less than 50% of the appraised value of the property. The proposed amendment also would allow the legislature to define the term "child-care facility" and to establish additional eligibility requirements to receive the property tax exemption.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment authorizing a local option exemption from ad valorem taxation by a county or municipality of all or part of the appraised value of real property used to operate a child-care facility."**

**Proposition Number 3  
(HJR 132)**

**HJR 132** proposes a constitutional amendment to prohibit the legislature from imposing a tax based on the wealth or net worth of an individual or family. The proposed amendment also would prohibit the legislature from imposing a tax based on the difference between the assets and liabilities of an individual or family.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment prohibiting the imposition of an individual wealth or net worth tax, including a tax on the difference between the assets and liabilities of an individual or family."**

**Proposition Number 4  
(HJR 2- Second Special Session)**

**HJR 2** proposes a constitutional amendment to modify certain provisions of the Texas Constitution related to property taxes. The proposed amendment would authorize the legislature to temporarily limit the maximum appraised value of real property for property tax purposes in a tax year. The proposed amendment also would increase the mandatory homestead exemption for school district property taxation from \$40,000 to \$100,000. The proposed amendment would require the legislature to provide for a reduction in the amount of the limitation on school district property taxes imposed on the residence homestead of the elderly or disabled. Additionally, the amendment would exempt appropriations not dedicated by the Texas Constitution and used for property tax relief from being considered as appropriations when determining whether the rate of growth of appropriations in a biennium has exceeded the constitutional tax spending limit. The proposed amendment would further authorize the legislature to provide that members serving on an appraisal board in a county with a population of at least 75,000 serve terms not to exceed four years.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to establish a temporary limit on the maximum appraised value of real property other than a residence homestead for ad valorem tax**

**purposes; to increase the amount of the exemption from ad valorem taxation by a school district applicable to residence homesteads from \$40,000 to \$100,000; to adjust the amount of the limitation on school district ad valorem taxes imposed on the residence homesteads of the elderly or disabled to reflect increases in certain exemption amounts; to except certain appropriations to pay for ad valorem tax relief from the constitutional limitation on the rate of growth of appropriations; and to authorize the legislature to provide for a four-year term of office for a member of the board of directors of certain appraisal districts."**

**Proposition Number 5  
(HJR 3)**

**HJR 3** proposes a constitutional amendment to redesignate the national research university fund as the Texas University Fund (TUF), and to appropriate funds from the economic stabilization fund to the TUF. The proposed amendment would appropriate to the TUF an amount equal to the interest income, dividends, and investment earnings attributable to the economic stabilization fund for the preceding state fiscal year. The appropriation amount could not exceed \$100 million for the state fiscal year beginning September 1, 2023, or an amount adjusted for the increase in the general price index, not to exceed two percent, in subsequent state fiscal years. The proposed amendment also would prohibit any state university that is entitled to participate in dedicated funding provided by Article VII, Section 18 of the Texas Constitution from receiving money from the TUF.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment relating to the Texas University Fund, which provides funding to certain institutions of higher education to achieve national prominence as major research universities and drive the state economy."**

**Proposition Number 6  
(SJR 75)**

**SJR 75** proposes a constitutional amendment to create the Texas water fund. The Texas water fund would be a special fund in the state treasury outside the general revenue fund, administered by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) or its successor to assist in financing water projects in the state. The proposed amendment would direct the Texas water fund administrator to use the fund only to transfer money to other TWDB funds or accounts. The proposed amendment would authorize the legislature to appropriate money for deposit to the water fund to be available for permitted transfers. No further legislative appropriation would be required for the water fund administrator to transfer money from or restore money to the fund, including the transfer of money to or the restoration of money from certain designated TWDB funds and accounts. The water fund would consist of: (1) money transferred or deposited to the fund by general law; (2) other revenue that the legislature by statute dedicates for deposit to the fund; (3) investment earnings and interest earned on amounts credited to the fund; (4) money from gifts, grants, and donations to the fund; and (5) money returned from any authorized transfer. The proposed amendment would require the legislature, by general law, to provide for the manner in which money from the Texas water fund may be used. The proposed amendment also would require that at least 25% of the money initially appropriated to the Texas water fund be transferred to the New Water Supply for Texas Fund.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment creating the Texas water fund to assist in financing water projects in this state."**

**Proposition Number 7  
(SJR 93)**

**SJR 93** proposes a constitutional amendment to establish the Texas energy fund. The Texas energy fund would be a special fund in the state treasury outside the general revenue fund, administered by the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) or its successor. Money in the Texas energy fund could be used, without further appropriation, only by PUC or its successor to provide loans and grants to finance or incentivize the construction, maintenance, modernization, and operation of electric generating facilities necessary to ensure the reliability or adequacy of an electric power grid in the state. The proposed amendment would require PUC to allocate

money from the fund for loans and grants to eligible projects for electric generating facilities that serve as backup power sources and in each region of the state that is part of an electric power grid in proportion to that region's load share. The Texas energy fund would consist of: (1) money credited, appropriated, or transferred to the fund by or as authorized by the legislature; (2) revenue that the legislature dedicates for deposit to the fund; (3) the returns received from the investment of the money in the fund; and (4) gifts, grants, and donations contributed to the fund.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the Texas energy fund to support the construction, maintenance, modernization, and operation of electric generating facilities."**

**Proposition Number 8  
(HJR 125)**

**HJR 125** proposes a constitutional amendment to create the broadband infrastructure fund. The broadband infrastructure fund would be a special fund in the state treasury outside the general revenue fund, administered by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts (Comptroller). Money from the fund could be used, without further appropriation, only for the expansion of access to and adoption of broadband and telecommunications services. The broadband infrastructure fund would consist of: (1) money transferred or deposited to the fund by the Texas Constitution, general law, or the General Appropriations Act; (2) revenue that the legislature by general law dedicates for deposit to the fund; (3) investment earnings and interest earned on money in the fund; and (4) gifts, grants, and donations to the fund. The proposed amendment would authorize the Comptroller to transfer money from the broadband infrastructure fund to another fund as provided by general law, and the state agency that administers the fund to which any money is transferred could use the money without further appropriation only for the expansion of access to and adoption of broadband and telecommunications services. The broadband infrastructure fund would expire on September 1, 2035, unless extended by adoption of a joint resolution of the legislature. Immediately before the expiration of the fund, the Comptroller would be required to transfer any unexpended and unobligated balance remaining in the broadband infrastructure fund to the general revenue fund.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment creating the broadband infrastructure fund to expand high-speed broadband access and assist in the financing of connectivity projects."**

**Proposition Number 9  
(HJR 2)**

**HJR 2** proposes a constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to provide a cost-of-living adjustment to eligible annuitants of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS). The proposed amendment also would authorize the legislature to appropriate money from the general revenue fund to the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts to pay the cost-of-living adjustment.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment authorizing the 88th Legislature to provide a cost-of-living adjustment to certain annuitants of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas."**

**Proposition Number 10  
(SJR 87)**

**SJR 87** proposes a constitutional amendment to allow the legislature to exempt from property taxation tangible personal property held by a medical or biomedical manufacturer as a finished good or used in the manufacturing or processing of medical or biomedical products.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation equipment or inventory held by a manufacturer of medical or biomedical products to protect the Texas healthcare network and strengthen our medical supply chain."**

**Proposition Number 11  
(SJR 32)**

**SJR 32** proposes a constitutional amendment

to expand the authority of the legislature with regard to conservation and reclamation districts in El Paso County. The Texas Constitution permits conservation and reclamation districts in certain counties across the state to issue bonds to fund the development and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities but does not currently provide this authority to El Paso County. The proposed amendment would add conservation and reclamation districts in El Paso County to those districts currently allowed, if authorized by general law, to issue bonds supported by property taxes to fund the development and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities. The proposed amendment would not limit the powers of the legislature or of a conservation and reclamation district with respect to parks and recreational facilities as those powers currently exist.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to permit conservation and reclamation districts in El Paso County to issue bonds supported by ad valorem taxes to fund the development and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities."**

**Proposition Number 12  
(HJR 134)**

**HJR 134** proposes a constitutional amendment to abolish the office of County Treasurer in Galveston County. The amendment would authorize the Galveston County Commissioners Court to employ or contract with a qualified person or designate another county officer to perform any functions that would have been performed by the County Treasurer. The proposed amendment would take effect only if a majority of the voters of Galveston County voting on the proposition favor the amendment.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment providing for the abolition of the office of county treasurer in Galveston County."**

**Proposition Number 13  
(HJR 107)**

**HJR 107** proposes a constitutional amendment to increase the mandatory retirement age for state justices and judges. Currently, the Texas Constitution establishes that justices and judges of the appellate courts, district courts, and criminal district courts must retire on the expiration of the term during which they reach the age of 75 years or an earlier age, not less than 70 years, as the legislature may prescribe. The proposed amendment would change the mandatory retirement age for justices and judges of the appellate courts, district courts, and criminal district courts to 79 years or an earlier age, not less than 75 years, as the legislature may prescribe. The proposed amendment also would remove the provision stating that justices and judges may only serve until December 31 of their fourth year in office if they reach the age of 75 years in the first four years of a six-year term.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment to increase the mandatory age of retirement for state justices and judges."**

**Proposition Number 14  
(SJR 74)**

**SJR 74** proposes a constitutional amendment to establish the centennial parks conservation fund as a trust fund outside the state treasury. The fund could be used, in accordance with general law, only for the creation and improvement of state parks. The centennial parks conservation fund would consist of: (1) money appropriated, credited, or transferred to the fund by the legislature; (2) gifts, grants, and donations received by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) or its successor for a purpose for which money in the fund may be used; and (3) investment earnings and interest earned on amounts credited to the fund. The proposed amendment would authorize the legislature to appropriate money from the centennial parks conservation fund to TPWD or its successor for the creation and improvement of state parks.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the centennial parks conservation fund to be used for the creation and improvement of state parks."**

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Photos submitted should include names of the people in the photograph.

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.

## Capital Highlights

# Paxton trial completes first week



**Gary Borders**  
gborders@texaspress.com

The first week of suspended Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton's impeachment trial in the Senate ended with his former lead law enforcement officer testifying an Austin developer alleged to have bribed Paxton constructed a "conspiracy theory" that federal officials altered a search warrant for his property, the *Austin American-Statesman* reported.

David Maxwell, the former AG official, said real estate developer Nate Paul pushed Paxton to investigate federal law enforcement agencies probing his business. Paul has since been indicted for inflating his assets on loan applications. Paxton aides looked into Paul's allegations at Paxton's request but concluded they were meritless.

"My feeling was Nate Paul was a criminal and we should not be associating with Nate Paul," Maxwell testified.

Maxwell was ultimately fired by Paxton for insubordination after he resisted investigating Paul's allegations.

Paxton blames the impeachment on his political opponents. He appeared on the first day of the trial but has not been in the Senate chamber since then.

### Appeals court: Buoys can stay for now

A federal appeals court last week stayed a federal district

barrier installed by the state in the Rio Grande to stem illegal entry by migrants violated federal law and treaties.

A three-judge panel of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals temporarily halted U.S. District Judge David Ezra's order that the 1,000-foot barrier near Eagle Pass be removed by Sept. 15, pending an as-yet unscheduled hearing.

The U.S. Department of Justice filed the lawsuit, saying the buoys violated an 1899 federal law that forbids unauthorized construction in navigable waterways, *The Dallas Morning News* reported. Gov. Greg Abbott argued the river is too shallow to be navigable and that an "invasion" of migrants and drug smugglers made it necessary for the state to defend itself.

"Texas has clear constitutional authority to defend its territory against the invasion that Governor Abbott has declared," the state told the lower court last week. Ezra rejected that argument, saying by that reasoning the state could declare an invasion and wage war at will.

Mexican authorities have lodged formal diplomatic complaints, and critics of the buoys in the United States called them inhumane.

### ERCOT calls for power conservation; break in heat predicted

For the first time this summer, the Electric Reliability Council of Texas last week declared an emergency, introducing the possibility of rolling blackouts to stabilize the state's power grid.

A sudden drop in power reserves last Wednesday night

power than expected, prompting the first emergency alert since Winter Storm Uri in February 2021, according to kut.org.

The emergency lasted about two hours, though the next day, for the 11th time, ERCOT asked Texans to conserve power as continued extreme heat pushed electric usage close to its capacity.

Texans have experienced the second-hottest summer on record, the *Texas Tribune* reported, with an average temperature of 85.3 degrees between June and the end of August. That average is just behind the record set in 2011, when blistering heat and dry conditions pushed the average temperature to 86.8 degrees, and wildfires swept the state.

The good news is that the heat wave is expected to finally break this week, with rain expected and temperatures dropping down well below the triple digits that much of the state has weathered since June.

### Crypto miner gets \$31 million to cut energy use

The cryptocurrency mining company Riot, located in what was once an Alcoa power plant in Rockdale, was paid \$31 million in August to cut its energy use, according to the *Houston Chronicle*.

Cryptocurrency mining requires vast amounts of electricity to power computers, and the facility in Rockdale is North America's largest bitcoin mine.

"August was a landmark month for Riot in showcasing the benefits of our unique power

said in a news release last week.

Les said the company raked in \$31.7 million in energy credits from ERCOT by cutting its power use by more than 95 percent during periods of peak demand. The state offers payouts to bitcoin mining companies during periods of peak demand but also expects them to use more power when supply exceeds demand.

### Texas prisons on complete lockdown

An increase in drug-related violence at state prisons prompted the Texas Department of Criminal Justice to issue a statewide lockdown of all 100 prison facilities, the *Texas Tribune* reported. No visitors will be allowed until a system-wide search for illegal drugs and other contraband is completed.

"The safety of inmates, staff, and the public is our highest priority," said Cris Love, TDCJ's inspector general. "Illegal drugs within our facilities will not be tolerated. Individuals found smuggling contraband will be arrested and subject to prosecution."

A spokesperson for the agency said there has been a rise in prison violence, including 16 homicides thus far this year — more than double all last year.

Agency officials did not provide an estimate for how long the lockdown would last.

*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, Lufkin and Cedar Park. Email: gborders@texaspress.com*



## Idle American

# When 'Tangles' Get 'Toungled'...



**Dr. Don Newbury**  
newbury@speakerdoc.com

We've always heard about how tiny errors can foster various responses, ranging from serious misunderstanding to thigh-slapping laughter.

Hitting the keyboard's "I" instead of the intended "o" caused chuckles recently. Reading an advertisement for funeral home employment, a radio announcer listed requisites for the job.

"Must be able to ease the grieving process for live ones," he said, quickly changing to, "I meant, loved ones."

Many Texans could complete college degrees in the time it takes to be served at Texas Drivers' License offices.

Even simplest requests require appointments to be made months in advance. The system is broken, and all I have heard suggests that a "fix" is nowhere in sight. Now, the "blame spotlight" is cast on computers.

A while back, I learned that I'd need to make an appointment some three months ahead in order to make a simple change on my driver's license.

To the computer I went, perusing communities that have DPS offices, even if for only a few hours each month.

With a trip to Lubbock upcoming, I checked on Floydada, a small town en route, learning that a DPS representative would be there on the day

of my trip. Upon arrival, I was "next up" at the DPS office.

Within 10 minutes, the task was accomplished; my new driver's license came in the mail about 10 days later.

How many among us have chipped nails, broken pencil leads or worn ends of index fingers plumb off listening to recorded messages, urging us to stay on the phone?

"Your call is very important to us. However, due to heavy call volume, you may experience a delay." We often hear such multiple times.

Just once, I'd like to hear another message, like, "Due to reduced call volume, most of our agents aren't busy helping other customers. You will be served immediately."

It's fun to hear unusual names, particularly in the world of sports.

How about Jonah Bride, who plays professional baseball for the Oakland Athletics?

His name has intrigued sportswriters, one of whom suggested, "...Never a bridesmaid but always a Bride."

I've never been certain about how to differentiate boats from ships. Until now, that is.

Google claims that a boat must be less than 40 feet long and weigh less than 40 tons. Longer or heavier vessels qualify for designation as ships.

I guess I'm up the creek without a paddle--or sailing down the river on Sunday afternoons--on boats. Too much information, right?...

One last thing about "getting it right." Football coaches today employ some expressions their fathers and grandfathers used.

Here's one: Questioned by reporters on topics they can't immediately answer, coaches lean on this response: "We won't know about that until we see the film."

They haven't "filmed" games for decades. The process is digitized now, and I guess it would sound silly if they answered, "until we see the digits." By the time they get this one right, games will be recorded in some new manner where digits don't come into play, but AI (artificial intelligence) may.

A young father faced frustration in helping his six-year-old son learn how to display his age by holding up his fingers and thumb.

The youngster had mastered the technique in years two through five. He was foggy, though, about also using his other hand. To him, this was advanced math!

Now, Dad is wondering when he should break the news that when he reaches age 11, he'll need to take one shoe off.

Numbers will keep going up, but for now, they're saying that 70,000 "participants" were "mudded in" by the heavy rains that blanketed the usually dry desert in Black Rock, NV.

It'll shoot into hundreds of thousands later when stories are spun for grandchildren.

What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas, but at rally's end near Black Rock, they likely feared that what happens in the desert stays there, too!...

*Dr. Newbury, a longtime university president, is now a speaker and columnist in the Metroplex. Contact: newbury@speakerdoc.com. 817-447-3872. Facebook: donnewbury.*



## Thistles&Roses

# Kudos for Pretrial Diversion program



**Richard Henderson**  
richard@rahenderson.com

When I heard that then-recently elected Parker County District Attorney Jeff Swain had instituted a first offender, Pretrial Diversion Program, I have to say my first thought was, "Finally!"

As a defense attorney, I have advocated for years for such a program. Shortly after his election in 2020, in which he succeeded Don Schnebly for that office, Swain started the program in April, 2021.

Tarrant County has had such a program for years. Most of the eligible clients had committed shoplifting or a minor drug charge. The end result was expunction of their criminal records.

Swain's program is similar with just a few minor differences.

The point of the program is to allow youthful offenders, mentally ill offenders, veterans, and others to receive a second chance.

This isn't a liberal or conservative, Democrat or Republican issue. Not only is Swain and his office in favor of this program, the District Judges Craig Towson and Graham Quisenberry support it.

Turn to **DIVERSION**, page A5





GuestColumn

# The Flag deserves respect, offers hope



**Edwin Newton**  
edwinnewton79@yahoo.com

Despite those who are dissing our country's National Anthem, patriotism is alive and well in the big city.

Just ask the jail trustee who gave me his two cents – and a flag – during the American Flag Company's travels down Fort Worth's main streets recently.

Our crew – me, my nephew Mike and stalwart citizen "Goob" – spent several hours downtown putting flags up in recognition of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on New York and the Pentagon. Usually it's a rather routine event – highlighted by sweaty men placing eight-foot flags in sidewalk holes while dodging absent-minded motorists. Nobody seems to notice.

But this year was different.

Person after person – 15 at last count – took time out of their day to remark about the famous red, white, and blue.

One man asked what we were doing – and it took Mike several answers to remind him of that fateful day 22 years ago. How people forget!

A woman asked for a flag. Others honked their horns and yelled things like "That's cool!" or "Go America!"

Two gents of "leisure" didn't understand the concept of "9/11." They asked about "7-11" and "Channel 11." We gave up explaining.

The most impactful dialogue involved a trustee on the porch of the Tarrant County jail. He saw what we were doing and asked if we wanted "another one." That meant a flag we had "lost" possibly two years ago during a downtown flag install. Like a kid at Christmas, he eagerly handed us the lost symbol. He said it "made him feel good" to see it fly – and needed it to be installed that day. That made me feel good.

And it got me to thinking.

In the eyes of many, the flag is still a symbol of something good and honorable.

Our country's embattled National Anthem is no different.

I've tried to put myself in the shoes of anthem author Francis Scott Key back in 1814. Things weren't looking good. We were at war with the British and our fledgling army wasn't doing so well. The British army even torched much of the Capitol, sending our president and his furniture into hiding.

Here Key was, standing aboard a British warship – in a prisoner exchange situation, mind you. Things must have felt bleak as he witnessed, first hand, the shelling of Fort McHenry in the Baltimore harbor.

Yet the flag – torn and riddled with cannon shot – continued to wave – defiantly, desperately – despite the odds against it. The words "our flag was still there," were evidence of Key's surprise the next morning to see the fort – and flag – still there.

The final sentence of the anthem – "O're the land of the free and the home of the brave" – probably summed up Key's pride for his young country. Somehow, some way, we survived.

It's not unlike things today.

We've got plenty of problems – health care, poverty, political backbiting – a general lack of respect. It all feels bleak at times.

We have the right to protest – to question our nation's priorities, its judgements. Work for solutions. Bring awareness.

But not standing for our Anthem in a sign of protest – as once prescribed by former professional football player Colin Kaepernick – isn't the answer. Standing together – hand over heart and with respect for all – gives us the best chance for a better day.

It's about overcoming obstacles, standing tall, standing together – "through the perilous fight."

The jail trustee seemed to know that.

I made sure I put that flag deep into its new hole – so deep that no wind could wrench it free. I wanted that trustee to see it, flying, as much as possible during his infrequent breaks outside.

Maybe, like Key, it gave him hope. And hope is never a bad thing.

*Edwin Newton is a former local newspaper editor and longtime columnist who lives in Parker County with his daughter, four dogs, and two cats.*

## CHANCES

from page A1

Not all charges are eligible for the program. Violent offenses, sexual offenses, DWI, and other serious offenses are not eligible for the program.

There is an extensive list of eligible offenses, but the majority of cases are first-time drug offenses involving high school and college-age offenders from age 17-22. This is the Youthful Offender Program. There is also a First Offender Program for people of persons of any age, but there are fewer eligible crimes for this program. There is also a Veteran's Program for certain eligible offenses.

According to Swain and other reports, there is a big problem for the 17-22 age group with a drug called tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), an extract of marijuana. Possession of this drug is often a felony. Possession and use of THC is rampant in Texas, including Parker County. A detailed article on the subject appeared in the Texas Tribune on Feb. 22, 2023, by reporter Jolie McCullough. A lot of first offenders have THC cases.

Starting with the arrest, the mental trauma begins for the arrested person. They have done something to attract the attention of law enforcement which leads to probable cause to arrest the person.

If they are in a car or truck, they will be removed from their vehicle. Their car may be towed. They will experience the feeling of being handcuffed. They will feel powerless. They will be driven to a jail where they will be placed in a cell with other offenders. The noise, the smells, the clanking of cell doors add to the experience. They will be arraigned by a magistrate. Most will get to call their parents. Posting bail is usually next.

Once they are released, they may face their parents, spouse, or other loved ones. There could be a very expensive charge to get the vehicle back from the auto impound. There may be consequences of not being able to attend regular school, which means separation from classmates and friends.

If the person qualifies for a First Offender Program, there is a way out, if they take the responsibility to complete it. Most people never want to go through the experience of being arrested, handcuffed and jailed ever again.

First Assistant District Attorney Kathleen Catania screens the drug cases and Swain screens the other cases.

If the client has an attorney already, the lawyer may contact the DA's office about getting their client into the program. If the person

can't afford an attorney, one will be appointed for them. Swain says the individual must be represented by an attorney because of the significant rights they give up to get into the program.

Swain said that one frustration on his office's part involves attorneys who don't respond. Both Swain and Catania will call an attorney and tell the attorney that their client is eligible if the attorney has not already filed an application. Some attorneys don't reply.

The person will give up many rights to be in the program, including the right to a jury trial. They will also give a written confession and enter into a contract with the DA. It is a complex set of rights and lengthy documents that requires an attorney to explain.

There can be no previous criminal record, including juvenile record. Mental health, medical, and social history is disclosed. There is a \$200 fee to enter the program and a \$60 per month supervision fee for the year-long program.

Urinalysis (UA) to check for the presence of drugs is an essential part of the program. A UA is required 30 days before entering the program and the day of entry into the program. The program is administered by the Adult Community Supervision Department, commonly known as the probation office.

If enrolled in school, the person must give proof that they are enrolled, attending, and passing. If the client has no high school diploma, they are required to get a GED. Otherwise, the person must submit proof of employment and they have to work unless disabled. There has to be medical proof of such disabilities.

UAs are submitted on a regular basis while in the program to the probation officer. Drug classes are required. Clients report regularly to the probation officer for one year.

The client has to check the probation office's computer daily to see if it is their day to submit a UA.

Each person is assigned a random color. The colors include purple, black, blue, red, gold, olive, aqua, brown, orange, yellow, pink, green, white, navy blue, maroon, mocha, burgundy, tan, nickel, turquoise, copper, violet, bronze, gray. If their color comes up on the computer on any given day, a UA is required.

The random color system has resulted in fewer "dirty" UAs and presumably more successful completions according to Swain.

For veteran's to be eligible for that program they must be honorably discharged. If family

violence is involved, the victim spouse or other family member has to agree and counseling is mandatory. There are also veteran mentors required to assist the veteran offender.

One dirty UA will cause the person to be dismissed from any of the programs and they are sent to regular court, where a much more difficult probation is possible and expunction is not an option.

One of the huge benefits of the program is that it lasts for one year – a relatively short time. Most felony probation are a minimum of two years, but most are four years or more.

If the person completes the program, they are entitled to expunction, and a clean record.

District Judges Craig Towson of the 43d District Court and Graham Quisenberry of the 415th District Court are known as no non-sense, tough on crime judges and they are both in favor of the program.

"I would rather a defendant become a taxpayer instead of a consumer of tax dollars," Towson said. That means a person with no record becomes a taxpaying citizen and not costing taxpayers money to incarcerate them.

"The importance of removing the disabilities of a defendant cannot be overemphasized," Quisenberry said. These are the disabilities discussed above: the right to vote, to nserve on a jury, and others are very important rights.

Defense attorney Robert Duboise echoed the sentiments of the judges in keeping first offenders, especially young ones, from having a permanent blemish on their records. He has had a client complete the program.

And what is the bottom line?

There are 35 people in the program, and 26 people have completed the program and qualified for expunction. Not everyone succeeds: 15 people failed the program. Some have qualified and never started the program, possibly because they could not pass the initial UA. Overall, the success rate is 60 percent.

Those who have successfully completed the program get their criminal records expunged by agreement of the District Attorney's Office. The judges sign an order that tells all law enforcement, clerks, and other personnel to delete the record of the person's arrest and prosecution of their case from computers and other paper records.

At that point, the second chance begins.

They have an opportunity to succeed in life without a criminal record.



## DIVERSION

from page A4

I disclose that all of these officials I consider to be respected colleagues and friends with whom I have worked with for years.

There are consequences for the offender, especially the younger ones. The trauma of being arrested, handcuffed, and taken to jail cannot be

overemphasized. They have to face parents, spouses, loved ones, and friends.

It is also expensive. There is the cost of bail. There is the significant charge for towing a vehicle and getting it out of the pound. If they can afford it, there is the expense of attorney fees. There is a \$200 fee to get into the program and \$60 per month reporting to a probation officer and

paying for drug testing. Plus, there is significant time involved that includes counseling to complete the program. The person and their family will worry about it all the time, if they are a typical family.

If someone thinks that these folks are getting off easy and don't deserve a second chance, I ask that person if they have never made a mistake where they could have faced

significantly negative consequences, that got a second chance from someone. I believe all of us have. I know I have.

There are so many professions and occupations that require background checks. And a criminal record can prevent those opportunities. If the records can be expunged through a pretrial diversion program, then in my opinion, it is a

good thing for the defendant and society.

If there is someone out there who has completed the program and would like to tell us what it means to them, they can contact us. We will keep their name anonymous.

I congratulate Jeff Swain for implementing this program, and I especially congratulate those who have completed it.

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More events can be found at [www.community-news.com/calendar](http://www.community-news.com/calendar)



**SEPTEMBER 16**  
**Morningstar 5k Color Run**  
 Join us for the 1st annual 5K Color Run and 1 mile Fun Run Fundraiser from 8 - 10 a.m. on Saturday, September 16. All proceeds go to Aledo Children's AdvoCats! Come walk or run and have some fun!  
 Hosted by Riverside Homebuilders.  
 Registration Fees (after August 15th):  
 • 5K: \$35.00  
 • Fun Run: \$25.00  
 Info and sign up: <https://bit.ly/3K3MgBn>

**SEPTEMBER 18**  
**Coffee, Tea and Connecting**  
 Parker County Extension office will host Coffee, Tea and Connecting event on Monday, September 18 at 10:00 a.m. at the Parker County Extension Office located at 604 North Main Street in Weatherford. This will be a time to connect with other people in our area to just visit. Get to know people in Parker County and discuss trending topics of interest. There will be coffee and other beverages as well as snacks. This is open for adults of all ages and children are welcome to come with their parents. This is for anyone new and old to

Parker County. The event is free. There will be coffee, tea, water and other refreshments. For more information call 817-598-6168.

**SEPTEMBER 22, 29 & OCTOBER 13**

**Cooking Classes for Healthy Blood Pressure and a Healthy Heart**  
 The Parker County Extension office will offer Cooking Well for Healthy Blood Pressure classes September 22 and 29 and October 13 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Parker County Extension Office in Weatherford. The classes will focus on helping achieve and maintain a healthy blood pressure through cooking. Session one will focus on the DASH eating pattern and meal ideas. Session two will include a grocery store tour and party foods. The final lesson will be on cooking with herbs and spices and adding flavor to foods. To attend all three classes the cost is \$20.00. This will include recipes, handouts, and food and cooking supplies for each class. You can attend one, two or all three classes. Persons interested can register by calling 817-598-6168.

**SEPTEMBER 25**  
**Teen Time**  
 Middle and High Schoolers are invited to the library on Monday, September 25, at 5 p.m. to help decorate the East Parker County

Library for fall by transforming pumpkins into your favorite book characters. Snacks provided.



**OCTOBER 6**

**3rd Annual Aledo Ladycat Softball Charity Golf Tournament**  
 Aledo Softball Boosters will have the 3rd Annual Aledo Ladycat Softball Charity golf tournament on Friday, October 6, starting at 9 a.m. at Squaw Creek Golf Course 1605 Ranch House Rd. Willow Park. It will be a 4-man scramble with lunch & adult beverages included. Register as a team or individual by September 27. For more information visit <https://sites.google.com/view/ladycatsoftball> or contact [ahsladycatsoftball@gmail.com](mailto:ahsladycatsoftball@gmail.com)



**OCTOBER 7**

**Aledo UMC Lord's Acre Fall Festival**  
 Join this fun annual event

**TEXAS CROSSWORD**  
 by Charley & Guy Orbison  
 Copyright 2023 by Orbison Bros.

**ACROSS**  
 1 TXism: "would maggot" (bad taste)  
 5 a pen name for TX Sandra Brown:  
 St. Claire  
 6 TXism: "fence (gossip)  
 7 TX Crowell wrote "I Gain Control Again"  
 8 TXism: " a hog needs a packing plant"  
 18 Jim \_\_\_\_ Creek  
 19 he played for Mavs and Rockets (2 wds.)  
 20 Dallas County was named for this Vice President (init.)  
 21 this FM in Palestine became KOYE in Frankston  
 22 describing a great Mav shot (2 wds.)  
 24 TXism: "corker"  
 29 TX Dabney Coleman old TV show: "The Maxwell Story"  
 30 Fiesta Texas theater: Lone Star \_\_\_\_  
 31 \_\_\_\_ Pepper  
 32 song about a west Texas town (3 wds.)  
 34 TXism: "too irons in the fire"  
 35 TXism: "fits like ugly on an \_\_\_\_"  
 36 TXism: "comfortable \_\_\_\_ boot"  
 37 Cowboy zealots  
 38 TXism: " \_\_\_\_ walking drunk"

**DOWN**  
 1 TXism: " \_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_ tooth" (aging)  
 2 TXism: "mad as \_\_\_\_ -on rooster"  
 3 describing a fish  
 4 Houston took a bullet in the \_\_\_\_ at San Jacinto  
 9 Rangers no longer have a rain \_\_\_\_ in Globe Life Field  
 10 Texas film: "The \_\_\_\_ to Bountiful"  
 11 "he's earned \_\_\_\_ spurs"  
 12 Texas cooler (abbr.)  
 13 TX outlaw Ketchum robbed these in the 1890s  
 14 Cowboy Hall of Famer DT, Bob  
 15 troubles  
 16 ex-Astro 3B Caminiti  
 17 TX vegetable: black- \_\_\_\_  
 21 Temple FM  
 23 TXism: "trapped like a \_\_\_\_ possum"  
 24 1949 film "Streets of Laredo" was a \_\_\_\_ make of "The Texas Rangers"  
 25 Mr. Neiman of Dallas retail pamperin' place  
 26 TXism: " \_\_\_\_ the barrel head"  
 28 TXism: "busy \_\_\_\_ -armed paper hanger"  
 29 sediment  
 30 \_\_\_\_ try, Texas

**33** a covering of paint political slogan: "Me for \_\_\_\_ got a dern thing against Pa" (1924)  
**34** TXism: "sneaky as \_\_\_\_-sucking dog"  
**37** TX Vikki: \_\_\_\_ Bisenta de Castillas  
**38** Dallas FM radio  
**40** Texas clan fights  
**41** missile defense sys. after lunch (abbr.)  
**44** "brazos" in Spanish  
**47** Spain, in Spanish

from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. on Saturday, October 7, at Aledo United Methodist @ 100 Pecan St in Aledo, Tx for a day full of fun, vendors, food, a Kid's Zone, a Country Kitchen, Silent & Live Auction, and more!

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**OCTOBER 9**  
**Zeb Strong 8th Annual Memorial Golf Tournament Fore the Dream**  
 Help us turn a ball into a dream, we are driving for the world! The tournament will be held Monday, October 9 at Split Rail Links & Golf Club 2151 Old Anetta Rd. Aledo, TX. Registration is at 9 am, start 11 a.m., dinner/raffle 4:30 p.m. For more details

visit [zebstrong.com](http://zebstrong.com)

**OCTOBER 14**  
**Aledo Fall Fest**  
 Aledo Fall Fest will be from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. on Saturday, October 14. It will be a fun day of shopping, music, food and activities! Shop & Experience Downtown Aledo through local shops & restaurants along with special pop-up vendors!

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# Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE



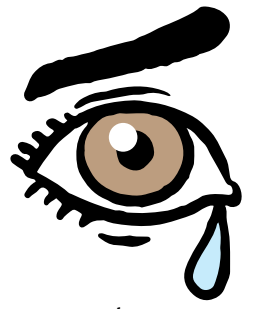
© 2023 by Vicki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schinkel, Graphics Vol. 39, No. 42



**Kid Scoop Together**

## What's the difference between sweat and tears?

Your body makes liquids. Some of those liquids are tears.



Some are sweat.

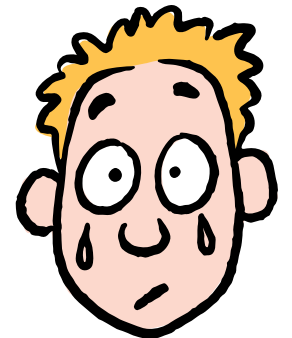


While they are both wet, they do different things.

Tears keep your eyes from drying out. They can also help you feel better.

Sweat comes out of your skin to keep you cool on a hot day. Sweat also cools you down when you exercise.

## About how many tears do our eyes produce each day?



We produce about 5-10 ounces of tears every day.

## Why do I cry?



## Everyone Cries Sometimes

**Crying is natural!** Sometimes crying gets the sadness out, and after a good cry, we feel better. There is a good reason for this. Tears contain some special ingredients that make you feel better.



## Happy Tears

When people have a lot of happy feelings inside, that can bring out the tears, too.

Circle the things that sometimes make you cry happy tears.

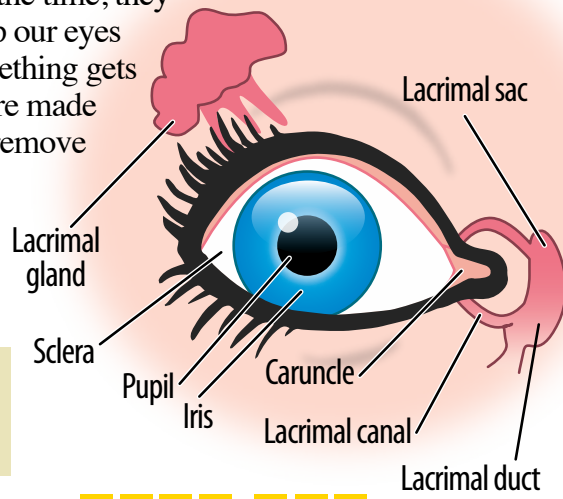


## Why do tears come out of my eyes?

Your eyes always have tears. There are special glands near your eyes that make tears. Most of the time, they make just enough to keep our eyes clean and healthy. If something gets in your eye, more tears are made that rinse your eyes and remove what shouldn't be there.

## What's in tears? Use the code!

1 = A	4 = L	7 = S
2 = E	5 = O	8 = T
3 = I	6 = R	9 = W



Mostly **9 1 8 2 6** and something that kills germs. When you blink, your eyelids spread the tears around your eyeballs.

The **5 3 4** helps keep the **9 1 8 2 6** close to your eyes.

## Brain to Glands!

A part of your brain turns the "tear faucet" off and on. This happens when you feel strong emotions—happy and sad.

Your eye glands can produce more than half a cup of tears in minutes. This is too much for the eye glands to hold, so the overflow tears fall out of your eyes. Sometimes, overflowing tears go down your nose. That's why when you cry, your nose might run.

Circle every other letter to discover what the glands that make the tears that flow to your eyes are called.

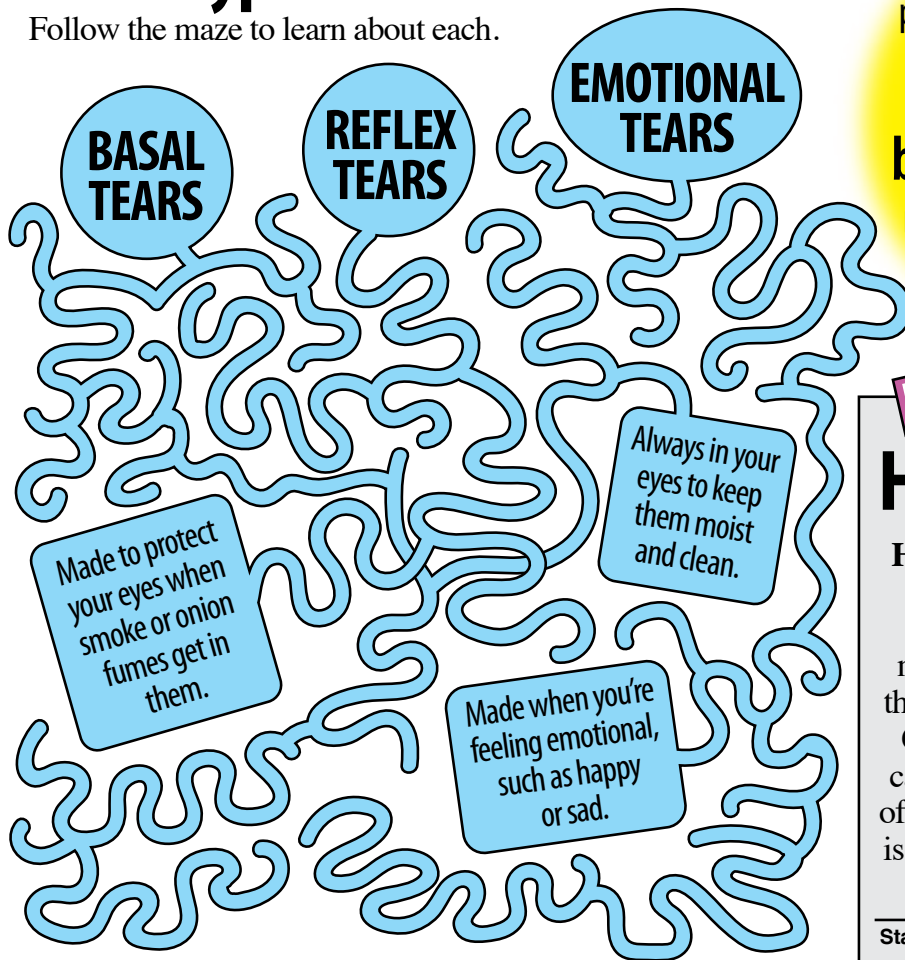
**B L V A N C T R W I K M P A**  
**J L S G U L M A Z N Y D T S**

**L**

**Standards Link:** Life Science: Understand that humans have structures that aid in survival.

## Three Types of Tears

Follow the maze to learn about each.



How big is the gland that produces tears? Hold this page up to a mirror to discover the answer!

**basilp lsminlsl A ns to 9siz 9ht zt .bnomls**

## Happy/Sad

**Happy and sad** mean opposite things. Look through the newspaper for words that mean the opposite. Glue the words onto cards and play a game of fish where a "match" is two words that mean the opposite.

**Standards Link:** Language Arts: Identify antonyms.

## Kid Scoop Puzzler

### SCIENTISTS CLOSER SUPPER Crocodile Tears

Replace the missing words!  
Long ago, a \_\_\_\_\_ told a story about crocodiles crying to get people to come \_\_\_\_\_. When they did, **SNAP!** \_\_\_\_\_ time!

People started saying certain kinds of crying are "crocodile tears." It means a person is just pretending to be \_\_\_\_\_ to get something.

Strangely, \_\_\_\_\_ have noticed that sometimes crocodiles **DO** indeed cry when they \_\_\_\_\_, but not for emotional reasons.

**Standards Link:** Language Arts: Understand the origin of idioms.

## Double Double Word Search

- AWARD
- BLINK
- BRAIN
- CLEAN
- CRY
- EYES
- FEEL
- GERMS
- GLANDS
- HAPPY
- NOSE
- PUPIL
- SAD
- TEARS
- WINNING

Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?



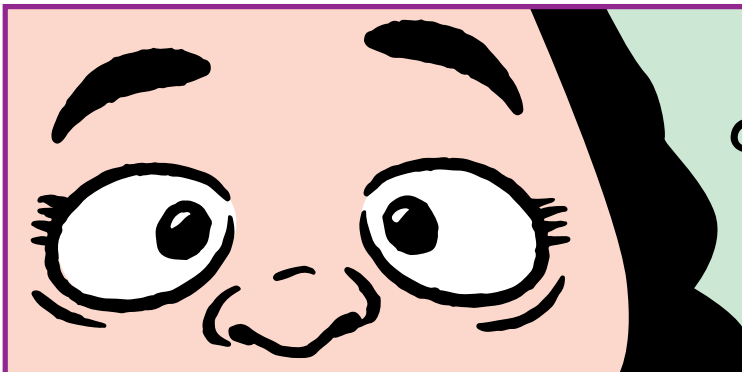
**Standards Link:** Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

## FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

### Cause and Effect

Often, a newspaper headline reports on what has happened. This can be called an **effect**. Something **caused** the effect to happen. Read a newspaper article and underline the **effect**. Circle the **cause**.

**Standards Link:** Language Arts: Differentiate between cause/effect.



What did one eye say to the other?

ANSWER: "Between us, something smells!"

## Write On!

### Is it okay to cry?

What is your opinion? Write about it!

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## Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: **EMOTION**

The noun **emotion** means a strong feeling such as joy, sorrow, or fear.

I feel a deep **emotion** whenever I see a kitten.

Try to use the word **emotion** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.



# Warriors and Survivors

## Children's Advocacy Center Gala highlights mission, results

By Randy Keck  
The Community News

The Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) of Parker County held its annual gala on Sept. 7 at Venue Nine-Twenty in Weatherford.

The Children's Advocacy Center of Parker County will coordinate the collaborative efforts between Child Protective Services, law enforcement, and prosecution, in the investigation of child abuse cases by providing specialized forensic interviews, therapeutic recovery services for the victim and their families, medical evaluations, and victim support and advocacy. They will also provide education for schools and communities on child abuse.

### - CAC Mission Statement

Executive Director Kathryn Thompson of Annetta welcomed guests to the event, and stressed the importance of the work of the CAC.

"You have the opportunity to be a part of the solution for a problem no one wants to see, but everyone must recognize," Thompson told the assembled crowd of community supporters, law enforcement personnel, and elected officials. "So thank you for being here tonight and for caring about our mission to end the cycle of child abuse in Parker County by giving the children a voice."

Later in the program Thompson thanked the staff of the CAC and affiliated agencies. She pointed out that the hours posted on the door at the CAC are 8-5, Monday through Friday.

"I want you to know with our partner agencies we work on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to be there for children who have been sexually abused, severely physically abused, or have witnessed domestic violence," Thompson said. "Whether the child needs to come to the center at 10 a.m. or 10 p.m. we're there. Weekdays, weekends, holidays, regular days, we're there. We are there with our partners to do what we do best, which is take care of the child, investigate the abuse, and take the steps to stop those who are hurting children."

One former client of the CAC, a victim of sexual assault on a school field trip, courageously took the stage to tell her story.

"When I started the CAC, I was completely alone in every way shape and form. I was healing from knee surgery. I couldn't like a sport or anything like that," she said. "With help from the CAC and everything that they brought to me I was able to find joy in and find peace and happiness able to step onto my high school campus without fear and without anxiety."

She said she did not like the term "victim."

"Well, yes, we were victims of a crime. That's not a label that we put on because we are so much more than that. We are warriors, survivors."

The purpose of the evening was to raise funds for the center, and Aledo-area Rob Helms, a member of the CAC board, spoke about his experience in his association with the CAC over the past four years [see the guest column with this article].



RANDY CUTSHALL PHOTOGRAPHY

CAC board member and Parker County District Attorney Jeff Swain addressed the group at the annual gala.



RANDY CUTSHALL PHOTOGRAPHY

Lisa and Brian Catlin attended the gala to support the CAC.



RANDY CUTSHALL PHOTOGRAPHY

CAC board members Angie Martin and Penny Shelton.



RANDY CUTSHALL PHOTOGRAPHY

Parker County Children's Advocacy Center staff members include (from left) Executive Director Kathryn Thompson, Forensic Interviewer/Associate Director Brittany Lain, therapist Dacia Whitaker, and MDT Coordinator/SWI Intake Alex Vazquez.

## GuestColumn

### Help the healing by supporting the Children's Advocacy Center



Rob Helms  
rob@overturehomescare.com

#### TO DONATE

To donate, visit <https://www.cacparkercounty.org/> and click the "Donate" button.



Three years ago, shortly after I was invited to join the board, we held our annual fundraiser at the Children's Advocacy Center. It was a wonderful event held in our new building and provided an opportunity to show off our new location and what we do with a very unique twist. As guests entered the event through the front door, they were given a small slip of paper. My slip of paper said "female, 9 years old, sexual abuse."

I was about to enter the facility and be shown the path a nine-year-old victim takes to healing.

The first stop is where the Forensic Interview team does their work — a cautious, non-leading discussion about the sexual abuse. This process is documented and watched by law enforcement to help build a legal case against the perpetrator and so the victim doesn't have to retell the story over and over.

The next stop is one of several counselors, solely for the victim. I was taken into the sand tray room. The sand tray room is a small room with shelves lining the walls. On the shelves, there are hundreds of miniature figurines and a couple of overstuffed, comfortable chairs. This is where victims "build" a sand tray about their abuse experience or their recovery or their feelings on a particular day.

There is a coffee table in the middle of the room. The day I was there, on the table was a sand tray that had been re-created by the counselor who explained that it was originally built by a young girl who came through the program two years before. On the sand tray was a bed and on the bed was a figurine of a little girl. On top of the little girl was an adult male figure and at the foot of the bed was a movie camera on a tripod. There were a number of people who went through the sand tray room that evening — most everyone left the room crying.

We were shown the other counseling rooms, the play therapy room, family and group counseling. There is an outdoor space, a walled garden where kids and families can be outside. And there is an outdoor area for children and therapists to use during counseling sessions.

The tour was very enlightening and for me, and highlighted what the process looked like. But I was left with a burning question. So, I went to Dedra Vick who was, at the time, our board president. Dedra works for the Parker County Sheriff's office so I thought she would be the best place to take

my question: What happens to the perpetrators of these heinous crimes against children? Dedra smiled and said, "come with me, I want you to meet someone." She took me back and introduced me to one of the Parker County Investigators assigned to the Children's Advocacy Center. This man's job was to investigate crimes against children.

We were introduced and I sat down in his office. My first question was: what goes on when you arrest someone who has sexually abused a child? Are they remorseful, do they regret what they've done? He explained they are mostly embarrassed, embarrassed that they've been caught. I said, "you must feel some level of satisfaction in taking them off the street, putting them somewhere where that can't hurt more kids." He said, "yes, I do, but I have to be very careful in what I let show. If I allow my disgust or anger to show, they will shut down. I need them to talk with me to do my job, so I must remain professional and not allow my personal feelings to impact my emotions."

At this point, I began to think of myself in his role and how challenging it would be to hold my emotions in check. Then I began to consider what the knowledge would do to me, the details of the abuse, the perversion against children, the pain and fear they experience, usually at the hand of someone they should be able to trust. So, I asked him, "how do you sleep at night?"

He looked me straight in the eyes and said, "I sleep fine because I know we're fixing these kids and families here." He went on to say, "historically we would arrest the perpetrator, they would face trial, be found guilty and be sent away for a long time to suffer the punishment for their crime. The victim and what's left of the family never got addressed, never got help. What we know is that victims, can, at worst become abusers or, as adults, allow abuse in the home." As he explained it, we are truly doing something to break the cycle of abuse. It was at this moment that I realized exactly what we were doing at the CAC, what giving a voice to children actually looks like.

Please, know this: every dollar you give goes to help break the cycle of child abuse. If you are asked what the Children's Advocacy Center does, you can answer the question simply: they're healing children. Thank you very much for your generosity.

Rob Helms is a local resident who serves on the board of the Children's Advocacy Center.



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## CORRECTIONS

In the Sept. 1 issue of The Community News, we misspelled Madison Larsen's name in the Ladycat of the Week.

In the Sept. 8 issue of The Community News, we mistakenly referred to Josh Fink as Jack Fink in the middle school cross country story.

We regret the errors.

## CROSS COUNTRY

# Lady Eagles win individual titles

## TCA duo take boys, girls win PC Championship

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

Led by Gracee Whiteaker, the Willow Park Trinity Christian Lady Eagles won the Parker County Cross Country Championship this past Saturday at Weatherford Disc Golf Course.

Whiteaker ran the 3,200-meter course in a time of 12 minutes, 41.22 seconds. She edged out teammate Emma Saadeh, whose time was 13:15.46.

The Eagles were led by Wilson Winchester, who clocked a time of 16:50.75 over the boys 5K course.

As a team, the Lady Eagles scored 28 points to easily top runner-up Saginaw Boswell with 49 points. In the boys division, the Eagles placed fifth as a team.

Two other Lady Eagles placed in the top 10, with Brooklyn Mathieson taking ninth with a time of 14:35.95 and Madison Clark finishing 10th in 14:46.51. Also, Megan King was 13th in 14:59.74 and Adalyn Endsley took 17th in 15:05.25, with Ellery Wright finishing 33rd.

Also for the Eagles, Lucas Smith was 25th, Marshall Hughes placed 40th, Michael Spillers was 41st, Luke Rodgers finished 43rd and Andrew Cowley was 47th.

Among middle school runners, Henry Reynolds was eighth for the Eagles with a time of 12:22.78 over the 3,200-meter course.

Trinity Christian will compete in the Paschal Invitational Saturday in Fort Worth.



Gracee Whiteaker



## FOOTBALL

# Defense paces Bearcats win

## Three turnovers result in touchdowns

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

Through a 2-0 start to the season, the Aledo offense was virtually unstoppable. In a 38-13 District 3-5A Division I opening win against Justin Northwest on Friday, Sept. 8 it was the defense that took center stage.

Along with the ball three times via takeaways - each resulting in a touchdown. Two, in fact, were returned for scores.

The result was Aledo's 112th consecutive district victory dating to 2007, a national record.

"Defense led the way tonight," Bearcats coach Robby Jones said. "Two defensive touchdowns, that's a big positive."

With the Bearcats (3-0 overall) leading 24-6 and the Texans (2-1 overall) driving, Aledo safety Boogie Owens scooped up a fumble. He then raced 53 yards in the other direction for a touchdown to squelch the threat and turn what might have been a close contest into an insurmountable lead.

"We were in man coverage and I was chasing my man. I saw Ben (McElree, linebacker) tackle the quarterback and the ball came up," Owens said. "I picked it up and ran as fast as I could."

Owens also had a first-half interception after Northwest had driven to the Bearcats' 49-yard line. Four plays later quarterback Hauss Hejny connected with tight end Tyson Timms for a 41-yard touchdown that gave Aledo a 17-6 halftime advantage.



Aledo quarterback Hauss Hejny eludes a Northwest defender.

BRELEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

"Boogie had a great game. That's the kind of game all of our best players are capable of, and he came through tonight," Jones said.

Then, to erase any thought of a miracle comeback by the Texans, Aledo defensive end Cooper Cyphers snatched an interception on fourth-down-and-2 at the Northwest 49. He alertly scampered all the way to the end zone for the game's final score midway through the final quarter.

Northwest had its moments on offense, such as when running back Ife Durodoye broke free for

a 56-yard touchdown to pull the Texans to within 31-13. However, the Texans couldn't make enough big plays to overcome the Bearcats' opportunistic defense.

The Northwest defense, meanwhile, thwarted the Aledo offense early, forcing the Bearcats to settle for a Cole Crawford 32-yard field goal on their first possession. Hejny added a 17-yard touchdown run for a 10-0 lead after the opening quarter.

Northwest pulled to within 10-6 on a 1-yard run by Nate Jean early in the second quarter. After holding the Bearcats 2 yards short

on fourth-and-9 at the Texans' 37, Northwest was in position to take the lead before Owens' interception.

The Bearcats took the second half and proceeded to go 69 yards in 10 plays. Ray Guillory's 1-yard run made the score 24-6.

Guillory, a sophomore who moved to Aledo after leading Mansfield Lake Ridge in rushing last season, is doing the same for the Bearcats this season. He finished with an unofficial 122 yards on 25 carries, giving him an unofficial 373 yards on 63 carries with

Turn to **DEFENSE**, page B6

## VOLLEYBALL

# Ladycats enter District 5-5A play

## Split first two matches

By Ryan Wade  
The Community News

Following a pre-district season where the Aledo varsity volleyball squad went 19-7, the Ladycats have officially entered District 5-5A play with matches against Northwest and Granbury under their belts.

Northwest defeated the hosting Ladycats in straight sets 20-25, 15-25, and 21-25 in the district opener on Friday, Sept. 9. Aledo rebounded against the Lady Pirates at home on Tuesday, Sept. 12, taking the match in four sets by tallies of 25-18, 25-9, 22-25, and 25-21 to square their district record at 1-1 while boasting a 20-8 overall record.

"We've got a lot to work on," head coach Claire Gay said of her troop after the win over Granbury. "We had a very good, tough preseason. I felt like in the preseason we came to play every day in practice. We came to play in the match. I feel like we get to this point, and we're starting to coast a little bit. That's not necessarily the mindset we need to have moving forward in the part of our season that matters the most."

The coasting Gay alluded to came in the third set of Tuesday's match with Granbury. The Ladycats

handled business in short order during the first two sets as they dominated the visiting squad. After running away with the second set with little resistance from the Lady Pirates, the match appeared to be all but over.

But as the Ladycats took their foot off the proverbial accelerator, Granbury continued to battle. After being decimated in sets 1 and 2, the Lady Pirates took an early advantage in the third set as they began to build some momentum.

On the other side of the net, the Ladycats struggled to find their groove once more. Small mistakes began to snowball as the home team found themselves in the unfamiliar position of playing catch-up. Late in the set the Ladycats ran out of subs, leaving smaller backline players to tend the net as the Lady Pirates plundered the set to add an air of drama to the match.

Still struggling to re-establish the fluid mode of play they'd rode to easy victories early in the match, the Ladycats gutted out a gritty performance with Ava Reding tacking on the final three points from behind the service line for Aledo to secure the match.

Turn to **LADYCATS**, page B7



Kaelee Berkley elevates to lob a shot over the net against Northwest during the district opener on Friday, Sept. 8.

RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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FOOTBALL ADVANCE

# Bearcats look to avoid complacency

## Visit Azle Friday Sept 15

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

Along with facing Azle on the Hornets' home turf Friday, Sept. 15 at 7 p.m., the Aledo Bearcats have another opponent to battle as they enter their second District 3-5A Division I contest, head coach Robby Jones said.

"Complacency. We won two big games to open the season and opened district with a win over a quality opponent. Now, we've got to be careful not to let down," Jones said.

The Bearcats are coming off a 38-13 home victory against Justin Northwest last Friday, while Azle was losing 49-7 at Denton Ryan in a game that started Friday, Sept. 8 and ended Sept. 9 because of a thunderstorm delay.

The Bearcats' two pre-district contests were a 50-35 home win over Dallas Parish Episcopal and a 48-45 victory at Denton Guyer.

Despite the lopsided score against Ryan, Jones believes the Hornets (1-2) are closer to the team that defeated Grapevine 14-13 in a defensive battle two weeks ago.

"Coach (Devon) Dorris is defensive guy," Jones said. "They go with a 3-4 and slide into a 4-2. He did that at Boswell."

"Chad Jones, their offensive coordinator, was at Boswell when we had a couple of good games with them."

The Hornets are rotating quarterbacks with Canaan Kaznowski and Austin May seeing the bulk of time. Between them, however, they have completed 22 of 50 passes with one touchdown and four interceptions.

Running Back Haegen Hughes leads the Azle rushing attack with 174 yards through three games. However, he has also had trouble finding the end zone with no touchdowns on the ground and one receiving.

But Jones believes there is more than meets the eye.

"They have big splits to open holes in the running game, and they're running back is pretty good," he said.

### Offensive bounceback

After two weeks of high-scoring offensive play, Jones saw a stepback in last week's win over Northwest in which the defense scored twice and set up another TD.

"We didn't play well offensively, and our kids saw that video," Jones said. "We've had some great practices and they are focused again. I expect more this week, and so do they."

### Defensive dominance

For the first time this season the defense was dominant as they forced the Texans into three turnovers that all resulted in points. Safety Boogie Owens returned a



BRELEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Defensive end Cooper Kohan wraps up a Northwest ball carrier.

fumble 53 yards for a TD and had an interception that set up another score.

Also, defensive end Cooper Cyphers returned an interception 49 yards for a TD.

"The defense showed what they are capable of doing," Jones said. "They showed their ability to take over and dominate a game."

Now, the plan is to put that together with the explosive offense of the first two games, Jones said.

### Depth called on

Though the season is only three weeks old, the Bearcats are calling upon depth because of some injuries.

Among those who have impressed in backup roles have been running back Kaden Winkfield and RJ Blake. Earlier this season Winkfield rushed seven times for 45 yards against Dallas Parish Episcopal, while Blake carried seven times for 27 yards against Northwest.

Others to watch on the depth chart this week include safety Lamel Swanson, who has been moved up from the junior varsity, along with linebacker Kutter Harrell, who was moved up last week and will stay up this week, Jones said.

"Football is a difficult sport. It's physical, and even tough little injuries happen. We just to put people in place to make plays," Jones said. "We have quality backups."

### Howington back

Linebacker Ky Howington is expected to return to action this week after missing last week's contest because of a shoulder injury. He has 7.5 tackles this season, including one for a loss.

Also, wide receiver Kaydon Finley is expected back in limited action after an ankle injury sidelined

him last week. He has three catches for 25 yards this season.

### Break in weather

After playing the first two games in some of the hottest weather ever experienced for this time of year, teams are finally getting fall-type weather this week. And Jones said his team could not be any happier.

He noted opening the doors during an indoor workout because it was raining and how cool the breeze coming was. He said some coaches even had hoodies on.

"The kids are tired of how hot it's been," he said. "This week is so great to see, a very nice change."

"We should see less cramping Friday night."

As of press time, some forecasts called for as much as a 50% chance of rain Friday night.

### Stadium gets new sign

It is official, when the Aledo Bearcats return home next week to face Saginaw in homecoming, they will be playing in Tim Buchanan Stadium. Actually, they already have played there twice, but now it officially has the name in place.

A sign bearing the new name of the stadium sits above the east entrance. The name of the stadium was changed to honor Buchanan after the legendary coach retired earlier this year.

### Head-to-head

The Bearcats have dominated the all-time series with the Hornets by a 12-2 margin. The series dates back to 1946, when the Bearcats eked out a 7-6 victory. Two years later the Hornets won 19-7, followed by Aledo wins 48-0 and 19-6 in 1949 and 1950.

Then, the teams, despite being less than a half hour apart, did not play for five decades. When they met again, the Bearcats won 44-13 in 2000 and the Hornets got their last victory in the series in 2001.

The teams also met for the only time in the playoffs in 2004. Aledo won 48-35 in the area round.

Since then, the Bearcats have completely dominated the Hornets, winning the past seven meetings by an average score of 55-4. In last season's 55-20 Aledo win at Buchanan Stadium, the Hornets scored twice as points than they had in the previous six meetings combined.

### Not so long ago

It hasn't been that long since the Hornets had success in a season. In fact, they reached the playoffs four straight seasons from 2018-21, compiling a record of 37-10 and reaching the second round three times.

### Rankings

The Bearcats remained atop the Class 5A Division I state rankings in Dave Campbell's Texas Football this week. District foe Denton Ryan moved up a notch from No. 7 to No. 6.

Aledo is also the only non-6A team to be ranked in the state's top five throughout all classifications this week in Maxpreps rankings. The Bearcats are No. 5, behind only defending 6A Division I champion Duncanville, defending 6A Division II champ DeSoto, Houston North Shore and Humble Atascocita.

Nationally, the Bearcats are ranked 33rd, ironically one spot ahead of Atascocita. Duncanville is

### Game at a glance

Aledo Bearcats (3-0, 1-0 in District 3-5A Division I) at Azle Hornets (1-2, 0-1)

When: 7 p.m. Friday, Hornet Field

Returning starters: Aledo 7 offense/5 defense, Azle 4 offense/6 defense.

Last week: Aledo won 38-13 at home against Northwest, Azle lost 49-7 at Denton Ryan.

Last season: Aledo, 14-2, 8-0 district, 5A Division I state champions. Azle 3-7, 3-5 in district. Bearcats won 55-20 at home.

Aledo offensive players to watch: WR Trace Clarkson (13 catches, 189 yards, 1 TD), WR Colton McCoy (5 catches, 109 yards).

Azle offensive players to watch: RB Hagen Hughes (38 carries, 174 yards rushing; 3 catches, 27 yards, 1 TD receiving), WR Christian Mendoza (6 catches, 58 yards).

Aledo defensive players to watch: S Jake Gillespie (19.5 tackles, 2 for loss, 17 solo), S Boogie Owens (13.5 tackles, 1 int., 1 fumble returned 53 yards for TD).

Azle defensive players to watch: DB Tyler Ulrich (32 tackles, 1 sack, 1 int.), utility Preston Johnson (3 interceptions).

eighth, North Shore ninth and DeSoto 14th.

Denton Guyer, whom the Bearcats defeated 48-45 on Sept. 1, is ranked 43rd nationally.

### District 3-5A Division I update

**Last week's results**  
Aledo 38, Northwest 13  
Burleson Centennial 40, Saginaw 13  
Denton Ryan 49, Azle 7  
The Colony 48, South Hills 7  
Brewer (0-2) open

### This week's games

Friday, Sept. 15, all games at 7 p.m.  
Aledo at Azle  
The Colony at Centennial  
Ryan at Saginaw  
Brewer at Northwest  
South Hills bye

### Standings (overall record in parentheses)

Aledo	1-0 (3-0)
Centennial	1-0 (3-0)
Ryan	1-0 (2-0)
The Colony	1-0 (1-2)
Brewer	0-0 (0-2)
Northwest	0-1 (2-1)
Azle	0-1 (1-2)
Saginaw	0-1 (0-3)
South Hills	0-1 (0-3)



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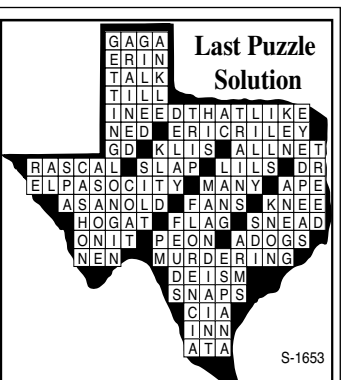
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**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS and PROPOSALS FOR PROVISION AND INSTALLATION OF PERIMETER SECURITY FENCE (Parker County, Texas)**

This is notice of a Request for Qualifications AND Proposals ("RFQ/ RFP") for THE PROVISION AND INSTALLATION OF PERIMETER CHAIN LINK SECURITY FENCE. The PC- ESD1 will select the Proposal that provides the Best Value to the PC- ESD1. Submissions must arrive no later than 9:00AM on September 25th, 2023, at the Parker County ESD1 administration, address listed below. Qualification submissions will be opened at 9:30am, on September 25th, 2023 at the same location.

The full RFQ/RFP and Unit Criteria Package are available from the PC- ESD1 at the following address:

Parker County ESD1  
C/O Stephen Watson  
Fire Chief  
PO Box 323  
315 Morrow Road  
Springtown, Texas 76082

It will also be made available on the Parker County Emergency Service District 1's website at the following address:

http://www.pcesd1.com

The Fire Chief of Parker County ESD1, Parker County, Texas is designated as the contact person for all inquiries, Telephone inquiries are permitted. The telephone number of the Fire Chief Stephen Watson, is (817) 523-7598.

**NOTICE**  
**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS and PROPOSALS FOR ELECTRIC WATER PUMPS FOR PARKER COUNTY ESD1 (Parker County, Texas)**

This is notice of a Request for Qualifications AND Proposals ("RFQ/ RFP") for THE PROVISION OF ELECTRIC WATER PUMPS. The PC- ESD1 will select the Proposal that provides the Best Value to the PC- ESD1. Submissions must arrive no later than 9:00AM on September 25th, 2023, at the Parker County ESD1 administration, address listed below. Qualification submissions will be opened at 9:30am, on September 25th, 2023 at the same location.

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The Fire Chief of Parker County ESD1, Parker County, Texas is designated as the contact person for all inquiries, Telephone inquiries are permitted. The telephone number of the Fire Chief Stephen Watson, is (817) 523-7598.

**CITY OF WILLOW PARK, TEXAS**  
**ORDINANCE NO. 885-23**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILLOW PARK, TEXAS, ADOPTING A COMPREHENSIVE FEE AND RATE SCHEDULE FOR THE FOLLOWING ENTERPRISE FUND UTILITY RATES/SERVICES/CHARGES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023/24, INCLUDING WATER IMPACT FEES, WATER TAP FEES WASTEWATER IMPACT FEES, WASTEWATER TAP FEES DRAINAGE IMPACT FEES, UTILITY DEPOSITS/FEES, WATER BASE RATES, WATER VOLUMETRIC CHARGES, WASTEWATER RATES, SOLID WASTE RATES, ADDITIONAL UTILITY SERVICES CHARGES, AND WATER METER COSTS; AMENDING VARIOUS CITY ORDINANCES; AND CONTAINING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

PASSED AND APPROVED ON THIS DAY 12TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2023.

CRYSTAL R. DOZIER, TRMC, CMC  
CITY SECRETARY  
CITY OF WILLOW PARK

**CITY OF WILLOW PARK, TEXAS**  
**ORDINANCE NO. 884-23**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WILLOW PARK, TEXAS REPEALING AND RESCINDING THE PREVIOUS NOISE ORDINANCE CONTAINED IN CHAPTER 8 "OFFENSES AND NUISANCES", ARTICLE 8.03 "NOISE" AND AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WILLOW PARK, TEXAS, CHAPTER 8 "OFFENSES AND NUISANCES," BY ADOPTING A NEW ARTICLE 8.03, "NOISE"; PROVIDING DEFINITIONS; PROVIDING APPLICABILITY; PROVIDING OFFENSES; PROVIDING FOR THE AUTHORIZATION OF TEMPORARY NOISE PERMITS; PROVIDING FOR APPEAL OF THE DENIAL OF A TEMPORARY NOISE PERMIT; PROVIDING FOR A PENALTY NOT TO EXCEED \$500 FOR VIOLATIONS AND THAT EACH DAY DURING OR ON WHICH A VIOLATION OCCURS SHALL BE DEEMED A SEPARATE OFFENSE; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A CUMULATIVE REPEALER CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION; PROVIDING FOR ENROLLMENT AND ENROLLMENT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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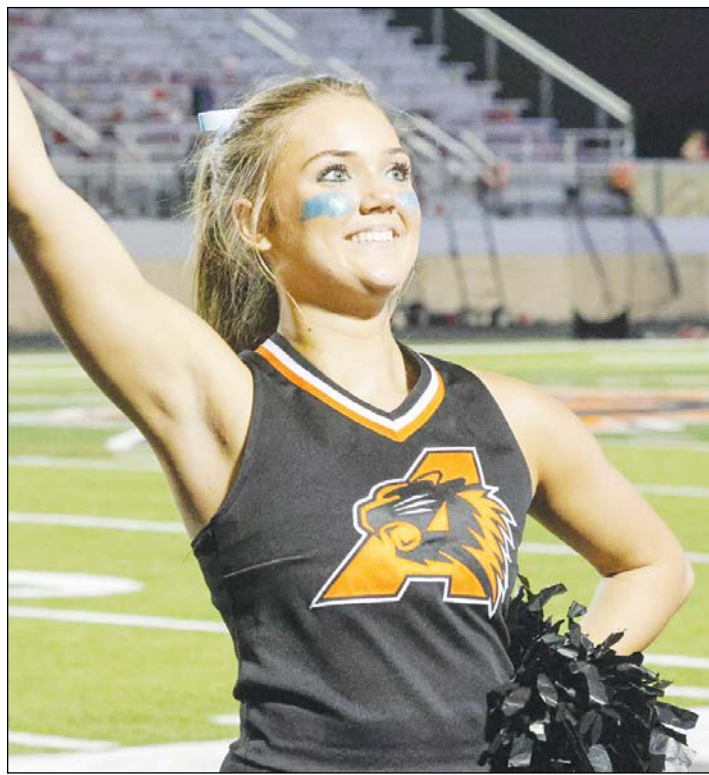




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# LADYCAT OF THE WEEK

**Elli Kate Bussmeir**  
**Tennis**


In helping the Racquetcats remain undefeated on the season with a 21-0 rout of White Settlement Brewer, she was nothing short of dominant in both singles and doubles. Bussmeir blanked her singles opponent 6-0, 6-0. She then teamed with Patrice Loftin to win their doubles match 6-1, 6-0.

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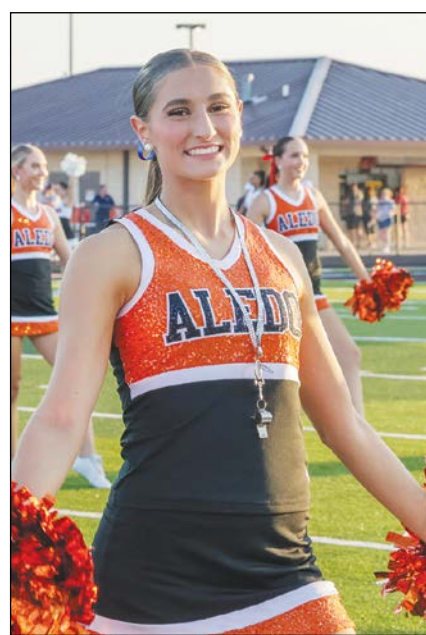
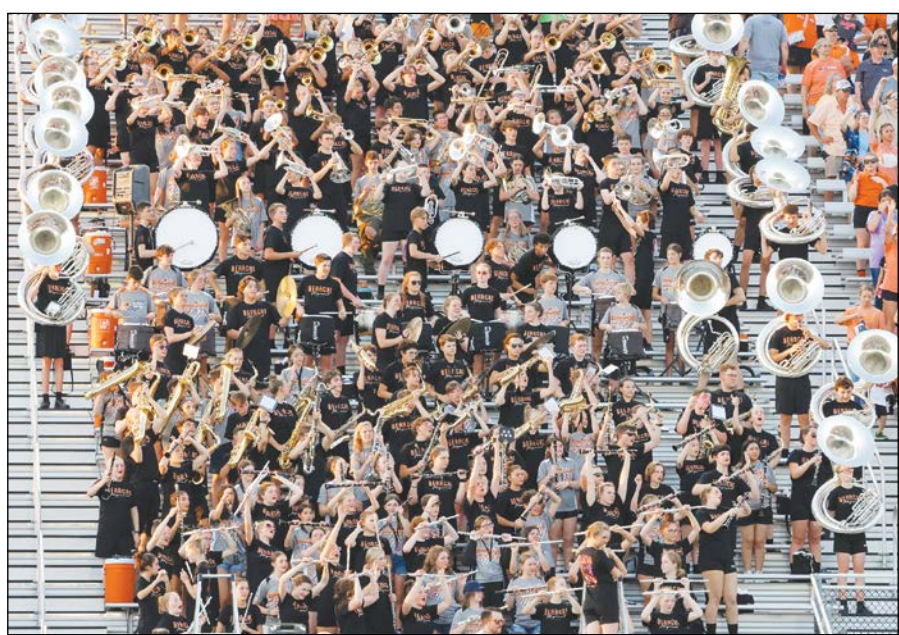
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# BEARCAT OF THE WEEK



**Boogie Owens**  
**Football**

Owens was a defensive force in a variety of ways for the Bearcats in their 38-13 home victory against Justin Northwest on Friday, Sept. 8. He returned a fumble 53 yards for a touchdown, had an interception he returned 11 yards and posted 5.5 tackles, including five solo takedowns.

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FOOTBALL

# Kangaroos run by Elks

## Freshmen QB leads victory

Staff Reports  
The Community News

The Weatherford Kangaroos rushed for 234 yards and defeated the Burleson Elks 35-21 on the road Friday night, Sept. 8, at Burleson Stadium.

The Kangaroos (2-1) started freshman quarterback Cutter Kennedy due to an injury to senior CJ Thornton last week. Kennedy's debut went well as he was 14-of-20 for 143 yards with one touchdown and one interception passing, along with 28 yards and one touchdown rushing.

Running back JoJo Polk scored two touchdowns on 82 yards rushing.

Kennedy got the scoring started with a 1-yard quarterback keeper in the first quarter. McClure followed up with a 6-yard rushing touchdown.

Polk punched it in for a 3-yard touchdown in the second quarter and ran for another score with an 18-yarder in the third quarter.

Kennedy and Will Jordan connected for Weatherford's only passing touchdown with 4:46 left in the game with a 13-yarder.

Kangaroo line-backer Andrew Groh had a big game with 11 tackles and a sack. Micah Moore registered seven tackles.

The Elks (0-3) threw for only 5 yards on two attempts. Rushing-wise, Nate Jackson rushed for 127 yards and one



RANDY CUTSHALL PHOTOGRAPHY

Freshman quarterback Cutter Kennedy has an opening for a quarterback keeper and Weatherford's first score in its 35-21 victory over Burleson on Sept. 8. Shown blocking is Xavier King.

touchdown on 12 carries for Burleson.

The game was called with about two minutes remaining due to lightning.

The Kangaroos host 3-0 Crowley in the District 3-6A opener for both teams Friday, Sept. 15 at 7:30 p.m. Weatherford leads the all-time series 5-2, but lost last season's matchup in Crowley, 31-17.

### Team statistics

Rushing yards: W'ford 234, Burleson 236.

Passing yards: W'ford 143, Burleson 5.

Caught-thrown-int.: W'ford

14-21-1, Burleson 2-3-0

Fumbles lost: W'ford 1, Burleson 1.

Penalties-yards: W'ford 5-40, Burleson 13-95.

### Weatherford Individual leaders Offense

Passing: Cutter Kennedy 14-20-1, 1 TD, 143 yards; Colton McClure 0-1-0.

Rushing: JoJo Polk 16 carries, 82 yards, 2 TD; McClure 6 carries, 45 yards.

Receiving: Colton McClure 3 catches, 47 yards; Will Jordan 3 catches, 36 yards.

Defense Andrew Groh 11 tackles, 1 sack; Micah Moore 7 tackles.



RANDY CUTSHALL PHOTOGRAPHY

Tight end Will Jordan (30) has clear sailing into the end zone.

## DEFENSE

from page B1

seven touchdowns (one receiving).

Aledo travels to Azle Friday while Northwest looks to rebound against Brewer at home. Both games have 7 p.m. start times.



Punts-average: Northwest 4-27.3, Aledo 2-36.5.

Penalties-yards: Northwest 2-20, Aledo 7-55.

Third-down conversions: Northwest 3-9, Aledo 6-11.

Fourth-down conversions: Northwest 0-1, Aledo 0-1.

Time of possession: Northwest 25:03, Aledo 22:57.

### Aledo 38, Northwest 13

Northwest 0 6 0 7-13  
Aledo 10 7 14 7-38

### A - Cole Crawford 32 FG

A - Hauss Hejny 17 run (Crawford kick)  
NW - Nate Jean 1 run (kick failed)  
A - Tyson Timms 41 pass from Hejny (Crawford kick)  
A - Ray Guillory 1 run (Crawford kick)  
A - Boogie Owens 53 fumble return (Crawford kick)  
NW - Ife Durodoye 56 run (Ulices Urtiz kick)  
A - Cooper Cyphers 49 interception return (Crawford kick)

### Unofficial statistics Team

First downs: Northwest 19, Aledo 20.  
Rushes-yards: Northwest 31-185, Aledo 43-228.  
Passing yards: Northwest 96, Aledo 97.  
Caught-thrown-intercepted: Northwest 11-20-2, Aledo 8-15-0.  
Fumbles-lost: Northwest 2-1, Aledo 2-0.

### Individual Offense

Rushing  
Northwest: Durodoye 15-128 yards, 1 TD; Jean 9-35, 1 TD; Leddie Thompson 8-32.  
Aledo: Guillory 25-122, 1 TD; Hejny 7-62, 1 TD; RJ Blake 7-27; Hawk Patrick-Daniels 3-26; Gavin Beard 1(-9).  
Passing  
Northwest: Thompson 11-20-2, 96 yards.  
Aledo: Hejny 8-15-0, 97 yards.  
Receiving  
Northwest: Cooper McComas 2-35, Adam Thurston 3-20, Gage Moore 1-18, Jean 2-17, Kobey Wall 1-8, Terry Duncan 1-1, Jonah Walters 1-0, Durodoye 1(-3).  
Aledo: Timms 2-42, 1 TD; Patrick-Daniels 5-30; Colton McCoy 1-25..

### Defense

Aledo tackle leaders: Davhon Keys 11.5, Owens 5.5, Jaden Allen 5.5.  
Aledo tackles for loss: Cooper Kohan 2, Jake Gillespie 1, Ben McElree 1, Keys 1, Jaxon Richter 0.5.  
Interceptions  
Aledo: Cyphers 1, TD; Owens 1.  
Fumble recovery  
Aledo: Owens 1, TD.

CROSS COUNTRY

## AMS teams compete at PC event

### Fink leads all runners

Staff Report  
The Community News

Aledo Middle School cross country runners competed in the Parker County Championship this past Saturday, Sept. 9 at the Weatherford Disc Golf Course. The athletes competed in

mixed groups, with seventh- and eighth-graders.

The AMS boys placed fifth out of nine teams and the girls were fourth out of eight teams.

Standout runners were Josh Fink for the boys, sixth out of 161 athletes with a time of 12:13.73 over 3,200 meters; and Juliet Sloan, 14th out of 135 athletes with a time of 14:39.72.

VOLLEYBALL

## AMS defeats Everman

### All teams sweep

Staff Report  
The Community News

Aledo Middle School had little trouble disposing of Everman with all teams in the seventh and eighth grades sweeping their matches.

Results were:

Seventh grade: A Team won 25-3, 25-11; B Team won 25-3, 25-6; C Team: won 25-2, 25-6.

Eighth grade: A Team won 25-4, 25-3; B Team won 25-8, 25-6; C Team won 25-5, 25-6.



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This is notice of a Request for Qualifications AND Proposals ("RFQ/RFP") for the PROVISION AND CONSTRUCTION OF A PRE-ENGINEERED STEEL BUILDING. The PC- ESD1 will select the Proposal that provides the Best Value to the PC- ESD1. Submissions must arrive no later than 9:00AM on September 25th, 2023, at the Parker County ESD1 administration, address listed below. Qualification submissions will be opened at 9:30am, on September 25th, 2023 at the same location.

The full RFQ/RFP and Unit Criteria Package are available from the PC- ESD1 at the following address:

Parker County ESD1  
C/O Stephen Watson  
Fire Chief  
PO Box 323  
315 Morrow Road  
Springtown, Texas 76082

It will also be made available on the Parker County Emergency Service District 1's website at the following address:  
<http://www.pcesd1.com>

The Fire Chief of Parker County ESD1, Parker County, Texas is designated as the contact person for all inquiries, Telephone inquiries are permitted. The telephone number of the Fire Chief Stephen Watson, is (817) 523-7598.

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RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Kenrie Pruitt signals to the line judge where the ball landed out of bounds during 5-5A District play against Northwest.

## LADYCATS

from page B1

“We’ve got to get back to work,” Gay said. “Mentality-wise, we’ve got to get back the intensity level and do better at managing ball games.”

Kinley Elms led the Ladycats offensive attack with 20 kills during the match.

Alyssa Todd, who is usually featured closer to the net, played more in the backcourt on Tuesday as she led the team in digs with 30. Late in the fourth set she returned to her outside hitter position where she played a crucial role in securing the Ladycat victory. Though her time near the net was short-lived, she managed to make the most of it, securing 19 kills on the night.

Kenrie Pruitt had another excellent game as the libero with 24 digs to her credit. Morgan Estevez and Sophia Frank both ended up with double-digit digs as well, as they finished the night with 15 and 10, respectively.

Frank (23) and Reding (20) combined for 43 assists in the match as the Ladycat offense went almost exclusively through the two of them.



Defensively, Haley Lowe tacked on five more blocks to her season total, giving her 65 to this point in the year. Ella Isbell, Kaelee Berkley, and Skyler Lambert had three blocks a piece, as well.

### Lady Texans sweep Aledo to start districts

Northwest continued to be the one equation the Ladycats couldn’t find an answer for when the two squads met to start district play. The Lady Texans went undefeated against Aledo during the 2022 campaign, and picked up right where they left off in 2023.

Berkley and Elms led the Ladycats in kills on the night with eight each. Pruitt picked up 18 digs, while Frank found 15 of her own and led Aledo in assists with 18. Logyn Denbrow led the team in aces in the match with three to her credit from behind the service line. Isbell secured three blocks while minding the net against the Lady Texan charge.

The Ladycats hit the road on Friday, Sept. 15 as District 5-5A action continues in Azle. That match against the Lady Hornets is slated for a 6 p.m. start.

## VOLLEYBALL

# Lady Eagles open district play

### Fall to Pantego

By Ryan Wade  
The Community News

Willow Park Trinity Christian’s Lady Eagles (11-8-2 overall) entered TAPPS District 1-4A play on Saturday, Sept. 9 playing host to Pantego Christian Academy. The Lady Panthers took the match three sets to one.

Pantego got out of the gate quickly in each of the four sets. After falling behind early, the Lady Eagles found themselves having to play catch-up in each set just to compete.

But compete they did.

The Lady Panthers jumped out to a 7-1 lead in the second set before Trinity Christian’s netters made their move. The Lady Eagles rallied to not only catch Pantego on the scoreboard, but ended up taking the set to cinch the match at one set each.

Set 3 started off much the same as the second in spite of the Lady Eagles shifting the momentum to their side at the end of the previous set. Pantego got out to a 7-0 lead before Trinity Christian got on the board. The Lady Panthers took the third set to put Trinity Christian’s backs against the wall with the match in jeopardy.

The fourth set was highly competitive once the Lady Eagles got going. After trailing to start the set, Trinity Christian tied the match up at 11-all. Moments later TCA took their first lead of the set at 14-13.

Pantego recaptured the lead moments later. Tied at 14-14, the Lady Panthers fired a shot across the bow that landed just inside the playing area to put Pantego up 15-14.



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

TCA’s Anjal Leopold slams a spike at a pair of Pantego defenders during the Lady Eagles’ district opener on Saturday, Sept. 9.

The visiting team would not trail again in the contest. The Lady Eagles ran out of gas as Pantego outscored Trinity Christian 10-1 to close out the set and take the match.

“I felt like our defense and our servicing was

really on,” TCA head coach Jessica Sims said after the match. “They had some big girls we didn’t stop. This was our first district game. We’re getting more competitive. We’re giving teams a run for their money. We just gotta keep working and keep the pressure on.”



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SWIMMING

# TCA's Spillers makes international splash

## Freshman makes first trip abroad

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

Michael Spillers made quite a splash in the summer between middle school and high school.

Spillers, a freshman at Willow Park Trinity Christian High School, competed for his club team, Sigma Swimming-Metroplex Athletics in the seventh Giochi del Tricolore Games in Reggio Emilia, Italy, Fort Worth's Sister City.

Fashioned in the style of the Olympics, the competition - held in late July this year - occurs every four years, beginning in 1997. The Games are an international celebration created to inspire unity and peace among athletes from around the world.

The competition featured 26 cities from 19 countries.

Spillers swam a 50-meter free-style, 100 free, 50 breast, 200 breast, 200 IM, and he also competed in a medley relay, swimming backstroke.

"Overall, I think I improved on everything except my 200 breast, though I don't know my exact times," he said.

Spillers noted the competition was held in a long course pool, 50 meters instead of 25 meters, which many U.S. meets are held in.

"Honestly the long course pool, in my opinion is better. I really don't love flip turns, so cutting half of them out of my races is amazing, plus

watching long course races is way more fun.

"I feel like watching the final stretch as they race to the wall is more enjoyable because there is so much room for a back-and-forth race."

While this was the highest level of competition in which he's ever participated, Spillers said he didn't find himself particularly nervous.

"I'd tell myself just to do as much as I could so I wouldn't ever regret it," he said.

### First foreign trip

This was his first time out of the U.S. He said his family had planned a trip outside the country a few years ago but it was canceled because of COVID.

He made the most of his visit, not only in the pool, but also by having fun otherwise. For example, he recalled going to a nearby gym after dark and playing soccer with no lights on, calling it "the worst game of soccer ever," but also one of the most fun.

"Everyone had socks on and was slipping everywhere. Mia was the only one of us who had ever even played," he said. "We played against some of the South African team participants but it was more for fun than anything. We ended 0-0."

"I think I was a pretty good goalie if I do say so myself. After soccer we pulled some random buggies out and pushed each other around."

He said his team also established a friendship with some athletes from another country in particular.

"Our team was constantly on the same bus as Turkey and we brought a little stuffed cow named Nelly from Texas with us. We gave Nelly to the Turkey team and every now and then we see Nelly posted on socials with the Turkey team even after returning home," he said with a chuckle. "Besides the Turkey team, I think we definitely hung out with the South African team the most. They were all so nice and genuine."

### Staying a little longer

And once the swimming was over, he still wasn't ready to come home - so he didn't. He stayed in Italy for an extra week with his parents and older sister.

"We went to Rome, mostly because my dad wanted to see all the historic sights. Then we traveled to Naples, which I preferred way more," Spillers said. "Naples was cool and it wasn't as crowded as Rome. When we were in Naples, we took a boat tour around the islands of Capri and Sorrento."

And, well, he wasn't quite finished swimming in Italy.

"While we were there we swam in a cave on the island where the water was literally glowing blue (Blue Grotto)," he said.

But the thing he will remember most about Italy? The driving. Like many countries outside the U.S., they drive on the left side of the road.

"I didn't know what was happening. There aren't any lines, signs, no nothing," he said, adding with a laugh, "So, I kinda just held on for dear life."



PHOTOS COURTESY OF LAUREN SPILLERS

Willow Park Trinity Christian freshman Michael Spillers swam for Sigma Swimming-Metroplex Athletics in the seventh Giochi del Tricolore Games in Reggio Emilia, Italy, Fort Worth's Sister City, in late July.



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