

THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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

ALEDO

City offers resources to save water and money

Smart Irrigation Month tips make the most of watering

City of Aledo
Special to The Community News

July is Smart Irrigation Month, and the City of Aledo reminds customers that more than 50% of landscape water may be wasted due to overwatering, inefficient watering practices, and broken or poorly maintained irrigation systems. Minimal rainfall in July means Parker County is experiencing abnormally dry conditions.

Adhering to Aledo's watering schedule and following these simple steps can help customers save water and money:

- Apply no more than an inch of water to your lawn per week during the summer. That will

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CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Fond of fawns! New twins Doe and Ray graze with their mother in the field between The Community News office at Champions Business Park and Aledo High School. The Wildlife Center of Texas reports first-year does will birth one fawn, but twins or triplets are typically expected thereafter.

ANNETTA

Town doing part for Monarch butterflies

By Jim Zimmerman
The Community News

When we see a child on a swing, playing hide-and-seek, or chasing a butterfly, we are reminded that it is the little things that bring us the greatest joy.

The late American author and motivational speaker Leo Buscaglia once said, "I still get wildly enthusiastic about little things... I play with leaves. I skip down the street and run against the wind."

The town of Annetta is doing their part to ensure such feelings as they have created a home for Monarch Butterflies.

The town council took the initiative during its meeting on Thursday, July 18, ensuring that future generations will be able to create memories that

all can share. Mayor Sandy Roberts issued a proclamation for the town to raise awareness of Monarch Butterfly conservation and habitat creation and preservation.

In her proclamation, Roberts said the Monarch is known as the "Ambassador of the Americas" due to its multi-generational migration across Canada, the United States and Mexico. She stated its metamorphosis from caterpillar to butterfly has captured the imagination of millions of Americans, including Texans as it was designated as the state insect in 1995.

She also noted that 28 years ago, more than one billion Eastern Monarch Butterflies migrated to Mexico, but in the winter of 2014, only 60 million made the trip. In 2022, the migratory

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CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Gay and Rolf Larson enjoy the garden they helped establish with other Parker County Master Gardeners at Annetta City Hall.

WILLOW PARK

Council unveils new communication service

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

Communication between Willow Park residents and City Hall just got easier.

Got a question about trash pickup? Water? Now, the answers are just a text away.

The Willow Park City Council, at its meeting on Tuesday, July 23, joined those in attendance to witness the unveiling of TextMyGov, a new service designed to improve communication between those who live in the city and those who work for and lead the city.

Willow Park Communications and Marketing Director Rose Hoffman said the service is a nice alternative to having to download another app for information.

"There are a lot of people feeling like they're being apped to death," she said.

Simply put, TextMyGov is designed to make it easier for those with incoming inquiries and those with outgoing notifications, so it makes things easier for both residents and city employees. Community members can text for answers to common questions and get directed to helpful information. It also allows the city to send text messages/notifications in a more efficient and effective manner.

The way it works is simple. Text "Hi" to 817-458-3443 and the communication is underway, complete with key words to help with your particular subject.

And, if your topic is not on there, someone - in this case Hoffman - will be notified. She can then send a link to help

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PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF WILLOW PARK

Sign posts such as this are now in place along the Trinity Track at King's Gate Park in Willow Park to aid first responders in the event of an emergency.

WILLOW PARK

Trinity Track gets 911 signage

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

Emergencies happen in a lot of situations, including being out for a healthy walk or run - which is why the Trinity Track at King's Gate Park now has 9-1-1 signage. Should someone encounter difficulty, they can be located by emergency officials more quickly.

"All the Weatherford Mountain Bike Club trails have a 9-1-1 emergency access system like the one that will be utilized on Willow Park trails," said WMBC President Larry Colvin, who is also senior design engineer for Baird, Hampton & Brown, the organization that worked with WMBC to produce the trail plan.

The 9-1-1 trail markers are an approximate 5-foot tall, red fiberglass post with a letter of

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ARREST

Willow Park man charged with child sexual assault

Staff Reports
The Community News

In an ironic twist, a Willow Park man whose security firm has been hired to protect school children has been arrested and charged with sexual assault of a child and prohibited sexual contact, according to a report from Fox 4 TV.

Kirk Stanley Grable, 54, was booked into the Parker County jail recently. He was released after posting bond the next day.

Grable is the owner of a security firm that was contracted to protect five Northwest ISD elementary schools.

The Fox 4 report also noted the victim met with police officers in May and described sexual acts he said Grable forced him to perform. He said the offenses took place at Grable's home in Willow Park and date back as far as 2021, increasing from every other week to daily before he turned age 17.

The report added that in a phone call between the victim and Grable that was recorded by police, Grable made several statements corroborating the victim's statements.

WEATHERFORD COLLEGE

School moves forward with computer science bachelor's degree

By Crystal Woerley
Weatherford College

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has given the green light for a fifth bachelor's degree at Weatherford College.

Pending accreditation and board approval, the Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences in Computer Science will begin in the Fall 2025 semester and be offered in a hybrid format. Dr. Linda Robinson will serve as the program director while the college searches for a director with a discipline-specific degree.

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges reviews new program requests submitted by July 1 and Jan. 1 of each year for accreditation consideration. Until the new degree receives final approval, WC students have several associate degree options that seamlessly lead into this new four-year degree.

"I am exceedingly pleased that the THECB has authorized Weatherford College to offer our

fifth bachelor's degree," said WC President Tod Allen Farmer. "Our high-quality bachelor's degrees are attainable for about a third of the price of the most affordable university-based bachelor's degree programs. We continue to expand access and affordability."

Dr. Shannon Ydoyaga, executive vice president of academic services, noted that the college's 150 existing students in this pathway currently pursuing degrees and certificates in cybersecurity, database programming, information systems, web development and networking systems were a determining factor in the administration's decision to pursue computer science as WC's newest bachelor's degree.

The degree also provides an avenue into high-paying jobs.

"Based on regional data, the Bureau of Labor Statistics indicates a 30 to 40 percent growth rate between now and 2030 and an average wage of \$50.58 per hour," Ydoyaga said.

WATER

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encourage deeper root systems and healthier grass.

- Turn off sprinklers when it's rainy or windy. Watch the forecast and turn off irrigation systems during and after rainfall.
- Cycle and soak. Instead of one long watering session, water in a couple of short cycles (5-6 minutes each) with an hour in between.
- Add a smart controller that automatically adjusts the sprinkler system based on watering restrictions and weather.
- Estimate irrigation usage with Fort Worth Water's calculator tool that shows how many gallons are used for every minute a sprinkler station runs for multiple days during the week.

Aledo offers the free "My Water Advisor" tool to help customers monitor how much water they are using and when. Customers can even customize alerts for water usage and potential leaks. To get started, customers should register at www.mywateradvisor2.com. The city has a detailed user guide and a short demonstration video to walk customers through the process of registering and using this tool.

Customers may also sign up to receive free weekly watering advice at www.waterisawesome.com for watering recommendations based on actual precipitation in the area. The Tarrant Regional Water District also offers several free resources, guides, and classes at www.savetarrantwater.com.

Take control of your water use by practicing smart irrigation this summer and year-round. Learn more on the City of Aledo Water Conservation page at www.AledoTX.gov/WaterSaving.

TRINITY

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the alphabet noting the location of the marker. They have been geo-referenced to a digital file that the Willow Park Fire Department has in their dispatch system.

Should there be a medical emergency the caller would inform the 9-1-1 operator where they are located via the alphabetized marker. That information is given to the paramedics who can then respond to the emergency.

"The WMBC has had this system in place since 2016. It's proven to be very effective at helping first responders navigate mountain bike trails in rugged environments," Colvin said. "It only makes sense for the system to migrate to the existing, paved bikeways like the ones inside Kings Gate Park."

The Trinity Track is the first phase of what is hoped to be a

significant trail system in Willow Park. Phase One is less than a mile of single track trail to accompany the existing 2-mile, concrete pathway inside Kings Gate Park.

Colvin said the City of Willow Park and the WMBC are negotiating with adjacent landowners to participate in future trail projects.

While the Trinity Track has been in use, an official soft opening is expected soon, Colvin said.

"The WMBC is excited to partner with the citizens of Willow Park on the Trinity Track," he said.

He also issued a reminder that the WMBC is a volunteer organization and anyone who wants to can get involved with the club.

"We've found that the people who are most passionate about a trail are the ones who live nearby," he said. "We're looking to get those people involved so we can create more trails closer to home."



PEACH FESTIVAL

Winners of food contest

Staff Reports
The Community News

The 2024 Parker County Peach Festival is now past, but the taste of all of the luscious delicacies lingers. Once again the food contest was a popular part of the weekend's festivities July 12-13.

A total of 91 participants entered the competition, including 55 adult entries, 21 youth entries and 15 chef's choice.

The competition was sponsored by Holland Lake Rehabilitation Center. The host location was Barlow Hall at All Saints Church.

- This year's top results included:
- Best of Show/Adult: Sylvia Olsen.
 - Best of Show/Youth: Jonny Coote.
 - Chef's Choice: Anne Saunders.
 - Judge's Choice: Debbie Wood.

Adult Division

Cakes/Cupcakes: 1. Sylvia Olsen, 2. Jodi Sanders, 3. Brenda Slate, 4. Diana Montel, 5. Jennifer Harvell Delacruz.

Cobblers/Pies: 1. Jacquelyn Bench, 2. Alex Conner, 3. Kari Rumfield,

4. Bethany Lancaster, 5. Suzy Weimer.

Salsa: 1. Rafaela Ramirez, 2. Gary Rogers, 3. Renee Rogers, 4. Cherie Ortega, 5. Taylor Tisdale.

Cookies/Bars: 1. Ariale Thomas, 2. Alex Conner, 3. Valerie Kruse, 4. Darla Burkhart, 5. Daina Montiel.

Jams/Jellies/Pickled: 1. Lorraine Carter, 2. Karen Ring, 3. Sheri Stewart, 4. Loretta Adcock, 5. Clare Duncan.

Ice Cream: 1. Stephanie Dial, 2. Jodi Sanders, 3. Valerie Kruse, 4. Jacob Shaffer, 5. Mark Bledsoe.

Savory/Meats: 1. Kacee Gordillo, 2. Anne Saunders, 3. Taylor Tisdale, 4. Bill Rains, 5. Antonio Truillo.

Youth Division

Cakes/Cupcakes: 1. Eliza White, 2. Ellie Whiteman, 3. Raegan McEntire, 4. Elena Edwards, 5. Madi Lefevre.

Cobblers/Pies: 1. Jonny Cole, 2. Lucie Payne.

Salsa: 1. Kaden Gordillo.

Cookies/Bars: 1. Charlie White, 2. Madi Lefevre, 3. Samantha



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANNE SAUNDERS, FACEBOOK

This creation by Anne Saunders won the Chef's Choice award at this year's Parker County Peach Festival.

Duncan, 4. BrynLynn Hobbs.

Ice Cream: 1. AJ Coote, 2. Austin Coote, 3. Xavier Asucro.

Savory/Meats: 1. Caleb Payne, 2. Blayne Hobbs, 3. Jonny Coote.

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Remembering Roy Ray

July 26 is the first anniversary of the passing of Roy Ray, a long-time pillar of the Aledo community. His family has offered some remembrances of this remarkable man.

Carol's recollections:

Roy was a good man and husband. The first time I remember meeting Roy was in the backyard at my brother's house — I didn't even see his face, I only heard his voice over the tall fence and hedge.

For our first date, I actually called him. We went out to Billy Bob's to see Donna Fargo. It was a great night. We had a great time and just clicked the next Sunday.

He had actually had a prior engagement with a friend, but he called me the next day and told me that had been set up long before he met me. He was a true gentleman and always followed through. But from then on, we started dating.

We spent a lot of time at the Aledo baseball complex, watching Desiree play baseball, then soccer, then basketball. Sports played a big role in our lives both going to the kids' games and going to Aledo games, and TCU games.

Roy was an avid sports fan, no matter the sport. It didn't take much to convince him to come to a game. If he had the slightest connection to anyone playing, he'd be there.

In May of 1981, Roy and his brother had planned to attend an insurance conference in Las Vegas, I was invited to attend with Roy. After the dinner, Roy surprised me with a marriage proposal. He just turned to me and said "hey, we're in Las Vegas. Let's get married!"

We did! We got a limo to City Hall to get our wedding license. We went to the Little White Wedding Chapel.



Roy is shown with Carol in the early 1980s before they were married.

On our 25th anniversary year, we took the whole family back to Vegas for an "reenactment," (Roy's word.) After 42 years of marriage "we still said 'I do.'"

For many years, our spring breaks were filled with the usual activities: beach trips, ski trips to Colorado, and Disney. The first family trip to Wolf Creek everyone took ski lessons except for Roy. He was an athletic guy. How hard could it be?

One trip up and down the bunny slope, where he crashed at the bottom of the slope, and he was done. He would never ski again, but would faithfully drive us into the slopes and out of the slopes every day for many years. While the family skied, Roy would hang out in the lodge. We would always meet up for lunch, but it gave Roy a chance to do his favorite activity, hold court in the lodge and meet new friends.

It seemed like Roy never went anywhere where he didn't know someone, and he considered everyone a friend and just friends he hadn't met yet.

He was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in 2022 but he never let a day go by where he didn't say thank you to me for helping to take care of him, and drive him to doctors appointments and treatments.

All his family and friends miss him dearly: Carol, Desiree, Dennis, Jacob, Brittany, Benjamin, Kathy, Lewis, Julius, Lewis, Hubert, Michelle

Katherine Bone's memories:

Life Lessons I learned from Roy E. Ray

It's been a hard year since Roy left. There hasn't been but a handful of days that I haven't thought about him since then.

7. Carry your tea wherever you go.

Roy never went anywhere without his own cup of tea. It was almost always in those cups we would so carefully collect from the stands at the end of a Bearcat playoff game at "Jerry's world."

6. Don't allow the phone to interrupt important moments.

In the year or two before Roy passed he would fuss at us if we had our phones out at the restaurant. He would want to talk. I think he knew we would want those memories and would have missed making them if we were on our phones.

5. Stand tall. Never back down from a fight.

When I first met Roy back in 1980 I thought he was a giant. He was so tall! I never did see him fight because he would never have to. He carried himself in such a way that people decided they didn't need to fight him. I always felt safe with him because nobody was going to mess with him.

4. Spoil your loved ones and yourself.

My favorite gift under the Christmas tree was something that Roy would have picked out himself. It was usually some jewelry and was usually beautiful. One year he got all us girls a long long string of pearls. They are one of my most prized possessions. Last July 4, he bought a charm bracelet of the month subscription for me. I have cherished getting each one because he is still with me and still spoiling me.

3. Live.

I remember one time we were eating breakfast some time in 2022 and a song came on, I Lived, by OneRepublic. He said that song was one he wanted played at his funeral. I got up from the table and went to the restroom and bawled my eyes out. It was the first time the thought crossed my mind of a world without my parents. It was a frightening thought for me and a scary world to envision. The chorus was his favorite part.

I owned every second that this world could give

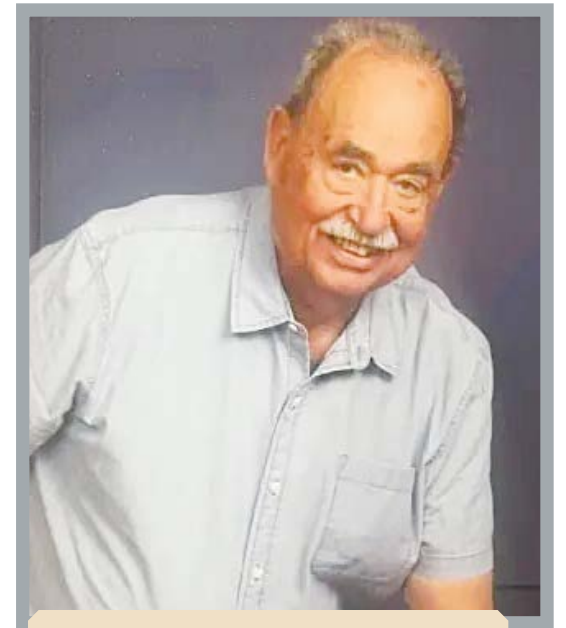
I saw so many places

The things that I did

Yeah, with every broken bone

I swear I lived

2. Love your team(s) with all your heart.



Roy Ray



The family posed for a vintage photo during a vacation. SHown are Roy, Carol, Desiree, Kathy, Hubert, and Michelle.

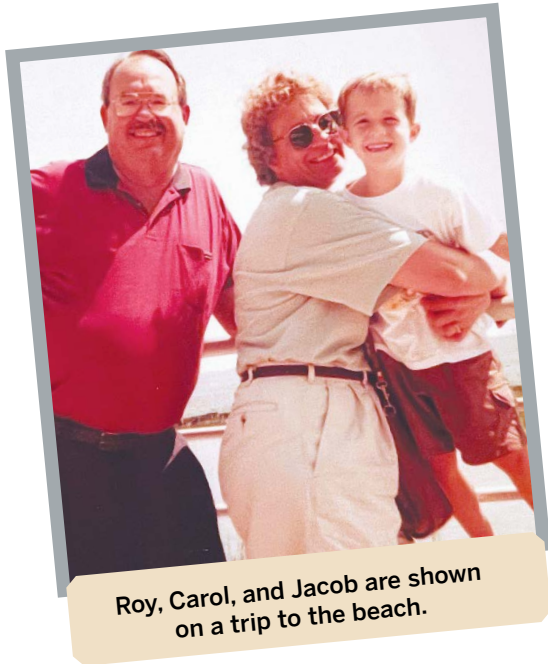
Roy loved his Bearcats and Horned Frogs. On any given Friday night you knew where you could find him, He was at the game. His entire wardrobe was either orange or purple.

1. Never waste an opportunity to tell someone you love them.

This one is tricky for me because he was my stepdad. I felt uncomfortable for a long time telling him that I loved him. As if it was a dishonor to my dad. I hope he knew how much he meant to me. When he became sick I never ended a phone conversation without saying "Love ya!" Each time I said it became easier and easier. I wished I had started saying it sooner.

It's hard to believe that he is gone. Somehow in my mind I thought he would live to be 100 like Grandmother Ray.

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Roy, Carol, and Jacob are shown on a trip to the beach.

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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

PUC outlines consumer protection rules



Gary Borders

gborders@texaspress.com

As the dog days of August approach and electric bills soar, the Public Utility Commission is reminding consumers of rules in place to protect them from having their power disconnected due to financial difficulties, especially during extreme heat.

"Ensuring the power stays on for all Texans, regardless of their financial situation, is a top priority for all of us at the PUCT," Executive Director Connie Corona said.

Several utilities have suspended disconnections to allow customers to recover from Hurricane Beryl, which caused widespread outages, particularly in the Houston area.

Consumer protection rules require electric providers to offer bill payment assistance programs, though electric cooperatives and municipally owned utilities in Texas are not subject to this rule; however, most offer some form of bill assistance. Options include a payment arrangement or a deferred payment plan.

Customers seeking assistance should start by contacting their electric provider. They can also learn what assistance programs are available in their area by dialing 211.

Migrant apprehensions drop to 2021 levels

The number of migrants apprehended by federal officers in June was at its lowest level in more than three years, according to figures released by the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol and reported by *The Texas Tribune*. Border Patrol agents apprehended 83,356 migrants in June across the southern border,

down from 117,901 in May and the lowest since January 2021, the month President Joe Biden took office.

"Recent border security measures have made a meaningful impact on our ability to impose consequences for those crossing unlawfully," acting CBP Commissioner Troy A. Miller said in a statement. "We are continuing to work with international partners to go after transnational criminal organizations that traffic in chaos and prioritize profit over human lives."

Biden issued an executive order, effective June 5, that essentially ended granting asylum to migrants.

Gov. Greg Abbott in previous statements has credited the state's multibillion-dollar mission, Operation Lone Star, for the decline in migrant apprehensions, *The Tribune* reported.

Texas second-worst state for women's health outcomes

A new report from a national women's health nonprofit concludes Texas is among the lowest performing states for women's health outcomes, Texas Public Radio reported.

Only Mississippi ranked worse in the study by the Commonwealth Fund, which analyzed data on maternal mortality, insurance access and other factors in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

One major issue is the lack of maternity care centers or obstetricians in many rural Texas counties, with 46% defined as "maternity care deserts." The state also ranked last in the country for health care access and affordability.

"It means that women enter their pregnancy having had less access to health care, particularly if they're poor or low income, and in a poorer health situation than they would have been in had they had health insurance coverage," said Sara Collins of the Commonwealth Fund.

Feds OK SNAP hot-food purchases in Beryl-affected counties

Federal food assistance recipients in 36 counties affected by Hurricane Beryl can use their benefits to buy hot foods and ready-to-eat meals, the Texas Health and Human Services Commission announced last week.

The approval from the U.S. Department of Agriculture applies to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients in Angelina, Austin, Brazoria, Calhoun, Chambers, Cherokee, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Grimes, Hardin, Harris, Houston, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Lavaca, Liberty, Madison, Matagorda, Montgomery, Nacogdoches, Newton, Orange, Polk, Rusk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Shelby, Trinity, Tyler, Victoria, Walker, Waller, and Wharton counties.

"The ability to purchase hot food is a necessity for SNAP recipients who are still recovering from the effects of Hurricane Beryl," said HHSC Deputy Executive Commissioner of Access and Eligibility Services Molly Regan. "Many families still cannot prepare meals due to power outages."

No action is required of SNAP recipients to receive this additional benefit. To find local resources, such as food and shelter, dial 211 and select Option 1.

Experts: Power outages likely to continue

Experts say widespread outages such as that caused in July by Hurricane Beryl, and in recent years by other weather-related events, are likely to continue in the future because the state's massive power grid is unprepared for severe weather events, *The Tribune* reported.

The state had 210 weather-related power outages from 2000 to 2023, according to data

from the U.S. Department of Energy — more than any other state. In July, Beryl knocked out power to 2.6 million customers in Southeast Texas. That came on the heels of a mid-May windstorm, known as a derecho, that hit the Houston area with 100-mile-per-hour winds and knocked out power to 1 million customers.

"It's like the big, bad wolf: huff and puff and blow the house down," said Michael Webber, an energy resources professor at the University of Texas at Austin. "And I don't think any utility or city designs for weather like that, at least not weather that frequent."

The state's stand-alone power grid will need decades of public investment in order to make it more resilient against storms, which down poles and power lines across Texas.

"The current distribution infrastructure isn't adequate apparently for the job at hand," Michael Skelly, CEO of Grid United, said. "What level of reliability do we want to try to get to and what are we prepared to invest?"

Both CenterPoint and Oncor have proposed investing billions to strengthen poles and wires, and install underground wires, but that will likely come at a cost to consumers.

"Ultimately, the bill is going to get loaded onto the backs of the customers, whether or not they were pleased with how [the power outage] was handled," Sandra Haverlah, president of the Texas Consumer Association, said.

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

Lessons in Holding On



Dr. Don Newbury

newbury@speakerdoc.com

I'm not sure who the TV weather guy was, which city he served or exactly what he said, but if his observation passed down through the ages is even close to accurate, it still has wide application today.

The man must have had his news antenna aimed far beyond the weather. He was a philosopher as well.

This Ohioan not only predicted the weather, but also included an account of the colorful president of Ohio University. And, it was during flood conditions, for crying out loud.

President Roger Alden, unquestionably an icon in both education and business, called on his remarkable conciliatory skills when students went on a rampage about the university cafeteria. He calmed them; order was quickly restored.

But wait! Cafeteria personnel were miffed that students were critical of their food,

so they threatened to strike. Again, President Alden quickly "charmed" them, and once again reigned supreme.

Hours later, the campus was crippled by flood waters that all but engulfed university buildings before subsiding.

Here's what the weather guy allegedly said: "Earlier this week, students protested the Ohio University food service, and President Alden quickly allayed their concerns. Then, cafeteria workers balked, but again, President Alden was equal to the situation."

Then came his classic line about the flood, perhaps rubbing right up against verbatim.

"Today, God tried to close Ohio University, and President Alden is holding his own." Stories abound about folks "holding their own," and this holds true throughout the world. Fingernail prints are everywhere, left by folks trying to hang on.

To sharpen our focus, the community of Branson, MO, has dreamed big, even when staring straight into the squinty eyes of adversity. Case in point: Opening of its world-class, multi-million-dollar aquarium coincided with COVID's arrival. So much for a grand opening.

It held on, as have dozens of other venues in this vacation

destination that is gradually regaining a foothold following the pandemic.

Thankfully, much about Branson is predictable. Folks at the more than 100 shows and attractions are as happy to see visitors as Minnie Pearl was in her weekly half-century comedy routine at The Grand Ole Opry: "I'm just so proud to be here."

Shows are top quality, clean, patriotic and generally "priced right."

We landed at the Pierce Arrow Theater on a recent visit. Three take-aways: Producer Dan Britton can really hit the low notes, now included in the Guinness Book of Records. Baritone Michael Cole is an absolute phenom, springboarding to fame 15 years ago with a high finish in network TV's America's Got Talent. And, comedian James Sibley remains one of the funniest guys on the planet.

It is noteworthy that Cole can't remember when he wasn't singing, having busted loose at age four in his church choir in rural New York State. A five-sport star in high school, he chose music, or maybe it was chosen for him.

"I don't remember ever going anywhere in the car without the radio blaring music, and I sang

along with the artists." He, his brother and sister were "back seat harmonizers" later to be recognized on national TV.

He joined Pierce Arrow three years ago and loves life in Branson with his wife and two sons, ages 12 and 3. His mom and dad have moved their ministry to nearby Hollister, his brother is in marketing for Silver Dollar City and his sister is an area realtor....

Sibley, appearing in overalls that may have been custom-made by the Acme Tent and Awning Company, is a humor genius.

Most of his comic jabs are self-inflicted. One great story revealed a lie he told his grandchildren.

He said that when the ice cream truck came by playing music, it meant they were out of ice cream. He admits to being one year younger, since his parents held him back one year!

Long live Branson! May it ever hold on!

Dr. Newbury, longtime public speaker and university president, continues to speak and write. His column, begun in 2003, is Texas' longest in syndication. Contact: 817-447-3832. Email: newbury@speakerdoc.com. Website: www.speakerdoc.com.

Obituaries

Lou Alda Cardwell

Lou Alda (Ray) Cardwell, 72, beloved wife, mother, and grandmother passed away on Friday, July 19, 2024 at her home in Aledo.

Lou was born September 20, 1951 in Mineral Wells, daughter of Marshall Wayne and Bobby Joyce (Burks) Ray. She met the love of her life, Phillip Allan Cardwell, and they were married on June 19, 1976. They would go on to spend 48 happy years together raising their family.

Lou spent many years in social work with the Texas Department of Human Services. She was the Mother's Day Out Director for many years at First Baptist Church of Willow Park.

Lou was an avid reader, enjoyed needlework, and loved to cook. She was also a gifted musician who loved



Lou Cardwell

to sing and could do so "like an Angel." Of all the things that brought her joy in life, her first love was her family. Her grandchildren were the light of her life.

She is survived by her loving husband, Phillip Allan Cardwell; children, Bobbie Dotson (Christopher), Phillip Ray Cardwell (Shelby), and Christina Nicole Crabtree; grandchildren, Melissa, Susan, Richard, Hannah, Christian, Theodore, and Phillip Ford; brother, Marshall Wayne Ray (Charlotte); and numerous extended family members and friends.

Lou demonstrated abundant joy, generosity, love and kindness. She will be missed every single day, but her memory will live on forever.

A funeral service was held on Tuesday, July 23 at White's Chapel of Memories in Weatherford.

The Community News
July 26, 2024

Peggy Burks Gunter

Peggy Burks Gunter passed away peacefully on July 5, 2024, at the Medical City Hospital in Weatherford at the age of 94.

Peggy was born in Dallas, Texas, to E. Logan Burks and Pauline Hill Burks on February 22, 1930. Peggy graduated North Dallas High School in 1947 and attended Texas State College for Women in Denton.

Peggy was married to William (Bill) Warren from 1950 to 1976 and for much of that time was a member of Edge Park Methodist Church in Fort Worth. Peggy was employed by General Dynamics Fort Worth as a talent acquisition specialist for 33 years.

In 1979, Peggy married her love and gentle soul, Don R. Gunter. Don built their beautiful home in Willow Park, where they lived the rest of their lives. Peggy and Don were members of the Willow Park Church of Christ. After Don's passing in 2005, Peggy remained in the home until declining health sent her to Willow Park Rehabilitation and Care in December, 2023.



Peggy Gunter

Peggy was preceded in death by siblings, Robert (Bob) Burks, Phyllis Moore and Judy Keene, and by stepson, Donald C. Gunter.

Peggy is survived by sisters, Barbara Cotten and Linda Wilson; and by children and stepchildren, Steven Warren (Mindy), Don Warren (Sallie), Shari (Mrs. Donald C.) Gunter, Ron Gunter (Joy), Laura Gunter Overstreet, and David Gunter (Amy). She is also survived by grandchildren, Jessica Gunter Widder (Tim), Melody Gunter Procter (Doug), Katie Gunter, Elizabeth Overstreet Toombs (Dylan), Angela Overstreet, Trevor Gunter (Paige), Rachel Gunter, Christi Warren, Tracy Warren, Darcy Warren, Bailie Warren and Emmy Warren, as well as by great-grandchildren, Thomas Widder (Kaitlyn), Timothy G.L. Widder, Adelyn Procter, Alice Toombs, Rory Overstreet Flatt, Rowan Gunter, Beren Gunter and Visenya Gunter.

The family plans a private cremation burial service this fall at Greenwood Cemetery in Fort Worth.

The Community News
July 26, 2024

COUNCIL

from page one

answer your question and add it to the system for the next person with that or a similar question.

Hoffman cited as an example a question someone asked about how to contact an inmate in the city jail.

"In a city the size of Willow Park with the size of the staff we have, anything we can do to streamline the user experience and make it easier for our community to find information is a good tool," she said.

Also, you do not have to be a resident of Willow Park to use TxtMyGov, Hoffman added. And it is available in a Spanish version.

Hoffman noted that if you want to ensure you receive notifications text WP info to 91896.

"By and large I think people are going to like it because of the simplicity," Hoffman said. "You don't have to do a lot of digging."

Parker County Brewing Company moving

The council announced a Chapter 380 agreement with Second Empire Brewing, owners of Parker County Brewing Company that will allow them to relocate from the Shops at Willow Park to the location that was formerly the Parker County Ice House. Their new 6,100 square foot home is located at 210 Willow Bend Dr. in the heart of Willow Park's business district.

"I think it's going to be a great opportunity for them to be independent (stand alone). They have events from time to time and want more of that," Planning and Development Director Toni Fisher said. "They'll have more room to spread out."

Fisher said plans are for them to be in their new location on or before Jan. 1, 2025.

Chapter 380 of the Texas Local Government Code allows municipalities to provide a grant or loan of city funds or services to promote economic development.

Police awards

The Willow Park Police Department was honored by the Texas Police Chiefs Association with a re-accreditation. It was presented by Weatherford Police



RICK MAUCH/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Weatherford Police Chief Lance Arnold presented Chief Daniel Franklin with a re-accreditation award from the Texas Police Chiefs Association.

Chief Lance Arnold, who noted that only eight percent of the police departments in the state earn re-accreditation.

"It's not an easy task, I can tell you," he said.

The WPPD was first accredited in 2020 with Carrie West (now Carrie Ellis) as the chief. Daniel Franklin is now chief, taking over in June of 2023 following West's retirement.

Arnold said the re-accreditation, which occurs every four years, was based on a committee's decision on how the WPPD fared in 173 different standards addressing all facets of law enforcements.

"I'm here to tell you tonight the vote was unanimous," he said.

"This award was first earned by Chief West and now continued by the high level of success by Chief Franklin. To get this honor under two different police chiefs is really something special," Willow Park City Manager Bryan Grimes said. "As a city manager, father and husband I'm extremely grateful for Chief Franklin and the police department."

Parker County law enforcement agreement

County approved a second addendum to the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between Parker County and the City of

Willow Park for law enforcement dispatch services to be effective Oct. 1.

The addendum will raise compensation services from \$91,967.00 to \$101,526.00 in order for Parker County to provide dispatch services to the City of Willow Park.

TCA scoreboard agreement

Similar to a recent contract signed with Aledo ISD, council approved a scoreboard advertising agreement with Willow Park Trinity Christian Academy. The partnership is seen as another opportunity to promote the city's branding and name recognition.

The contract is a three-year agreement at a cost of \$5,000 per year, and can be paid out of hotel occupancy tax funds.

The signage will be a center rectangular panel on the scoreboard in the football stadium measuring just over 8 feet wide and 3 feet high.

"This is pretty much chapter and verse what we did with Aledo," Hoffman said, adding that many of Trinity's opponents "Come from hours and hours away."

To continue reading visit <http://www.community-news.com/stories/willow-park-council-unveils-new-communications-between-residents-and-city-hall,87658>

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Owen Woodward

Cody Morse

Austin Green

Kasen Wells

BASEBALL

WC players taken in MLB Draft

Courtesy Weatherford College

Four players from Weatherford College were taken on the second day of the Major League Baseball Draft, Tuesday, July 16.

The Los Angeles Dodgers selected current WC pitcher Cody Morse in the 12th round, along with outfielder Kasen Wells. Also, former players Austin Green and Owen Woodward went to the New York Yankees in the 14th round and the New York Mets in Round 15, respectively.

This brings to 49, the number of Weatherford College athletes drafted since the program began in 2003.

Dodgers select Morse

In the 2024 season, Morse posted a 3.08 ERA with 53 strikeouts and 28 walks over 49 and two-thirds innings. He went 5-1 with one save and was a second

team all-conference honoree for the Coyotes.

Morse is a 6-foot-6-inch left-hander and a graduate of Katy Paetow High School. He transferred to WC from the University of Houston and has signed to play at the University of Oklahoma next year. He will now be faced with the decision to either enter the Dodgers' system now or move on to Norman.

Yankees take Green

The New York Yankees selected Weatherford College alumnus Austin Green in the 14th round of the Major League Baseball Draft Tuesday. Green played his junior and senior seasons at Texas Tech University.

In the 2024 season, Green hit .322 for the Red Raiders. He turned in 45 RBI, 13 doubles, eight home runs and 31 walks

in 174 at-bats. He was the Big 12 Co-Player of the Week April 22.

Green played two seasons at WC, hitting .320 as a freshman and .327 as a sophomore. Over the two years, he collected 91 RBI, 19 home runs and was 23-of-24 stealing bases. He was a second team all-conference selection for the Coyotes in 2021.

Woodward now a Met

Woodward played his junior and senior seasons at the University of Houston.

In the 2024 season, Woodward struck out 36 batters and only walked four in 23 and one-third innings for the Cougars. In his junior year, he finished with a 4-0 record and four saves over 42 innings.

Woodward, a 6-foot-3-inch right-hander, turned in an ERA of 3.10 in his 2022 season at WC,

striking out 30 compared to eight walks.

Woodward is a Breckenridge High School graduate.

Wells goes to Padres

Wells was the Offensive Player of the Year in the Northern Texas Junior College Athletic Conference in 2024. He hit .384 in the regular season with 52 RBI, 14 doubles and six triples (10th nationally). He stole 32 bases.

Wells is a graduate of Smithson Valley High School in Spring Branch. He transferred to WC from Texas A&M University and has signed to play at Dallas Baptist University next year. He will now be faced with the decision to either enter the Padres' system now or move on to DBU.

JUNIOR GOLF

Aledo golfers win FW Girls tourney

Staff Reports
The Community News

Several golfers from Aledo captured the top spot in their respective division in last week's Fort Worth Junior Golf Association Girls Championship. The tournament was played on various courses in and around Fort Worth.

Reagan Gilliland won the second flight of the Girls 14-18 Division I with a total of 309 over 63 holes. She had 18-hole scores of 97, 85 and 86, along with a nine-hole score of 41.



Reagan Gilliland

In the third flight of that division, Kennedy Parker won with a 344 (98-95-47-97).

In the Girls 11-13 category, Ainsley Henze tied for first place with a 75 over two days of nine-hole rounds (45-30).

Also, in the Girls 14-18 Division I, Kyla Morales placed second in the first flight with a 290 (87-79-44-80). Harper Price was fourth in the third flight with a 347 (108-91-52-96).

Competing in the championship flight, Emily Crick was seventh, shooting 286 (87-77-39-83).

Kylee Kirkland competed in the third flight. She posted a 256 over the first three rounds (100-105-51), but did not compete on the final day.

Courses played in the tournament included Squaw Creek, Willow Park; Fort Worth's Diamond Oaks, Pecan Valley Hills, Texas 9 and Rivercrest; Oeste Ranch, Weatherford; Benbrook Par 3 and Hidden Creek, Burleson.

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International Day of Friendship July 30

The International Day of Friendship was proclaimed in 2011 by the UN General Assembly with the idea that friendship can make the world a more peaceful place.

CWTAJPNZAVQDHSAYTMPXEVBXTCIBLCULO
★ EGBGRTYMWVPOSTREAWUMCSPLEWWRWDANKLFRITZA



Mystery Postcards

Some young travelers have sent postcards home to family in the United States, but the senders forgot to say which country they were visiting. Can you use the geography clues to determine which country each postcard was sent from?

Standards Link: Social Science: Use map and globe skills to find the absolute location of places; use the internet or encyclopedia to research.



Border Clues

The names of the four countries where these postcards came from are hidden in the letters that form the border at left and right. To find out the names, circle every third letter—starting with the starred one in each row of letters.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Understand simple written directions.

Extra! Extra!

Cities Search

Look through the newspaper for names of 10 different cities. Arrange these words in alphabetical order.

Standards Link: Spelling: Arrange letters in alphabetical order.

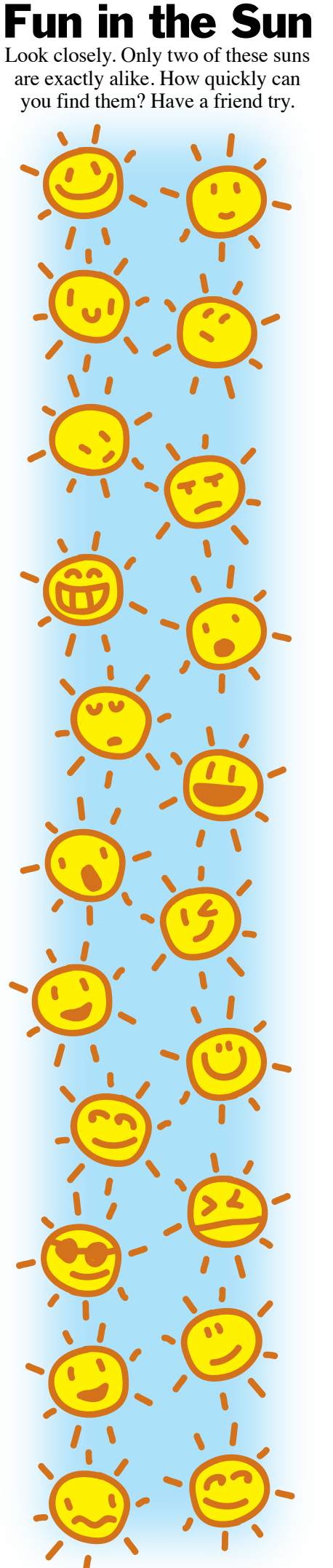
Activities on today's page were adapted from the National Geographic Society's educational materials.

How to Say "Hello!"

Follow the maze to find out how to say hello in each country.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions; Physical Education: Develop eye-hand coordination.

Polish: Poland
Vietnamese: Vietnam
Masai in Kenya
Lebanese: Lebanon
"Cześć" (chests)
"Sopa Sopa" (soh-puh soh-puh)
"Chào" (chow)
"Nǐ hǎo" (Nee-how)
"Marhaba" (Mar-ha-ba)
Mandarin: China



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Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: INTERNATIONAL

The adjective **international** means relating to two or more nations.

An **international** group of students came on an exchange program during the summer.

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

Fido Phrases

What do dogs "say"? In English we imitate them by saying, "Bow wow!" People in other countries have their own ways to copy the sound a dog makes. Can you find each of the dog sounds in the word puzzle?

HINT: One of them is spelled around a corner.

English: Bow wow!
Chinese: Wang wang!
Russian: Gav gav!
German: Vow vow!
Swahili: Wow wow!
Hebrew: How how!
Japanese: Wan wan!
Swedish: Voff voff!
Spanish: Gwow gwow!

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Double Double Word Search

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

REEF
CHINA
POLAND
VIETNAM
KENYA
LEBANON
METRO
SALSA
HELLO
WORLD
NILE
LEFT
CHAO
GOT
LINKS
TRIP

HELLO JRYVA
WOIRCSLIES
QUTAHFEERK
JEBDITBJCN
MSKNNOAHC
TPAAAYNEKL
FIMLTWORLD
EREOSLNILE
LTGPTAWHTM

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

FROM THE **Kid Scoop** LESSON LIBRARY

Sports Stars of the World

Look through the newspaper for names of famous sports stars who come from other countries. Make a collage about your favorite star with newspaper articles, maps and pictures.

Standards Link: Social Science: Recognize similarities and differences in cultures around the world.

What two words have thousands of letters in them?

ANSWER: Post Office.

Write On! Friends

What makes a good friend?

Standards Link: Write descriptively using main idea and supporting details.

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

Bearcat Nation 101
ALL IN ALEDO
Connecting Community
Saturday, August 3
McAnally Middle School Cafeteria
9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

AUGUST 3
Bearcat Nation 101
Attention, Bearcat Nation! Aledo ISD will be hosting its annual Bearcat Nation 101, a free event that brings the Aledo community from 9a.m. - 12 p.m. on Saturday, August 3, 2024, in the McAnally Middle School cafeteria at 14700 Old Weatherford Road. This fantastic opportunity is designed to help you

build connections with your community by bringing district administrators and employees across multiple departments as well as community partners together in one convenient place! Get plugged in to Bearcat Nation and find ways to help your child thrive by connecting with fellow Bearcats and learn more about our schools, programs and community resources.

AUGUST 8
Alzheimer's Group
The East Parker County Alzheimer's Group meets from 1-3 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month at Aledo United Methodist Church, 100 Pecan Drive. For more information, call 817-441-8329.

AUGUST 13
Dementia Support Group
Join the Dementia Support Group from 4-5 p.m. at Harvest of Aledo 1043 Bailey Ranch Rd. We are honored and privileged to care for those affected by dementia. Even more so, we value the efforts of the caregivers, especially the families of our residents. This meeting will take place on the second Tuesday of every month. For more information call 682-209-0643

EVENT SUBMISSIONS

Send event submissions to events@community-news.com.

ACROSS

- 1 "got a ___ in my throat" (emotional)
- 5 TX Roy Orbison hit "It's ___" (1964)
- 6 home of Baylor film ___ (scam)
- 8 commercials, e.g. Clay Allison epitaph: "He never killed ___ did not need killing"
- 16 pekoe and green in Bandera, "Dixie ___" for city slickers
- 21 ___ Campo, Texas
- 22 Maureen O'___ of film "Rio Grande"
- 23 TXism: "his facts ___ elastic" (liar)
- 24 TXism: "it ___ poke in the eye with a sharp stick"
- 30 TX-based Sunoco once was "___ Company"
- 34 TXism: "bend ___ elbow" (drink)
- 35 record companies
- 36 TX Roy Bean's court ___ was in his Langtry saloon
- 37 petty quarrels
- 39 ___ Court is last resort for civil appeals
- 43 TX Gene Tierney 1945 film: "Leave ___ Heaven"
- 44 delicious melon: "Pecos Can ___"
- 45 WBAP ___ FM
- 46 "it's ___ better days"
- 47 TXism: "___ on her" (pretty girl)
- 49 degraded
- 52 Texas-based American Airlines would hire this aircraft mainten. worker
- 53 dir. from Andrews to Junction
- 54 wind turbine part
- 55 TXism: "never sign anything in ___ of a neon light"

DOWN

- 1 Texas Registered Longhorn Beef is this (2 wds.)
- 2 birth town of TX McConaughy
- 3 TXism: "___ su casa" (neighborly)
- 4 seniors dance
- 9 just one of 8-across
- 10 this Ali took TX Foreman's title in 1974 "Rumble"
- 11 TX singer Meat Loaf was born Marvin Lee ___
- 12 noted fictional detective, Wolfe
- 13 thin, ghostly figure
- 14 laugh word
- 15 TXism: "plain as the ears ___ mule"
- 17 7-Eleven slushies
- 19 Texas Nokona baseball gloves are hand ___
- 20 this Josh was Aggie offensive line coach (2019-22)
- 24 great NFL and UT quarterback, Bobby (init.)
- 25 enjoy fried okra
- 26 you can make ___ at Lone Star Park
- 27 Bank in East Texas
- 28 Olympic ski race
- 29 TXism: "___ as a baby's backside"
- 31 neither's sidekick
- 32 abortion case that's been overturned "___ v. Wade"
- 33 hides out (2 wds.)
- 38 in Duval County on U.S. 59
- 40 ___ Ross State University in Alpine once a rival to the AP news agency
- 42 "E" of "EMT"
- 48 ___ Ward, Texas in Hale County
- 50 TX Kenny sang you gotta know when to hold 'em and when to ___ 'em
- 51 OJ's judge, Lance
- 56 four-bagger by an Astro or Ranger
- 57 make ecstatic

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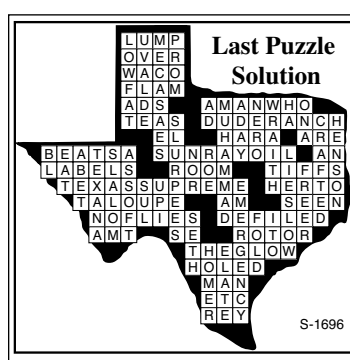
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continued from page 3

Remembering Roy Ray

Des's recollections:

My Dad was my hero and I miss him every day! He always made my birthday feel special even though it was four days before Christmas. He never missed a game and was my biggest fan!

He was a great listener when I needed to talk about work and always gave me advice options.

Some things you might not know about my dad are as follows: Dad jumped out of planes in the army; he was an avid golfer; he really did work on the farm then walk miles to school and back; he loved to get up early and take anyone and everyone to breakfast and his drink of choice was unsweet tea.

My kids will tell you that Grandpa was always there for them, taught them how to

drive the old farm truck, feed the cows and fish, and that Ranch dressing made everything better! My husband, Dennis, and Dad perpetually discussed the outcome of football games and the players' abilities and how TCU would show up this year.

Dennis still shares Roy's secret of using Woody's Cook-in sauce for grilling and now nothing else will do! In short, my Dad has always been there for his kids and his family regardless of the circumstance, he was someone you could count on. He was a great man, a great friend, a great Dad, and we loved him dearly.

Michelle Ray's memories:

My memories of my father are tied to two things: breakfast and sports.

As far back as I can remember, he was always the one to cook breakfast in the morning. When all my siblings had moved out, and I was the only child left in the house who refused to eat breakfast most mornings, he started going out to eat breakfast.

At first McDonald's, then Whataburger, then several other local places around town, but you had to be careful if you told him you'd liked something because you would get it every single day. He got better over time and would actually ask if you wanted something for breakfast. In fact, I have a saved voicemail from him, asking for my breakfast order. I don't plan on deleting that voicemail, it's only five seconds and helps me remember him.

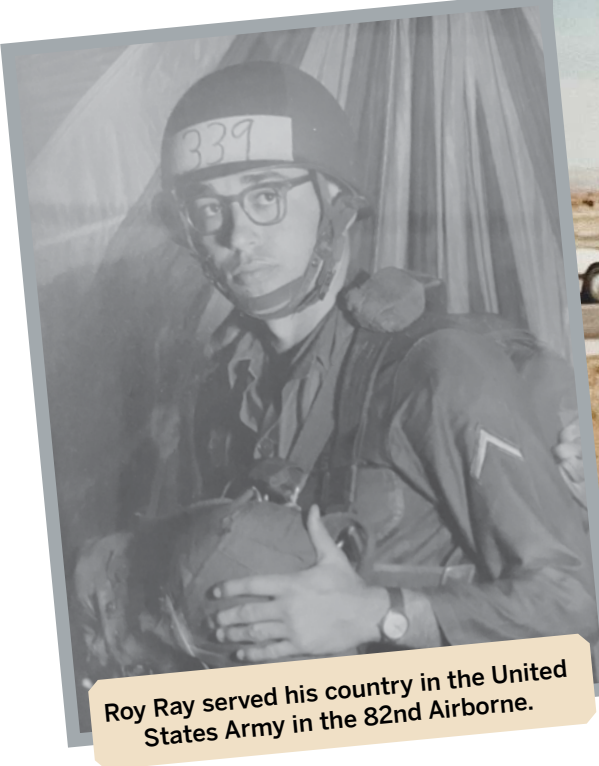
Sports being the other big memory of him, going to Desiree's basketball games, playing under the stadium during football games (both Aledo and TCU), he was an avid Aledo fan — all sports.

When I was an equipment manager for the Texas Tech Football program during college, he would come to Lubbock (when Aledo had a bye-week game) to support me there. It was my unofficial tradition to call him on Sundays to talk about whatever game was on or go over the bad call, and he would brief me on who was leading the golf tournament.

The third big memory of my father is actually from the 1995 hailstorm. If you're new to the area, this was a big storm, very destructive for no tornado — houses were totaled. As soon as it had stopped raining and hailing, he fought his way to the his car through the massive hail slides in the front yard to go check on grandmother, his mother, just up the road from our house. He couldn't drive back to physically check in with Mona so he came



Roy (second from left) is shown with two grandsons and his son-in-law after a New Year 2023 dinner.



Roy Ray served his country in the United States Army in the 82nd Airborne.



Roy shares a moment with grandson Jacob on a trip out west.

back to the house and called her. My mother had been out in the storm and had been actually caught in her car during the storm and this was right around the beginning of cell phones and they weren't as reliable as they were today.

He was able to track her down to a friend's house but then he gathered up all the notepads in the house, got the phone and sat down at the table and I was like, "what are you doing, dad?"

But he knew that his clients would start calling, and they did — he talked on the phone for hours, late into the night, because he always wanted to have someone speak with a person, even if it was just to take a message. My first job was taking messages at the insurance office, because someone was always there to answer the phone. He would always answer those messages even if he had spoken with you, you called, he would return your call or text you back when we finally convinced him to get a cell phone, you could call him and ask about text or email, speak about it, then get his reply, it was just his way.

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