

THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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

Mayor to Mayor

Price, Marshall shake hands on land deal

By Randy Keck
The Community News

The City of Aledo is inching closer to a significant expansion of its extraterritorial jurisdiction as it awaits a vote by the Fort Worth City Council to finalize the arrangement.

In one of her last acts in office, Fort Worth Mayor Betsy Price hosted Aledo Mayor Kit Marshall on Tuesday to shake hands on the deal. That night, Mattie Parker was sworn in as the new Fort Worth mayor, and Price has announced her intention to run for Tarrant County Judge.

"We're thrilled to make this happen," Price said. "Mayor Marshall and I have been working for some time ... and city staff came along and said, 'well, I don't see any reason we can't.' The infrastructure is different, and there's a lot of moving pieces on this and a lot of development going on."

Price turned to Marshall to say "you pushed on your end and we pushed on our end, and we were able to get the landowners to agree that this was the best way to do it."

Price said she and Marshall had been in discussion about Aledo's "front door" for about four years, but the pace accelerated when the landowner contacted Marshall in early 2020 to let her know they were

Turn to **LAND**, page 3



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Aledo Mayor Kit Marshall (left) and Fort Worth Mayor Betsy Price (right) met on Tuesday, June 15, to commemorate the land deal that will add about 320 acres on the east side of FM 1187 into Aledo's jurisdiction.



POLITICS

Donald Trump Jr to visit county for book signing

Staff Reports
The Community News

The Parker County Republican Party will host Donald Trump, Jr. from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday, July 16 at Film Alley in Weatherford.

General admission to the event is \$50, which includes a copy of the book, *Liberal Privilege*.

Proceeds benefit the Parker County Republican Party.

For more information, call Scott Utley at 817-304-0144. To register, visit https://secure.anedot.com/parkergop/don_jr_book_signing.

WILLOW PARK

Fort Worth water supply connected

Cleaning, testing still to go

By Rosealea Kertok
City of Willow Park

The City of Willow Park officially connected to the City of Fort Worth water supply at the northeast corner of FM 1187 and I-20 on Tuesday, June 15.

The connection, three years in the making, is the first step in supplying both Willow Park and Hudson Oaks with surface water from Fort Worth.

The connection will eventually add an additional 3.5 million gallons per day supply for Willow Park, as compared to the current 1.6 million the current system can produce. For this summer, the additional supply will be 500,000 gallons per day. The pipes still need to be cleaned of construction debris and testing completed, so it will be about a month before the supply is in place, just in time for the hottest part of the summer.

Turn to **WATER**, page 3



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

The final connection of the water line from Fort Worth to Willow Park is in place. The red and blue bands are where the two segments were joined. The section with the red circular structure at the top is the valve.



Volume 31, Number 25
Published Weekly

On the dotted line

Business seeking signatures to sell liquor in Willow Park.

PAGE 2

Home Prices

Parker County among highest home prices in the state.

PAGE 3



Summer Camps

Season kicks off with softball, soccer camps.

PAGES 8 AND 10

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WILLOW PARK

Business seeks signers for liquor petition

FastRun Beer and Wine needs about 900 signatures total

By Brandi Addison
The Community News

Willow Park retail residents could soon purchase liquor in town.

FastRun Beer and Wine is in its second attempt to sell retail liquor in Willow Park, beginning the process last year.

As required by state law, the city has issued a liquor petition to the business — which must signed by 30% of the city residents who voted in the most recent gubernatorial election — before it can be placed on the May 2022 ballot.

The business must receive about 865 residents' signatures, as described, before Aug. 7. If enough signatures are obtained, the business would have to file for the election by the Feb 8 city council meeting, and the item would then be placed for vote during the May 7 election.

If the entire process is completed, and the item passes, retail liquor could be purchased in Willow Park by any business allowed to sell it.

Salima Bachoo — who co-owns the store with her husband, Mohammed — said they get between 10 to 15 customers each day requesting liquor options.

"We're losing sales because of it," Bachoo said.

She said their business offers the coldest beer tunnel in the county, and

they have a wide range of craft beers, but that doesn't keep customers from leaving when they learn the store doesn't offer liquor.

"When they come in, they want to be able to buy everything under one roof, so they go to Hudson Oaks instead," Bachoo added.

The business is still fairly new, she said, and has already faced obstacles because of the pandemic.

In addition to being parents to twin toddlers, she said the process is really difficult, expensive and time-consuming. Last year, they had only obtained about 600 signatures.

"It ended up being a waste of time," she said.

The business began to obtain signatures for the current petition on June 7, and so far, have received a little more than 100. She said it feels impossible to obtain another 750 by mid-July, but they will remain dedicated to the task.

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RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Cap Mooney tries out goggles that are designed to simulate drunk driving at the ribbon cutting of Maverick Driving Academy on Bankhead Road on June 9. Also shown re Bearcat football teammates Jack Mitchell, Jack Tregellas, and Garrett Key.

WC teen theatre camp presents Moana Jr.

Weatherford College Summer Stage presents Disney's "Moana Jr." June 18 and 19 at the Alkek Fine Arts Center. Showtimes are at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. each day.

This production is a 60-minute musical adaptation of the 2016 Disney animated film,

bringing the adventures of Moana and her village of Motunui to life onstage and is the culmination of a two-week teen theatre camp. Moana Jr. is directed by Elizabeth Baker and Erin Brownlee.

"We are thrilled to be working with an incredibly talented

group of teens whose dedication inspires us daily," Brownlee said. "We can't wait to share this beautiful production with the public."

Tickets are \$10 each and are available at <https://www.simpletix.com/e/moana-jr-tickets-71462>.

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LAND

from page one

selling the property, which has been in the Dean family for decades.

“It’s huge,” Marshall said. “What this does for Aledo is that I don’t have to come and beg the mayor of Fort Worth, whoever that is, because I started with my Moncrief, ‘yeah, I just want you to understand that your ETJ comes into our front door. And so it kind of matters what it looks like for the city of Aledo and would you mind just kind of keeping that in mind, should that property sell or y’all begin to develop or whatever.”

Marshall said the relationship with Fort Worth has always been positive.

Both mayors commented on the explosive growth in the region.

“When I took office 10 years ago, Fort Worth was number 17 [in the nation],” Price said. “And real quick when the census data came out, we went to 16th and we’re number 12 now.”

Fort Worth’s population has grown by more than 125,000 in the past ten years. Tarrant County had about 1.8 million people in 2010 and was estimated to be more than 2 million in 2020.

Likewise, Parker County has grown from about 117,000 in 2010 to an estimated 136,600 in 2020.

Assuming approval by the Fort Worth City Council next week, the territory from the north side of Sonic roughly up to Bankhead will fall under Aledo’s jurisdiction and would be subject to future annexation by the city.

WATER

from page one

“When I campaigned for mayor in 2017, water was one of the big things we talked about and it’s finally here,” said Willow Park Mayor Doyle Moss. “I’m excited about it and people are excited about it. It was slow in coming, but it’s here.”

The project is a partnership with Willow Park and Hudson Oaks, with the cities taking a 52% to 48% stake respectively. It is financed through a low-interest loan from the Texas Water Development Board.

“When I started with (Willow Park) in late 2017, there were concerns about the

feasibility of this project and if it would be completed,” said Willow Park City Manager Bryan Grimes. “This connection is a symbol of the hard work of the city council and staff, and our citizens, who have persevered through this process. I am deeply grateful for their support and patience.”

“I’d like to thank the City of Fort Worth, the Fort Worth Water Department, Water Utility Director Chris Harder, and the council and staff of Hudson Oaks, who are our business partner in this venture,” Grimes said. “And of course the council, staff, and community in Willow Park. This is a big day for us.”



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

The Weatherford Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting for Maverick Driving Academy on Bankhead on June 9.

Keep scrolling...

Parker County is nowhere near the lowest home prices in Texas

It will come as no surprise that Parker County is not near the top in a recently-compiled list of the counties with the lowest home prices in Texas.

Low interest rates, a flood of millennial buyers, and shrinking inventory has pushed the median cost of a home up 20% year over year, hitting \$347,500, according to a report released in April 2020 by real estate listing website Redfin. These high asking costs—while good for sellers—are pricing many buyers out of the market entirely.

Credible used 2021 data calculated by the National Association of Realtors to compile a list of counties with the lowest median home values

and monthly mortgage payments in Texas. Counties were ranked by the monthly mortgage payment for a typical home in 2020, from lowest to highest. Ties were broken by median home values in 2020.

Kent County, with a 2010 population of 808, is located some distance south of a line between Lubbock and Wichita Falls. Median home value is \$37,000 and monthly mortgage payments run about \$137 in the lowest home value county in Texas.

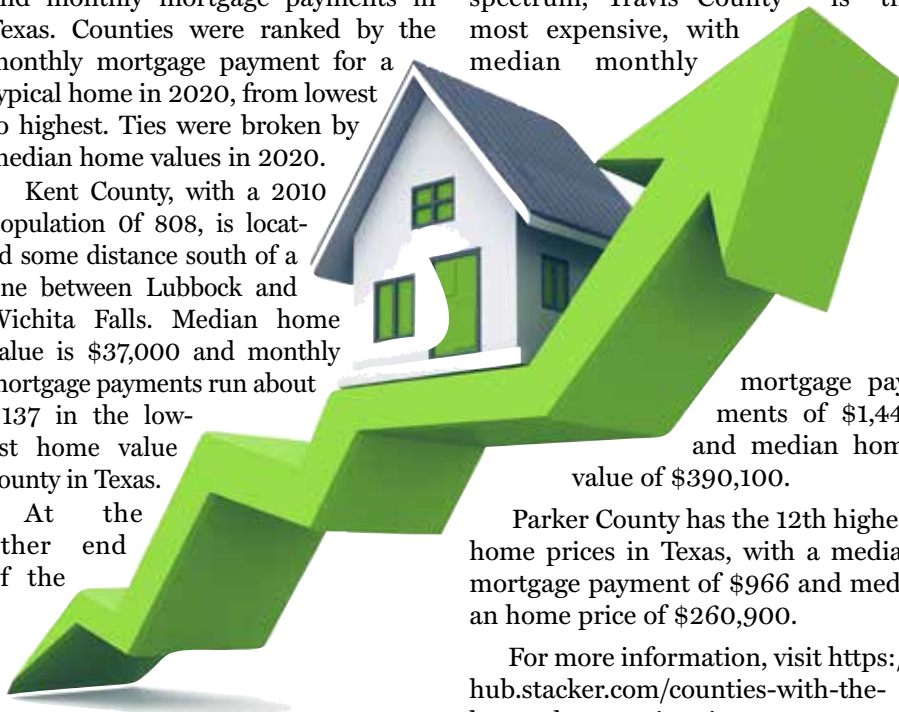
At the other end of the

spectrum, Travis County is the most expensive, with median monthly

mortgage payments of \$1,445 and median home value of \$390,100.

Parker County has the 12th highest home prices in Texas, with a median mortgage payment of \$966 and median home price of \$260,900.

For more information, visit <https://hub.stacker.com/counties-with-the-lowest-home-prices-in-texas>.



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Father's Day special for Bogner family

While the Bogner family in Aledo has always loved celebrating Father's Day, this year is extra special as the family celebrates the holiday and the two-year anniversary of their daughter Cassidy receiving a life-saving kidney transplant from her dad. Cassidy is also graduating high school on Father's Day, making for a weekend full of celebrations.

The Bogner's knew a transplant was inevitable for Cassidy when she was diagnosed with CHARGE Syndrome, a rare genetic syndrome, at birth. When the time came for Cassidy to finally have a transplant, her Father Nick underwent many tests to see if he would be a match for his oldest daughter. In 2019, he was confirmed to be a viable donor. Two years later, Nick and Cassidy are doing wonderful and are thankful for their unique bond. Cassidy's mother, Renae, shared an impactful note dedicated to her husband as Father's Day approaches:

"As I sat in the waiting room on transplant day, the emptiness was thick. But when the nurse called to tell me Nick's kidney had arrived and they were ready for the transplant, the emotions welled up. Here we were, the moment we had planned on for so long and the moment Nick worked toward for years. I had a feeling of pride that swelled within me as Nick's act of love and sacrifice was saving our girl's life. So this Father's Day is extra special for our family."



Cassidy and Nick Bogner are shown at about the time of the kidney transplant Cassidy received from Nick.



One of Cassidy Bogner's senior photos

SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

KAILLEE TAYLOR PHOTOGRAPHY

ACROSS

1 apt Dalmatian name
5 this Yale was A&M and Detroit Lion star
6 TX George W.'s and LBJ's old office
7 "corn ____ bread"
8 "Bureau of ____ Printing" has a money-making plant in Fort Worth
17 TX Tanya sang "Texas When I ____"
18 cowboy who looks after cattle (2 wds.)
21 "Singing Cowboy" born in TX (init.)
22 "no pain, no ____"
23 "____ Out to the Ball Game"
24 table seat (2 wds.)
29 TX song: "____ Back to Houston"
30 dangerous vapor
31 TX Roy Orbison's last hit: "You Got ____" (1989)
32 TXism: "useless as a ____"
34 father familiarly
35 glossy black cuckoo bird
36 TXism: "sling it on the wall ____"
37 prohibits
38 TX Martha of 1966 film in 47-down
39 TXism: "get ____ tacks" (get to work)
41 in Johnson County on U.S. 67
42 car fuel

DOWN

1 difficult golf putting surfaces (2 wds.)
2 flower native to Texas: "____ lasiopetalata"
3 birth city for "Bum" and Wade Phillips
4 Woodville is the seat of this county
9 TXism: "skinny as ____"
10 concealed
11 "Fanthorp ____ State Historical Site"
12 this Norman moved the Stars to Dallas in 1993 (init.)

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
Copyright 2021 by Orbison Bros.

13 "Turkish ____" are the ultimate exercise
14 Austin cookoff to celebrate canned meat: "Spam ____"
15 athletic shoe giant
16 34th U.S. president who was born in Denison, TX (init.)
19 "____ domain"
20 what TX Nolan Ryan did in 1993
22 it holds woods and irons (2 wds.)
24 necessity in Texas summers (abbr.)
25 when repeated, a Cuban dance

33 TXism: "you can ____ the farm on it"
34 football aerial
35 TX Phyllicia Rashad mother, Vivian
37 city of NFL Ravens
38 TX Paula Prentiss old sitcom: "____ She"
40 "river of" in Spanish
41 Temple TV station
44 garden wedding implement (2 wds.)
47 Don of film "Picture Mommy Dead"
49 TX flag has a lone one (2 wds.)

Weatherford College Night at Globe Life Field scheduled for Sept. 16

Weatherford College and the WC Foundation have announced a partnership with the Texas Rangers to host Weatherford College Night at Globe Life Field Thursday, Sept. 16. The Rangers will play their rival, the Houston Astros, that evening with a 7:05 p.m. first pitch.

WC alumni, friends and community members can purchase seats in the "Coyote Section" for \$26 each with the first 500 receiving a limited-edition hat co-branded

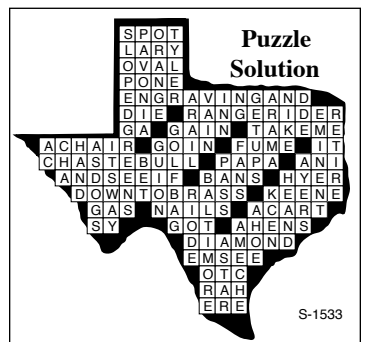
with the Rangers and the Coyotes in WC black and gold.

The college is also offering bus transportation to and from Globe Life Field for \$15 apiece. Bus reservations will be limited.

The WC group will sit in sections 226, 227 and 228 on the first base/right field side of Globe Life Field.

Weatherford College Night tickets can be purchased at fevo.me/wc.

To make bus reservations or for more information, contact Jaci Trotter at jtrotter@wc.edu or 817-598-6272.



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EVENT

Wylie - Bluegrass on Ballard, Sat. June 26, Music 1-9 p.m.; Arts & Crafts 10 a.m.-9 p.m. (WylieTexas.gov); Classic Car Show 4-9 p.m. (pre-register for car show at DiscoverWylie.com). Event will be held in Historic Downtown Wylie on Ballard Avenue. DiscoverWylie.com.

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Commentary

JUNE 18, 2021
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Capital Highlights

Abbott vows to expand border ‘barrier’



Gary Borders
gborders@texaspress.com

Gov. Greg Abbott vowed last week at a border security summit to build a barrier to slow the flow of migrants through the state’s southern border.

Abbott said details would be forthcoming for the wall, which would be part of a new enforcement plan administered by several state agencies, ranging from the governor’s office to the Texas Department of Public Safety. He said he intends to sign legislation appropriating more than \$1 billion for enhanced border security.

“While securing the border is the federal government’s responsibility, Texas will not sit idly by as this crisis grows,” Abbott said. “The state is working collaboratively with communities impacted by the crisis to arrest and detain individuals coming into Texas illegally.”

The president of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) blasted Abbott’s actions.

“Governor Abbott stated that he intends to use Texas state budget dollars not for education, improving our electric grid, or for Texas roads and highways,” said Domingo Garcia, LULAC president. “Instead, he says he will continue to build a wall and other barriers along the border with Mexico. This is a huge waste of taxpayer money, and very likely illegal.”

LULAC plans to take legal action on grounds that the federal government has authority over immigration and borders, not individual states.

Lumber price surge not affecting timber prices

One economic consequence of the pandemic lockdown has been a surge in lumber prices of more than 300%, according to the Texas A&M Forest Service. However, landowners who grow and harvest timber are still facing stagnant prices, as they have since the housing crash of 2008. At \$30 a ton in Texas, the price has remained about the same for the past decade.

The challenge for timber owners is an abundance of ready-to-harvest timber, according to TFS.

“Landowners have been struggling to get their timber harvested for a while,” said Rob Hughes, executive director of the Texas Forestry Association. “The mills are producing more wood than they have before, but it’s still not to the capacity of how much timber is being grown in their areas.”

A consolidation of sawmills is partly to blame. In 1997 Texas had 168 active sawmills, a number that has dwindled today to about 50. Some landowners have opted to supplement their forest income through carbon markets, which are bought by companies or governments to offset greenhouse gas emissions. One drawback is that the credits can only go to

timberland owners if the forest is at risk of being harvested.

“There are a few contracts now that are just a one-year deal,” said Hughes. “These seem more tolerable to the production-minded forest landowners that we’ve talked with. You defer your harvest, and you get paid for that amount of carbon as you sequester it.”

Landowners can contact a consulting forester or a Texas A&M Forest Service office for more information.

A wet May increases reservoir storage

May is historically the state’s wettest month. This year was no exception, with above-average rain in much of the state, according to Dr. Mark Wentzel, a hydrologist with the Texas Water Development Board.

By the end of May, drought conditions covered 25% of the state — down 45 percentage points from the end of April. The La Niña conditions, which are key factors in droughts in Texas, have dissipated and won’t return this summer, Wentzel said.

“If you were trying to reduce drought in Texas, you couldn’t pick a better month to have above-average rainfall,” Wentzel wrote in a press release.

He added that besides greening up the landscape, May’s rain increased reservoir storage to 84.6% of capacity, about normal for this time of year.

New COVID-19 cases rise week-to-week

The number of new COVID-19 cases in Texas in the past week rose to 17,724, up 46% from the previous week, while deaths stayed steady at 213, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University.

The Texas Department of State Health Services reported 1,600 hospitalizations of lab-confirmed cases, up about 100 from the previous week. Vaccinations continue to rise, with 10.85 million Texans fully vaccinated — 37.2% of the state’s population.

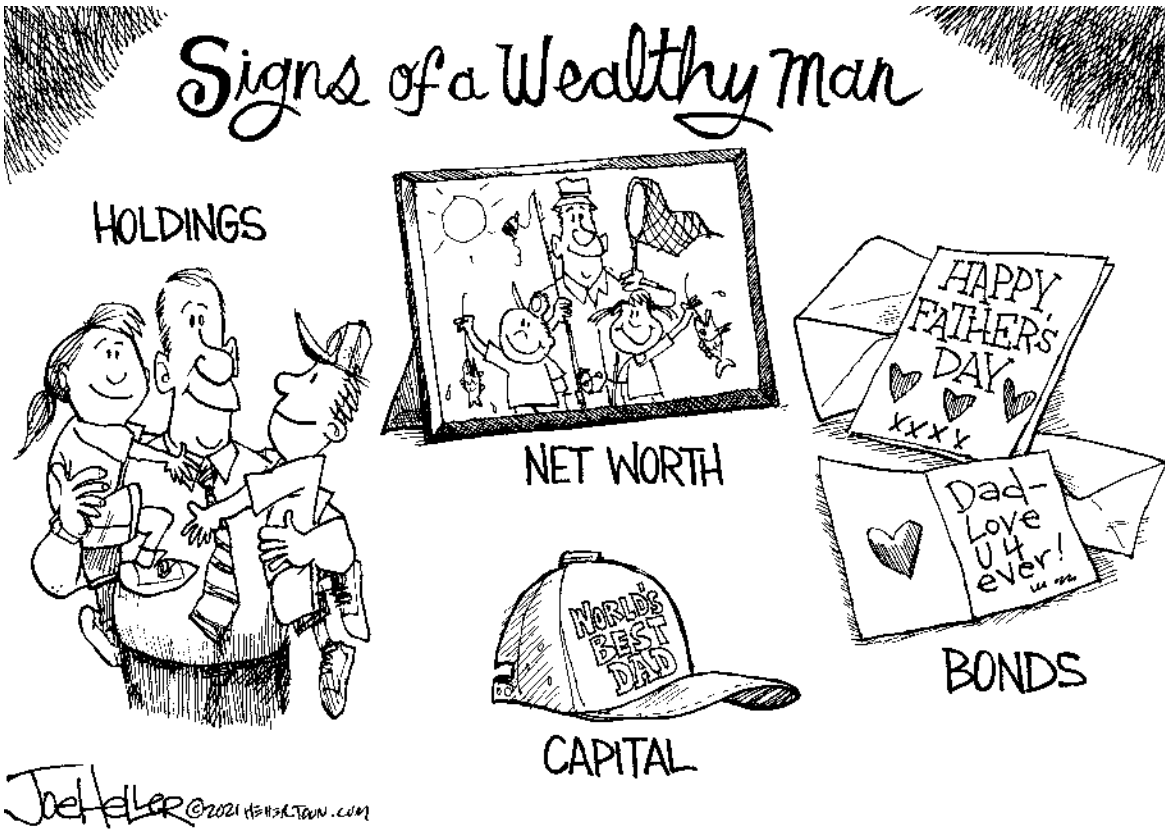
PUC lifts moratorium on utility disconnections

The moratorium on utility disconnections for non-payment will be lifted June 18. Last Friday the Texas Public Utility Commission cited a proliferation of financial support and the need for electricity, water, and sewer providers to resume normal business operations.

“This is not an easy decision, and it was not taken lightly,” PUC Chairman Peter Lake said. “But by acting now, customers will be able to take advantage of deferred payment plans or federal assistance ahead of the summer season.”

There are numerous options for ratepayers having difficulties paying their utility bills. The PUC has created a one-page fact sheet that can be accessed at: <https://tinyurl.com/4fdch5dt>.

Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches and Cedar Park. Email: gborders@texaspress.com.



Thistles & Roses

Making positive improvements



Richard Henderson
richard@rahenderson.com

I had been contemplating a follow-up column to the racial scandal that reared its ugly head here in east Parker County earlier this spring. The local news stations, the CNN broadcast trucks, the Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, and New York Times have all left and my question was what are we going to do about it after things have quieted down? Would we forget about it and sweep it under the rug?

My hopes were raised and my spirit was inspired by a well written, articulate, guest column published May 28 by J. Todd Jordan, parent of a former Aledo student. He wrote a wonderful essay about the Aledo Parenting University on May 20 facilitated by Danny L. Ross, a licensed professional counselor.

Jordan participated in a program with 40 other people. They went through some exercises with people of various ethnic origins. And from all accounts, people came away with a better understanding of racial issues and tolerance. But even Jordan wrote that he hoped that this was not “one and done.”

For now things are moving forward. It will take the entire community — the city councils, civic clubs, churches, booster clubs, and all of the organizations that make this a community for us to have real change. And we have to acknowledge that there are racists and bigots living among us. We need to send a direct, quiet,

and peaceful message, if possible, loud and firm, if necessary, that racism and bigotry are not acceptable in East Parker County.

I sent an e-mail to Dr. Susan K. Bohn, superintendent of Aledo ISD, about what is being done and received the following response:

.....
“Here are two different things we’ve sent to parents:
Sent 4-17-21:

We believe that we can find a way to work in unity community-wide toward this end. It will take time. In the district, our initial work will involve:

Ensuring clarity for our students and staff, using our Student Code of Conduct, around how staff responds to and the discipline consequences for the use of racially offensive language and racial slurs;

Creating clarity for our staff that stating any racial slur is always unacceptable, even when investigating student misconduct;

Forming a Board of Trustees subcommittee that will work with staff and community members to sustain a focus on these issues in our schools; and

Planning for parent training opportunities through our Parenting University program about racism and the use of social media by children.

There is more to come, and our work together on addressing racism in and with our community is a priority. As in all things in Aledo ISD, we are reflective and work every day to be better than we were the day before in service to our children and each other.

Sent 5-6-21:
The Aledo ISD has been working on a community-wide approach to address racism in

our schools. This will be an ongoing, unified effort, starting with these steps:

A small working group of Board of Trustees members along with Superintendent Dr. Susan Bohn has been gathering information and has spent hours already listening to students, community members and staff on how best to work on these issues in our schools and to move forward in a thoughtful, sustainable way that meets the expectations of our community. These meetings have been happening the last several weeks and will continue.

Using our current Student Code of Conduct, and through ongoing meetings with our staff, we are creating more clarity for our staff around how we all respond to student use of racial slurs and racially offensive language.

We are reviewing our hiring processes and gathering information on ways to better recruit, hire and retain a staff that is more reflective of the diversity in our student body.

We are excited to announce an upcoming opportunity for parents to start engaging in this conversation through our Parenting University series.”

.....
Some have argued that many of these things should have already been in place. To those I say let’s move forward and try to make positive improvements. Acknowledge and do not forget the past, but learn from it and do better.

I am comforted that the ugly blemish on Aledo has not been forgotten and that we can make this a place of genuine tolerance and love for all of our neighbors of all ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

The Community News

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We’re always on the lookout for story ideas. To share one, call Randy Keck at 817-441-7661, ext. 207 or email news@community-news.com. Please provide the basic story information as well as contact information in case we have questions.

We welcome letters, articles and guest opinions from our readers. Opinions expressed in this newspaper will be labeled as opinions, editorials or letters, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the ownership. Letters should be signed, and limited to approximately 300 words. All submissions to the newspaper should

include a telephone number in case we have questions. Letters are due by Monday at noon for that week’s paper. Community announcements, achievements and obituaries are due by noon Friday for the following week’s paper. Send submissions to news@community-news.com.

Photos submitted should include names of the people in the photograph. For ease in submitting photographs electronically, visit our contact form at community-news.com/contacts.

The Community News does not charge for timely wedding, engagement and birth announcements provided they are of reasonable length. Lengthy announcements will either be edited to a reasonable length or, at the discretion of the person submitting the announcement, be charged a fee. The deadline for submitting announcements is noon Friday for the following week’s paper.

Newspaper Fun

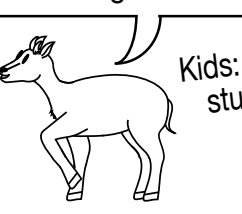
JUNE 11, 2021
THE COMMUNITY NEWS
WWW.COMMUNITY-NEWS.COM

Camping in your backyard? I'm off...



www.readingclubfun.com

... to find a flashlight and comic books.



Kids: color stuff in!

Newspaper Fun!

Animills LLC © 2020 V16-25

Are you thinking about camping this summer? Many families will go to their local campgrounds and parks. Some campgrounds are in the woods like the famous Smoky Mountains and some are on flatter parcels of land oceanside. Lots of families will build a "tent" to camp in their own home or will put up a tent in their backyard at some point this year. Whatever you choose, have fun!



GGGhosts? sizzle sizzle

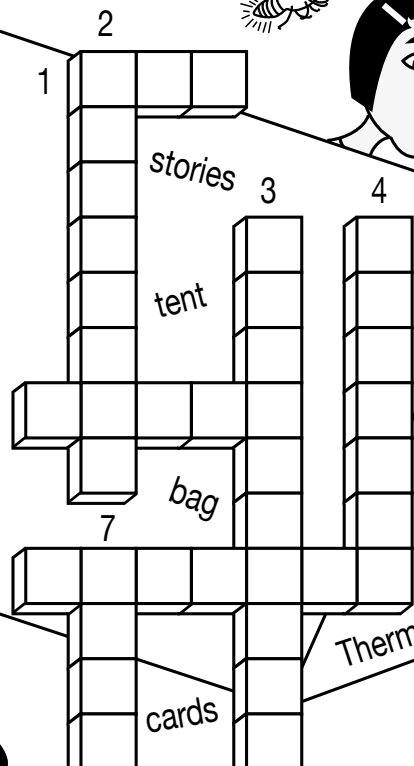
Let's Camp

...and so the ghosts of the trees climbed...

Camping Fun In Your Yard

Fill in the crossword with things to bring or do for camping in your own backyard.

1. a comfy sleeping _____
2. keep from itching with this _____
3. helps you see in the dark _____
4. keeps soup warm for later _____
5. playing _____ for fun!
6. scary ghost _____ at night
7. set up a _____ for shelter



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We light up the night! I do too!

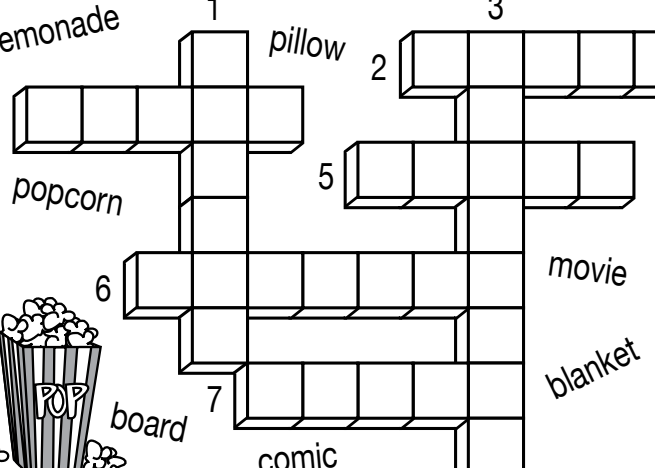
Hey, Ethan! Want to trade some comic books?

EEK! Do I hear a bear?

Camping Fun Inside Your Home

Fill in the puzzle with fun things to do or bring when camping indoors!

1. comfy item to rest head on _____
2. build a _____ fort
3. perfect drink for a hot summer night _____
4. _____ to watch when it gets dark
5. share _____ books
6. healthy, fun treat _____
7. your favorite _____ game to play with your friends

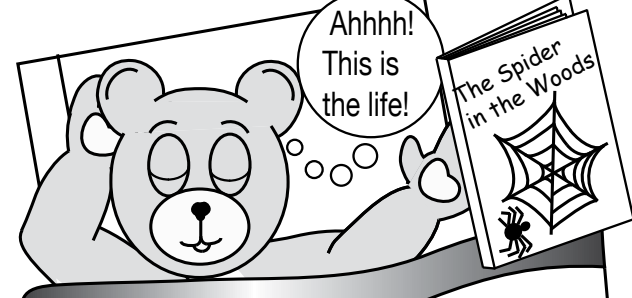


lemonade pillow popcorn movie blanket board comic

FREE Digital Comic Book

What's more fun than camping out and reading **comic books** by flashlight? Visit our web site for a FREE "Let's Camp" puzzle set! While you're there, get a FREE copy (for the first 100 readers) of the "Chip n' Fish" comic book by award-winning artist Matt Ryan. It all begins at readingclubfun.com.





Ahhh! This is the life!

Camping Stuff

Look around your room to find the things you need to pack for your camping trip to a park or campground. Find and circle these items that may be on your list:

underclothes	socks
laundry bag	shirts
sunscreen	soap
envelopes	hat
toothbrush	shorts
toothpaste	books
hiking shoes	comb
small games	whistle
hairbrush	jeans
sneakers	jacket
flashlight	towels
stamps	camera

Night Hike!

Start at the moon. Find a pathway to the cabin so the moon can light the way to where you'll be sleeping.



Camping Fun - Even at Home! Six Tips to Get You Started.

- Who doesn't love to camp? People enjoy camping in cabins, yurts, RVs and ever-popular tents. This summer you may be able to travel to a campground in a lovely park in the woods or even by a seashore or lake. But, even if you are sticking close to
- home again this year, camping can be an amazing experience right in your yard or even inside your home.

Why bother to set up camp at home? Well, it's a great family bonding activity and an important
- learning exercise. Parents need to guide the kids to some degree, but the goal is for children to take part in discussing, planning, coordinating and helping with the activities. They will love it, and it will keep them busy for at least a few days!
- Here are six ideas for brainstorming a plan that can lead to a gratifying family camping experience:

 - Gear up: Gather the basics, such as a tent and sleeping bag, foam or inflatable pads, etc. Make a
- point to assemble a basic First Aid Kit (kids should help to reinforce safety).

 - Firm up a plan: Make a list of things you'll want as you sleep out under the stars, such as

Turn to **CAMPING**, page 8

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Sports

JUNE 18, 2021
THE COMMUNITY NEWS
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Young NASCAR driver moving up the ranks

Kaden Honeycutt brings awareness of the sport to the community

By Nolan Ruth
The Community News

As far as sports towns in the state of Texas go, Aledo is one of the most diverse. Whether it's a football player or a tennis player, the community holds a lot of pride in its athletes. Of all the different sports that the local athletes play, not many knew about the up-and-coming NASCAR driver in our backyard.

Kaden Honeycutt is a 17-year-old incoming senior at Trinity Christian Academy, and his father was a racer from a very early age and took Kaden to the racetrack very young.

"He started taking me with him at about four years old," Honeycutt talked about his roots in the sport. "I started to understand it when I was five years old and then at about seven I told him that I wanted to actually be in the race."

Kaden started in very small races on many different surfaces from his home in Port Neches, Texas. For a few years he continued to race in youth series and practice his craft. When Kaden was 14-years-old, his family moved up to Aledo due to his father's job, but it worked out for the racing.

"It was because of the dirt racing," he explained. "The dirt racing that I moved into when I got older, all the tracks were up here, while there was only one down there and it closed. Every dirt race that we go to we have six or seven tracks we choose from every weekend and thirty cars in the field when I used to race against ten of twelve. It all worked out."

While Kaden loves what he does and is good at it, it's not without its struggles. Racing is one of the most expensive sports to get involved in, especially at the level Kaden is on.

"It takes a lot of money to do this," he said. "We can't really do this out of our own pocket like a lot of racers do."



Kaden Honeycutt is working his way up the NASCAR program.

SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

So sponsorships are always a concern, especially in the recent times we've been in."

Despite the struggles, Kaden continues to make leaps and bounds to get where he wants to go. After a heart-breaking defeat, he went to Langley, Virginia, and won a race after leading for all 125 laps. It was an exciting achievement that was paid off by his determination and drive to get to the highest level.

"My whole career mindset has never changed," Kaden said. "It's always been 'What do we have to do?' Whether that's to find money and find partnerships, to get me to the next step. Now, my next step is racing for actual NASCAR. I'm one step away and it's mostly age."

Next year, Kaden will be eligible to race in NASCAR's Camping World Truck Series. The next goal from there is the Xfinity Series, the second-highest level of NASCAR, and finally the world-famous Cup Series.

As he continues to train and prepare for what lies ahead, Kaden hopes the community of Aledo will get behind him and learn more of the sport from him.

"When I got here, it was all about football and baseball. I think I've done a pretty good job for myself, I have a lot of people in this area that support me and what I do so I've already gained a lot of fans. It's not as easy as just driving in circles. There's a lot that I wish I could show how much hard work and dedication it actually takes. You don't just show up in a car and try to drive faster than everyone. There's plenty of behind-the-scenes stuff that we don't show on social media for strategy reasons. I encourage everyone to try to catch a race and just look in the garage area, they'll see what goes into it and I hope they'll get behind me."

Kaden has races every weekend all summer long along the east coast and will try to break into the national scene next year. Until then, he plans to continue to grow his brand and hopefully get to bring a new sports craze to Aledo.

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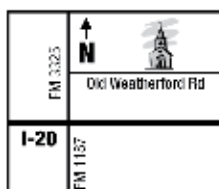


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CAMPING

from page 6

- snacks, playing cards, flashlights and comic books (this will limit the in-and-out, I-forgot factor).
- Study the skies: Whether you have a telescope or not, build in time to lay on a blanket and look at the moon, stars, constellations, or maybe even the aurora borealis (northern lights).
- Capture moments: Use a camera or cell phone to catalog your activities, as well as plants, flowers, wildlife, birds and bugs you see (create a photo album later).
- Plan meals: Combine the tenting with a cookout, with hot dogs and beans, and maybe s'mores (marshmallow and chocolate-filled graham crackers) or just pack sandwiches. Keep plenty of cold drinks in a cooler.
- Pick a few activities: You might be able to take a sun-down hike before settling down for guitar playing and singing,

hand-shadow play on tent walls, or storytelling time (save this for last so the kids drift off to sleep).

Why not get started right now? Gather your family and start your own list of home-camping ideas. You'll be on your way to a great family camping adventure – no matter where you decide to do it. One final bit of advice: stick with the plan, rain or shine. The is nothing like the sound of gentle rain pattering on the tent sides as you share stories or read comic books by flashlight.

Great news: Reading Club Fun has teamed up with award-winning comic book artist Matt Ryan to offer FREE digital copies of his adventure comic book "Chip n' Fish." You can download the comic to your digital device or print it out (Act now, supplies limited). Also, get a FREE "Let's Camp" printable puzzle set with "READ" mini-poster to gear kids up for camping and reading fun. It all starts at: <https://www.ReadingClubFun.com>.

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READING

from last week

Last week's column started with ideas to help your kids keep reading over the summer. First was the local library. Second was he start of digital books and related videos, including Epic and Kindle Books.

KidLit TV – This site has free videos of books read aloud, with insights from authors and artists.

Don't overlook video streaming services as a means to inspire kids to read. For example, Netflix has movies based on children's books – such as the BFG, The Magic School Bus, Goosebumps, and Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs – which kids can watch in tandem with reading the books themselves.

Your Local Bookstore

Consider buying books, games, workbooks and puzzle books from your favorite local bookstore. Even if a store is still limiting visitors, it may offer pick-up or delivery. We've seen bookstores engaging young readers with:

- Virtual book launches and readings by authors
- Virtual story times and trivia games
- Free children's activity sheets for kids
- Live video-chats with store owners, who will show books on their shelves or in your area of interest
- Virtual book clubs and online book fairs

Remember that the best reading goals for children are the ones that will keep them reading

enthusiastically. A variety of reading materials will keep the learning process challenging and rewarding.

Finally, if you add a dose of fun to reading activities – and make it a family affair – kids are more likely to stay excited about reading all summer and, hopefully, all year long. So, have fun and keep on reading!

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Another fun page will appear next week.

PARENTS: Let us know if you would like to see this kind of kids' material to continue. Email news@community-news.com

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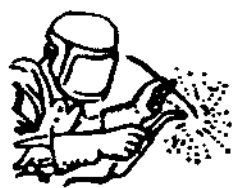
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Summer Camps

By Nolan Ruth
The Community News

One of the grandest traditions in Aledo sports is the summer camps. That time of the year has rolled around again as both softball and soccer camps took place last week. The week-long camps took kids from incoming first graders to incoming freshmen.

Both coaches and alumni took the field with the kids, teaching them fundamentals of their respective game. The tradition is a big reason why Aledo sports are consistently successful and gives the kids a chance to learn from the Bearcats/Ladycats they admire every game day.

“It really shows the growth that this community has and the sport as well,” softball head coach Heather Myers said about the turnout. “I’ve been here seven years and this is the most kids we’ve had turn out. For this program, I think it shows that we’re building a strong foundation for the future which is nothing but good.”

Just as well, the soccer camp had a very large turnout as well and a large group of alumni came to help.

“You really don’t know what it’s going to do until years down the road,” soccer coach Derek Vierling said. “You never know which five, six or seven-year-old is going to be playing for you years down the road. So we try to make it as fun as we can at the younger age and the older kids we try to coach them up a little more, but it’s just a lot of fun.”



Turn to **CAMPS**, page 10



Matt Morris

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From page 81C

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