

THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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The Big Reveal

Founders unveil plans for Legacy Community Center

By Randy Keck
The Community News

For three east Parker County stakeholders, a long-time dream is becoming a reality. On Tuesday, Feb. 15, Mary Jean (MJ) Bentley, along with co-founders Mike and Megan Howell, announced the acquisition of property and facilities for the Legacy Community Center near Annetta on Tuesday, Feb. 15.

During a packed-house presentation at Lynch Legacy Real Estate in Willow Park, the three co-founders of the center laid out their plans, describing what the center is and why it is needed.

“When we say the legacy center, a lot of people don’t understand what that is, and there’s a reason for that. It’s because this hasn’t ever been done before,” Megan Howell said. “In short, the legacy center is going to be a family recreation center, but we’re going to be



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Mike Howell welcomed community leaders to “The Big Reveal.”

focusing on leadership and character development. So this isn’t a daycare. It’s not a drop-off center. This is a place where families can come together, spend some time,

create some memories through creativity classes, life skills classes. Our messaging is going to be very intentional. So an easy way to think of it might be a leadership

school disguised as a recreation center.”

Bentley, a film producer and actress who helped produce the

Turn to **LEGACY**, page 4

ALEDO

Suspected car thief jailed

Fort worth man also a suspect in vehicle burglaries

From the Parker County Sheriff’s Dept.

Parker County Sheriff’s deputies arrested a man Tuesday following a stolen vehicle/pursuit investigation in eastern Parker County.

Parker County Sheriff Russ Authier said the incident began when a 2014 Jeep Cherokee was reported stolen in 300-Block of Aspen Court West in Aledo around 8 a.m.

The victim’s spouse posted a photograph of the stolen vehicle on a social media neighborhood page.

Several Aledo residents who had observed the Jeep in the area began commenting on the post. One witness saw the vehicle in 100-Block of Ranch Hand Lane off of south FM5 with the suspect in the driver’s seat and reported it to the Sheriff’s Office.

When the suspect saw Sheriff’s deputies, he immediately fled the scene eastbound, driving recklessly through residential yards and damaging property on Ranch Meadow Court. The suspect abandoned the vehicle in the 200-Block of East Terrace Court and fled on foot and was able to evade deputies.

A Tip411 alert was distributed, advising citizens the sheriff’s office was looking for a suspect in the area and to contact authorities if the suspect was seen.

The alert described the suspect as an unknown male wearing blue jeans, a blue zipper, hooded jacket, white tennis shoes, and having a foreign accent.

As a precautionary measure, Stuard Elementary School was temporarily placed on “secure mode,” due to the school being located about three miles away from the incident.

As sheriff’s deputies were canvassing the area, they responded to a prowler call in the 1000-Block of South FM 5, advising an individual matching the suspect’s description was seen peering through the window of a residence and was last seen running south toward FM 5. Sheriff’s deputies located the suspect hiding behind a vehicle parked at a residence near the entrance of the housing addition. The suspect fled east on foot from deputies, jumping four fences and into a coastal field in the 900-Block of South FM 5 where he was apprehended. He was booked into the Parker County Jail and identified as Johnny Preston Smith III, 37, of Fort Worth.

Smith was arrested on charges of felony theft, felony evading with

Turn to **THIEF**, page 3

★ YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE ★

2022 ELECTION

Early voting continues for the March 1 Republican and Democratic primaries.

Main Voting Site:
Parker County Courthouse Annex
1112 Santa Fe Dr
Weatherford, Texas 76086
Annex Kitchen

Branch Voting Sites:
Aledo ISD Admin Building
1008 Bailey Ranch Rd
Aledo, Texas 76008
Louden Room

Springtown Senior Center
1070 N Main St
Springtown, Texas 76082
Community Room

Peaster ISD Rock Gym
8512 FM RD 920
Peaster, Texas 76088
Back Room of Gym

Hudson Oaks City Hall
210 Hudson Oaks Dr
Hudson Oaks, Texas 76087
Council Chambers

PCT 3 County Barn

1111 FM RD 1189
Brock, Texas 76087
Barn Break Room

Azle City Hall
505 W Main St
Azle, Texas 76020
Community Room

SAMPLE BALLOTS

Candidates will appear on Parker county ballots in the order listed below:

REPUBLICANS
United States Representative, District 12
Kay Granger
Ryan J. Catala
Alysia Ring

Governor
Rich Perry
Paul Belew
Allen B. West
Kandy Kaye Horn
Greg Abbott
Chad Prather
Don Huffines
Danny Harrison

Lieutenant Governor

Daniel Miller
Dan Patrick
Tracye Bradford
Zach Vance
Todd M. Bullis
Aaron Sorrells

Attorney General

Ken Paxton
George P. Bush
Louie Gohmert
Eva Guzman

Comptroller of Public Accounts

Mark V. Goloby
Glenn Hegar

Commissioner of the General Land Office

Tim Westley
Dawn Buckingham
Jon Spiers
Victor Avila
Ben Armenta
Don W. Minton
Rufus Lopez
Weston Martinez

Commissioner of Agriculture

Carey A. Council
James White
Sid Miller

Railroad Commissioner

Dawayne Tipton
Tom Slocum Jr.
Marvin “Sarge” Summers
Wayne Christian
Sarah Stogner

Justice, Supreme Court, Place 9

David J Schenck
Evan Young

Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 5

Clint Morgan
Scott Walker

Member, State Board of Education, List. 11

Patricia “Pat” Hardy
Joshua Tarbay
“DC” Caldwell
Rebecca Garcia

*State Senator, District 10

Warren V. Norred
Phil King

State Representative, District 60

Lucas Turner
Glenn Rogers
Kit Marshall
Mike Olcott

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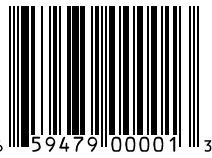
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Copyright 2022, The Community News - Volume 32, Number 7 - Published Weekly
The Community News (USPS 005-341) is published each week by TCN Ventures Inc., at 1015 Champions Dr., Aledo, TX 76008.
Periodical rate postage paid at Aledo, Texas 76008.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to : The Community News, P.O. Box 1031, Aledo, Texas 76008

In & Around Parker County

Where Commissions become Donations

Lori Fowler was living a completely satisfied life as a tenured college professor working alongside the college president when there was a “knock at the door.”

“God kind of plucked me out of my role and said, ‘You’re not doing this anymore,’” Fowler said.

She was teaching a class and the students were challenging her — something she once enjoyed — but it wasn’t working for her this time. She gave in, and immediately thought “oh, no, something changed.”

“I went to the college president that day and I said, ‘I think I have to go, I don’t care anymore. I think my time here is done. And it’s time for me to go.’”

Fowler’s dad had been a real estate broker since 1971, and she had received her license before she quit teaching.

“And in the interim, I had built so much relationship, teaching sociology with nonprofit, that I wanted to continue that and I didn’t really know how to bridge nonprofit with real estate,” Fowler said.

So she formed Charitable Realty, based on the idea that when a person closes on a transaction, they get to choose a charity. And Charitable



Realty donates a portion of their commission to that charity.

To date they have given away more than \$605,000 to everything from Parker County Center of Hope and A Wish With Wings to animal shelters, Cook Children’s Hospital, Alzheimer’s Association, and many more.

“We’ve given to every dog breed organization you can imagine, we’ve given overseas, given to several churches, we give a lot to the local Aledo community,” Fowler said. “We’re big supporters of Cook Children’s Hospital, we’re partners with Habitat for Humanity and Ronald McDonald House. Just this week, we gave to the Pyrenees rescue and Cook Children’s Hospital.”

Fowler said the average real estate transaction is \$250,000, so it takes a lot of contributions to a lot of organizations to reach the \$605,000 level.

“It’s been super rewarding,” Fowler said. “Tithing back to the community is what we say that we’re doing.”

Charitable Realty has grown to 37 realtors, and now has realtors

in Midland-Odessa, an office in Amarillo, and now a reach in Austin in addition to an office in Aledo. There are ten more agents about to sign on with Charitable Realty as well.

“One thing that we do differently is for new realtors, we train them through a mentor program, which is quite a big draw,” Fowler said. “We assign them a mentor who trains them on everything they need to know. And they can go through a track all the way through brokership. We try to help them so they can not only be a really good realtor with lots of experience, but have a lot of support. They can also become a broker and expand the Charitable Realty reach. We have two other associate brokers on the staff, we have an appraiser and we have an inspector on the team.”

The team members truly operate as a family in addition to taking part in quarterly fun events and volunteering in the community. And a glance at their reviews shows numerous happy customers.

For more information about Charitable Realty, call 817-825-8293, visit their office at 405 S. FM 1187 in Aledo, or visit CharitableRealty.org.



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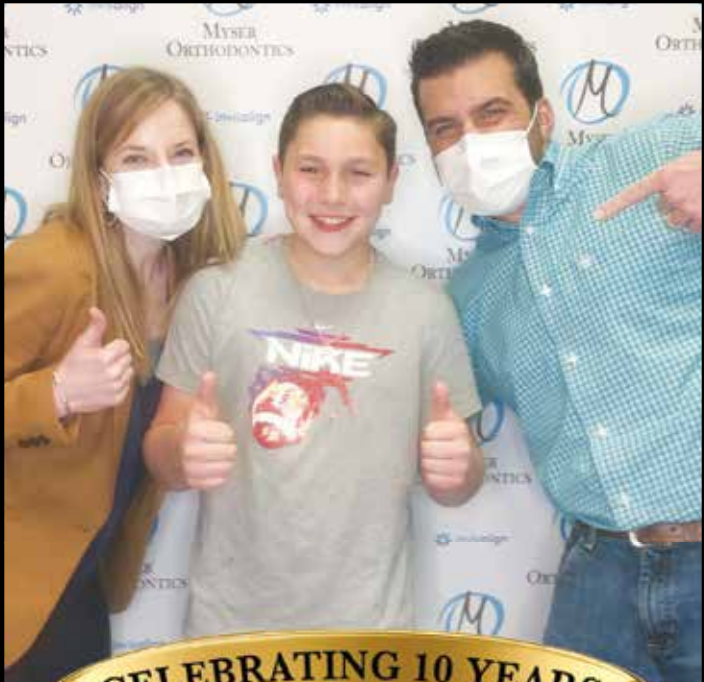


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Obituaries

Martha J. Nowak

Martha J. Nowak, 88, beloved wife, mother, Nana and friend passed away on Monday, January 17, 2022 at Medical City of Fort Worth.

Martha was born February 18, 1933, in Strawn, daughter of Joe L. and Victoria Lovera Poydock.

She graduated from Strawn High School in 1950. Martha married James R. Nowak on August 26, 1961, in Strawn, and they spent 60 wonderful years together raising their sons, Greg and Scott. She worked in the Aledo ISD for many years.

Martha was a faithful member of St. Stephen Catholic Church since 1962 and was very active in the 60 Plus group.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Joe and Victoria Poydock; sister, Anita Walton; and daughter-in-law, Laurie Nowak.



Martha Nowak

Martha is survived by her husband, James R. Nowak; sons, Greg Nowak of Aledo and Scott Nowak of Benbrook; grandsons, Reese and Ethan Nowak; many nieces and nephews; and a host of extended family and friends.

Mass of Christian Burial was held on Thursday, January 20, 2022 at St. Stephen Catholic Church in Weatherford.

Interment was in Aledo Brown Cemetery.

The Community News
February 18, 2022

ALEDO

Bailey Ranch Road construction beginning

The Aledo ISD announced that the City of Aledo will begin construction repairs on Bailey Ranch Road in front of Aledo High School and the Daniel Ninth Grade Campus on Friday, Feb. 18.

“This construction project will include repairing or replacing failed

concrete pavement sections as well as joint and crack sealing on the remaining concrete pavement,” the Aledo ISD quoted the city. “It will encompass the stretch of Bailey Ranch Road from Champions Drive to the furthest west entrance into the AISD complex between the Aledo

Learning Center and the Aledo ISD Administration Building.”

According to the ISD, the city said work will take 120 calendar days to complete, but two-way traffic along Bailey Ranch Road will be maintained during construction.

Aledo Band Mulch Fundraiser

The Aledo Band Boosters are holding a mulch fundraiser through Feb. 21.

Choose from hardwood, cedar, black label, and mojo red mulch.

The mulch is \$4.50 per bag, or \$292.50 per pallet of the same mulch.

Pickup is at Aledo High School on March 5.

Delivery is available within the Aledo ISD boundaries for \$20 and a minimum order of 20 bags.

To order mulch, visit <https://forms.gle/ndQ7ianAw4fwdwEw5>. For more information, email aledoband@gmail.com.

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THIEF

from page one

a vehicle, felony evading (on foot) with a previous conviction, misdemeanor criminal mischief and an outstanding warrant for burglary of a habitation issued out of Fort Worth.

As of Wednesday, he remained in custody at the Parker County Jail. His bond has not been set.

Parker and Tarrant County investigators were able to link Smith to several vehicle burglaries in Tarrant County. An additional stolen vehicle from Tarrant County was recovered on Aspen Court West. It is believed Smith stole that vehicle and abandoned it before stealing the Jeep Cherokee.

Sheriff Authier said the case is ongoing and additional charges are pending.

Parker County man dies fleeing deputies

A Parker County man died early Tuesday, Feb. 15, while fleeing from a Parker County Sheriff’s deputy during a brief high-speed pursuit.

The suspect was operating a 2004 blue and white Suzuki motorcycle while a deputy was conducting speed enforcement operations on FM 920 around 1 a.m.

Sheriff’s reports show the pursuit lasted about two minutes. The

sheriff’s deputy observed the suspect traveling north at a high rate of speed and passed the deputy traveling in excess of 100 miles-per-hour.

Once the deputy caught up to the driver, the suspect turned around in the 6300-block of FM 920, heading southbound. The driver increased his speed estimated between 130 to 140 miles-per-hour in an attempt to evade the deputy.

The driver then turned north onto Johnson Bend Road. As the deputy neared the location, he observed the

motorcycle had crashed into a telephone pole, forcing the driver to be thrown from the motorcycle.

Emergency paramedics were summoned to the crash, but the driver was pronounced deceased at the scene.

The Texas Department of Public Safety is conducting the crash investigation. Sheriff Russ Authier said the suspect is not being publicly identified at this time pending next-of-kin notification.



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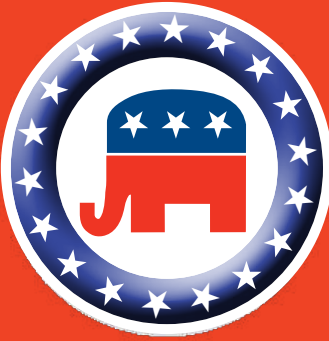
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LEGACY

from page one

film “Gallows Road” in Aledo a few years ago, explained her participation in the Legacy Community Center project.

“I have a passion, a passion to serve others,” Bentley said. “Why are we doing all of this? Because we have kids. But we also see the need to pour into the kids and families, as we are one big community. And together we can accomplish great things. We see the world our kids are growing up in and we look ahead and know that we need to step in and do some heavy lifting in order to create leaders and to raise them in a way that can positively impact the next generation.”

Bentley hosts a group of middle-school-aged girls at her home every Wednesday for Bible study and conversation. She described a recent incident that moved her deeply.

“Just the other day a girl was struggling. We were listening. I immediately asked an open-ended question and then realized I needed to address the entire group with an honest but tough question. 13 of my 15 girls sitting in my living room raised their hands when I asked if they had ever thought about taking their lives - 13 out of 15. It broke my heart, but it made me realize they just want to be heard.”

Bentley pointed to anxiety, entitlement, identity issues, depression, rage, rejection, and rebellion as issues that arise out of “the breakdown of a healthy family unit and ultimately, from the breakdown of our community.”

Bentley then introduced Brad Hunstable, whose 12-year-old son Hayden committed suicide about two years ago.

“As part of the grieving process, Brad has poured his heart into raising awareness about suicide. We produced a film called ‘Almost 13’ — I encourage parents to watch this. It actually won the silver Telly Award and we weren’t even going for that,” Bentley said.

A Changed World

“The world has changed so much since we were kids,” Hunstable said. “There’s more broken families out there. There’s less people going to church. The country is more divided certainly in my lifetime than it’s ever been. There’s this pandemic that has raised the anxiety in the entire world to a height that, certainly again in my generation, I’ve never seen and my fear is we’ve started millions of kids down a path of bad decisions that ultimately lead to more pain.”

Hunstable said that while teaching core curriculum is a good thing, “we forgot the most fundamental thing about life is to teach them how to live — how to be good people, how to think positive, how to be mindful.”

While some children receive that training from teachers, coaches, churches, and parents, Hunstable said his experience in the mental health arena tells him many children do not.

“And my fear is we’re going to lose a generation,” Hunstable said.

Hunstable spoke of Aledo as being “title town” in football and academics.

“I would argue and submit to you the best thing we can be titletown on is to make great human beings; human beings that spread positivity, that are that are good people that spread hope in the world, that spread kindness.”



LEFT: Brad Hunstable spoke emotionally about the issues young people are facing. | RIGHT: MJ Bentley and Megan Howell described the programs they plan for the Legacy Community Center.

Hunstable said another challenge youth and adults have today is the cell phone.

“We didn’t have social media — it wasn’t even a thing when we were kids. When you get bullied on social media, I promise you, it hurts just as bad as being bullied to your face. And, I might even argue, it’s even worse. It sits there and lasts and it goes viral.”

Hunstable said constant stimulus from, for example, funny videos on social media causes spikes in dopamine levels, which then sends baseline dopamine levels down.

“You know what that looks like? It looks like depression, and anxiety, and ADHD, and impulsiveness. And so what do we do? We take our kids to the doctor, and we give them pharmaceuticals.”



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

“Suicide is the second leading cause of death of 10 to 14-year-olds. Of 15 to 24-year-olds, of 25 to 34-year-olds in the greatest country in the world. How’s that acceptable?” Hunstable asked.

He said youth suicide typically breaks down into two categories. About 50% had a previous medical diagnosis and 50% did not have a previous mental health diagnosis.

“And when we look at broadly used suicide, 55% of them are impulsive. How scary is that?” Hunstable said. “When in the last hour, or 45% of them in the last five minutes, decide to kill themselves. And when you look at what they’re facing, the backdrop of the algorithms and social media and gaming, combined with maybe a bad household, parents that are struggling or they’re

seeing drugs or whatever it may be. And then you get a trigger.”

“My fear is that we’re gonna lose a generation of people, and this is why the Legacy Center is so important,” Hunstable added. “Because it’s through that we’re going to create human beings that can solve these — we’re gonna give them the tools to solve this.”

Exercises

Mike Howell described the purpose of activities at the Legacy Community Center.

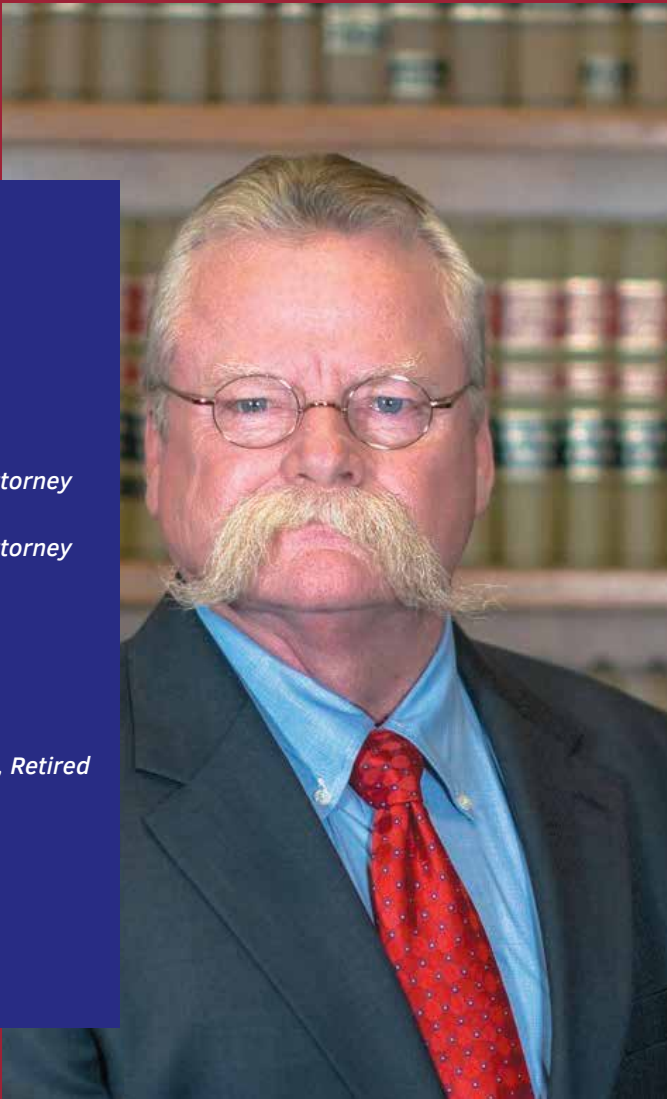
“Hurting people hurt people,” he said. “Hurting kids hurt themselves. They hurt other people. They grow up to be hurting adults. [Do you] know what hurting adults do? They hurt other people. There are answers to these questions. Because

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healthy people help people, right? Healthy people help other people get better, serve other people.

“Kids will do anything if it’s fun, right? They’ll do anything if they’re having fun doing it. That’s why kids quit youth sports is when they stop becoming fun.”

Using that principle, Mike Howell gave an example of the type of activity-based learning that will be used at the center using archery.

In archery, he said, the target can be described as a goal. “We’re going to teach kids how to create steps to achieve goals. What do I need to have if I want to penetrate that goal? I’ve got to have sharp arrows. That’s a plan of attack to accomplish those steps you just created,” he said.

The tension of pulling back on the bowstring can be likened to obstacles that happen in life.

“But what’s awesome is teaching someone to overcome obstacles. That’s called resilience,” he added.

Additional team-building and esteem-building exercises were demonstrated and then the property where the center will be located was revealed.

“We are currently under contract on an amazing 23-acre retreat style property located here in Parker County,” Bentley told the group, describing the location which is south of Old Annetta Road just after the bend south of Clear Fork Materials.

“We are hoping to close near the end of March and begin to fill our calendar of events over the summer months,” Bentley added.

Physical structures are already in place that will allow the property to be utilized quickly.

“The reason this property is awesome is because we have unlimited outdoor possibilities,” Megan Howell said. “So we can have outdoor fitness, large group gatherings, birthday parties, even weddings, there’s roping arenas and facilities for animals.”

Besides stables and stalls, there is a 2,600-square-foot, three-bedroom house on the property. The bedrooms will be re-purposed, but the kitchen will remain as a teaching area.

There is also an additional smaller home on the property that the public can use.

“The views are inspiring, the atmosphere is relaxing, and we are so excited to have a refreshing outdoor space,” Bentley said. “In all of our planning, we always envisioned a warm environment and a welcoming entry. The phrase ‘make yourself at home’ will be relevant and repeated daily. By the way, the property comes with all the furniture. This is a gift from God. This is a place that can become the heart and hub of the community where families gather to use the village around them to help raise their kids, where birthday parties and showers and precious moments are hosted, where the community gathers in preparation for victories and celebrations when they are accomplished.”

All were excited about the full, wrap-around porch on the main house.

What’s needed

Bentley asked the group of community leaders at the unveiling to “spread the word.” Endeavors of this scale need more than funding, however.



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

The 30-acre property includes a 2,600 square foot house, stables, a livestock area, fishing pond, and space for numerous outdoor activities.

“We need local people to volunteer their time to mentor, businessmen and women, parents, anyone with a talent for a special skill set to come teach a life skill or creative class that they enjoy,” Bentley said.

There are opportunities for becoming a founding member, naming some facilities, and permanent sponsorships.

For more information, visit legacycentertx.com.



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

A full kitchen will be utilized for cooking classes.



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Commentary

FEBRUARY 18, 2022
THE COMMUNITY NEWS
WWW.COMMUNITY-NEWS.COM

Capital Highlights

Mail-in ballot applications rejected at high rate



Gary Borders
gborders@texaspress.com

Mail-in ballot applications for the March 1 primary are being rejected by almost 40% — largely because of a missing ID number, which is now required after a new voting bill passed the Legislature last year.

The *Houston Chronicle* reported that nearly four in 10 Harris County mail ballot applications had been rejected as of last week. Early voting began Feb. 14, and the deadline for mail ballot requests is Feb. 18.

Other counties across Texas also reported high rejection rates, including Travis, Williamson, Hays ,and Bastrop counties, the Austin American-Statesman reported. Those seeking to vote by mail must include a driver's license number, a state ID number, or in some cases the last four digits of their Social Security number. If what the applicant provides doesn't match the applicant's individual voter registration information, the application must be rejected.

Texas has one of the strictest vote-by-mail requirements in the country. Registered voters are eligible to vote by mail if they are 65 years or older; sick or disabled; out of the county on election day and during the early voting period; expected to give birth within three weeks before or after election day; or confined in jail but otherwise eligible.

Early voting continues through Feb. 25.

Drought conditions improve slightly

The latest drought map for the state shows a slight improvement as of Feb. 1, with 84% of the state experiencing some level of drought, down three percentage points from the previous month. Dr. Mark Wentzel, hydrologist with the Texas Water Development Board, said there were some improvements in the last month, mainly in East Texas. Additional rainfall in early February, mainly in East Texas and Central Texas, should improve conditions by the next report in March.

Wide swaths of the Panhandle and the Great Plains are experiencing the worst drought conditions.

Power generators under increased scrutiny

During early February's winter storm, the state's electrical grid withstood increased demand, with few outages reported. Regulators are crediting increased inspections by the Electric Reliability Council of Texas during December.

The *Dallas Morning News* reports ERCOT inspected 324 generators and transmission systems in December; the Public Utility Commission handed down \$7.5 million in fines for companies not filing weatherization plans by the deadline.

"We've been working for the last year to make sure that this grid is more reliable than it ever has been in the past — and it is," interim ERCOT CEO Brad Jones said a few days before snow and sleet hit.

In addition to increased inspections, legislation passed last regular session required power generators to winterize their plants. Additionally, alternate fuel sources are required if natural gas isn't available. While this year's storm wasn't nearly as severe as Winter Storm Uri in 2021, thus far the grid has stood up to increased demand.

The state's largest power generator, Vistra, is spending up to \$80 million to ensure its plants keep generating electricity despite whatever Mother Nature throws at them, *The Morning News* reported.

Texas top exporting state for 20th year

Data released last week by the U.S. Census Bureau showed Texas as the top exporting state in the nation for the 20th consecutive year. The state exported \$375.3 billion in goods last year, more than California and New York combined. The state also led the nation in tech exports for the ninth year in a row.

"Made in Texas is a powerful global brand, and the Lone Star State continues to dominate the nation in exports, thanks to our unrivaled and productive workforce, robust infrastructure and welcoming business environment," Gov. Greg Abbott said.

Funding available for clean school bus program

An estimated \$13 million in grant funding is available under the Texas Clean School Bus Program to replace or retrofit school buses to reduce exposure to their diesel exhaust. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality is accepting applications from school districts statewide.

Grants are given on a first-come, first-served basis. Districts can be reimbursed for all of the costs to retrofit buses, or 80% of the costs to replace older buses with newer, cleaner models, according to TCEQ.

Only buses used daily are eligible. While the deadline is in October, funding typically runs out when enough applications are received. More information can be found at www.terpgrants.org.

COVID-19 cases continue to drop sharply

It is beginning to look as if the omicron variant of COVID-19 really has peaked, with new cases in the state during the past week dropping to 109,990, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University. That's a decrease of 75% in the past month, while new deaths at 1,398 were essentially unchanged.

The Texas Department of State Health Services reported a total of 8,140 COVID-19 hospitalizations, down 23.6% from the previous week. The number of Texans who are fully vaccinated topped 17 million, or 58.6% of the state's population. Just more than 6 million Texans have also received a booster dose, which has proven effective in preventing more serious symptoms from the omicron variant, researchers say.

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.



Your Views

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Supports Suchocki

I have known Bernard for over 15 years. We both served on the Willow Park Planning & Zoning Committee. I know him to be a man who cares deeply about this community and listens to the people.

He has the most admirable background, i.e., training astronauts at NASA, Board Certified Trial Attorney, B.S. Degree in Physics/Math, Doctor of Jurisprudence and much more. We know we can trust him as Justice of the Peace to assure safety and security for us and our families at home, at work or our children in school. He has a solid Christian foundation and is a strict constructionist of the Constitution...always committed to the Rule of Law. Bernard is the best qualified for this position and he has my vote and I hope yours.

- JOANN CASSIDY,
USAFR (RET)
WILLOW PARK

Supports Suchocki

My name is Robbye Penrod and I have lived in Parker County for over 40 years. I wanted to let my fellow Parker County residents know about my knowledge and experience with Mr. Bernard Suchocki who is running for Judge in Precinct 4, where I currently reside.

I unfortunately was involved in a serious automobile accident a few years ago and hired a local attorney to handle my case. After several months of inaction, I fired that attorney and hired Mr. Suchocki who immediately took control, initiated discovery, took depositions and got me the policy limits on two insurance policies. Mr. Suchocki went above and beyond for me and my family.

He is honest, trustworthy, and truly one of the smartest people I know. His character is beyond reproach.

I believe Mr. Suchocki will make an excellent, fair judge for the people of Parker County and endorse him 100%.

- ROBBYE PENROD, MBA

Get Involved

I received a mailer last night and received phone calls yesterday all about some negative advertising for the upcoming Primary. As for me, I really don't like the half-truths and attacks. I want to hear what they are going to do if elected!

For the current round of negative communications, most are affiliated with Empower Texas: Defend Texas Liberty PAC, Texas Right to Life, Texans for Fiscal Responsibility, Young Conservatives of Texas, Equality Texas, and Environment Texas. They obviously have a right to say whatever they want, but you need to know the source.

To gage your agreement with their positions or not, check out the Scorecard for your favorite Conservative, for the elected official that you know best as a fighter for our cause. Many of our conservative activists score poorly with Texas Scorecard.

Attack ads just run folks off, give "politics" a bad name, but the reality is that "politics," elections determine who represents us at the local, State, and Federal levels. Don't be turned off, don't go away. Let's stand up for truth and respect in campaign advertising

rather than act like folks on the other side.

To determine when and where you vote, there are links at keeparkercountygreat.com. Then, after the polls close on March 1, attend your precinct convention which is located at your neighborhood polling place which is identified by the three-digit precinct number on your voter registration card. There, you can vote to be a delegate to the Senatorial District Convention, submit resolutions to be considered by the Senatorial District Convention to be forwarded to the State Convention, considered for the Republican Party of Texas Platform. If you have questions about how to get involved, give me a call.

You can participate! You matter! Your vote matters!

Happy campaigning!

- ZAN S. PRINCE

Supports Moorman

When we vote in an election, we get to choose the people who control what happens with our hard-earned tax dollars; people who make decisions that impact our daily lives and the lives of people we love. Often, those decisions will impact us for many years to come.

The County Judge yields a great deal of power in Parker County. He presides at meetings of the County Commissioners and should be the person who sets the example of leadership for all

Turn to **LETTERS**, page 7

SEND LETTERS TO:

news@community-news.com

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SUBMIT STORIES, PHOTOS OR IDEAS
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.

LETTERS

from page six

our County employees. That became very evident when the Covid pandemic hit two years ago. More than ever, we needed a County Judge with the education, training, expertise, and demeanor to lead us through a very difficult time.

We have an opportunity now to elect an individual who has all those qualifications and much more. Dr. Thomas Moorman is the man for the job. His professional education, training, leadership, and experience are unmatched by any candidate in the race. His distinguished work at UNT Health Science Center, during which he managed multi-million dollar budgets and worked with a wide range of people to solve complex problems, have prepared him to tackle the short and long range issues of Parker County. In addition, he's a good family man, a Christian, and an active community volunteer. He is just the kind of person we need in public office. He's definitely who we need as our County Judge. We are voting for Dr. Thomas Moorman. We hope you'll do the same.

- DENNIS AND KATHRYN THOMPSON ANNETTA

Thistles & Roses

Do you want a library?



Richard Henderson richard@rahenderson.com

Citizens of East Parker County, do you want a public library? If yes, we need to pay for it!

The recent guest column by the East Parker County Library (EPCL) President of the Board, Kathy Mason, asked that question, which is the same question I asked in a similar column several years ago when I was EPCL board president. The message is still the same. You want it, you must pay for it.

ECPL belongs to everyone and to no one. It is a non-profit organization and does not belong to any political entity. It is NOT the Aledo Library.

When I went on the board of EPCL in 2003, the doors were about to shut. It was August and there were not enough funds to pay expenses through the end of fiscal year in October. Why?

The folks in charge had received a Lockheed Foundation grant, and volunteer contractors helped build

out the old post office where the library is now, from a store front. EPCL had a real presence.

Unfortunately, the board had not crunched the numbers and there were not enough expected funds budgeted to meet everyday operating expenses. The board immediately began having fundraisers. Kyla Rosenberger held a large book sale. Jan Orr-Harter and husband Tom held the Garden Party at their historic home on Jenkins Road for many years.

We went after larger grants to pay off the mortgage and buy good computers. That mission was accomplished by the time I left after six years. We had managed to save \$30,000.00 in reserve. We had no mortgage and up-to-date computers and tables. We had DSL thanks to Aledo Broadband.

But, foundations will not donate grants for operating expenses.

The cities, including Aledo, under the leadership of Mayor Kit Marshal, increased their contributions. The largest contributor, Parker County, would not increase their contribution of \$20,000.00. The Aledo ISD turned us down. The ISD got the benefit of our books and especially our computers but would not help the EPCL.

At that time we operated on \$70,000.00 per year

Today, according to Ms. Mason's column, the budget is \$100,000.00. Very low amounts for a library who serves East Parker County and its population.

Bottom line is, there are still not enough funds to support very low operating costs.

In case you are wondering, as I was, is the library needed in this age of computers and Amazon books? I stopped in a couple of years ago at EPCL and introduced myself to ask those questions. To my surprise the computers are used by many students who have no access to them after school hours. There is often a line to use a computer. The library staff keeps a timer to let users know when their time is up.

Senior citizens on a budget and students need the books and computers.

So what can you do to help? Let your elected city leaders in our various cities know. Tell your county commissioner you want the support increased and thank them for support in the past.

And you can write a check to donate. And tell your friends.

The alternative is to shut the doors and sell the very valuable property. If we can't pay low salaries, insurance, electric bills etc, there will eventually come a time when there is no other thing to do.

BALLOT

from page one

County Judge
Thomas Moorman
Pat Deen

Judge, County Court at Law No. 1
Zachary Pettigrew
Kirk D. Martin
Kitty Wise

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Member, State Board of Education, District No. 11
"DC" Caldwell I
James Whitfield
Luis Miguel Sifuentes

GET TO KNOW THE CANDIDATES

The Community News conducted audio interviews with most of the local candidates. We'll report on portions of those interviews next week, but the full interviews can be heard at www.community-news.com.



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NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL CITY OF WILLOW PARK

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Willow Park, Texas, will receive written Proposals only, for **MOWING AND LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE SERVICES**, as stated in the Request for Proposal documents.

The City shall receive Proposals from qualified professional lawn service companies specializing in commercial lawn maintenance for the City of Willow Park as outlined in the Request for Proposal.

Said Proposals must be in the office of the City Secretary, City of Willow Park, 516 Ranch House Road, Willow Park, Texas 76087, and NO LATER THAN **10:00 A.M. CST** on **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2022**. Proposals that are postmarked but not received until after this deadline will not be accepted. Proposals received after the posted cut-off time will not be accepted.

All Proposals are to be marked clearly on the outside **"PROPOSALS FOR MOWING AND LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE SERVICE"**.

Please mail Proposal to City of Willow Park, Attn: City Secretary, 516 Ranch House Road, Willow Park, Texas, 76087; or deliver by courier or in person to the City Secretary's office, Willow Park City Hall, 516 Ranch House Road, Willow Park, Texas 76087. Proposals may NOT be sent electronically.

Request for Proposal documents may be downloaded at www.willowpark.org, or obtained at the City of Willow Park City Hall, 516 Ranch House Road, Willow Park, TX 76087. Proposal documents will be available for download/pickup on and after FEBRUARY 8, 2022. Further information may be requested by contacting Toni Fisher at tfisher@willowpark.org.

The right is reserved to reject any and all Proposals or to accept the Proposal which is deemed by the City of Willow Park to be in the best interest of the City of Willow Park. The City of Willow Park also reserves the right to waive any irregularities and/or informalities in the Proposal process.

For additional information, contact Toni Fisher at the City of Willow Park at (817) 441-7108.

ALEDO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT REQUEST FOR COMPETITIVE SEALED PROPOSALS CONTROLLED ENTRIES – PHASE II CSP 22-021822

The Aledo Independent School District (the District) will accept Competitive Sealed Proposals for Controlled Entries – Phase II until 2:00 PM on Thursday, March 10, 2022, in the Business Department at the Aledo Independent School District Administration Building, 1008 Bailey Ranch Road, Aledo, TX 76008. A Pre-Proposal Meeting will be held at 10:00 AM on Thursday, February 24, 2022, at Stuard Elementary School, 200 Thunderhead Lane, Aledo, TX 76008. Proposal evaluation criteria are listed in the Instructions to Offerors section of the proposal documents. Plans and specifications will be released on Friday, February 18, 2022, and are available to interested parties in digital format from the following address: VLK Architects, 2821 West 7th Street, Suite 300, Fort Worth, Texas 76107, telephone 817-633-1600, email cdockstader@vlkarchitects.com. Link to digital copies may be found on the Business Department Bid Documents page of the District's website: <https://www.aledoisd.org/Page/4288>. The District reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals, to accept the proposal that provides the best value to the District, and to waive all formalities with respect thereto.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON AMENDMENT OF LAND USE ASSUMPTIONS, CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN, AND IMPACT FEES FOR WATER AND WASTEWATER UTILITIES ALEDO COMMUNITY CENTER THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2022 6:00 P.M.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE CITY OF ALEDO CITY COUNCIL WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2022 AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE ALEDO COMMUNITY CENTER, 104 ROBINSON COURT, ALEDO, TEXAS FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSIDERING THE AMENDMENT OF LAND USE ASSUMPTIONS, CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN, AND IMPACT FEES FOR WATER AND WASTEWATER UTILITIES.

ANY MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC HAS THE RIGHT TO APPEAR AT THE HEARING AND PRESENT EVIDENCE FOR OR AGAINST THE UPDATE.

A COPY OF THE IMPACT FEE REPORT IS AVAILABLE AT CITY HALL FOR YOUR REVIEW.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT GRETCHEN VAZQUEZ AT CITY HALL AT 817-441-7016.

Published in *The Community News*, Friday, February 18, 2022.

Deana McMullen, City Secretary



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Golden Triangle Home & Garden Show – March 4-5-6, Ford Park, Beaumont, Texas. EVERYTHING FOR THE HOME! See a multitude of Home Improvement Professionals in 1 location! GoldenTriangleHomeAndGardenShow.com.

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Aledoan among Texas Rodeo Cowboy Hall of Fame 2022 inductees

The Texas Rodeo Cowboy Hall of Fame has announced the 2022 class of inductees with the induction ceremony slated for Saturday, April 9, in the Fort Worth Stockyards National Historic District.

Robert Anderson of Aledo was named as the Western Heritage Ward Inductee

This year's inductees also include:

Johnny Boren Award Inductee

Renee Harvey Lowe - Paris, Texas

Directors' Choice Award Inductee

Coors Cowboy Club - Amarillo, Texas

Men Contestant Inductees

- Trevor Brazile - Decatur, Texas - 26-time World Champion and more than \$7 million in career earnings.
- Justin Maass - Giddings, Texas - 8-time qualifier to

the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo.

•J.W. Harris - Goldwaithe, Texas - 4-time PRCA World Champion Bullrider & 2014 PBR Rookie of the Year.

•Scott Snedecor - Fredericksburg, Texas - 19-time qualifier to the National Finals Steer Roping.

•Scott Kormos - Wortham, Texas - 8-time qualifier to the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo.

Women Contestant Inductees

•Janet Stover - Crockett, Texas - 2001 World Champion Barrel Racer & 7-time qualifier to the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo.

•Jana Bean - Fort Hancock, Texas - 3-time barrel racing qualifier to the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo.

•Kelly Kaminski - Bellville, Texas - 2004 & 2005 World Champion Barrel Racer.

Rodeo Personnel Inductees
Hub Baker - Weatherford,

Texas - Rodeo Producer & Stock Contractor.

Frank McIlvain Sr. - Canton, Texas - PRCA Barrelman.

Gold Card Inductees

James Allen - Santa Anna, Texas - 7-time qualifier to the National Finals Steer Roping.

Bob Wilfong - Aquilla, Texas - Competed in all three rough-stock events for 30 years and rodeo stock contractor.

Empty Saddles

Sammy Catalena - Bryan, Texas - PRCA Stock Contractor.

Dwayne Newton - Grapevine, Texas - steer wrestling qualifier to the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo.

Rodeo Animals - Timed Event Inductee

Firewater Flit - Collinsville, Texas - Barrel racing sire of futurity and derby champions totaling more than \$5 million.

Events & Organizations

1968 Sam Houston State University Men's & Women's

Rodeo Teams - 1968 National Intercollegiate Champions

The 2022 inductions will take place Saturday, April 9, at the River Ranch Event Center in the Historic Fort Worth Stockyards. Doors open at 10 a.m., lunch is served at 11 a.m. and inductions start at 12:15 p.m. There is also a golf tournament scheduled for Thursday, April 7, at Canyon West Golf Course in Weatherford. A welcome reception is planned for Friday, April 8, at 2 p.m. at the Texas Rodeo Cowboy Hall of Fame which is located in Cowtown Coliseum.

Event tickets and additional information can be obtained by visiting the Texas Rodeo Cowboy Hall of Fame website at TexasRodeoCowboy.com or emailing info@TexasRodeoCowboy.com.



Robert Anderson and Teresa

SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Texas Prepaid Tuition Program enrollment deadline approaches

Texas families can lock in today's cost of undergraduate resident tuition and schoolwide required fees by purchasing tuition units for a four-year degree, two years of community college, or just a few semesters. For additional flexibility and portability, the plan also can be used at Texas medical and dental institutions; Texas private colleges and universities; out-of-state colleges and universities; career schools; and registered apprenticeship programs, where tuition and schoolwide required fees are not locked in and the benefits and payouts would be based on Transfer Value.**

"I'm encouraging Texas families and individuals to remember the upcoming deadline to prepay and lock in today's rates for all or some future tuition at two- and four-year Texas public colleges and universities," Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar said. "It's never too late to start planning for a child's college education. Families will find that when it comes to planning for their children's future education, every little bit adds up."

The Texas Tuition Promise Fund, the state's prepaid college tuition program, allows

participants to prepay undergraduate resident tuition and schoolwide required fees by purchasing tuition units for a four-year degree, two years of community college, or just a few semesters. For additional flexibility and portability, the plan also can be used at Texas medical and dental institutions; Texas private colleges and universities; out-of-state colleges and universities; career schools; and registered apprenticeship programs, where tuition and schoolwide required fees are not locked in and the benefits and payouts would be based on Transfer Value.**

To enroll children younger than 1 in the program at 2021-22 prices, the deadline is July 31. The next general enrollment period begins on Sept. 1, with new contract prices based on Texas public college tuition and schoolwide required fee

costs for the 2022-23 academic year.

Complete plan information — including residency and other requirements, current prices, enrollment forms and more — is available online at TuitionPromise.org, or by calling 800-445-GRAD (4723), option 5.

The program's outreach team also offers free webinars that provide an overview of the plan and discuss the different tuition unit types and payment options, as well as provide information about Texas Match the Promise FoundationSM matching scholarship opportunities.**

Visit <https://www.texas-tuitionpromisefund.com/> for information about how to register to attend upcoming webinars.

* Residency restrictions apply.

** Transfer Value applies to tuition redemption at Texas medical and dental schools, Texas private colleges and universities, out-of-state colleges and universities, career schools, and registered apprenticeship programs. Transfer Value is limited to the lesser of (1) the costs the tuition unit would cover at a public college or university or (2) the original purchase price of the tuition unit plus or minus the Plan's net investment earnings or losses on that amount.

*** Residency restrictions, age requirements, eligibility criteria, household income restrictions and contribution requirements apply. Match the Promise Foundation scholarships can only be used at Texas public colleges and universities, and Transfer Value cannot be utilized.

Annetta Clean-Up Day set for Feb. 26

The Town of Annetta will host its Community Clean-Up and Beautification Day from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 26.

Volunteers will pick up trash on city streets. There will not be collections of household debris, old appliances, tires, or hazardous materials. The concentration will be on the litter along roadways and lots in town. If you are interested in participating, call 817-441-5770 or email info@annettatx.gov. Lunch will be provided for volunteers.



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Kent Stasey cleaned up along Thunderhead during the Annetta Cleanup day in April of 2021.

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AHS SWIMCATS BOOSTER CLUB

Aledo High School junior Sam Ogden set a new school record in the backstroke at the regional swim meet. He will compete in two events at the state meet Feb. 18-19.

SWIMMING

Five Swimcats head to Austin

Five Aledo swimmers qualified for state competition after placing first or second at the regional swim meet Feb. 7-8 in Mansfield.

Sam Ogden placed second in boys 100-yard freestyle and set a new Aledo High School record in the backstroke, placing first with a time of 53.79 seconds.

Haley Roberson placed second in girls 200-yard Individual Medley, and also qualified along with fellow 200-yard freestyle and 400-yard freestyle relay team members

Kamryn Kupper, Breanna Olivieri, and Vicky Crews. he girls placed second in both events.

Additional Aledo swimmers who competed at regional were:

Boys 200 yd. Medley Relay : sixth place (Hunter Gregory, Sam Ogden, Tanner Howse, and Porter Lane)

Girls 200 yd freestyle: fifth place : Kamryn Kupper

Girls 100 yd butterfly: fourth place: Corah Satterfield; eighth place: Vicky Crews

Girls 500 yd freestyle: third place: Haley Roberson

Girls 100 yd backstroke:sixth place: Kamryn Kupper; seventh place: Corah Satterfield

Avery Faulkner, Tila Moeller, and Kyle Scharlow also competed.

The 2022 UIL Swim & Dive State Championships will be held Feb. 18-19 at the Lee and Joe Jamail Texas Swim Center in Austin.



KRISTIN MORALES

Aledo's Claire Byars puts up a shot against Lake Dallas in the -district game against Lake Dallas held in Haltom City on Feb. 14. The Ladycats lost the contest 25-60 to end their season.

Aledo	5	9	4	7	25
L Dallas	10	15	20	15	60

Claire Byars 14, Addy Hebel 5, Kenzie Grau 2, Reagan Davis 2

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SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

ABOVE: Trinity Christian Academy eighth graders Sadie Gough and Emily Ickert were awarded All Tournament honors at the district championship. | **TOP LEFT:** The eighth grade Trinity Christian Academy Lady Eagles finished their season with an overall record of 17-3. They finished second place in their district with a loss to Lake Country Christian by two points in the championship game. Team members shown are (from left) Kallie Blankenship, Berlynn Kaznowski, Sadie Gough, Emily Ickert, Ava Luecker, Sadie Berry, Christina Kuschel, Addison Spillers, Adalyn Endsley, and JJ Strittmatter. The head coach is Cody McKenzie. | **LOWER LEFT:** The seventh grade Trinity Christian Academy Lady Eagles were also runner-up in the district tournament. Allison Miller and Reagan Smith were awarded all tournament honors. Shown are (from left) Hannah Miller, Bailey Hillger, Harley Wilson, Peyton Bull, Hannah McCain, Reagan Smith, Allison Miller, Tara Holt, and Olivia Dominy.



TENNIS
Aledo RacquetCats face strong competition at Birdville tournament

By Andrea Garnett

Special to The Community News

The Aledo varsity tennis team faced some of its strongest competition this past Friday, Feb. 11, when they traveled to several different sites for the Birdville tournament. Only two brackets came away with medals this time.

Boys A doubles team of Jax Joiner / Hogan Posey lost in the semifinals in a super tiebreaker to Timber Creek. They then went on to play Farmers Branch for third place, sweeping them in both sets (7-5) (6-0).

Girls A singles freshman Bryanna Orr battled in the semifinals against Flower Mound, losing that match. Orr played another Flower Mound opponent for third place in short sets winning in a super tiebreaker posting final scores (1-4)(4-1) 10-6.

Next up the RacquetCats travel to the Arlington Tennis Center on Friday, Feb. 18, for the Centennial Tournament.



ANDREA GARNETT
Bryanna Orr



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KRISTIN MORALES

Owen Peterson goes high to the bucket during JV basketball on Tuesday night in Aledo.



KRISTIN MORALES

Senior Dylan Keith sunk a three-pointer at the end of the Aledo-Granbury game on Tuesday, Feb. 16. The Bearcats lost on their senior night, 57-49, but move into bi-district as the second seed. The Bearcats play against Denton Ryan 1t 6:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 21, at Keller Timber Creek High School, 12350 Timberland Blvd. in Fort Worth.

Swimcats!



Good Luck at State!
Sam Ogden, Haley Roberson,
Kamryn Kupper, Breanna Olivieri,
Vicky Crews

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