

Azle to hold National Day of Prayer Luncheon on May 4

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On May 4, Azle will be celebrating the National Day of Prayer with a luncheon and program at 404 Main Place. The luncheon, provided by Caitlyn's Catering, will be free thanks to the contribution of this year's sponsors. The programs start at 11:30 a.m.

Local faith leaders and attendees will meet to pray and celebrate at 404 Main Place

on the dot, so arriving early will be useful to those who may want to find their seats and socialize before festivities begin. All guests and all denominations are welcomed

and encouraged to join. "The NDP is distinctly Christian, but it is perfectly fine to simply come and observe," David Shaffer of Sonshine Ministries said.

"The prayers will be led by people who have been arranged ahead of time. You can expect the time to go by quickly, the music to be beautiful, the message to

be encouraging, the prayers to be hopeful, and the food to be tasty. My guess is that attendees will walk away at 1:00 p.m. feeling happy, closer to the Lord, connected to the community, and thinking, "That was well worth my time!"

Seven short prayers for local and national issues will be spoken and live music will

be provided by the Azle High School Chorale and Catherine Carlson. The keynote speaker is confirmed to be Reverend Brian C. Berry. Rev. Berry is an ordained Baptist minister serving as an associate minister at Destiny Church in Fort Worth. An adjunct professor of Koine Greek (I and

PLEASE SEE **PRAYER** | A2



ZACH FREEMAN | AZLE NEWS

Students from the Azle Christian School assisted Servolution with the demolition

Spring Blitz goes off without a hitch

Servolution's April 14-15 community service event brings life-changing results

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As Good Neighbors celebrates its 13th Blitz and seven years of service, it's reaching new milestones and growing to new heights. This year, Spring Blitz covered 13 homes over six communities in just two days. The

inclusion of other cities in Dallas-Fort Worth is a trend that Servolution would like to keep up.

"We've expanded from the homes that we did last year because we've gone from not just the Azle-Springtown area, even Weatherford, now we're going into Lake Worth with some homes and we've

gone as far out as Arlington this time around," Eric Ortega, Servolution Board of Directors said. "We see it growing year by year by year so we're very happy about what we're seeing. I think our goal is eventually to see satellite type places out there of Servolution Networks that we can all partner with. But it's

obviously centralized in Azle and what a great and loving community that we have here to be the home base of what we do."

The house in Arlington is unique in that it belongs to Good Neighbors' first Purple Heart recipient.

PLEASE SEE **BLITZ** | A11

Bands that play together, stay together

Junior high students of Azle get together for once-a-year performance

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On Tuesday, April 18 the Azle All City Junior High Band met and performed three songs at Azle High School for their first and only performance of the year. Unlike many school performances, the band



COURTESY KEVIN CHAPMAN

"Our idea was to reward those that have practiced and to unify the two schools band programs Forte Junior High and Azle Junior High," said Kevin Chapman

PLEASE SEE **PERFORMANCE** | A3

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Volunteers were awarded small bar pins signifying volunteer hour milestones

A helping hand

Azle Hospital Auxiliary celebrates volunteers during pinning ceremony

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The Texas Health Resources Hospital Azle Auxiliary held their pinning ceremony on Monday, April 17. The ceremony, which started at 2:00 p.m., celebrated Auxiliary volunteers for all the hours and hard work they've put into keeping the hospital in tip-top shape through 2022. The Auxiliary is a volunteer operated non-profit that has been dedicated to aiding the hospital since the 1970s. Volunteers run a gift shop

and the Attic Reruns Retail Shop to raise funds for the hospital. Guests and awardees were given a free lunch and speeches giving thanks to the Auxiliary from Chief Quality and Medical Officer, Jim Sammons, and others.

"I appreciate what you all do to support the hospital," Dr. Sammons said. "It is the week that we choose to honor our auxiliaries, our people who do all the other jobs that need to be done for which there isn't a paid position. Anybody who's had any responsibility for running a hospital knows that without

Volunteer Total Hours For 2022 Award

50 VOLUNTEER HOURS

Carol Calkins 89.25 Certificate of Appreciation/Pin

250 VOLUNTEER HOURS

Cathy Ostermann 418.98 250 Hour Bar

500 VOLUNTEER HOURS

Carol Feemster 645.75 500 Hour Bar

1,250 VOLUNTEER HOURS

Pat Groff 1673.70 1250 Hour Bar

1,500 VOLUNTEER HOURS

Pat Groff 1673.70 1500 Hour Bar

Ferrol Miller 1729.53 1500 Hour Bar

Peggy Helm 1927.15 1500 Hour Bar

1,750 VOLUNTEER HOURS

Peggy Helm 1927.15 1750 Hour Bar

2,000 VOLUNTEER HOURS

Mary Fonville 2049.67 2 Diamond H Pin w/ 2,000 Hour Bar

2,250 VOLUNTEER HOURS

Aida Hargrove 2267.00 2250 Hour Bar

Mary Dement 2578.23 2250 Hour Bar

2,500 VOLUNTEER HOURS

Mary Dement 2578.23 2500 Hour Bar

Karen Searfoss 2612.38 2500 Hour Bar

you it'd be almost impossible. There are a million tasks that need to be done... Every hospital I've been in could not survive without people like you doing what you do. So, I'm extremely grateful for what you do."

From escorting patients around the hospital to answering phone calls and doing paperwork, the Auxiliary also helps lighten the burden on medical staff and improve quality of care for patients. While these volunteers may

not be on payroll for the tremendous work they do, many are satisfied with the sense of accomplishment that comes from just being able to help and make a difference.

"The pay is great, I get to serve others," Volunteer

Peggy Helm said. "That's what I always wanted to do. After 30 years of teaching, I started volunteering. The other thing is we get to give back to the hospital... That's my joy and so the pay to me is really good."

PRAYER

FROM PAGE A1

II) at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, he also tutors Greek and Hebrew and hopes to have his PhD by 2025.

"[Rev. Berry] possesses the wonderful combination of off-the-charts intellect and talent with God-honoring humility, and every time I have heard him, I leave with wind in my sails," Shaffer said. "Brian will be sharing on the topic of unity amidst diversity."

Rev. Berry is married to

Stephanie, and they have two daughters, Nicole, and Christina. Rev. Berry once served in ministry at Eagle Mountain Baptist Church several years ago and has recently spoken to the Azle Area Ministerial Alliance.

For years, the National Day of Prayer has been a venerated day of celebration and worship for Azle residents. In 2014, Kim Ware took over the planning of this event, creating a committee and turning it into its present version. The Azle Area Ministerial Alliance are very close to the project and coordinate in conjunction with Ware.

"From the beginning, the effort to participate in the National Day of Prayer (NDP) as the community of Azle has been noteworthy," Shaffer stated. "Faithful people uniting in prayer has been the consistent element at each NDP in Azle. When Kim Ware took the helm several years ago, she moved the event indoors, had a wonderful lunch catered, and made the whole program more accessible. Though prayer remained the key ingredient, it brought larger segments of the community together, which continues to this day."



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Local car club awards veterans \$7,500

Silver Dollar Classics Car Club honors Tarrant County Vietnam Memorial Foundation at dinner

ZACH FREEMAN
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On April 18, the Silver Dollar Classics Car Club (SDCCC) presented a check for \$7,500 to the Tarrant County Vietnam Memorial Foundation (TCVMF) at On the Patio in Azle. The final donation ended up being five times the SDCCC's original goal.

The funds were raised at the SDCCC's first annual March 25 car show at Eagle Mountain Marina in support of Vietnam Veterans. The event started when Leah Owens, an SDCCC member suggested TCVMF as a possible beneficiary when discussions over the possibility of holding a car show began. Leah has a personal connection to Vietnam Veterans through her husband, Roger Owens. Roger served in the Army, 25th Infantry, in Vietnam from 1967 to 1968.

SDCCC plans on holding this event "bigger and better" next year and guests are

excited for the opportunity to return.

Eagle Mountain Marina, United Rentals, and O'Reilly Auto Parts of Fort Worth, and Silver Dollar Customs of Azle sponsored the car show.

"We're overwhelmed by the support and the success of the event," TCVMF Treasurer Damon Harvey said. "Top notch car show and we cannot say thank you enough."

TCVMF plans on adding a brick at the memorial recognizing SDCCC, according to Harvey.

For a \$20 entry fee, guests could see a Vietnam-era Cobra helicopter, provided by the Fort Worth Aviation Museum, and the nearly 200 classic cars, trucks and motorcycles that were on display in addition to being treated to a live show from the Texas Creedence Clearwater Revival & John Fogerty Tribute Band.

At least 220 Tarrant County residents died in the Vietnam War and there is currently no local monuments or memorials for these fallen soldiers.



SDCCC member Gary Deming was proud to award the \$7,500 check to TCVMF Treasurer, Damon Harvey

ZACH FREEMAN | AZLE NEWS

TCVMF hopes to change that and build something to honor the sacrifices of service members and their families.

The money presented to TCVMF will go toward building a permanent memorial in Fort Worth's Veterans Memorial Park on Camp

Bowie Blvd. Brewer High School student artist Ryan Scieneaux conceived the original design in a winning 2020 submission for a memorial competition. Fort Worth-based artist and sculptor, Michael Pavlovsky and Nick Nelson of Pacheco Koch

are working with the Fort Worth Parks Department and Fort Worth Art Commission to make this concept into a reality.

More information can be found on their website tcvmf.us and on their Facebook page. The Silver Dollar

Classics Car Club, which is hosted by Silver Dollar Customs can be found on Silver Dollar Classics Car Club Shows on Facebook or through their private Facebook group.

PERFORM

FROM PAGE A1

did not know what they'd be playing until they arrived. The All-City Junior High Band is a collection of the best of the best band students from

Azle Junior High and Santo J. Forte Junior High. Students were first granted the opportunity of being selected for this performance eight years ago. While their normal directors are Kevin Chapman and Hughlen White, respectively, Mrs. Tina Parr, a retired director of bands through-

out North Texas, lead the students for their All-City performance.

"Mrs. Parr said she was very proud of how the students sat quietly during rehearsals and responded to her instruction," Chapman said. "She was also impressed at how they were able to sit still for so many hours and make

progress through the day. She encouraged parents to support the arts and band programs and asked the students to continue with music for as long as possible."

Junior high students are selected for the All-City Band though an audition process after practicing on a piece of music for weeks.

"Not everyone is chosen for this honor," Chapman said. "Both eighth graders and seventh graders were selected although most with eighth graders. It is very difficult to make an honor band like this one as a seventh grader."

The All-City Band is an excellent opportunity for junior high students to meet and

develop connections with their peers from across town before they reunite at Azle High School under director Aaron Martin.

"This is a wonderful bonding experience for them," Chapman said.

Sudoku

APRIL 26, 2023

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Solution to last week's puzzle

APRIL 19, 2023

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| 6 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 2 |
| 4 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 8 |
| 9 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 6 |
| 2 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 7 |
| 7 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 3 |
| 3 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 9 | 4 | 1 |

Puzzle by websudoku.com

Azle School Menu *May 1-5, 2023*

BREAKFAST:
PreK-4th Grade, 7-12th Grade \$1.55
5-6th Grade FREE
2nd Meal \$2.00
Visitors/Employees \$2.75

LUNCH:
PreK-4th Grade \$2.55
5-6th Grade \$2.75
7-12th Grade \$2.55
2nd Meal \$3.20
Visitors & Employees \$3.75

PreK - 4th

BREAKFAST: Everyday - Assorted Fruits and Cereal, Juice, White or Chocolate Milk, Graham Crackers, Toast
Mon Mini Choc. Chip French Toast, Apples **Tues** Banana Muffin w/ Cheese Stick, oranges **Weds** Mini Pancakes, apples
Thurs Lucky Charms Cereal w/ Graham Cracker, Oranges **Fri** Breakfast Pizza, apples

LUNCH: Everyday - Variety of milk. Your choice of 1 entree & 1 fruit or juice
Mon Chicken Tenders w/ Biscuit OR Pancake w/ Sausage Patties, Hash brown **Tues** Orange Chicken Asian Rice w/ Roll OR Frito Chili Pie **Weds** Turkey & Cheese Sandwich OR Corndog **Thurs** Grilled Cheese OR Chicken Nuggets w/ roll Mashed Potatoes w/ gravy **Fri** Grilled Cheese OR Chicken Nuggets w/ roll Mashed Potatoes w/ gravy, Green beans

GRADES 5TH - 8TH

BREAKFAST: Everyday - Assorted Fruits and Cereal, Juice, White or Chocolate Milk, Yogurt w/Granola
Mon Breakfast on a stick, Pears **Tues** Sausage Biscuit w/ Jelly, Pineapple **Weds** Cinnamon Roll, Peaches
Thurs Biscuits & Gravy, Apples **Fri** Breakfast Pizza, Oranges

LUNCH: Everyday: Variety of milk. Your choice of 1 entree & 1 fruit or juice, crackers • Salad bar offered daily
Mon Chicken Tenders w/ Biscuit OR Pancake w/ Sausage Patties, Hash brown **Tues** Orange Chicken Asian Rice w/ Roll OR Frito Chili Pie **Weds** Turkey & Cheese Sandwich OR Corndog **Thurs** Grilled Cheese OR Chicken Nuggets w/ roll Mashed Potatoes w/ gravy, Green beans, applesauce **Fri** Chicken Quesadilla OR Cheese Nachos, Refried Beans, Mixed fruit, Apple

HIGH SCHOOL

BREAKFAST: Everyday - Assorted Fruits and Cereal, Juice, White or Chocolate Milk, Yogurt w/Granola
Mon Breakfast on a stick, Pears **Tues** Sausage Biscuit w/ Jelly, Pineapple **Weds** Cinnamon Roll, Peaches
Thurs Biscuits & Gravy, Apples **Fri** Breakfast Pizza, Oranges

LUNCH: • Everyday: 1% unflavored or non fat chocolate milk & juice offered daily at breakfast and lunch. Salad Bar • Fruit of the day subject to change due to deliveries and shortages. • Fruit, hot and cold veggies
Mon Cheese Enchiladas, Orange Chicken w/ noodle, Cheese Pizza, Pepperoni Pizza, Spicy Chicken Sandwich, Breaded Chicken Sandwich **Tues** Turkey, Beef nachos, TSO Chicken, Chicken Alfredo, **Weds** Chicken Tenders, Chicken Tacos, Sweet & Sour Chicken w/ Noodle, Cheese Pizza, Pepperoni Pizza, Breaded Chicken Sandwich, Spicy Chicken Sandwich **Thurs** Meatloaf, Chicken Quesadillas, Orange Chicken w/ rice, Pepperoni Pizza, Max sticks, BBQ Chicken Sandwich **Fri** Hot Dogs, Cheese Nachos, TSO Chicken w/ noodle, Cheese Pizza, Pepperoni Pizza, Tater Tots, Corndogs

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Reno Council approves bid for water disinfection systems project

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The project to convert the city of Reno's water disinfection systems – which is expected to prevent the need for water boil notices resulting from mixing waters – is moving forward after last week's council meeting.

Reno City Council unanimously accepted the \$273,000-bid from Environmental Improvements, Inc., for equipment purchase and delivery at the meeting on April 17.

The original plan was to hire a contractor to complete this project, but when those bids came in over budget,

Project to eliminate need to boil water after mixing with other entities

city leaders decided to buy the materials and have water department workers install them, said Brian Schrader, who chairs the Planning and Zoning Commission and serves on the city's Water Task Force, during the meeting.

Converting the disinfection systems will allow Reno to be compatible with water systems in Azle, Springtown and Walnut Creek Special Utility District by using the same chemical mixture as those entities, Public Works Director Chris Albright said

during the council meeting. This means Reno can get water from these entities without asking residents to boil their water.

"If we get into a bind like we did last summer with our water, we can open the valve to Azle with no repercussions from (Texas Commission on Environmental Quality)," Albright said.

This project to replace the chlorine disinfection systems with chloramine ones at all well sites is covered in a Texas Department of Agriculture grant for

\$500,000, which the city matched with \$636,000. The disinfection systems conversion was also listed as a priority in a 2019 capital improvement plan study.

Another report related to Reno's water system from 2021 stated that Reno needs to contract with nearby entities and use their water supplies to meet the minimum requirements of TCEQ.

During the meeting, council member Shelli Swift asked if a decision on this contract could be tabled because of uncertainty on the city's bud-

get, but Albright insisted that council members needed to take action soon. Albright also said the price of equipment could increase if the council waited any longer.

"This is not a new request, nor a surprise expense," Schrader said during the meeting. "This has been anticipated since the first report from (engineering firm) CobbFendley. This disinfection system will provide a water system that is directly compatible with Azle. This will allow the city of Reno to sign a contract with Azle, Springtown or Walnut Creek that can satisfy the minimum flow per connection that TCEQ has found the city to be in violation (of) since 2019."

Some residents at the council meeting expressed support for this project, including one person who urged the council to "approve it and let's move on." Audience members applauded when the council voted to accept the bid.

Albright said during the meeting that he expects the new system to be installed and working before the end of the year. The equipment is expected to arrive in three to four months, and it will take at least two weeks per water plant site to install the new systems.

"The city needs this and I'm glad (council) finally approved it," Albright said.

Reno police arrest unregistered sex offender

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Reno police officers arrested a man who was previously convicted of aggravated sexual assault of a child in Dallas.

According to a Reno Police Department news release, Dusty Ray Milligan – who was living in the 600 block of Miller Road with a friend – had an active felony warrant for his arrest for violating his parole.

Reno Police Deputy Chief Nathan Stringer said once Milligan was released from

a prison a few years ago, Milligan was supposed to register as a sex offender but didn't, which violated his parole.

Stringer said Milligan has resided in Reno occasionally for some time, most recently staying there for a few weeks when he was arrested.

Milligan also did not register as a sex offender in Reno, which resulted in additional charges that he will have to face, according to the news release.

"If you live in Reno and you're a sex offender, you're

required to register with the city of Reno," Stringer said. "We didn't know he was there, which is of course a violation of law."

The police department's news release reported that after receiving a tip on April 12, three officers confronted Milligan, who then fled. Stringer said Milligan tried to escape through a back window at the residence, and officers chased him 10-15 yards, not letting him out of their sight until they caught him.

During the arrest, Milligan

fought the police officers, who responded by using a Taser. Police took Milligan to a hospital before taking him to jail, which Stringer said is standard protocol when a Taser is deployed. The Reno police officers sustained multiple minor injuries from the fight.

Milligan was booked into the Parker County Jail on April 15, according to the county's jail records.

Milligan is facing felony charges of three counts of aggravated assault against a public servant and one

count of failing to register as a sex offender. He is also facing misdemeanor charges of evading arrest/detention, failing to identify fugitive intent to give false information and resisting arrest, search, or transport.

Stringer also said Milligan will be subject to consequences imposed by the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles.

The deputy chief said Reno officers did an "excellent job" in their arrest of Milligan.

The Epigraph requested to interview Milligan while he

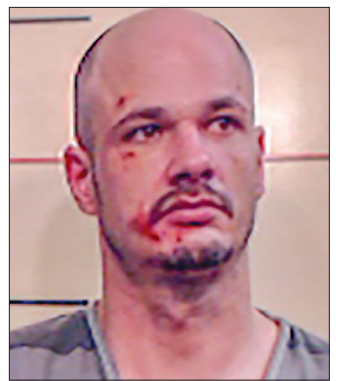


PHOTO COURTESY PCSO
Dusty Ray Milligan
was in jail but did not receive a response before press time.

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Walnut Creek SUD switches to new contractor for elementary water main

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Walnut Creek Special Utility District is switching contractors on the project to install a 10-inch water main for the new Azle ISD elementary school.

In a special meeting on April 20, the SUD board of directors unanimously approved revoking the project award from CHM Construction, which was originally awarded in December, and instead accepted the

bid from Oklahoma-based Timco Services for \$979,310. Timco's bid is just short of \$200,000 more than CHM's bid.

During the board's regular meeting on April 17, SUD general manager Doug Carothers said CHM Construction couldn't provide the required performance bonds within the timeframe needed.

Performance bonds are issued by financial institutions to ensure the completion of a contract.

Carothers said this project

is now expected to be completed by mid-July, a month later than the district's goal of mid-June.

The new elementary school, Hilltop Elementary, will be located at South Stewart Street and Farm-to-Market Road 730 South and is expected to open in August.

"It was quite a hard thing to have to switch companies," Carothers said during the regular meeting. "It was heart wrenching."

Bill Lohrke, senior project manager at E.S. & C.M., Inc.,

said during the regular meeting that notice was sent to the low bidder CHM Construction about the bonds needed.

Performance bonds and payment bonds are needed when working with Texas political entities, he said.

"The low bidder is a good contractor. He's worked out here locally for many years, but he's done the type of work that didn't require a bond," Lohrke said.

Lohrke added that the contractor at CHM Construction tried to secure the bonds but

couldn't, at least in part because of the effect that financial stress in the construction industry has had on bonding companies.

The project to get the water main constructed for the new school is time sensitive, and Carothers and Lohrke indicated that the project couldn't be stalled any longer.

"We just can't put this school into jeopardy by going further," Carothers said. "We have so tried to keep that business with CHM."

Lohrke said Timco Services

had "excellent references." He also said the construction route for this project is expected to change to go through an open field instead of down Veal Station Road. This would make the distance shorter and therefore may eliminate increased costs and be quicker to complete.

"He should be able to really expedite production," Lohrke said. "Perhaps we can get the thing finished by the first of July, not the middle of July."

Parker County Appraisal District reappraising all properties in county

STAFF REPORTS

The Parker County Appraisal District is conducting a full reappraisal of all properties in Parker County, according to a news release from the district.

The appraisal district mailed more than 85,000 value notices on April 14.

The reappraisal cycle coincides with an audit the Texas Comptroller's Property Tax Assistance Division conducts

called the School District Property Value Study, which is an independent estimate mandated by the Texas Legislature to ensure that property values are at or near 100% market value for equitable distribution of state funding for public education. The appraisal district is required by law to reappraise property at market value. Being below market value would violate the law, and therefore, the

local school districts would lose state funding, according to the news release.

Instead of reappraising every other year to coincide with the School District Property Value Study, and any value increase for this year is over a two-year period. According to the news release, the state of Texas has experienced historic price increases

during that two-year period. The median home price in Parker County has increased 32%, according to data from the Texas A&M Real Estate Center. The median home price in Parker County is now more than \$430,000 compared to 10 years ago when it was \$167,500. Prices are established through real estate transactions.

The Texas Legislature is currently in session, and both

the state Senate and the state House of Representatives have passed proposals for major property tax reform, including increasing the homestead exemption, lowering the appraisal cap, and compressing tax rates, according to the news release.

Homeowners with a homestead exemption benefit from a 10% appraisal cap in the second year of qualification. It's free to file for a home-

stead exemption with the appraisal district's office.

Property owners have the right to file a protest, and they can do so online at parkercad.org, in person from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday or by mail at 1108 Santa Fe Drive, Weatherford, TX 76086. Mailed protests must have a postmark date on or before the deadline. For most, the deadline to file a protest is May 15.

Spotlight on BUSINESS

APRIL

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COMFORT
Air & Heat

A/C Tuneups \$65

11345 FM730N, Azle
817-696-6421

Kenny Bates, Owner
817-361-3695



Customers are invited to come in to shop and sit down with Gretchen and the rest of the family for some good coffee and conversation.

Kirchem's Furniture Consignment

With such a great variety in store, you're sure to find something to fit any space in your home or business.

Have you been looking for that Something special to completely tie your room together? Kirchem's Furniture Consignment might have just what you're looking for!

Kirchem's is a family owned and operated shop in Springtown specializing in quality furniture, antiques, home décor, housewares and art. With such a great variety in store, you're sure to find something to fit any space in your home or business.

Owner Gretchen Kirchem Egger has worked with furniture all her life. She is joined by her family at the shop each day – "Paw" Jerry Kirchem, "Maw" Beverly Kirchem, and son Jeremy, and Connie and Trish

Gretchen opened the furniture store at the beginning of January for her dad, who had spent his whole life working with furniture. He developed Alzheimer's and every day

he still wants to get up and go to work. So, she created a place where he can go and work every day.

The atmosphere at Kirchem's is warm, inviting and fun. Customers are invited to come in to shop and sit down with Gretchen and the rest of the family for some good coffee and conversation.

Kirchem's Furniture Consignment is located at 3001 E. Hwy. 199, Ste. 100/101 in Springtown, and they are open Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Stop in to check out the spring savings at Kirchem's, with discounts on bedroom furniture, décor and at during the month of April – just in time for sprucing up for spring!

For questions, call 972-489-2699.

Kirchem's Fine Furniture

CONSIGNMENT STORE

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gkirchem@gmail.com
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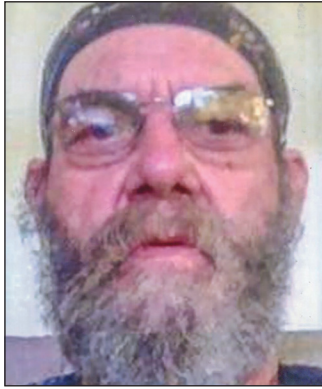
OBITUARIES

Daniel Winfree 1956-2023

Daniel was born in Homer, Louisiana to Ruby Foster and Dennis Knight, who preceded him in death. When he was 12 years of age, Daniel was adopted by Florance Roberts Winfree and grew up as an only child.

Daniel joined the US Navy at the beginning of 1976; in 1977 he was honorably discharged. He stayed on as a reserve until 1980.

He is survived by his two adult children, son Daniel K. Winfree II of Azle, Texas, and daughter Chastity W. Holland and husband James E. Holland Jr. of Springtown. Daniel also had three grandchildren, Aaron, Abbygayle and Kennedy Holland, grandson-in-law Travis Daniel, along with three great-grandchildren, Grayson, Paisleigh and Amari.



Pops was a free spirit, wild child that loved to ride motorcycles and traveling.

He will be dearly missed ... By the people he owed money!

In all seriousness, by lots of friends and extended family.

*The Azle News,
April 26, 2023 Edition*

Gerald "Ray" Carpenter 1947-2023

Gerald "Ray" Carpenter, 75, was called home to be with the Lord on April 11, 2023. He was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather, and will be deeply missed by his family and friends.

A memorial service will be held for Gerald "Ray" Carpenter, 75, of Azle from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 6, 2023, at the Reno City Hall Building located at 195 W. Reno Road Azle, Texas.

Born on August 23, 1947, Ray grew up in Crockett, Texas and eventually settled in Azle, Texas with his beloved wife, Stella "Flapper" Carpenter, whom he married on February 6, 1971.

Together, they raised three children and were blessed with seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Ray was a hardworking man and his love for his family was evident in everything he did.

Ray is preceded in death by his loving wife of 48 years, Flapper; his parents, Hubert and Rosie "Irene" Carpenter; his brother Roy Carpenter; and his great-grandson Wyatt Rister.

Those left behind to cherish his memory are his sister, Sue and her husband Gene Allen; his brother, Joe and



his wife Valerie Carpenter; his son Sonny Pierce; his daughters Cindy and her husband David Ford and Candi Rister; his grandchildren Amy Pierce, Rebecka Wells, Krystal and her husband Rusty McMaster, Chris Jones, Zachary Ford and wife Maria, Cody Rister and wife Savannah; and his great-grandchildren, Kinlee McMaster, Wade Rister, Kristen and Agustina Ford, Drew, Haydee and Riley Wells.

He will be deeply missed by all who knew him, but his family takes comfort in the knowledge that he is now at peace, resting in the arms of his Savior.

*The Azle News,
April 26, 2023 Edition*

Senior Spotlight

BY JACKIE "JJ" JOY
Special to the Azle News

The Azle Adult Activity Center is a safe place for folks 60 years of age and older to meet for food, fun and fellowship. We have taken precautions to keep everyone as safe as possible so you can feel comfortable joining your friends, old and new.

Exciting times are here as we celebrate the center's 37th anniversary. On Friday, April 28th, there is going to be an Open House and Patio sale from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the afternoon. Conveniently located at 601 Southeast Parkway, inside Ash Creek Park, you are welcome to for a tour and learn what we have available for your enjoyment.

You can also make a reservation and join us at 11:30 a.m. for a wonderful meal prepared by Meals on Wheels. Just contact us at 817-444-0070 by 9:30 a.m. the morning before and speak with our wonderful staff. We suggest a voluntary donation of \$2 per meal, but no one is ever denied a meal based on their ability or willingness to contribute but a meal must be reserved.

As a part of the celebration, there will be booths you will want to visit. Among them will be the Azle Police Department. At one table you will have the opportunity to talk with an officer and ask questions. There will also be someone from the Citizens on Patrol (COP)/Volunteers In Police Service (V.I.P.S.) presenting information about the Azle Citizens Police Academy. In this training, a citizen learns about the operation of our local government and what is happening in our community. Upon completion, volunteers can work with the police to be eyes and support at special events.

The Azle Fire Department will be partnering with us again! This is your opportunity to talk with talk to someone about home safety and get your blood pressure checked at the same time.

Do you have questions about the current vaccinations being offered? Tarrant County Public Health will be glad to talk with you about the importance of vaccinations and which one will be best for you.

Care-n-Care Insurance will be here to answer your questions about Medicare benefits while Angels Care Home Health will discuss the importance of getting in-home care.

You do not want to miss talking with Northwest Physical Therapy about the importance of movement. Furthermore, Eagle Crest Villa and Legacy Oaks Azle will be present to show you options for alternative living.

The Mears family will be here with an invitation for all interested parties to sing karaoke. So warm up your vocal cords and join in the excitement.

The Lake Worth/Azle Garden Club has provided beautiful plants to the center in celebrations of Christmas for the past three years and more recently a gorgeous purple calla lily for Easter. They will be here with information about gardening and will have a special something for you to take home with you.

But this is not the end of the fun. Each table will have giveaways and at 11 a.m. there will be door prizes. So, when you come in, be sure to get your ticket. (Must be present to win!)

Before leaving, you will want to visit our patio area for our annual sale. There is a wide variety of items to select from and all proceeds benefit the Azle Adult Activity Center for the purchase of office supplies, snacks, ice, bingo prizes and other items needed for daily operations.

In other news, congratulations to Roger for being the winner of the birthday prize of the month. Each month we celebrate birthdays and anniversaries with a drawing for those who are being celebrated. Care-n-Care sponsors our cake and ice cream and has a certified instructor to lead exercises.

Please feel free to contact us at 817-444-0070 for further information and questions. To get a calendar and menu, you are welcome to come by our center during normal hours of 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. or go to cityofazle.org and follow the Senior Center link.

We look forward to seeing you soon!



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News**

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... ATTEND THE CHURCH OF YOUR CHOICE THIS SUNDAY

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| <p>THE ABBEY CHURCH Pastor: Paul Brownback 10400 Jacksboro Highway 817-238-1404 www.TheAbbeyChurch.com</p> <p>Morning Worship..... 10:30 AM Community Groups..... Various Times</p> <p>ASH CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH Pastor: Dr. G. Wesley Shotwell 300 South Stewart St. • 817-444-3219 www.ashcreekbc.org</p> <p>Sunday School..... 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship-TMP..... 10:45 AM Traditional Worship..... 10:45 AM Evening Worship..... 6:00 PM Wednesday Youth Refuge..... 6:00 PM Wednesday Evening..... 6:15 PM</p> <p>AZLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ) Senior Minister, Ashley Dargai, Katie Medlin, Worship Minister 117 Church St. • 817-444-3527</p> <p>Sunday School..... 10:00 AM Morning Worship..... 11:00 AM</p> <p>AZLE FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD Rev. Joshua Lowrance 1020 S.E. Parkway, Azle 817-237-4903</p> <p>Sunday School..... 9:30 AM Morning Worship..... 10:30 AM Wednesday Evening..... 7:00 PM</p> | <p>COMMUNITY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH Pastor - Alton Davis 817-521-4510 1405 Reynolds Rd., Azle 817-444-7117 Directions: 730 N. to 1542 .5 mi. right on Cardinal, left on Reynolds</p> <p>Sunday School..... 9:45 AM Morning Worship..... 11:00 AM Sunday Evening..... 6:00 PM Wednesday Evening..... 7:00 PM</p> <p>CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH 2233 Hwy 199 E. • Springtown 817-755-0279</p> <p>Sunday Worship Service..... 10:00 AM Wednesday..... 7:00 PM</p> <p>CROSSROADS BAPTIST CHURCH Pastor - Jon Baker Corner FM 730S & FM 1886 817-755-0279</p> <p>Transportation Available</p> <p>Worship Service..... 10:30 AM Wed. Prayer Service..... 7:00 PM</p> <p>THE EDGE CHURCH - AZLE 1313 S.E. Pkwy, Azle 817-237-4822 Missouri Synod</p> <p>"Love God - Serve Others - Share Jesus" Traditional Worship..... 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship..... 11:00 AM</p> | <p>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Pastors: Rev. Todd & Jenn Pick 200 Church St., Azle 817-444-3323</p> <p>Morn. Worship..... 8:30, 9:45 & 11 AM Sunday School..... 9:45 & 11 AM Youth (UMYF)..... 5:00 PM Sun & 6:30 PM Wed</p> <p>HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH 800 Highcrest Dr. - Azle 817-444-3063</p> <p>Saturday..... 5:00 PM Sunday..... 9:00 AM Sunday..... 11 AM (Spanish) Daily Mass (M, T, Th, F)..... 8:00 AM Wednesday Mass Religious ED..... 6:30 PM Confessions..... Sat 4 PM</p> <p>HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA 4795 E. Hwy 199 - Reno 817-221-HOPE Follow us on Facebook for streaming services</p> <p>Sunday School..... 9:00 AM Traditional Service..... 10:00 AM</p> <p>SOLID ROCK BIBLE CHURCH 591 S. Reno Rd., Springtown, Texas 76082 Pastor - Bill Gay - 817-304-7443</p> <p>Coffee and Donuts..... 9:00 AM Sunday School..... 9:30 AM Morning Worship..... 10:30 AM Children's Church After Music Service Wed. Prayer Meeting..... 6:30 PM Wed. Bible Study..... 7:00 PM</p> | <p>LEGACY CHURCH Assembly of God Church Pastor: Gary D. Veazey Hwy. 199 & Jaybird Lane 817-221-2983</p> <p>Morning Worship..... 9:15 & 11:00 AM Kidz Zone..... 9:15 & 11:00 AM Weds Evening Legacy Group Legacy Youth, Kids All Services..... 7:00 PM</p> <p>THE RANCH CHRISTIAN COWBOY CHURCH Pastor: Greg Slankard 7955 Reed Rd., Azle 682-327-7082 www.TheRanchCCC.org</p> <p>Sunday School 9:30 AM • Worship 10:00 AM Weds 7:00 pm • Thurs Potluck 6:30 pm</p> <p>SILVER CREEK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Rev. Sheila Fiorella - Pastor 2200 Church Rd., Azle 817-444-1382 www.silvercreekumc.org</p> <p>Sunday School 9:30 AM • Worship 10:30 AM</p> <p>SILVER CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH Pastor: Jay Ditty Minister of Music: David Musick Corner FM 730 S. & Veal Station Rd. Church 817-444-2325 www.silvercreekbc.org</p> <p>Sunday School..... 9:45 AM Morning Worship..... 10:50 AM Evening Worship..... 6:00 PM Wed. Prayer Service..... 7:00 PM</p> | <p>THE WORD@LAKESIDE CHURCH OF GOD 9396 FM 1886 Fort Worth, TX 76135 817-237-5500 thewordatlakeside.com</p> <p>Pastors: Brandon and Kelly Bohannon Worship Pastor: Christen Moody Family Life and Young Adult Pastors: Jodie and Mark James, Kids Pastor: Katie Pearson, Student Pastors: Taylor and Sheridan Tomlin, Creative Directors: Logan and Carrie Edwards, Connections Coordinators: Preston and Ashley Larrew</p> <p>Equip Sunday School at the WORD..... 9:30 AM Empower Worship at the WORD..... 10:45 AM Kids at the WORD..... 10:45 AM PreK at the WORD..... 10:45 AM Emanate at the WORD (Special Needs Ministry)..... 10:45 AM Nursery at the WORD..... 10:45 AM Young Adults at the WORD..... 6:00 PM Wednesdays Adult Bible Class..... 7:00 PM The WORD Students (6th-12th grades)..... 6:30 PM Awana Kids at the WORD..... 6:30 PM Life at the WORD Life Groups Various Times</p> |
|---|---|---|---|---|

A church alive is worth the drive! For more information or rates on listing your church, call Jessica at 817-270-3340

Letter to the Editor

My husband spent an extended time in our Azle hospital a couple of weeks ago. He received exceptional care while he was there. The nurses, the technicians, the doctors, the maintenance, and kitchen personnel were all so accommodating and friendly. We could not have asked or wanted better care. We are so thankful that we have this small, but mighty, hospital in our hometown.

Tex and Wanda Womack, Azle

When is it okay to hate?

I'm doing something different with this week's post. I'm writing the introduction before an experience and the end afterwards.

Have you ever had an experience that you were both looking forward to and dreading? At the same time?

That's where I am today. In about an hour I'll be touring Auschwitz.

When I travel, I try to take advantage of any opportunity to visit civil rights museums or holocaust museums.

They are always deeply sobering as I'm reminded of the unspeakable evil that human beings can perpetrate against one another.

I'm expecting the notorious death camp about which I have only heard and read will be exponentially more so.

When my daughter visited Poland in 2008, she said the worst part of the trip was Auschwitz. She also said that a visitor to Poland who could only visit one place should visit Auschwitz.

We're on the bus right now and I'm already feeling this sense of dreaded anticipation.

It would be easy to bypass this experience and relegate it to the past—to focus on the positive strides that have been made.

It would be even easier to bypass it because I have no Jewish ancestry—I'm not personally affected.

But neither of those op-



BE AMAZING

By Gerry Lewis

Azle resident Dr. Gerry Lewis guides explorers to discover their AMAZING. He is an author, musician, and speaker, and a coach-sultant for individuals, churches, and organizations. More at www.discoveryouramazing.com.

tions is viable for me.

I need this experience—perhaps BECAUSE I'm not personally affected.

(Pause for tour) Back on the bus. How do I reflect on this?

When you see thousands of pounds of human hair ... rooms full of shoes, crutches, eyeglasses ... piles of canisters that held the deadly pesticide that was released into the gas chambers ... the crematorium where prisoners carried the corpses from the gas chambers to be burned ...

I chose to limit my photography during this tour—partly because I knew I wouldn't spend a lot of time sharing the photos and partly because I knew how easy it would be to put extra distance between myself and the harsh realities of the full experience. (As if a 6' 2", 240-pound man could be shielded by an iPhone).

1.1 million people were exterminated during a 5-year period within the Auschwitz-Birkenau complex because the seed of an evil idea was allowed to germinate and grow—an idea that an identifiable people group should

not be allowed to exist because of the threat that their impurity posed to the purity of the dominant people group.

I HATE what was done here and in other places in the world where fear has turned to hatred and death.

Here's what frightens me most: that any dominant group can become fearful enough of losing their dominance that they choose a path of marginalizing, then suppressing, then oppressing a group of people they deem inferior—all in the name of the greater good.

As a person who has lived as a member of the dominant people group, I must maintain an insatiable desire for what is right for all people—a passion for hating and resisting the evil that is possible when we see people as anything less than God's beloved image-bearers.

I know the evil we're capable of — Auschwitz reminded me.

And I know the amazing we're called to—Jesus reminds me.

Be amazing today, my friend.

AZLE ISD SUMMER FEEDING PROGRAM

Free Breakfast & Lunch Meals for 18 years and younger

Adult Pricing (19 years and older) Breakfast \$2.50 • Lunch \$3.75

June 5 - June 30, 2023

Monday-Friday • Breakfast 7:30 - 8:30 am • Lunch 11:00 - 12:30 pm

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| Cross Timbers Elementary 831 Jackson Trail | Santo Forte Jr. High 479 Sandy Beach Rd. | Pelican Bay Squiggly Park 1300 Pelican Circle |
| Hoover Elementary 484 Sandy Beach Rd. | Walnut Creek Elementary 500 Stribling Drive | 11-11:30 am LUNCH ONLY |

June 5 - July 27, 2023

Monday-Thursday • Breakfast 7:30 - 8:30 am • Lunch 11:00 - 12:30 pm

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| Santo Forte Jr. High 479 Sandy Beach Rd. | Walnut Creek Elementary 500 Stribling Drive | Pelican Bay Squiggly Park 1300 Pelican Circle |
| | | 11-11:30 am LUNCH ONLY |

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LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICES

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF AIKEN

IN THE FAMILY COURT FOR THE SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SUMMONS SHALANDRIA FOSTER, PLAINTIFF vs. BRANDON L. FOSTER, DEFENDANT CASE NO.: 2022-DR-02-665 TO THE DEFENDANT ABOVE NAMED: YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to answer the Summons and Complaint herein, a copy of which is herewith served upon you, and to serve a copy of your Answer to said Complaint upon the subscriber, LEON E. GREEN, 223 Chesterfield Street, South, Aiken, South Carolina 29801, or Post Office Box 1215, Aiken, South Carolina 29802, within thirty (30) days after the service hereof, exclusive of the day of such service, and if you fail to Answer the Complaint within the time aforesaid, Plaintiff will apply to the Court for the relief demanded in the Complaint and Judgment by Default may be rendered against you.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL USE PUBLIC HEARING IS HEREBY GIVEN TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS, THAT:

The City of Reno, Parker County, Texas proposes to hold a hearing on an Application for a Specific Use Permit for property located at 4609 E Hwy 199 Springtown, TX 76082 consisting of 2.6844 acres, Part of the William C. Burton Survey Abstract No. 105, for building a multi-family resident facility, town homes. The application is on file in the Office of the City Secretary. A public hearing will be held by and before the Planning and Zoning Commission of the City of Reno, Parker County, Texas on the 1 day of May 2023 at 7 o'clock and City Council of the City of Reno, Parker County, Texas on the 22 day of May 2023 at 7 o'clock in the City Council Chambers of the City Hall of the City of Reno, Parker County, Texas, located at 195 W Reno Road, Azle, Texas 76020 for all persons interested in the above proposed annexation. At said time and place all such persons shall have the right to appear and be heard. For more information, please contact the City at (817)221-2500 Ext. 103.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL USE PUBLIC HEARING IS HEREBY GIVEN TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS, THAT:

The City of Reno, Parker County, Texas proposes to hold a hearing on an Application for a Specific Use Permit for property located at 194 Jack Roy Road Azle, TX 76020 consisting of .559 acres for a minimum 1000 sq. ft. living quarters. The application is on file in the Office of the City Secretary. A public hearing will be held by and before the Planning and Zoning Commission of the City of Reno, Parker County, Texas on the 1 day of May 2023 at 7 o'clock and City Council of the City of Reno, Parker County, Texas on the 22 day of May 2023 at 7 o'clock in the City Council Chambers of the City Hall of the City of Reno, Parker County, Texas, located at 195 W Reno Road, Azle, Texas 76020 for all persons interested in the above proposed annexation. At said time and place all such persons shall have the right to appear and be heard. For more information, please contact the City at (817)221-2500 Ext. 103.

ORDINANCE 23-005

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PELICAN BAY, TEXAS ADOPTING THE 2021 EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL ENERGY CONSERVATION CODE, 2021 EDITIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL FUEL GAS CODE, INTERNATIONAL MECHANICAL CODE, INTERNATIONAL PLUMBING CODE, INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE, INTERNATIONAL RESIDENTIAL CODE, INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE, INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE, AND THE 2020 EDITION OF THE NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE; PROVIDING FOR THE MODIFICATION OF THE CODES TO INCORPORATE LOCAL AMENDMENTS; PROVIDING FOR RECORDING OF THE CODES AS PUBLIC RECORDS; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR A PENALTY FOR VIOLATIONS; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION IN THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. SECTION 13. Any person, firm or corporation who violates, disobeys, omits, neglects or refuses to comply with or who resists the enforcement of any of the provisions of this Ordinance shall be fined not more than Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) for all violations involving zoning, fire safety or public health and sanitation, including dumping or refuse, and shall be fined not more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) for all other violations of this Ordinance. Each day that a violation is permitted to exist shall constitute a separate offense. SECTION 17. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication as provided by law, and it is so ordained. **PASSED AND APPROVED 11th DAY OF APRIL, 2023.**

ORDINANCE NO. 23-008

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PELICAN BAY CREATING THE OFFICE OF FIRE MARSHAL; PLACING THE SUPERVISION AND DIRECTION OF THE FIRE MARSHAL UNDER THE FIRE CHIEF AND; THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE FIRE MARSHAL; AND PROVIDING FOR: SEVERABILITY AND A SAVINGS CLAUSE, Sec. 13 Penalty, Any person found guilty of violating any of the provisions of this article shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction shall be sentenced to pay a fine of not less than twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) nor more than two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00). Said fines shall be recovered by the city in the same manner as provided by law for other misdemeanor violations. Sec. 14 Continuing offenses, Every day's maintenance of any of the conditions prohibited in any of the foregoing sections shall be a distinct and separate offense. Sec. 15 Enforcement, All misdemeanors herein provided for shall be prosecuted, and all fines and forfeitures herein provided for shall be recovered and enforced, in the same manner as provided by law for the enforcement of fines, forfeitures, penalties and punishments for offenses generally against the city. Sec. 16. Severability, If any portion of this Ordinance is found to be void or ineffective, it shall be deemed severed from this Ordinance and the remaining provisions shall remain valid and in full force and effect. Sec. 17: Effective Date, This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its passage. **AND IT IS SO ORDAINED. PASSED AND APPROVED this 11th day of April 2023. CITY OF PELICAN BAY By: Tamra Olague, Mayor ATTEST: Cynthia Daniels, City Secretary**

ORDINANCE NO. 23-006

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PELICAN BAY ESTABLISHING A POLICY FOR OUTDOOR BURNING IN THE CITY OF PELICAN BAY Section 1: Any person, firm or corporation who violates, disobeys, omits, neglects, refuses or fails to comply with, or who resists the enforcement of any provision of this ordinance shall be fined not more than Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) for each offence. Each day that a violation is permitted to exist shall constitute a separate offense. Section 3: This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication as provided by law. **PASSED AND APPROVED this 11th day of April 2023. CITY OF PELICAN BAY By: Tamra Olague, Mayor ATTEST: Cynthia Daniels, City Secretary**

ORDINANCE NO. 23-007

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PELICAN BAY, TEXAS AMENDING VARIOUS PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 5, "FIRE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION" TO ADOPT THE 2021 INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE AS THE OFFICIAL MUNICIPAL FIRE CODE OF THE CITY; PROVIDING FOR RECORDING OF THE CODES AS A PUBLIC RECORD; PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF PERMITS AND COLLECTION OF FEES THEREFOR; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A PENALTY FOR VIOLATIONS HEREOF; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION IN THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. SECTION V. Any person, firm or corporation who violates, disobeys, omits, neglects, refuses or fails to comply with, or who resists the enforcement of any provision of this ordinance shall be fined not more than Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) for each offence. Each day that a violation is permitted to exist shall constitute a separate offense. SECTION VIII. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication as provided by law, and it is so ordained. **DULY PASSED AND APPROVED by the City Council of the City of Pelican Bay, Texas, on this the 11th day of April 2023. Tamra, Olague, Mayor ATTEST: Cynthia Daniels, City Secretary**

Public Service Announcement: Fair Housing, It's the Law

To promote fair housing practices, The City of Pelican Bay encourages potential homeowners and renters to be aware of their rights under the National Fair Housing Law. Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, as amended, prohibits discrimination against any person on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status or national origin in the sale or rental of units in the housing market. For more information on fair housing or to report possible fair housing discrimination, call the Texas Workforce Commission at (888) 452-4778 or (512) 463-2642 TTY: 512-371-7473. Policy of Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability The City of Pelican Bay does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or employment in, its federally assisted programs or activities. The Mayor has been designated to coordinate compliance with the nondiscrimination requirements contained in the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) regulations implementing Section 504 (24 CFR Part 8). Citizen Participation & Grievance Procedures Notice The City of Pelican Bay has adopted complaint and grievance procedures regarding its Texas Community Development Block Grant Programs (TxCDBG). Citizens may obtain a copy of these written procedures at 1300 Pelican Circle Azle, TX, 76020-4500 during regular business hours. Citizens may also request the procedures be mailed to them by calling the Mayor, Civil Rights Officer at (817) 444-1234. These procedures outline the steps for a citizen to follow if s/he wishes to file a complaint or grievance about TxCDBG activities. A person who has a complaint or grievance about any services or activities with respect to the TxCDBG project, may during regular business hours submit such complaint or grievance, in writing to the City Treasurer, at 1300 Pelican Circle, Azle, TX 76020-4500 or may call (817) 444-1234. The City of Pelican Bay will make every effort to respond fully to such complaints within fifteen (15) working days where practicable. Equal Employment Opportunity Statement The City of Pelican Bay does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On May 9, 2023, at 7 p.m., the City of Springtown City Council acting as the Zoning Board of Adjustments will hold a public hearing and consider a request for variance from the sign ordinance for 305 W. Hwy. 199, Springtown, Parker County Texas also known as Lot 1R2, Wit Haven Addition, being an addition to the City of Springtown, Parker County, Texas. The meeting will take place in the Council Chambers and the Municipal Annex Building located at 200 North Main Street, Springtown, Texas 76082.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The City of Sanctuary will hold a Public Meeting on May 9th, at 6:15 pm at City Hall, 1920 Berkeley St, Azle TX 76020, to discuss implementing new Fire Safety Inspection Codes.

300 Roe Street • Azle, TX 76620
Phone: 817-444-3235 • Fax: 817-444-6966

3rd Nine Weeks Honor Rolls

Azle Independent School District

It makes a difference to this one!

AZLE HIGH SCHOOL

9TH GRADE A HONOR ROLL

Hannah Alcalá, Alexia Alonso, Brianna Ayala, Macie Baker, Abigail Balderas, Gabriell Balderas, Nathan Barnes, Tyler Betz, Annika Birkeland, Riley Blagg, Emma Booten, Kayley Brekel, Johnathon Bushong, Isabella Byrom, Drake Chavez, Ryleigh Cire, Leonidas Coker, Kailee Cole, Sean Ollan Crager, Gabrielle Currid, Madeline Curry, Madeline Dannemueller, Preston Dixon, Dakota Donaldson, Addison Dorris, Sawyer Dotson, Kayla Eversole, Logan Fitch, Lilah Gatewood, Julianna Gibson, Taylor Gorski, Dauntless Gossett, Chevelle Gregory, Summer Guthrie, John Gutierrez, Lila Harden, Alyssa Harris, Wyatt Hicks, Aaden Holder, Cullen Hoyt, Eliana Hudman, Lily Hudman, Wyatt Jackson, Paisley Jeter, Reese Jeter, Grace Justice, Colton Lacobee, Cayden Lawson, Erica Leonard, Heather Lockridge, Emiliano Lopez Patino, Michelle Lorenz, Miley Massey, Zoey Matarazzo-Carey, Sophie McIntyre, Amy Mesta, Mariposa Montes, Emma Nelson, Azucena Neri, Alyssa Normile-Robbins, Claire Norvell, Emily O'Neil, Lorena Ortiz, Noah Popp, Luz Ramirez Trejo, Henry Rosales, Miranda Sanchez, Mason Schluter, Caleb Scoggins, Brooklyn Sharp, Sydney Shepherd, Bailey Smith, Layla Sorrells, Fred Starkey, Amie Steele, Keagan Stuart, Joana Taylor, Helena Te, Yasmeen Tejeda, Brayson Tittle, Christian Tomlinson, Katie Trammell, Luke Tupper, Hooser Van Hooser, Elexia Warren, Kaylee Willey, Lynnleigh Williams, Justin Wright, Nolan Wright, Chase Yancey, Brandy Zachmeyer, Brandon Zhao,

10TH GRADE A HONOR ROLL

Ethan Alcalá, Grayson Allen, Emily Baker, Melanie Barone, Gabrielle Briseno, Katalina Brunetti, Elijah Bryan, Kendyl Bush, Lucas Butler, Marta Canals Solar, Haley Carlson, Klaire Carlson, Desirae Cedillo, Brighton Cloutre, Elaina Conner, Landon Couch, Sarah Dustin, Elizabeth Farley, Cienna Feldman, Diesel Fields, Anthony Fitch, Madison Flowers, Sara Floyd, Matthew Frank, Ella Freimuth, Emilee Gerbers, Abdiel Gil, Gael Gomez, Hanna Goodrich, John Guzman, Britt Haas, Peyton Hill, Kevin Hinojosa, Eleanor Huet, Parker Huffaker, Mason Jennings, Katlyn Johnson, Isaac Lalonde, Eyvind Lefever, Christian Legan, Hannah Lenard, Ryan Lowe, Dylan Maines, Brooke Maples, Madison Martin-Wallace, Monica Martinez, Lucas Maschmeier, Maddison Masure, Grady Meador, Addison Mistic, Case Moore, Jacob Moreno, Abbey Natusch, Jocelyn Olund, Luke Petersen, Laila Pledger Mateen Xi, Eviana Quillin, Jayden Rahim, McKenzie Roberts, Karla Rodriguez, Jayden Saez, Myah Safa, Yahir Sandoval, Ryan Satterlee, Tyson Schreier, Shelby Schroeder, Katie Jo Scott, Seth Sexton, Deklan Sheffield, Jackson Shepherd, Kynadie Smallwood, Emily Smith, Nora Stowers, Katelyn Thomas, Natalie Trejo, Ruby Uribe, Natalie Velasquez, Kyleigh Vinson, Christopher Voelkel, Amy Wang, Adrianna Wiedeman, Tucker Williams, Cooper Yates, Brooklyn Young

11TH GRADE A HONOR ROLL

Kyler Akers, Esmeralda Baeza, Royce Baker, Caroline Barone, Reeslyn Bice, Madeleine Boivin, Gillian Brentz, Dakota Brewton, Parker Brewton, Kaitlyn Caffey, Joshua Carver, Graciela Cazares, Peytie Chambers, Laci Clark, Taryn Clark, Cathryn Coleman, Anahipatricia Colmenero, Joanna De La Cruz, Alex Doggett, Matthew Estrada, Braden Forsythe

Hailey Fox, Samantha Gannon, Vielka Gonzalez, Cheryl Grubbs, Vance Guthrie, Emory Hahn, Hayden Hamilton, Melanie Harder, Logan Harrison, Kamryn Hill, Paulix Howell-McFadden, Hannah Johns, Patrick La Morte, Connor Lawson, Brynna Lee, Melanie Lee, Savannah Lefan, Paul Leonard, Chase Loffin, Ryder Loffin, Macy Martin, Rebecca Marx, Caitlin McCrary, Kalen McCullough, Kasey Mickle, Amaryn Moreno, Jose Neri, Emilee Norvell, Brookelyn Nowakowski, Helen O'Neil, Shree Patel, Mar Perez Ibanez, Sarae Perez, Brandie Phillips, Anna Preston, Sadie Pyle, Thomas Riley, Jade Robinson, Melani Rushing, Landri Seward, Allison Smith, Eva Solorzano, Faith Summers, Eliana Tejeda, Morgan Terrell, Madeline Thompson, Allison Thorn, Tyler Ulrich, Edgar Valles, Tyler Vaughn, Brice Watson, Reese Wethington, Raegan Williams, Myrah Wolf, Allison Wright

12TH GRADE A HONOR ROLL

Katheryn Ardito, Skyler Arellano, Lane Autrey, Baley Ayala Gomez, Chloe Carlton, Braxton Cates, Brittany Cato, Andres Chavez, Kayla Cockerline, Kyndal Coker, Conner Combs, Baylee Craddock, Jackson Davis, Reece Davis, Christopher Dean, Trevor Deel, Adam Derda, Makenna Dillow, Gabriel Evans, Makenzee Fair, Aiva Ferris, Denim Fields, Edwin Figueroa, Cayden Fowler, Aiden Fuller, Diana Garcia, Elli Garcia, Matthew Garcia, Erin Garnica, Sydney Gatlin, Barak Geary, Jessie Heath, Carrisa Hofer, Cameryn Hoskins, Cadence Jordan, Ashtyn Kay, Henry Lalonde, Tyler Landon, Jetson Lee, Pella Lefever, Karlee Locke, Kendall Locke, Maisie Locke, Oliver Lorenz, Steven Manley, Benjamin Martin, Diana Martinez, Luke McLaughlin, Jason Merrill, Jesus Mesta, Aldhayr Morales Estupinan, Phoebe Mosley, Braden Murray, Ashlyn Norton, Luke Olmsted, Arianna Pardue, Jacob Perez, Mackensey Petty, Bailey Phillips, Harleigh Phillips, Trinity Powers, Laurel Ragland, Lindsey-Kay Reichert, Kelsey Rivard, Jayden Rollins, Adrian Sanchez, Alexis Scoggins, Michael Seeton, Daisy Serna, Matthew Smith, Yulissa Solis, William Spratt, Bobbie-Jade Stevens, Trey Thornton, Trinity Thornton, Amanda Thorpe, Samantha Thurston, Conner Tomlinson, Austin Tunn, Cadence Travis, Grant Tune, Joley Vick, Emmylia Vickers, Nathan Walsh, Charles Westrup, Amanda White, Jacy Williams, John Williams, Eva Zohne

AZLE JUNIOR HIGH

7TH GRADE A HONOR ROLL

Ella Booten, Rylie Brekel, Reagan Bridges, Hudson Carroll, Jacie Clark, Kendall Clay, Tristan Clemson, Katherine Conner, Jasmine Covarrubias, Ava Dash, Nathaniel Davis, Payton Davis, Lochlan Edenfield, Charli Hanson, Finley Hard, Benjamin Harder, Ella Holman, Jackson Jinks, Madeline Kindlinger, Makennah Landon, Lydia Leonard, Kimberly Licerio, Elias Martin, Brooke Metcalfe, Bo Milligan, Joel Monterroso, Isla Mrstik, Layten O'Gorman, Cannon Patterson, Nathan Popp, Itzayana Ramirez, Roxton Reed, Savanna Samford, Bailey Seward, Cameron Short, Angel Sifuentes, Mattix Silas, Mariah Simpson, Talon Slough, Avalos Soto, Mason Vanrachack, Adalyn Walker, Jaycee White, Kooper Willey, Braelyn Woods, Tyler Yancey

8TH GRADE A HONOR ROLL

Norah Allen, Daniel Anderson, Martinez Arroyo, Hunter Avalos, Gomez Ayala, Ellie Bennett, Gabriel Berlan, Jalynn Booker, Dagon Brown, Katlyn Campbell, Cailyn Coleman, Cason Cook, Haley Doyle, Jace Finger, Ella Fuchshuber, Brody Gatlin, Kimber Gray, Dax Harbour, Rachel Harder, Kiefer Harris, Wyatt Harrison, Collin Helmick, Gracie Hennessy, Lillian Hofer, Zachary Hopton, Nicole Johnson, Noah Kovach, Sage Laing, Lily McDonald, Taylor Merrill, Michael Mize, Hayden Newhouse, Grace Niedecker, Ashlynn O'Neil, Kate Orellana, Josue Plascencia Ornelas, Johnnie Powell Marin, Shelby Ramirez, Knox Remley, Chloe Roth, Hailee Ruscetti, Joaquin Solorzano, Jaden Sweeney, Madilyn Sweetser, Michael Voelkel, Eli Waller, Mallory White, Elizabeth Yelle, Brady Young

7TH GRADE AB

Addison Ackerman, Konner Admire, Hank Allphin, Presley Aucoin, Sailor Bains, Martin Balderas, Dylan Barton, Damien Bearden, Garin Bissonnette, Caden Caffey, Brittany Cashion, Julia Charon, Abigail Coleman, Mia Cordero, Abigail Craft, Bryson Crow, Brenna Curry, Desmond Demara, Naomi Diaz, Christian Dodd, Katelyn Egbert, Jimena Espinosa, Paul Gage, Jackson Gibson, Lila Gibson, Rafe Glaze, Tanner Gray, Kiera Halyard, Emma Harris, Madison Hawkins, Tyler Hicks, Jett Hill, Shaylyn Hinojosa, Madison Holleman, Jacob Irving, Austin Iverson, Lilian Kaplan, Brylee Kautz, Morgan Kittrell, Sophia Lachance, Addison Laudenheimer, Kayden Lay, Hayden McAfee, Abagayle McAnany, Nolan Meitz, Hudson Messina, Ella Miller, Koby Miller, Carly Mabley, Tori Moore, Auston Morgan, Colton Morland, Lizbeth Neri, Kimber Nixon, Annabelle North, Kinley Pardue, Karsyn Perkins, Kyle Petersen, Alexander Pogue, Aubrey Pruet, Caleb Radford, Blaze Sage, Jaylen Sanders, Laney Stinson, Clara Strew, Riley Thompson, Tristan Uecker, Jordan Van Slyke, Kimberly Villagomez, Dominic Wadenpfulh, Kensington Wasser, Kinlee Williams, Timothy Wilshire, Daelynn Young

8TH GRADE AB

Kaden Akers, Ethan Allsup, Rylie Auvenshine, Alivia Bridges, Layla Brown, Zariah Brown-Caldwell, Jacob Calix, Willow Caverly-Franklin, Gabriel Cedeno, Candace Clark, Mary-Anne Cobb, Colton Cook, Liam Cox, Christopher Crafton, Jaymarie Curcio Soto, Dylan Dannemueller, Levi Dildy, Lydia Dill, Landon Elkins, Kaeden Estes, Emma Flavin, Thomas Frank, Brooklynn Gibson, Natalie Gorman, Kellar Gunter, Tanner Harlan, Kahnon Herron-Arellano, Kaine Hill, Carden Hoenig, Zoe Hopton, Bridger Houghton, Haleigh House, Sara Jackson, Payton Jones, Keegan Kennard, Christopher Kloskowski, Colton Langeberg, Cooper Little, Valeria Macias, Lee McVay, Courtney Meredith, La-Ong Miller, Cooper Mitchum, Kenlee Mooney, Gage Murphy, Katelynn Oconnor, Mark O'Neil, Boston Ooten, Trinity Phillips, Brayden Pruet, Tyler Roberson, Caydena Sheppard, Grayson Smith, Lex Spottswood, David Stentz, Deakon Stuart, Cheyenne Supachana, Bella Tipton, Caden Vantrease, Julian Vilchiz, Luke Walley, Khloe Warner, Jade Watson, Cruz Wilburn, Summer Wilson, Brayden Wood,

FORTE JUNIOR HIGH

7TH GRADE A HONOR ROLL

Ximena Acosta, Nathan Allen, Benjamin Andrews, Richard Andrews, Andrew Avila, Haylee Collins, Kaylee Creacy, Adley Daniels, Paxton Elliott, Aiden Gardner, Caydence Giancaspro, Lance Hodges, Clifford Johnson, Cooper Johnson, Juan Mendieta Maldonado, Aaron Montanez, Toby Norton, Addyson Pannell, Marilyn Rubio, Reese Schluter, Layla Silva, Khloe Solis, Brylon Soria, Aaron Stapleton, Savannah Tidwell, Garrett Washburn, Lauri Wolfe, Jacob Zaiger

8TH GRADE A HONOR ROLL

David Agredano, Aaron Barnes, Grayson Blair, Eddie Chairez, Korbin Chaudron, Bryson Clark, Daniel Cohee, Brayden Combs, Catherine Connolly, Logan Dixon, Kate Ferrell, Marialy Garcia, Kaden Haas, Gage Hepler, Garrett Holden, Audrey Hood, Noora Jagger, Layla Johnston, Ethan Landreville, Michelle Lechuga, Maria Lin, Phenix Medlin, Cody Nadin, Parker Neely, Rylee Russell, Carl Whelhem Sienes, Aidan Smith, Emery Trammell, Kole Wood-Dixon, Baylen Young,

7TH GRADE AB

Caleb Barbaro, Lillian Blair, Emma Brentz, Adian Burks, Johnathan Champ, Kelyn Cline, Logan Cochran, Matthew Crider, Michelle Cuevas, Clarissa Davila, Hailey Dillard, Lillie Edwards, Kelsey Eminger, Jessica Flowers, Aiden Frias, Jaiden Garcia, Jude Giddens, Wyatt Gies, Cody Hargrove, Brooklynn Harris, Ava Hill, Kali Hooper, Jeremy Hossain, Kimree Johnston, Landon Leach, Chloe Lewis, Sophia Lopez, Ava Madere, Carson Marsland, Qiuxi Martin, Jeff Mazza, Noah McCormack, Jonlyn Meissner, Angel Mejia, Bella Menchaca, Jose Mole Bourzac, Madison Monagle, Sapphira

Newbury, William Patrick, Emily Perez, Timothy Pierce, Ireland Quillin, Lucas Ramirez, Sophia Roark, Landon Roepker, Raiden Rogers, Emily Sproles, Dylan Stone, Caleb Thornbrough, Lilianna Trigueros, Dillon Tunnell, Hunter Walls, Cooper Womack

8TH GRADE AB

John Ables, Aaron Andrews, Emma Biehle, Courtney Clark, Caleb Connellee, Kadence Cook, Leigha Currie, Lillie Dickson, Trevor Douthitt, Nathan Dyck, Kaylynn Falwell, Carsen Gande, Chloe Garcia, Andres Gomez, Alexis Grummert, Kamryn Hance, Chloe Jackson, Emily Maggio, August Manes, Jaslene Mendoza, Julian Menefee, Cannon Milstead, Elissa Moya, Samantha Ortega, Erin Rackley, Brianna Ramirez, Jentry Roach, Andrew Roberts, Avery Rodriguez-Smithers, Dakota Rogers, Jose Romero, Destoney Roper, Zachary Ross, Andrea Segovia Alvarez, Autumn Smith, Kevin Stone, Aubrey Sweeden, Charlotte Weaver, Korey White, Wyatt York, Serenity Young,

EAGLE HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY

1ST GRADE A HONOR ROLL

Kylie Ayers, Judith Bartels, Ashton Buggar, Addison Cook, Jon Dunnam, Peyton Geeslin, Eva Hacker, Aurora Heckathorn, Daniel Jimenez Pena, Charles Longfield, Emiliano Medina, Athena Menjivar, Kynslee Moose, Ayleen Rascon, Dylan Rodriguez Aguirre, Clara Walker, Jayce Walker

2ND GRADE A HONOR ROLL

Levi Alexander, Airalí Chavez, Wyatt Densmore, Christopher Egbert, Gracie Harris, Adyson Herbst, Cole Kripner, Gabriel Mesta, Jax Seward, Brynna Sirkel

3RD GRADE A HONOR ROLL

Prudencio Camacho, Kevin Hoover, Joselyn Olguin, Stephen Pruet, Gabriel Stanislawski, Magnus Taliaferro

4TH GRADE A HONOR ROLL

Kendall Allsup, Briggs Baker, Emma Coker, Jacob Lankford, Brooklynn Sweetser

1ST GRADE AB

Elie Bonilla, Harper Bowman, Roxas Cappelle, Yarely Cardenas, Caroline Clark, Andrew Cunningham, Ascen Davis, Uriel De La Cruz, Aliana Evans-Hinkley, Adrian Fabila, Ace Flores, Yarezi Frias, Nieves Garcia, Kory Gerring, Aubrey Gregory, Luis Hernandez, Ivais Marquez, Gloria Mole, Alec Nutt, Adison Pingel, Richard Rainville, Nathalia Ramirez, Lincoln Ravenscroft, Charlotte Redding, Jesus Rocha, Lilly Swearingin, Ismael Trevino, Grayson Zaborski, Jacob Zurita

2ND GRADE AB

Zuria Alonso, Kylie Alvarez, Nicolas Balderas, Grace Cousins, Cody Cox, Jace Dawson, Samantha Gibson, Marley Giossi, Ashley Gonzalez Varela, Isaiah Guevara, Axl Hast, Coral Heckathorn, Kyzie Hesteande, Lincoln Lamar, Mason Lancaster, Regan Lowe, Eleazar Martinez, Conner McKenzie, Maisie Merritt, Matteo Munoz Grisales, Violet Rivera, Angel Rodriguez, Arianna Rodriguez, Gianni Ruvalcaba, Jerry Stafford

3RD GRADE AB

Corbin Allen, Weston Allen, Abigail Barrios, Oliver Barton, Mateo Beltran, Catalina Cedeno, Maria Colunga Perez, Jayvin Cortez, Jaxson Damborsky, Kaniel Dotson, Leah Finger, Rain Fowler, Harper Gessel, Dallas Gilliland, Arizona Hoff, Zaydyn Jones, Aurora Marcy, Adilynn Mastropoll, Violetta Munoz Grisales, Hernandez Perez, Camila Perez, David Ramirez, Emma Renteria, Joshua Reynolds, Kaylah Rodriguez, Ava Salas, Wyatt Scott, Jackson Smith, Rhett Southard, Ava Souza, Anthony Villagomez, Jackson Weaver, Jameson Willis

4TH GRADE AB

Kayla Anderson, Brayon Cruz Amaya, Ollie Edwards, Raziel Ferrulli, Presley Garrett, Logan Haiderer, Tyler Lacobee, Thanya Martinez Gutierrez, Paislee Moose, Belinda Morales Ledezma, Courtney Overton, Rylan Pascall, Austin Quick, Declan Quillin, Teresa Ramirez, Addison Raymond, Roxie Rippy, Adeline Sheffield, Sophia Strickland, Adisyn Tidwell, Natalie White, Kamrie Williams

AZLE ELEMENTARY

5TH GRADE A HONOR

Aaron Anderson, Gage Bailey, Greenlee Baird, Brayden Ball, Daniel Braddock, Camren Butler, Jaxon Childress, Akadia Davis, Madisyn Delong, Lillie Eggleston, Raiden Ferrulli, Callee Ferry, Jezaymar Gaona, Stella Gray, Alli Grennell, Josi Hanson, Libbi Hanson, Amelia Henley, Brittany Jernigan, Laine Knox, Joseph Leonard, Lily Manwill, Grace May, Liam McCallion, Lockynn McDonald, Sonya McKenzie, Harrison Moore, Taylor Moore, Karter Moreland, Alexis Morgan, Dylan Morland, Peyton Nix, Lillian Pena, Owen Polson, Kylin Pope, Natalie Popp, Lauren Quick, Gatin Reed, Keara Rosenquist, Cailynn Rupp, Zoe Sadler, Ryleigh Scheiderich, Madelyn Smith, Owen Smith, Dallisia Spencer, Tabitha Stafford, Zoe Sternitzky, Aiden Teel, Allie Valles, Jacob Voelkel, Ryker Wells, Claire Womble

6TH GRADE A HONOR ROLL

Lane Abraham, Everly Arellano, Lila-Ann Averitte, Austin Baird, Alexa Baker, Jakoby Baker, Corbin Barone, Mimi Bennett, Dana Brown, Brynlee Cates, Evelyn Compston, Kenadee Copass, Presley Crew, Ella Davis, Grace Davis, Evalynn Delarosa, Christian Gideons, Kaitlyn Graeber, Kian Halyard, Owen Harden, Mackenzie Harris, Kenzie Harrison, Elliana Hofer, Ryleigh Hoover, Addison Horner, Aviana Howell, Jack Ireton, Isaac Jimenez, Eva Johnson, Colton Jones, Adalyn Kripner, Gulliana Lardizabal, Madeline Lemley, Chase Leonard, Alyssa Lewis, Brooks Little, William Lowther, Eleanor Mcnutt, Eli Meitz, Kinsley Mistic, Nathaniel Ortega, Shylah Osborn, Ava Parkey, Le'marcus Pruitt, Caylee Robinson, Abner Rojas Moreno, Morgan Simpson, Callista Spencer, Kyle Stepich, Emmalyn Sweetser, Savana Swint, Lily Thomas, Grayson Thornton, Promise Tilson, Bailey Verrett, Gabriel Wadenpfulh, Cason Widemon

5TH GRADE AB

Brayden Acosta, Samien Alaoui, Khloe Allen, Allyssa Ambrose, Colin Austin, James Averitte, Betty Bailey, Saxon Bains, Michael Barfield, Warren Barnard, Ryleigh Barrick, Anthony Barron, Liam Blackmon, Alicia Boyd, Daniel Cantu-Reyna, Brianna Cardona, Samuel Carlson, Reagan Carnes, Colton Carter, Aubrey Cazares, Adrian Ceniceros, Parker Christopher, Joseph Chronowski, Emma Coffey, Charles Conrad, Vanesa Covarrubias, Courtney Cox, Daniel Crafton, Ian Crawford, Camdyn Creamer, Janiels Cruz-Gonzalez, Haylee Davis, Harris Dervisevic, Sadie Diaz, Kendyl Duddles, Miranda Elizalde, Jackson Ellis, Ronald Everitt, Skylar Farris, Lincoln Finkbeiner, Luke Finkbeiner, Cuan Fitzpatrick, Skye Francois, Taylor Frerichs, Tony Gallegos, Mariam Garay, Clara Gately, Michael Gonzales, Marian Gonzalez Varela, Isabella Granados, Callen Green, Jonathan Guevara, Kolynn Hardin, Adelaide Harris, Jaclyn Hawkins, Magdalene Hemmel, Connor Herbst, Christian Hernandez Alvarado, Emma Hopkins, Zoe Houston, Jet Hubbard, Paysen Huffman, Adam Hymmer, Kourtini Jackson, Logan Jones, Jake Justus, Erin Kardaras, Caden Kattau, Isabella Keating, Ayden Kelleher, Makeyla Kulan, Ezio Laliberte, Kiera Lee, Francisco Limon, Crimson Logan, Jacob Lowrey, Kendleigh Luttrell-Kelley, Myka Maclin, Tyler Macwhirter, Diego Madrigal Ambriz, Aston Martin, Evelyn Maximo Duenez, Colyn McCormick, Hayden McDanal, Marco Mena, Julianna Molina, Kevin Molina, Ava Morales, Rick Nadeau, Willow Nance, Kaysn Nelson, Savannah Nelson, Martin Neri, Davin Nichols, Derrick Nichols, Troy Overton, Brian Perez, Audrea Phelps, Brayden Polson, Krystal Ramirez, Parker Rhoads, Alice Robinson, Bianca Rodriguez, Dylan Rodriguez, Violet Rodriguez, Ashlyn Rogers-Meason, Austyn Salter, Jeremiah Sanchez, Emmanuel Sandoval, Jaelyn Sawyer, Kaileigh Slough, Elena Solorzano, Luis Soto Gallegos, Liam Stentz, Connor Strickland, Zoey Supachana, Ashton Tarner, Zoey Tarpley, Maximillian Thielemann, Elizabeth Tolbert, Jason Tucker, Deglis Valenzuela Blandon, Layne Van Slyke, Preslee Vaughan, Mia Von Feldt, Analeigh Wadenpfulh, Fisher Wasser, Kendal Wasser, Skyler Waters, Luke Williams, Peyton Williams, Harper Wiss, David Womack-Perry, Lucas Yelle, Skylar Yunger

6TH GRADE AB

Arrayah Aguilar, Kimber Akers, Sophia Ambrose, Avrey Anderson, Samuel Armitage, Reed Arnold, Genesis Arteaga Rivera, Madison Atwell, Kye Barnett, Maximus Barrios, Sloane Barto, William Bates, Preston Baucom, Joshua Belisle Gonzalez, Ainslie Bliss, Alexis Brown, Isabella Browning, Mason Bunkley, Sophia Busch, Izabella Cardenas, Jacob Collier, James Cooper, Aiden Cortes, Kylee Covington, Tyler Cox, Lochlan Creech, Ryder Davis, Malachi DeGeorge, David Delgado, Bintlee Deweese, Mason Dixon, Presslei Dodson, Sadie Dustin, Kamry Estes, Kaydene Ewing

Hudson Ford, Haley Foster, Kaylee Fruge, Macy Fuentes, Gracie Gallegos, Parker Gann, Jude Gentry, Julian Gonzalez, Everett Graham, Kinzley Gray, Elayna Hansen, Jaxon Hayworth, Paisley Hennessy, Angelina Hernandez, Kendra Hernandez, Hailey Herrera, Paulina Hervet, Jaxon Holder, Chloe Houston, Sophie Hunter, Keila Juarez, Savannah Kerce, Ayden Kirby, Rose Ledezma, Presley Lindsey, Ryder Martin, Daphne Martinez, Julianna Martinez, Willow Maxwell, Noah May, Marcel McCray, Zachary McKinney, Brenna Merkt, Blake Meyers, Ty Mondragon, Maya Montalvo, Camila Montes, Mason Morbach, Jaidyn Mullins, Benjamin O'Brien, Sadie Olsen, Hudson Pantoja, Airabella Peterson, Noah Pongratz, Johnathan Rains, Riley Raymond, Alexander Read, Cody Reynolds, Riley Rhea, Abbygail Rich, Eli Rios, Angel Rivera Lopez, Elena Roberson, Cash Roberts, Brentley Russ

Hudson Salazar, Amayalíe Sanchez-Maldonado, Jayden Self, Kale Shelman, Addyson Smart, Austen Smith, Brady Smith, Jaelyn Smith, Kylie Snapp, Diana Soto Avalos, Rendon Stephens, Scarlet Stewart, Sam Stroud, Natalie Suson, Elizabeth Tullo, Kaiya Tipica, Baylee Utley, Jasmine Veloz, Christopher Vest, Jaclyn Villalobos, Allie Waldrip, Jacey Waller, Coen Webster, Kieren White, Mark Williams, Sophiya Winkler, Westin Woody, Alyssa Wright, Logan Yarberry,

CROSS TIMBERS ELEMENTARY

1ST GRADE A HONOR ROLL

Cora Brown, Madelyn Close, Lola Davis, Amzii Dow, Benaiah Frawley, Maribelle Gonzalez, Jessa Haddox, Liam Kendrick, James Kennedy, Samuel Koslan, Emma Kowalik, Madison Leal Salazar, Maddux Lorenz, Jesus Martinez, Zoe Miller, Blake Singleton, Darrell Smith, Jasper True, Autumn Trujillo, Sophia Waresback, Isabelle Watrous, Willow Wright

2ND GRADE A HONOR ROLL

Ian Acostavega, Camilla Ayala, Lindy Barnard, Charlotte Burke, Aspen Champagne, Paisley Cournoyer, Henry Dykas, Walter Dykas, Melanie Gonzalez, Thomas Jeter, Luke Jones, Loraina Lopez, Penelope Maggio, Jacob Martinez, Piper Murphy, Hazel Nelson, Lacilynn Nowakowski, Lydia Ramirez, Charlotte Rodriguez, Nora Rolan, Hailey Ryan, Annabelle Sickle, Carlee Thomas, Haelyn Whitaker, Jaycie Yates

3RD GRADE A HONOR ROLL

Amari Fischer, Brantley Hansen, Brooke Peterson, Paisley Porter, Parker Porter, Blakely Sawyer, Gavin Wynns

4TH GRADE A HONOR ROLL

Carter Beck, F Jorgensenkylie, Amelia Ryan, Lewis Velasquez

**1ST GRADE AB**

Amelia Arias, Gracie Barnard, Emily Bradley, Quinn Broderick, Charles Bryan, Nevaeh Cotton, Canyon Daniels, Jacob Davis, Noah Doyle, Kailey Farson, David Gonzalez, Isaac Gonzalez, Marley Guerra, Hudson Hernandez, Justin Huffman, Cole Latta, Eiley Leonard, Elizabeth Lombardi, Jackson McConnell, Sebastian Perez, Evelyn Rodriguez, River Schmalz, Caiden Schroeder, Carson Schroeder, Crowley Soto, Kinzie Stringer, Brisa Trejo, Nina Trevino, Levi True, Lane Weirsky, Krisayden Zapata

2ND GRADE AB

Kohen Alexander, Raelynn Anders, Levi Beale, Ramon Borjas, Lawsen Boutte, Delilah Campbell, Marcos Correa, Juniper Dillon, Camryn Dousay, Brendyn Downs, Roman Fernandez, Charleigh Gideons, Jayden Guerra, Colby Harrah, Kingston Hernandez, Ann Kellerman, Kailey Lamb, Naomi Langley, Israel Longoria Hernandez, Elizabeth Luther, Chloe Miller, Gabriella Moran, Linkin Murray, Gladys Nabiryanga, James Pantoja, William Petit, Andrew Pick, Wren Price, Landon Raymond, Mason Rivers, Alan Soto, Michael Taylor, Taytum Tidwell, Aden Underwood, Layton Ward, Gunner Womack

3RD GRADE AB

Nevaeh Alonzo, Delilah Ayala, Alessa Bailey, Levi Barbaro, Easton Bradley, Grecia Cardenas, Tynlie Chapman, Gannon Donals, Brandon Echeverry, Preston Friberg, Ethan Gaitan, Chloe Garrett, Cash Haggerton, Mason Hawkins, Kenneth Hoggett, Aaron Howard, Kiyah Hoyt, Hunter Kamody, Rhyder Lawrence, Aubrie Marsh, Mairin McCardell, Cheyenne Miller, Michael Parker, Carlos Perez, Keith Reno, William Reyes, Landyn Roblez, Brayson Rutherford, Daniel Sims, Margarette Soto, Hayley Squires, Cora True, Dominic Wesolowski, Daniel Zatarain-Meza

4TH GRADE AB

Damian Addington, K Beckarter, D Beckhamjack, Jaidyn Bankston, Ella Close, Hannibal Copeland, Emily Deming, Jillian Douthitt, Demi Drumma, Delilah Elmore, Klara Ferrell, Colten Foster, Raylan Gillespie, Adriana Gonzalez, Delilah Grawet, Joseph Hale, Kaysen Heard, Holcombapxton, Mia Huffman, Denise Iniguez, Kylie Jorgensen, Kinsley Lamb, Alexander Lee, Riley Long, Tavanne Martinez Gutierrez, Anniston McGinnis, Blake Miller, Alan Montealvo, Silas Mosier, Jacob Olguin, Cassie Osterhoff, Clayton Phifer, Aydenn Piedra, Jeremy Pumilia, Audree Richardson, Elijah Rundles, Patricia Sickle, Kyra Skinner, Jaehlen Stukes, Jayden Tanner, Koben White, Avery Williston,

HOOVER ELEMENTARY**5TH GRADE A HONOR ROLL**

Colbie Alano, Hailey Babin, Jeremy Benson, Samantha Bevan, Liam Bryan, Carsyn Bullard, Kenzley Campbell, Kimry Cloutre, Caydence Combs, Aleeya Derouen, Claire Dousay, Carter Farrington, Dayanari Ferreira, Leah Gaitan, Laylah Groce, Emmarie Hall, Cristian Jaramillo, Parker Kellerman, Greyson Knight, Heidi Leathers, Colton Mahoney, Abigail Moore, Brooke Schluter, Gracyn Sims, Brylea Starkey, Cooper Stevens, Abigail Walker, Grayson Walls, Kaylie White

6TH GRADE A HONOR ROLL

Allison Amyett, Andrea Anaya, Tatum Bozeman, Leilani Bravo, Karlee Burns, Kaden Bush, Bristyl Connellee, Zoey Culbertson, Angela Deming, Serenity Douglas, Bethany Ferguson, Gracyn Goodwin, Cheyanne Hamilton, Madisyn Hicks, Kayla Johnson, Jordyn Johnson, Isis Jones, Riley Lamb, Abby Lamkin, Liam Lynn, Shealynn Marsh, Alaina McMinn, Kaden Miller, Amy Moreno-Flores, Shea Morris, Cooper Peek, Kaden Phelps, Braylee Searcy, Logan Shelton, Benjamin Spence, McKenzie Steinhauser, Kinley Taylor, Aubrey Thornbrough, Ivy True, Laci Vivanco, Corbin Washer, Cadence Wiley, Sovay Witherspoon, Zaylyn Woods, Kaden Wynns

5TH GRADE AB

Orpheus Allard, Kiana Ambrosio Guerrero, Amelia Applewhite, Grayson Arnett, Adelyn Ashton, Emma Babin, Shaylee Beale, Wyatt Blackmer, Ester Blanco Bourzac, Tristan Blay, Alexandria Brown, Kaeleb Burdick, Donovan Burnett, Nicholas Caballero, Ayden Canada, Matthew Cantrell, Abigail Carrillo, Erick Chamberlin, David Chapman, Evelyn Chavez, Ethan Clay, Rylan Collier, Damon Cook, Benjamin Cordova, Aurora Deaton, Anistyn Doss, Dylan Doyle, Sterling Edwards, Lukas Fjugstad, Alyssa Flores, Olivia Ford, Marco Gallardo, Charles Garner, Dace Gonzales, Zade Gonzales, Christian Gonzalez, Tripten Gregory, James Grubb, Sophia Hampton, Liam Hennessee, Emma Hernandez, Roberto Hernandez, Shelby Hiitt, Vance Holden, Kale Hoyt, Annabelle Johnson, Jaxsen Jutson, Willow King, Violet Koslan, Jayda Kovar, Shelby Laack, Camila Longoria Hernandez, Braulio Lopez, Isaac Lopez, Audrina Martinez, Lily Mazza, Elijah McDonald, Ledger McGinnis, Connor Meador, Jesus Mejia Zavala, Zoey Morgan, Jesus Munoz, Alison Musick, Ashlynn Nabors, Mattox Nealy, Kellan Nelson, Aiden O'Daniel, Anna Patrick, Carly Perez, Zoe Phillips, Janira Ponciano, Aubree Powers, Kayson Preston, Kolbie Price, Tenley Ramon, Raelynn Rayer, David Redd, Sarah Richey, Ian Ruiz, Bentley Rust, Ali Safa, Miguel Salais, Rylan Salazar, Westin Scarlato, Ethan Schoenfeld, Maddilyn Sloan, Audrey Smith, Morgan Smith, Abigail Sorrow, Alayna Spivey, Parker Spurreles, Emberlynn Stephenson, Sadie Taylor, Maximiliano Tello, Kaylee Thompson, Juliette Torres Guerrero, Felipe Torres, Yesenia Torres, McKinley Ulrich, Serenity Walker, Caleb Walsh, Braylee Watkins, Abraham Weaver, Sophie Webb, Harlyn Whitlatch, Monica Williams, Rachel Womble, Marion Woodard, Colt Wright

6TH GRADE AB

Denver Ahrens, Koi Ambrose, Jesse James Blackmer, Kolton Braswell, Aidyn Burns, Sue Cato, Aubrey Chairaz, Ayari Chavez, Ian Clontz, Jade Colby, Zoe Dante, Kylieann Deanda, Aerith Dickens, Denver Donaldson, Sophie Dousay, Jordyn Dow, Jobe Elliott, Azahel Flores, Dean Ford, Baylor Frey, Victoria Garcia, Mica Gentry, Shelby Gibson, Nolan Gillespie, Griffin Goodwin, Tifa Guerrero, Chase Hall, Emory Hamaker, Hunter Hill, Miley Hofmann, Kayson Holcomb, Callie Howard, Teagan Howell, Dylan Johnson, Elisa Jurez, Hunter Knight, Abigail Lee, Elizabeth Lenard, Adam Lester, Isabella Lizarraga, Cody Marler, Madison Martin, Chloe McLain, Emily Mena, Madisyn Miles, Eli Miller, Francisco Montiel, Jalen Moore, Xander Morales, Sage Mosier, Daisy Nino Banca, Mikaela Pagan, Bryson Palmer, Ashlyn Parish, Kamryn Paschal, Ivan Perez, Kierstin Perez, Stephanie Pulido, Nicholas Reed, Antonette Ridley, Taigen Robertson, Samantha Rodriguez, Tiana Rodriguez, Christopher Sproles, Liam Singleton, Michael Solis, Taryn Tate, Isaac Thompson, Hope Tisdale, Nevaeh Torres, Brendan True, Sabrina Valenzuela, Emmanuel Villalba, Ramon Villalba, Logan Weaver, Nolan Weaver, Mason Webster, Memphis Weirsky, Diego Yanez,

LIBERTY ELEMENTARY**1ST GRADE A HONOR ROLL**

Andreas Chamberlin, Trynlee Cook, Emmelia Cooley, Marlee Cowan, Hubert Erskine, Parker Gassen, Talon Granados, Bridgette Jenkins, Jaiden Kay, Joe Leal, Talon Luepke, Solara Marshall, Michael Massey, Shailey Meredith, Jayne Patterson, Firrenah Sampson, Daniel Sawyer, Eleanor Smiley, Aiden Spinks, Jaxson Williams, Emma Young

2ND GRADE A HONOR ROLL

Cado Camp, Easton Grabiell, Hudson Houser, Leonardo Lopez, Cameron Manes, Emma Maqueda, Ellen Mendoza, Zoe Simmons

3RD GRADE A HONOR ROLL

Patrick Alano, Alexis Burt, Knox Houston, Colin Laack, Fara Latt, Keilah Mesurvey, Kobe Osburg, Dylan John Taum, Gage Tuck, Delilah Weed

4TH GRADE A HONOR ROLL

Alyssa Barnes, Anna Dresden, Rachel Gowan, Ethan Hamaker, Michael Hendrix, Adilynn Houston, Sterling Jaramillo, Charlotte Jennings, Sein Kwon, John Martinez, Rose McNamee, Sawyer Neely, Eian Perie, Tucker Poole, Payton Reusch, Amaya Rodriguez, Reagan Sydow, Elisabeth Tunnell

1ST GRADE AB

Natalia Andrade Hernandez, Carter Campos, Xander Clowers, Brogan Dennis, Adeline Dunn, Kinley Flaherty, Jessie Garcia, Kennedy Hall, Emma Hardman, Tucker Herring, Ryder James, Iris McNamee, Peyton Meadows, Brooklyn Myles, Damonte Oglesby, David Olivarez, Kale-Lee Salyer, Palmer Skipper, Noah Taylor, Yannick Torres Roman, Wyatt Velasquez, Aria Vest, Charles Weaver, Gunner Wheeler, Brantley Williams, James Wright

2ND GRADE AB

Esti Aldridge, Emily Chairaz, Jaxon Davis, Korbin Davis, Denton Donaldson, Azalia Galvan, Mackenzie Garner, Brody Gibson, Hartlyn Haraida, Mila Harmon, Evan Hoyt, Mason Kacmarynski, Kennedy Leach, Eden Lopez Aldaco, Adam Lopez, Glavine Melton, Trinity Mitchell, David Olofson, Jace Pope, Riley Reed, Graham Shaver, Henry Smiley, Payton Smith, Chloe Tubbs, Arabella Welch

3RD GRADE AB

Zoey Abbott, London Arnett, Deagan Brown, Elyana Burrhus, Phoenix Clowers, Sawyer Connellee, Nikolas Cooley, Lincoln Cudd, Eli Davis, Xavian Deleon, Wade Eason, Dylan Esparza Sermen, Alissa Garcia, Kelsie Garner, Ean Hamaker, Mason Hamende, Ryker Haraida, Camden Head, Alexandrea Heimann, Alexander-Rashad James, Ayane Johnson, Easton Johnson, Braden Lassetter, Alana Lroy Evans, Harper Luttrell, Brayann Mejia, Arlette Mendoza, Keila Mendoza-Madrigal, Riley Mooney, Callie Murphey, Riley Newell, Logan Newland, Eileen Padilla, Billy Palmer, Karmina Porras, Jodie Prater, Dakota Priestler, Lily Reynolds, Harleen Sheppard, Presley Skipper, Crais Smith, Abigail Stevens, Hollie Talkington, Konner Talkington, Joshua Trammell, Karliah Underhill, Kaydence Underhill, Tony Wise

4TH GRADE AB

Luke Adkins, Dariela Aldaco, Issac Armstrong, Raiden Bailey, Khalesi Baucom, Alexis Bennett, Loy Culbertson, Sabrina Dominguez, David Duda, Owen Free, Braxten Gandee, Ally-Anna Gann, David Garcia, Cloe Gupta, Aaliyah Herrera-Bluemel, Cameron Hodges, Sevaeh Hunter, Kaycie Johnson, Logan Johnson, Aubrey Luttrell, Mayranny Mata Mata, Chloe Morren, Isaac Neira, Novah Ochao, Zoey Ortiz, Delores Patterson, Robert Preston, Kaylynn Robinson, Natalie Roland, Ximena Ruiz Ortiz, Kade Smith, Madison Snell, Maggie Taliaferro, Jakob Tarrant, Jade Taum, Lily Taum, David Torres

SILVER CREEK ELEMENTARY**1ST GRADE A HONOR ROLL**

Norah Alejandro, Collin Boutwell, Isabella Cardoso, Charleigh Cartwright, Liam Cisneros, Hattie Dean, Collin Densmore, Luke Densmore, Braxton Dickens, Levi Dunn, Kera Gathright, Grace Genao, Veritas Gossett, Jason Gruber, Elyse Haddock, Parker Honea, Aniston Marshall, Madilyn McWhorter, Nevaeh Miller, Brooklyn Negrete, Giselle Rodriguez, Jason Rogers-Meason, Kylie Roland, Rylee Russell,

Christian Saldana, James Segler, Knox Smith, Mercy Stone, Ariana Suson, Brooklynn Thornton, Guliana Velasquez, Barron Weaver, Drew Wells, Isaac Wolff, Brenham Woods, Giuliana Zavala

2ND GRADE A HONOR ROLL

Savanah Abney, Hunter Adams, Zayne Boatman, Virginia Carlson, Mackenzie Edwards, Lorenzo Hernandez Walker, Hank Hughes, Jacob Kloskowski, Zaylah Langeberg, Sunwoo Lee, Clara Leonard, Ivan Leyva, Kimberly Macias, Emersyn Morales, Jordan Morrow, Ava Nungaray, Reece Reavis, Hunter Shewmaker, Ernestina Spencer, Travis Stugart, Aria Thompson, Scarlett Waters

3RD GRADE A HONOR ROLL

Harmonii Bello, Zane Charon, Ella Elkins, Brilynn Fox, Alice Gruber, Parker Jeter, Abree Jones, Kinzley Jones, Paisley Lay, Zoey Lester, Tobin Russell, Katelyn Vest, Asa Webb, Ryan Worthly

4TH GRADE A HONOR ROLL

Anastasia Ar buckle, Chase Arnold, Finley Dean, Jeremiah Gamblin, Owen Gathright, Olivia Griffin, Addalee Haddock, Paislee Hampton, Kenley Jacobs, Connor Mcneil, Aubree Moreland, Merrida Murphree, Alivia Nelson, Colt Rainwater, Peyton Reavis, Karlie Smith, Nathan Snider, Jacob Ward

1ST GRADE AB

Walker Aversano, Marshall Blackmon, Blair Calkins, Rydge Conrad, Grace Dulong, Tyson Farris-Gorman, Kinslee Fulcher, Gage Garza, Locke Harrison, Daniel He, Henley Hearn, Harper Hefley, Caden Henson, Keira Hollister, Aria Hosein, Liam Howell, Sawyer Humphries, Ashlyn Hutson, Evan Jones, Matthew Jones, Grayson Kaplan, Zayne Leslie, Kyleigh Luttrell-Rodriguez, Brenleigh Marinello, Naya Martinez, Nickolas Merrill, Emerson Mills, Laityn Nelson, Walker Roden, Elijah Scott, Therran Spencer, Jacob St Clair, Kayde Stugart, Nolan Wangler

2ND GRADE AB

Beckham Adams, Kailey Ary, Brooklynn Beard, Tucker Blackmon, Mackenzie Carter, Casen Cartwright, Ian Chaudhary, Jace Cox, Elijah Davis, Alexander Escalante Reyes, Hector Garay, Abigail Gutierrez, Tate Hammons, Levi Harrison, Joseph Hefley, Sophie Kattau, Emily Lavigne, Avery Long, Liam Maschmeier, Lincoln Maschmeier, Kai McGuire, Aiden Melic, Andrew Mills, Kaycee Moreland, Leah Morgan, Aedan Oconnor, Jose Orellana Ortiz, Hank Osmar, Amelia Oviedo, Nicholas Popp, Beatrice Rains, Addison Ryan, Jaxxon Smith, Alexandria Smole, Charley Sommerfeldt, Kennedy Stine, Bryan Toole, Britney Turdo, Nessiah Wade, Grayson Wentworth, Colton Womble

3RD GRADE AB

Jacksyn Adams, Mason Atwell, Cannon Bains, Vanessa Bostick, Gavin Bryant, Kellen Calkins, Brooklyn Catterton, Brooklyn Cheeks, Jaxon Clagon, Case Cowan, Bryce Crawford, Ethan Crayton, Juliette Curtis, Kylee Dixon, Remington Erskine, Brooklyn Flores, Madison Hammett, Samuel He, Hadley Hearn, Remi Hill, Logan Hollister, Jaxon Holt, Harper Horneck, Brandy Jeffcoat, Walker Johnson, Happiness Kapesa, Jackson Keener, Caroline Kerce, Waylon Kirk, Dimitri Leos, Justice Lukowsky, Kamila Martinez, Chael Melton, Lexi Migura, Juliano Mitter, Kaleb Moore, Jericho Morrow, Kasen Negrete, Charlotte Nelson, Carter Niles, Preslie Nix, Bailey O'Brien, Victor Olofson, Camila Perez, Nicholas Rocco, Emberlyn Rupp, Lily Shewmaker, Blake Spencer, Emirsen Turner, Adyson Valles, Elizabeth Wanzer, Luke Wiggins, Carter Williams, Jackson Williams, Abram Wolff, Kinsley Woody, Gianna Zavala

4TH GRADE AB

Cooper Ackerman, Sophia Azpeitia, Zoe Brownlee, Mackenzie Bryant, Kelton Buchanan, Trystin Calkins, Wyatt Chance, Ethan Compston, Parker Couch, Elly Crawford, Knox Crutchfield, Alexander Davenport-Wade, Reese Davis, Anneliese Dickson, Evelyn Dorris, Colten Feldman, Richard Garcia, Matthew Genao, Linda Gomez, Dallas Graves, Alexia Griffin, Adlei Hendrix, Aiden Jarmon, Charlee Jenkins, Elijah Karna, Ethan Largent, Kamen Ledbetter, Jackson Littlejohn, Tadeo Martinez, Trooper Mason, Colton Meitz, Zoe Mora, Vaiya Morales, Greyson Moyes, Cash Roden, Brentley Rodriguez, Gage Segler, Kennedy Short, Caleb Sparks, Emri Steel, Alena Tilley, Brayden Turdo, Eli Webb, Beckam Wells, Mason Wilbur, Blakely Woods

WALNUT CREEK ELEMENTARY**1ST GRADE A HONOR ROLL**

Rowan Allen, Kimberly Ambrosio Guerrero, Gunner Anderson, Luther Arndt, Nathan Beauchamp, Claire Brady, Benjamin Brown, Charles Byars, Louie Campos, Mark Carrillo, Victoria Carrillo, Emmy Castillo, Townes Cockroft, Landry Craven, Serena Desrosier, Nolan Dick, Maddox Duncan, Noah Earman, Jaivry Flanagan, Paiytn Freeman, Ethan Frias, Warren Geary, Jacob Guevara, Vanessa Herrell, Micah Hinckley, Kyle Hlad, Brynlynn Hobbs, Jaxon Holly, Fletcher Hutka, Briar Iglesias, Presley Ireland, Wyatt Johnson, Ava Keller, Kinsley Klobberdanz, Tyler Langhorn, Hayes Long, Isaiah Mitchell, Ryan Petrek, Creed Portillo, Wesley Ricketts, Breyanna Roepker, Melanie Rubio, Landrie Searcy, Ryan Shaw, Beckham Sheets, Raelynn Sherwood, Brinlee Smith, Ember Smith, Rhet Spangler, Everleigh Thorsell, Hartley Tyler, Aria West, Cannon Weston, Clay Williams, Codi Williams, Noah Woolsey, Kora Zadel

2ND GRADE A HONOR ROLL

Aubree Bates, Everly Beck, Kolbie Copass, Eli Creamer, Sawyer Caballero, Giorgio Cardoza, Marleigh Cucuta, Jesslyn Davis, Aiden Dick, Emmytt Early, Jenna Erue, Loral Graham, Brody Green, Mary Grace Hauck, Willow Henley, Kaly Hess, Haley Hills, Remington Holloman, Wesson Kates, Cohen Langford, Emma Lappert, Emily Larrew, Dakota Lucas, Hunter Lup, Mallory Lyon, Paige Maldonado, Ava McCallion, Evalyn Nieves, Abbygail Noe, Malaki O'Brien, Paisley O'Donnell, Hailee Pena, Jazzlene Perry, Raelynn Phillips, Alaina Rodriguez, Gradie Rose, Carter Rowe, Vivian Russ, Gavin Sanders, Kinsley Shiflet-Hendry, Asa Shurley, Layton Smith, Max Smith, Zoe Smith, Marleigh Spencer, Destin Stephens, Keagan Thompson, Owen Thun, Pierson Torok, Levi Towb, Justin Trevino, Aurora Trujillo-Mandry, Azalea Zambrano

3RD GRADE A HONOR ROLL

Savannah Anderson, Carter Barton, Braxton Betz, Bailey Boyd, Kennedi Brown, Kooper Cline, Carter Curliss, Ava Gaston, David Granados, Cahir Gunn, Oakley Hampton, Jettson Judge, Kade Keller, Tucker Landers, Lyla Mayes, Francis Jeanna Nazareno, John Nicholson, Sofiya Palacios, Liam Parong, Liam Rash, Nathan Ray, Owen Robinson, Lennon Street, Madison Webb, Jacob West, Jackson Whitlatch

4TH GRADE A HONOR ROLL

Grayson Armstrong, Sydnie Avance, Bryn Ball, Eleanor Bracy, Emma Carr, Jase Cotton, Scarlett Cromeans, Adleigh Davidson, Gage Degeorge, Kayli Fordial, Ellie Garcia, Kellie Geary, Micah Huddleston, Blade Josephson, Jaci King, Roman Martinez, Jack May, Jaxson Morgan, Devan Nichols, Aiden Ocana, Bella Pelt, Lucas Petrek, Daegan Petty, Logan Reedy, Cannon Scheiderich, Chloe Stafford, Cody Stevens, Braylee Taylor, Kynlee Taylor, Victoria Thorsell, Ava Wahkinney, James Wallace

1ST GRADE AB

McKenna Baisden, Grayson Brawley, Randilyn Carpenter, Kesleigh Carter, Avery Christensen, Delilah Cobb, Albin Durmish, Emersyn Edwards, Gena-Marie Farris, Madicyn Hearne, Luke Hinckley, Carlie Holbrook, Jensen Horak, Dallas Knowles, Layla Littlepage, Blake Maclin, Alvinarose Martinez, Grace Monk, Trinity Padgett, Jacob Rayer, Tanna Richards, Aspyrn Richardson, Asdyn Shelman, Carter Smith, Leonardo Tellez, Finn Wasser

2ND GRADE AB

Ethan Adamson, Kai Allen, Ellianna Baez, Karsen Basham, Patrick Bracy, Dare Brunetti, Kal-El Daniells, Paul Frazier, Madicelya Gomez, Mason Hoffman, Kira Hopkins, Haylee Howard, Dyson Hutto, Gabriella Kirk-Holliday, Amberlynn Lamp, Penelope Lardizabal, Stone Lawton, Alaina Ledbetter, Maxwell Lee, Isabella Maldonado, Raylan Martinez, Lola Moor, Ava Moore, Quinley Moran, Piper Noah, Liam Parker, Penelope Parrish, Kaden Phillips, Annabella Potts, Ethan Rincon, Kaleb Roady, Spencer Ross, Khoen Silhavy, Elias Smith, Blaine Tarpley, Conner Webb, Emalynn West, Joshua West, Auldon Winstead, Caleb Womack, Wyatt Woolsey

3RD GRADE AB

Diesel Anders, Dylan Baisden, Avery Barnett, Madeline Bevan, Granberry Boyd, Makenna Boyd, Luke Bryan, McKenzie Burdick, Kyle Sean Camagong, Paisley Carr, Abiel Castillo, Wyatt Cockroft, Ivy Coffey, Amelia Coleman, Lorelai Curtis, Clarissa Dehoyos, Susanne Diaz, Zayne Edwards, Caiden Eversole, Harlie Ford, Arriyanna Gambrell, Ayden Gilley, Mason Goforth, Annalissa Goodnight, Shelby Grasmick, Mallie Harris, Daedric Helms, Ella Hernandez, Gabriel Hill, Brooklyn Ingle, Madilyn Johnson, Brantley Kelley-Bear, Marie-Louise Kropp, Lane Lindsey, Collins Maclin, Kinley McGuirk, Marlie Moorman, Bentlee Mosley, Marlowe Nelson, Caroline North, Weston Norvell, Kyra Peninger, Jace Ramos, Noah Rash, Carson Ricketts, Emma Rios, Sarah Rogers, Gabriella Ruelas, Torbin Schmitz, Brantley Schuler, Bradley Sharrer, Riley Shaw, Aiden Shoemaker, Alexis Short, Sadie Smart, Skylah Sommer, Camden Street, Tyler Van Hooser, Autumn Washer, Olivia Weger, Laci Westfall, Hunter Weston, Reese Winter, Donavin Wishard

4TH GRADE AB

Dagny Allard, Sophia Anderson, Emilie Ballard, Noah Barrett, Tristan Barrow, Faith Boggs, Emily Boney, Witten Boyd, Penelope Caballero, Liam Campos, Caleb Carnes, Matthew Carrillo, Jace Coast, Christopher Dilday, Beckett Espinoza, Arcadia Garcia, Tanner Gaston, Emalee Gentry, Jaxson Haley, Adelynn Hamilton, Collyns Harvey, Faith Hauck, Alexis Hernandez, Jasmine Hernandez, John Hill, Kendall Hill, Kinsey Hills, Michael Johnson, Zaydon Johnson, Lucy Landers, Jacob Lane, Faolan Maldonado, Emma Martin, Talon Martin, Emma McVay, Cason Miles, Landon Miller, Annelise Nash, Brian Natzle, Annabeth Parker, Xander Quintana, Ryder Ratliff, Julius Reel, Jackson Reynolds, Edgar Rincon, Cameron Rowe, Lilly Rowlette, Alexander Rubio, Ethan Sandoval, Lillian Simpson, Braydon Smith, Hope Summers, Isabella Tellez, Logan Triplett, Ava Weger, Charli Winters, Gia Young

Taking Steps Together

"To the right, to the right, to the right, to the right. To the left, to the left, to the left, to the left. Now kick, now kick, now kick, now kick. Now walk it by yourself, now walk it by yourself."

Tears welled up in my eyes while this 2007 hit song by Cupid pounded in the background at my recent "40+2" Prattville High School reunion in Alabama.

"Why," you might wonder, "would this song bring someone to tears?"

It was certainly not the repetitive lyrics that moved me; it was what was happening in front of me that filled me with joy.

The dance floor was packed with my classmates (most of whom are now 59 or 60)



HOPE MATTERS

By David Shaffer

Dr. David Shaffer and his wife, Daniele, are Azle-area residents. David is the director of Son Shine Ministries (equipfamilies.org) and serves on the Azle Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and is a Chamber Ambassador (azlechamber.com). david@equipfamilies.org | 817-444-3777

and their plus-ones moving in lockstep with one another and enjoying the moment.

In the spirit of transparency, I did notice a few friends grab their backs as they attempted the repeated line, "Down, down, do your dance, do your dance."

What most at our reunion did not know was the scene that brought me to tears almost did not happen.

Myriad reasons keep people from attending high school reunions, yet our Reunion Planning Committee focused hard on letting everyone know they were sincerely wanted at the reunion.

Eventually, I learned some of the struggles people were working through when considering whether to attend this reunion. Most were unresolved relational issues.

Some were recent, while others dated back to our high school days.

Several of our planners had been reaching out, and we fortunately had others step up to support this effort. We listened to people share what led to divisions, and everyone seemed committed to helping resolve matters. I am sure this requires more than we could do, but the sincerity of people expressing kindness and love seemed to win over residual doubts. As a result, our reunion was packed, and everyone hopefully felt welcomed.

When "The Cupid Shuffle" played, it all came together. I noticed the crowd on the dance floor pulsating the message of unity amidst

diversity, and the scene was absolutely beautiful as members of our whole class took steps together! This unified spirit was evident the entire evening, and I pray it continues.

My heart longs for such unity. My wife, Daniele, and I believe Azle is an extremely welcoming community, and we often hear this from new residents. Still, like my reunion, we realize there may be struggles preventing harmony about which we are unaware. Please consider this an invitation to be an active part of our community, and if something is keeping you from plugging in, we want to listen. Please reach out!

Martin Luther King, Jr., summarized this issue well

in the spring of 1964: "We must learn to live together as brothers and sisters or perish together as fools."

An incredible, hope-filled heavenly scene is described in the Bible in Revelation 7:9 (NIV): "... a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb..."

Maybe the recent dance-floor moment hinted at God's desire for mankind, even if just for a song or an evening. It began with love and respect for everyone in our class and was teamed up with intentionality and support. Will you join us on the dance floor? You're invited!

Optimist Club raises \$11k for local charities

AISD students collect \$11,842.87 during annual Penny Race

ZACH FREEMAN
azlereporter@azlenews.net

The Optimist Club of Azle wrapped up its 21st Annual Penny Race for Azle Charities, Feb. 22-March 8, with great success.

Each year, the Optimist Club asks students from Azle Independent School District to collect loose change to donate to local charities like the Food for Good Backpack Program. That program provides AISD students with backpacks of healthy food during the academic school year and the Community Caring Center, which provides food, clothing, household goods, and more to residents of the Azle community.

Adding a fun, competitive element to the drive, the Optimist Club hosts a pizza party for the classroom that collects the most change at each AISD campus, and the campus that collects the most money per capita will receive the coveted Penny Race trophy for the year.

With \$1,518 raised and 505 students, Hoover Elementary is this year's winning school. The winning teachers from each school are as follows:

- Azle High School - Brenda Marlett
 - Azle Junior High - Tristan Bradshaw
 - Fort Junior High - Jason Jones
 - Azle Elementary - Kayla Smith
 - Hoover Elementary - Prophetess Hayden
 - Cross Timbers Elementary - Belinda Pennington
 - Eagle Heights Elementary - Kerri Crawford
 - Liberty Elementary - Tiffany Richardson
 - Silver Creek Elementary - Chasity Benne
 - Walnut Creek Elementary - Emily Winemiller
- "The Optimist Club just leads the race," President Joshua Reed said. "The community is the one who really makes the difference."
- This year AISD students raised a grand total of \$11,842.87 — an \$848.62



ZACH FREEMAN | AZLE NEWS

A total of \$11,842.87 was raised between 10 schools during this year's Penny Race.

increase from the 2022 total of \$10,994.25. The yearly total is split between the Community Caring Center, the Food for Good Backpack Program, and the Optimist Club, which later funds scholarships for graduating Azle High School seniors.

Azle High School raised a record \$4,548.94 For the

first time, a second traveling trophy will be awarded to the high school's winning class period, which was Brenda Marlett's sixth period class at \$3,413.63.

"The Azle Caring Center food bank is the perfect cause to teach the students about having a charitable spirit and provide the oppor-

tunity to see the direct result of their gift," Paul Crabtree, Secretary and Treasurer of the Optimist Club of Azle said. "Further, it's been said many times by several of the high school students, that they were participants in the food backpack program when they were in elementary school, and they felt the need

to give back to that program." Beginning in 2002 when beloved Azle resident B.J. Clark was inspired to create a fundraiser for a community center, later named the B.J. Clark Building, the Optimist Club Penny Race for Azle Charities has raised \$172,302 for local charities in its 21-year run.

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Some volunteers stayed as late as 8:00 p.m. to make sure work was completed on schedule

BLITZ
FROM PAGE A1

“Some of the teams that are working on these homes are coming as far as Dallas,” Ortega said. The team from Dallas, who worked on the home of the aforementioned Purple Heart recipient, was made up of attorneys from The Honorable Barbara M.G. Lynn American Inn of Court. “Each year we have a group that focuses on community service and our theme this year is helping veterans,” Edward Chin said. “We found Servolution by happenstance and we’re very happy to be partnering with them. We’re sending about 10 people today and we’re sending another 10 people tomorrow to work on behalf of veterans. It’s certainly our honor to be in service of veterans and this particular veteran today and this weekend... This isn’t something we normally do as intellectual property lawyers, we’re not really the Home Depot crowd but this is something we want to do this year and we’re happy to get a good group of folks here to do it. We’re thrilled to see the great number of people in the Azle community and beyond who are working on the Blitz.”

Good Neighbor’s biggest project this Blitz was house number four. House four required complete replacement of all siding, a roof re-shingle, a new deck, a kitchen remodel and more. Over 100 volunteers were involved in renovating this home, including students from Azle Christian School and Azle Mayor, Alan Brundrett. Even with so many hands-on-deck, the supplies, and materials necessary for this project required a high cost. Christina Calk, a loan officer with First United Mortgage Group, was recognized for shouldering a generous amount of this cost through a sizable donation. “When I saw the house and all the disrepair and what was going to be needed to try and make it safe to live in,” Calk said. “I started Googling siding costs and decided that it would be better long term for them if we could just replace the siding versus trying to repair or patch it. I just have a heart for helping people and I have a big family as well and I noticed that that house had six people living in it and I thought that’s just such a blessing to be able to give to them. There’s been times in my life where I wished I had a money fairy that would just come and help me out. I’ve been fortunate enough to be

able to get out of that position and be in the position to be able to afford to give.” The owners of house four, the Alfaro family, have long been stable pillars of their neighborhood, regularly hosting get-togethers and

hang-out for their friends and children’s friends. Emmanuel Alfaro, soon-to-be-13-year-old sixth grader at Azle Elementary was so grateful to Good Neighbors that he plans on volunteering with Servolution in the future.

“I feel really good,” Emmanuel said. “I can thank God for that. He’s helping everybody in the community to help us. Thank you, [Azle community]. [My parents] feel blessed.” Emmanuel’s father,

Fernando Alfaro, was “beyond words” at the level of support he had received from his community. “I’m very grateful. I always called my house the shabby shack. I can’t call it that anymore,” Alfaro said.



ZACH FREEMAN | AZLE NEWS

Some volunteers stayed as late as 8:00 p.m. to make sure work was completed on schedule



ZACH FREEMAN | AZLE NEWS

Mayor Brundrett, Jason Malewiski and the Alfaros speak in the newly redone kitchen

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FFA students bound for State

Vet Science, Dairy Cattle and Entomology CDEs all prepare for competition

ZACH FREEMAN

AzleReporter@azlenews.net

The Azle FFA saw three teams qualify for state after placing highly at their state contests. The Veterinary Science Career Development Event (CDE) placed sixth at Area, Dairy Cattle placed fifth and the Entomology team reigned as champions in first place. Among the teams were several high individual placements as well. On entomology, Drake Chavez, an Azle High School freshman, placed second high individual and Aspen Castaneta placed fifth. On dairy cattle, Cheyanne Redd, a sophomore, placed third high individual.

Dairy cattle began practicing as early as December for their first contest in January. The other teams began in early March.

"I'm really proud of the work they put in," Teacher, Elizabeth Slough said. "They put a lot of work in, starting back in December, to get where they are now. It's a really cool opportunity. These kids get to go all around the state, go to all the different universities and kind of see what those schools and tons have to offer and then ignite a passion."

Over the course of their CDE seasons, these students have widened their technical skillset into new horizons.

"It gives you hands-on skills," Sophomore vet science student Jocelyn Olund said. "It just really gives you experience if you plan on getting into that type of field...I want to go into a job working with horses so having the knowledge from [horse judg-

ing] and having the veterinary skills from my current team is definitely going to help me a lot in the long run."

These CDEs test students' ability to identify and grade specimens in their respective fields along with their knowledge and performance of the processes that these kinds of careers employ. For many, it is the first glimpse into the jobs that these students may do for the rest of their lives.

"The experience that I've gotten here while doing the CDE is really helping me prepare, learn leadership skills and lots of other valuable traits that'll help me throughout my career," Drake Chavez said.

Another entomology team member, Daniel Villa, wants to be a forensic entomologist.

Slough has seen these students blossom as responsible leaders in the short period they've been competing.

"Cheyanne stepped up and helped run practices. Drake made all the study material," Slough said. "We've learned to be more responsible and to be on time," said Cheyanne Redd. "Me last year compared to now, I'm a more responsible person all around."

Though they're a lot of hard work and hours, CDEs also give students the opportunity to have fun, travel, and bond.

"The rides there and back are the best memories that I have from FFA because they're so fun and whether you're studying, listening to music or just talking it's so fun," Redd said. "There's a lot of team bonding because the team sits together and talks so you get to get closer to your team."

"I'm really excited about it because Ms. Slough said if we won, she would buy us a belt buckle."

DRAKE CHAVEZ

Entomology competitor



ZACH FREEMAN | AZLE NEWS

Vet Science's State competition is in College Station on April 29. Dairy Cattle competes on April 27 at Tarleton. Entomology competes on April 22.



ZACH FREEMAN | AZLE NEWS

Drake Chavez's Entomology team is raising hornworms.

LITTLE Stinger

EARTH DAY

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Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: EARTH

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| 7 | | | | | 8 | |

ACROSS

1. Warm coverings
4. Provides shade
6. Surface of Earth
7. Upper layer of soil
8. Grass used as fodder

DOWN

2. Patches of grass
3. Weekend day
5. Trim
1. Blankets
4. Awning
6. Ground
7. Turf

Answers:

New Word

ECOLOGY

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Josh Montalago earns second place in the 400-meter dash.

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WIN AGAIN

Azle track athletes moving on to regional meet

JEFF PRINCE
jeff@azlenews.net

Winning at track requires hours of physical training, sweat, exhaustion, and perseverance.

It can also require powering through a sinus infection or a bloody blister.

That's what Azle athletes Ashlyn Norton and Austin Gatewood overcame while participating at the area meet on April 21 at Northwest High School in Justin. The top four finishers in each event qualified to compete at the upcoming regional meet.

Norton began feeling ill a few days before the area meet when the spring air filled with pollen. She awoke on the day of the meet feeling tired and hoarse. She could barely speak at race time.

Fortunately, Norton runs the final leg on relay teams. The first three runners are required to yell, "Stick," when passing the baton.

"I'm just glad I don't have to hand off to anybody, because I don't have a voice," she croaked.

Her two powerful legs powered through the allergies to help Azle win third place in the 4x100-meter relay race and the 4x200-meter relay race.

"I'm glad we made it to regionals," she spoke afterward, although her voice was barely audible.

Norton qualified for regionals last year as a junior.

"I'm excited to go again this year," she said. "It's a really fun experience. I'm glad I get to experience it again for my senior year."

Gatewood was running in the brutal 800-meter run, an event that is short enough to require running fast but long enough to require some pacing. Azle's Austin Gatewood would need to run his best race to make the top 4, and a painful blister had formed on his foot.

It was always something.

His first year to run the 800-meter was as a sophomore. He hurt his leg during the district meet and ran a 2:05 and didn't qualify for the area meet.

His junior year, he battled bronchitis but ran a respectable 2:05. He didn't make this cut.

Now a senior, he ran 2:00, set a personal record, finished in fourth place, and made the cut for regionals.

"Whew," he said after the race. "It took three years."

He finished just a few hundredths of a second behind the third-place finisher and seven seconds behind the winner.

After the race, he struggled to catch his breath before dropping to the ground to remove his shoes.

"My blister popped," he said.

While wearing socks, he limped over to an official,

PLEASE SEE **TRACK** | B4

Signs of future

Two more Azle High School athletes announce intent to play college sports

JEFF PRINCE
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Two of Azle High School's hardest working student athletes are reaping a reward for their efforts.

On April 19, Denim Fields and Phoebe Mosley signed letters of intent to attend college and extend their athletic careers.

Mosley made a significant impact on Azle ISD's swim program. She owns nine of the 11 swim records at AHS and won the MVP Award

this year after becoming the team's only swimmer to qualify for the state meet. Academically, she is ranked in the top 10 of her senior class out of 390 students.

She plans to attend the University of Sioux Falls in South Dakota and continue swimming.

Finding the source of Mosley's work ethic isn't difficult. Her mother, Michele Brown, is a living example.

Jeff and Michele Brown

PLEASE SEE **SIGNED** | B3



JEFF PRINCE | AZLE NEWS

Jeff and Michele Brown have long supported daughter Phoebe Mosley's dreams of swimming at college.



JEFF PRINCE | AZLE NEWS

Denim Fields signs a letter of intent to play football at Howard Payne University while his family provides support.

Hornet baseball fighting for playoff spot in final week of season

JEFF PRINCE
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The Azle Hornets play in the hardscrabble District 5-5A packed with talented baseball teams such as Aledo, Saginaw, Rider, and Northwest.

Everyone in the program knew earning a playoff spot would be tough, but the Hornets have remained competitive since the season began in February, compiling a 20-8 overall record after beating Kennedale 6-2 on April 22.

Azle will end its season on Friday night against Brewer.

The victory against Kennedale came at a good time, salvaging the wound caused by the team's improbable defeat against Aledo the night before on April 21.

In that game, Azle took an early lead in the first inning and was ahead 3-0 when Luke Olmsted hit a single. On the next play, he was off and running, scoring after Ryland Liptow's double. The Hornets padded their lead to 6-0 by the time the inning ended.



JEFF PRINCE | AZLE NEWS

PLEASE SEE **BASEBALL** | B3 Ryland Liptow tries to tag out a Bearcat runner at first base.

Playing with Champions

Justin Baisden, Jeremy Doyle launch special-needs baseball team

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@azlenews.net

On April 15 Hornet Champions, a newly formed baseball team for special needs children in Azle, had their first game. "Me and Justin Baisden started planning this in the middle of March and it's something that we both wanted to do for a while and it finally came to fruition," said coach Jeremy Doyle. "We wanted everyone to be able to, including all the kids that aren't able to play, organize their sports, have somewhere to play and have fun and enjoy something that all the kids enjoy and be a part of it."

Doyle also coaches a 12E baseball team, which played against the Hornet Champions for their first Azle Youth Sports Baseball and Softball (AYSBS) match-up. "It's a prestigious thing to be able to come and play with Hornet Champions," said Doyle.

Baisden and Doyle hope to have a variety of teams play alongside the Hornet Champions team.

Samantha Doyle noted that the Hornet Champions formed after years of planning.

"We have been talking about this for years and we're so excited we're finally in a



Members of the Azle Fire Department came out to help support the Hornet Champions on their first game.

ZACH FREEMAN | AZLE NEWS

league that was supportive and wanted to make it happen," Samantha said. "Our board at AYSBS was a huge supporting factor in making Hornet Champions happen. And a big thank-you to Azle ISD for sharing our flyers and releasing all the information to the special education de-

partment so it could get out to the community. Azle is an amazing place to be."

The Hornet Champions' second scheduled game on April 22 had to be canceled due to bad weather. However, their next game will mark the unveiling of the team's new uniforms. "(The uniforms

are) the only thing they were talking about," said one of the parents, Sunnie Crank. "I'm excited that my kids can participate in a sport that they love, and they have coaches that accept them for who they are. The coaches are great, they're super nice, they're welcoming to every-

body. I love it, they're excited and they're having fun, that's all that matters."

"Our son Nolan was kind of the idea behind this, because when he played T-ball we had amazing coaches, but they didn't know what to do with him," said Samantha. "He was all over the place. He really

didn't want to do everything everyone else was doing and so that's what inspired my husband to coach because he was like 'well I'm the only one who can handle this kid.' We're glad to finally be able to provide that opportunity to everybody."



COURTESY PHOTO

From left, Ryann Baker and Allison Smith hold their home run balls.

Azle softball clinches playoff spot

JEFF PRINCE

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Two home runs in the final game of the regular season helped the Azle Lady Hornets earn third place and a playoff spot in District 5-5A softball.

On April 21, Allison Smith and Ryann Baker hit a home run apiece for a combined 3 RBIs to push past Brewer and win 9-7.

"The girls played really well," said head coach Macy Pruitt. "We did a really good job hitting, really awesome batting and base running, and an amazing job by the pitchers, all three of them."

Brewer scored a run in the top of the first inning to grab an early lead, but Azle responded with 3 runs in the bottom of the first. Azle led for the entire game until the sixth inning, when Brewer

tyed the game 7-7.

"We played really good defense to get out of that inning," Pruitt said. "They had runners on, and we had no outs, and the girls locked it up. Then, we came back and scored 2."

The Lady Hornets began the season with a string of losses, creating some doubt among fans about whether the team could fight its way into the playoff hunt.

In mid-March, Azle lost three games in a row to district rivals.

Then, on March 24, Azle beat Brewer 9-5 and won four of five games against district foes.

"We've been playing really well as a team," Pruitt said. "We're hitting the ball really well. We're playing defense really well. We did a huge turnaround from the beginning of

the season. We're peaking at the right time. I told them it doesn't matter how you start. It's how you finish."

Morgan Terrell pitched a couple of relief innings to help Azle topple Brewer in the final game.

She credited the team's turnaround to never losing hope or confidence and continuing to push forward.

"We got it together," she said. "We worked at practice and made adjustments, and it showed on the field."

Azle will face Arlington Heights in the three-game bi-district championship to be held at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 27, and at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Friday, April 28, at Saginaw High School.

"I'm very excited," Terrell said. "We have a good matchup. We have a good chance of winning the series."

Azle cheerleaders earn all-state honors



JEFF PRINCE | AZLE NEWS

Melani Rushing and two teammates earn all-state recognition for cheerleading.

JEFF PRINCE

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Three cheerleaders earned statewide recognition for their hard work this season. Hornet Muscle member Jake Mobley was named academic all-state, cheer all-state, and a Texas Girls Coaches Association Legacy All-Star. Braden Murray was named academic all-state. Melani Rushing earned cheer all-state status.

Lady Hornets earn academic all-state honor



JEFF PRINCE | AZLE NEWS

Karlee Locke and three Lady Hornet teammates battled their way to the top of the pack, earning academic all-state recognition.

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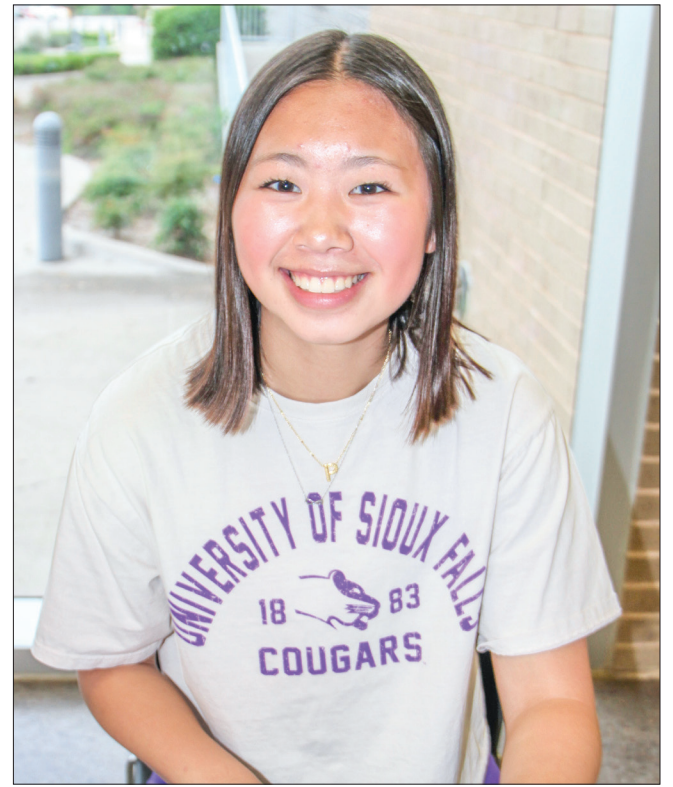
Four senior basketball girls received a recognition, which goes to those who conquer the court and the classroom. Brittany Cato, Karlee Locke, Kendall Locke, and Harleigh Phillips earned UIL academic all-state status to top off their high school careers with a flourish. The Locke sisters will attend Bethel College in North Newton, Kansas, and continue playing basketball. Brittany Cato plans to play hoops at Hesston College.

SIGNED

FROM PAGE B1

moved their six kids to Jacksboro several years ago, leaving the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex behind to seek a more rural existence. Mosley had grown up competing in swimming clubs, but Jacksboro's quaint community had no swim team. When Mosley was ready to start high school, her mom was determined to enroll her somewhere with a swim team. Brown applied at Azle ISD and landed a job teaching at Hoover Elementary School, which meant she could enroll Mosley at AHS. For the past four years, Brown and Mosley rose at 4 a.m. each morning, departed their house at 4:50 a.m. and made the haul to Azle. While Brown drove, Mosley often slept in the passenger seat. Brown would arrive at AHS by 6 a.m. so Mosley could attend swim practice.

After dropping off her daughter, Brown drove to Hoover to prepare for her day - an hour-and-a-half earlier than necessary. Brown taxied Mosley gladly and wouldn't change a thing. "I saw that she had drive, talent, and the desire to do it, so I found it in myself to do that, too, for her," Brown said. Mosley wouldn't change a thing, either. Tears filled her eyes on Signing Day as her parents, friends, and coaches hugged and surrounded her. "I'm very thankful for it all," she said. "I'm glad that I was able to go through all that just to get here." Mosley's swim coach, Amy Estes, became emotional, as well. She recalled how Mosley arrived at swim practice as a freshman willing to rise early for her long commute. Over the next four years, Mosley rarely missed practice. "You could never work her hard enough," Estes said. "I did make her throw up a couple of times, and I said that was the greatest compliment I've ever had. She wanted more, more, more. You just couldn't give her



JEFF PRINCE | AZLE NEWS

Phoebe Mosley owns nine of 11 AHS swimming records and will try to set more records at the University of Sioux Falls.

enough. Her only restraint was UIL (rules that limit practice hours)." Estes will hate to see Mosley move so far away but is excited to see what the young woman's future holds. "Sioux Falls really liked her work ethic, her academic achievements, and her athletic achievements," Estes said. "She has been a joy to have. She is one of the fiercest competitors I've ever had." Estes appeared to have more to say, but she grew quiet while trying to quell tears that threatened her stoic resolve. Fields plans to continue his sports career at Howard Payne University in Brownwood. He will play linebacker. "I'm ready to get started," he said. "I'm starting to put in the work this summer and see where that can take me." Fields grew up in Azle and attended AHS for four years. The school prepared him well for the future, he said. "It's helped me reach my full potential," he said. "The coaches here really get the best out of me just by pushing me every day, whether

during the season or in the off-season." Howard Payne is a two-hour drive from Azle, which is about as far as Fields felt comfortable moving away from his hometown. "It's not too far, which is a big thing for me," he said. "I don't know what I would do if it was far." Azle's hometown vibe is what fuels his allegiance. "Everybody is for everybody," he said. His high school football coach will miss the hard-charging Fields on the field of battle. "I can't say enough about him," Devon Dorris said. "He has grown tremendously as a young man and as an athlete." Fields earned all-district and academic all-state recognition at AHS. "Everything that you would ask of a student-athlete, that is exactly what he has done," Dorris said. "He is not done with the game of football. He searched long and hard to find the right fit for him, and I'm so happy and proud he has the opportunity to continue to play and achieve his academic goals as well."

BASEBALL

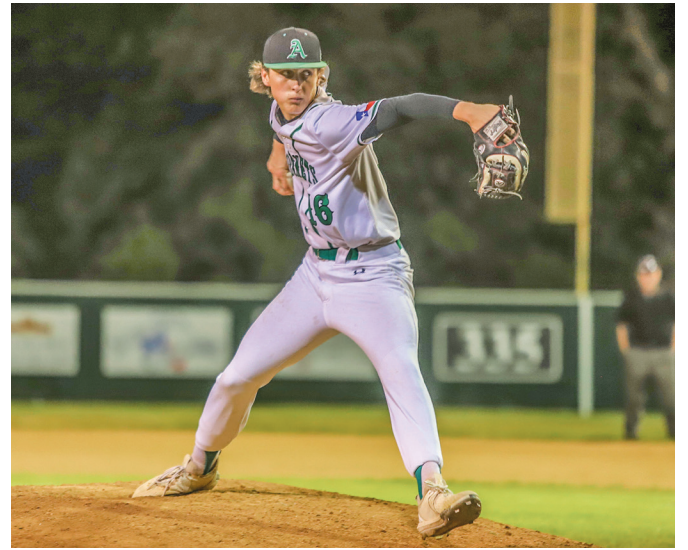
FROM PAGE B1

"Let's keep it up," head coach Stephen Smith told his players as they trotted onto the field for the second inning. Keep it up, they did. A duel between pitchers and defenses ensued for five innings, with Hornet ace Declan Dahl keeping Bearcat batters guessing. The score remained 6-0 when Aledo went up to bat at the top of the seventh inning. The Hornets were three outs away from beating the big bad Bearcats for a sorely needed victory in the district

standings. Dahl retired the first batter, but trouble loomed. The next couple of Aledo batters made contact and scored 2 runs. Smith turned to his bullpen, but Bearcat batters continued homing in on pitches. The inning ended with the game tied 6-6. Aledo won 15-7 in the eighth inning. It was the second loss against Aledo in three days. The two teams met for the first time on April 18, and the Bearcats won 5-0 despite a strong start by Azle pitcher Jackson Davis. The senior threw 5 solid innings, allowing 6 hits and 2 earned runs and striking out 7.


Austin May pitched an impressive inning of relief, striking out 2 of 3 batters faced. Grant Tune and Cayden Fowler earned hits, including a double for Fowler. In the second game against Aledo, Tune logged 2 hits and an RBI. Billy Spratt and Ivan Perez hit a double apiece, including 2 RBIs by Perez. Grant Tune recorded 2 hits and an RBI. Garrin Graves had a hit. Olmsted earned a hit and an RBI. Ryland Liptow smacked 2 doubles and an RBI. Noah Lehr earned 2 RBIs on a hit.

During Azle's 6-2 victory over Kennedale, Korbyn Coleman pitched the distance for the Hornets, tossing 7 innings of 6-hit ball with 2 strikeouts and 2 earned runs. At the plate, Cale Cohen connected on a hit for 2 RBIs, and Tune, Olmsted, and Liptow logged hits. Ivan Perez and Michael Seeton made 2 hits apiece, and Perez's triple earned him an RBI. The regular season comes down to a final game. "We need to win this week to have a chance to be in the playoffs," Smith said. Azle will play at 7 p.m. Friday, April 28, at Brewer.



JEFF PRINCE | AZLE NEWS

Declan Dahl keeps Aledo batters guessing.

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| <p> AZLE AREA MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE UNITED IN CHRIST</p> <p>Christian Leaders partnering together with one voice to impact our culture for Christ. We celebrate unity amidst diversity as we pastor our community.</p> <p>Luncheon meetings 11:45 a.m. - 1 p.m. 2nd Tues of each month; location varies. See www.azlema.com or email director@azlema.com for additional information.</p> | <p> SERVOLUTION NETWORK</p> <p>LET'S START A COMMUNITY WIDE REVOLUTION THROUGH SERVING.</p> <p>FOR QUESTIONS CALL: 833-4WE-SERV 833-493-7378</p> <p>VISIT: WWW.SERVOLUTIONNETWORK.COM</p> | <p> Azle Boy Scout Troop 243</p> <p>Meets Mondays 7 PM Azle 1st Assembly of God 1020 Southeast Parkway troop243azle.org</p> | <p>Optimist Club of Azle</p>  <p>Meets every FRIDAY at 6:45 AM Moe's Country Kitchen 316 W. Main, Azle</p> | <p> Azle Lodge No. 601</p> <p>Floor School or Work 7:30 PM THURSDAY NIGHT Wayne Wood - Worshipful Master Rocky Gralla - Secretary Clint Hall - Treasurer</p> | <p> EAGLE MOUNTAIN PREGNANCY HELP CENTER</p> <p>10328 Jacksboro Hwy Fort Worth TX 76135 817-237-1819 www.emphc.org Mon 12-6 pm Thurs 12-6 pm <i>SE HABLA ESPAÑOL</i></p> |

Azle will ride into last rodeo of season with second place locked down



JEFF PRINCE
jeff@azlenews.net

The Azle rodeo team has maintained its hold on second place for weeks as the season nears an end. The last rodeo of the regular season is April 28-29 at the North Texas High School Rodeo Association Arena in Saginaw. Currently, the Hornet rodeo team has 14 members who are eligible to compete in the finals in May. On April 14-15, Azle compete at the Saginaw rodeo and earned numerous medals, including two gold ones. In ribbon roping, Sean Bunero earned first place. Lindsey-Kay Reichert earned first place in barrels. Nickolas McElhannon won second place in bareback riding. Hevenli Scribner earned third place in poles and eighth place in barrels. In walkup goats, Skyler Moore won eighth place and Caitlyn Colley took ninth. Colley also won eighth place in rideup goats.

PHOTO COURTESY JO H PHOTOGRAPHY
Lindsey-Kay Reichert wins barrels.



JEFF PRINCE | AZLE NEWS

Ashlyn Norton shakes off a sinus infection to help the girls 4x100-meter relay and 4x200-meter relay teams qualify for regionals.



JEFF PRINCE | AZLE NEWS

Austin Gatewood washes the vomit from his medal.

TRACK

FROM PAGE B1

who draped a medal on a ribbon around Gatewood's neck. Gatewood sat down again to remove his sock but stopped, sat up on his knees, stared into the distance for a second, then, he bent forward and became sick. What came up from his stomach and out of his mouth covered the medal and ribbon hanging from his neck. Gatewood tried to walk to a nearby trash can but became sick again a few feet short of the can. He walked to a nearby water dispenser to wash out his mouth and clean the vomit from his medal. "I shouldn't have had that

Chick-fil-A," he said with a laugh. Throwing up before a race isn't unusual for Gatewood. Nerves have caused him to become sick several times before races. Throwing up afterward was less common. "It's a new tradition," he said. **REGIONAL QUALIFIERS** The following athletes have qualified to compete at the UIL Regional Track & Field Championships on April 28-29 at PlainsCapital Park/Lowery Field in Lubbock. Josh Montalago - boys 400-meter dash. Austin Gatewood - boys 800-meter run. Tyson Shreier - boys pole vault. Jessie Heath - girls 400-me-

ter dash. Rebecca Marx - girls triple jump. Reagan Williams, Savana Panter, Jessie Heath, Ashlyn Norton - girls 4x100-meter relay. Marx, Panter, Williams, Norton - girls 4x200-meter relay. Hevenli Scribner, Marx, Emilee Norvell, Heath - girls 4x400-meter relay. **ALMOST** Several Azle tracksters came within hundredths of seconds of qualifying for regionals but finished in fifth place, just out of reach. Consolation goes to Reagan Williams, Berkley Huffaker, and the boys 4x100-meter relay team for coming oh so close.

Azle News DEVOTIONAL PAGE



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- Gulf waves
- TXism: "put ___ shut up"
- TXism: "Lord willing and the creek don't ___"
- actor Begley in film "Lone Star" (1952)
- actor Vigoda
- TXism: "thing- ___" (gadget)
- film "___ for Texas"
- TXism: "plain ___ on your face"
- birth state of Texas outlaw Sam Bass
- TXism: "cream ___ to the top"
- car dealer objective: "close ___"
- east Texas reptile, for short
- TXism: "as welcome as ___ a picnic"
- what many Texans fought against in early 1940s
- TXism: "goes together like a ___ candy store"
- this Teddy trained "Rough Riders" in San Antonio (init.)
- you can pull these out of Lake Fork (2 wds.)
- TXism: "larrupin' ___" (tasty)
- Texas' flag, 1861-1865 (abbr.)
- TXism: "from womb ___" (lifetime)

DOWN

- Ysleta del ___ Pueblo tribe
- news wrangler (abbr.)
- in Falls County on U.S. 77
- seat of Gillespie County
- TXism: "busy as ___-armed paper hanger"
- TXism: "mean ___"
- ___ Vernon, TX
- in Van Zandt County on U.S. 80
- Billy Graham for 50 years (3 wds.)
- TXism: "lower ___ snake's belly"
- stat. for Astro or Ranger pitcher
- TX Nimitz helped set up Naval
- TXism: "rug rat"
- waterproof overshoes
- TX actress Prentiss
- Texas store: "Stop . . ."
- beer that is drawn is "on ___"
- 51-across film: "Where the Boys ___" (1960)
- Dallas Morning News founder: ___ Belo
- Peters of "The Jerk" with TX-born Martin
- TXism: "never laid eyes ___"
- TXism: "ramrod"
- TX Joan Crawford, e.g. (2 wds.)
- head gesture of agreement (2 wds.)
- football fans try to get ___ the 50-yard line
- Erik of "Honeyboy" with TX Fairchild
- Greek team of ex-Mav Roy Tarpley
- TXism: "busy ___-armed fry cook"
- TXism: "if he's ___ he'll bark"
- rheumatic swelling
- ___ Chica Bay
- former parent co. of American Airlines
- winter garment
- TX Helmond show: "___ the Boss?"
- "Dallas" was a prime time ___ opera
- in Cass County on U.S. 59
- ski incline
- laugh word

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P-1634

081 Business/Commercial

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088 Rent Unfurnished

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Azle News/Springtown Epigraph Special Section • Wednesday, April 26, 2023



Budget-friendly ways to freshen up your home's exterior

As any homeowner knows, renovation projects tend to cost a lot of money. The average cost of a home renovation is difficult to gauge, as such endeavors run the gamut from complex projects like a kitchen overhaul to simpler ones like painting a room inside a home. Indeed, the National Association of the Remodeling Industry notes that scope is what drives the cost of a renovation project.

Though there might not be an 'average cost' of a renovation project, homeowners can expect to spend thousands of dollars on projects that are not very small in scale. Navigating such an expense at a time when inflation remains high might be difficult for some homeowners looking to maintain the appearance of their home exteriors. However, there are many budget-friendly ways homeowners can tend to the exterior of their properties.

• **Power washing:** Power washing won't break the bank but it can revive the look of a home. Power washing removes dirt and grime from

the siding of a home and a power washing can be used to clean porches, walkways and patios as well. Hardware chains like Home Depot and Lowes typically rent power washers, but homeowners who don't want to do it themselves can hire a professional for a few hundred dollars, if not less. Power washing after winter can be a good idea, as the elements can take a toll on a home's exterior. A good power washing before spring and summer entertaining season can thus give a home a fresh, clean look without breaking the bank.

• **Furnished front porch:** A furnished front porch can serve as a welcome sign to neighbors and provide a great place to relax with a morning cup of coffee and a good book. Homeowners with a small porch won't need to bust their budgets to upgrade their front porch furnishings. Some small chairs with bright cushions, a small table and a rug underfoot can revamp an entryway at low cost.

• **Window box installation:** Installing window box planters is another cost-effective

way to brighten up a home's exterior. Homeowners can hang window boxes outside windows on the front of their homes and then fill them with brightly colored flowers to add an inviting pop of color to their home exteriors. The experts at Better Homes & Gardens urge homeowners to take weight into consideration before buying window planters. Keep in mind that soil and developed plants can be heavy, so look for a sturdy box as well as one that has drainage holes.

• **Replace hardware:** Another simple way to freshen up a stale exterior is to replace hardware. Door knobs, knockers, house numbers, and even the mailbox can appear dated after a while. Replacing these items is inexpensive and quick but can have a profound impact on how the exterior of a home appears to residents and visitors.

Exterior renovations need not break the bank. Various simple and inexpensive tweaks can quickly revitalize the exterior of a home.



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How to throw a last-minute dinner party

Do you feel like having a party? A spur-of-the-moment desire to host friends or family is not uncommon. Though it may be ideal to give yourself a few days to plan a dinner party and assemble what's needed to be your best host, sometimes inspiration strikes and compels people to throw last-minute dinner parties.

In such instances, these tips for putting together a feast on the fly can be especially valuable.

- Keep it simple. Build your menu around your own specialty, ideally one that is easy to prepare. Don't try out that fancy new cookbook recipe right now. Single-pot casseroles or pasta dishes whip up in a flash and can feed a crowd.
- Stock essentials at home.

It's easier to invite people over at the last minute if you don't have to shop for supplies. Keep a running inventory of foods that can be brought out at a moment's notice, such as items that may go on a charcuterie platter. Olives, block cheeses, crackers, salad fixings, cured meats, and fresh vegetables can be arranged in a heart-beat. With a can of chick peas, some garlic, lemon juice, and parsley at the ready, you can quickly create a homemade hummus, too.

- Consider a potluck. Guests may want to help out if they are invited over on short notice. A potluck is a perfect way to fill a table with food with minimal effort, as everyone contributes a little something.
- Clean the visible rooms.



There likely won't be time to clean your entire home before an impromptu party. Therefore, focus on the kitchen, dining area and guest bathroom. Gather errant items from around the house and store in a bed-

room behind closed doors. Close doors on other spaces that are off-limits during the party.

- Get the kids involved. If you have children, give them jobs to help out. They can set tables, fill ice cube trays or

run the vacuum over high-traffic areas. Removing some tasks from your to-do list can free your time for other needs.

- Scour your home. Create interesting place settings or a festive table with items

you already have on hand. Consider using food as functional decor on a table. A bowl of lemons makes an eye-catching centerpiece.

Make last-minute dinner parties happen with a few tricks of the trade.

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FIXER UPPER

6 options for funding your next home improvement project

Before starting a home improvement project, either on one's own or with the assistance of a professional contractor, homeowners must first consider the costs involved. According to the home improvement resource HomeAdvisor, more than one-third of homeowners do not understand what hiring a professional will cost, and then cannot successfully budget and secure financing once they have set their sights on a renovation project.

HomeAdvisor says that some of the more popular projects, such as remodeling a kitchen or bathroom or building a deck, can cost, on average, \$19,920, \$9,274 and \$6,919, respectively.

Homeowners may find that the more expensive renovations require them to secure some type of financing. Those who have never before sought such financing may want to consider these options.

1. Cash-out refinancing:

With cash-out refinancing, a person will begin the mortgage process anew with the intention of paying off the current mortgage balance, and then taking out additional funds for other purposes. Cash-out refinancing is a way to tap into a home's existing equity for use on improvements or other expenses, such as college tuition.

2. Home equity line of credit: The financial experts at Bankrate indicate that a HELOC works like a credit card, with the house as collateral. There is a credit limit, and borrowers can spend up to that limit. The interest rate may or may not be fixed. However, the interest may be tax-deductible if the financing is used to improve, buy or build a home.

3. Home equity loan: Individuals also can borrow against equity in their homes with a fixed interest rate through a home equity loan. Most lenders will calculate 80 percent of the home



Homeowners may find that the more expensive renovations require them to secure some type of financing.

value and subtract a homeowner's mortgage balance to figure out how much can be borrowed, according to the financial advisory site The Simple Dollar.

4. Personal loan: Homeowners can shop around at various financial institutions for competitive personal loans to be used for home improvement purposes. Funds may be approved

within one business day, which can be ideal for those who want to begin their improvements soon.

5. Personal line of credit: A personal line of credit allows borrowers to borrow only the money needed at the time, and offers a variable interest rate that is generally lower than fixed loan rates. Again, like a credit card, PLOC gives a person a maximum borrow-

ing amount and is ideal for ongoing purchases.

6. Credit cards: In a pinch, credit cards can be used to finance improvements, but they do come with the cost of very high interest rates if the balance is not paid in full by the time the bill comes due. However, for funding smaller projects and maximizing rewards points through home improvement retailers or

specific credit card company promotions, credit cards can be a way to earn various perks in addition to the benefit of improving a home.

Homeowners looking to finance their next improvements should speak to a financial advisor and shop around for the best types of funding for them.

Candle crafts tap creativity



Candles can be housed in various vessels, but a clever turn is to use teacups or mugs to mimic the look of popular beverages.

Crafting is enjoyed by children and adults. Even the most ardent arts and crafts enthusiasts might be surprised to learn that their favorite hobby can offer a number of benefits related to their health and well-being.

Research shows that regularly engaging in crafts can have tangible health benefits. The rhythmic and repetitive movements of certain crafts, as well as the need to focus one's attention, can produce a calm that helps anyone, including those who may experience anxiety, according to health and self-care resource Berkeley Wellness. In an online study published in the British Journal of Occupational Therapy that surveyed more than 3,500 knitters, researchers found knitting was 'soothing' and 'restful' and had meditative or zen-like qualities.

The sense of accomplishment after completing a proj-

ect is another great reason to engage in arts and crafts, which also may boost cognitive health by protecting certain neurological pathways in the brain.

There are many ways to engage with arts and crafts. Woodcrafting, painting, mosaic work, and metal arts are some popular activities.

One time-honed craft activity that is good for beginners or advanced crafters alike is candlemaking. Today's craft stores sell many different types of waxes and products that can produce beautiful scented candles.

TEACUP CANDLES

Candles can be housed in various vessels, but a clever turn is to use teacups or mugs to mimic the look of popular beverages. There's also the reassurance that such beverage holders can withstand hot wax.

Start by visiting a craft

store and choosing a type of wax. Gel waxes are versatile and can boil, pour and set up easily. They'll also be mostly translucent, which is great for replicating the look of various drinks. Follow the instructions on the packages for usage and invest in coordinating wicks, colorants, and appropriate scents.

It's also necessary to choose a style of candle. In a teacup, a tea-colored hued wax paired with a lemon scent can be reminiscent of a hot cup of lemon tea. Use other glasses or mugs to replicate the looks and scents of hot chocolate, mimosas, cappuccino, and much more.

As you become more comfortable, experiment with incorporating molded wax embellishments, such as lemon slices, ice cubes, berries, or even cinnamon sticks. This will help drive home the realism and whimsy.

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Poisonous plants to avoid around the house

Homeowners must consider various factors when choosing plants to display in and around their homes. That's because, despite their beauty, various plants are toxic to humans and animals.

Avoiding potentially poisonous plants can prevent injuries and even deaths. Here's a list of some plants homeowners may want to avoid.

- **Rhododendron:** Rhododendrons produce flower clusters that bloom in the spring. They also produce thick, glossy leaves that thrive in the fall and winter in many areas. If any part of the plant is swallowed it can cause vomiting and potentially slow the pulse.

- **Lily-of-the-valley:** This popular plant grows close to the ground, blooming bell-shaped, sweet-smelling flowers. If large doses of the toxin in this plant are ingested, it can gradually slow the heart down and potentially prove fatal.

- **Dumb cane:** The houseplant dieffenbachia, commonly known as Dumb cane, adds tropical appeal indoors. The sap of the plant causes the tongue to burn and swell, enough to block off air to the throat. It can be fatal if ingested by both pets and humans.

- **English ivy:** This go-to draping vine looks lovely cascading down from planters or shelving. While its toxins need to be ingested in large amounts to cause problems, English ivy can cause skin irritation, rash and fever, particularly after eating the berries.

- **Bittersweet nightshade:** Bittersweet nightshade grows as a weed on some properties. It's particularly problematic for those who have pets or young kids because of the brightly colored berries it produces. The highest level of toxicity comes from these berries.

- **Foxglove:** According to The Spruce: Decor, foxgloves are among the most toxic specimens commonly grown on landscapes. They are widely coveted for their pink, purple and white bell-shaped flowers that grow in tall spires. They're also deer- and rabbit-resistant, making them especially popular. However, foxgloves contain potent cardiac glycosides that can be lethal in high doses.

- **Philodendron:** Philodendron are easy to



Avoiding potentially poisonous plants can prevent injuries and even deaths.

care for and hearty. While not fatal, a bite of philodendron can irritate the skin and cause nausea and swelling of the mouth, throat and tongue. Similar effects occur with Pothos, another common and hearty houseplant.

- **Yew shrubs:** The needle-like leaves of this shrub are toxic to humans and animals, as are the fleshy, bright red berries that grow toxic seeds. Kids may be tempted to pick and consume these bright berries.

- **Palms:** Several different palm trees are poisonous to people and pets. Palms are an overlooked source of poisoning tragedies in warmer climates. Formosa palm, Sago palm, Queen Sago, and Cardboard palm are some of the varieties that can cause issues if ingested or allergic skin reactions if touched.

When planning a landscape, work with a skilled garden expert to choose plants that will not be hazardous to family and pets.



English Ivy, a popular vine for landscapes and plantings, can cause skin irritation, rash and fever.

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The basics of fertilizing a lawn

Spring marks the return of lawn and garden season. Lawns often bear the brunt of winter's wrath, so spring is a great time to nurse them back to health, and fertilizing can be an essential component of that process.

Fertilizing a lawn can be intimidating. An array of fertilizers, with each seemingly designed to address a different issue, can make homeowners' heads spin when visiting their local lawn and garden center. However, fertilizing is a very simple task that any homeowner can tackle. In fact, fears about fertilizing are often unfounded and can be overcome with some basic knowledge of the process.

- Identify which type of grass is in the yard. The home improvement experts at HGTV note that turfgrass is

divided into two categories: cool-season grass and warm-season grass. A local lawn and garden center can help homeowners identify which type of grass is in the yard, and this often depends on location. Fescue, bluegrass and perennial ryegrass are some examples of cool-season grasses, while Bermuda, bahia, St. Augustine, and zoysia are considered warm-season grasses. Identifying which type of grass is in the lawn is important because that will indicate when to fertilize.

Cool-season grasses are typically best fertilized in early spring, while warm-season lawns can benefit from an application just before especially warm temperatures arrive.

- Survey the lawn to identify which spreader to use. A small yard or a thriving

lawn with only a few bald or unsightly patches may not need a full application of fertilizer. In such instances, a hand spreader can suffice. For larger lawns and areas, a broadcast spreader is the ideal option. Spreaders have multiple settings, and the fertilizer package will indicate which setting to utilize when using the product.

- Test the soil prior to purchasing fertilizer. The lawn experts at Pennington note that a simple soil test can reveal soil pH and phosphorous and potassium levels. Soil tests can be purchased at most home improvement stores and lawn and garden centers, and they can help homeowners determine which fertilizer will most benefit their lawns.

- Water the lawn prior to

fertilizing. The experts at Scotts recommend a good watering a few days prior to fertilizing a lawn. Such an approach ensures the soil is ready to accept the fertilizer once it's applied.

- Follow the instructions carefully. Detailed instructions are typically provided on fertilizer product packaging. Once homeowners have identified and purchased the product they need, they can simply follow the instructions on the packaging, including how and when to water after application, which can make fertilizing less intimidating.

Fertilizing in spring can help a lawn recover from the previous summer and winter, ensuring it's lush and green when summer entertaining season arrives.



Fertilizing can help a lawn recover from winter damage.

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The basics of container gardening

Gardening is a rewarding hobby that has been linked to health benefits like reduced stress and improved mental well-being. Gardening also can lead to an inviting home landscape full of attractive blooms and/or delicious foods.

Backyard gardens have long been planted after clearing a plot of land, tilling and amending the soil, and planting rows of favorite crops. However, gardening can be less labor-intensive and even more successful when people consider the many benefits of container gardening.

WHAT IS CONTAINER GARDENING?

As its name implies, container gardening is growing plants inside of containers. These containers can be flower pots, rectangular deck boxes or even large raised garden beds.

PROS TO CONTAINER GARDENING

One of the advantages of container gardening is that plants can be moved in and out of sunlight to ensure the right growing conditions. This isn't as easily achieved when gardens are stationary. Also, beginner gardeners may be more able to control soil conditions inside of a small container rather than a vast ground-based garden, which will require a good deal of manual labor. Pots and boxes also can be grouped together to create

eye-popping displays, usually at lower costs than the sheer volume of plants that would be needed to fill out an expansive landscape.

CONS TO CONTAINER GARDENING

Container garden plants will not have direct access to the ground, so they need gardeners to create the ideal growing conditions. Developing the right care formula can be challenging. The home and garden resource The Spruce says that drainage is an important factor in container gardening, and most containers do not offer enough drainage holes. If water cannot escape the soil, the roots of the plants can rot and die. It's not enough to add stones or gravel to the bottom of containers. Drill additional holes in the bottom (1½-inch in diameter for small or medium-sized pots; one inch in diameter for larger pots). Also, be sure to check on soil moisture so that watering can be adjusted. During hot stretches, plants may need to be watered more frequently.

PLAN FOR PLANTS THAT GROW WELL TOGETHER

Grouping plants together can create visually stunning combinations. However, it is important to choose plants that require the same amount of light and moisture. Look at plant tags when visiting the garden cen-



Gardening can be less labor-intensive and even more successful when people consider the many benefits of container gardening.

ter and select complementary plants, or ask a store employee. Mixing different plant shapes, colors and leaf textures, as well as plants of various heights, can help containers look filled out.

FEED PLANTS ACCORDINGLY

Plants need nutrition to thrive in containers. Quality potting mixes will contain fertilizers, but nutrition will wane over time. Every couple of weeks, container plants will need either fresh potting mix or granular fertilizer added to feed them. Oregon State University Extension Services suggests using a slow-release fertilizer or worm castings several times throughout the season.

Container gardening is a great way to add plants to smaller patios, reduce the workload involved in maintaining expansive gardens, and customize conditions for optimal growth.







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Tips to pick the right plants for your landscape



Native plants can often handle local weather conditions, so prioritize natives over more exotic plants whose key attribute is aesthetic appeal.

Each year, gardening enthusiasts anxiously await the arrival of spring. Spring is a great season to plant new flowers, plants, grasses, and trees, making it a popular time of year to spend sunny days out in the yard.

Veteran gardeners may know their landscapes well and be able to pick the right plants on their own. Novices may need a little help as they look to give their landscapes a whole new look. The following are some helpful tips to help homeowners pick the right plants for their landscapes.

- Conduct a site evaluation. A colorful landscape featuring an array of plants and flowers can be eye-catching and add curb appeal to a property. However, where plants will be planted is a significant variable that must be considered before homeowners choose what to plant. The Center for Agriculture, Food, and the Environment at the University of Massachusetts Amherst notes that site evaluation is the first step when picking plants. A number of factors must be evaluated, including light availability; water availability; exposure to the elements, including wind and extreme temperatures;

and competition from existing vegetation, among other things. Document these variables prior to picking plants. For example, take note of the area you plan to plant to see if it is full sun or partial shade, and then pick plants whose growing conditions align with those you observe.

- Look at more than looks. Aesthetic appeal might be what homeowners most desire from their landscapes, but that appeal is only achieved when the right plants are chosen for a space. If the wrong plants are chosen, they're unlikely to thrive or they could threaten existing vegetation, thus compromising the overall appeal of the property. Native plants can often handle local weather conditions, so prioritize natives over more exotic plants whose key attribute is aesthetic appeal. If jaw-dropping aesthetic appeal is your top priority, speak with a local landscaping professional about which natives can provide that without compromising surrounding vegetation.

- Consider maintenance prior to planting. Maintenance is another variable gardeners must consider. Newly planted trees may require substantial

watering until they've fully established their roots, and some homeowners may not have time for that. In addition, certain plants may require a considerable amount of pruning in order to create and maintain the look homeowners desire. Individuals must be willing to invest the time and effort necessary to maintain new plantings that require such diligence. If not, look for plants that don't require much maintenance while keeping in mind that even low-maintenance plants still require some effort and attention.

- Consider local wildlife. If your lawn is routinely visited by local wildlife, then look for plants that won't look like a meal to these welcome, if uninvited, guests. For example, if you routinely see deer lounging around in your backyard, look for deer-resistant plants. This is a good way to protect your investment, of both time and money, and ensure minimal wildlife traffic through your newly landscaped yard.

- Spring gardens are awe-inspiring, especially when homeowners embrace various strategies for successful planting.



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Tips to organize your cluttered kitchen

Kitchens serve as the heart of many homes. Thanks to the popularity of open floor plans, kitchens also tend to be highly visible from nearby spaces, such as family rooms and even main entryways. A messy, cluttered kitchen can be an inefficient eyesore that's visible from various locations in a home. That makes getting organized in the kitchen a worthwhile goal.

The following are some tips to help homeowners organize their kitchens.

START WITH THE UTENSILS

Utensils come in all shapes and sizes. Take inventory of your utensils, discarding or donating items you don't use. Next, designate drawers or countertop storage solutions for the utensils you use most often. Place them within easy

reach, and take into account your dominant hand for placement.

CATEGORIZE YOUR PANTRY

Empty the pantry, paying attention to staples you regularly use. Then figure out a system for categorization that works for your household. Perhaps place all baking essentials together, such as flour, oil, baking soda, and cocoa powder. Maybe you need to designate a 'kids corner' in the pantry where you keep fruit snacks, granola bars and breakfast cereals. Use uniformly shaped containers to store packaged foods so you're not contending with oddly shaped boxes and bags.

USE EXTRA WALL OR CEILING SPACE

Large pots and pans can

eat up cabinet space or clutter the inside of an oven for those who don't have any other space. While your decorative enamel Dutch oven might fit nicely on a shelf or counter, cast-iron pans and skillets can be hung from durable hooks over an island or near the stove.

ORGANIZE UNDER THE SINK

It can be difficult to keep cleaning products tidy and within reach. Try installing a short tension rod inside the cabinet and use it to hang spray bottles, rubber gloves and cleaning cloths.

USE KITCHEN

CABINET ROLLOUTS

A shortage of storage space in cabinets can be remedied with rollouts. They provide additional capacity to cabinets and make it easier to

find items, instead of having to dig at the back of dim cabinet recesses.

TAME YOUR CONTAINER COLLECTION

It's tempting to save all of those take-out containers or empty margarine tubs for leftovers. But if there's an avalanche every time you open up a cabinet to reach for a container, you probably have too many. Invest in one type of storage container so you can nest the containers and lids for ultimate organization.

An organized kitchen is more attainable than it may seem. Some simple strategies can help homeowners make these home hubs less cluttered and more calming.





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Safety upgrades for seniors' homes

Many seniors want to spend as long as possible residing in the comforts of their own homes. According to AARP's 2021 'Home and Community Preferences Survey,' more than three-quarters of U.S. adults age 50 and older prefer living at home. But getting older often comes with certain deficits that may not make current living situations the safest for seniors.

Retirement Living reports that an older person is treated in an emergency room for a fall-related injury nearly once every 10 seconds. Falls cause millions of injuries and 32,000 deaths a year, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Seniors may be affected by low vision, mobility limitations, cognitive decline, balance issues, and loss of muscle strength. Certain adaptations may be necessary if seniors want to stay in their homes, particularly in older homes that have not recently been renovated.

CHANGE KNOBS TO LEVERS

This is an easy modification. Levers are much easier for individuals with arthritis or persons who lack dexterity in their hands. Everything from doorknobs to faucet knobs can be replaced with levers.

CREATE ZERO-THRESHOLD ENTRYWAYS

Zero-threshold entryways, also known as flush entries, do not require crossing a lip or any raised barrier. They can appear on doorways and showers and make it easy for people who have mobility issues, as well as those using scooters, walkers and wheelchairs, to move about unencumbered.

CLEAR CLUTTER/MOVE OBSTRUCTIONS

One inexpensive modification is to remove extraneous furniture and accessories. Such a change widens walking spaces in a room and accommodates walkers and wheelchairs. In addition, furniture can be pushed to the room's perimeter to make moving around easier. It's also important to remove



Minimizing falls could come down to providing support in key rooms of a home.

area rugs, as they're often tripping hazards.

INSTALL GRAB RAILS AND SUPPORTS

Minimizing falls could come down to providing support in key rooms of a home. Adding grab rails in the bathroom near the toilet and in the shower can help a person use those facilities without assistance. Install a grab rail close to seating in the kitchen to add support.

CONSIDER SMART LIGHTING

Motion-activated or darkness-activated lighting switches and fixtures can automatically turn on lights,

thereby improving visibility. Also, rocker light switches are easier to maneuver than standard toggles.

INVEST IN A STAIRLIFT

Single-story homes are preferable for growing older gracefully, but many seniors live in multi-story homes. A stairlift makes a multi-floor home more accessible, according to Elder, an eldercare service provider. Stairlifts make it easier to traverse staircases and reduce the risk for falls.

These suggestions are just a few of the many home modifications that can help seniors safely age in place.



Adding grab rails in the bathroom near the toilet and in the shower can help a person use those facilities without assistance.

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Create your native plant garden



Gardening is a worthwhile endeavor that not only passes the time, but can be a form of exercise and relief from the daily grind. Gardens also provide ample opportunity to experiment, as individuals can produce everything from vegetables to bountiful blooms.

Recent years have witnessed a growing emphasis on eco-friendly gardening that aims to reduce reliance on chemical fertilizers and pesticides in an effort to protect the planet. One way to do so is to rely on native plants.

WHAT ARE NATIVE PLANTS?

Native plants are indigenous to particular regions. The National Wildlife Federation says native plants grow in habitats without human introduction or intervention. Native plants have formed symbiotic relationships with local wildlife over thousands of years, which the NWF notes makes them the most sustainable options. Native plants help the environment and thrive with little supplemental watering or chemical nutrients.

NATIVES VARY BY REGION

Native plants vary by region. In arid climates, certain succulents may be native because they don't need much rainfall to thrive. In lush wetlands, succulents might be out of place.

START NATIVE PLANTING

The NWF offers native plants for 36 different states that can be shipped right to customers' doors to help replenish native varieties. In addition, gardeners can visit local gardening centers to select native plants. Small and independently owned centers often feature knowledge-

able local staff whose expertise can prove invaluable to individuals seeking native varieties.

It's important to keep in mind that native varieties may look less cultivated than more exotic blooms and foliage designed to sell for their unique appearances. Wildflowers and native grasses may be the types of native plants found in abundance, which may grow up and out quickly. These other tips can help the process.

- Plan and prepare the site by removing weeds and turning over the soil. This will give seedlings an opportunity to take root without competition from weeds. Seedlings will give gardens a faster head-start than waiting around for seeds to germinate. However, gardeners can start seeds indoors and then move them outside once they are seedlings.

- Avoid planting native plants in rows, as that's not how they're likely to grow naturally. Vary the placement so the plants look like they sprouted up haphazardly.

- Gardeners can still exert some control over native gardens prone to growing a little wild. Borders and paths can better define the growing areas.

- Grow Native!, an initiative from the Missouri Prairie Foundation, suggests planting two to four species in broad sweeping masses or drifts. Mix grasses with flowering plants. The grasses produce dense, fibrous roots that can prevent weed growth.

Native plants should require minimal care. Keep an eye on them and supplement with water if conditions have been especially dry.

Native plants make a healthier planet

Spring and summer present ideal growing conditions for many plants, making these seasons an ideal time to tend to lawns and gardens. Though it's easy to succumb to the temptation of exotic plants, avid gardeners and eco-conscious planters recognize the significance of native plants.

Novices may not realize that native plants are much better for a landscape and the local ecosystem it calls home. Recognition of the many benefits of native plants can make for healthier lawns and gardens and a healthier planet as well.

- Native plants are built for local climates. One of the issues gardeners who plant exotic plants run into is keeping those plants thriving when weather turns harsh. For example, exotic plants may require extra watering in areas that experience drought or even long periods without precipitation in spring and notably summer. The United States Environmental Protection Agency reports that at least 40 states anticipate water shortages by 2024. Planting native plants can help to combat those shortages by reducing the need to water plants if conditions become dry in late spring and summer.

- Native plants save money. It's also important to note that native plants save homeowners money. Because they're capable of thriving in local conditions, native plants tend to require less watering, which can help homeowners reduce their utility costs. But native plants also require less upkeep, which means homeowners can save on potentially costly, not to mention eco-unfriendly, pesticides and other amendments in order to maintain the look of exotic plants. And though it's not always the case, exotic plants tend to cost more at nurseries than natives.

- Native plants save gardeners time. In addition to saving money, native plants don't require as much attention. Though spring and summer is a great time to be in the yard, it's also a great time to be out and about. Because native plants thrive in local conditions, gardeners won't need to spend much of their free time tending to them. Exotics tend to require a lot of extra attention and effort, especially when conditions become harsh. Spending more time outdoors in harsh weather does not appeal to most gardeners.

- Native plants blend in with an existing landscape. Native plants look natural



PHOTO COURTESY TRWD

The Indian Blanket Flower is a Texas native. It reseeds easily and is very easy to grow. Deadheading the flowers can promote more continuous blooming.

within an existing landscape, adding some instant aesthetic appeal without breaking the bank. When planting exotics, homeowners may feel a need to redesign their entire gardens to create a certain look (think Japanese garden). That can quickly consume a budget and take up a lot of

free time in both the short- and long-term.

Planting season marks a great time to revitalize a landscape. Choosing native plants when doing so pays numerous dividends for homeowners and the planet they call home.



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Should I DIY?

3 questions to determine if it's best to renovate on your own

A do-it-yourself mentality has taken hold in millions of households across the globe. Popular television channels like HGTV and DIY Network as well as accessible home improvement content on apps like YouTube has inspired many homeowners to tackle renovation projects around their homes. Taking such initiative is admirable, though it also can prove costly if homeowners end up biting off more than they can chew.

Home improvement videos and television shows have a tendency to oversimplify renovation projects, potentially giving homeowners a false sense of confidence in their DIY abilities. A concerted effort on the part of homeowners to determine if it's best to renovate on their own or hire a professional should always be the first step of any renovation project. No two homeowners are the same, but the following three questions can help homeowners determine if DIY is their best option.

1. Can I afford to DIY?

Professional home improvement projects are

costly for a variety of reasons. Materials can be costly, but so are the tools and labor necessary to do the job right. Homeowners may not have the tools necessary to complete complicated projects. Specialty tools can be expensive to purchase or even rent, and the cost of acquiring such tools should be included in any DIY project cost estimates. Labor also factors heavily into professional projects, and for good reason. Talented contractors have unique skills that have been developed and perfected over many years. Those skills can ensure projects are completed quickly and correctly. Labor may seem costly, but such costs may ultimately prove to be a bargain compared to the cost of fixing DIY mistakes. Projects that are minor in scope and don't require the use of potentially costly specialty tools may be better suited for weekend warriors than more complicated renovations.

2. Do I have the time?

Homeowners must determine how much time they



Homeowners must determine how much time they have to complete a project before deciding to do it themselves.

have to complete a project before deciding to do it themselves. No one wants to spend months staring at an unfinished renovation project. Homeowners who are already pressed for time may not be able to complete projects in a timely fashion, which can make homes less comfortable and even less safe.

3. Can I pull this off? DIY projects can instill homeowners with a sense of pride in their homes, but it's imperative that homeowners considering the DIY option conduct an honest assessment of their skills. A lack of renovation experience does not necessarily mean a homeowner cannot successfully

complete a DIY project. But in such instances, it may be best to start with small, straightforward projects and then gradually move up to bigger, more complicated projects as skills are fine tuned. And homeowners who have never been at their best with a hammer in hand should not be ashamed to leave the work to

the professionals. Television shows and online tutorials can make renovations appear easier than they actually are. Homeowners considering DIY renovations can ask themselves a handful of questions to determine if they're ready for the challenge of renovating their homes on their own.

Small renovations that can make a big impact



Home renovations provide a host of benefits. Such projects can increase resale value and improve on the safety, aesthetics and functionality of a home.

Some homeowners may employ the mantra 'go big or go home' when they embark on home improvements, thinking that only the largest renovations produce noticeable change. But that's not the case. Various smaller renovations can provide a lot of bang for homeowners' bucks as well.

- Countertops (and hardware): A complete kitchen overhaul may stretch some homeowners' budgets. However, changing an older countertop for a new material can provide the facelift a kitchen needs. And while changing the cabinets may be homeowners' ultimate goal, swapping hardware in dated finishes for newer handles and pulls can provide low-cost appeal.

- Paint: Painting a space is an inexpensive improvement that adds maximum impact. Paint can transform dark and drab rooms into bright and airy oases. Paint also can be used to create an accent wall or cozy nooks. Homeowners also can showcase their personalities with their choice of paint colors.

- Lighting: Homeowners should not underestimate what a change in lighting can do. When rooms or exterior spaces are illuminated, they take on entirely new looks. It's worth it to invest in new

lighting, whether it's a dramatic hanging light over the dining room table or task lighting in dim spaces.

- Weatherproofing: Improving windows, doors, weatherstripping, and insulation in a home can offer visual appeal and help homeowners save money. The initial investment may be significant, but those costs will pay off in energy savings. According to One Main Financial, space heating is the largest energy expense the average American homeowner has, accounting for around 45 percent of all energy costs.

- Mudroom: Turn an entryway into a more functional space with the addition of cabinets, benches or custom-designed storage options that perfectly fit the area. Cubbies and cabinets can corral shoes, umbrellas, hats, bags, and much more.

- Accent updates: Any space, whether it's inside or outside a home, can get a fresh look with new decorative accents. Invest in new throw pillows and even slipcovers for living room sofas. Use new tile or paint the brick on a fireplace in a den, then update the mantel with decorative displays. Purchase wall art that can bring different colors into a room. Change the cushions on deck furniture and buy color-coordinated planters.

These subtle changes will not cost as much as full-scale renovations, but they can still help homeowners transform their homes.

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The many benefits of houseplants



The lines between the outdoors and indoors are being blurred. Homeowners build extensive outdoor living spaces so they can relax on weather-resistant furniture and even cook in lavish kitchens in their backyards. In addition, indoor three-season rooms full of bright, open windows that showcase outdoor vistas challenge the boundaries between outside and inside.

For those working with limited budgets, there are some easy, inexpensive ways to enjoy the majesty of natural landscapes indoors. Houseplants can be used to improve indoor spaces, and they also provide various health benefits.

HELP WITH ALLERGIES

According to WebMD, rooms with houseplants tend to have less dust and mold in them than those without any foliage. Leaves and other parts of the plants serve as natural filters, catching airborne particles and allergens. Plants with textured leaves might be especially effective at trapping particles.

PUT MORE OXYGEN INTO THE AIR

The human respiratory system works by bringing in oxygen and releasing carbon dioxide. Plants do the opposite during photosynthesis. They absorb carbon dioxide and then release oxygen. Plants can put much more oxygen into the air, improving indoor conditions.

INCREASE INDOOR HUMIDITY AND REDUCE ILLNESS

Studies from the Agricultural University of Norway found that indoor plants can increase humidity in indoor spaces, which decreases the incidences of

sore throats, dry coughs, dry skin, and the common cold. Higher absolute humidity can decrease the chances of survival and transmission of the flu virus.

FILTER THE AIR

Researchers who presented their work at the 252nd National Meeting & Exposition of the American Chemical Society found certain houseplants can combat the potentially harmful effects of volatile organic compounds. Plants may help filter out VOCs like benzene, acetone and formaldehyde, which can enter indoor air via cleaning supplies, dry-cleaned clothes, furniture, printers, and paints.

IMPROVE INTERIOR ATMOSPHERE

Prevention magazine says plants can be used to screen unattractive areas, moderate room temperature by shading spots from the sun and even reduce noise. Plants also can improve ambiance and create a pleasing atmosphere in a room.

CAN IMPROVE MOOD

Growing and caring for plants can alleviate everyday stress. A nationwide study from UK Magazine Gardeners World found 80 percent of gardeners declared themselves satisfied with life compared to 67 percent among non-gardeners. Gardeners were more positive mentally. Greenery can help people feel more at home and improve mental health. A rehab center in Norway found patients reported a greater increase in well-being four weeks after having greenery added to their surroundings.

Houseplants can improve indoor areas and positively affect personal health.

How to make outdoor living spaces more comfortable

Private backyards are now go-to spaces for recreation and entertainment and great places to recharge the body and mind.

One ripple effect of the COVID-19 pandemic was more time spent outdoors, even if it was predominantly on one's own property. OnePoll, in conjunction with the lawn care company TruGreen, surveyed 2,000 American homeowners and found participants spent 14 hours outside every week in 2021, which was three hours more than prior to the pandemic. In addition, respondents admitted that time spent outdoors was therapeutic.

A separate survey conducted for the International Casual Furnishings Association found that people now spend more time relaxing, gardening, exercising, dining, and entertaining outside than in years past. Though COVID-19 may no

longer dominate headlines, the desire to enjoy outdoor spaces has not waned.

While enjoying outdoor living areas, homeowners can do all they can to make these spaces comfortable and welcoming. The following are some good starting points.

GET ALL LIT UP

Outdoor spaces can be enjoyed no matter the hour when there is ample lighting. That could be why the International Casual Furnishings Association reports those who plan to renovate their outdoor spaces list outdoor lighting as a priority. Outdoor lighting not only sheds light on entertaining spaces, but also makes spaces safer and more secure.

INCREASE PRIVACY

No matter how friendly homeowners are with their neighbors, there comes a time when privacy is paramount. Fencing, whether it is wood or vinyl, or even a natu-

ral fence made from closely planted hedges, can ensure residents feel comfortable venturing outdoors to swim, take a cat nap or even star gaze in private.

ADDRESS THE ELEMENTS

Homeowners should note the direction their backyard faces and the typical daily conditions of the space. For example, a yard that faces southwest may get plenty of strong sun during the day, requiring the addition of shade trees, covered patios or arbors to cut down on the glare and heat. If the yard is often hit by winds, trees or bushes planted strategically as wind-breaks can help.

SIT COMFORTABLY

High-quality comfortable seating increases the likelihood that homeowners will want to stay awhile in their outdoor spaces. A deep seating set complete with plush chairs, outdoor sofa or love seat and chaise lounge chairs



Invest in high-quality comfortable seating to make your outdoor space more inviting.

gives people more opportunity to sit and stay awhile.

TAKE A DIP

A pool can be the perfect gathering spot on a warm day, while a spa/hot tub can bridge the gap to cooler

weather. According to the Family Handyman, soaking in hot tubs can relax tired muscles after a long day, loosen up stiff joints, improve cardiovascular health, and reduce the time it takes to fall asleep.

BITE BACK AT BUGS

Homeowners may want to consider using a professional exterminator to get rid of ticks, mosquitoes and other nuisance insects from outdoor spaces.

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What to know about installing a pool at home

Pools definitely have a wow factor that's hard to replicate. Homeowners considering pool installation can take note of these factors as they try to decide if a pool is right for them.

COST

The cost to install a pool depends on a host of factors, including which type of pool homeowners are considering and where they live. According to the online home improvement resource Angi (formerly Angie's list), the average cost to install an above ground pool in the United States in 2022 was \$3,322, while the average inground pool installation in the same year was \$55,000. That's quite a disparity in price, and homeowners should know that the average cost of each project is higher in certain regions and under certain

circumstances. Potential ancillary costs, such as excavation and plumbing relocation, will add to the final cost of the project. The erection of fencing around the pool if no fencing currently surrounds the area where the pool will be located also will add to the final cost.

POOL TYPE

As noted, above ground pools, on average, require a considerably smaller financial investment than inground pools. This is an important consideration, but which option may ultimately prove the better investment is worth researching. Homeowners can speak with a local real estate professional to determine if an inground pool or above ground might yield a significantly higher return at resale. If an inground pool is likely to

increase property value by a substantial amount, it could be well worth the extra up-front costs.

MAINTENANCE

Pools are undeniably fun, but they still require maintenance. The experts at Better Homes & Gardens note that vinyl liners in pools last approximately six to 10 years, while painted concrete may require a fresh coat of paint every five years. Plaster finishes may last as long as 15 years, while cement-coated products can last a lifetime. Pools also need periodic cleaning, and chemicals to keep the pool operating safely and cleanly will require an additional, if somewhat minimal, financial investment. Homeowners investing in a new pool should be aware of the maintenance required to keep the pool clean



and be willing to do that maintenance. And though homeowners typically can open and close pools on their own, it's also possible to hire someone to do it for a relatively small fee each season.

LOCATION

A survey of the land in a yard can reveal how smoothly a pool installation may or may not go. Though it's possible to install a pool in just about any yard, some spaces might require greater preparation and

pre-installation effort than others. Sloped backyards, for example, may require the services of a landscape architect to prepare the space, which can extend the time it takes to complete the project and add the overall cost.

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How to create more privacy on your property

Privacy is a key component of any backyard oasis. Some homes may be so remote that privacy isn't an issue. But many suburban homeowners recognize they might need to tweak their landscapes if they hope to create a private oasis outside.

FENCING OR PLANTING?

Most homeowners looking to create more privacy on their property will have to choose between fencing and planting. Fencing provides immediate privacy because, once it's installed, no one can see into the yard. Fencing also doesn't require watering or other immediate upkeep, which will be necessary when planting to ensure tree roots can establish themselves.

But planting has its benefits as well. Planting for privacy is essentially creating

a living fence that can grow over time and provide even more privacy as trees reach maturity. Plants also tend to be less costly than fencing. The home renovation experts at BobVila.com estimate that fencing projects typically cost between \$1,667 and \$4,075. However, fencing projects can cost considerably more than \$4,000, especially for homeowners with large properties they want to enclose. Large, mature trees can be expensive, though it's unlikely they will cost as much as fencing. In addition, fencing requires more maintenance and will potentially need to be replaced, while native trees won't require much upkeep and can last for generations.

PLANTING

Homeowners who choose

to plant for privacy will next have to decide which type of plants to add to their properties. Evergreens provide year-round privacy because they don't shed their leaves, so these are the ones most often chosen when creating a living fence. A number of varieties of evergreen trees can do the job, but it's important that homeowners consult with a landscape architect prior to choosing trees so they can ensure the trees will thrive when faced with the growing conditions on their properties. During such a consultation, homeowners may discuss the following popular privacy trees.

· **Leyland cypress:** The Arbor Day Foundation notes that the Leyland cypress is popular for hedges and boundaries, likely because a typical tree reaches a mature

height of 60'-70' and can spread as wide as 25'. The Leyland cypress grows fast, which may appeal to homeowners who don't want to wait to establish privacy.

· **Green Giant Arborvitae:** There are different varieties of the arborvitae, but the Green Giant tends to be the go-to option for privacy. The ADF notes that Green Giants will grow up to three feet per year until they reach maturity, providing a fast-growing option for privacy planters. The Green Giant can spread as wide as 20 feet at maturity, which is another attribute that makes it so popular among homeowners desiring privacy.

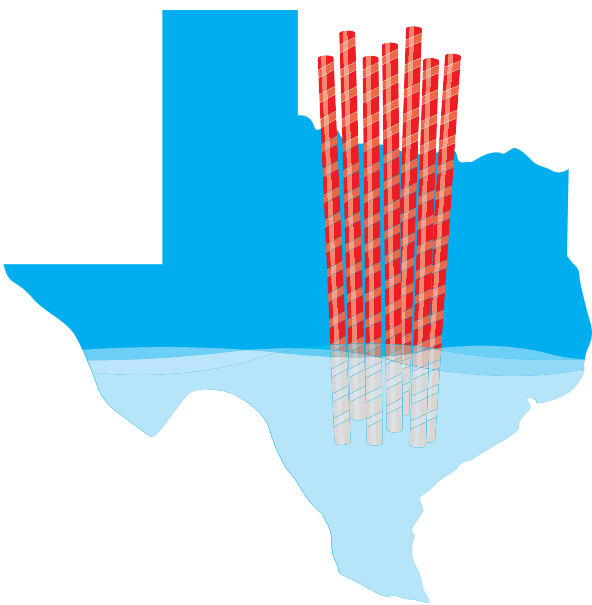
· **Eastern White Pine:** The ADF notes that the eastern white pine, which can reach heights as high as 80 feet, is favored in spacious yards. That's



likely due to its height and its potential spread, which can reach 40 feet. Homeowners who choose the eastern white pine might like it for its resemblance to a Christmas tree, and

in fact it is widely used for that purpose. The privacy provided by the eastern white pine is significant, but it might be best suited to especially large properties.

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