

Man charged in 2020 manslaughter sentenced to 10 years



COURTESY PCSO
Kevin Scott Evans

MADelyn EDWARDS
madelyn@azlenews.net

Former Boyd High School assistant principal Kevin Scott Evans who was charged with killing Ernest D. Medley while driving in 2020 has been sentenced to 10 years in the Texas Department of Corrections Institutional Division.

Evans, of Springtown, previously pleaded guilty to in-

toxication manslaughter. The 415th District Court found that Evans' vehicle was used as a deadly weapon.

In January 2020, Reno police officers responded to a hit and run in the 4200 block of East State Highway 199 at about 9:30 p.m. Ernest D. Medley, 51, was hit while walking on the shoulder of the road and died at the scene as a result of his injuries.

That same night, Evans was arrested after a Springtown police officer noticed that the truck he was driving on westbound SH 199 was similar to the description of the vehicle seen fleeing the hit-and-run scene. The officer stopped Evans, and his truck reportedly had front-end damage, a non-working headlight and what appeared to be human tissue on the front of the vehicle, which was later tested

and matched Medley's DNA.

According to a news release from the district attorney's office, Evans said he had been drinking at the Azle bar On The Patio after work the day of the hit-and-run. He failed field sobriety tests when he was arrested. A sample of his blood was tested by the Texas Department of Public Safety crime lab, and the results revealed his blood alcohol concentration was 0.134,

which is more than Texas' legal limit. Texas Alcohol and Beverage Commission investigated and found that Evans consumed 8 pint-sized Miller Lite beers at the bar that evening.

"Mr. Evans had no criminal record and was, by all accounts, a model citizen prior to this tragedy," District Attorney Jeff Swain said in

PLEASE SEE **EVANS** | A4

Larry's Carpet under new ownership, old management



ZACH FREEMAN | AZLE NEWS

Larry Vaughan (Left) and his son, Nathan (right)

Despite Larry Vaughan's retirement, Larry's Carpet is here to stay

ZACH FREEMAN
azlereporter@azlenews.net

For 44 years, Larry's Carpet has served the Azle community in their home renovating needs. In recent memory, their signature red and beige building, with a car to match, has caught the attention of travelers on Jacksboro

Highway. Nathan Vaughan, son of original owner Larry Vaughan, says that won't be changing anytime soon despite his dad's retirement.

The Vaughan's, with Nathan now acting as manager of Larry's Carpet, are excited to work with the store's new owners, Vintage Floors.

"They're family owned, just like we are," Larry Vaughan

said. "They're a good company that will try to carry on the traditions that we do here, being good to the customers."

On March 30, the Vaughans and Vintage Floors finalized the sale of Larry's Carpet and the store's name. Vintage Floors is a Fort Worth retailer based in Camp Bowie with another location in Granbury.

In light of the acquisition, Larry's Carpet will likely update its name to Larry's Carpet VF Lakeside.

After four decades of service, Larry Vaughan is ready to get out on the water and enjoy some well-earned time on his boat. Larry thinks back fondly on the time he's been

PLEASE SEE **LARRY** | A11

Parker County deputies arrest man who used red-and-blue lights to scare off armed driver

LUCIANO AMADOR VELAZQUEZ, who lives south of State Highway 199 between Springtown and Azle, was arrested for impersonating a public servant after he flashed red and blue lights at another driver. Amador claims the other driver pointed a gun at him twice.

MADelyn EDWARDS
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The Parker County Grand Jury indicted an Azle-area man on charges of impersonating a public servant during an incident on the night of Feb. 18.

The Parker County Sheriff's Office arrest report states that Luciano Amador Velazquez intended to "induce (the driver of a Ford F-150) to submit to the pretended official authority of the

defendant or to rely on the pretended official acts of the defendant by displaying and operating forward facing red and blue alternating lights mounted in his front windshield, against the laws of the State of Texas."

Officers said in the report that Amador had told them that he flashed the lights because he didn't agree with the F-150 driver's driving and that he used the lights to "make people drive better."

Amador told the Epigraph the

only reason he flashed the red-and-blue lights was because he saw the other driver pull out a gun. He said he has never tried to pass himself off as a police officer.

The F-150 driver, who asked not to be named out of fear of retaliation, said he pulled his pistol out later in his interaction with Amador but denied having his gun out at this time.

Amador said he was driving

PLEASE SEE **LIGHTS** | A10



MADelyn EDWARDS | SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH
Luciano Amador Velazquez



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SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY

Victor Gonzales, dedicated librarian

AML assistant director speaks on Azle community

ZACH FREEMAN
azlereporter@azlenews.net

In late August, a new assistant director was welcomed to the Azle Memorial Library family. Victor Gonzales moved from the Central Library in Fort Worth to Azle, taking a new step in his journey.

"I came in here with the mindset of building roots and making an impact in Azle," Gonzales said. He had previously worked as a library page, then library assistant at the Central Library in Fort Worth.

"They were actually about to promote me to manager over there," Gonzales said. "But my mentor, L.G. Swift, mentioned there was an opening in Azle and he thought I'd be a perfect fit. I looked at the job description and application, and I couldn't have agreed more. I felt like Azle really spoke to me, not just in terms of the job description, but I did some research into the community and who Azle was, and I felt like I could not only fit in, but really grow roots here and become part of the community and make an impact here."

On what he can bring to Azle, Gonzales described a lifelong dedication to community as well as his language skills. "I am bilingual, I speak Spanish. I have been able to help breach that barrier and be the bridge to help Spanish speaking families in their language."

In the seven months that

he's been in Azle, Gonzales has already grown to appreciate the community. "My favorite thing is the people that I get to serve and help out on a daily basis, I love the building. I think Central Park is beautiful as well," he said.

Gonzales enjoys hikes through Central Park, walking his dogs, spending time with his cats, and martial arts. His favorite restaurant in Azle is Red's Burger House. He's looking forward to eventually trying Genesis Jiu Jitsu in Azle. Victor also enjoys the programs and events hosted by the library. "My favorite programs are definitely Story Time," Gonzales said. "And anything that allows the community to engage in things they don't normally do."

Victor indicated he is excited about what the library can do for the people of Azle going forward.

"I really believe in the message that libraries have and what we do in the community," Gonzales said. We're also there for people who want to get the most out of life. From birth all the way to senior citizens, we have something for everybody."

Ultimately, Gonzales stated that his goal is to connect with and create lasting relationships with Azle's residents. "I love the people of Azle. Everyone's very homey. I greet them whenever I see them in the community. I'm very happy to see our regulars in the community. It's not just about serving them, it's about getting to know them."



Victor Gonzales looks forward to serving Azle residents for years to come.

ZACH FREEMAN | AZLE NEWS

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Sudoku

FEBRUARY 22, 2023

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

Solution to last week's puzzle

FEBRUARY 15, 2023

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

ON FISHING

History helps, if you document log records of past fishing experiences



ON FISHING
By Michael Acosta

As a licensed professional fishing guide, Michael Acosta shows you how to find them. The Granbury resident of 30 years has been fishing all of his life, and has been a licensed guide since 1998. michael.acosta@att.net

Keeping a fishing log that documents your fishing history or others' successes on a particular day is advantageous to any angler. This log may help you to develop a pattern that will pay off on future fishing trips. It is, however, like anything in fishing, if you rely on it solely it may lead you astray.

I used to keep a log religiously, but at times it can be difficult to keep up with. However after documenting years of data you will start reaping the benefits. Nothing is guaranteed, but if the conditions are similar the fish may be doing the same thing at certain locations, certain times of the year. You just have to be aware of all the conditions and information and put your best foot forward.

What should you document on your log? Well, I always start with the weather conditions and water levels. You may want to document the moon phase for the day. Make sure that you document the water temperature and any variation due to the time of the day or the location of warmer or cooler water depending on the season. The clarity of the water is also very important.

Location, location and location. Document where

you located fish, how deep and what time they bit. They may not be at the exact location, but you may be able to focus on a certain area of the reservoir that is more likely to hold fish. Sometimes they will be right where you expected. For example, those of you that chase the striped bass, you will likely find them on the lower ends in the summer. You may not need to document that, but where on the lower end was most productive.

Don't forget to include what presentation or pattern was effective and any small change that made a difference. For example, fluorocarbon line may have brought in more bites due to clear water conditions or dragging your bait on the bottom drew in active fish to your presentation.

It is also good to document information on the forage available. Certain times of the year the forage

such as shad and bream will spawn. Many times these spawns occur during a full moon and may occur more than once in a calendar year. Sizes of the forage vary with the seasons and the spawns and may influence your choices. There is no doubt that locating or understanding the habits of the forage will also help you catch fish.

If it was a slow day, document this as well. This may be more important than the good day for future decisions on presentation and patterns. Everyone can catch fish when they are active but catching fish when the conditions are tough takes a little more skill.

So, take a few notes either manually or use a good database on your computer after your fishing trip. Before you know it, you will be consulting these notes time and time again to get some ideas on where to go and what to use.

LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Town of Lakeside City Council will hold a public hearing on Thursday April 13, at 6:30 p.m. at 9830 Confederate Park Rd, Council Court Room. Commission to consider modifying Chapter 151.013 Special Conditions for Listed Uses - allowing specific use permit for Automotive - General be added to the permitted land used table non-residential (commercial) 151.012. Questions can be directed to Norman Craven, Town Administrator at 817-230-4181

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Pursuant to Chapter 59, Texas Property Code, ASH CREEK SELF STORAGE which is located at 117 Locust St, Azle, Texas 76020 will hold a public auction of property being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale will be held from 10:00 AM 4/15/23 until 10:00 AM 4/26/23 online at www.storageauctions.com Property will be sold to highest bidder for cash. Deposit for removal and cleanup may be temporarily required. Seller reserves the right to not accept any bid and to withdraw property from sale. Property in each space may be sold item-by-item, in batches, or by the space. Property being sold includes contents in spaces of the following tenants, with brief description of contents in each space. Candi Murphree - TV, Furniture, clothes, shoes, paintings, tools, vacuum, pictures, house decor.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice is hereby given that the following will be sold to the highest bidder with bidding to take place at lockerfox.com on Friday the 21st day of April, 2023 at 11:00 AM to satisfy a landlords lien, pursuant to Chapter 59, Texas Property Code. Payment to seller via credit/debit card and pickup at the facility. Self-Storage unit contents of the following customers containing household and other goods will be sold. 10 Federal Self Storage, 2920 Avenue F, Arlington, TX, 76011 Jeffrey Valkanoff. Kim Ridges. Cynamon Gates. Ann Clem. Lila Manyweather. Waleed Wilks. Sherrell Balog. Kirsten Garcia. Shantricia Webb

NOTICE OF CLAIM AND PUBLIC SALE

Storage unit contents to be sold to satisfy landlord's lien. Seller reserves the right to withdraw property from the sale. Unit items to be sold to the highest bidder. Sale to be held ONLINE at https://www.storageauctions.com/. Location of Units for Public Sale: Longhorn State Storage Azle at 11700 Jacksboro Hwy, Fort Worth TX 76135. Auction to be held on Monday April 24th, 2023 beginning at 9:00 a.m. for the following tenants: Courtney Grimes, Kimberly Caygle, Bradley Perrin, Darin Dawson, Shannon thomas, Sonny Ruble, Randy Talley, Robert Bennett, Francis Brown.

Certificate of Assumed Name:

Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 333; ASSUMED NAME: ELEAZAR FONTANEZ; Registered at the Office of Minnesota Secretary of State; Work Item 1355387700024; Original File Number 1355387700024; FILED 12/10/2022 11:59 PM; Nameholder: Eleazar, Fontanez; Active/In Good Standing.

Azle School Menu

April 10-13, 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
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PreK - 4th

BREAKFAST: Everyday - Assorted Fruits and Cereal, Juice, White or Chocolate Milk, Graham Crackers, Toast
Mon Breakfast on a Stick, Apples **Tues** Cereal (Cheerios) w/graham crackers, Pears **Weds** Breakfast Pizza, Pineapple
Thurs Fruit Parfait, Orange Smiles **Fri** Pancake & Sausage, Banana
LUNCH: Everyday - Variety of milk. Your choice of 1 entree & 1 fruit or juice
Mon Steak Fingers w/ roll, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Pineapples **Tues** Beefy Mac w/ roll, Green Beans, Applesauce
Weds Max Sticks w/ Marinera, Crinkle Fries, Apples **Thurs** Macaroni & Cheese w/ roll, Steamed Carrots, Pears **Fri** Sloppy Joe, Baked Beans, Peaches

GRADES 5TH - 8TH

BREAKFAST: Everyday - Assorted Fruits and Cereal, Juice, White or Chocolate Milk, Yogurt w/Granola
Mon French Toast Sticks, Pineapples **Tues** Scrambled Eggs, Sausage & Toast, Applesauce
Weds Glazed Donuts, Mixed Fruit **Thurs** Pancakes & Sausage Patty, Oranges **Fri** Breakfast Pizza, Bananas
LUNCH: Everyday: Variety of milk. Your choice of 1 entree & 1 fruit or juice, rolls, crackers • Salad bar offered daily
Mon Corn Dogs OR Chicken Parmesan Pasta w/ Garlic Breadstick **Tues** Beefy Mac OR Turkey & Cheese Sandwich **Weds** Hamburger OR Cheeseburger OR Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich **Thurs** Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce & Garlic Breadstick OR Breaded Chicken Sandwich **Fri** Pepperoni Pizza OR Max Sticks w/ Marinera OR Chicken Fajita Wrap w/ Tortilla Chips

HIGH SCHOOL

BREAKFAST: Everyday - Assorted Fruits and Cereal, Juice, White or Chocolate Milk, Yogurt w/Granola
Mon French Toast Sticks, Pineapples **Tues** Scramble Eggs, Sausage, & Toast, Applesauce
Weds Glazed Donuts, Mixed Fruit **Thurs** Pancakes & Sausage Patty, Oranges **Fri** Breakfast Pizza, Bananas
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 Frito Chili Pie, SW Chicken Tornado, Orange Chicken, Chicken Parmesan Pasta, Hamburger/Cheeseburger **Tues** Chicken Tenders & Waffles, Crunchy Beef Tacos, General TSO Chicken, Cheese Pizza, Pepperoni Pizza, Chili Cheese Dog
Weds Chicken Nuggets, Beef Bean Burrito, Sweet & Sour Chicken, Cheese Pizza, Spicy Chicken Sandwich **Thurs** Boneless Buffalo Chicken Wings, Chicken Burrito, Orange Chicken, Pepperoni Pizza, Hamburger/Cheeseburger **Fri** Chicken Fried Steak, Cheesy Chicken Quesadillas, General TSO Chicken, Max Sticks, Breaded Chicken Sandwich

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OUR MISSION: The Azle News shall provide news and insights to our readers through the independent and impartial presentation of information that educates, enriches and entertains. We are proud to be a community newspaper committed to the people we serve.

Rethinking your life

Which of the following phrases would you rather hear as instruction? Repent and stop it! Rethink and return. It's a no-brainer, right? There's nothing better than to have a sour-faced critic screeching "Repent" in your face (or on your timeline). Oh, wait ... you like the other one. Well guess what? Your preference means nothing! It's what you need, baby! Sorry, the sarcasm is strong with this one. May I tell you a secret? Thanks. "Repent" is something we all need to do on a regular basis, not because we are



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.

evil and deserving of wrath (though that's not outside the realm of possibility). No, we need to repent because we've lost our WAY and our WHY. Here's the secret that I didn't learn for a really long time: the word most often translated "repent" in the New Testament doesn't mean that we're supposed to feel guilty and stop doing bad stuff. It doesn't mean—as I've

so often heard—to turn 180 degrees from the way you're going and go the other way. It's not primarily focused on outward actions. The word actually means to "rethink." In other words, to change one's mind or purpose. It's focused on the inward process of decision-making that precedes the outward actions. It may not be a 180 degree turn. It may

only be a 5 degree recalculation that results in a different trajectory that is revealed over time to be more and more effective. I thought about this concept this morning when I read Acts 3:19. The translation I first read says, "Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord." (New International Version) I was already aware of the word translated "repent" and how it refers to the mind more than the hands. Then I read a paraphrase known as "The Voice." Here's what it said: "So now you need to re-

think everything and turn to God so your sins will be forgiven and a new day can dawn, days of refreshing times flowing from the Lord." "Rethink everything." This is the heart of repentance—not simply a turning away from doing bad things, but a return into the refreshing flow of God's purpose so that He can reshape our way of thinking about everything. God had a purpose in mind for each of us before we ever drew our first breath. I don't mean that He had every step predetermined. I mean that He had a vision in mind of the kind of person He wanted us to be and He's given us opportunity after opportu-

nity to live in the flow of that purpose. But, we've gotten distracted and have made some bad decisions. We need to pause and rethink those decisions and ponder how we might return to the life He created us for. What might each day look like if we were to arise in the morning, take a few deep breaths, spend a few moments in silence just thinking through our day and then asking God to show us how to rethink, return, reboot, and renew? Would you give that a try tomorrow? Be amazing today, my friend.

EVANS

FROM PAGE A1

the news release. "But, the decisions he made that night cost a man his life and his family the chance to have him in their lives. Our choices have consequences. In our view, that meant that he needed to go to prison." Evans was indicted in June 2020. Medley's family gave statements to the court during the sentencing hearing on the morning of April 3. One of them was Della Mitchusson, Medley's sister, who reminded the court that her family lost a father, grandfather, son, brother and uncle in Medley. Mitchusson

described Medley as being kind, loving and giving. "I hope you always, always remember Ernest Medley, my brother," she said, addressing Evans in court. "We will always remember this. He left behind two underage sons that have to grow up without him. You are a good old boy from around these parts but made bad choices. One day we all have to be judged by our God Almighty, so I forgive and pray for you. I hope you pray and ask for forgiveness as well." Medley's fiancée, Barbara Donnelly, attended the hearing and said she wished that Evans had gotten a longer sentence than 10 years. "He took somebody from us that we love very much,"

she said. Donnelly said she and Medley had been partnered for seven years, and she described him as her first love. "He could make his worst enemy into his friend," Donnelly said. "He loved kids. He liked to joke." After the hearing, Mitchusson said though the court process involved in this case is winding down, the emotions over losing Medley will continue. As tears gathered in her eyes, Donnelly said, "My family is broken." Swain said in the press release that Evans can be considered for parole after he serves at least half of his sentence.



Ernest Medley loved animals.

COURTESY PHOTO

"You are a good old boy from around these parts but made bad choices. One day we all have to be judged by our God Almighty, so I forgive and pray for you. I hope you pray and ask for forgiveness as well."

DELLA MITCHUSSON
Ernest Medley's sister

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

Pavestone, LLC, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for renewal of Registration No. 54968, for an Air Quality Standard Permit for Concrete Batch Plants, which would authorize continued operation of a Concrete Batch Plant located at 3215 State Highway 360, Grapevine, Tarrant County, Texas 76051. Additional information concerning this application is contained in the public notice section of this newspaper.

A TODAS LAS PERSONAS Y PARTES INTERESADAS:

Pavestone, LLC ha solicitado a la Comisión de Calidad Ambiental de Texas (TCEQ, por sus siglas en inglés) lo siguiente:

Renovación del Permiso Permit No. 54968

Esta solicitud autorizaría autorización continua de una Planta especial Mezcladora de Concreto ubicada en 3215 State Highway 360 Tarrant, Texas 76051. Información adicional sobre esta solicitud se encuentra en la sección de aviso público de este periódico.

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Local therapists use art to tackle trauma

Survivors Studio in Azle holds community informational

ZACH FREEMAN
azlereporter@azlenews.net

On March 23, Survivors Studio held a community informational on defining trauma. Survivors Studio opened in a space at the back of The Edge Church in Azle last year. Walking into the building, a wide range of art, penned in different styles by different artists line the walls of each room. While you can attend art lessons here, its primary purpose is to heal the mind.

Therapist and founder Karen Kimbrough recently began using art as a form of therapy.

"It really helps with anxiety," Kimbrough said. "It's almost an instant calming because your brain cannot do that art thing and stay anxious at the same time. One of my favorite sayings is before children can dance, they can move. Before they can talk, they can make sounds. Before they can paint a picture, they can make a mark on the page. So, what we're doing by using art is taking them back to that very instinctual part before that other stuff so they can connect more emotionally into whatever needs to be expressed."

Survivors Studio employs many different techniques, with art being one that stands

out when you walk into the building.

"I never did any art until five years ago," Kimbrough said. "Long story short, I did a watercolor exercise with someone at the psyche hospital I worked at, and I had gone to this museum in New York City to see Starry Night and there was a lot of weird stuff in this museum. I thought to myself if that's art then I can be an artist."

This informational covered different kinds of trauma, such as how trauma can hobble your day-to-day functions and what some methods were to combat it. Survivors Studio plans on holding another informational on Sep. 21 and may hold a book drive in the near future.

Kimbrough specializes in complex trauma and patients with dissociative identity disorder, but Survivors Studio is open to comers from all walks of life. For anyone interested in giving therapy a try, Survivors Studio has appointments available. You can schedule an appointment through their website, SurvivorsStudioTx.com, or reach out to them by phone or email with questions.

"The hardest step is that first one. Once you contact someone, it gets a lot easier from there," Kimbrough said.



The four used an activity with ping pong and beach balls to demonstrate how trauma builds up.

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ZACH FREEMAN | AZLE NEWS
Page McClure and Rachel Hardy are also therapists at Survivors Studio, and Maria Rivera is the office manager.

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First United Methodist Church of Azle, Texas

Easter Sunday Services

April 9th

7:00 AM - Sunrise • Church Parking Lot
8:30, 9:45 and 11:00 AM
Sanctuary and Hub

Holy Week Services

First United Methodist Church

April 6th Holy Thursday Service in the Sanctuary at 7 PM in remembrance of Jesus' shared Passover Meal with his Disciples.

April 7th Good Friday service in the Sanctuary at 7 PM. Tenebrae service of scripture and song in remembrance of the events of Jesus' final hours on His journey to the cross.

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BOOK REVIEW

“Who We Are Now” explores how we are doing after trauma of COVID-19 pandemic

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

Check in. Let everybody know you're OK, so they don't worry. Make a phone call, send an email or a text, just let them know you're upright and taking nourishment and you hope they're the same. Don't make them wonder; go ahead and reach out. As in the new book “Who We Are Now” by Michelle Fishburne, it's important today more than ever.

In many ways, 2020 was a massive year of change. It sure was for Michelle Fishburne.

Late in the summer of that year, she “found myself without a house, a spouse, a job, or a kid to take care of...” She was in her late 50s, and “everything was upside down,” so she moved into an elderly motor home with her dog and waited to see what was next.

And one day, it hit her: we all went through a certain amount of trauma during the COVID-19 pandemic. How are we all doing now?

To find out, Fishburne turned her home around and headed across America to ask.

In Washington, a response researcher pointed out that most of us figured a “global pandemic was likely to come in our lifetime,” assuming that time would be far

away. A mayor in small-town Arkansas watched as the citizens in his town pulled together tightly; others reported fierce support for local small businesses. People checked on their neighbors and “did a lot of talking about masks.”

Many Americans, though warned, were “stunned” at the speed at which things were shut down, canceled or indefinitely postponed, and how weird it all seemed. Some people caught COVID-19 and survived. Others didn't. Some escaped it – they still wonder how – and some thrived during that time, with better opportunities, more business, new lives, stronger ties.

We were uneasy, if not downright afraid. We were watchful. And we changed.

Said a senior living exec in Georgia, “You can't go through something like that and not be changed.”

For three years now, we've divided our lives as B.C. (before COVID) and A.D. (after disease). You're ready to go back to the way life was, you're ready to move on. But just wait: first, let “Who We Are Now” show you a different side of the pandemic.

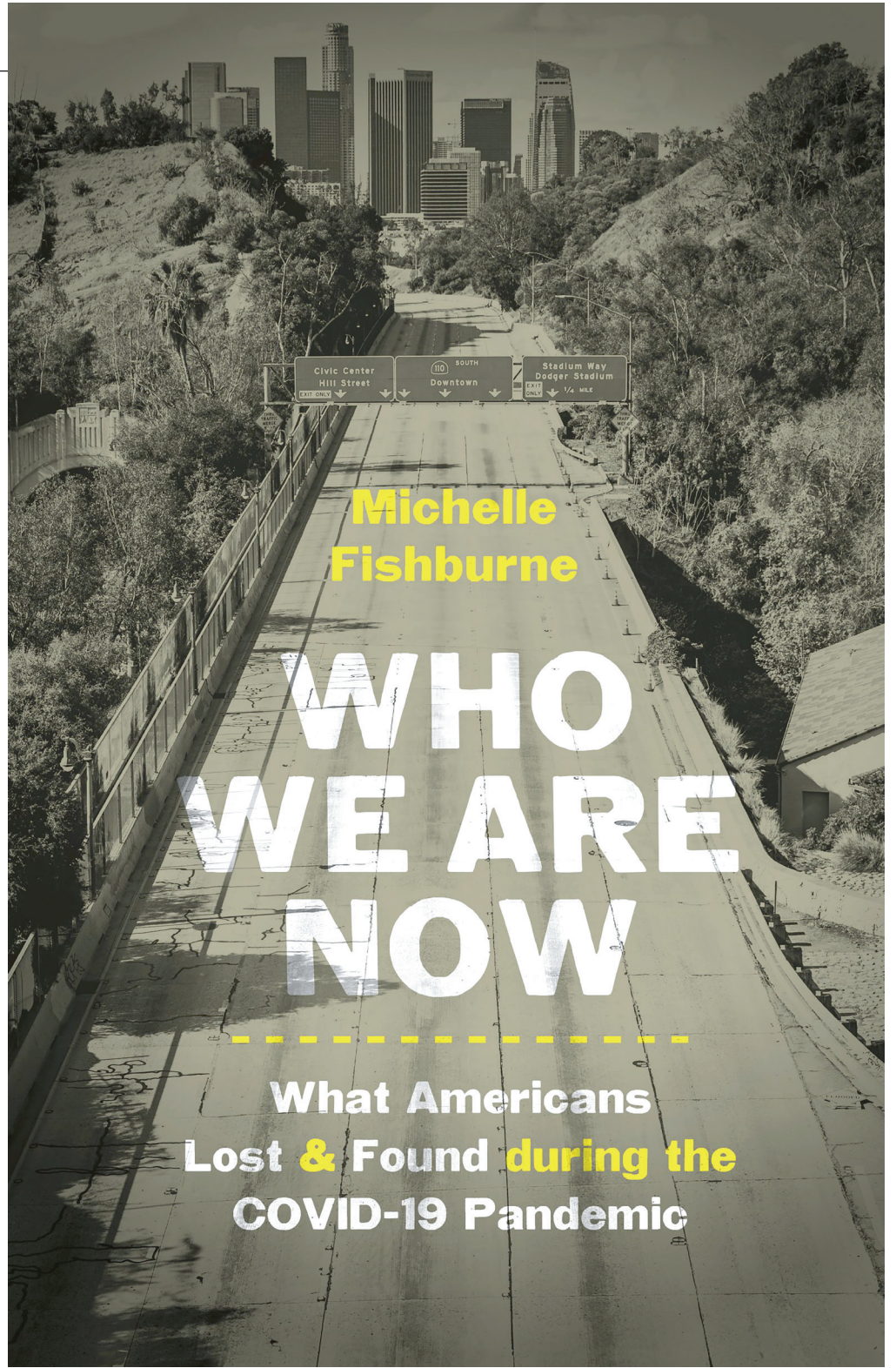
Absent are high-level explanations and technical terms here. Gone is the shouting, mistrust and argu-



Michelle Fishburne

ing. Instead, author Michelle Fishburne lets people just talk in her book. She allows stories to be told, recorded and heard, accounts filled with relief, heartbreakers, gratitude and happy tales that are shared with what seems to be a bit of sheepishness. Reading them – seeing such a wide collection in one browsable place – is like swanning through a new-normal-style social gathering, catching fragments of conversation from people just like you, eavesdropping on the most interesting before moving on to the next story.

Readers who believe they'll never forget the last three years may find “Who We Are Now” comforting in its ordinariness and everyday-people feel, and its lack of divisiveness. This is a book about you and everyone you know. Check it out.



Spotlight on BUSINESS

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Holly Chesney and Vickie Barry oversee the office and ensure that customers are promptly scheduled for estimates and service.

Richard Herrera, Josh Hunter, Ben O'Brien, Jason Tabb, Kenneth Bachelor, and Will Barrett-Fitch are all Texas registered and certified HVAC technicians who work to ensure that your heating and cooling needs are taken care of no matter the season.

Southwestern Comfort Air and Heat is a veteran-owned business that provides quality workmanship in all repairs, maintenance and installation.

They are part of the Better Business Bureau award program. All of Southwestern Comfort Air and Heat's technicians are background checked for the protection of customers and the community.

Southwestern Comfort Air and Heat offers discounts for veterans and first responders. You can get a free quote and discuss financing options over the phone.

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OBITUARIES

Jackie Smith 1936-2023

On the morning of March 25, 2023, Jackie Lee Smith of Azle, Texas passed away peacefully of natural causes. He was being visited and comforted by family members at the time of his passing. Jack was 87 years old.

Jack's family will host a memorial service on Monday, April 17, at 10:30 a.m. The service will be at Martin Thompson & Son Funeral Chapel, 6009 Wedgewood Dr., Fort Worth. Interment will follow at the Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery, 2000 Mountain Creek Pkwy, Dallas at 1:30 p.m.

Jack was born in the town of Farwell, Pennsylvania on March 17, 1936, to Howard Samuel Smith and Orlinda Margaret Stiner. Jack was the third of four children. He was born in the middle of the historical St. Patrick's Day flood where more than 100 people died. The doctor was called to the residence at midnight. The flood waters were rising, the roads were under water. The only way the doctor could get to the residence was by riding the towns yard engine, which was a locomotive specially designed to operate in the terminal yard, through three feet of water.

In high school, Jack was considered an exemplary athlete in football and bas-



ketball. He was the football team's Captain and quarterback. He graduated from Renovo High School in 1954. After high school, Jack enlisted in the U.S. Air Force on June 18, 1954, and was honorably discharged on March 22, 1963. Jack worked in the trucking/logistics industry for many years. Prior to his retirement, he was owner operator of a specialized flooring company, Amazing Surfaces.

Jack was a life-long exercise and sports enthusiast. On Christmas morning, 2022, he was showing his grandchildren how many push-ups he could do. He was also an ardent Texas Rangers and Washington Redskins fan.

Active in his church community, Jack, who, friendly by nature, shared the gospel with all he came in contact

with. He always had gospel tracts and a kind word to share.

Jack is preceded in death by his parents, Howard and Orlinda Smith, his wife Donna (Friese) Smith, his daughter Deborah Merkle, his brothers Donald Smith, and Pete Smith, his sister Marlene Davis, and his grandson Seth Smith.

Jack is survived by his children, Michael Smith (Yolanda) of McKinney, TX; Cynthia Smith of Simms, TX; Gary Smith (Terri) of Azle, TX; Cheryl O'Fiesh (Fred) of Davidsonville, MD; Kathy Lacey (Adrian) of Upper Marlboro, MD; and (Granddaughter) Amanda Weeks (Chris) of Memphis, TN, whom Jack raised as his own. Jack had 16 grandchildren, and 20 great grandchildren.

A special thanks to the staff and caregivers of Eagle Crest Villa, and Azle Manor. Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring...you did all of these, magnificently. Thank you!

The Azle News,
April 5, 2023 Edition

Camp Invention coming this June

Azle ISD offers students learning and fun over summer

ZACH FREEMAN
azlereporter@azlenews.net

This summer Azle students will have a chance to experience two weeks of fun and learning. Azle ISD will be holding special sessions of Camp Invention during the month of June. Camp Invention is a yearly event started by the National Inventors Hall of Fame and held at schools to inspire, encourage, and inform students on STEM and innovation. Normally the weeks' worth of events costs parents a minimum of \$260 per student, but Azle ISD is contributing enough money that Azle students can attend a week of Camp Invention for \$100. Because of these special circumstances, Azle's Camp Invention can only be registered for by scrolling down to the link posted under announcements on the Azleisd.net homepage

or through the Azle ISD Facebook page. The deadline for registration is May 1. The fun and festivities will span two weeks, June 5-8 and June 12-15. Week one will be called Wonder and week two is Fast Forward. Parents have the option to send their kids to Wonder, Fast Forward or both.

"Students with Camp Invention experiences show higher gains in creativity, STEM interest and problem solving than those with limited or no experience at Camp," according to promotional material for the event. "Over the long term, from one to four years after Camp Invention, there is even stronger evidence of growth in creativity, STEM interest and problem solving. Participating in Camp Invention during the summer will increase students' performance and engagement the following school year. Camp Invention contributes to better attendance, GPA, and test scores — three key steps to ensuring a child takes a college path."

Breanna Reed, Hoover Elementary teacher, will be director of both camps. Camp is held from 8a.m. to

4p.m, Monday to Thursday. Azle ISD students from first grade to sixth grade are eligible to participate. Leadership intern opportunities are available to seventh graders through high school seniors. Each day will host unique activities centered around business skills, planning, technology, engineering and science.

Mimicbot, Catching Air, Invention Celebration and Pop-up Venture are the first week's events. These activities range from bio-chemistry and physics to party planning. Students will plan and work with their peers to reach shared goals and they'll even get to bring some of their projects home. The second week will consist of Mod My Mini-Mansion, Robotic Pet Vet, Optibot and Stick to It. During Fast Forward week, students will learn about engineering, medicine, and some basics of coding.

If your child has a natural curiosity, is always figuring out how things work or has a deep-rooted love of learning, Camp Innovation may be a great opportunity for them to grow and expand their interests this summer.

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<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 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.silvercreekbcb.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 (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>
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Parker County uses tool to test fingerprint sweat for drugs in court

MADELYN EDWARDS
madelyn@azlenews.net

Before Dec. 6, Kelly Miller never heard of a fingerprint drug test. That is, until she had to use one and failed the test.

Miller, a former resident of Springtown, recalled going to a court hearing in November and passing a urine drug test but failing a fingerprint test at her hearing in December. The test analyzes sweat from a person's fingerprint for drug metabolites.

As a result, Miller said she was arrested, her bond doubled, and she was put on probation where she had to complete weekly urine drug tests.

Later, Miller failed another fingerprint drug test at a court hearing, and she requested to take a different kind of test to prove that she wasn't using drugs. She said her request was granted, and

she passed a urine test.

However, a urine test cannot be compared to a fingerprint test or any other kind, Parker County Community Supervision and Corrections Department Director Michael Stack said. It is possible to have a positive result on one test and a negative result on another test because the cut-off levels - which determine a positive or negative result - are different.

"You can't compare a sweat test to urine test to a hair test," Stack said. "You can only compare sweat test to sweat test if they're exactly the same."

Using the sweat, the test can detect if someone has used drugs in recent days or hours, depending on the drug, Stack said.

The fingerprint sweat drug test is used exclusively in court so that judges can call for drug tests to be done faster and more efficiently,



MADELYN EDWARDS | THE SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

Parker County Community Supervision and Corrections Department Director Michael Stack demonstrates how to use the machine that tests a person's finger sweat for drugs.



Stack said. If a urine test is called for, the defendants must be tested by a staffer who shares the defendant's gender, but there is no gender requirement for using the fingerprint sweat test.

"It takes on average 20 to 40 minutes to do a drug test. Well, if I've got a female of-

ficer in that court, and I've got 10 males that have to be urine tested, I've got to find other people to go up there. It's just not an efficient use of our time," Stack said. "So being a sweat test, the females can do it on males."

To use it, a person cleans their hands and waits 15 minutes, and then they press their finger on the cartridge. A liquid solution is released to detect the drugs or lack thereof, and the cartridge can be sealed to prevent tampering. Then, the cartridge is plugged into a handheld device to read the results.

The fingerprint drug test screens for opiates, methamphetamine, cocaine and cannabis, which is much less than the number of drugs that the urine test screens for.

"It's the smallest panel of

drugs we use," Stack said. "That's another reason we don't use it very often. It just hits the major drugs."

Stack said his department have been working on getting the finger drug test ready to be used in court for more than three and a half years. In this time of preparation, the test was checked for reliability and accuracy.

If someone claims their fingerprint sweat drug test produced an incorrect result, it is up to the judge to order any follow up testing, Stack said. Testing positive on the fingerprint sweat test does not mean that person will face a new offense.

Stack said the fingerprint sweat drug test is 97-98% accurate, but any test can bring a false positive result.

"They're just not as common as what people want you to think they are," he said.

MADELYN EDWARDS | THE SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

To use a fingerprint drug test, a person will press their finger onto the cartridge where sweat samples are collected. The cartridge is then plugged into the DSR-Plus to determine the results of the test.

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Azle News

Reno City Council tables action on resident's water line issues

MADelyn EDWARDS
madelyn@azlenews.net

A Reno resident who has been dealing with her water line breaking often will have to continue waiting for a resolution.

Jamie Cherry said she has about 1,100 feet of water line that runs from her property to the meter on Harris Road, zigzagging a couple of times into her neighbors' properties. The water line, which she said is buried shallowly, breaks about every week or more - sometimes by as little as being run over by a trash or delivery truck.

When the line breaks, Cherry has to dig up parts of the line until she finds the leak, which can be a lengthy process. She has also experienced more expensive water bills because of this problem.

"I work a full-time job, and it's kind of hard to go fix water leaks that you can't find and then spend the money to do that, too, and you have small children to take care of that have disabilities as well," Cherry said during the Reno City Council meeting last month.

To remedy this issue, Cherry wants the water meter moved to her property line instead of down the street.

In a previous article, former city administrator Scott Passmore said the problem with moving the meter is that the street Cherry lives on is a private road, not a city one.

Reno Public Works Director Chris Albright confirmed that the road did not appear to be

a city street during the council meeting. Albright said he looked at records from the city, Parker County and Tri-County Electric Cooperative, and he could not locate the easement where the water line is buried.

"Nobody has a record of this, so where does that lead to?" Albright said.

Cherry said during the meeting that nobody owns the easement; it was donated to the city years ago.

"Unfortunately, a lot of things were done back in the good old days where we patted everybody on the back and shook everybody's hand that now it's coming back to bite us because we didn't document anything," Council member Jody Works said during the meeting.

The council and city attorney said Cherry and her neighbors would need to find records of the easement and get it donated to the city. This may require the property owners to get new surveys of their land.

"I think the first step is to get the survey out and see if the property owners will donate the land for the city street and then that will get you your easement rights to put your utilities in," City Attorney Dottie Palumbo said during the council meeting.

If the city could obtain the easement and make the road a city street, it would cost between \$30,000 and \$50,000 to install a 6-inch water line and fire hydrant on Cherry's street, Albright said. However, the

city's water main on Harris Road, which intersects with Cherry's street, is a 4-inch line. Connecting a 4-inch line with a 6-inch one wouldn't produce the flow needed for a fire hydrant.

The council ultimately tabled action until the neighbors could be brought together to find the easement.

"I think we just are going to have to meet with all the property owners in a separate meeting and start getting easements so that we can get that road wider to get some services properly," Mayor Pro Tem Katie Tucker said before she made her motion to table the agenda item.

Cherry expressed mixed feelings after the meeting. On the one hand, she felt that there is not much more she can do. She said she discussed this issue with city council members in January, and they came to the same conclusion.

"They just said the same thing they said tonight, so not really anything any different," Cherry said. "So, I don't know what another meeting is going to do."

But Cherry still has faith that if she keeps working toward a solution, one will arise.

"That's all I can do is show up," she said. "I couldn't really influence much tonight but just being here and having them look me in the eye as they're doing it, it's not a 'no.' So, a table is better than 'no.'"

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



EXAMPLE A

NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND INTENT TO OBTAIN AIR QUALITY STANDARD PERMIT REGISTRATION RENEWAL

AIR QUALITY REGISTRATION NO. 54968

APPLICATION Pavestone, LLC, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for renewal of Registration No. 54968, for an Air Quality Standard Permit for Concrete Batch Plants, which would authorize continued operation of a Concrete Batch Plant located at 3215 State Highway 360, Grapevine, Tarrant County, Texas 76051.

AVISO DE IDIOMA ALTERNATIVO. El aviso de idioma alternativo en español está disponible en <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/air/newsroom/cereview/airpermits-pendingpermit-apps>. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For exact location, refer to application. <https://gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/LocationMapper/?marker=-97.091666,32.899722&level=13>. The existing facility is authorized to emit the following air contaminants: particulate matter including (but not limited to) aggregate, cement, road dust, and particulate matter with diameters of 10 microns or less and 2.5 microns or less.

This application was submitted to the TCEQ on March 13, 2023. The application will be available for viewing and copying at the TCEQ central office, the TCEQ Dallas/Fort Worth regional office, and the Mary Lib Saleh Euleless Public Library, 201 North Ector Drive, Euleless, Tarrant County, Texas beginning the first day of publication of this notice. The facility's compliance file, if any exists, is available for public review in the Dallas/Fort Worth regional office of the TCEQ.

The executive director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application. Information in the application indicates that this permit renewal would not result in an increase in allowable emissions and would not result in the emission of an air contaminant not previously emitted. **The TCEQ may act on this application without seeking further public comment or providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if certain criteria are met.**

PUBLIC COMMENT You may submit public comments, or a request for a contested case hearing to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below. The TCEQ will consider all public comments in developing a final decision on the application. **The deadline to submit public comments is 15 days after the final newspaper notice is published.** After the deadline for public comments, the executive director will prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. Issues such as property values, noise, traffic safety, and zoning are outside of the TCEQ's jurisdiction to consider in the permit process.

After the technical review is complete the executive director will consider the comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. If only comments are received, the response to comments, along with the executive director's decision on the application, will then be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments or who is on the mailing list for this application, unless the application is directly referred to a contested case hearing.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING You may request a contested case hearing. The applicant or the executive director may also request that the application be directly referred to a contested case hearing after technical review of the application. A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in state district court. Unless a written request for a contested case hearing is filed within 15 days from this notice, the executive director may act on the application. **If no hearing request is received within this 15 day period, no further opportunity for hearing will be provided.** According to the Texas Clean Air Act § 382.056(o) a contested case hearing may only be granted if the applicant's compliance history is in the lowest classification under applicable compliance history requirements and if the hearing request is based on disputed issues of fact that are relevant and material to the Commission's decision on the application. Further, the Commission may only grant a hearing on those issues submitted during the public comment period and not withdrawn.

A person who may be affected by emissions of air contaminants from the facility is entitled to request a hearing. If requesting a contested case hearing, you must submit the following: (1) your name (or for a group or association, an official representative), mailing address, daytime phone number; (2) applicant's name and permit number; (3) the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing;" (4) a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the application and air emissions from the facility in a way not common to the general public; (5) the location and distance of your property relative to the facility; and (6) a description of how you use the property which may be impacted by the facility; and (7) a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period. If the request is made by a group or association, one or more members who have standing to request a hearing must be identified by name and physical address. The interests which the group or association seeks to protect must also be identified. You may also submit your proposed adjustments to the application/permit which would satisfy your concerns. Requests for a contested case hearing must be submitted in writing within 15 days following this notice to the Office of the Chief Clerk, at the address below.

Following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for contested case hearing to the Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting. The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. **If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material air quality concerns submitted during the comment period.** Issues such as property values, noise, traffic safety, and zoning are outside of the Commission's jurisdiction to consider in this proceeding.

MAILING LIST In addition to submitting public comments, you may ask to be placed on a mailing list to receive future public notices for this specific application mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk by sending a written request to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION Public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address and physical address will become part of the agency's public record. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the Public Education Program toll free at 1 800 687-4040. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from Pavestone, LLC, 3215 State Highway 360, Grapevine, Texas 76051-4338 or by calling Ms. Brinney Mahmood, Vanguard Environmental, Inc., at (918) 641-5588.

Notice Issuance Date: March 17, 2023

<p>Concerned about someone with an addiction?</p>  <p>AI-Anon Family Groups Help & Hope for families & friends of alcoholics</p> <p>Meetings Mon & Fri 6:30 PM 229 S. Stewart St. (left door) Azle www.ai-anon.org azlesanctuaryafg@gmail.com</p>	<h1>Azle Area CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS</h1>	
<p>Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital AZLE</p> <p>Volunteers Needed TexasHealth.org/ Volunteer/Our-Process</p> <p>RAINBOW INN GIFT SHOP Inside Hospital 108 Denver Trail Azle 817-444-8651</p> <p>ATTIC RERUNS NOW OPEN! FRI 9-4 SAT 9-1 714 SE Pkwy Azle 817-270-3690</p>	<p>Good N.E.W.S. Living at Home Block Nurse Program</p> <p>Volunteer Caregiver Training Classes Classes open to public at no charge</p> <p>Caregiver Volunteer Meeting 1st Monday of Each Month at 6pm 817-444-2300 412 Commerce St.</p>	<p>Rotary Club of Azle</p>  <p>MEETS AT NOON THURSDAY 412 Commerce St. (across from Azle Post Office)</p>
<p>The Finish Line</p> <p>Addiction wants to destroy you & everyone around you.</p> <p>With Jesus there is Victory over addiction.</p> <p>GET BACK IN THE RACE!</p> <p>Meetings held every Friday from 7:30PM-9:30PM at The Church at Azle 1801 S. Stewart • Azle • 817-401-8513 www.ourfinishline.com</p>	<p>Faced with a DRINKING Problem? Perhaps Alcoholics Anonymous can HELP.</p>  <p>Daily meetings at Noon & 6:30 pm Sunday at 3 pm</p> <p>229 S. Stewart St. • Azle 817-332-3533</p>	<p>Azle Lion's Club</p>  <p>Meets 2nd TUESDAY 6:30 PM 412 Commerce, Azle e-clubhouse.org/sites/azle_tk/ Jamie Westbrook - president 817-550-7625</p>
<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 Meets Mondays 7 PM Azle First 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</p> <p>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 SE HABLA ESPAÑOL</p>

LIGHTS

FROM PAGE A1

home on State Highway 199 when he noticed the F-150 driver was following him. Amador turned onto Newsom Mound Road and saw that the truck was still following him, so he pulled over and let the other driver pass him.

Amador said the driver passed him and was driving in front of him slowly, to which he responded by turning on his bright lights. That's when Amador said he saw the F-150 driver showing him a gun and responded by flashing the red-and-blue lights.

Amador said he mainly uses the red-and-blue lights as a safety precaution in his construction work, though he said he used them once before in response to a motorist driving the wrong way on a road.

Inside the F-150, the driver threatened or insinuated violence to Amador several times, according to dash camera footage that the driver submitted to the Epigraph. Against the wishes of his family inside the vehicle, the driver refused to let Amador pass and continued to follow him. He justified his actions by saying that he was protecting other drivers from Amador.

Amador said he sped off down Sabathney Road to lose the other driver, but the F-150 driver pursued him to Ice House Road where the conflict came to a head. Amador said he saw that the other driver flashed the gun again, this time pointing it at him.

"The second time that he pointed the gun at me, I got really scared," Amador said.

"I didn't know what was going on with him."

According to the dash camera footage submitted to the Epigraph, the F-150 driver yelled, "I will put you through the windshield. I will (expletive) shoot you."

Parker County Sheriff's Office deputies arrived on the scene and arrested Amador for flashing the red-and-blue lights. The F-150 driver with the alleged gun was not arrested.

When Amador asked the reason for his arrest, he said he was told that he was using the lights like a police officer to pull the other driver over.

"I said, 'I know I'm not a cop, but he pulled on a gun on me. I thought he was going to get scared, and that was the only reason I turned those lights on,'" Amador said, referring to his conversation with the PCSO officers.

Amador has hired attorney Russell King, who said he is certain that Amador wasn't trying to impersonate a peace officer.

"If they choose to file a charge against him, I'm confident that a jury will acquit him of the charge against him," King said. "And maybe then they'll answer the question of why they would arrest my client but not arrest somebody that pointed a gun at him at least twice."

Impersonating a public servant is a third-degree felony punishable by two to 10 years in prison and a fine of up to \$10,000, Parker County District Attorney Jeff Swain said.

Amador's case was assigned to the 43rd District Court with Judge Craig Towson presiding, and the arraignment is scheduled for 9 a.m. April 19.

Comisión de Calidad Ambiental de Texas



EJEMPLO A

AVISO DE RECIBIMIENTO DE LA SOLICITUD E INTENCIÓN DE OBTENER RENOVACIÓN DE REGISTRO DEL PERMISO ESTÁNDAR DE CALIDAD DEL AIRE

REGISTRO DE CALIDAD DEL AIRE No. 54968

SOLICITUD. [Nombre de Compañía], ha solicitado a la Comisión de Calidad Ambiental de Texas (TCEQ, por sus siglas en inglés) la renovación del Número de Registro. 54968, para un Permiso Estándar de Calidad del Aire para Plantas Mezcladoras de Concreto, que autorizaría la operación continua de una Planta especial Mezcladora de Concreto ubicada en 3215 State Highway 360 Tarrant, Texas 76051. Este enlace a un mapa electrónico de la ubicación general del sitio o instalación se proporciona como cortesía pública y no como parte de la solicitud o aviso. Para conocer la ubicación exacta, consulte la aplicación. <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/air/newsourcereview/airpermits-pendingpermit-apps>. La instalación existente está autorizada a emitir los siguientes contaminantes del aire: material particulado que incluye (pero no se limita a) agregados, cemento, polvo de carretera y material particulado con diámetros de 10 micras o menos y 2.5 micras o menos.

Esta solicitud se presentó a la TCEQ el 13 de marzo. La solicitud estará disponible para su visualización y copia en la oficina central de la TCEQ, la oficina regional de la TCEQ Dallas/Fort Worth y el condado de Mary Lib Saleh Euless Public Library, 201 N. Ector Dr. Euless, TX 76039, Tarrant, Texas a partir del primer día de publicación de este aviso. El archivo de cumplimiento de la instalación, si existe alguno, está disponible para su revisión pública en la oficina regional Dallas/Forth Worth de la TCEQ.

El director ejecutivo ha determinado que la solicitud está administrativamente completa y llevará a cabo una revisión técnica de la solicitud. La información contenida en la solicitud indica que la renovación de este permiso no daría lugar a un aumento de las emisiones admisibles y no daría lugar a la emisión de un contaminante atmosférico no emitido anteriormente. **La TCEQ puede actuar sobre esta solicitud sin buscar más comentarios públicos o brindar la oportunidad de una audiencia de caso impugnado si se cumplen ciertos criterios.**

COMENTARIO PÚBLICO. Puede enviar comentarios públicos o una solicitud de una audiencia de caso impugnado a la Oficina del Secretario Oficial en la dirección a continuación. La TCEQ considerará todos los comentarios públicos al desarrollar una decisión final sobre la solicitud. **La fecha límite para enviar comentarios públicos es de 15 días después de que se publique el aviso final del periódico.** Después de la fecha límite para los comentarios públicos, el director ejecutivo preparará una respuesta a todos los comentarios públicos relevantes y materiales, o significativos. Cuestiones como los valores de la propiedad, el ruido, la seguridad del tráfico y la zonificación están fuera de la jurisdicción de la TCEQ para considerar en el proceso de permiso.

Una vez que se complete la revisión técnica, el director ejecutivo considerará los comentarios y preparará una respuesta a todos los comentarios públicos relevantes y materiales, o significativos. Si solo se reciben comentarios, la respuesta a los comentarios, junto con la decisión del director ejecutivo sobre la solicitud, se enviará por correo a todos los que enviaron comentarios públicos o que están en la lista de correo para esta solicitud, a menos que la solicitud se remita directamente a una audiencia de caso impugnada.

OPORTUNIDAD PARA UNA AUDIENCIA DE CASO IMPUGNADO. Puede solicitar una audiencia de caso impugnado. El solicitante o el director ejecutivo también podrán solicitar que la solicitud se remita directamente a una audiencia de caso impugnado después de la revisión técnica de la solicitud. Una audiencia de caso impugnado es un procedimiento legal similar a un juicio civil en un tribunal de distrito estatal. A menos que se presente una solicitud por escrito para una audiencia de caso impugnado dentro de los 15 días posteriores a este aviso, el director ejecutivo puede actuar sobre la solicitud. **Si no se recibe ninguna solicitud de audiencia dentro de este periodo de 15 días, no se brindará ninguna otra oportunidad de audiencia.** De acuerdo con la Ley del Aire Limpio de Texas § 382.056 (o), una audiencia de caso impugnado solo se puede otorgar si el historial de cumplimiento del solicitante se encuentra en la clasificación más baja según los requisitos de historial de cumplimiento aplicables y si la solicitud de audiencia se basa en cuestiones de hecho controvertidas que son relevantes y materiales para la decisión de la Comisión sobre la solicitud. Además, la Comisión solo podrá conceder una audiencia sobre las cuestiones presentadas durante el periodo de comentarios públicos y no retiradas.

Una persona que pueda verse afectada por las emisiones de contaminantes atmosféricos de la instalación tiene derecho a solicitar una audiencia. Si solicita una audiencia de caso impugnado, debe presentar lo siguiente: (1) su nombre (o para un grupo o asociación, un representante oficial), dirección postal, número de teléfono diurno; (2) nombre y número de permiso del solicitante; (3) la declaración "[Yo/nosotros] solicito/amos una audiencia de caso impugnado;" (4) una descripción específica de cómo se vería afectado negativamente por la aplicación y las emisiones atmosféricas de la instalación de una manera no común para el público en general; (5) la ubicación y distancia de su propiedad en relación con la instalación; (6) una descripción de cómo usa la propiedad que puede verse afectada por la instalación; y (7) una lista de todos los problemas de hecho en disputa que envíe durante el periodo de comentarios. Si la solicitud es hecha por un grupo o asociación, uno o más miembros que tienen legitimación para solicitar una audiencia deben ser identificados por su nombre y dirección física. También deben identificarse los intereses que el grupo o asociación pretende proteger. También puede presentar los ajustes propuestos a la solicitud / permiso que satisfagan sus inquietudes. Las solicitudes para una audiencia de caso impugnado deben presentarse por escrito dentro de los 15 días posteriores a este aviso a la Oficina del Secretario Oficial, en la dirección a continuación.

Después del cierre de todos los periodos de comentarios y solicitudes aplicables, el Director Ejecutivo enviará la solicitud y cualquier solicitud de audiencia de caso impugnado a los Comisionados para su consideración en una reunión programada de la Comisión. La Comisión sólo podrá conceder una solicitud de audiencia de caso impugnado sobre cuestiones que el solicitante haya presentado en sus observaciones oportunas que no hayan sido retiradas posteriormente. **Si se concede una audiencia, el tema de una audiencia se limitará a cuestiones de hecho en disputa o cuestiones mixtas de hecho y de derecho relacionadas con preocupaciones relevantes y materiales sobre la calidad del aire presentadas durante el periodo de comentarios.** Cuestiones como los valores de las propiedades, el ruido, la seguridad del tráfico y la zonificación están fuera de la jurisdicción de la Comisión para considerar en este procedimiento.

LISTA DE CORREO. Además de enviar comentarios públicos, puede solicitar ser colocado en una lista de correo para recibir futuros avisos públicos para esta solicitud específica enviados por correo por la Oficina del Secretario Oficial enviando una solicitud por escrito a la Oficina del Secretario Oficial a la dirección a continuación.

CONTACTOS E INFORMACIÓN DE LA AGENCIA Los comentarios y solicitudes públicas deben enviarse electrónicamente a www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/, o por escrito a Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Tenga en cuenta que cualquier información de contacto que proporcione, incluido su nombre, número de teléfono, dirección de correo electrónico y dirección física, se convertirá en parte del registro público de la agencia. Para obtener más información sobre esta solicitud de permiso o el proceso de permisos, llame al Programa de Educación Pública al número gratuito 1-800-687-4040. Si desea información en español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

También se puede obtener más información de Pavestone, LLC, 830 Brookline, Katy, Texas 77494-1702 o llamando a Brinney Mahmood, Vanguard Environmental, Inc. al (918) 641-5588.

Fecha de Emisión del Aviso:

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine and Malt Beverage On-Premise Permit (BG) by Fro-Zone Limited Company, to be located at 128 Park Place, Azle, Texas, 76020. Officer of said corporation is David Gonzales, President and Owner.

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800 High Crest Dr Azle, TX 76020

Holy Thursday, April 6

7:00pm Foot Washing & Mass of the Lord's Last Supper (Bilingual)
8:30pm-10:30pm – Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
(Altar of Repose in St. Francis Hall)

Good Friday, April 7

2:30pm Stations of the Cross
3:00pm Passion of the Lord Service
5:30pm Las Estaciones de la Cruz
6:00pm Servicio de la Pasión del Señor
7:00pm Novena of the Divine Mercy

Holy Saturday, April 8

5:30pm Novena of the Divine Mercy
8:30pm— Easter Vigil (Bilingual)

Easter Sunday, April 9

9:00am Mass Resurrection of the Lord
10:30am Novena of the Divine Mercy
11:00am Resurrección del Señor Misa

From one fan's perspective: Just play the game, let the referees officiate

This past week, I watched a little bit of the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament. One of the most popular sporting events in America, tens of millions of people tune in for the games because of the excitement, the upsets and the competition. It is one of the biggest wagering events of the year, and emotions run high among the viewers and the teams.

Me watching the tournament sort of brought me back to my roots. As a young man, I was a huge college basketball fan. Back then, few games were televised except once a week, NBC broadcast a national game with Dick Enberg and, I think, Billy Packer. We did get the Big 8 games (now Big 12), not aired live but rather the day following the game being played. Eventually, the Big 8 got it together and managed to get sponsorship so the games could be telecast live. I was a die-hard fan of anything college basketball, and lots of my Saturday and Sunday afternoons were spent with my



FROM MY FRONT PORCH

By Sam Houston

Sam Houston is a syndicated columnist and newspaper executive. He is also an author, actor, playwright and entertainment producer/promoter.

black-and-white TV watching college basketball.

Years later when I moved to the Dallas area, I got attached to the Mavericks. I loved Dirk Nowitzki and the style with which he played. The future Hall of Famer also impressed me with the way he handled himself on and off the court. Dirk was clearly dedicated to the team and winning, and those characteristics made him very appealing to the fan base. I became a diehard fan and had season tickets until I moved from proximity to the arena.

I still watch the Mavs, though I have lost a lot of my "fandom." Dirk has retired. The team currently has a great player named Luka Doncic who can score, rebound, pass, and has a feel

for the game that few players have ever matched. His statistics are remarkable and historic, but I seem to like the game less and less every time I watch. I wondered why I had lost my zest for Mavs basketball, and when I tuned in the NCAA Tournament, I figured it out.

In the old days when I played, the game was very structured and disciplined. As a player, when you committed a foul, you had to raise your hand so the scoring clerk could identify who the foul had been called on. If a player threw his hand down in a display of disgust with the referee's call, shook his head dramatically, or heaven forbid spoke out to the ref, it would draw a technical for poor sportsmanship.

My coach drilled in me that when a foul was called against you, keep a poker face and raise your arm respectfully and look straight at the referee. He advised that in such situations, the call had been made and would not be reversed, so there was no reason to argue with the referee or give him a word or look which could affect the next call. Was I ever the victim of bad calls? Once in college, I got three personal fouls in three minutes, and I didn't think that was possible unless you intentionally tried to foul! Yet, I still raised my hand and kept my mouth shut.

Watching the college game this week was like night and day from watching the pros. In the NBA, it seems like almost every player, on just about every call, must put on a big display and go and lobby with the referee as to why the ref made a mistake. Sometimes calls are so obvious that a blind man would know the call was correct, but still, players and coaches go

to the ref begging to plead their case.

Why has the NBA let this get so out of control? I go to games to watch basketball, not to watch a debate between players and the referees! It makes the game slower, and frankly, I believe it is a little symbolic of our nation as a whole. People seem to want to complain and protest every time authority asserts itself. There seems to be a real breakdown in taking personal responsibility for their actions when authority exerts itself, no matter how warranted that authority might be.

Authority is in place to keep the game orderly and insure fair adherence to the rules. It is the same reason the legal system is in place, the police, and our other units of governmental authority. Makes me wonder about the kids who watch the NBA regularly. Do they think they can debate with their parents and teachers like the NBA players do with the referees?

In this instance, NBA players are not very good examples, and one of the worst must be Luka Doncic of the Mavs. He has one of the highest totals of technical calls levied against him, even to the point of being forced to sit out a game as a suspension. I think Luka would find something to complain about if the game was called to absolute perfection. His behavior is a distraction and limits the fans' enjoyment of the game.

Thank goodness I got to watch a little college basketball this week, where the entertainment was in watching basketball skills instead of debating skills. Now if we could just get the coaches to sit down and coach instead of playing to the crowd and lobbying with the referee!

Thought for the day: A referee is a majority of one, and the sooner players and fans realize the completeness of his authority, the cleaner the game will be.

Until next time ... I will keep ridin' the storm out.

CARPET

FROM PAGE A1

in business in the Azle community and all the history that's passed through his store.

"My dad worked with me for about 20 years and my son worked with me for the last 20," Nathan Vaughn said. "It was interesting, when my dad worked here, he was an Azle grade from the 40s, every Wednesday a bunch of his old Azle cronies would all meet up here and they'd all be back here at this table. You hear all kinds of old Azle stories going on back there. Good memories there."

"Not everybody gets to work with their dad and work with their son and still remain friends," Debbie Vaughan, Larry's wife said.

Debbie said that watching people grow up has been one of the most rewarding things about operating for so long.

"You've seen people start as little kids with their parents now come in as grandparents themselves," she said.

The Vaughan's original store, located on Tenderfoot Trail before it was even Tenderfoot Trail, was bought from B.J. Clark. Larry's Carpet has been operating out of its current location for 22 years.

On being successful for 44 years, Larry said, "we were blessed, mainly. It took a lot of work, a lot of hours, a lot of consistent staying with it."

The entire Vaughan family thanks the Azle community for all their continuing support and business.

Nathan says Larry's Carpet will benefit from the backing and resources of a larger business and he is "looking

forward to learning a different way of doing this while staying true to the past as well. Larry's Carpet is still here. We're not shutting down. We'll still be able to serve the community like we always have."



COURTESY OF DEBBIE VAUGHAN
Larry and Nathan Vaughan when Larry started Larry's Carpet in 1979

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PUBLIC NOTICE OF TEST OF AUTOMATIC TABULATING EQUIPMENT

Notice is hereby given that the automatic tabulating equipment that will be used in the General/Special Election held on May 6, 2023 will be tested on April 12, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. at Parker County Courthouse Annex, 1112 Santa Fe Drive, to ascertain that it will accurately count the votes cast for all offices and on all measures.

Jenise 'Crickett' Miller
Parker County Elections Administrator

AVISO PUBLICO DE PROBAR EL EQUIPO PARA TABULAR AUTOMATICAMENTE

Por lo presente se da aviso que el equipo para tabular automáticamente que se usará en la Elección general/especial celebradas el 6 de mayo de 2023 se probará el 12 de abril de 2023 a las 9:00 am en el anexo de la corte del condado del Parker, 1112 Santa Fe Dr, para determinar si el equipo contará con exactitud los votos para todos los puestos oficiales y sobre todos los proyectos de ley.

Jenise 'Crickett' Miller
Firma del/dela Oficial



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Texas leads nation in jobs added

TEXAS LEADS NATION IN JOBS ADDED

The Lone Star State continues to lead the nation in jobs added with 58,200 new positions in February, bringing the state to nearly 14 million total nonfarm jobs, according to the Texas Workforce Commission. February also marked two full years of uninterrupted job growth in the state.

"The past 24 months of uninterrupted job growth show the strength of the Texas economy and ongoing economic opportunities for Texans," said TWC Chairman Bryan Daniel.

The state's jobless rate in February was 4.5%, which is higher than the national rate of 3.9%, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The highest jobless rate in a Texas metropolitan statistical area is 6.8% in McAllen-Edinburg-Mission. The lowest rate in an MSA is 3.0% in Midland.

RAINY DAY FUND HITS CAP FOR FIRST TIME

The state's piggy bank is nearly full. Comptroller Glenn Hegar predicts the state's so-called Rainy Day Fund, officially



CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders

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

the Economic Stabilization Fund, will reach its statutory limit by 2025, which is 10% of what is deposited in the General Revenue Fund. Rising revenues fueled by spikes in energy prices and inflation have filled the state's coffers, Hegar said.

"The revenue increases that we have seen truly have been historical and unprecedented. We have never seen anything like this in the past, and I don't think we'll see anything like this in the future," he said.

The state experienced record growth in tax collections in 2022 of 25.6% from the previous year, filling the state's coffers with a surplus of \$32.7 billion.

"I am glad to see that lawmakers are giving careful thought to how this tremendous asset can be best put to work for Texans," Hegar added.

SENATE PASSES BILL TO LIMIT GOVERNOR'S POWERS

The Texas Senate unanimously passed a bill to rein in the governor's authority during emergencies or disasters, the Austin American-Statesman reported. A matching proposal in the House is awaiting a committee hearing. The bill, sponsored by state Sen. Brian Birdwell, R-Granbury, would require the governor to call the Legislature into special session if the executive office wants to extend a disaster or emergency declaration past 30 days. Only the Legislature would be able to put restrictions on businesses such as those imposed during the initial weeks of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We must no longer allow a 19-month legislative interim to be leveraged against the Legislature, especially during times of emergency disasters that affect a significant number of Texans," Birdwell said.

Under current law, disaster declarations last 30 days but can be renewed by the governor. For example, Gov. Greg Abbott has extended a disaster declaration relating to illegal border crossings each month since May 2021, according to the Statesman. Abbott expressed support in his State of the State address in January for involving the Legislature in disaster declarations that deal with public health crises.

Retired teachers on average make \$2,100 a month through the Teachers Retirement System.

SENATE BACKS BOOST FOR RETIRED TEACHERS

The Texas Senate also unanimously approved a package that allocates \$4.7 billion from the budget surplus to increase monthly payments for retired teachers and gives a one-time bump to retirees over 75, the Statesman reported. The bill is now headed to the House for consideration.

The measure calls for a 2% raise for teachers who retired between Sept. 1, 2013, and Jan. 1, 2022, and a 4% raise for those who retired before Sept. 1, 2013. Senate Bill 10 also provides a one-time stipend of \$7,500 for retirees older than 75. The bill affects nearly a half-million retired

teachers. "This is a significant financial commitment from the state," state Sen. Joan Huffman, R-Houston, said. "Many TRS retirees have been struggling for so long. We needed to do this."

Boaters and anglers are also encouraged to properly dispose of fishing line, tackle and other waste to ensure it does not harm birds, turtles or other marine life.

BOATERS, ANGLERS URGED TO AVOID COASTAL ROOKERIES

Anglers and boaters along the Texas coast are urged to watch out for nesting birds during this peak breeding and nesting season, according to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Brown pelicans, roseate spoonbills, black skimmers and reddish egrets are among the birds nesting in dense colonies, called rookeries. TPWD encourages folks to watch out for these nesting birds so they are not disturbed during a sensitive time.

"With too many disturbances, an entire colony of thousands of birds may abandon an island and give up on breeding for the year, which can potentially lead to drastic population declines," said Trey Barron, a diversity biologist with TPWD. "When ap-

proached too closely by boaters or people wading nearby, birds are frightened off their nests, leaving eggs and chicks exposed to the summer sun, which can cause them to overheat. The abandoned nests also allow opportunistic predators like gulls and grackles to quickly swoop in and feed on them."

Boaters and anglers are also encouraged to properly dispose of fishing line, tackle and other waste to ensure it does not harm birds, turtles or other marine life.

HOUSE PASSES DIAPER, PERIOD PRODUCTS BILL

The Texas House last week overwhelmingly passed a bill repealing the state sales tax on diapers, period products, baby wipes and similar items. The measure now heads to the Senate.

Its sponsor, state Rep. Donna Howard, D-Austin, has tried for several sessions to get the measure passed.

"This bill provides an opportunity to help Texas families at every stage of life," Howard said Tuesday, as reported by The Dallas Morning News. The measure also exempts adult diapers.

NCTCOG Provides Free YouTube Drone Workshops

21 sessions encourage education, awareness, and skills development

March 30, 2023 (Arlington, Texas) - The introduction of uncrewed aircraft systems (UAS), commonly called drones, into the commercial market has given many people the opportunity to take up a unique hobby or new career. What was once a technology reserved mostly for the military is now being used by many businesses and governments to help with everything from selling real estate to enhancing accident investigations.

In the Federal Aviation Administration's 2019-2039 Aerospace Forecast, the FAA predicted significant growth of commercial drones. The number of drones registered for recreational use was forecast to reach approximate-

ly 1.4 million by this year. Moreover, by next year it is expected that approximately 350,000 UAS pilots will be needed.

Drone operators need to be aware of the latest industry developments, including best practices and even where to safely fly their aircraft. To meet the educational need, the North Central Texas Council of Governments' UAS Safety and Integration Task Force organized and hosted a series of monthly virtual workshops during the COVID-19 pandemic. The 21 workshops conducted over a two-year period are available FREE for anyone interested in learning more about drones, whether they have been using this technology for a while or

they just fly their drones for fun. The Know Before You Fly Your Drone workshops have been posted on the NCTCOG Transportation Department's YouTube page.

"Drone technology continues to evolve, creating opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to fly their own aircraft, whether as a hobby, for business or to help first responders make our communities safer," said Ernest Huffman, NCTCOG program manager, aviation planning and education. "NCTCOG was pleased to partner with many impressive professionals to help people understand the technology and how to use it safely and effectively."

The workshops cover a variety of topics, including drone types, use cases, careers, business opportunities and more. There is even a workshop focused on drone racing. Each workshop is



PHOTO COURTESY NCTCOG

The workshops cover a variety of topics, including drone types, use cases, careers, business opportunities and more.

guided by aviation and UAS professionals to provide expertise and career insights. To learn more about

NCTCOG's UAS initiatives, visit www.northtexasuas.com. To access any of the 21 workshops, visit

NCTCOGtrans - YouTube and find the playlist labeled "UAS Know Before You Fly Your Drone Workshop Series."

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LEGACY OAKS OF AZLE Easter Fun

ZACH FREEMAN | AZLE NEWS
Kids of all ages enjoyed a day of egg hunting and free lunch provided by Legacy Oaks on April 1.



The Easter Bunny himself even made a special appearance.



ZACH FREEMAN | AZLE NEWS
The Easter Bunny brought joy to guests and residents alike.

Azle News  **News**

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2023

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- Scan the QR code with your smartphone and fill out the form online.
- Drop off the photo and form at the Azle News office.
- Email to jessica@azlenews.net

Payment can be made when ordering online, or by phone with a debit/credit card.
You may pick up your photo at the Azle office after May 24, 2023

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EXAMPLE: Congratulations Kayla and Daniel! Continue to work hard and follow your faith at the University of Texas. We love you both! Love your parents.

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Silver Creek Elementary Field Day

ZACH FREEMAN | AZLE NEWS



Silver Creek held a field day on March 31 for kindergarten through fourth grade students.



Students got to show off their skills and athleticism in a wide range of events.



The events brought some students to soaring heights.



Activities tested skills as a team and at individual levels.

LITTLE Stingers

HELLO SPRING

April
Find words we think of during Spring.

U	N	S	O	P	R	R	R	H	H
S	A	K	O	A	W	L	E	R	L
T	U	F	I	J	I	V	M	I	M
H	W	N	N	A	N	D	R	S	J
U	D	G	S	L	D	P	A	R	U
N	F	Y	N	H	A	B	W	E	S
D	J	L	G	I	I	D	R	W	T
E	F	A	I	Q	R	N	Y	O	O
R	O	R	D	G	Q	P	E	L	R
J	L	E	A	V	E	S	S	F	M

BASEBALL
Baseball season starts in the spring. For the professional players, they get ready for the season in **SPRING TRAINING**.
Color the baseball player in your favorite team's colors.

Spring begins when the sun is lined up with the Earth's equator. This is called the **vernal equinox**.

Get Scrambled
Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.
PRLIA OLF SO YDA

Answer: April Fool's Day

Crossword Puzzle

1		2		3		4
5				6		
				7		
				8		
9						10

ACROSS

- All people
- Sink
- Dull pain
- Incline against
- Atmosphere seen from Earth
- Dedicated to a religious purpose
- 24 hours

DOWN

- Christian spring holiday
- Laid by a female animal
- Each year
- Unending time
- "Sun" in Spanish

Answers:
Across: 1. Everyone 5. Sage 6. Ache 7. Lean 8. Sky
Down: 1. Easter 2. Eggs 3. Yearly 4. Eternity 8. Sol

Did You Know?
THE FIRST SPRING FLOWERS ARE LILACS, IRIGES, LILIES, TULIPS, DAFFODILS, AND DANDELIONS.

How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Rain
SPANISH: Lluvia
ITALIAN: Pioggia
FRENCH: Pluie
GERMAN: Regen

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Run day, fun day

Azle Elementary students earn field trip to track meet



JEFF PRINCE
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The most devoted runners at Azle Elementary School were rewarded with a field trip to an Azle High School track meet.

On March 29, the top 49 runners from the elementary school were allowed a day off from school to attend a track meet at Hornet Stadium. The kids sat in the bleachers and cheered for their favorites under the watchful eyes of Paula Railsback and Andrea Pastran, physical education coaches at Azle Elementary School.

Students earned the privilege of attending the high school track meet by logging the most miles during PE class for the year.

When weather permits, PE classes run one day a week. Students are required to run at least one mile. The students' miles are logged during the school year using a run card with a QR code.

Collectively, Azle Elementary students logged

JEFF PRINCE | AZLE NEWS

The top runners at Azle Elementary School earned a day off from class and a visit to a high school track meet.

PLEASE SEE MEET | B2

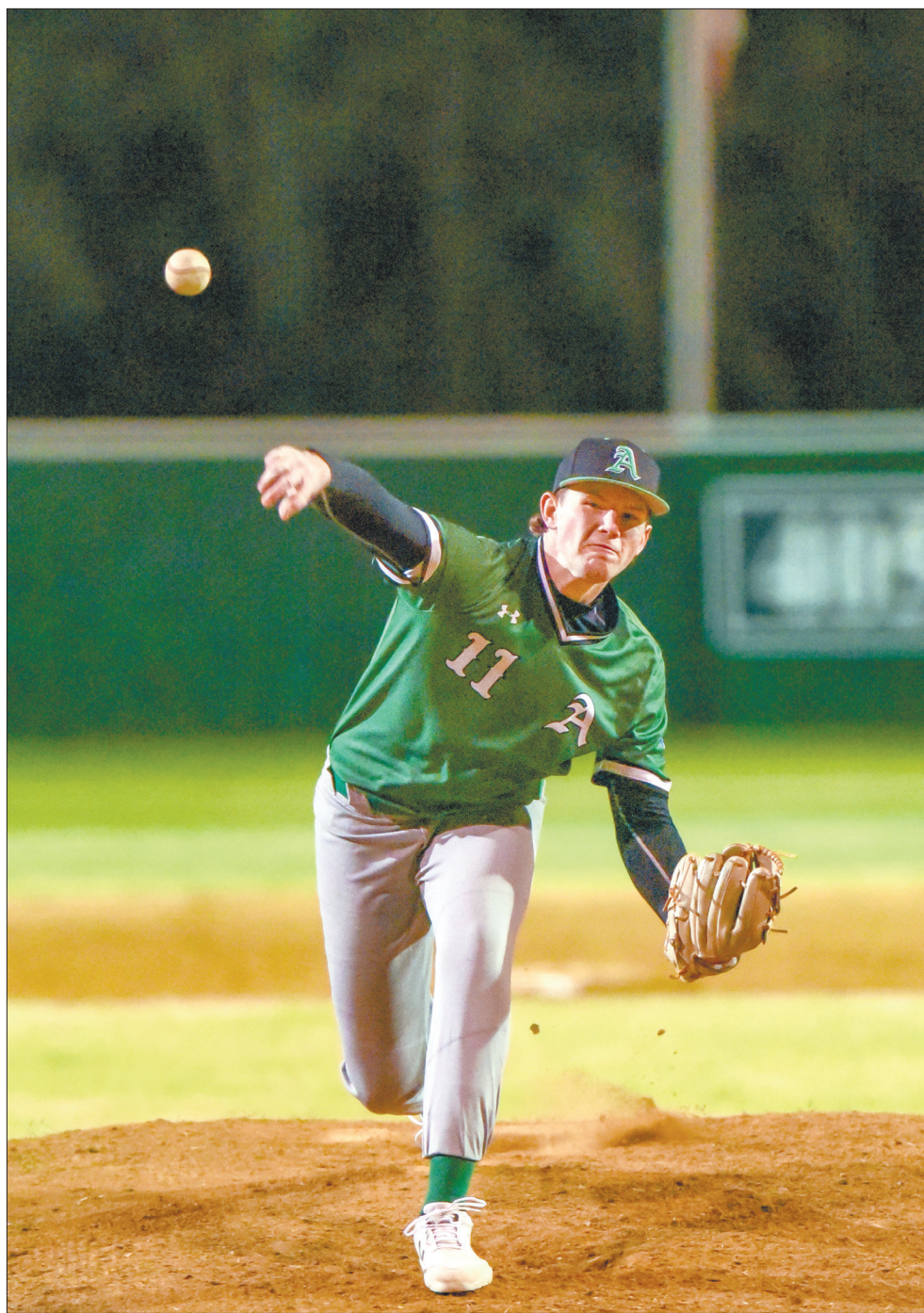


PHOTO COURTESY SAVING MEMORIES PHOTOGRAPHY

Jackson Davis pitches a gem against Northwest to fuel a 1-0 victory by Azle.

Hornet baseball splits two stomach-churners against Texans

JEFF PRINCE
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Azle Hornet baseball fans shouldn't have to clip their fingernails for a while.

Spectators most likely gnawed them to the cuticles during recent matches pitting Azle against Justin Northwest.

In the March 28 contest in Justin, the score remained tied at the end of 7 innings. Jackson Davis pitched well during regulation, striking out 10 Texans. He gave up only 2 hits and no runs.

Hornet batters, however, struggled against

Northwest's ace.

Goose eggs dominated the scoreboard for both teams as extra innings began.

Ethan Bissonnette stepped to the mound for the Hornets and delivered 4 innings of solid relief to earn the win. He allowed no runs and struck out 6 batters.

Hornet batters came through at clutch time. Delivering hits were Noah Lehr, Garrin Graves, and Tyler Akers, whose timely RBI in the 11th made the difference in the game.

Final score: Azle 1, Northwest 0.

On April 1, the teams met

again in Azle, and drama resumed.

Declan Dahl tossed 6 innings, relinquishing just 2 hits and 1 run while striking out 7.

The Hornets had a chance to seal a victory, but an error and a ball lost in the sun resulted in Azle allowing 3 runs in the top of the seventh inning. Azle put itself in position to tie the game in the bottom of the seventh but couldn't pull off the comeback.

Final score: Northwest 4, Azle 3.

PLEASE SEE BASEBALL | B2

Endurance

Long distance runners keep churning through pain

JEFF PRINCE
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Long-distance runners force their legs to keep moving back and forth, over and over, even as their lungs heave, their legs tremble, and every fiber of their being screams, "Stop!"

That's when they dig deep and push harder.

On March 29, five of the

long-haulers sat relaxing on the artificial turf at Hornet Stadium, stretching their legs while waiting for the Donnie Ostermann Hornet Relays to begin. It was morning, the weather was pleasant, and many schools had sent teams to compete. Boys and girls, as well as junior varsity and varsity teams, were included, and the field was busy with bodies.

The first race scheduled

was the 3,200-meter. The two-mile scamper tests the limits of athletes. Barak Geary, Parker Huffaker, and Jose Neri were set to compete for the Hornets.

First, though, the varsity girls would race. Azle's Berkley Huffaker and Reese Jeter, both freshmen, would represent the Hornets.

Making varsity as a fresh-

PLEASE SEE RUNNERS | B4



JEFF PRINCE | AZLE NEWS

Berkley Huffaker, a freshman on varsity, sets a PR and wins fifth place in the 3,200-meter with this run.



JEFF PRINCE | AZLE NEWS

Camden Logan comes short of stealing home plate on this play but has been tagging opposing pitchers with regularity.



JEFF PRINCE | AZLE NEWS

Crusaders pitcher Kelton Schott fields a bunt and prepares to toss out a Harvest Christian runner at first base.

Azle Christian continues to roll over baseball contenders

JEFF PRINCE
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Another baseball game, another walloping by the Crusaders of Azle Christian School.

On March 28, Azle Christian played Harvest Christian at Stinger Field, and the home team won 14-4 to boost its record to 12-1-2 in TAPPS 1A baseball.

The Crusaders have been scoring in a frenzy lately. During its last five games in March, Azle Christian scored 102 runs while allowing just 9.

"I am feeling real good about this team right now," said head coach Ryan Rollins. "We have got great pitching

so far and are hitting the ball real well."

He praised his team's defensive efforts, as well.

"The boys are on a mission this year," he said. "They work hard. A lot of people said we don't belong in TAPPS in baseball. We are out to prove to people, we can play."

In 2022, Azle Christian moved up to TAPPS from a smaller league.

The Crusaders have a strong senior class that includes Camden Logan, Drew Skartvedt, and Noah Rollins.

Skartvedt has missed the season with an injury but attends practices and games and mentors the younger players. The team includes

several sophomores and freshmen who have made major contributions on the field.

The Crusaders heard rumblings from a few skeptics after the team moved up to TAPPS, and the players are using those doubters as motivation this year.

"A lot of people last year said to me, y'all can't beat public schools," Rollins recalled.

The Crusaders are 7-1-1 against Class 1A and 2A public schools this year.

"We don't play 5A schools, but our high school enrollment is 45," the coach said. "We play schools similar to us."

Last season, Keller Harvest beat the Crusaders 15-1. This year, the Harvest squad used the same two pitchers, but Azle Christian won 14-4.

"We have come a long ways," Rollins said.

Two tough games are looming against district rival Abilene Christian.

"They are the big dog in district," Rollins said. "They run-ruled us in both games last year and have two pitchers that throw in the high 80s, but I think we are up to the challenge."

Azle Christian and Abilene Christian will play back-to-back games beginning at 1:30 p.m. Friday, April 7, at Stinger Field.



PHOTO COURTESY JO H PHOTOGRAPHY

Lindsey-Kay Reichert wins barrels for the second week in a row.

AHS rodeo wins team title second week in a row

JEFF PRINCE
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Azle High School's rodeo team members are fighting hard to entrench themselves in the top 15 of their events as the season begins winding down.

The top 15 contestants qualify to compete at the finals rodeo. Currently, 13 Azle members are in the top 15.

Three rodeos remain until the North Texas High School Rodeo Association Finals begin.

At the March 31-April 1 rodeo in Saginaw, Azle was named the high-point team for the second week in a row.

Senior Lindsey-Kay Reichert won barrels for the second week in a row. Hevenli Scribner placed second in barrels.

In ribbon roping, Sean

Bunero earned third place.

In walkup goats, Laurel Allred took second place, followed by Andrea Allred (fifth), and Skyler Moore (eighth).

Laurel Allred took seventh place in goat tying.

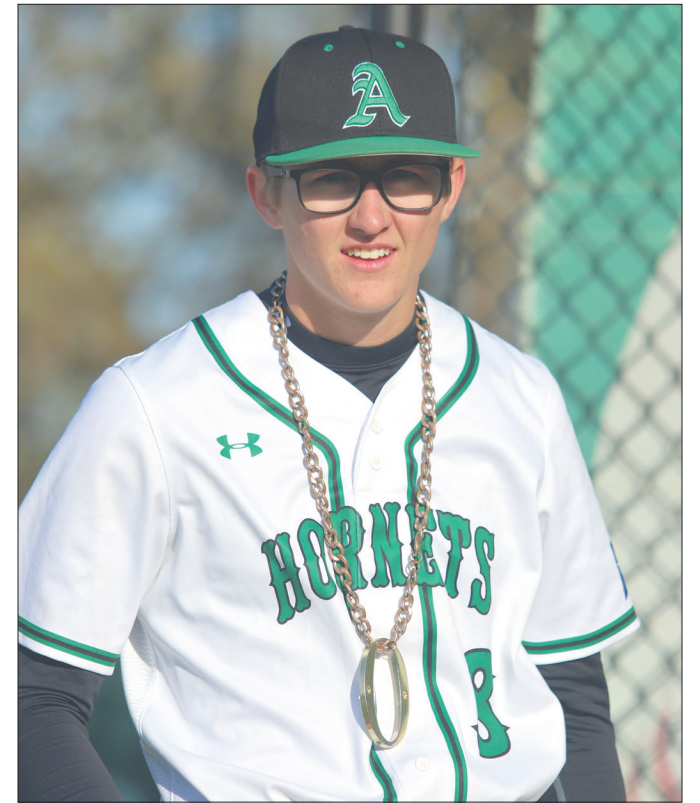
Second place in team roping went to Kasen Scarlato and Jesus Leyva.

Wyatt Allison earned fourth place in chute dogging.

Scribner earned third place in poles, followed by Laurel Allred (eighth).

Azle rodeo team's solid showing kept it locked solidly in second place in the team standings in the NTHSRA, which is composed of about 75 teams.

The next rodeo is April 14-16 at the NTHSRA Arena in Saginaw.



JEFF PRINCE | AZLE NEWS

Ethan Bissonnette wears the necklace that pitchers earn after throwing a scoreless inning.

BASEBALL

FROM PAGE B1

Luke Olmstead slammed a couple of hits for the Hornets. Graves, Grant Tune, Billy Spratt, and Ivan Perez added a hit apiece.

The loss moved Azle's record to 16-5.

Azle will celebrate Teacher Appreciation Night at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 6, at Jim Bob Nation Field of Dreams. The Hornets will face Stephenville in a non-district dustup.

MEET

FROM PAGE B1

more than 4,000 miles this school year.

The kids who earned their special day at the track meet include:

Allyssa Ambrose, Aaron Anderson, Everly Arellano, Reed Arnold, James Averitte, Gage Bailey, Alexa Baker, Jakoby Baker, Brayden Ball, John Baxter, Samuel Carlson, Camden Clark, Camdyn Cramer, Ryder Davis, Harris Dervisevic, Jude Gentry, Julian Gonzales,

Callen Green, Brayden Herfkens, Hailey Herrera, Addison Horner, Jet Hubbert, Sophie Hunter, Tristan Jones, Savannah Kerce, Gulliana Lardizabal, Joseph Leonard, Diego Madrigal, Daniel Martinez, Zachary McKinney, Eli Meitz, Kazdyn Miller, Kinsley Mystic, Martin Neri, Shylah Osborn, Devyn Peoples, Gatlin Reed, Eli Rios, Cash Roberts, Colt Roberts, Caylee Robinson, Emmanuel Sandoval, Owen Smith, Austen Smith, Kyle Stepich, Yehor Sviridov, Layne Van Slyke, Gavin Yarborough, and Lucas Yelle.

REGIONAL BOUND

Azle golfer Mary Shaw earns trip to regionals

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Azle High School golfer Mary Shaw has qualified to compete in the upcoming UIL Region 1-5A golf tournament.

This is the second consecutive year Shaw qualified for the event.

On March 27-28, the District 5-5A tourney was held at Sugar Tree Golf Course in Lipan, and Shaw finished as the first-place medalist.

The two teams with the

lowest scores from each district advance to regionals, and Aledo and Granbury earned those slots.

The top 2 medalists who are not on those teams earn the right to advance, as well, which is how Shaw qualified. She shot an 81 on the first day at the district tourney and followed with an 87 the next day.

Earning a trip to regionals is noteworthy. Shaw, a senior, is just the third regional qualifier from Azle in recent years.

Shaw has played well all season. On March 1, her foursome won first place at a tourney at Sugar Tree. On Feb. 14, she won the Buzzy Open tournament at Cross Timbers Golf Course. A week prior, she had won a championship at the Mansfield Tigers' 2023 Spring Invitational at Rockwood Golf Course in Fort Worth.

The regional tournament will be held on April 17-18 at The Rawls Course in Lubbock, home of the Texas Tech University golf team.



COURTESY PHOTO

Mary Shaw's senior season has been filled with victories so far, and she is heading to regionals to shoot for another medal on April 17-18.



Azle golfer Jason Merrill qualifies to compete at regionals

JEFF PRINCE
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For the second year in a row, Azle golfer Jason Merrill has qualified to compete at the regional tournament.

Merrill shot a 78 and 82 at the District 5-5A tournament to qualify. He will play on April 19-20 in the Class 5A regional tourney in Lubbock.

Merrill has been the top golfer on the Azle boys team and the only member to qualify for regionals since

2022.

As a junior, Merrill didn't play well enough at regionals to satisfy himself and was intent on returning this spring and improving his standing. He would like to continue playing on the college level.

"Jason's game has come a long way since he was a freshman," AHS head coach Brad Averitte said late last year. "He could always get himself around the greens, but now he is starting to get his irons dialed in. Recently,

we had a discussion about getting to the next level in his game. For Jason, that is going from scores in the mid-high 70s to getting under par. It is about up and downs. You're not going to hit every green in regulation in every round, so can you get up and down to save par? That is the difference...to go from mid-70s to under par. He's all in and has started to spend more time working on that exact piece of his game."

JEFF PRINCE | AZLE NEWS

Jason Merrill's chipping and short game helped qualify him for regionals for the second year in a row.

Azle tennis players medal in district

JEFF PRINCE
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Azle High School tennis players Emily O'Neill and Jacob Sparks earned medals at the District 5-5A tournament held recently in Fort Worth on the campus of TCU.

On March 28-29, teams from around the district met to battle on the court, with O'Neill earning third place in girls singles, and Sparks taking fourth place in boys singles.

The tourney concluded the spring tennis season.

Both players were members of the 2022 fall team that won a bi-district championship.

The 2023 fall tennis season begins in August.



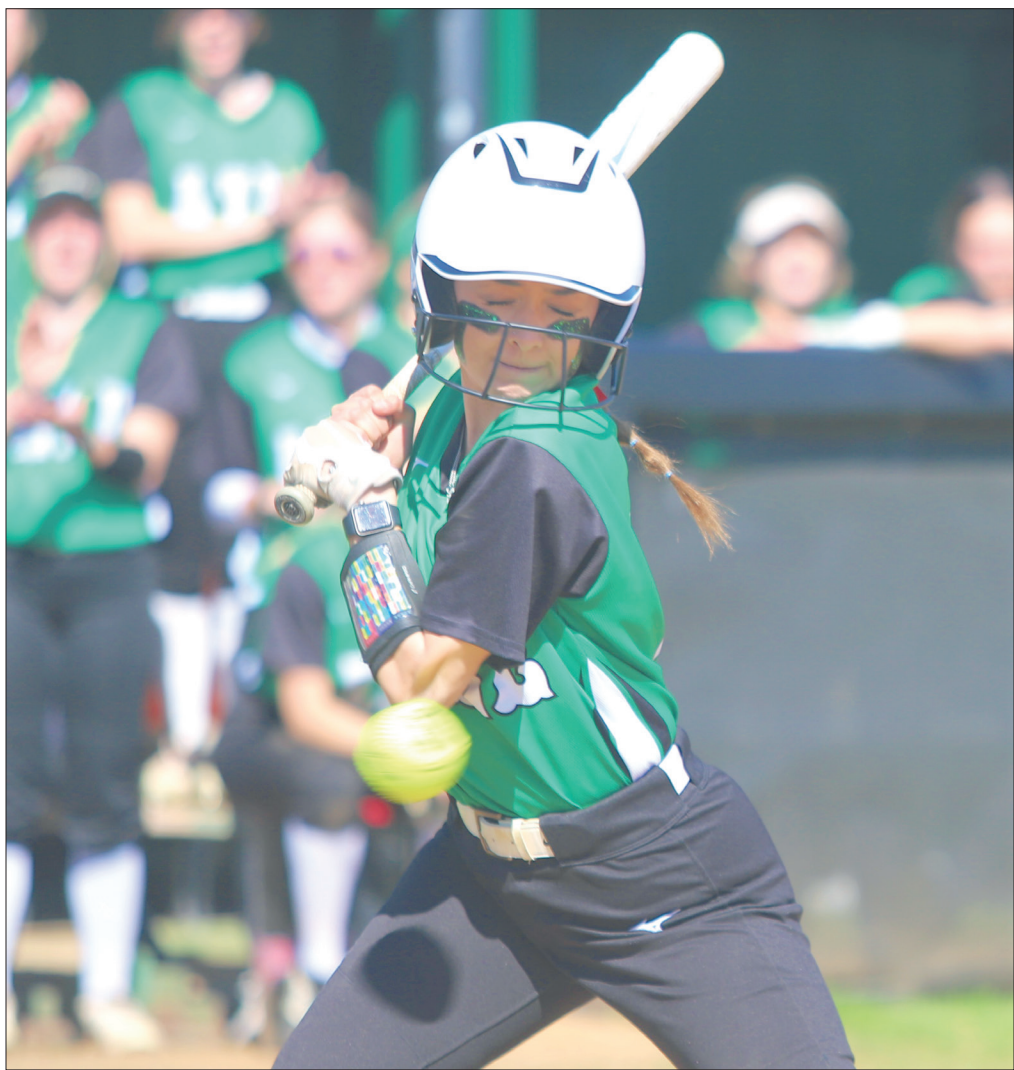
JEFF PRINCE | AZLE NEWS

Emily O'Neill won third place.



JEFF PRINCE | AZLE NEWS

Jacob Sparks won fourth place.



JEFF PRINCE | AZLE NEWS

Sierra Ramirez is hit by this pitch but connected with the ball twice to help the Lady Hornets defeat Granbury.

Lady Hornets earn 'huge win' in Granbury

JEFF PRINCE
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On March 31, the Azle Lady Hornets KO'd District 5-5A softball rival Granbury with help from a seventh-inning home run by Allison Smith.

Head coach Macy Pruitt characterized the victory as a

"huge win."

Smith went 2 for 4 at the plate, scored 2 runs, drove in two runs, and blasted a solo home run.

Torrie Johnson and Sierra Ramirez logged a couple of hits apiece on a night that saw the Lady Hornets collect 10 hits.

"Great overall team defense, as well," Pruitt said.

The victory was the second in a row against district rivals, as the Lady Hornets toppled Brewer 9-5 on March 24 on the road. Abigail Garner hit a home run in that contest.

RUNNERS

FROM PAGE B1

man isn't easy, and both girls worked hard while running track at middle school to earn their spots.

"Varsity is kind of hard to get to, but I'm glad I did," Jeter said. "Whenever I first started running in seventh grade, I did not ever think I would ever make varsity."

In the 3,200-meter, girls run around the track eight times. The first time or two aren't difficult, but each lap becomes more challenging. Jeter pushes through exhaustion by thinking of her reward.

"I just remember that as soon as I'm done, I get to go home, and I get a medal," she said. "I hang them on a metal hanger in my room."

She doesn't know how many medals she's won, but there are "quite a few I've piled up over the years," she said.

She indicated she felt nervous. Big schools were competing, including Burseson Centennial, Grapevine, Decatur, and several Fort Worth teams.

"A lot of people are supposed to be fast," Jeter said. "I'm just going to go out and try my best and have fun with it."

If she failed to place, she wouldn't beat herself up.

"I'm a freshman," she said. "I know I have three more years."

Teammate Berkley Huffaker began running long distances in seventh grade, liked the feeling, and stuck with it. As a varsity Lady Hornet, her personal record in the 3,200-meter was 12:28 before that day's race began.

She competes in the 1,600-meter, and runs cross-country, as well. All those events require pushing through discomfort.

"It's basically mental," Huffaker said. "You've just got to keep pushing through and ignore all the pain. Don't think about it. I try to keep my mind blank."

Her not thinking appeared to have worked. She set a PR of 12:18.56, knocking 10 seconds off her previous best and earning fifth place. Jeter earned seventh place with 12:34.21, and set a personal record.

BARAK THE MENTOR

Winding up his high school career with another win under his belt would be fine with Barak Geary.

He finished in first place in the 3,200-meter race at last year's Donnie Osterman Hornet Relays, and he was intent on defending his title.

His two teammates didn't expect to beat him, but they wanted to be like him one day, finishing among the leaders at races and earning a college scholarship.

Parker Huffaker, the older brother of Berkley, is a sophomore who began running long distance races a couple of years ago. This is his first year on varsity.

Running two miles will wear down a body, but the best runners keep going after their bodies beg them to stop.

"I know if I slow down during the race, I will be very disappointed in myself afterward," Huffaker said. "I really want to reach (Geary's) level one day. I'm very competitive. I don't want to lose to people."

After training alongside Geary this year, he learned that "90% of distance running is your mentality," Huffaker said. "At meets, I get completely destroyed (physically), but it's a mentality, it's being in the zone."

He doesn't place among the top runners yet, although he earned eighth place at a recent meet. He figures training with Geary will pay off, even after Geary has graduated and gone.

"Seeing what a great runner he's become makes me see a light at the end of the tunnel as far as my effort," Huffaker said.

Huffaker's PR before the meet was 10:43. His goal for the day was to beat his best time. He said he was nervous but didn't mind.

"I like to be nervous before meets," he said. "It gets my blood pumping. You get a lot of adrenaline, and you don't feel your legs getting tired."

Running with Geary and Huffaker would be Jose Neri,

a junior. He began running in seventh grade and discovered he had a talent for long hauls.

"I didn't take cross-country and track seriously, though, until my freshman year," he said.

Once he entered high school, he wanted to finish higher at races and win medals. He practices harder, and his times improved.

"I was putting in a lot of effort running on the weekend and sometimes after work with my dad," he said.

He works construction on weekends with his father doing grading and landscaping.

How does he keep himself running long distances, even after a long day at work?

"Many people hate it, but for me, it holds a special place in my heart," Neri said.

Pushing himself makes him feel good and keeps his mind positive.

"Running helps me focus," he said. "I'm staying out of the negativity."

When he grows tired during races, he thinks about "all the work I've put in for this run, and I focus on my breathing," he said.

After he graduates high school, he plans to attend business school and study accounting perhaps.

"I'm keeping my options open right now," he said. "Nothing is set."

What's certain is Neri will continue running for the foreseeable future and reaping the benefits. Before each race, he prays for himself, his teammates, and his opponents to do their best.

He might have prayed extra hard for his teammates.

When the race was over, Geary won first place and set a PR with 10:11.62. Huffaker set a PR with 10:34, almost 10 seconds faster than his previous best. He finished in seventh place.

Neri finished at 10:52, slower than he had hoped. He set a brisk pace at the beginning of the race and tried to keep up with Geary but fell behind halfway through.

Neri would have liked to finish higher. He wanted to win. Still, he ran his hardest, so everything was fine.

"I thank God," Neri said. "No matter the outcome, it will always be a good race."

BOYS TRACK HIGHLIGHTS

Besides winning the 3,200-meter, Geary earned second place in the 1,600-meter, finishing 1 second behind the winner.

In the 4x200 relay, Josh Montalago, Denim Fields, Jordan Ritcherson, and Jay Glaze earned first place, finishing more than 3 seconds ahead of second-place Centennial.

Parker Huffaker finished third in the 1,600-meter and set a PR of 4:50.72.

Montalago earned first place in the 400-meter race and set a PR of 51.37.

In the 4x100 relay, Montalago, Vance Guthrie, Tyler Ulrich, and Cannan Kaznowski took second place.

Tyson Shreier placed second in the long jump.

GIRLS TRACK HIGHLIGHTS

Azle runners posted the two fastest times in the 100-meter sprint. Raegan Williams won that race, with a PR of 12.06. Ashlyn Norton earned second place and set a PR, 12.31.

The Lady Hornets captured the top two medals in the 200-meter, as well. Jessie Heath took first place with a PR of 25.56. Rebecca Marx ran 25.69 for second place and a PR.

Marx took first place by outdistancing all competitors in the long jump. Paisley Jeter was close behind in third place.

In the 1,600-meter, Berkley Huffaker earned fourth place after setting a PR of 5:39.02. Reese Jeter was close behind in sixth place with a PR of 5:44.43.

In the 4x100 relay, Azle took third place behind the strong sprinting of Williams, Heath, Norton, and Paisley Jeter.

In the 4x200 relay, Marx, Williams, Norton and Ora Peabody won second place.

In the 4x400 relay, Marx, Heath, Heavenly Scribner and Emilee Norvell won second place.

Olivia Hernandez earned third place after tossing a shot put 29 feet 8 inches.



JEFF PRINCE | AZLE NEWS

Barak Geary shows the pain and strain after crossing the finish line in first place in the 3,200-meter.



JEFF PRINCE | AZLE NEWS

Jose Neri competes in the 3,200-meter race, the equivalent of two miles.



JEFF PRINCE | AZLE NEWS

From left, sophomore Parker Huffaker relies on senior Barak Geary for mentoring during practices and meets.



JEFF PRINCE | AZLE NEWS

Reese Jeter holds a strong pace and finishes among the top seven runners in the 3,200-meter race at the March 29 track meet in Azle.

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EVENTS
 New Braunfels Area Car Club Swap Meet, April 21, 22, & 23, 2023. Comal County Fairgrounds 801 E. Common Street, New Braunfels. www.newbraunfelsareacarclub.com. Free to public. Gates open at 8 a.m.

Texas Ladies State Chili Championship Cook-off, Sat., April 15th 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Max Starcke Park East, Chili, Craft and Food Vendors, Music, Silent Auction, Raffles, Family Fun! Judging begins at 12:30 p.m. Sign up to be a chili cook. https://www.tlscoc.com/registration.html. VisitSeguin.com. 830-401-5000.

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ACROSS

1 TXism: "if ___ any better I couldn't stand it"
 5 TX McMurry's "Lonesome ___"
 6 TX Vikki Carr's "Cosas del ___"
 7 TX Big Bopper's "Chantilly ___"
 8 TXism: "fits like hide ___ horse"
 9 monastery laypersons
 16 fed. ag. agcy. (abbr.)
 18 TX Vikki Carr was born ___ Bisenta de Castillas Martinez Cardona"
 21 TXism: "cooking ___ the front burner"
 22 LBJ took ___ on Air Force One
 23 "bidness" abbr.
 24 roughing it in Dallas' Highland Park? (2 wds.)
 30 tall beer glasses
 34 TX summer necessity (abbr.)
 35 Pancho Villa's birth name: "Jose Doroteo ___ Arambula"
 36 TXism: "___ as nails"
 37 Boerne's "Cave Without ___"
 39 TXism: "cold ___ cows give ice cream"
 43 Hitler followers
 44 an elderly Texan

DOWN

1 in Lubbock County on U.S. 62 and 82
 2 in Denton: Texas ___ University
 3 guacamole fruits
 4 withered, dry
 9 TXism: "out ___ killer"
 10 TXism for "relative" (2 wds.)
 11 word after "car" or "student"

45 TXism: "the tail ___ wagging the dog"
 46 Astro scores
 47 dir. to Lufkin from Comanche
 48 TX Willie hardware
 50 "going ___ fast" (making no progress)
 53 dir. to Trinity from Nacogdoches
 54 patriotic org. (abbr.)
 55 TX singer, Charley

12 "art" in Mexico
 13 capital of Iran
 14 ___ Joe in Delta County
 15 TX Roddenberry genre: ___-fi
 17 TX Dan Rather was this at CBS
 19 TXism: "you're dancing ___ field" (in danger)
 20 means of entering
 24 sodium symbol
 25 ___ City, TX
 26 TX-born Steve Martin film: "The ___ With Two Brains"
 27 17-down asset: "___ for news"

38 the Texas Seal has an ___ background (color)
 40 TXism: "howdy"
 41 TXism: "not enough to sunburn a horny ___"
 42 food canal
 49 UT teacher (abbr.)
 51 songbird
 52 TXism: "he'll never drown in ___ own sweat" (lazy)
 57 ___-turkey
 58 TX Sam Bass turned to ___ at the age of 23

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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

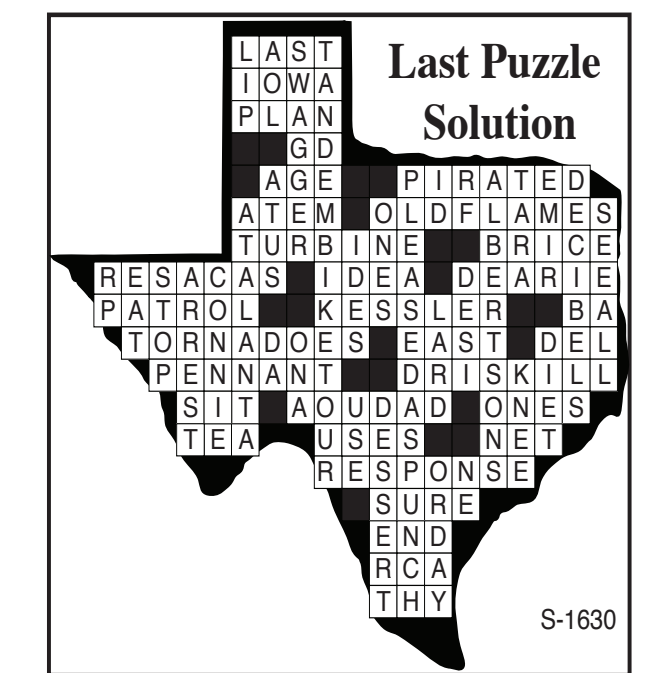
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Have a Safe & Happy Easter!



From Your Friends at
the Azle News & the Springtown Epigraph

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S-1630

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You can Sell your Auto in the same section. Call 817-270-3340 for more information.





Easter

2023

WEDNESDAY, April 5, 2023

Have you seen him?

GERRY LEWIS

We knew he was dead. "It is finished," he said. We had watched as his life ebbed away. Then we all stood around till the guards took him down. Joseph begged for his body that day.

It was late afternoon when we got to the tomb, wrapped his body and sealed up the grave. So I know how you feel; his death was so real. But please listen and hear what I say.

It was his voice she first heard—those kind gentle words asking what was her reason for tears. And I

sobbed in despair, "My Lord is not there." He said, "Child! It is I, I am here!"

I've just seen Jesus! I tell you he's alive. I've just seen Jesus, our precious Lord, alive. And I knew he really saw me too; as if till now, I'd never lived. All that I'd done before won't matter anymore. I've just seen Jesus and I'll never be the same again. I've just seen Jesus!

The above lyrics are from "I've Just Seen Jesus" written by Danny Daniels/Gloria Gaither/William J. Gaither.

PLEASE SEE **SEEN** | C2

Chocolate Bunnies



REV. TIM THOMAS

Rev. Tim Thomas, has been on the Staff of Azle United Methodist Church since January 2019 and is currently serving as interim pastor. Pastor Thomas and his wife Cindy live in Fort Worth with their cats, Greystone and Bashful. First United Methodist Church Azle, 200 Church Street, Azle, TX 76020

Chocolate bunnies, brightly colored and decorated eggs, plastic eggs filled with goodies, and the young and

young at heart in search of the "golden egg". These are

PLEASE SEE **BUNNIES** | C2

Azle Area Ministerial Alliance: It's not just for pastors!



FILE PHOTO

The 2022 Follow the Flag celebration in Azle was a big success.

From small and humble beginnings a half-century ago, the Azle Area Ministerial Alliance has grown into an organization that embodies the life of Christ in the community.

And, contrary to popular belief, one does not need to be a pastor or minister in order to participate.

In the beginning...

It was in the 1970s when the late Roland Earl, longtime pastor of Eagle Mountain Baptist Church, first organized the Azle Ministerial Alliance as a way to provide fellowship and mutual resourcing for local pastors.

Since that time, the organization has become a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and has grown in numbers as well as in its efforts to reach the Azle and surrounding communities for Christ.

THE AAMA TODAY

More recently, the organization rebranded as the Azle Area Ministerial Alliance in order to reach churches and other partners in the broader area surrounding Azle.

These days, the AAMA counts as its partners not



FILE PHOTO

The Azle Lake Run celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2022.

only the pastors of many area churches, but also Christian leaders in area businesses, banks and organizations such as the Azle Area Chamber of Commerce, Azle Independent School District, Eagle Mountain Pregnancy Help Center, Carter BloodCare, Community Caring Center, Good N.E.W.S., City of Azle,

and Texas Health Resources, to name just a few.

AAMA partners gather on the second Tuesday of each month for a luncheon and meeting. Fellowship is from 11:45 a.m. to noon, followed by lunch and a program. The location changes each month, and location information is contained in the AAMA's monthly newsletter.

To receive the newsletter, email your request to director@azlema.com or call (800) 200-4611.

OUTREACH EFFORTS

Thanks to tremendous support from area churches, businesses, non-profit and civic organizations as well

PLEASE SEE **AAMA** | C2

AAMA

FROM PAGE C1

as individual servant leaders, the AAMA hosts a number of public special events each year.

Since 2014, the AAMA has hosted Azle's National Day of Prayer Luncheon at 404 Main Place on the first Thursday in May.

Follow The Flag, celebrating its 30th year in 2023, is a Christian, patriotic celebration of America's Independence. The vision of Son Shine Ministries co-founder Lew Shaffer in 1993, the event was held at the Son Shine Ministries campus until it outgrew the event in 2005. The event was "gifted" to the AAMA, and draws thousands to Azle's Central Park each July 4th for one of the largest professional fireworks displays in the area. It's free to the public and features a family-friendly atmosphere, Christian entertainment, and free refreshments.

The Lew & Sandy Shaffer Award has been presented

annually since 2012 during Follow The Flag. In honor of the beloved couple who co-founded Son Shine Ministries and Follow The Flag, the award goes to an individual or couple who has exemplified the life of Christ in the community.

The Azle Lake Run celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2022. On the second Saturday of each November, runners from all over Texas and even the U.S. gather in Azle's Ash Creek Park to run in their choice of a half-marathon, 10K, 5K or one-mile Fun Run through scenic neighborhoods in Azle. Cash prizes are awarded to the top three male and female winners in the half-marathon; runners receive medals for finishing the other races.

Also in November, the AAMA hosts the Thanksgiving Day Community Meal. Largely carried out by volunteers from Azle's Methodist Church in the church's Hub area, the meal is provided free to anyone in the community, especially those who might not

otherwise have a traditional Thanksgiving meal.

One of the AAMA's most important missions is to support the college education of graduating seniors in the area who have exhibited a Christian example in their lives at school and in the community. Each year, the AAMA awards the Roland Earl Memorial Scholarship in honor of its founder. Since 2021, through the generous donations of its partners, has funded five (5) \$1,000 scholarships each year.

YOU'RE INVITED!

If you'd like to be part of a faith-based organization whose mission statement is "Christian Leaders partnering together with one voice to impact our culture for Christ," you can find additional information at www.azlema.com. If you have questions or want additional information, please email director@azlema.com or call (817) 200-4611.

The arms of the Azle Area Ministerial Alliance are open!



FILE PHOTO

Since 2014, the AAMA has hosted Azle's National Day of Prayer Luncheon at 404 Main Place on the first Thursday in May.

SEEN

FROM PAGE C1

The recording by Sandy Patti and Larnell Harris was released in 1984 and won the first ever Grammy for Best Best Gospel Vocal Performance by a Duo or Group, Choir or Chorus.

It is amazing to me that it's been 39 years since I was first blown away by that incredible vocal performance.

But what's even more amazing is the story it is based on. No event in the history of the world has been more impactful.

Or controversial.

Just think about it. A Jewish carpenter who spends three decades of his life in relative obscurity shows up for a three year ministry as an uncredentialed rabbi with the most scandalous teaching imaginable—he's the son of God.

More than that, he claims to be able to do things that only God can. He heals the sick. He forgives sin. He raises the dead. He claims to have existed before He was born. He claims to be equal with God.

He predicts his own death. And then says, by the way, that he won't remain dead.

So, who is this guy?

There are really only three options: (1) He's completely off his rocker. (2) He's a scam artist. (3) He really is who he says.

If he's either of the first two, he doesn't deserve to be admired or quoted.

If he's the third, then it makes no sense to not believe everything he said.

But, how do we know?

Because of what happened on that first Easter morning. He rose from the dead. He appeared first to a group of women in the garden near the place where he had been buried. He told them to go and tell his disciples.

Don't miss the scandal even of this—he entrusted the message of his resurrection first to women! Their message was "we've just seen Jesus!"

And his followers have been telling the story for 2000 years.

After his resurrection he said to one of his disciples (Thomas), "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

That's us. We see through the eyes of faith. And we are forever changed.

Have you seen him?

BUNNIES

FROM PAGE C1

all the trappings of Easter.

Please don't take me for an Easter Scrooge. I love all the fun and frivolity of the Easter season, remembering the days when my children and I would sit around the table dunking hard boiled eggs in pastel colors and using "magic" pens to add some unique designs.

I love the Holy Holidays and the secular ways we celebrate. The special times with friends and family, wonderful meals and the sharing of times and gifts.

But, as a pastor I also love where the Holy Days bring us. Where the stories of Jesus' life jump out at us through the word, telling us of God's love and Jesus' sacrifice for us all.

But the best part is where we hear the words, "He is Risen, He is Risen indeed."

These words of Faith, Hope, and Love, especially in these days of uncertainty are the bedrock of our faith. I love the fun side of the Holidays, but I rejoice in hearing the stories of that first Easter, and the Risen Christ and what it means to each of us. CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED! THANKS BE TO GOD! Amen!

Deviled Eggs

Something to do with your dyed Easter eggs after the egg hunt. Easter eggs should always be gathered within 15 minutes after hiding them and then refrigerated if you intend to turn them into deviled eggs.

- 6 eggs
- ¼ cup mayonnaise
- 1 teaspoon white vinegar or lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon yellow mustard
- ½ teaspoon salt
- Black pepper
- Smoked Paprika



Crack egg shells and carefully peel under cool running water. Gently dry with paper towels. Slice the eggs in half lengthwise, removing yolks to a medium bowl, and placing the whites on a serving platter. Mash the yolks into a fine crumble using a fork. Add mayonnaise, vinegar, mustard, salt, and pepper, and mix well.

Evenly disperse heaping teaspoons of the yolk mixture into the egg whites. Sprinkle with paprika.

Kick it up a notch: Add bacon bits, horseradish, green onion, and more! Chop the bacon and the green onion finely, then mix into your deviled egg filling.

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THE EASTER MESSAGE *What Makes Easter Worth Celebrating?*

DAVID SHAFFER

Dr. David Shaffer and his wife, Daniele, are Azle-area residents. David is director of Son Shine Ministries (equipfamilies.org) and has been a member of the Azle Area Ministerial Alliance since 1985 (azlema.com). david@equipfamilies.org | 817-444-3777

It was a humble birth in an off-the-beaten-path village. Like many in his area, he worked as a tradesman. Beginning at age 30, he spent three years as a traveling religious teacher, though he never journeyed more than 200 miles from where he was born.

He did not own a home or get married. At one point a large group turned against him, and his friends scattered. One of his closest friends denied knowing him several times. The intensity

of the situation increased as this innocent man in his thirties was seized by his enemies and put through unjust trials.

He was sentenced to die in a manner reserved for the worst criminals. He was mounted on a beam, literally nailed to a cross to suffer agonizingly before witnesses. At this point, his clothes were his sole possession, and his executioners callously threw dice to see who would get them.

There was no last-min-

ute rescue. This person died a horrible death and was placed in a friend's grave thanks to a hasty arrangement.

Life goes by quickly. A few people impact society enough to make history and are remembered. Amazingly, such is the case with this worker, preacher and "convicted" man.

The late James A. Francis made similar points about this man in a sermon he preached decades ago and then added, "... centuries have come and gone and today He is the centerpiece of the human race and the leader of the column of progress. I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever were built, and

all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned, put together have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as has that One Solitary Life."

To make such an impact, there must be more to this man than his simple up-bringing and brief period of ministry. In fact, his story transcends time. Christians believe in a triune God, a Trinity, which is God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. They are distinct yet one and have always existed in perfect harmony with one another.

When God created the heavens and earth, he also created mankind. The story took a detour, however, as man chose to go in a direction that turned away from

God. This decision impacted man's relationship with God because sin separates us from God. At just the right time, God the Son "took on humanity," meaning that he became human. God the Son's name is Jesus. While he was 100% human, he also remained 100% God - God with us, setting an earthly example for us to follow.

Jesus was like us, a human, but, unlike us, he never turned away from God the Father. He was without sin. When he finally told people who he truly was, many could not accept it because of his humble origins on earth. Even though he performed miracles, some still sought to kill him. What they did not know was that Jesus was on a mission to willingly give his

life as a sacrifice for the sins of mankind, to reconnect us with God. His motivation was love.

What makes Easter worth celebrating is that the dead man who was placed in the borrowed grave about 2,000 years ago was bodily resurrected. The massive stone sealing the tomb was rolled away, and Jesus walked out and appeared to hundreds before ascending to heaven. This is the story of Easter, and it provides hope to us all.

He is risen! He is risen indeed!

God loves you, and his Son's death and resurrection make possible a relationship with him that lasts forever. No wonder we call the message of Jesus Christ the Good News!

Stories of the Resurrection as told in the Gospels

Easter is a holy day on the Christian calendar that commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The resurrection of Jesus is described in the Gospels of the New Testament, which millions of Christians read every year, especially during the Lenten season, which is a 40-day period that directly precedes Easter Sunday.

The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John comprise the canonical Gospels. Each book can help Christians understand and connect with the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The following are passages from each of the canonical Gospels that help to tell the story of the resur-

rection of Jesus.

Matthew 28: 1-10
Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see

the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you.' So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them and said, 'Greetings!' And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.'

Mark 16: 2-7
And very early in the morning, the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre

at the rising of the sun. And they said among themselves, 'Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre?' And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great. And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted. And he saith unto them, 'Be not affrighted: ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him. But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said

unto you.'

Luke 24: 1-12
But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, 'Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man

must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.' And they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles, but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened.

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“Risen Savior”

1 Corinthians 15:14 - “If Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.”

ALTON DAVIS

Alton Davis - Pastor Community Bible Fellowship & President Azle Area Ministerial Alliance

The resurrection of Jesus is the at the center of the Christian faith. Without the resurrection of our Savior our hope of salvation is empty. What hope is there if our Lord is dead? If Jesus our Lord only lived and died then He is no different from any other person. The main reason God sent His Son to be born

in the flesh was so that He would lay His own life down for the remission of our sins, that those who believe in Him shall be saved from the penalty of death. Imagine for a moment you have a brand-new car parked in the driveway, it has been purchased by friend new from the dealership and parked in your drive

for your use. This car comes with a guarantee that if it has any failures the manufacturer will make it good as new. This car is symbolic of a new life that Jesus Christ has purchased for you and I; all that is required of you is that you have to receive it and nurture it, use it, and take care of it. Jesus Christ has already paid the price for this new life with His righteous blood on the cross and the receipt or the proof of the purchase is in the resurrection of His life.

Jesus has offered us a new life in place of our old life, a life that does not wear out or fade away, but a new life that will live for eternity; even when faced with death our life is restored through the resurrection power of God. Some might say that is absurd, that it is foolishness! Well, Paul states that is how people who deny the Gospel of Christ view His invitation for a new life. 1st Corinthians: “the Word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perish-

ing, but to us that are being saved it is the power of God.” Paul states that the Gospel, the good news of Christ, is the power of God. Doesn't that sound like something that you would like to have operating in your life? The power of God, the one that created the heavens, and the earth, and all its beauty. The power of God that created you and I, the same power that raised Christ Jesus from the dead. All that is required to gain this power is to be-

lieve in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Gospel being that God loved you so much that He came in the flesh being the Son of God and was crucified for your sins, and on the third day was resurrected from the grave and now His Holy Spirit lives within you as a believer. When you accept Christ as your personal Savior His power will keep you running, His Word will be your guidance, and His promise of eternal life will lead you home. God Bless you!

The significance of various symbols of Easter

Easter Sunday is a day when Christians across the globe celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Data from the Pew Research Center indicates there are approximately 2.4 billion Christians across the globe, which accounts for nearly one-third of the global population.

Though certain Christians groups do not celebrate Easter, many consider it the holiest day of the year. Given

that significance, it's no surprise Easter is steeped in symbolism. The following are some of the many symbols of Easter and what they represent to faithful Christians across the globe.

EGGS

Eggs might now be more instantly associated with Easter egg hunts for children, but the American Bible Society notes that eggs are symbolic of more than just fun for

kids. Eggs represent the new life that's symbolic of spring, which is when Easter occurs in the northern hemisphere. Christians view eggs as a reminder of the resurrection of Jesus. Interestingly, though colored eggs are often seen as a fun Easter activity for kids, the ABS notes that the tradition dates back to the early days of Christianity, when red-colored eggs were used to represent the resurrection.

CRUCIFIX

The crucifix, which is a distinct representation of a cross with Jesus Christ on it, is symbolic of the crucifixion and subsequent resurrection of Jesus. The ABS notes that the resurrection of Jesus symbolizes his victory over the power of sin and death.

THE LAMB

Jesus is referred to in the Bible as the 'Lamb of God'

(Revelation 5:6-14), so the lamb is another important Easter symbol for Christians. In addition, in John (1:29), Jesus is referred to by John the Baptist as the 'Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.'

EASTER BUNNY

Another symbol, like Easter eggs, that people could be forgiven for mistaking as purely secular, the Easter Bunny is not entirely separate

from the spiritual meaning of the holiday. As noted, Easter, even though it's a moveable feast, takes place in spring in the northern hemisphere each year. Spring is symbolic of rebirth, and the hare was a symbol of fertility among the ancient pagans. The spirit of rebirth associated with rabbits, particularly in spring, also is reminiscent of the resurrection of Jesus from his tomb.

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A cosmic' Easter meditation

PHOTO COURTESY NASA

This landscape of "mountains" and "valleys" speckled with glittering stars is actually the edge of a nearby, young, star-forming region called NGC 3324 in the Carina Nebula. Captured in infrared light by NASA's new James Webb Space Telescope, this image reveals for the first time previously invisible areas of star birth. Called the Cosmic Cliffs, Webb's seemingly three-dimensional picture looks like craggy mountains on a moonlit evening. In reality, it is the edge of the giant, gaseous cavity within NGC 3324, and the tallest "peaks" in this image are about 7 light-years high. The cavernous area has been carved from the nebula by the intense ultraviolet radiation and stellar winds from extremely massive, hot, young stars located in the center of the bubble, above the area shown in this image.

PERRIANNE BROWNBAC

Perrienne Brownback serves as co-pastor of The Abbey Church along with her husband, Paul. Her messages often reflect her background in science and love for God's creation.

This Easter many believers will exchange the greetings: "He is risen!" and "He is risen indeed!" The Scriptural source of the "indeed" (Luke 24:34) contains one of my favorite Greek words, ontos, which specifically means to "really exist" or "exist as reality." It is almost like using the phrase "really real," which no English teacher would permit, but some-

how the resurrection seems to call for it! Let's face it: like the disciples of old, our minds also balk because we are so much more familiar with death than we are its complete reversal! We need to hear ourselves declare, "He is risen indeed," or "The resurrection of Jesus--on our behalf--is REALLY REAL!"

We need to shift the Easter story from the sentimental

past to the vibrant present, and I have discovered an unexpected metaphor from the heavens above! Please go with me for a moment on a thought-journey not related to Easter so that we can return to the cross with fresh eyes and an increased sense that its implications are REALLY REAL!

Since July of 2022, NASA professionals and backyard astronomers have been amazed by the images from space that have been transmitted by the new James Webb Space Telescope. Launched on Christmas day of 2021, a time when the earth below desperately needed a

new view, the James Webb excels beyond its predecessor Hubble because of its ability to see and capture amazing detail. Because of its use of infra-red light, rather than the visible and UV light used by Hubble, James Webb can see through the cosmic dust in space that obscured Hubble's views! It is hard to overstate the excitement this has generated. Already, James Webb has sent back photos that scientists are calling revolutionary. Many have even said James Webb will cause us to "rethink our cosmology," and admit that some modern conclusions about the universe might be wrong!

The spiritual analogy is beautiful because dust in the Scriptures represents humanity and the frailty of human life, including our strongly held opinions! We need the kind of light that will pierce the dust of human thinking, revealing the detail of God's personalized love for us! The resurrection of Jesus has the potential to move our viewing window of God from DUST to DETAIL!

Perhaps your experience of the cross has been obscured by the dust of guilt, shame, and doubt. Or are you clouded by performance-orientation and a sense of striving that keeps you from resting

in God's goodness? Our view of Easter has often remained Hubble-like! But the cross itself has the power to pierce those dust clouds! Yes, we are human, but Jesus' resurrection shouts that no longer does our humanity have to imprison our experience! God's love for us was made visible in the cross and can guide us into a revolutionary rethink of our limiting conclusions!

This Easter, why not let there be a mighty "INDEED" added to your, "He is risen!" Let the marvelous resurrection itself become your upgraded lens to God's goodness!

Why is Easter Sunday such an important Christian holiday?

Christians around the world fill church pews on Easter Sunday to participate in one of the most holy and important celebrations of the liturgical year. Although every Sunday presents opportunities to share in the word of God, Easter Sunday is an especially significant date on the Christian calendar.

Each Easter, Christians celebrate the miracle of Christ's defeat over death through his resurrection and ascension to his father's side in heaven. However awe-inspiring, Easter is much more than this event and its retelling. Easter actually is the core of the Christian religion as

it has come to be known, including inspiring the rituals and teachings that have been shared for nearly 2,000 years. Without the events that unfolded during Holy Week, the Christian faith would not exist as it was prophesied. Christ's selfless sacrifice on the cross for others' sins, as well as his miraculous resurrection, are the anchors upon which all of Christianity has been built.

In 1 Corinthians 15:17, St. Paul wrote, "And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins." Pope Benedict XVI similarly summarized St. Paul's words, indicating

that if the resurrection were taken away, it may be possible to piece together ideas about God and men, but the Christian faith would be 'dead.' In his book, Jesus of Nazareth, Pope Benedict further wrote, 'Jesus would be a failed religious leader; he would then remain purely human, and his authority would extend only so far as his message is of interest to us.'

According to Christianity.com, Easter is part of the redemptive plan of mankind. It is worthy of celebration because it proved to people that Jesus is the Son of God. This gives Christians confidence that there is life after death,

and they will have the same power working in them that raised Jesus from the dead.

Out of Holy Week and Easter also came the start of Christian masses. On Holy Thursday, Jesus introduced his disciples to the bread that they ate at the Last Supper as 'his body' and the wine as 'his blood.' This would serve as the basis for the Christian celebration of Holy Communion, which remains a vital component of the faith and religious services.

Easter is a significant date on the Christian calendar that inspires Christians across the globe to celebrate their faith.



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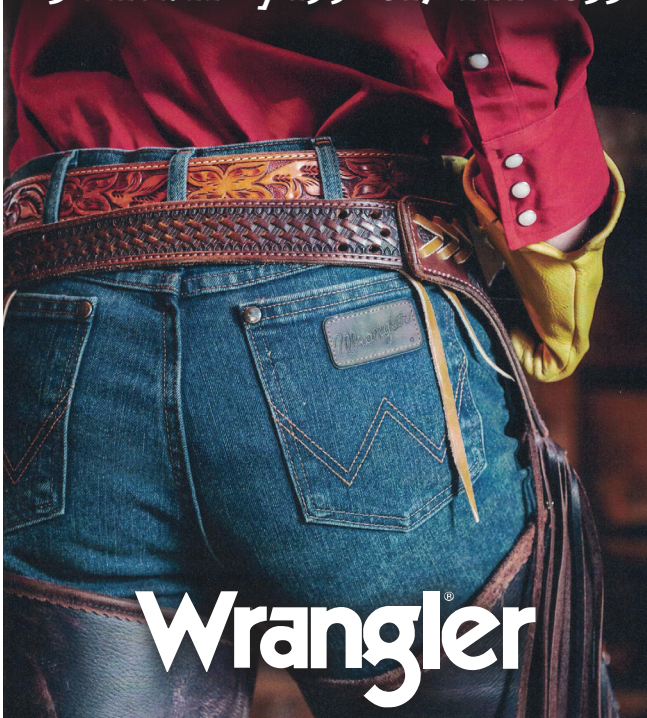
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Too Good to Be True?

DR. G. WESLEY SHOTWELL

Wesley Shotwell is the pastor of Ash Creek Baptist Church in Azle. He recently celebrated his 25th anniversary at the church. He is married to Margie, a 3rd grade teacher for Azle ISD. They have two adult sons.

Would you be surprised if someone in the cemetery rose from the dead? I would be. I have presided over hundreds of funerals and have yet to see someone come back to life. If it happened, I would be so surprised that after I got out of the hospital from my heart attack, I would tell everyone I knew that I saw a dead person get up from the grave. I would also be surprised if anyone believed me!

Yet every year we gather in our churches because we believe someone rose from the grave. And we are no longer surprised about it! We will sing about it. We will hear sermons about it. When we hear the message of resurrection we are not surprised. We have been hearing that message for years.

The gospel of Luke tells us that Mary Magdalene and some other women were very surprised when they arrived at the tomb of Jesus. The stone was rolled away,

the tomb was empty, and two men in dazzling clothes showed up. They were so astonished they fell to the ground in terror! But I would be surprised if anyone falls to the ground in terror at church this year because they are surprised. We have been going to church for a long time on Easter and we are no longer surprised that Jesus is not in his grave.

But maybe we ought to be. It is astonishing that Jesus died, was buried, and rose from the grave! Since when did resurrection become so commonplace that we are no longer astonished by it? Maybe Easter has become such a cultural habit that we come to this annual event with no more astonishment than the Fourth of July or Labor Day. Maybe we have sung "Up from the Grave He Arose" so many times we just got used to it.

Or, maybe we decided that resurrection is just too good

to be true. I know, we gather every Easter Sunday and tell the story to ourselves again and again until we are no longer surprised by it, but do we really believe it? Is it too good to be true?

But what if... what if it really is true? I read a story about a boy who many years ago was a great fan of both Captain Kangaroo and Mister Rogers. This little boy watched both of their TV shows faithfully and one day it was announced that Mister Rogers would be paying a visit to the Captain Kangaroo show. The boy couldn't believe it! Both of his heroes would be together on the same show! Every morning the boy would ask his parents, "Is today the day when Mister Rogers will be on Captain Kangaroo?" Finally, the day arrived and the whole family gathered around the television. There they were, Mister Rogers and Captain Kangaroo together. The boy



PHOTO COURTESY THE FRED ROGERS COMPANY

Mr. Rogers on the set of the Captain Kangaroo show, 1970

watched for a few minutes and then surprisingly left the room with tears streaming down his face. His father followed him and asked, "What's wrong son?" The boy

looked up at his dad, "It's just too good to be true," the boy said. "It's just too good to be true." Maybe that is it. Maybe an empty tomb, the story of resurrection, God's victory

over death, maybe we have decided it is just too good to be true. But what if... what if it really is true? I know. It is astonishing.

6 Easter egg coloring tips

Coloring Easter eggs is a time-honored tradition dating back more than 2,500 years. There is evidence that people living in the ancient settlement of Trypillia dyed eggs. Ancient Persians also were believed to paint eggs for Nowruz (Persian New Year).

Christians adopted similar traditions to symbolize aspects of the Easter story. Originally Christians dyed eggs red to represent the blood of Jesus Christ that was shed on the cross,

according to Chase Oaks Church. Good Housekeeping reports early Christian missionaries adapted the dying tradition to include more egg colors to represent different aspects of the Easter story. Yellow represented the resurrection, blue represented love and red remained a symbol of Christ's blood.

Whether families dye eggs to symbolize the Easter miracle or simply for fun, the following are some coloring tips to enhance the process.

1. Prevent cracked eggs.

Most colored eggs are hard-boiled. To prevent cracking during the boiling process, add a teaspoon of vinegar and a tablespoon of salt to the boiling water. Additional anti-cracking measures include rubbing half a lemon on each shell before boiling.

2. Boil eggs and cool completely. It takes roughly 10 minutes to hard-boil an egg. Fill a pot with enough water to submerge the eggs, then bring it to a boil over medium-high heat. Gently lower the eggs into the water with a

slotted spoon. Cover, reduce the heat to a simmer, and cook for 10 minutes. Drain the eggs and cool in a bowl of water or run under cold tap water.

3. Don't forget the vinegar. Whether you use colored dye tablets or drops of food coloring from the pantry, use a mix of water and vinegar in the coloring solution. According to Education.com, food coloring is an acid dye and bonds using hydrogen. This chemical process only works in an acidic environ-

ment. Vinegar is added to water to make it more acidic and help the dyes adhere more strongly to the eggs and produce brighter colors.

4. Stick to white eggs. Stores sell both brown and white eggs. The species of chicken determines whether the eggs will be white or brown. When coloring eggs, it might be better to purchase white eggs, as the dyes will show up more vividly on the white shells.

5. Create distinctive designs. By covering portions of

the bare eggs before dipping into color, people can create unique designs. Things like masking tape, rubber bands, wax (or crayons), and even twine can be used. The dye will only take on the uncovered areas, leaving white behind.

6. Dyes are not the only way to color eggs. Everything from watercolor paint to acrylics to decoupage can be used to cover eggs in vivid colors. Egg decorators also can use colored yarns, fabric or stickers.



METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

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