

Rock for a cause at Pigstock

Yearly Azle music festival raising funds for cancer treatments

ZACH FREEMAN
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On April 1, Pigstock XIV will be held at 360 Baughman Hill Rd. in Azle. A day of live music, barbecue and all-around fun can be had for a \$10 admission fee or \$40 for a car full of four or more.

All proceeds from the event will go toward the medical bills of Sunshine Lawrence, a 29-year-old woman from Azle who is battling stage four breast cancer.

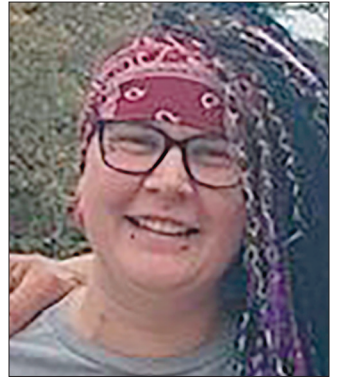
Gates are scheduled to open at 10 a.m., live music starts at 1:30 p.m., with the last act scheduled to start at 10:15 p.m., and camp-

ing spaces are available for overnight guests. Alcohol is permitted but will not be provided. Several food options, including snow cones, will be available to purchase. A number of local Azle businesses have sponsored the event and Phoenix Motorcycle Club will be providing security and can shuttle guests to their

cars. More information can be found on the Pigstock 14 Facebook events page.

For Pigstock organizers and guests alike, local connections and community are vital to keeping the community going every year.

"Azle is still a small town to PLEASE SEE **PIGSTOCK** | A6



COURTESY OF SUNSHINE LAWRENCE

All proceeds from Pigstock are going toward Sunshine Lawrence's medical expenses



Becky Rodriguez and her dog Bella pose for a photo together in Springtown's park.

One lucky dog

Reno Blue Lacy dog survives gunshot wound

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As with many people and their furry companions, Becky Rodriguez didn't choose her dog Bella at first

— Bella chose her. Rodriguez, who lives in Reno, said she went to the animal shelter in Saginaw to adopt a different dog. Then Bella, a Blue Lacy breed of dog that had previously been

timid around Rodriguez, jumped up on her kennel and licked Rodriguez. "I'm a firm believer they choose you. You don't choose

PLEASE SEE **DOG** | A4

Food service manager saves choking student

ZACH FREEMAN
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Belinda Harris of Liberty Elementary School recognized by Azle ISD

On March 20, Belinda Harris was recognized by the Azle ISD School Board for saving the life of a Liberty Elementary School student.

On Feb. 28, the third-grade student, Coltyn Harvell, was wolfing down his chips during the last minute of lunch when he suddenly began to choke. In a panic, he began to cough and beat his chest to try and dislodge the stuck chips. "I just happened to catch him out of the corner of my eye, and I thought he was over there playing, but then he kind of fell over the table and that's when I knew when he was choking," said Belinda Harris, a food service manager at Liberty Elementary School. "I'm glad I was running the register that day. Usually, I'm back in the kitchen."

On instinct, Harris sprang into action, ran over and performed the Heimlich maneuver on the student until the food was dislodged. "The whole situation lasted maybe 25 seconds. I did it before I even thought about what I was doing. I'm glad I did it, but I never want to do it again."

Harris, who has 23 years

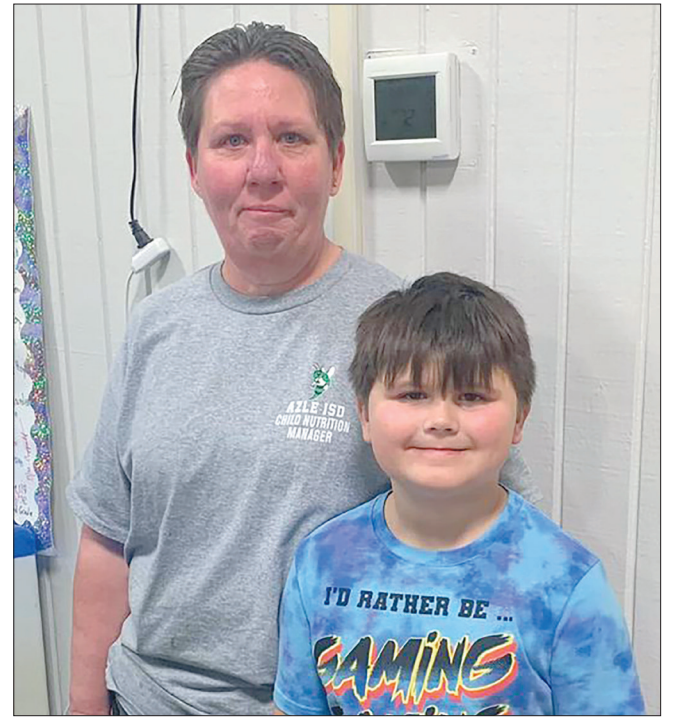


PHOTO COURTESY AZLE ISD

Belinda Harris and Coltyn Harvell met up after a visit to the nurse.

of food service experience at Liberty, said she was just in the right place at the right time. "I've never been in that situation before. I'm glad to know that I went in and did (it) and didn't run away from

it or call somebody else up." Coltyn's parents are extremely grateful to Harris for her quick reaction. "Myself and my family as a whole

PLEASE SEE **SAVE** | A3



Azle Chamber of Commerce Annual Clay Shoot

The Concrete Cowboys scored first place at Saturday's 17th annual clay shoot.

JIM STEVENS | AZLE NEWS

MORE PHOTOS
PAGE A8

Azle recognized as Tree City

Council members speak on recent actions preserving greenery

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On March 13, the city of Azle announced its recognition as a Tree City by the Arbor Day Foundation for the year of 2022.

The Tree City USA program began in 1976 as an effort intended to promote greener city spaces. More than 3,600 communities throughout the 50 states have been recognized by the Arbor Day Foundation. "We're very proud to have received this recognition," City Manager Tom Muir said. "The Tree City USA designation is significant to Azle because it tells people we are committed to the preserva-

tion and promotion of trees in our community."

For a city to receive Tree City commendations, it must maintain a Tree Board or department, have a community tree ordinance, spend at least \$2 per capita on urban forestry, and celebrate Arbor Day. An ordinance in late 2021 established a Tree Board, prohibited clear-cutting, and required tree surveys for all future planned construction.

"One of the main goals in implementing the ordinance was to prevent the clear cutting of our heavily treed and forested areas," City Council member Stacy Peek said. "After approving the ordinance, we chose to pursue

the Tree City USA program to label our dedication to an environmental change here in Azle."

Another critical Tree City prerequisite was accomplished with last Arbor Day's tree giveaway, where Azle residents were able to pick up a native tree for planting. According to City Manager Muir, this event will continue this fall.

When the City of Azle Economic Development Facebook page made the Tree City announcement on March 13, some Azle residents expressed concerns about continued clear-cutting throughout Azle.

PLEASE SEE **TREE** | A3



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Blood drive set for April 3

Carter Bloodcare to hold drive at FUMC in Azle

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On April 3, Carter BloodCare is scheduled to hold a blood drive at the First United Methodist Church of Azle, located at 200 Church St. The event is being hosted by the Azle Ministerial Alliance.

All blood types are needed, but supplies of O-negative

blood are at extremely low levels and are critical for the survival of many high-risk patients. Carter BloodCare always has high hopes for our city's blood drives. Past turnout for Azle donors have been some of the highest in the D-FW area.

"We're really looking forward to seeing everyone join us to help others in the community," said James Black,

a representative of Carter BloodCare. "At all hours of every day, blood is urgently needed to treat accident and trauma patients, mothers going through difficult deliveries, people undergoing surgeries and cancer treatments, premature babies and so many others. As a blood donor, it's literally within you to help neighbors in need. It takes less than an hour to donate and save three lives of patients in need of transfusions. Donating blood is an act of compassion and kindness, and it has a positive impact

for generations." Odds are, you've known someone who has needed blood or you yourself have received it at some point. Whether it's you, your neighbor or a complete stranger, going out and giving blood could be the difference between life and death for some. So, if you're able, go in for a walk-in at the FUMC gym on Monday, April 3 to make a difference. You can also make an appointment with the Carter BloodCare Donor Portal online at greatpartners.org to speed up the process.

BLOOD DRIVE

WHERE: First United Methodist Church of Azle, located at 200 Church St.

WHO: Carter Bloodcare and the Azle Ministerial Alliance.

All blood types are needed, but supplies of O-negative blood are at extremely low levels and are critical for the survival of many high-risk patients.

WHEN: FUMC gym on Monday, April 3

Make an appointment with the Carter BloodCare Donor Portal online at greatpartners.org to speed up the process.

Reno to join Northwest Tarrant County Crisis Intervention Team

MADelyn EDWARDS
madelyn@azlenews.net

Task force aims to aid mental health patients

Reno City Council unanimously approved an interlocal agreement to allow the city to be a part of the creation of the Northwest Tarrant County Crisis Intervention Team.

The agreement includes six cities as well as MHMR of Tarrant County.

The team unites first responders with MHMR representatives to aid mental health patients. Reno Police Deputy Chief Nathan Stringer said before the law liaison program was created years ago, there was not much follow-up after a person was committed to a hospital during an emergency.

"It's a team that goes out to service these consumers so we keep them in the system and getting the help they need so they don't backslide down in a mental health crisis again," Stringer said during the City Council meeting.

The deputy chief said the interlocal agreement allows officers from Reno and the other cities on the intervention task force to be deployed on these wellness visits to address mental health concerns in the region, spread resources across several cities, and collaborate. "The whole purpose of

the program is jail diversion," Stringer said. "Back in the '50s, '60s, '70s, the only thing the police knew how to do was put them in jail. They didn't know what else to do with them, but now we have a wide variety of social services we can refer them to."

Addressing mental health crisis is a significant part of a police officer's job, Stringer said.

"Mental health crisis is not a crime. It is something that the police have to deal with with a lot of frequency," he said.

No new officers are needed for this team, Stringer said.

How it would work is first responder personnel would be lent out to the team on an as-needed basis. The team — which includes a police officer, emergency medical technician or paramedic, a MHMR representative and other resources if needed — will visit patients.

The team will talk with these patients and find out if they need assistance to proactively address their mental health needs before it becomes a crisis, Stringer said.

Even though the task force is focused in Northwest Tarrant County, it will slide into Parker County a bit to

service residents in the border areas, Briar-Reno Fire Chief Moses Druzman said during the council meeting.

Stringer said it is likely that this service will spread into Parker County.

Being part of this effort doesn't cost anything for Reno to participate, and Stringer said the task force will ultimately save time and money in the future.

"We're keeping our patrol officers on patrol and not going to the hospital," he said. "In the long run, it saves time for patrol officers because we prevent the emergency situations that they would

otherwise have to deal with." This program being available in the Reno area is a positive move, Stringer said.

"Our officers deal with some of our residents who go into crisis with some frequency, so the hope is when we start bringing in other social services into that interaction, that they get the continuous care they need that the police and EMS can't provide," he said. "We deal with emergency situations as they happen. But bringing in other services where they can receive ongoing treatment to prevent them from going into crisis in the first place would give them a better quality of life."

Remember to be thankful for the troubles you don't experience in life

I must admit I am having a tough day. You all are probably thinking there is some sort of breaking news causing upheaval in the newsroom, or maybe there is a production problem with the press, or even an employee issue. The truth is the problem is much deeper than all of that. Frankly, all the issues you might guess would probably not rise to the level of the problem that is concerning me.

This morning I got an email from someone who gave me an update on the status of a friend. For purposes of this column, I shall identify the friend as "Mary." (I am using a pseudonym for my friend in order to respect their privacy).

It has been my pleasure to work with "Mary" on various civic projects over the years. As time passed, my wife and I got to know her better and I found her to be personable, energetic, and have the abil-



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.

ity to be a visionary when tackling a problem. She is the kind of person who can tell you "have a great day" and she really means it. Her opinion is valued, and her efforts appreciated.

This past spring, I came to learn "Mary" had been diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, which many refer to as Lou Gehrig's disease or ALS. Upon first hearing those words associated with my friend, my knees weakened and my heart sank. It is a progressive nervous system disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord, causing loss of muscle control. ALS often begins with muscle twitch-

ing and weakness in a limb or slurred speech. Eventually, ALS affects control of the muscles needed to move, speak, eat and breathe. There is no cure for the disease.

After the diagnosis, a group of friends took "Mary" to eat. We wanted to have the opportunity to take "Mary" out in the public before her condition worsened and she was unable to feed herself, walk or speak. It was a very pleasant evening, though it was obvious the disease was progressing. It was hard to know what to say to "Mary." We did not know if we should address the elephant in the room or ignore it completely. I think I can speak for ev-

eryone gathered, we watched "Mary" and decided to take her lead. If she wanted to talk about her problems, we would engage the subject. If she merely wanted our evening to be lighthearted and fun, and to forget the symptoms that were ravishing her body if even for just one night, we would do so. It was a very pleasant evening, but the subject of the disease was carefully circumvented.

This morning's email let us know "Mary" wanted to hear from her friends and get the "scoop" on what was going around town. She is now paralyzed from her neck to her toes. For now, she can move her head a little from side to side, but she cannot talk. She has an amazing high-tech wheelchair that fully reclines, and she often sleeps in it. She must take her nourishment from a feeding tube. Though her brain is fully operating, her function level is steadily declining.

You might ask why I am sharing "Mary's" plight. I am deeply in pain to see such a fine woman being decimated by a disease. A disease where her personal behavior or habits did not contribute to its onslaught. She is a victim. She is in a condition I would not wish on my worst enemy, and I can only imagine the despair she has in her daily existence, watching herself continue to slide to the conclusion.

I know there are times when we think we have a problem or issue confronting us that is insurmountable. We stress and we strain wondering how we will survive. It might be as small as how to deal with someone in a relationship or how to come up with the money to pay a bill. Frequently, the issues of life seem overwhelming, and we are all susceptible to letting the challenges overcome us.

In the future, when I am confronted with an obstacle, or find myself stressing over

a challenge, I hope I think of "Mary" and appreciate how insignificant my problems are in relation to hers. No matter how bad your life is there is always someone who is suffering from something greater.

Mary is brave, she is strong, and she is terminal. It hurts me to see such a fine woman in peril and there is nothing any of us can do but console her and be "present" during this part of her life. I admire her, am sympathetic to her suffering, and ask God to never place me in such a situation.

We should all be thankful for the problems we do not have.

Thought for the day: We all have a terminal illness called life. Live each day appreciating what we have, and appreciate even more, the problems we don't.

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

Azle Area CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

<p>Concerned about someone with an addiction?</p> <p>Al-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.al-anon.org azlesanctuaryafg@gmail.com</p>	<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>	



SAVE FROM PAGE A1

is just grateful that God put Belinda Harris in that position and that she was there to perform the life-saving measures that she did," said Matthew Harvell, Coltyn's father. "It hits home with our family as we had a family member choke on food and lose oxygen to their brain for an extended period of time before they received the assistance needed and ended up in a vegetative state and later passed away from complications from the prior choking incident. So, we definitely appreciate the severity of the situation."

"For Belinda Harris, I would just like to say thank you for saving our little boy," continued Harvell. "I don't know what we would do without him and that you are a hero

in our eyes. We are so thankful that you were the person there in that moment and knew exactly what to do. As for Azle ISD, we're just thankful to have such a close-knit community that affords the opportunity to hire heroes like Belinda Harris."

Coltyn himself, thankfully, didn't seem too shaken about the experience, though he was also grateful to Harris for her actions. "I don't think that he fully comprehends the gravity of the situation or what the actual results could've been if Belinda wasn't there with her quick thinking and actions," said Coltyn's father. "When I spoke with him about it, he was thankful that she was there to save him."

"Hug your babies tight because you never know what could happen from one day to the next."

ZACH FREEMAN | AZLE NEWS

From left are Liberty Elementary School Principal Lisa Koehler, Belinda Harris, and Azle ISD Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Operations Matt Adams.

Sudoku
MARCH 29, 2023

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

Azle man indicted for accidental death

Ryan Collier, 47, indicted by jury on March 17

ZACH FREEMAN
azlereporter@azlenews.net

On March 17, A 47-year-old Azle resident was indicted on the charge of an accident involving death in the May hit and run of Amber

Linehan Lemke. Collier was arrested on July 20, 2022, and was released on a \$5,000 bond not long after. The deadly accident happened on Wells Burnett Road near Jacksboro Highway.

Collier has multiple felony convictions in Parker County and has been booked on multiple other incidents in Tarrant County. Collier was on parole during the time of the accident.

TREE FROM PAGE A1

"It is truly devastating that we have lost hundreds of acres of forested land over last several years to development," Peek said. "Sadly, we will continue to see some clearing of our urban forested areas even with the tree preservation ordinance in

place and taking part in Tree City USA. The reason for this is, Azle has a large amount of land that was platted or planned prior to enacting the 2021 tree preservation ordinance. By law, if the land was platted or planned prior to implementation of the ordinance, the new tree preservation ordinance is not applicable to that land."

With Tree City recognition comes an expectation

that the city of Azle be held to higher standards for the future. Eventually, if those expectations are met and then exceeded, Azle will be eligible for The Arbor Day Foundation's Growth Award. "As we see positive change in the future, then most definitely I would like to see our city take the next step in pursuing the Growth Award," Peek said.

Solution to last week's puzzle

MARCH 22, 2023

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

Azle School Menu *April 3-6, 2023*

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

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

PreK - 4th

BREAKFAST: Everyday - Assorted Fruits and Cereal, Juice, White or Chocolate Milk, Graham Crackers, Toast
Mon Mini Chocolate Chip French Toast, Cherry Craisins **Tues** Banana Muffin w/Cheese Stick, Apple **Weds** Mini Pancakes, Orange Craisins **Thurs** Trix Bar w/ Cheese Stick, Orange **Fri** No school

LUNCH: Everyday - Variety of milk. Your choice of 1 entree & 1 fruit or juice
Mon Chicken Tenders w/Biscuit & Gravy OR Pancake w/ Sausage Patties, Hash Browns **Tues** Soft Chicken Tacos OR Frito Chili Pie OR Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich w/Cheese Stick, Refried Beans **Weds** Breaded Chicken Sandwich OR Orange Chicken & Rice w/Roll, Steamed Broccoli **Thurs** Tater Tot Casserole w/biscuit OR Cheesy chicken Nachos **Fri** No school

GRADES 5TH - 8TH

BREAKFAST: Everyday - Assorted Fruits and Cereal, Juice, White or Chocolate Milk, Yogurt w/Granola
Mon Breakfast on a Stick, Pears **Tues** Sausage Biscuit w/ Jelly, Pineapples **Weds** Cinnamon Roll, Peaches **Thurs** Biscuits & Gravy, Apples **Fri** No school

LUNCH: Everyday: Variety of milk. Your choice of 1 entree & 1 fruit or juice, rolls, crackers • Salad bar offered daily
Mon Chicken Tenders w/Biscuit & Gravy OR Pancake w/ Sausage Patties, Hash Browns **Tues** Soft Chicken Tacos OR Frito Chili Pie OR Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich w/Cheese Stick, Refried Beans, Pears, Apples **Weds** Breaded Chicken Sandwich OR Orange Chicken & Rice **Thurs** Tater Tot Casserole w/Garlic Breadstick OR Cheesy Chicken Nachos **Fri** No school

HIGH SCHOOL

BREAKFAST: Everyday - Assorted Fruits and Cereal, Juice, White or Chocolate Milk, Yogurt w/Granola
Mon Breakfast on a stick, Pears **Tues** Sausage Biscuit w/ Jelly, Pineapples **Weds** Cinnamon Roll, Peaches **Thurs** Biscuits & Gravy, Apples **Fri** No school

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 Meatloaf w/ Roll, Cheese Enchiladas, Orange Chicken w/Rice, Cheese Pizza, Pepperoni Pizza, Crinkle Cut French Fries, Cheeseburger **Tues** Steak Finger w/ Roll, Beef Nachos, General TSO Chicken w/ Rice, Chicken Alfredo Pasta, Cheese Pizza, Sloppy Joe, Steamed Carrots, Pears, Apples **Weds** Chicken Tenders, Chicken Tacos, Sweet & Sour Chicken, Meatball Sub, Cheese Pizza, Breaded Chicken Sandwich, **Thurs** Salisbury Steak, Chicken Quesadillas, Orange Chicken, Chicken Fajita Wrap w/ Tortilla Chips, Max Sticks w/ Marinera, BBQ Chicken Sandwich **Fri** No school

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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.

DOG
FROM PAGE A1

them," Rodriguez said. "She came home with me that day."
That was about six years ago.

Tragedy struck on the anniversary of Bella's rescue in February when Bella escaped from the gate at home and came back with a gunshot wound.

"All my memories were coming up on Facebook about her freedom ride and all this stuff, and I was just like losing it reading all of this knowing that my dog was in there dying," Rodriguez said.

On Feb. 7, Rodriguez came home at noon and noticed that her dogs had gotten out of the gate, which appeared to have been pushed open prior to her return. Rodriguez saw Bella lying down behind her fence, but the dog wouldn't come to her. At that point, Rodriguez knew something was wrong.

Once Rodriguez and her husband got to Bella, they immediately took her to nearby Thompson Veterinary Services on East State Highway 199, where Bella was given medicine that would help her blood to clot by the wound.

Rodriguez praised her husband's quick acting in taking Bella to the veterinarian.

"At that point, I was kind of in shock and like, 'Oh my God, my dog is going to die,'" she said. "We just weren't going to let that happen. He picked her up and took her straight to Dr. Thompson."

The veterinarian told Rodriguez to take Bella to The Parc animal hospital in Fort Worth to receive a blood transfusion. There, Bella's

"Sometimes something happens, and the dogs get out. That doesn't mean they're going to attack your livestock ... (Bella) hates gunshots, fireworks, thunder, noises, anything like that. She would have ran... I know not all dogs are the same, but at least give a warning shot."

BECKY RODRIGUEZ
Owner of Bella

X-rays showed that the bullet — a long range .22 — had traveled through Bella underneath her stomach and into her leg, stopping short of hitting bone.

Before the blood transfusion, Rodriguez said Bella was not responsive to her, and Bella wouldn't eat unless Rodriguez was there to feed her. Rodriguez said she thought she would lose her dog.

"When I left, I was just bawling because I knew that she was dying," she said.

After the blood transfusion occurred, Rodriguez saw Bella sitting up and in much better spirits.

"It looked like a whole different dog than I saw the day before, and I knew then, I was like, 'She's good,'" Rodriguez said.

Bella's medical care did not come cheap. Rodriguez recalled having to pay almost \$4,000 for her dog to receive treatment at The Parc as well as another \$3,000 for the blood transfusion alone.

"I just literally hit my knees when they told me \$3,000, and I was like I don't know how we're going to do it," Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez and her husband were able to pay the bill using their savings and credit, a choice that she has no regrets about.

"I'd do it all over again," she said.

Rodriguez has received some charity from others to help pay for Bella's emergency medical services. Her GoFundMe page — [gofundme.com/f/k8qayu-help-save-bella](https://www.gofundme.com/f/k8qayu-help-save-bella) — has raised more than \$1,300.

Ray Banfield Jr., who owns and operates Rayzor Sharp Chainsaw Art and knows Rodriguez's husband, heard about Bella's situation and wanted to help them pay for the medical expenses. He made a chainsaw-carved sculpture of a dog with wings that he auctioned off for \$500 to benefit Bella.

"I'm a big-time pet person. I've always had a big heart for dogs and pets," Banfield said.

Rodriguez does not know who shot her dog, and she acknowledged that shooting strange dogs is a common practice in rural areas.

In general, people shouldn't shoot a dog unless it is posing a threat to them or their property, Reno



PHOTO COURTESY BECKY RODRIGUEZ VIA FACEBOOK

After being shot, Bella needed to have a blood transfusion.



PHOTO COURTESY RAY BANFIELD JR. VIA FACEBOOK
Ray Banfield Jr. of Rayzor Sharp Chainsaw Art created a sculpture of a dog with wings that he auctioned off to help pay for Bella's medical expenses.

Police Deputy Chief Nathan Stringer said. Residents who see unknown dogs on their property can call Reno Police Department and have the animal control officer dispatched.

"An animal being on your property is not enough to shoot it," Stringer said. "It has to pose some risks to a person or livestock or something along those lines. So, it'd be like your neighbor's dog running through your front yard and you just taking a shot at it. That's not legal. Now if the dog charges you or made (you) feel like it was going to attack your children or your dogs or something along those lines, then you have more authorization

under the law to protect your property or persons."

Rodriguez requests her fellow Reno-area residents to deploy a warning shot before firing on unknown dogs.

"Sometimes something happens, and the dogs get out. That doesn't mean they're going to attack your livestock or whatever if they're running across the field or in your yard," she said. "(Bella) hates gunshots, fireworks, thunder, noises, anything like that. She would have ran. I mean, a warning shot or firecracker or something like that — heck, a loud bang with your hand, (and) she would've ran. I know not all dogs are the same, but at least give a warning shot."

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Voter registration deadline April 6

FROM STAFF REPORTS

If local voters want to participate in the upcoming elections in Azle, Reno and Springtown, then they'll need to make sure they are registered.

Texans have until Thursday, April 6 to register to vote for the May 6 municipal elections.

A person is eligible for

voter registration if they are a U.S. citizen, a resident of the county where they submitted their application, at least 18 years old on Election Day and not declared by a probate court to be either totally mentally incapacitated or partially mentally incapacitated without the right to vote, according to votetexas.gov. People convicted of

felonies are not eligible for voter registration, though they may be able to regain that right after completing their sentence, probation and parole.

Residents who are registering to vote for the first time in Texas would need to complete a voter registration application and return it to their county election office by

April 6. To do this, they can obtain an application online or a paper copy through the Texas Secretary of State's website and then mail it to their county election office. They can also find the local voter registrar to help them complete the process.

Those who register will receive a voter registration certificate mailed to them

within 30 days after submitting their application. Voters should check their certificate to make sure the information listed is correct. Mistakes need to be corrected and returned to the voter registrar promptly.

Voters can also update their current registration online at txapps.texas.gov/tolapp/sos/

SOSACManager?utm_source=child_voter&utm_medium=banner&utm_campaign=texasgov.

Visit teamrv-mvp.sos.texas.gov/MVP/mvp.do online to check voter registration.

For more information on registering to vote, visit votetexas.gov/register-to-vote/index.html online.

Reno Events Committee to host Easter egg hunt April 8

MADELYN EDWARDS

madelyn@azlenews.net

Reno Events Committee's new chairperson wants to bring the community together to have fun and celebrate Easter.

Reno kids and their families are invited to an Easter egg hunt on April 8, hosted by the Reno Events Committee. The event will take place from 1-3 p.m. at Reno Elementary School and may include other activities for children.

Events Committee Chair Courtney Trevino took over leadership of the committee after Ted Lyon stepped down from the role. She had already been a part of the

committee, and has previous experience with events. She found that her involvement with the Reno Elementary School PTA has been an asset in working with the committee.

"I just said, 'OK, let me try it,'" she said.

Being the chair and putting the Easter event together has been challenging, but Trevino said it has been nice to see others step up into active roles in organizing the event.

The Easter egg hunt will happen at the field outside Reno Elementary School, and parking will be at the school as well. Trevino said the school has been a good partner in the event.

"Principal (Jenna) Showers is wonderful with helping

us out, and since it's local for the community anyway, we were able to do the same thing that we did last year," Trevino said. "I like the relationship we're making with the school and the city."

While the committee already has some plastic eggs for the hunt, Trevino said they are asking the community to donate more as well as individually wrapped candies to put inside the eggs. She noted that the candies should preferably not be messy and won't easily melt. All donations can be brought by Reno City Hall ahead of the event.

Community members are also welcome to volunteer to help at the event or host activities for kids, Trevino said. "Whatever the community

would like to give, we will accept," she said.

Trevino expects the Easter egg hunt will provide a fun time for families and will allow kids to be involved in their community.

"I feel like Reno is kind of stuck in between a bunch of growing cities, and I just don't want our little community to get left behind," she said. "I really think having something that the kids could go to and just kind of have that involvement early on from the elementary level so they get used to it right away is really good. I like that aspect."

For more information about the Easter egg hunt, email reno.events@renotx.gov.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

BY JACKIE "JJ" JOY

Special to the Azle News

April is here!

The month of March is slipping away, and April is upon us. With it comes our annual birthday celebration of our center. Older adults had started meeting for dances long before there was any formal organization. As the group continued to grow, local businessman, B.J. Clark loaned them the use of a warehouse. After the dedication of the B.J. Clark Community Center in Ash Creek Park, the City of Azle decided to help them by creating the Azle Senior Center, giving them a place for regular meetings. Still open at 601 Southeast Parkway, the center provides a variety of fun and activities for adults of sixty years of age and older.

Except for a year and three months during the COVID-19 pandemic, the center has been open since 1986. Roy Winnet and Darlene Holmes took on the early directorship with Darlene leading for 26 ½ years retiring only a few years ago. Bill Reed was director for a short time with Kip Young then coming on board. Unfortunately, she, too, had to leave within the year. Jackie "JJ" Joy has now been director since 2016.

A more complete history of those early years can be found in the center's library which is open 9 a.m. till 1:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. A variety of genres of books are available to be taken home and read, except for the center's books on its history.

HEALTHY HOT MEALS

Today, serving healthy meals is still a highlight of the Azle Adult Activity Center (Senior Center). Each meal meets the nutritional requirements set forth by the Older American Act of America and for a suggested donation of only \$2, a choice of entrée is offered. To reserve a meal, please call 817-444-0070 before 9:30 the morning before you plan to come to eat.

OPEN HOUSE AND GRAND CELEBRATION ON APRIL 28

On April 28th, starting at 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. there will be a GRAND CELEBRATION of our history with an OPEN HOUSE. There will be a variety of local groups ready to answer questions about your needs. Included is Tarrant County Public Health discussing the importance of immunization. Legacy Oaks and Eagle Crest Villa will provide information about the services they offer while Care-n-Care will offer information about Medicare benefits. Shane Wall from Northwest Physical Therapy will be offering information about mobility.

FREE HAIRCUTS AND NAIL POLISHING APRIL 19

One of the highlights will be Angels Care Home Health sponsoring free haircuts and nail polishing. This will be by appointment only. We will start taking appointments on Wednesday, the 19th of April and you need not already be a member of the center.

KARAOKE WITH THE MEARS FAMILY

For entertainment, we will have the Mears family here with karaoke. Everyone is welcome to join the fun and show off your skills (or in the case of some of us, the lack thereof).

COME VISIT AND TAKE A TOUR!

If you have never been to the Azle Adult Activity Center, this will be a great time to come visit and take a tour. But you need not wait until celebration day. Come see us now! In addition, if you go to the City of Azle website and follow the link to our center's information, you will find each month's calendar and menu.

Hope to see you soon!

What will she sing?

It was the fall semester of 1981, my second year at West Texas State University. Each year the choirs of WTSU and Amarillo College joined with the Amarillo Symphony for a grand concert. The previous year had been Beethoven's 9th Symphony.

Maestro Thomas Conlin, the conductor of the Symphony visited us in the rehearsal of the WTSU Chorale to tell us that this year's concert would be "Carmina Burana." He joked that many people would ask, "Who is this Carmina Burana, and what will she sing?"

"Carmina Burana" is actually a cantata composed in 1935 and 1936 by Carl Orff, based on 24 poems from the medieval collection of the same name. Actually, the full Latin name is "Carmina Burana: Cantiones profanae cantantibus et choris cantantibus comitantibus instrumentis atque imaginibus magicis." (Now you know why it is simply known as "Carmina Burana.")

It was a great experience to sing this cantata in that context (all in Latin and German)



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.

both with the Amarillo Symphony and in our spring choir tour where we were a featured choir at the Texas Music Educators Association convention in San Antonio.

One other important fact about that fall semester of 1981 in the WT Chorale is that there was a tall, blonde, beautiful freshman alto who entered the picture. I'd like to tell you I was immediately smitten, but it actually took a couple of years for me to REALLY notice. (That's another story for another day).

Back to Carmina ...

That tall, blonde, beautiful freshman alto was involved in the Carmina experience and all the rest of my college choir experiences. And, of course, she's been my Mrs. for almost 39 years now.

Almost 35 years ago, we had a beautiful baby girl who

grew up to become a wonderful singer and attended our Alma Mater. She sang in the college choir and we got to go and hear her sing "Carmina Burana" in 2008 or 2009 (I can't remember for sure).

Now, fast forward to fall of 2022 and our baby girl, who has been singing for the past few years with the Amarillo Master Chorale, tells me that they will be doing "Carmina Burana" in the spring with the Amarillo College Choir and the Amarillo Symphony. I certainly want to put that on my calendar so we can go hear it.

And then she surprises me by asking if I'd be interested in singing with them because the AMC director wants to have a really large choir for Carmina. She checks with him and we negotiate a rehearsal schedule (because I can't drive from Azle to Amarillo

for rehearsal every Monday night). He agrees and I'm in.

So, last week Mrs. Sweetie and I spent the whole week in Amarillo so I could be part of the Monday-Thursday rehearsals and performances on Friday and Saturday.

I got to share an unforgettable musical experience with my favorite daughter and enjoy revisiting memories of a significant time of life that I now look back on with more amazement than I could possibly experience at the time.

After all, if it hadn't been for the college choir, I might not have met the tall, blonde, beautiful alto. And if I hadn't met the tall, blonde, beautiful alto, last week's experience with my baby girl wouldn't have happened.

God is really amazing like that. This morning I read in Habakkuk 1:5 where God said, "For I am doing something in your own day, something you wouldn't believe even if someone told you about it."

Ain't it the truth!

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OBITUARIES

Rick Sorrells 1951 - 2023

Rick Sorrells, 71, beloved husband, father, grandfather, and friend, passed away on Tuesday, March 7, 2023, at his home in Azle.

A small, private memorial will be held by the immediate family.

Rick was born on April 8, 1951, in Opp, Alabama, son of Nelma and James Sorrells. Rick was an avid hunter, entrepreneur, and collector. Rick started his business, Sorrells Custom Homes, in 2004. He was a mentor to his daughter-in-law, Meriem Sorrells who has run the business since his retirement.

Rick is survived by his



wife, Caren; two sons, Brent and Lee; and a host of other family members and friends.

*The Azle News,
March 29, 2023 Edition*

In Search of Common Ground

HOPE MATTERS

By David Shaffer



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

"They have the last day of the workweek off to hang out with some of their fellow team members, eat good barbecue and, let's not forget, they get to shoot things."

This sentiment from Aaron Pinkston, a volunteer at last Friday's Azle Area Chamber of Commerce's 17th Annual Clay Shoot, espoused some of the many reasons why this event was so successful.

Twenty-three teams of five spent hours of skeet-shooting at Fossil Pointe Sporting Grounds northeast of Decatur. Fifteen unique and creative stations gave each participant a chance to shoot at clay targets flying in various directions at high speeds. Five stations required eight shots (four rounds of two skeet), while the other ten only gave six shots (three rounds). By the end of the day, each participant had shot 100 times.

Helping to pull off the event were the talented Azle Chamber full-time team, the experienced Clay Shoot Committee, our generous sponsors, an excellent caterer, a professional photographer, a host of devoted volunteers and a beautiful and well-managed venue.

My role was simply to be one of the Chamber hosts, welcoming people and filling in wherever needed. (I clearly had the easiest job.) I spent all day with others, having conversations ranging from friendly surface level to quite deep.

Visiting all the teams on the course, several real-time thoughts surfaced in my mind: 1. I am proud of the Azle Chamber and its two full-time employees, board members and Ambassadors. 2. I am glad I have ear plugs. 3. The loaner golf cart I am driving provides quite a contrast to some of the limited-edition side-by-sides on the course. 4. Every person I observe is following the safety protocols to the letter, which is expected but wonderful to see. 5. There are sharpshooters and there are some along for the ride, but everyone is

more focused on enjoying the day than on beating others' scores. 6. All seem happy. 7. Only one sound is rivaling that of the shotgun blasts, and that is laughter, which began early and has continued all day.

Members of this crowd mixed and mingled, found common ground with each other and made the most of their time together.

In my relational work with married couples and families, searching for common ground provides a moment of peace, an area of agreement where relationships can grow stronger, and respect is demonstrated. Then when disagreements arise, and they will, people can more effectively discuss their perspectives without blowing up the relationship.

Nearly 2,500 years ago, the classical Greek philoso-

pher Socrates wrote, "True wisdom comes to each of us when we realize how little we understand about life, ourselves and the world around us." Interestingly, as I have grown older, I am more aware of what I do not know. Of course, different perspectives, especially from those close to us, can help us grow in our understandings.

Now is a good time to do what so many did at the Chamber's Clay Shoot: Enjoy finding common ground with family, friends, and coworkers and have enriching conversations about life. Socrates also wrote, "Beware the barrenness of a busy life." Work produces and provides and can make a difference. What matters most, though, are relationships. Taking care of them is important, and there is no time like the present.

Max Lucado wrote, "Compassion gives us a common ground to stand on regardless of your faith background. It gives us a chance to stand shoulder-to-shoulder rather than go fist-to-fist with somebody." May hope abound as you strengthen relationships in your search for common ground.

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PIGSTOCK

FROM PAGE A1

those who have lived here our whole lives," said Kimberly Abels Walker, the Facebook event host and coordinator of Pigstock's bake sale. "Sunshine is the daughter of my best friends Scott and Virginia Hicks. Scott and I graduated from Azle High School in 1984. Dave Kofford (the property owner) asked if I knew of someone who needed help this year and I suggested Sunshine. Azle is my hometown, and the community is my family and in times of need, our community has always come together and got the job done. I know in my heart and soul that love,

kindness, and support lives in Azle, Texas."

"We want you to come out and rock with us," said Kimberly Abels Walker. "Pigstock rocks for a cause! Just to sit back and take it all in is so touching. The bands that rock their all to help someone or a local organization here in Azle. The amazing sponsors and community, hundreds of friends and families that come together to rock for a good cause."

Sunshine Lawrence is extremely appreciative of the help and support that she's been given through her treatment. "Kimberly has been a doll through all of this," said Lawrence. "She is going above and beyond with the support. I'm very grateful for her. It's

amazing to me how much people have come together for it and I really am thankful. It's beyond what I expected."

Lawrence, who was diagnosed on Dec. 5, credits UT Southwestern and her support system for giving her the strength to keep fighting. "My friends and family definitely help me and give me the encouragement to keep moving forward," Lawrence said. "A lot of my family is coming down, my mom is going to be there. I think my grandpa is going to come into town from Austin."

Lawrence hopes to attend Pigstock, but is scheduled for a chemotherapy session two days prior.

"We're thinking about renting an RV so that I can

lay down if I need to, but it's definitely going to depend on how I feel. I would love to be there."

Lawrence hopes that her story helps young women stay aware that breast cancer can happen at any age. "I really hope that it reaches other girls and they think to get checked a little earlier than they might think they should," said Lawrence. "Anyone going through it, I would suggest don't hold yourself up in the house, communication and being outside with people helps with the depression that comes with it."

"It's definitely the hardest thing I've ever had to do. But I have too much to live for and I don't want to give up."

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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 817-444-3527</p> <p>Transportation Available</p> <p>Worship Service.....10:30 AM Wed. Prayer Service.....7:00 PM</p> <p>THE EDGE CHURCH - AZLE 1313 S.E. Pkwy, Azle 817-237-4822 Missouri Synod</p> <p>"Love God - Serve Others - Share Jesus"</p> <p>Traditional Worship.....9:30 AM Contemporary Worship.....11:00 AM</p>	<p>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Pastors: Rev. Todd & Jenn Pick 200 Church St., Azle 817-444-3323</p> <p>Morn. Worship.....8:30, 9:45 & 11 AM Sunday School.....9:45 & 11 AM Youth (UMYF).....5:00 PM Sun & 6:30 PM Wed</p> <p>HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH 800 Highcrest Dr. - Azle 817-444-3063</p> <p>Saturday.....5:00 PM Sunday.....9:00 AM Sunday.....11 AM (Spanish) Daily Mass (M, T, Th, F).....8:00 AM Wednesday Mass Religious ED.....6:30 PM Confessions.....Sat 4 PM</p> <p>HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA 4795 E. Hwy 199 - Reno 817-221-HOPE Follow us on Facebook for streaming services</p> <p>Sunday School.....9:00 AM Traditional Service.....10:00 AM</p> <p>SOLID ROCK BIBLE CHURCH 591 S. Reno Rd., Springtown, Texas 76082 Pastor - Bill Gay - 817-304-7443</p> <p>Coffee and Donuts.....9:00 AM Sunday School.....9:30 AM Morning Worship.....10:30 AM Children's Church After Music Service Wed. Prayer Meeting.....6:30 PM Wed. Bible Study.....7:00 PM</p>	<p>LEGACY CHURCH Assembly of God Church Pastor: Gary D. Veazey Hwy. 199 & Jaybird Lane 817-221-2983</p> <p>Morning Worship.....9:15 & 11:00 AM Kidz Zone.....9:15 & 11:00 AM Weds Evening Legacy Group Legacy Youth, Kids All Services.....7:00 PM</p> <p>THE RANCH CHRISTIAN COWBOY CHURCH Pastor: Greg Slankard 7955 Reed Rd., Azle 682-327-7082 www.TheRanchCCC.org</p> <p>Sunday School 9:30 AM • Worship 10:00 AM Weds 7:00 pm • Thurs Potluck 6:30 pm</p> <p>SILVER CREEK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Rev. Sheila Fiorella - Pastor 2200 Church Rd., Azle 817-444-1382 www.silvercreekumc.org</p> <p>Sunday School 9:30 AM • Worship 10:30 AM</p> <p>SILVER CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH Pastor: Jay Ditty Minister of Music: David Musick Corner FM 730 S. & Veal Station Rd. Church 817-444-2325 www.silvercreekbc.org</p> <p>Sunday School.....9:45 AM Morning Worship.....10:50 AM Evening Worship.....6:00 PM Wed. Prayer Service.....7:00 PM</p>	<p>THE WORD@LAKESIDE CHURCH OF GOD 9396 FM 1886 Fort Worth, TX 76135 817-237-5500 thewordatlakeside.com</p> <p>Pastors: Brandon and Kelly Bohannon Worship Pastor: Christen Moody Family Life and Young Adult Pastors: Jodie and Mark James, Kids Pastor: Katie Pearson, Student Pastors: Taylor and Sheridan Tomlin, Creative Directors: Logan and Carrie Edwards, Connections Coordinators: Preston and Ashley Larrew</p> <p>Equip Sunday School at the WORD.....9:30 AM Empower Worship at the WORD.....10:45 AM Kids at the WORD.....10:45 AM PreK at the WORD.....10:45 AM (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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A church alive is worth the drive! For more information or rates on listing your church, call Jessica at 817-270-3340

First case of avian flu in mammals in Texas

SENATE PASSES TAX CUT PACKAGE

The Texas Senate last week unanimously approved a \$16.5 billion package to lower property taxes and inject billions of dollars into public schools.

As reported by the Texas Tribune, the three separate bills require the state to send at least \$5.38 billion to public schools while at the same time raising the state's homestead exemption from \$40,000 to \$70,000, with an additional \$20,000 exemption for homeowners 65 and older. According to the Tribune, the proposal would save an average homeowner \$341 on their annual tax bill. Seniors would save an additional \$227 annually.

In exchange for the increased state funding, local school property tax rates would be cut by 7 cents for every \$100 in appraised value. An owner of a \$300,000 home paying the state's average school tax rate would save \$210 annually in property taxes.

"This is off-the-charts, incredible property tax relief for millions of Texas homeowners," said state Sen. Paul Bettencourt, R-Houston.



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.

DEADLINE TO REGISTER FOR MAY 6 ELECTION NEARS

The deadline for eligible Texas voters to register in order to vote in the May 6 local elections is just around the corner, Secretary of State Jane Nelson announced.

"If you are not already registered to vote in the upcoming local elections - there is still time! Make sure to submit your voter registration application to your county voter registrar by Thursday, April 6 so that you can have an opportunity to make your voice heard in your local community," Nelson said.

Check with the local elections office to learn which municipalities, school districts and other entities are holding elections. Early voting begins on April 24 and ends on May 6, with Election Day on May 6.

NEW FOSTER CARE MODEL LAUNCHED

Community groups representing nearly 50 counties in North and East Texas are assuming oversight of foster care from the state of Texas in a groundbreaking attempt to boost capacity and essential services for children under the state's conservatorship.

Three contracts were signed by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services and private groups. One serves Dallas County along with eight surrounding counties. Another serves 23 counties in Northeast Texas, while a third serves the Beaumont-Port Arthur area.

"This largest expansion to date for Community-Based Care is a real turning point in our state's intensive effort to move to local control, and a better system overall for the children and youth in our care," Stephanie Muth, DFPS commissioner, said. "Those kids belong to their communities, and those communi-

ties want the opportunity to make every day better for a child in foster care."

The expansion means that community-based care is now in place in half of the state.

AGENCY WARNS OF DANGEROUS DRUG COMBINATION

An animal tranquilizer called xylazine has been found mixed with illegal drugs distributed in the state, resulting in at least four deaths, the Texas Department of State Health Services reported.

The tranquilizer has been combined with fentanyl and other opioids, as well as Xanax and other drugs. It produces a strong sedative effect and can cause unconsciousness, low blood pressure, a slowed heart rate and breathing. It can also cause organ damage due to loss of blood flow.

Since it is not an opioid, the effects of xylazine cannot be reversed by using Narcan, officials said.

FIRST CASE OF AVIAN FLU IN MAMMALS IN TEXAS

A striped skunk recovered from Carson County in the Panhandle has been confirmed as the first case of avian flu in

a mammal in the state.

Officially called Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, it is a highly contagious virus transmitted easily among wild and domestic birds. It has been detected in all states except Hawaii, according to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Transmission occurs through consumption of infected animal carcasses. Symptoms include stumbling, tremors, seizures, lack of fear of people, lethargy, coughing and sneezing or sudden death.

While transmission risk from infected birds to people remains low, precautions should be taken, such as wearing gloves and face masks if in contact with wild animals, TPWD advised.

SCHOOL CHOICE HEARING DRAWS HUNDREDS

A Senate Education Committee meeting on proposals that would give parents public money for private schools drew about 200 people and stretched past midnight last Thursday, the Statesman reported.

Supporters spoke about allowing school choice and financial relief for parents of private school students,

while opponents warned against siphoning money from public districts, lack of oversight and using taxpayer money for religious schools.

State Sen. Brandon Creighton, R-Conroe, is sponsoring Senate Bill 8, which would provide \$8,000 per child for private school, homeschooling, tutoring or other educational costs. He told the Statesman that education savings accounts would not hurt public schools.

"We can lift up public schools and teachers like never before," Creighton said. "We can reconcile both very easily."

Opponents say the proposal would harm public schools.

"For the state to statutorily tarnish the reputation of our public schools by directly putting dollars to private entities, that would further the vicious cycle," Francesca Fraga Leahy, an Austin mother attending the hearing, said.

PAID PARENTAL LEAVE FOR STATE WORKERS?

For the first time, state employees could get 30 days of paid leave for childbirth or adoption. A bipartisan bill passed the Texas Senate last week with unanimous support.

Legacy Oaks of Azle hosting several events

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@azlenews.net

Legacy Oaks of Azle is looking for sponsors and donations for several upcoming events. March 30.

Legacy Oaks is holding a staff versus directors baseball game at 1 p.m. That event is open to the public, so be there for fun, snacks and prizes.

The next day, March 31, Legacy Oaks will be hosting

a prom for residents. The reception starts at 4:00 p.m. and a dinner at the Al Bistro starts at 5 p.m. There will be a photo booth, Music through the Decades Cocktails, and a LOOA king and queen will

be named. If interested in sponsoring events, reach out to Amanda Dudziak at Legacy Oaks by calling 817-270-9630.

On April 1, Legacy Oaks will host its third traditional

Easter Egg Hunt starting at 11 a.m. Donations of plastic eggs, Easter treats, and egg-stuffers would be greatly appreciated. Water, hot dogs and chips will be offered during the event and virtual

tours will be available. Bring your own baskets and expect a special showing from the Easter Bunny himself.

LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICES

STATE OF INDIANA IN THE PORTER SUPERIOR COURT #1
COUNTY OF PORTER 2023 TERM IN RE GUARDIANSHIP OF:

CAUSE NO. 64D01-2208.GU-007067 DUANE EDDY JOSEPH, An Incapacitated Adult. TIFFANY JOSEPH, Petitioner. ALIAS SUMMONS BY PUBLICATON On August 23, 2022, a petition was filed in the Porter County Superior Court by Tiffany Joseph for Petition to Establish Guardianship over Proposed Ward, Duane Eddy Joseph. All interested parties are hereby notified that said Petition for Guardianship was filed in the office of the clerk of the Porter County Superior Court, 16 East Lincolnway, Valparaiso, IN 46383. If any person seeks to contest the Guardianship, they must file a motion to contest the Guardianship in Porter County Superior Court no later than thirty (30) days after the date of service of this notice. If any person does not file a motion to contest the Guardianship within thirty (30) days after service of this notice, the above named court will hear and determine the Petition for Guardianship. A Hearing on Permanent Guardianship is set in this matter to be heard on April 25, 2023, at 9:00 AM CST in the Porter County Superior Court at 16 East Lincolnway, Valparaiso, IN 46383. Attorney of Record: Cassandra Hine Law Offices of Cassandra Hine, PC. 106 W. Sycamore Street North Judson, IN 46366 (574) 249-2172 cassi46534@gmail.com

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.

ORDINANCE 2023-06

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 10.04.037 "LAND USE ASSUMPTIONS", SECTION 10.04.038 "CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN" AND SECTION 10.04.004 "IMPACT FEES PER SERVICE UNIT" OF DIVISION 2 "WATER AND WASTEWATER IMPACT FEES OF ARTICLE 10.04 "IMPACT FEES" OF CHAPTER 10 "SUBDIVISION ORDINANCE" OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, CITY OF AZLE, TEXAS, AS AMENDED, BY REVISING WATER AND WASTEWATER IMPACT FEES ON NEW LAND DEVELOPMENT OR REDEVELOPMENT AND UPDATING LAND USE ASSUMPTIONS AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLANS; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND DECLARING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. ALL ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS ARE AVAILABLE TO BE READ IN FULL AT THE CITY OF AZLE, 505 W. MAIN ST. AZLE, TEXAS 76087 Yael Forgey, City Secretary, City of Azle.

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.



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Azle Area Chamber of Commerce's 17th Annual Clay Shoot



JIM STEVENS | AZLE NEWS

Burton Trophy's clay shooting team won 2nd place.



JIM STEVENS | AZLE NEWS

Jeff Swadan was the top male scorer for the event.


"They have the last day of the workweek off to hang out with some of their fellow team members, eat good barbecue and, let's not forget, they get to shoot things."

AARON PINKSTON
Volunteer with the Azle Area Chamber of Commerce



JIM STEVENS | AZLE NEWS

Kimberly Kaker was the top female scorer for the event.

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11:05 am Traditional Service

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POSITIVE SIGN

JEFF PRINCE | AZLE NEWS

Brittany Cato accepts hugs from teammates after declaring her intention to play basketball at Hesston University in Kansas.

Azle High School athletes put names on dotted lines for college

JEFF PRINCE
jeff@azlenews.net

The wrestling coach at Texas Wesleyan University found two exciting prospects at Azle High School. On March 23, Kaitlynn

Kirkland-Lane and Pella LeFever signed letters of intent to study and wrestle at the private university in Fort Worth. "They are both passionate about wrestling and really love the sport," said Jose

Lazo, head coach of TWU wrestling. "We're excited to add them to our roster and excited to get them into our mat room." Lazo was among the many coaches, teachers, friends, and relatives who had filed

into an AHS gymnasium to celebrate eight student-athletes announcing their decisions to further their academic and athletic careers on scholarship. So far, 22 Hornet athletes have committed to colleges

this year. Lazo was happy to have two of the best headed his way. LeFever earned a state championship in 2022 and

PLEASE SEE **SIGN** | B3

Azle Christian dominates in baseball district opener

JEFF PRINCE
jeff@azlenews.net

How lopsided was the baseball game? Consider this: Azle Christian School batted around the order twice in the first inning of the district baseball opener. On March 22, the Crusaders faced off against Cornerstone Christian and pulverized their conference rival 26-1. Noah Rollins pitched a complete game with 12

strikeouts, giving up just 1 hit. As a batter, he added 4 RBIs after going 3 for 4. Andy Wisniewski hit 5 for 5 with 2 triples, 2 doubles, and 7 RBIs and had "an amazing game," Rollins said. Camden Logan was 4 for 4 with a triple and 4 RBIs. Freshman Jakob Rollins logged 2 hits and 3 RBIs, and sophomore Kelton Schott knocked in 3 runs. Head coach Ryan Rollins didn't see much to fret about afterward, and hopes to con-

tinue improving his team's weak spots in the days ahead. "The team is playing well," he said. "We have good pitching and good hitting. Still trying to get our defense where we want it. The whole lineup hit the ball well." Winning the district opener puts the team at 1-0, which is how the coach likes to think about things — one game at a time. "We just have to play one

PLEASE SEE **DISTRICT** | B4



JEFF PRINCE | AZLE NEWS

Levi Morrow is safe after sliding into home plate in the district opener.



Record-breaking time

Azle High School's 4x200-meter relay team broke a 2017 school record after posting a time of 1:44.98 on March 24 at Burlison. Pictured from left are the relay team members, Ashlyn Norton, Raegan Williams, Jessie Heath, and Rebecca Marx.

COURTESY PHOTO

Azle softball knocks off Brewer

JEFF PRINCE
jeff@azlenews.net

Abigail Garner left her mark — literally — on the scoreboard at Fort Worth Brewer High School. On March 24, the Lady Hornets traveled to Brewer to play their district rival. Garner ricocheted a bomb off the outfield scoreboard that helped push Azle to a 9-5 victory. Ema Lehr and Ryann Baker had 2 hits apiece, and Garner batted in 3 runs. Pitchers Adrianna Wiedeman and Morgan Terrell combined to allow just 3 hits. At the plate, Terrell reached base three times. The Lady Hornets play Granbury at 7 p.m. Friday, March 31, on the road. Azle's next home game is at 7 p.m. April 6 against Wichita Falls Rider.

HER AIM IS TRUE Among the team leaders this season is first baseman Allison Smith. She earned her leadership role through action, working hard, showing up every day, and setting an example. Smith didn't know a soul at Azle High School when she arrived as a freshman three years ago. Her family had just relocated from



JEFF PRINCE | AZLE NEWS

Allison Smith bats a rubber ball into a net to warm up before a recent game.

southern California. She grew up in the same house in San Bernardino with the same friends her whole life before being uprooted at 14 and moved halfway across the country. She isolated herself during those early days in Azle. "It was very hard at the

PLEASE SEE **SOFTBALL** | B2

Hornet baseballers sweep Saginaw

JEFF PRINCE
jeff@azlenews.net

This year's unusual baseball schedule pits Azle against district rivals in back-to-back games all season.

That way, a team can't use its top pitcher twice against the same team.

On March 21, Azle hosted Saginaw. The game remained scoreless for 9 innings until the Hornets prevailed 1-0 in a walk-off win after a clutch hit by Billy Spratt.

Jackson Davis pitched eight scoreless innings, striking out six batters and allowing 3 hits. Ethan Bissonnette picked up the win after pitching an inning of scoreless relief.

The Hornets played stout defense throughout the game.

Spratt made the game-winning hit in the ninth inning, and Cayden Fowler also logged a hit.

On March 24, the Hornets headed to Saginaw for the rubber match.

Declan Dahl picked up the win, pitching 5-1/3 innings and giving up 4 hits. Austin May earned a save, pitching 1-2/3 innings.

Davis, Fowler, Spratt, Tyler Akers, Grant Tune, Noah Lehr, and Garrin Graves picked up hits for the Hornets.

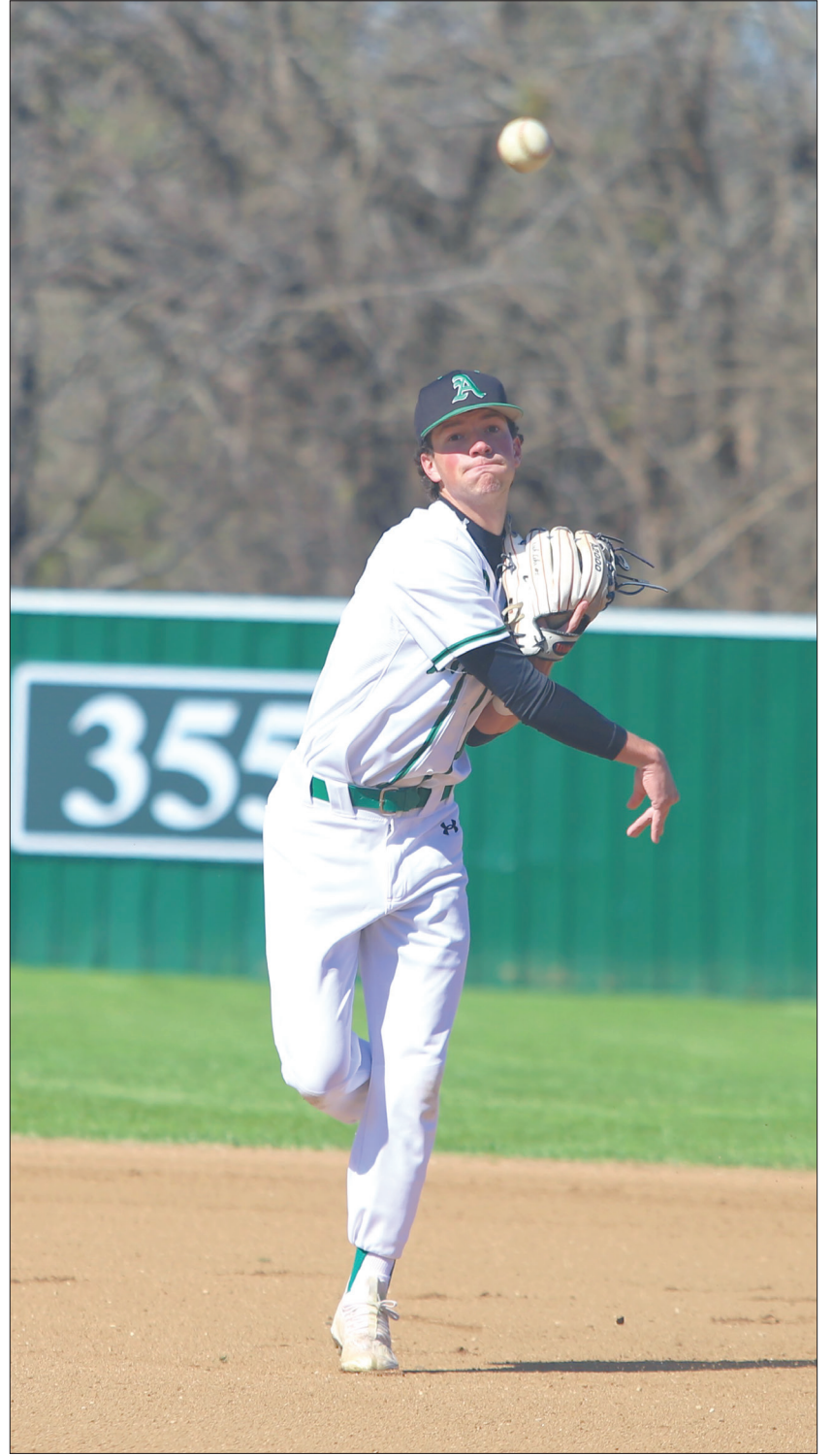
Final score: Azle 6, Saginaw 3.

The Hornets were 15-4 overall and 3-1 in district competition heading into the March 28 game at Justin Northwest.

Next up, the Hornets play Northwest at 7 p.m. March 31 at Jim Bob Nation Field.



JEFF PRINCE | AZLE NEWS
Billy Spratt made the game-winning hit against Saginaw on March 21.



JEFF PRINCE | AZLE NEWS
Noah Lehr was one of seven Hornets to earn hits and topple Saginaw 6-3 on March 24.

Azle tennis team earns medals leading up to district tourney



COURTESY PHOTOS

From left, Peytie Chambers, Jorja Erwin, Kristina Birkeland, Jack Clark, Aiden Buscay, Royce Baker, Madison Hamilton, and Emily O'Neill earned medals at a recent tennis tournament in Crowley, posing first with stoic reserve, and then, having some fun.

JEFF PRINCE
jeff@azlenews.net

On March 22, the Azle Hornets completed their

weather-delayed tournament in Crowley with success despite fierce winds and threats of rain.

"These Hornets didn't let

the wind stop them from doing a great job," said head coach Hayden Huff.

Peytie Chambers earned second place in girls singles.

Emily O'Neill won first place in girls consolation singles.

Kristina Birkeland and Madison Hamilton fetched second place in girls doubles.

Taking third place in boys doubles were Jack Clark and Royce Baker.

Third place went to Aiden Buscay and Jorja Erwin in

mixed doubles.

The district championship tournament will be held March 28-29 at Texas Christian University.

SOFTBALL

FROM PAGE B1

beginning," she said. "I didn't know anybody. For the beginning of it, I really didn't talk to many people."

Toward the end of her freshman year, the softball season began, and things changed.

"Once we started softball, that's where I got most of my friends," she said. "I started coming out of my shell, but it was very different moving out here not knowing anybody."

She was 4 when she began playing softball and carried those years of experience with her to Texas. She made varsity as a freshman, playing infield and outfield.

Smith hasn't returned to the west coast since she moved. She misses the Pacific Ocean and a few friends from San Bernardino, but she is happy to be planted in Azle and playing for the Hornets.

"We're a really good team," she said. "If we work together as a team we can go pretty far. We have a lot of talent."

The Lady Hornets will play Granbury at 7 p.m. Friday, March 31, on the road. Azle's next home game is set for 7 p.m. April 6 against Wichita Falls Rider.



JEFF PRINCE | AZLE NEWS
Allison Smith has blossomed into a team leader as a junior.

SIGN
FROM PAGE B1

was hoping to win again this year. A staph infection prior to the state meet in February kept her from being cleared to wrestle. She missed an opportunity to win back-to-back state titles.

"It was a hard month," she said. "I just had to accept it." Did she shed tears?
"Maybe a few, but I had to accept it and move on," she said. "It was out of my control at that point. I did everything I could."

She described the staph infection, which appeared on her scalp, as "pretty gory, not pleasant to look at, not necessarily painful, but if you're wrestling and it's on (your head) that you're slamming into other people, that can be pretty painful."

Kirkland-Lane qualified for the state meet and made it to Consolation Round 2 before falling to a regional champion. Still, the Lady Hornet made an impact with her aggressive wrestling style.

She is eager to begin her college wrestling career and grow as a person.

"It's going to be pretty fun, and I'm going to learn a lot," she said. "How to be a better leader. How to be more resilient. Solve more problems. Get better at wrestling. Stuff like that."

She will miss AHS. "I really love the coaches on the team," she said. "I like my teammates. They're awesome. I like competitions and how the tournaments are set up. I really like the environment. Everybody is really welcoming. I had amazing coaches walking me through every step of my high school."

She was a shy kid when she began attending high school. "I didn't talk to a lot of people," Kirkland-Lane said. "I didn't have a lot of friends. Then, I joined the team, and it was like I had a whole new family."

Signing Day can be emotional for parents, teachers, and kids who are taking large steps toward independence and maturity. Kirkland-Lane soaked up the environment of Signing Day. The bright lights in the gym. The large gathering of friends and loved ones. The commitment to college. The prospect of a fresh beginning after four years of high school. The memories.

"I'm kind of sad that it's over," she said. "All the years through high school, you're thinking, I can't wait to get out of here. Then, when the day comes, it's going to be sad to leave everything

behind."
She plans to wrestle through college and pursue a career in education.

"I've been inspired to be a coach myself," she said. "I want to own my own club, and I want to teach (wrestling)."

Lazo will be guiding both young women in their new surroundings at TWU. He learned of the two prospects from AHS alumnus Jasmine Sands, who wrestled for the Hornets before heading to TWU two years ago.

Sands "knows both of them, put in a good word, and kind of put me on them," Lazo said. "I've been following them all year and watching how tough they compete."

LeFever and Kirkland-Lane have the right stuff.

"We want athletes that are passionate about the sport and want to get better," the coach said. "Those two exemplify that. We're excited to add them to the roster, excited to see what they bring to the table for our team, and just ready to get after it and get them on the mat with us."

Other AHS athletes who signed letters on March 23 were Brittany Cato, who will play basketball at Hesston College; Korbyn Coleman, baseball at Western Oklahoma State; Gavin Dean, basketball at McMurry University; Dominick Evans, wrestling at Schreiner University; Austin Gatewood, cross-country and track at Berea College; and Jessie Heath, track at Midwestern State University.

Evans, the wrestler, had dreamed about Signing Day since he was 13. He has known for years he wanted to wrestle after high school. Schreiner University, a private college in Kerrville, offered him the opportunity to keep hitting the mat while earning a degree.

"It's a little nerve-racking knowing that once I sign this, it's going to change my life," Evans said. "At the same time, it feels pretty good."

He had visited the university a few days earlier, which fueled his excitement further.

"I really like it," he said. "The people are really nice. It's a very good program. From what it sounds like and from what I've seen, they have a great coaching staff. It looks like I'm going to be in good hands, and they are going to help me achieve my goals."

Two weeks ago, Gatewood, the cross-country runner, visited his future home at Berea College in Kentucky. By car, the trip takes about 17 hours each way. By plane, it's two hours.

"It will be different, but I'm excited," he said. "It's a

new opportunity, a new place to go. It will be fun. Not too scary. I get to go continue my career for free at a place that I really like."

After the summer, Cato's new home will be in Hesston, Kansas, bouncing a basketball and hitting the books. She attended Azle ISD schools from kindergarten to 12th grade.

She described leaving as "sad" but said she is "ready for the next chapter of my life."

Her new home in Hesston is a six-hour drive from Azle. Cato will live in a dormitory.

"It's going to be a big change because I'm a big mama's girl, but once I get the gist of everything there, I will be fine," she said.

Coleman, a gem of a kid, will showcase his skills on the diamond in Oklahoma. Azle's head coach of baseball, Stephen Smith, will remember the baseball player with affection.

"Korbyn is a great kid who has worked very hard academically and athletically to have the opportunity to play baseball at the next level," Smith said. "Korbyn strives to be not just a great baseball player but also to be a great teammate and person. We feel like he will do great things in baseball and in life."

Heath played basketball for the Lady Hornets as a freshman, sophomore, and junior, but she focused on track exclusively during her senior year.

"I always had the intention of going to college," she said. "I wanted to go for basketball, but then, I realized that track could be my best option, so I stuck to that."

She considers Midwestern State an ideal place to compete.

"It's a good team, and they have good 400-meter runners, which is what I'm strong in," she said.

Outrunning homesickness might take more effort. She grew up in Azle and likes it here.

"Everyone says it, but it's just one big family," she said. "I'm going to miss the people I'm always around, but it's good to have a fresh start."

Her track coach, Derek Dorris, will miss Heath even as he roots for her continued success.

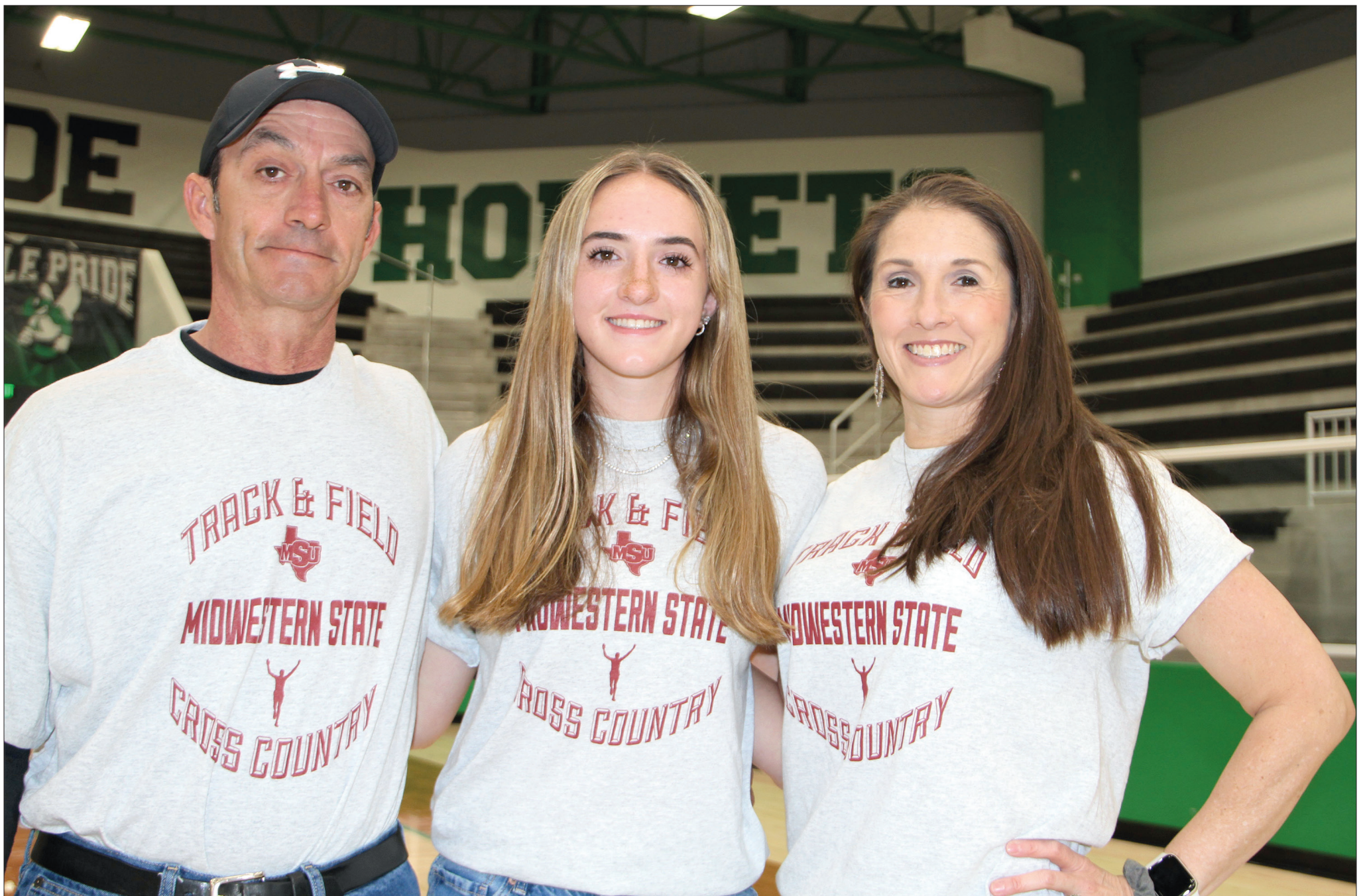
"From the moment we as coaches saw Jessie compete in junior high, we knew she had it," he said. "Her willingness to 'hurt' and give everything she has during workouts, our morning runs, and the track meets, then look you straight in the face and ask for more. That internal drive is why she's been as successful as she is, and why she's here today."



JEFF PRINCE | AZLE NEWS
Gavin Dean signs a letter stating his intention to further his academic and athletic career at McMurry University in Abilene.



JEFF PRINCE | AZLE NEWS
Kaitlynn Kirkland-Lane signs her letter of intent to wrestle at Texas Wesleyan University as future coach Jose Lazo looks over her shoulder.



JEFF PRINCE | AZLE NEWS
Jessie Heath, flanked by dad Billy and mom Vanessa, will run track at Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls.



COURTESY PHOTO

Cash Moore, flanked by coaches Bo Maines and Chad Jones, qualified for state as a sophomore and broke two school records this season.

Cash Moore goes for broke at state

JEFF PRINCE
jeff@azlenews.net

Cash Moore faced a dilemma early in the state powerlifting meet in Abilene. The meet began with the squat event, and Moore couldn't hoist the bar on his first two attempts. On Moore's third and final attempt, he could have played it safe, made a sure lift for his opener, and fin-

ished at the end of the day somewhere in the middle of the pack. Or he could load up the bar and go for the school record. One of his goals this season was to set a school record at the state meet, so he went for it. He didn't hoist the lift, but he let everyone know in the Texas powerlifting circles that a new kid is in town.

"Cash is only a sophomore, and there is no doubt in my mind he will be back to the state meet before he graduates," said coach Bo Maines. "Although he failed at the final attempt, he greatly matured as a competitor and a young man." This season, Moore finished as a regional and state qualifier and broke two school records in the 181-pound class.

DISTRICT

FROM PAGE B1

game at a time and not look ahead," Rollins said.

The Crusaders compete in the TAPPS league, and their district includes tough competition. "Abilene Christian and Muenster Sacred Heart are

the clear-cut favorites as their enrollments are four times bigger than ours," the coach said. "We are going to work hard and see if we can make the playoffs."



JEFF PRINCE | AZLE NEWS

Noah Rollins pitched a complete-game one-hitter with 12 strikeouts in Azle Christian's 26-1 win over Cornerstone Christian.

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The Mystery of Farmer Howe's Cows

Can you find the two identical cows?

Hot. That was the best word to describe May 1842 in New York.

Strange. Farmer Howe's cows were standing out in the sun instead of the shade.

Farmer Howe walked over to his cows. When he got there, he felt cool air. Surprised, he looked around and found a hole in the ground. His cows were standing around the hole. Cool air was coming out of the hole in the ground!

Cool! Farmer Howe looked down the hole and discovered it was an opening to an underground cave.

Follow the maze to see what became of Farmer Howe's cave.

What is a Cave?

A cave is an opening in the Earth that is large enough to hold a person. Most caves are formed in rocks that dissolve, or get eaten away, like limestone.

When water soaks into limestone, the stone dissolves and holes start to form underground. These holes are called caves. Caves grow very, very slowly.

It takes about 100,000 years for a cave to grow large enough for people to fit inside.

Cave or Cavern?
A cavern is a type of cave. They tend to be larger. Caverns can be made of smaller caves connected by tunnels.

A person who explores and studies caves is called a spelunker.

Stalactites
Stalactites hang down from cavern ceilings like icicles made of mineral deposits. As water drips from the cave ceiling, some of it evaporates and the minerals dissolved in the water remain. It takes thousands of years for stalactites to form.

Stalagmites
Stalagmites form on cavern floors and grow up toward the ceilings. Water drops from a stalactite land on the floor of the cave, evaporate and leave behind minerals. As more minerals are left behind, a stalagmite starts to grow upwards.

Columns
Columns form when a stalactite and a stalagmite meet and grow together.

The deepest cave discovered so far is the Voronya Cave in Abkhazia, Georgia. It is 7,208 feet (2,197 meters) deep.

Caves cannot go down more than 9,800 feet (3,000 meters). Deeper than that, the pressure from the rocks becomes too much and the cave collapses.

Natural Air Conditioning

Farmer Howe built a hotel over the hole. Cool air from the cave air-conditioned the original hotel. Farmer Howe's hotel and cave became very famous. Circle every other letter to discover its name.

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

H _ _ _

Shape Search!
How many shapes can you find in the newspaper? Look for triangles, squares, rectangles, circles and more.

Standards Link: Use visual cues to understand points of view.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Waves Make Caves!

Sea caves are created by waves hitting rock cliffs over a long period of time, causing erosion.

Write the letter that comes before each letter in the alphabet to reveal another name for sea caves.

L	I						
M	J	U	U	P	S	B	M
		D	B	W	F	T	

Standards Link: Understand point of view using visual cues.

Double Double Word Search

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

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

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

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Dress for Spelunking

Find the forecasted high for the day in your newspaper. The temperature in the Howe Caverns are around 52 degrees year-round. Is your local high temperature warmer or cooler? What would you wear to visit Howe Caverns?

Standards Link: Compare and contrast points of view.

Write On!

If I Lived Underground

Imagine that you lived in an underground cave. What would it be like? Write about it!

Kid Scoop Together

Lookalike Lights

All but one of these flashlights has an identical twin. Can you match each pair and reveal the one unique flashlight? Have a family member try!

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 Systemic Feeding • Brush Chipping • Cable Bracing

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Insured for your protection

024 Electrician

BULLDAWG ELECTRIC CO.
 All types of electrical services and MH hook-ups.
 Free Estimates. 817-675-4921
 www.bulldawgelectric.com.
 TECL#25253.



IRRIGATION REPAIR

Residential/Commercial
 License# LI007825
 \$85 Service Call

039 Help Wanted

Azle Chiropractic is seeking a P/T position for a Chiropractic Assistant, health care experience not required, apply at office. 817-444-4357.

E-Conn Electric

Service, Remodel, New Construction
 Insured/BBB Accredited

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Customer Satisfaction is our Goal!
 C/C ACCEPTED TECL20470

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Find Your New Best Friend in the Classifieds!



STUMP GRINDING

Don't dig it! Grind it!
 1 or 100 - We can do it.
 \$85 minimum within 5 mi.
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WEATHERFORD Healthcare Center

Sign on Bonus offered - 2-10PM RN/LVN
 Double Weekend & 10P-6A CNAs
 Apply in person at 521 W. 7th St.
 Or call 817-594-8713 or
 Email resume to HR.Weatherford@Summittc.com
 EOE

LINDSEY STATE JAIL CURRENT OPENINGS

Correctional Officers • Assistant Foodservice Manager
 Education Counselor • Academic Instructor
 Human Resource Supervisor
 Assistant Maintenance Supervisor - Electrician

PLEASE CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR JOB QUALIFICATIONS.
 A New Correctional Officer Pay Increase will be as follows - Starting pay will be \$18.00 dollars per hour. After Six months' there will be a pay increase to \$19.00 per hour and at one year there will be another pay increase to \$20.00 per hour. Must have HS Diploma or equivalent, be able to pass a drug screen, have a clean background, and valid driver's license to be considered for a Correctional Officer.

Apply online at www.mtctrains.com or call 940-567-2272 and ask for the HR Department.
 Management & Training Corporation is an Equal Opportunity Employer: Minority/Female/Veteran/Disabled

Save a Shelter Animal. Find your forever Friend



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817-270-3340 - AZLE
817-220-7217 - SPRINGTOWN

Deadline:
 1:00 PM FRIDAY

Classifieds

039 Help Wanted



Lube Tech

Experience a plus, but willing to train the right person. Must have valid TXDL with acceptable driving record. Must be responsible and dependable. Monday thru Friday work week
***** \$1,000 SIGN ON BONUS*****

Service Technicians

HIRING BONUS available for all skill levels!
 Seeking **ALL LEVEL** of Service Technicians; Lube Tech's to Master! Be part of our **GROWING TEAM** and advance within our Service Department as we offer a Competitive Salary with a full line of Benefits, including 401K. Mon-Fri, 5-day work week with paid vacation, training & holidays!
*****Up To \$5,000 Hiring Bonus for Skilled Technicians!*****

Service Porter

Come join our Growing Team as a Service Porter! Duties included, but are not limited to cleaning vehicles, running errands and test-driving vehicles. Monday to Friday work week.

Parts Warehouse Associate

Seeking to hire an experienced Parts Warehouse Associate for our growing team in Decatur! Assists in maintaining organization of warehouse and inventory. Experience preferred, but willing to train the right candidate. We Offer, great benefits, competitive pay with a full-time, M-F work week. Must have valid and clear TXDL and be able to pass background screening.

KLEMENT DISTRIBUTION, INC.
 (Hershey Ice Cream Distributor)

Route Driver

No CDL required, but must have valid TXDL with acceptable driving record. Monday through Friday with Flexible time-off schedules, often 3-day weekends during summer months. Fun work environment! Promote from within advancement opportunities.
*****Up to \$2,500.00 SIGN ON BONUS*****

Karl Klement Properties, Inc.

Plumber/Plumbers Helper

Ready to hire full-time experienced Plumber and/or Plumber's helper. Must have good working knowledge and troubleshooting skills for Residential or Commercial plumbing; fixture repair/replacement; and competent use of conventional equipment / tools.

Electrician/Electrician Helper

Ready to hire full-time experienced or licensed electrician and electrician helpers. Must be able to Install, Test, and Maintain electrical systems; equipment; fixtures; and/or devices. Ability to diagnose and determine insufficiencies using test equipment and hand tools.

HVAC Technician/Helper

Ready to hire full-time skilled HVAC Technicians & Apprentices. Must be able to perform troubleshooting and routine general maintenance repairs & replacements for residential/commercial heating, ventilation, and A/C equipment and more.

We offer Career Advancement Opportunities with Competitive Pay with full Benefits Package, including 401K and paid vacation, training and holidays!

For consideration of all positions apply in person:
 605 N. Business 287, Suite 102, Decatur, Texas
OR CALL Human Resources Dept:
 Lara Lancaster
 @ 940-627-6362 | hr.info@klementford.com

All full-time positions offer growth opportunities & a full benefits package including Medical, Dental, Vision, Life, 401(k) & more. EEOC

052 Movers 066 Roofing

U.S. Army Retired-but not tired!
 Careful moving-Cheap.
 Call Big Jim @ 817-237-5151.

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Will pay top dollar for grazing and hay leases. Call 940-389-1936.

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 April 7th, 2023

Tack Sale Begins at 6:00 PM
Horses Follow
 Stephenville Cattle Co.
 Highway 281 North • Stephenville, TX
 Troy 254-967-1950 • Barn 254-968-4844

062 Plumbing



Bill Blankenship Contracting Inc.

- Drain Stoppage
- Water Leaks
- Water Heaters
- Sewers Replaced
- Water Repiping
- Camera Sewers
- Faucets Installed
- Gas Lines
- Repair/Replace

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 Serving Springtown, Azle, Boyd, Weatherford Area
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 - Free Estimates
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Eagle Crest VILLA SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY
NOW HIRING Full Time Personal Care Attendant
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 New Pay Scale, Health, Dental, Vision and Life Insurance. 401k and PTO.
 Come by and apply in person: 113 Denver Trail Azle.

040 Home Improvement
Devin's Handyman Service
 • Carpentry • Insulation
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 • Tile • Decks
 • Painting
 • Siding
SPRING SPECIAL 20% OFF with this ad!
Call Devin at 817-629-9608

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LOCAL BUYER JIMMY DAN
 • Used/Damaged Campers
 • Motorhomes
 • Farm Equipment
 • Trucks And Trailers
 • Horse Trailers
 • Boats
 • Golf Carts
 • Propane Tanks
 • Fork Lifts
 • Heavy Equipment
 • ATVs • Misc.
817-629-7531

066 Roofing
AT HOME ROOFING & METAL BUILDINGS
817-304-4224
 Tired of always replacing your roof?
 Call us for a metal roof quote.
We'll be here after the storm.

Need to sell your ATV?
Call today and ask about our \$29.95 3-MONTH SPECIAL!
 Azle News 817-270-3340
 Springtown Epigraph 817-220-7217

040 Home Improvement
BILL ROSSER PAINTING & REMODELING. Big Savings: \$100 off any job of \$1,000 or more. Painting, Carpentry, Porch Covers, Decks. FREE ESTIMATES. Call 817-304-9974; 866-374-3559.
 PYRAMID REMODELING. PAINTING: Interior, Exterior, Tape & Bed, Texture, Popcorn Ceilings. FREE ESTIMATES. 817-944-7658.

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 Residential/Commercial • Kitchens • Baths
 Showers • Add-Ons • Custom Cabinets
TILE WORK
 Tubs • Showers • Floors • Backsplashes • Etc.
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049 Masonry/Stonework
Silva Masonry, L.L.C.
CONCRETE
 COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL
 Landscape Designs, Outdoor Kitchens
 Patios, Retaining Walls, Mailboxes
 All Types Stone & Brick Work Free New Construction • Remodels Estimates
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 40 Years Experience
 • Carpentry
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 • Tile & Laminate Floors
 • Doors & Windows
 • Decks & Stairs
 • Cabinets & Countertops
 • No Job Too Small
 Springtown and Surrounding Areas
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Got a New Driver in the Family? Find that Perfect Car or Truck in the Classifieds.
OR You can Sell your Auto in the same section. Call 817-270-3340 for more info on our **3-Month Special Only \$29.95**

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 Here Before The Storm, Here Long After.
 Commercial & Residential
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 • Metal Roofing
 • Carports
 • Metal Buildings
 • All General Contracting
 Master Elite
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817-270-3340 - AZLE
817-220-7217 - SPRINGTOWN

Deadline:
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Classifieds

068 Storage
 INNERSPACE STORAGE. Hwy 199, Springtown. Now renting all unit sizes, 24-hour access. 682-842-1414.

STORAGE SPECIAL
 10X10 \$60/MONTH-NO DEPOSIT
 1350 LIBERTY SCHOOL RD, AZLE
 5X10 \$45/MONTH \$20/DEPOSIT
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086 Mobile Home/RV Lots
POJO RV PARK
 302 Allison Road
 Springtown, TX 76082
817-925-3673
30x60 RV Spaces Available
One small inside pet allowed
 NEAR POJO STADIUM

088 Rent Unfurnished
Eagle Lake Garden APARTMENTS
 • Are now taking applications on a first come first serve basis.
 • Will have rental assistance available for eligible households.
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY
 1300 VILLAGE GARDEN
 AZLE, TX
Call or come by now!
817-444-6532
800-735-2988

REAL ESTATE
 Real Estate Deadline Monday by 12:00 PM
817-270-3340

Looking for that income producing property?
 #AirBNB Lovely lakefront property with private boat ramp and dock. 1-acre lot, large, fenced backyard.
7375 Hickey Rd., Azle
 Call Rose Weaver
817-489-4560
 MARIE PIGG REAL ESTATE

NATIONAL HOME BUYERS LLC
 Sell or lease your house in 7 days to stop foreclosure. We look at all, any condition.
901-417-9423
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Ash Creek Storage
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S-1629

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Circle one and clip and mail with check:
Azle News Springtown Epigraph
 321 W. Main Street P.O. Box 557
 Azle, Texas 76020

Happy Easter!

079 Welding
Our Business is Metal Buildings - And We're Good!
 DESIGN FABRICATION ERECTION
Cozart METAL BUILDING SYSTEMS
 Fabrication and erection of quality metal buildings at reasonable prices, any size - any design
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 Fax 817-237-0904
 Mark Cozart Jeremy Cozart
 817-233-6668 817-237-2028

087 Rent Furnished
 Room to Rent, females only, 1 bedroom \$290/Mo. All bills paid, call 682-290-5276.

088 Rent Unfurnished
 2-2 4-PLEX, Newly Remodeled. \$1,100mo \$800 security deposit, WBFP, walk-in closets, box windows, large kitchen w/pantry, 1,100 sf. 817-360-3039.

1920 PELICAN DR. N.
 3-2-1 \$1,495.MO \$1,000 DEP.
 1912 PELICAN DR. N.
 3-2-1 \$1,395.MO \$1,000 DEP.
 Gene Thompson & Associates
 817-246-4646 gtax.com

WDC WELD-DONE CONSTRUCTION LTD.
Metal Building Erectors
 • Pre-engineered Weld-up
 • Barns/Shops
 • Arenas/Hangars
 • Fencing
 1220 E. Hwy. 199 • Springtown
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 www.weld-done.net

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 gtax.com
817-246-4646

owner Rodney Vick
 817-220-3044
 fax 817-523-7639
 cell 817-253-1614

R & E Construction
 Metal Building Specialist
 • Weld Ups/ Bolt Ups
 • Pipe Fencing
 • Concrete
 • Horse Barns
 • All Types Fencing
 • Metal Roofs
 Compare Pricing
 NO JOB TOO SMALL

AZLE OAKS APARTMENT
 700 JARVIS • AZLE
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1 & 2 Bedroom Unfurnished
 Accepting Applications
 Rent based on income
 TDD: **800-735-2989**
 This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Don't Break The Poor Little Piggy!
 Find the money you need in our Classified Section today!
16 words for \$10

SOLID STEEL SOLUTIONS
 • Metal Buildings • Fabrication Supplies
 • Steel Components • Pipe Fencing
 • Welding Supplies • Deer Blinds
 • Concrete Supplies • Deer Feeders
8894 W Hwy 199 • Springtown
817-220-0008
www.SolidSS.com **Open to the Public**

081 Business/Commercial
 40x50 building For Rent, 3 miles west of Springtown. 817-713-7495.

082 RV's for Rent
 Nice 1BR RV in adult RV park. Great for older person on limited income. Starts at \$550/mo. All Bills Paid. Heritage RV Park 817-444-3760.

084 Mobile Homes for Rent
 Pelican Bay: 1941 Gale Dr. 2-2 central heat & air, stove only. \$795/mo \$400/dep, owner/broker 817-988-9954.

088 Rent Unfurnished
Gateway Apartments
 313 Gateway · Azle · 817-444-0882
 TDD 800-760-1997
Energy Efficient · Central Heat/Air Off Street Parking · Water Paid Fully Equipped Laundry
ONE & TWO BEDROOMS
Rent Based On Income For Qualified Applicants
 62 years of age or older, handicap/disabled, regardless of age
 This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer

TEXAS CROSSWORD
 by Charley & Guy Orbison
 Copyright 2023 by Orbison Bros.

ACROSS

- Texas-based "The Picture Show" _____ Park, TX
- A Mike McCarthy design: "game _____"
- Dallas County namesake (init.)
- TXism: "in a coon's _____" (long time)
- took illegal video recordings
- TXism: "up and _____ juice" (coffee)
- TX Mark Chesnut's "_____ Have New Names"
- device inside Texas Comanche Peak Nuclear Power Plant
- this Bill founded Texas-based "I Can't Believe It's Yogurt!" former Rio Grande river channels
- TXism: "neon light _____" (inspiration)
- creepy term of endearment
- "Border _____" along the Rio Grande
- Rockets first round pick in 1990, Alec degree available at a Texas univer.
- twisters in Texas
- Tyler is in _____ TX
- _____ Rio, TX
- Rangers won first AL _____ in 2010
- historic Austin hotel built in 1886
- TXism: "_____ a spell"

DOWN

- Barbary sheep found in West Texas
- wallet stuffers
- TXism: "Texas _____" (oil)
- TXism: "he _____ barbed wire as dental floss" (tough)
- TXism: "I'm working without a safety _____"
- an answer to a test question
- TXism: "_____ 'nuff"
- TXism: "the tail _____" (last)
- one of TX Roy Orbison's labels: "_____ Victor"
- "Honor _____ Father and Mother"
- TXism: "he couldn't lick his upper _____" (weak)
- internet provider
- Carl Sandberg: "Texas is valor and _____"
- two can take a _____ in the TX wine country
- "threw everything they had _____"
- TXism for "satisfied" (3 wds.)
- DL or SSN
- this Ray won 1977 Byron Nelson Golf Classic (init.)
- supermarkets throughout Texas
- "Gone With the Wind" plantation
- "top dog" in the Middle East
- sound loudness measures
- Jay Gould's railroad car on display in Jefferson, TX
- aces in blackjack?
- you can't _____ of Texas in one day
- "Beware the _____ of March"
- pig fat
- TX B.J.'s "Hooked _____ Feeling"
- TXism: "mean as a bulldog on a gunpowder _____"
- TXism: "_____ walking drunk"
- TXism: "_____ your head for something besides a hat rack"
- pecan pie, e.g.
- "night _____" (anytime)
- dir. from Mineola to Mount Pleasant

TEXAS STATEWIDE CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING NETWORK
TexSCAN

TexSCAN Week of Mar. 26-April 1, 2023

ACREAGE
AFFORDABLE LAND. We have some of the best in Texas. Hill Country – Edwards, McCulloch, Schleicher, Coke, Val Verde counties, free ranging exotics. South Texas – Kinney, Duval, Live Oak counties – whitetail, hogs. Trans Pecos, Terrell, Val Verde – whitetail, javelina, quail. 30 year fixed rate financing, 5% down. www.ranchenterprisesltd.com, 800-876-9720.

ARROWHEADS
INDIAN ARROWHEADS WANTED. Point Type: Clovis, Yuma, Firstview & Eden. Must be old, authentic & unbroken. Absolute top dollar paid – up to 5 figures for one point. I am a very serious high-end collector. Call 979-218-3351.

CATTLE
60+ Angus Bulls For Sale Private Treaty. One Year Guarantee. We Deliver. Kelly Giles, Giles Angus Ranch, 806-655-5800.

GENERATORS
Prepare for power outages today with a GENERAC home standby generator. \$0 Money Down + Low Monthly Payment Options. Request a FREE Quote. Call now before the next power outage: 1-855-704-8579.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE
Applying for Social Security Disability or Appealing a Denied Claim? Call Bill Gordon & Assoc. Our case managers simplify the process & work hard to help with your case. Call 1-844-494-0689 FREE Consultation. Local Attorneys Nationwide Mail: 2420 N St NW, Washington DC. Office: Broward Co. FL (TX/NM Bar.)

MEDICAL
Portable Oxygen Concentrator May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 866-747-9983.

WANTED
Need Extra Cash – I Buy RVs & Mobile Homes –Travel Trailers, 5th Wheels, Goosenecks, Bumper Pulls. In Any Area, Any Condition – Old/New, Dirty or Clean! I PAY CASH. No Title – No Problem, we can apply for one. We go anywhere in Texas. ANR Enterprises, 956-466-7001.

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ACROSS

- Texas-based "The Picture Show" _____ Park, TX
- A Mike McCarthy design: "game _____"
- Dallas County namesake (init.)
- TXism: "in a coon's _____" (long time)
- took illegal video recordings
- TXism: "up and _____ juice" (coffee)
- TX Mark Chesnut's "_____ Have New Names"
- device inside Texas Comanche Peak Nuclear Power Plant
- this Bill founded Texas-based "I Can't Believe It's Yogurt!"
- former Rio Grande river channels
- TXism: "neon light _____" (inspiration)
- creepy term of endearment
- "Border _____" along the Rio Grande
- Rockets first round pick in 1990, Alec degree available at a Texas univer.
- twisters in Texas
- Tyler is in _____ TX
- _____ Rio, TX
- Rangers won first AL _____ in 2010
- historic Austin hotel built in 1886
- TXism: "_____ a spell"

DOWN

- Barbary sheep found in West Texas
- wallet stuffers
- TXism: "Texas _____" (oil)
- TXism: "he _____ barbed wire as dental floss" (tough)
- TXism: "I'm working without a safety _____"
- an answer to a test question
- TXism: "_____ 'nuff"
- 1977 Byron Nelson Golf Classic (init.)
- supermarkets throughout Texas
- "Gone With the Wind" plantation
- "top dog" in the Middle East
- sound loudness measures
- Jay Gould's railroad car on display in Jefferson, TX
- aces in blackjack?
- you can't _____ of Texas in one day
- "Beware the _____ of March"
- TXism: "_____ your _____" (last)
- one of TX Roy Orbison's labels: "_____ Victor"
- "Honor _____ Father and Mother"
- TXism: "he couldn't lick his upper _____" (weak)
- internet provider
- Carl Sandberg: "Texas is valor and _____"
- two can take a _____ in the TX wine country
- "threw everything they had _____"
- TXism for "satisfied" (3 wds.)
- DL or SSN
- this Ray won
- TX B.J.'s "Hooked _____ Feeling"
- TXism: "mean as a bulldog on a gunpowder _____"
- TXism: "_____ walking drunk"
- TXism: "_____ your head for something besides a hat rack"
- pecan pie, e.g.
- "night _____" (anytime)
- dir. from Mineola to Mount Pleasant
- TX Perot (init.)
- rancher slogan: "_____ More Beef"
- TXism: "call off the dogs"
- put in custody
- TX Dan Rafter co-anchored with this
- Chung for 2 years
- Lucy's hubby

TEXAS STATEWIDE CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING NETWORK
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