

Going once, going twice

Azle FFA Alumni & Supporters raise \$15,000 during annual Beans & Cornbread Dinner and Auction



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Azle FFA Alumni & Supporters celebrated the 15th annual Beans & Cornbread Dinner and Auction Feb. 25, to raise money to support Azle FFA and its current students for the upcoming year.

“(Beans & Cornbread) was a great success,” Azle FFA Alumni & Supporters President Jay Ewing said. “It’s always great to see the many folks that have been supporting the Azle FFA for a long time. It’s a family event that everyone looks forward to every year.”

Keeping with tradition, the FFA alumni chapter prepared and served the annual meal of beans and cornbread.

“Beans and cornbread have long been a part of the way of life for farmers and ranchers,” Ewing said. “It can feed a lot of hands at minimal expense and preparation. This was our 15th annual event, and we started with this meal and have been serving it ever since. Everyone seems to enjoy it.”

With dinner, guests could participate in a variety of games including silent and live auctions designed to raise funds and financially assist the current Azle FFA students with scholarships, travel expenses, and purchasing animals.

PHOTO COURTESY COURTNEY WEEKS

Azle FFA Alumni & Supporters hosted the 15th annual Beans & Cornbread Dinner and Auction, raising more than \$15,000 for Azle FFA students.

PLEASE SEE **BEANS** | A10



JESSICA MCKINNEY | AZLE NEWS

Amber Sampson, Azle Hornet Academy graduate, smiles wide as Azle ISD Superintendent Todd Smith delivers her high school diploma.

37 graduate Hornet Academy

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Azle Hornet Academy awarded high school diplomas to 37 students during its graduation ceremony Feb. 27, 2023.

Beginning in 2009, Hornet Academy has provided non-traditional opportunities for students to earn their high school diploma online.

“Many of our students
PLEASE SEE **ACADEMY** | A3

Bullseye for Azle 4-H

Azle 4-H archers compete for medals and life lessons

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Kristen McLaughlin encourages kids in the Azle community to be resilient, and to persevere and keep their eyes on target — specifically, a NFAA 40-cm blue single shot archery target.

McLaughlin serves as the archery coach for the Azle 4-H, a nonprofit organization dedicated to building community leaders and, currently, the largest youth development program in the state. Archery is a large part of the Shooting Sports project within the Natural Resources division of Texas 4-H along with Hunting/Wildlife, Pistol, Rifle, Shotgun, and other shooting events.

Participants from Azle 4-H and other area clubs across Texas attended a two-day 4-H Archery Tournament Feb. 25-26 at Fort Grand Guns and Archery in Weatherford. A total of 79 archers competed for medals in the indoor Texas Field Archery Association tourna-



PHOTO COURTESY KRISTEN MCLAUGHLIN

Azle 4-H participants Jacob Lankford, Abigail Moore, and Madison Thomas placed in their divisions at the TFAA tournament Feb. 25-26.

ment in different age divisions — Cub (8-11 years), Youth (12-14 years), and Young Adult (15-18 years) — and bow type divisions including compound aided, compound unaided, genesis, and barebow.

Along with life lessons, some Azle 4-H participants placed in the top of their divisions and returned with a medal. Jacob Lankford placed 1st in Cub Genesis, Abigail Moore placed 2nd in Cub Genesis, and Madison

Thomas placed 1st in Young Adult Barebow.

“I was so proud of our archers,” McLaughlin said. “During the tournament, they didn’t give up, they kept

PLEASE SEE **ARCHERY** | A2

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Music in the Park seeks sponsors

City of Azle is gearing up for summer 2023 concert series Music in the Park

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The Special Events program of the City of Azle is preparing for the 2023 Music in the Park summer concert series. Offering nine weeks of free entertainment for the Azle community, the Special Events program is looking for sponsors.

"These exciting and fun events would not be possible without the support from local businesses and organizations," the Special Events sponsorship brochure states. "Becoming a sponsor allows businesses to be part of one of the most popular family-friendly events held in Azle."

There are six levels of sponsorship, ranging from a Social Media sponsorship to Concert Series sponsorship.

"Depending on the sponsorship level chosen, companies can expect their brand's name to be featured on the city's website, social media posts, apparel, and merchandise before and during the events," the brochure noted.

The sponsorship deadline for the 2023 Music in the Park concert series is March 17. If interested, call 817-444-7127 for more information.

LOOKING AT THE LINEUP

The following performers are scheduled to headline the 2023 Music in the Park concert series.

- May 5 - Epic Unplugged, MTV Unplugged
- May 12 - Seger System, Bob Seger tribute
- May 19 - Vinyl Stripes, rockabilly & surf
- May 26 - Big City Outlaws, country to Top 40
- June 2 - Hip Hop Hooray, 1980s and 90s hip hop
- June 9 - Electric Circus, Top 40 dance band
- June 16 - Primadonna, Madonna tribute
- June 23 - Escape Band, Journey tribute band
- June 30 - Poo Live Crew, Azle's Favorite Band.



FILE PHOTO
Poo Live Crew performed with Music in the Park in 2019. The City of Azle's Music in the Park is looking for sponsors for this fun community event.

ARCHERY

FROM PAGE A1

going until the end."

Each archer shot "12 ends of 5 arrows," McLaughlin said. "This means (the participants) shot 60 arrows for the duration of the tournament." In archery, an end is a four-minute period in which the participant can shoot the desired amount of arrows toward the target. This means the Azle 4-H competitors had 12 four-minute rounds to shoot five arrows each.

"Sixty arrows are a lot when you are not used to it," McLaughlin continued. "We had been working up to the full sixty arrows; however, many would still take breaks."

With extensive experience in 3-D and indoor archery herself, McLaughlin reached out to her previous archery coaches to ensure her athletes would have a positive teaching experience. "My coaches taught me everything I know about archery,"

McLaughlin said. "When I decided that I was willing to take on the archery project, I reached back out to them, and they have helped me along the way to be able to make sure these kids have the best opportunities possible."

Coupled with the physical benefits of practicing archery, Coach McLaughlin expresses that archery is beneficial for mental health and life skills particularly building perseverance and resiliency.

"An archer has to be resilient," she said. "Once the arrow leaves the bow, it cannot be changed. So, archers have to learn that even if that first shot does not go according to plan it's time to focus on the next shot."

McLaughlin continued, "Through archery, many of these young archers learn there are discomforts in life that take life skills such as resiliency and perseverance to overcome ... Archery is a sport that is so versatile in its ability to teach life lessons."



PHOTO COURTESY KRISTEN MCLAUGHLIN

A total of 79 archers competed for medals in the indoor Texas Field Archery Association tournament in different age divisions.

Azle 4-H Archery Indoor Tournament February 25-26, 2023

CUB 8-11

Compound Aided	K. Edwards	296
Compound Aided	K. Jackson	271 (15Xs)
Compound Aided	K. Shell	271 (14Xs)
Compound Aided	T. Gannon	262
Compound Aided	K. Hughes	260
Compound Aided	H. Hennessey	255
Compound Aided	B. Arnett	254
Compound Aided	T. Herring	242
Compound Aided	M. Zinn	241
Compound Aided	W. Gannon	233
Compound Aided	K. Hahs	228
Compound Aided	L. Gallant	223
Compound Aided	G. Goolsbee	221
Compound Aided	S. Keck	218
Compound Aided	S. Ambrose	217
Compound Aided	D. Staples	216
Compound Aided	B. Klapper	216
Compound Aided	L. Newland	214
Compound Aided	D. Herring	205
Compound Aided	C. Serna	203
Compound Aided	C. Hester	183
Compound Aided	J. Scott	179
Compound Aided	C. Arnold	143
Compound Aided	G. Williams	128
Compound Aided	C. Moeller	123
Compound Aided	A. Kilker	108
Compound Unaided	M. Romine	20
Genesis	J. Lankford	176
Genesis	A. Moore	173
Genesis	V. Willard	143
Genesis	L. Burkel	135
Genesis	E. Brown	133
Genesis	D. Mangum	114
Genesis	K. Bradberry	108
Genesis	O. Acosta	96
Genesis	V. Rodriguez	89
Genesis	X. Proctor	67
Genesis	M. Kraemer	62
Genesis	A. DeSimone	23
Recurve	C. Wiley	134
Recurve	L. Bean	113

Recurve	Z. Boone	105
Recurve	L. Jessen	102
Recurve	W. Jordan	85
Recurve	E. Glossup	84
Recurve	A. Reese	21

YOUTH AGE 12-14

Compound Aided	G. Ray	260
Compound Aided	M. Zinn	248
Compound Aided	J. Ozias	236
Compound Aided	A. Watson	226
Compound Aided	M. Thomas	220
Compound Aided	R. Kilker	211
Compound Aided	C. Johnson	185
Compound Aided	B. Merritt	180
Compound Aided	W. Staples	179
Compound Aided	Z. Franklin	178
Compound Aided	C. Gallant	122
Compound Aided	R. Arnold	106
Compound Aided	I. Goolsbee	76
Barebow	E. Staples	190
Barebow	P. Burck	124
Barebow: Genesis	C. Cox	89
Barebow: Genesis	K. Clay	66
Barebow: Genesis	M. Story	59
Barebow	C. Herren	35

YOUNG ADULT AGE 15-18

Compound Aided	K. Poindexter	297
Compound Aided	C. Sparks	281
Compound Aided	J. Oliver	253
Compound Aided	N. Davis	250
Compound Aided	A. Johnson	244
Compound Aided	L. Pennington	234
Compound Aided	M. Davis	206
Compound Aided	R. Jackson	191
Compound Aided	Y. Rodriguez	122
Barebow: Genesis	M. Thomas	124
Barebow Recurve	C. Murray	86
Barebow: Genesis	J. Calk	83
Compound Unaided	D. Parker	264

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Man charged in 2020 manslaughtering to be sentenced

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The former Boyd High School assistant principal who was charged with killing a man while driving in 2020 pleaded guilty to the felony charges filed against him and is scheduled for sentencing next month.

Springtown resident Kevin Scott Evans is scheduled to be sentenced in 415th District Court on April 3. He was charged with intoxication manslaughter with a vehicle — a second-degree felony — and with accident involving serious bodily injury — a third-degree felony. In January 2020, Reno po-

lice officers responded to a hit and run in the 4200 block of East State Highway 199 at about 9:30 p.m. Ernest D. Medley, 51, of Springtown, was hit and died at the scene as a result of his injuries. That same night, Evans was arrested after a Springtown police officer noticed that the truck he was driving on west-

bound SH 199 was similar to the description of the vehicle seen fleeing the hit-and-run scene. The officer stopped Evans, and his truck reportedly had front-end damage, a non-working headlight and what appeared to be human tissue on the front of the vehicle. Evans was indicted in June

2020. District Attorney Jeff Swain said the victim's family is expected to make statements at the sentencing hearing on April 3. The Epigraph reached out to Evans' attorney requesting comment.



FILE PHOTO
Kevin Scott Evans

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

- TXism: "winder" (exciting)
- in 1910, TX Johnson knocked out the "great white"
- Greek given name
- TXism: "bunched up like ___ at a trough"
- birth month for TX "Dandy Don" Meredith (abbr.)
- with 36-across, cartoon animals named by Bill "Tex" Henson
- actress Patricia of TX-based "Hud"
- American Airlines Center to the Dallas Mavericks (2 wds.)
- sch. exercise (abbr.)
- drug addict
- TX "alligator" or "spotted" fish
- ground-huggin' cloud? (2 wds.)
- boot repairs (2 wds.)
- private San Antonio univer. (abbr.)
- gas at \$2.50 per gallon these days? (2 wds.)
- last name in 9-across cartoon
- Texas among other states?
- TXism for "vulnerable" (3 wds.)
- 43 murders
- San _____, TX
- TX "Cowpokes" artist Reid (init.)

DOWN

- TXism: "mean as a bulldog on a gunpowder ___"
- TXism: "bunkhouse chili"
- restaurant reminder: "___ server"
- Texas peak: "___ Capitan"
- Love or Hobby guess
- ethanol scopolamine, e.g. "truth ___"
- most slippery
- orange's skin
- TXism: "up ___ without a paddle"
- TXism: "leave ___ stone unturned"
- TXism: "he ___ his own grave"
- wooly critters at the front? (2 wds.)
- snake in Texas
- most factual
- Porte, TX
- female eggs
- TXism: "if he ___ dog he wouldn't wag his own tail" (lazy)
- "Alibates Quarries National Monument" in Texas
- big pelvis bone
- corporation abbr.
- "Swoosh" sneaker
- German Christmas market in Texas, if spelled with a "K": "___markt"
- TXism: "___ some away" (save)
- sneak a look
- TX Willie has lived 89 of these (abbr.)
- ___ to love her but it's all over now"
- it cost \$31,000 to
- famed Texas longhorn "Starlight"

ACADEMY

FROM PAGE A1

come to us with some serious adversity," Hornet Academy teacher Anthony Barron said. "We provide some guidance and direction in helping (the students) achieve their high school diploma so that they can have a better chance at life." The accredited academy offers on-campus and off-campus programs to fit the need of each student. In addition, the Azle Hornet Academy site states "teachers are committed to supporting their students as they pursue their high school diplomas." "Our students, that get accepted, thrive here and go on to college; join the workforce and become productive members of our society," Hornet Academy teacher Laura Hamm said. "I have worked for Azle ISD for almost 20 years and have seen

a lot of great things happen in this district, but the highlight of each year...is seeing Hornet Academy students walk across the stage on graduation night." Since opening, 680 students across 29 classes have graduated from Hornet Academy and earned their high school diploma. "We have graduated many students who may not have been able to do so in a traditional high school," Barron continued. "So, that is why it is so rewarding to actually see our students walk across the stage and hold their heads up high!"

TURNED THE TASSEL

The following students graduated during the February 2023 ceremony in the Azle High School Auditorium.

- Hayden Lowery Ash
- Alexis Eduardo Bacio-Aguilar
- Saige Marie Butler
- Aaliyah Lynn Cazares
- Armando Allen Chamberlin
- Savannah Leigh Colette

- Cunningham
- Rey Armando Davalos
- Luke Henry Eads
- Julia Marie Flowers
- Jeffery Wade Frame
- Jaziel Garcia
- Kana Faith Geary
- Paul Howard Godwin III
- Joshua Aaron Hall
- Kaidon Strait Hill
- Asher Cayden Hooten
- Courtney Ann Krouse
- Bailee Jo Nicolle Lane
- Brianna Rose Lew
- Liliana Lizet Montoya
- Miranda Lynn Murehead
- Zoey Jjoylynn Parrish
- Alexander Scott Perkins
- Dylan Cole Richards
- Courtney Nicole Roberts
- Michell Ruiz
- Amber Maria Sampson
- Summer Dawn Senn
- Kaitlyn Marie Shafer
- Hayden Scott Steedman
- Irelan Grace Terrell
- Jared Mahonri Uriostegui
- Lehi Moroni Uriostegui
- Heather Kristine Varner
- Braydon Dakota Wayne Vickery
- Ryan Edgar Weaver
- Kaylee Lynne Whittier

Sudoku

MARCH 8, 2023

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

Solutions

MARCH 1, 2023

Last Puzzle Solution

S-1626

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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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.

Mothers and Fathers of Texas Education

"The cultivated mind is the guardian genius of democracy..."

These are the wise words of Mirabeau B. Lamar, President of the Republic of Texas from 1838-1841. This phrase helped inspire the Texas Legislature to do something great for future generations. Even as a proud Texas Aggie, I appreciate, as Texas Longhorns may recognize, the motto and Latin version of this quote, *Disciplina Praesidium Civitatis*. Lamar knew how to fortify Texas for years to come: Teach our children. He advocated to endow public lands in order to create a public education system in every county; an endeavor that came to fruition well after his death and earned him



DISTRICT 60

By Glenn Rogers

Representative Glenn Rogers is a sixth generation Texas rancher, where his family has deep ranching roots in Palo Pinto County going back to the 1890s. He represents District 60 in the Texas House of Representatives.

the title "The Father of Texas Education."

Texas is blessed to have free schools statewide and it is the duty of the Legislature to ensure education is effective. As Texans, we expect our children's learning experiences to be safe, fair, and of high quality. On the local level, education should be a partnership between students, teachers, school administrators, and most importantly,

parents.

An educational partnership can only be successful if parents are afforded certain rights. Parents deserve access to scholastic material their children are provided. Parents deserve the ability to meet with teachers and principals about their child. Parents deserve to be heard by local school boards. Parents should be allowed to request a change

of class or teacher. A parent is entitled to every written document concerning their student. Parents should be allowed to observe learning sessions involving their children. Fundamentally, schools should never prevent a parent from exercising any of these rights.

In the media, discussions of Parental Rights are more prevalent than ever before. Politicians seek to win the approval of parents by pledging to fight for these rights. The topic is on the minds of many conservatives, and rightfully so.

Yet, there is good news that the media is not reporting and is conveniently overlooked. In Texas, these rights are lawfully afford-

ed to every parent. In the "Texas Election Code, Title 2. Public Education, Subtitle E. Students and Parents, Chapter 26. Parental Rights and Responsibilities," each and every one of these wonderful rights mentioned above are protected. Numerous Parental Rights have been secured for decades. Throughout the years, the Legislature has amended the Code and continuously improved these rights.

In the Code, it states "Parents shall be encouraged to actively participate in creating and implementing educational programs for their children." Our students deserve the best education, which means parents and schools must take advantage

of the partnership and rights the Great State of Texas has given us all.

Significant Parental Rights are in the Texas education code; but what about "School Choice"? Texas already has one of the most robust "school choice" systems for parents in the nation. Between open-enrollment public schools, private schools, charter schools, homeschools, and online learning, parents have plenty of available options to place their child wherever they see fit.

A hundred-and-eighty-five years after Mirabeau B. Lamar earned his title, parents should also lay claim to their title: "MOTHERS and FATHERS of Texas Education."

We ain't never done this before!

There's a first time for everything (or so the saying goes).

When was the last time you did something or the first time?

I'm sitting here this morning thinking about first times.

I've written quite a few times over the years about my experience singing with the Singing Men of North Central Texas. Fourteen years ago this month was my first time to sing with SMONCT.

In October 2010, I went to Ukraine for the first of four SMONCT concert/mission tours.

Next month will be our first trip to Poland.



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.

In July 1984 I did something for the first time — I became a husband. I became a father for the first time in May 1988 and six months later became a pastor for the first time.

And when I became a grandpa for the first time in October 2014 I found out what all the hubbub was about!

Mrs. Sweetie and I have had quite a few firsts since that wedding day in 1984 (in addition to becoming parents and grandparents). We bought our first house in 1991 (after seven years in church parsonages). We bought our first honest-to-goodness new car in 1996. We experienced our first retirement when she retired from Azle ISD in 2013.

And in a few months, we're going to leave that house we bought in 1991 and move to a new one in a new place.

Last week I announced my upcoming retirement from Harvest Baptist Association effective June 30. That's not our first retirement since she already did it. It won't be our first move since we've done that three times since 1984. It won't be our first house (though if our pattern holds true, it will likely be our last).

But it will be a first in another way. It's the first time we've moved for a reason other than going to seminary or taking a new job. We're making this move to start a new

chapter near our kids and grandkids in Amarillo. It's a deliberate choice to write the next chapter of our lives with family as the main plot line — and to do so while we are still young enough that we're not creating a chapter for them that is dominated by taking care of the old folks.

So, while I'm "retiring" from full-time association/church employment, my calling and identity as a minister will be as real as ever. It just won't be carried out in the way it has for the past 39 years.

I'll be giving more attention to my coaching/consulting/writing business as well as

helping churches with leadership transitions and strategic planning. I'll be doing more with music while I've still got some left in me. And I'm working on some opportunities to partner with other ministries and organizations that I believe in.

But we ain't never done this before and it's exciting and terrifying and wonderful and sad all at the same time.

And amazing. Let's continue to enjoy this journey together as far as it takes us.

Be amazing today, my friend.

Kaitlyn Fleming Photography

The Azle Area Chamber of Commerce hosted a ribbon cutting on March 1 for Kaitlyn Fleming Photography. Kaitlyn is a portrait photographer based in the D-FW area and is currently booking Spring Family Mini Sessions for Sunday, March 19. Book your session at kaitlynflemingphotography@gmail.com.



Correction

In the article "Candidates file for May 6 election in Reno" that appeared in the March 1 edition of The Azle News and the March 2 edition of The Springtown Epigraph, mayoral candidate Hector G. Bas Jr.'s name was misspelled. We regret the error.

STRONG CONSTRUCTION & HAIL CLAIMS

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Local EMS students to train using new ambulance simulator

MADELYN EDWARDS
madelyn@azlenews.net

When Weatherford College's emergency medical services program coordinator requested grant-funded supplies, she didn't know she'd get almost everything she wanted.

Now, EMS students will learn using new, updated equipment.

Springtown resident Samantha Grimsley started working at Weatherford College as an adjunct in the EMS department in February 2021. Last May, she was promoted to program coordinator. In this role, she was tasked with requesting items to purchase through the Perkins Grant, which allocates federal funding for workforce education programs.

"I started in May 2022, and I was told in a week that Perkins Grant items were due, and I had no idea what I was doing, what that entailed, or what I needed to ask for," Grimsley said. "I had obviously been an adjunct, but I didn't know what the program really needed per se in large ticket items."

To make up the wish list, Grimsley said she went back to her roots. She remembered using an ambulance simulator when she was an emergency medical technician student, so she asked for one of those. She also put in bids for a slew of other items, such as a power cot stretcher, two cardiac monitors, IV pumps and a couple of ventilators.

Grimsley said she was impressed when she realized

that the department would receive almost everything she asked for, which she previously didn't expect to happen.

"I've loved seeing students' faces when they get to see all the new equipment or the fact that we are doing something to help them do better," she said. "It's an amazing feeling."

The indoor ambulance simulator is basically an ambulance that doesn't have driving capabilities. Inside, it is identical to ambulances that EMS workers use daily. Using the simulator, students will be able to practice the process of responding to a medical emergency, including putting a patient on a gurney and providing care to the patient in the ambulance, Grimsley said.

"They're now getting the most realistic training that they possibly can because that is essentially what we hear from students all the time, 'Well, it doesn't feel real,'" she said. "We're making it as real as we possibly can get it at this point."

Other items that were funded by the grant are replacing old or outdated equipment. For example, the EMS department will now have a power cot that will replace the department's manual-style gurney.

Some items, like the IV pumps, also allow the educational program to stay up to date with the equipment that professional EMS departments are using. Grimsley said Parker County Hospital District and Wise County EMS are using IV pumps to deliver



PHOTO COURTESY OF SAMANTHA GRIMSLEY

Weatherford College EMS students practice responding to calls for help and providing care to patients. The EMS department is acquiring new equipment for students to use in their training.

critical care medications, and now, the students can learn how to operate the same equipment that they would use in the local workforce.

"We wanted to have the ability to train our students on those so they wouldn't have any issues when they go to get a job outside of school and actually know how to utilize that equipment," she said.

The goal of the EMS department is to train students so

that they can successfully get certified and get to work, Grimsley said. Currently, Weatherford College's EMS department has about 50 students with two paramedic classes and one EMT class.

"We want them to be trained so that they could pretty much walk onto an ambulance or a fire department job and not have somebody go, 'Gosh, they're so behind in their training, and they don't understand this,'" she said.

she said. "We want them to be successful in the long run because it's a career industry that is constantly needing people. We're a job that will essentially always be needed, and there is a need for these people."

So, why should average Springtown residents care about Weatherford College's EMS program?

Grimsley pointed out that Springtown residents typically pay taxes to Weatherford

College, and the college provides an educational opportunity to Parker County folks that's not far from home.

"I wanted to showcase this to the community because I think they have a right to know what is going on over here as far as training goes," she said.

Grimsley thanked Weatherford College for allowing her to be able to help train EMS students.

Spotlight on BUSINESS



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OBITUARIES

Billy Myers 1928 - 2023

Billy J. Myers, 94, a loving and devoted husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, father-in-law and friend to many, passed away peacefully in the early morning of March 2, 2023.

Memorial service for Billy will be 2 p.m., Saturday, March 11, 2023, at Community Bible Fellowship Church, located at 1405 Reynolds Road, Azle, Texas 76020.

Billy was born December 3, 1928, in Tioga, Texas, to the late J.P. and Hettie Myers. Billy helped his father and mother run the family farm in Tioga prior to graduating from high school. After graduating, Billy joined the U.S. Air Force and retired as Tech Sergeant after 21 years working in supply and logistics.

After moving back to Texas, Billy helped his wife run their family-owned beauty salon and worked simultaneously for 35 years at the Carswell AFB Commissary. Billy loved to fish with his children, was an avid Dallas Cowboys fan, and loved to travel with his wife, taking many trips to Las Vegas and an extended tour of Scotland and England. He was loved dearly by his late wife, and



his surviving children will miss his calming and fatherly presence. Billy J. Myers was a member of Ash Creek Baptist Church.

Billy was preceded in death by his wife of 47 years, Darla; his son Jackie Dale Myers; brother Gene Myers; and sister Iva Myers Carney.

Billy is survived by his sister Janie Myers Collum, son Kip Myers, daughters Starr Myers Goeders and Nikki Myers Wieland, son-in-law Dan Wieland, daughter-in-law Dawn Wheeler Myers, 11 grandchildren, several great-grandchildren, and many other family members and friends.

The Azle News,
March 8, 2023 Edition

Steven Reedy 1958 - 2023

Steven Ray Reedy, 64, passed away February 9, 2023, at his home.

Memorial service is 1 p.m. Saturday, March 11, 2023, at White's Azle Chapel.

Steven was born January 31, 1958, in Fort Worth to Leslie and Mary Peacock Reedy.

He loved watching the Cowboys.

Steven was preceded in death by his father and brother Roger Reedy.

Survivors include mother, Mary Peacock; brothers, Jeff Reedy and wife Tammy, and Mike Reedy and wife Stacey; half-sisters, Darla Greenwood and husband, and Cindy



Reedy; nieces and nephews Karla, Jennifer, Brian, Noel Shay and Leslie.

The Azle News,
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Azle, America

NANCY LEE STEVENS
nancy@hoodcountynews.com

We're not from these parts. But thank heavens we moved here. We left an enormous city of four million to settle in a small town and experience country life. Here's a fun story from our first month here to illustrate why we're so grateful for our new town.

We've always had multiple pets in our homes. When the kids were growing up, we had two dogs, two cats and two parakeets. We referred to ourselves as "Noah's Ark." When we moved to Azle, we owned one dog - a Labrador.

We had been here for a month and I needed a cat. I've always had cats, so any type, any breed would do. The responsible thing to do as a newcomer to town was to support the local animal shelter, so off I went. Our daughter had seen a kitten advertised there and wanted me to check her out.

Animal shelters have always seemed ominous to me. I want every animal inside to come home with me and I feel that is also the goal

of the shelter employees. But not so at the Azle Animal Shelter. The employees are warm, friendly and want you to find your perfect fit in a pet. They're the type of folks I trust looking after the town's shelter animals. The Animal Control Officer was pleasant as she explained my duties as an adopter. After giving me a short once-over, eight week old "Tater" accepted me and came home, yowling all the way. Our new digs were back to normal. Life in Azle was even better.

Until our washing machine broke down. Yikes! Who do I call? I am an outsider. I am from the 713, not the 817. I have resided in Azle one month. I do not know anyone here. A major appliance of ours is on the fritz. How do I find a repair person? More importantly, how does he find us? Can he navigate the back roads of Azle, America? If he finds us, will he be honest? Repairmen in the country probably overcharge people who have just moved to town. And how does he feel about Whirlpool washing machines? Has he heard of them?

Here's the great lesson I learned. A knowledgeable and responsible serviceman came to our house and repaired the washer. He was honest, thorough and yes, he had heard of Whirlpool. And the cost of the repair? In 713, it'll take a hundred dollars just to get the person to your doorstep. In Azle, the price of the whole affair is reasonable. Azle repair persons are now my personal heroes. Wait until you hear about the electrician we found.

When the Azle appliance repairman was finishing up, kitten Tater scampered through the laundry room. Chris, my repairman, saw her and did a doubletake. "Where did you get that cat?", he demanded. "How long have you had her?" "I've got to call my wife!" I was alarmed and immediately thought, "Oh, no, what have I done? I just got up here. I don't know this town. I have already offended a repairman. Maybe people here don't like cats, maybe only feral cats are popular, maybe this is dog country, maybe I should have gotten a chick-

en. Labrador retrievers like chickens, right?"

It turns out, our appliance repairman is in fact the person who took Tater to the Azle Animal Shelter in the first place. Two weeks prior, he'd found her under a shrub in front of a house on Church Street, and rescued her. After a few days, he realized it wouldn't do to have a kitten living in a shop full of heavy appliances. No need to test the Nine Lives Theory. He turned Tater over to the Azle Animal Shelter because he knew they'd find her a good home (they did). Then two weeks go by, my washing machine goes kaput and I call for service. Chris shows up and gets a surprise bonus with his repair job! His cat has found a home.

In the great town of Azle, these kinds of things can happen. Your repairman can also turn out to be your pet supplier.

Tater's middle name is Chris. I love this town. Azle, America indeed.

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Flute Festival coming up at Weatherford College

STAFF REPORTS

Flutists, take note: Weatherford College will host the second annual Flute Festival on Saturday, April 15 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Alkek Fine Arts Center.

The festival, which is for flutists of all ages and all playing abilities, will feature international flutist Stephen

Clark and beatboxing sensation Greg Pattillo, according to a Weatherford College press release.

“Clark is the recipient of the 2016 Sir James Galway Rising Star Award, first prize winner of the 2018 IMKA Music Competition and the 2018 Alexander and Buono International

Flute Competition,” according to the press release. “In 2015, he was accepted into the Recording Academy of America and is now a voting member in the Grammys. Clark has appeared on screen as the flute player in both the BBC’s period drama series ‘Desperate Romantics’ and ITV’s feature film ‘Miss

Marple – The Secret of Chimneys.”

As for Pattillo, the press release noted that the beatboxing flutist was praised by The New York Times as “the best person in the world at what he does.” He has performance videos on YouTube that have been viewed more than 70 million times.



PHOTO COURTESY STEPHEN CLARK

Stephen Clark

Speedy registration for the Flute Festival is encouraged because masterclasses with Clark and Pattillo are only available on a limited basis.

Musicians can also audition for the honor flute choir via a prescreened recording of audio only, which is due on April 1.

A young artist competition will also be included in the festival, according to the press release. The festival day will end with a public concert.

Visit <https://bit.ly/3X7uikP> to register for the festival for free.



PHOTO COURTESY STEPHEN CLARK

Greg Pattillo

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A Good Life

What makes for a happy, fulfilling life?

Last month the Azle Area Chamber of Commerce held its annual banquet at the Orchard Event Venue & Retreat. The 275 guests were treated to an extensive array of silent auction items, excellent food from Caitlyn's Catering and a meaningful program.

My wife, Daniele, dressed in the night's theme of "Black & White," enjoyed the event and made it to the fifth round of the "Heads & Tails" game. The program honored several people, businesses and organizations and introduced the 2023 board of directors. The Chamber's executive director, Jennifer Herrington, orchestrated an event to remember.



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

I had a unique view of things. I was able to see and hear what was said from the mic and even played the game along with the others, going out in round three. I enjoyed Hogle's irreplaceable job as emcee, and Kip Kruger's self-aware dad jokes. I cheered on the winners of the evening's awards, and I did this all from 750 miles away, thanks to the event being streamed.

From my observation post (my hotel room across from the Auburn University campus), I watched people mix, mingle, laugh, hug, listen and share. Introductions were made, old friends caught up and no one seemed to be left out. Everyone seemed cheery.

Back to the question I first asked: What makes for a happy, fulfilling life?

Robert J. Waldinger, MD, and Marc Schulz, PhD, direc-

tors of the Harvard Study of Adult Development, released their book "The Good Life: Lessons from the World's Longest Scientific Study of Happiness" earlier this year. The book was based on a study of two successive generations of adults over the span of 84 years.

Its findings were compared with other studies conducted around the world, and it answers the question, "What makes a life fulfilling and meaningful?" The simple answer is relationships. The stronger our relationships, the more likely we are to live happy, satisfying and overall healthier lives. In fact, the Harvard study reveals that the strength of our connections with others can predict

the health of both our bodies and our brains as we go through life, and it is never too late to be intentional with making and nurturing relationships.

Interestingly, Dr. Waldinger's TED Talk about the Harvard Study "What Makes a Good Life" has been viewed more than 44 million times and is one of the ten most-watched TED talks ever.

We are blessed to live in the Azle area, one of the friendliest communities around. There are a lot of ways you can plug in locally, whether it is with the Azle Chamber, a local church, a nonprofit, a school-sponsored group, a service club, etc. It takes courage to intentionally build relationships, but the re-

wards are amazing.

C.S. Lewis, in his book "The Four Loves," astutely opined, "Friendship . . . is born at the moment when one man says to another, 'What! You too? I thought that no one but myself . . .'" What a joy it is to know and love others well and to truly be known and loved!

Connecting with people in mutually invested, supportive relationships makes for a good and hope-filled life. I cannot complete this column without mentioning my belief that a relationship with Jesus Christ is ultimately what provides a joyful, fulfilling life both now and eternally, a good life indeed.

Trolling — an effective way to locate fish

As the water warms and the fish get more active, trolling live or artificial baits can help you locate active fish. You can cover a lot of water in a short period of time. This is also extremely effective when the bite is slow and you have to search for those few fish that will bite.

Many anglers all over the country use trolling techniques to catch fish. Many different species can be caught in this fashion. In fact, it can be so effective it is generally against the rules in black bass tournaments. I never really totally understood why it is not allowed, but it has something to do with covering more water than the other guy who is casting and chunking baits. Trolling is typically allowed in striped bass tournaments.

The types of artificial baits that are normally trolled include jigs, crankbaits, and spinners. Sand bass and striped bass are the most



ON FISHING

By Michael Acosta

As a licensed professional fishing guide, Michael Acosta shows you how to find them. He has been a licensed guide since 1998. michael.acosta@att.net

popular fish caught trolling on our area lakes.

The simplest form of trolling and most widely used is to drag your bait behind the boat and go as slow as the big motor will allow. The fish will essentially catch themselves when they hit the bait.

When using crankbaits, try a variety of baits that dive to different depths. Some of the largest lipped crankbaits will get you down near 20 feet. Standard lipless crank baits such as the popular rattle-trap will go between 2 to 4 feet. For colors that work on our area lakes, I prefer chartreuse-colored baits with an orange belly especially in murky water and/or over-

cast days. On clear days, I prefer a chrome, white, bone, or blue/chrome, or black back/chrome combinations. Bomber Long A's, Fat Free shad, rattle traps, shad raps and redfins are some consistent producing baits.

The line size you use will also affect how deep your baits will dive. The lighter the line, the farther the dive. Boat speed can be crucial. When using your big motor, you may be moving your bait too fast depending on the season. Other fishermen in specialized boats control their speed accurately. Most of us here just go as slow as we can. Early in the year, I will troll on occasion with my

trolling motor to slow down the presentation. Other boats utilize kicker motors to get those slow trolling speeds, which is very effective and is desired if you can afford it.

Downrigging, as you all know, is an effective way to get your baits to the desired depths. This is generally a summer pattern but will work at other times of the year. I have used a downrigger in the winter with my trolling motor to cover more water when the fish are scattered. You can use virtually all types of artificial baits on the downrigger. If you don't have a downrigger, they sell several types of diving rigs that I call "pink ladies" that will get your bait down to a certain depth, depending on how it's connected and how much line you let out. These devices are inexpensive and do work. They work well with jigs and swimming soft plastics, but are not recommend-

ed for use with crank baits.

You can also troll live bait, but not with the big motor. This is more like a controlled drift with a trolling motor. Just let out enough line while

moving to ensure you have the bait at the desired depth. You may have to use a heavy weight to keep the bait in the strike zone.

FISHING REPORT

Water temperatures are rebounding around the 60-degree mark. Some parts of the lake are reporting a golden algae bloom based on the evidence of dead or dying fish. Fishing is slow in these areas. Other parts of the lake are not experiencing the bloom (the lower end, and in the river near Tin Top). Fishing for sand bass is good in the river near Tin Top on road runners and live minnows. Best striped bass action is on the lower ends on soft plastics and live shad. Largemouth bass continue to be caught near major creek entrances and near laydowns in the river. Catfish continue to be good on cut bait on several areas of the lake. Best crappie action continues near deeper structure.

OTHER AREAS

Comanche Creek reservoir continues to boast on great catches of largemouth bass and limits of channel catfish. I do not have a tilapia report for Comanche Creek.

Lake Whitney striped bass continue to be good on trolled Alabama rigs and live shad. Best action is from McCown Valley north. Largemouth bass are good on crankbaits and soft plastics fished near main lake points and near The Bluffs.

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If you or someone you know has back pain then this article is for you.

A common question we get is: Do I need to get an MRI or X-ray to determine what is wrong with my back?

The short answer is NO! Why do I say that?

Let's start with an x-ray which looks at the bones and how they are aligned. They do not look at the soft tissue which is frequently what is causing your pain. Now if you have had a major trauma (car accident, fall etc) then an x-ray would be useful to rule out some type of fracture. A good clinician who listens to your complaints and how the pain came to be can help guide you on whether an X-ray is necessary or not.

MRI's – are great, almost too great. There have been numerous scientific papers that have shown up to 80% of the population has a disc herniation or bulge yet they **DON'T HAVE ANY SYMPTOMS**.

What does that mean? It means it is quite likely that we are all walking around with some type of bulge or herniation in our disc but we don't have pain. Once we do start to have back pain we get an MRI and the specialist say "Ah ha" here it is, Mrs. Jones you have a herniation in your back...you need surgery. When in fact the herniation could have been present for numerous years.

As part of a routine check up we don't get MRIs on our lower back, only when we have pain. It would be most helpful if we had an MRI performed when we didn't have pain and then compare it to one when we did have pain. Then we could look at the two images and say with greater confidence "this has changed and could possibly be causing your pain".

So if I don't recommend initial imaging for your lower back, what do I recommend? Wait, begin treatment on your back and see how things go. Like I said earlier a good clinician can help determine if you need some imaging. There are certain signs and symptoms that would indicate imaging is needed and treatment should wait until certain things are ruled out.

For 99% of the people we see, imaging is not necessary and frequently delays getting in to see us so we can help you get your life back and do what you love.

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The author, Dr. Robert Moss PT, ScD is the owner of MOSS Rehabilitation Center in Springtown, TX. He is happy to help you with your back pain and sciatica problems either by phone or email.

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It may not always be the easy way, but it is the 'cowboy way'

Some of my earliest memories are of cowboys. Growing up in the time period that I did, Roy Rogers, Hopalong Cassidy, John Wayne and Gene Autry were all icons I looked up to. I wanted to emulate everything about them. I wore jeans and cowboy hats, and the cowboy scarf I wore to kindergarten now hangs in a frame in my home office as a glowing memory, aged but not forgotten.

Though I have had a variety of occupations in my adult life, perhaps the best was when I was a cowboy. Time was spent riding and showing horses, fixing fences, working cattle and even riding an occasional bull. For a portion of my life, I got to live the cowboy lifestyle. It is a good way.



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.

Roy Rogers had a tremendous demeanor and persona, which made him capable of influencing young people and reaching out to children in a positive way. He created a "cowboy creed." It was a set of commitments young cowpokes were expected to fulfill if they were to become "real cowboys."

- Be neat and clean.
- Be courteous and polite.
- Always obey your parents.
- Protect the weak and help them.

- Be brave but never take chances.
- Study hard and learn all you can.
- Be kind to animals and care for them.
- Eat all your feed and never waste any.
- Love God and go to Sunday School regularly.
- Always respect our flag and country.

As an adult looking back, "the creed" was a pretty good way for a young man or woman to live their life. It set

a tone and tenor for young people to live by and blazed the trail for them to grow into productive adults. It set a standard by which young people could establish their character.

As an adult cowboy, there are many unwritten rules about how to behave. These are a few of them I learned.

- Never criticize a man's horse, dog or wife. Be kind and protective of women.
- Always leave a gate the way you find it.
- Hats off to eat or when you enter a home or office, when addressing the flag, and either remove or tip your hat when you meet a lady.
- Ride for the brand. Loyalty to one's employer and per-

sonal integrity are sources of pride. Give 100% in any situation. Cowboys never complain about a job, they just get it done.

- Do what is right, every time, no matter the situation or the personal consequences.
- Never go back on your word. Once given it is sacred.
- Always tell the truth.
- Talk less and say more.
- Remember some things aren't for sale.
- Know where to draw the line.

From where I stand, living life like a cowboy and existing by those rules is a pretty good thing. It forces a man to refrain from crossing the line into "loose behavior" or acts

that would degrade himself and those around him. I wish more people in our current world had grown up living by and learning Roy's creed and practiced the "cowboy way." Life is simple; we make it more difficult by trying to bend the rules or circumvent them.

Anytime I find myself getting near to crossing the line, I tell myself that whatever action I was getting ready to commit might be the easy way, but it isn't the cowboy way. Good thought to live by.

Thought for the day: If more men were cowboys, there would be a lot fewer difficulties in the world.

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

Texas again leads state in new corporate projects

TEXAS AGAIN LEADS STATE IN NEW CORPORATE PROJECTS

Texas once again has topped the list for new and expanded corporate facilities added in a year, according to Site Selection Magazine. With 1,028 new projects in 2022, the state had more than the next two states combined - Illinois and Ohio.

"Texas truly is America's economic engine, and we stand apart as a model for the nation," Texas Gov. Greg Abbott said, according to The Dallas Morning News. "When choosing where to relocate or expand their businesses, more and more innovative industry leaders find themselves at home in our state."

Two projects valued at \$8.5 billion each helped snare the state's top spot: a chemical plant in Orange and a liquified natural gas plant in Corpus Christi. They were followed by a \$5 billion silicon wafer plant in Sherman.

"The Lone Star State's economy is larger than that of Canada, South Korea and Australia," Site Selection said in its March issue.



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.

NEW COURT SYSTEM FOR BUSINESSES PROPOSED

A new court system devoted solely to settling business disputes is being proposed by the state's top three elected officials, though it has its share of critics as well. The Austin American-Statesman reported Abbott, House Speaker Dade Phelan and Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick in separate announcements proposed the creation of a specialty business court, modeled after the Chancery Court of Delaware. The court has been in existence for more than two centuries and has been emulated by a few dozen states. The specialty business court has been listed as a top priority of legislators during this session.

Abbott said the court would provide consistency in applying state law when busi-

nesses end up court disputes. A high-powered lobby group, Texas for Lawsuit Reform, is backing the plan.

"Businesses today know the same case with the same facts can produce wildly varying outcomes simply based on which part of the state it's filed in and which judge is hearing it, and we know attorneys are telling their clients not to litigate in Texas because of this unpredictability," TLR spokeswoman Lucy Nashed Cafrelli said in the Statesman story.

The judges for the business court would be appointed by the governor, according to House bill 19, filed last week. The president of the Texas Trial Lawyers Association called that problematic.

"The bottom line is that Texans value electing their judges," San Antonio attorney Laura Tamez said.

CHILD FATALITIES DROP IN LAST FISCAL YEAR

The number of children in Texas who died due to accidents, maltreatment and unsafe sleep declined by 27% in the last fiscal year. The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services reported 182 children died due to abuse and neglect in the state during fiscal year 2022. The most common causes of fatalities involving neglect were drowning, unsafe sleep, physical neglect and medical neglect, DFPS reported.

Children 3 years of age and younger comprised almost 80% of all confirmed child abuse and neglect fatalities over the past 10 fiscal years. However, in the past three years, there has been a marked increase in fatalities involving older children. In all confirmed cases of abuse and neglect, parents were the most common perpetrators.

COLLEGE STUDENTS JOIN FIGHT TO END DUI DEATHS

With spring break approaching, the Texas Department of Transportation is joining with students at Texas A&M

in a peer-to-peer program focused on highlighting the dangers of driving while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

One person in the state dies every 7 hours and 41 minutes in a DUI-related crash, according to TxDOT. During spring break of 2021, Texas had 874 alcohol-related traffic crashes with 31 deaths and 107 serious injuries. TxDOT is partnering with U in the Driver Seat, a peer-to-peer program led by A&M students that is focused on saving lives by preventing DUI-related crashes. Student leaders from around the state are joining the campaign and urging fellow students to always find a sober ride.

"Our message to students is this: Help keep yourself and others safe by finding a sober ride, taking a cab, using a rideshare, or simply staying put," said Marc Williams, TxDOT executive director.

TPWD CELEBRATES PARK CENTENNIAL WITH GRANTS

As Texas state parks mark their 100th anniversary, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is awarding the largest sum of grants in the

program's history. The agency is distributing more than \$2.8 million to create 55 new grant-funded partnerships across the state to promote conservation and recreation.

The Community Outdoor Outreach Program (CO-OP) was established in 1996 to introduce under-represented audiences to outdoor recreation, conservation and environmental education. Among the projects approved are students monitoring water quality along the Rio Grande, communities of color learning about the cultural history of the Buffalo Soldiers while hiking at Fort Davis State Park, and breast cancer survivors learning to fly fish in the state's rivers.

The grants are funded through a portion of Texas' sporting goods sales tax.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME STARTS SUNDAY

Spring is approaching, and so is daylight saving time, which starts at 2 a.m. Sunday, March 12. Clocks jump ahead an hour, so if you forget to adjust the time you are liable to show up for church an hour late and miss the service.

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PHOTO COURTESY COURTNEY WEEKS

The perfect meal for ranchers and farmers—Azle FFA Alumni & Supporters served beans and cornbread.

BEANS FROM PAGE A1

“For the night, we raised over \$15,000 with the auctions bringing in the majority of that amount,” Ewing said. “The funds raised will be primarily used for scholarships and supporting the Azle FFA exhibitors at the Tarrant County Junior Livestock show...in Fort Worth at the Will Rogers Memorial Center in the Swine and Sheep Barns.”

As an organization, Azle FFA emphasizes community involvement and giving

back to those in the Azle area. Instead of purchasing tickets, guests were encouraged to bring one non-perishable food item to stock the Azle FFA Blessing Box to be granted admission into the Beans & Cornbread Dinner and Auction.

“We collected several boxes of food for the Azle FFA Box which is located next to the Azle ISD Administration office,” Ewing said. “The students have done a great job giving back to the community through the Blessing Box and they also volunteer every week at the Community Caring Center.”

While the Beans & Cornbread Dinner is the main fundraising event for the Azle FFA Alumni & Supporters, they are planning to support students and grow the Azle FFA program throughout 2023.

“We also provide support for the Leadership and Career Development teams in the fall and spring that qualify for the state competition,” Ewing added. “The Azle FFA Alumni and Supporters provide the meal for the students and their family members at the end of the year banquet where the students are recognized for all their accomplishments for the year.”



PHOTO COURTESY COURTNEY WEEKS

Current Azle FFA students manned fundraising tables throughout the Beans & Cornbread Dinner and Auction.

Signed, sealed, delivered

Residents of the Broadway and Lakeview intersection honored longtime Azle mail carrier Brian Morris on Feb. 25 by tying celebratory balloons reading “Happy retirement!” and “Grateful for you and all you do!” to their mailboxes and leaving thankful notes recognizing his retirement at the end of February 2023. Residents along Morris’ route wanted to express their gratitude for his mail service. They included one friendly neighbor who encouraged others to honor Morris saying, “His pleasant personality, exemplary service and eagerness to ‘go the extra mile’ are really going to be missed!”

COURTESY PHOTO

Azle residents honor longtime mail carrier Brian Morris by lining their mailboxes with colorful balloons celebrating his retirement at the end of February 2023.



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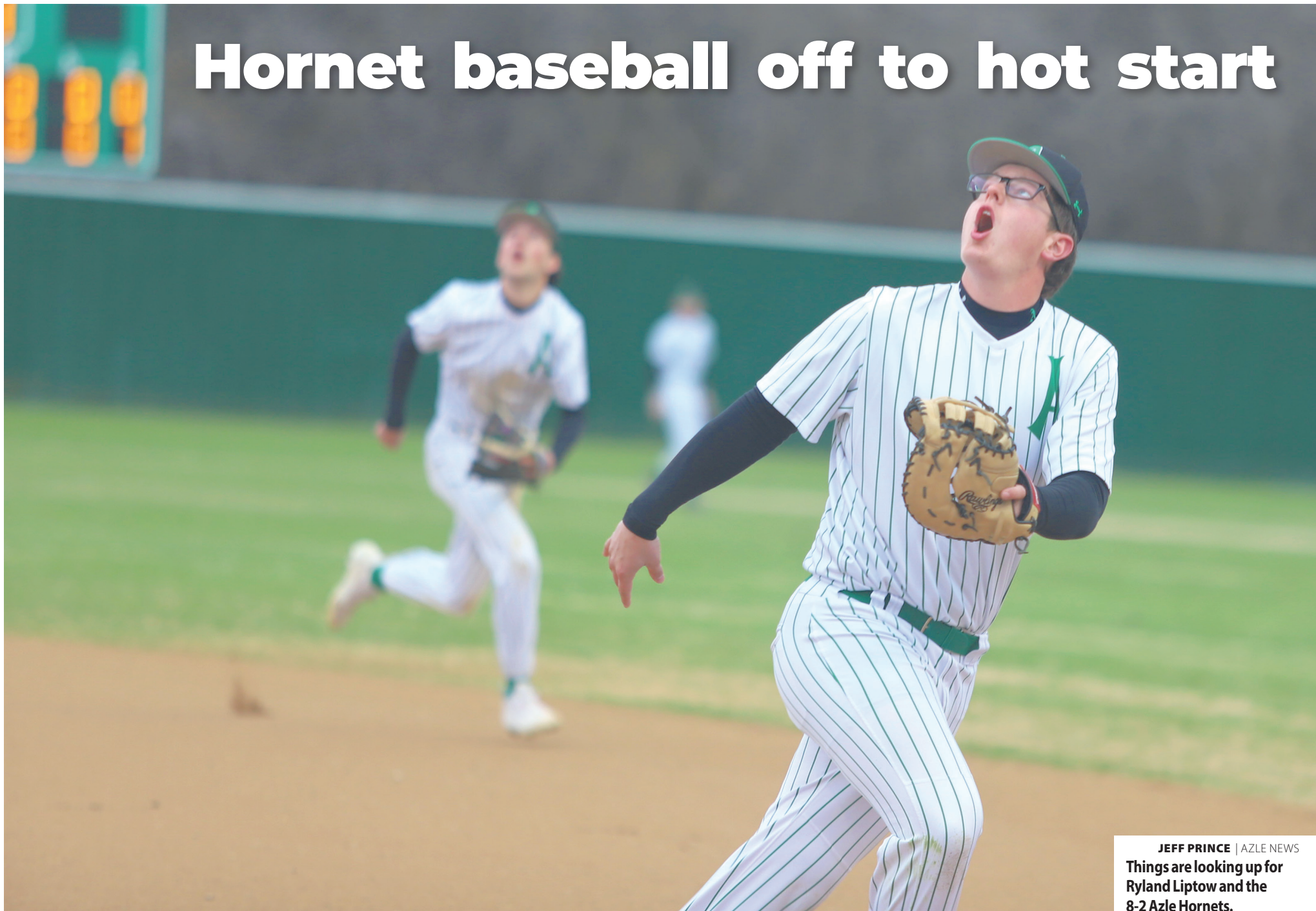
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Hornet baseball off to hot start



JEFF PRINCE | AZLE NEWS
Things are looking up for Ryland Liptow and the 8-2 Azle Hornets.

Azle Hornets Baseball

DIAMOND HILL-JARVIS 9-0
EVERMAN 6-0
AMARILLO PALO DURO 6-0
GAINESVILLE 17-3

JEFF PRINCE
jeff@azlenews.net

On March 2-4, the Azle Hornets headed to Kennedale for a baseball tournament and played with confidence and command.

Azle won all four of its games

and shut out three teams.

"I am proud of our guys for playing through some early adversity and finding ways to win games," said head coach Stephen Smith.

Azle beat Diamond Hill-Jarvis 9-0. Jackson Davis pitched for the win after going 6 innings

and striking out 8 batters.

Michael Seeton pitched a scoreless seventh inning of relief.

Ivan Perez went 3 for 3 with a double, and Noah Lehr and Garrin Graves logged 2 hits apiece.

Azle beat Everman 6-0 on the strength of a Declan Dahl

masterpiece performance on the mound. The pitcher threw seven no-hit innings and struck out 14 Bulldog batters.

Lehr and Graves had 2 hits apiece, including a triple by Graves. Grant Tune, Billy Spratt,

PLEASE SEE **BASEBALL** | B2



COURTESY PHOTO

Cash Moore qualified to compete at the state meet.

CASH IS IN

Hornet qualifies for state powerlifting meet

JEFF PRINCE
jeff@azlenews.net

The only Azle Hornet who punched his ticket for the upcoming THSPA boys state powerlifting meet was sophomore Cash Moore, who competes in the 181-pound class.

Moore qualified for state after lifting a total of 1,375 pounds in three events — squat, bench press and dead lift.

Nine Azle boys competed at the UIL Regional Powerlifting Championship on March 4 in Keller. Two Hornets — Alan Hard and Vance Guthrie — qualified for the state meet as alternates. They will be able to lift if someone else is un-

available to compete due to illness or missing weight.

The top two regional finishers in each weight class earn the right to compete at the state meet.

Hard and Guthrie earned third places and alternate status.

Other AHS results from regionals included:

Denim Fields, seventh Case Moore, seventh Bradley Skrdla, eighth Korbin Pantoja, ninth Anthony York, ninth Tyler Ulrich, 11th D'Lathian Young, ninth The THSPA state meet will be held March 24-25 at the Taylor County Expo Center in Abilene.

Azle powerlifting girls nail down regional championship



COURTESY PHOTOS

From right, Tanner Street was named Coach of the Year at the regional powerlifting meet, and his team won the championship.

JEFF PRINCE
jeff@azlenews.net

Eight Azle Lady Hornets will be heading to the state powerlifting championship on the strength of their showing at regionals.

On March 2, Azle traveled to Sherman and won the Region 6-5A team championship after 29 of its team members qualified to compete. It's the largest group of Azle powerlifters to ever qualify for regionals.

"This team is amazing," said head coach Tanner Street.

The Lady Hornets scored 51 team points and beat out 15 other schools.

Many of Street's team members have lifted under his watchful eye for four years. Prior to the regional tournament, Street predicted his team had a strong shot at winning the title.

"I am so proud of these ladies," he said afterward. "They walked away with numerous medals, set numerous PRs (personal records) and are the regional champions."

Winning first-place awards were

Raegan Williams, Ashlynn Norton and Emily Lewis.

Second-place awards were earned by Azle's Trinity Thornton, Cooper Yates, Riley McKelvain and Tatum Humphries.

Third-place awards were earned by Lady Hornets Macie Baker, Skyler Arellano and Emma Sustala.

Teammates Ella Swaim, Mckynleigh Sisk and Cheryl Grubbs earned fifth-place awards.

Thornton set a regional record for bench press in the 97-pound weight class by hoisting 150 pounds.

Williams set a regional deadlift record of 355 pounds in the 123-pound weight class. She also earned Best Squat Award, Best Deadlift Award and Most Outstanding Lifter in the light platform.

Street did some winning of his own. He was named the THSWPA Girls Powerlifting Coach of the Year.

The eight girls who qualified to compete at the state meet include Thornton, Williams, Yates, Norton, Arellano, McKelvain, Humphries and Lewis.



Raegan Williams was named Most Outstanding Lifter at the regional meet.

SPORTS Roundup



COURTESY PHOTO

From left, Katelyn Thomas, Olivia Meyers, Kenzie Hobbs, Mary Shaw, and Gracie Smith.

JEFF PRINCE
jeff@azlenews.net

AZLE HIGH GIRLS GOLF

The buzz in Lipan is about how the Lady Hornets swarmed into the SugarTree Golf Club on March 1 and won first place at the high school tournament held there. The Hornets team is composed of Katelyn

Thomas, Olivia Meyers, Kenzie Hobbs, Mary Shaw, and Gracie Smith.

AZLE HIGH BOYS SOCCER

The Azle soccer team gave up two goals in the first half before shutting down Saginaw in the second half in their 2-0 district loss on March 3 at Hornet Stadium.

Azle couldn't find the net against Saginaw. The

Hornets' kicks kept sailing high or wide or were blocked or scooped up. The Hornets fell to 0-8-2 on the season, making a postseason appearance unlikely. The Hornets play hard every game, and most of their losses this season have come in tight scores. The boys put on a good show regardless of the score.

The Hornets' final game



JEFF PRINCE | AZLE NEWS

Brayden Hutton battles a Saginaw player for the ball.



JEFF PRINCE | AZLE NEWS

Anahi Colmenero and the Azle Lady Hornets are set to play at 7 p.m. Friday at home against Fort Worth Brewer in the final game of their regular season.



JEFF PRINCE | AZLE NEWS

Sage Mikula pushes past a Saginaw player.

of the season is set to start at 5 p.m. Friday at Hornet Stadium.

AZLE HIGH GIRLS SOCCER

The Lady Hornets kept their playoff chances alive by beating the Saginaw Rough Riders 3-0 on March 3 at Hornet Stadium. The final game of the regular season pits the Lady Hornets against Fort Worth Brewer starting at 7 p.m. Friday at Hornet Stadium.

AZLE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL BASEBALL

On March 4, the Azle Christian Crusaders were 2-0 in the Gorman baseball tournament.

The Crusaders beat Stephenville Faith Christian 4-1, and toppled the Menard High Yellowjackets 12-0.

Earning all-tournament honors for the Crusaders were sophomore pitcher Kelton Schott, who pitched a

complete-game victory over Stephenville Faith and threw 7 strikeouts; junior second baseman Andy Wisniewski, who knocked in 5 RBI and scored 5 runs; and senior pitcher Noah Rollins, who pitched a complete game shutout with 6 strikeouts against Menard.

Azle Christian was 4-1-2 for the season heading in Tuesday's game against Aquilla.

BASEBALL
FROM PAGE B1

Luke Olmsted, and Cale Cohen recorded hits.

Against Amarillo Palo Duro, Azle was again stingy on the mound, winning 6-0. Lane Springfield threw 6 innings, giving up only one hit and

striking out 7 batters. Austin May threw a scoreless seventh inning.

Olmsted logged 3 hits, and Tune and Cayden Fowler each had two hits, including a triple by Fowler.

The only game in which Azle allowed runs to score occurred against Gainesville, but it didn't matter. The Hornets scored five times as

many runs of their own in a 17-3 victory.

Pitcher Korbyn Coleman picked up the win after throwing 3-2/3 Innings, and Ethan Bissonnette threw a solid inning of relief.

Lehr enjoyed another 3-hit day at the plate, and Tune, Olmsted, and Spratt all recorded triples. Perez and Cole Webb walloped a

home run apiece, and Nathan Casperaites smashed a double.

The Hornets have established themselves as a solid team with an 8-2 record. Still, the Hornets play in the salty District 5-5A, and it won't be easy to earn a trip to the playoffs.

"We have a lot of things we have to continue to do

to get better at to compete in one of the toughest districts in Region 1," Smith said. "District 5-5A had all seven teams either in the playoffs or playing in a play-in game to make the playoffs."

In the past four years, the district has contributed two state champions and two regional finalists.

"If we play up to our abilities and catch a few breaks, we can be right in the mix in this tough district," Smith added.

Making the playoffs is a nifty but not exactly the ultimate goal.

"My goal every year is for us to go out and compete with class and teach these young men life lessons," he said.



Morgan Terrell bats cleanup for the Lady Hornets when she isn't pitching.

JEFF PRINCE | AZLE NEWS

Azle softball players use doubters as fuel

JEFF PRINCE

jeff@azlenews.net

The Lady Hornets hear whispers.

After winning their season opener, Azle softball lost four games in a row. During those losses, the Lady Hornets allowed 35 runs while scoring just 2.

"A lot of people are doubting us this year, but we have to fight through the adversity," said pitcher Morgan Terrell, a junior. "They don't understand the fight that we're putting up and the hard work."

Head coach Macy Pruitt isn't worried. Her team is young and evolving. The roster includes just two seniors. The rest are mostly juniors and sophomores who earned varsity experience last year when the team made it to the

bi-district playoff game.

"We have a lot of talent," Pruitt said. "We brought back a lot of returners. We added a few new kiddos who have really been contributing to the team."

One of the newbies is Ema Lehr, a freshman playing centerfield and batting leadoff. Few freshmen earn such lofty positions.

"She really came in and made a huge impact on the team," Pruitt said. "She's doing a really good job making contact and getting on base and starting rallies when we need them."

The Lady Hornets need everyone to play their best. Azle competes in a tough district. This year, District 5-5A added Justin Northwest and Saginaw, and both programs are rock solid.

Northwest beat Azle

in last year's bi-district championship.

Azle might not be showing it on the scoreboard yet, but this year's team is packed with potential, offensively and defensively, Pruitt said.

"They are really coming together, really working hard," she said. "The overall leadership is pretty strong, and I think we'll get to where we're going as soon as district starts."

The clock is ticking. District starts Friday.

The Lady Hornets are diverse, with many players skilled at multiple positions.

"We're just kind of moving around pieces right now to see what our best fit is," Pruitt said.

Once the pieces are in place, good things could happen.

"This team has been to the



Kaylee Parrish returns at shortstop for the Lady Hornets.

JEFF PRINCE | AZLE NEWS



Morgan Terrell pitches against Boswell recently at Jim Bob Nation's Field of Dreams.

JEFF PRINCE | AZLE NEWS

playoffs," she said. "They know what it takes to get to the playoffs. We're just trying to fine tune everything so we can get further than we did last year."

Terrell will be instrumental. She made varsity as a freshman and earned all-district recognition last year for her pitching.

She wants another crack at Northwest.

"It's a great opportunity to show them what we're made of and show that we can compete with them," she said. "They think they can just roll past us, but they can't."

Azle and Northwest will play a district game on April 11 in Justin.

Terrell grew up in Azle and has been bleeding Hornet green ever since.

"It's a good hometown,"

she said. "Pretty small but getting bigger. It's a good place to grow up."

She is a National Honor Society member and a volunteer with PALS, a program that encourages high school students to mentor kids.

"I just hang out with them, play games with them," she said. "We show them what a good role model is."

When Terrell was little, her role models were Lady Hornets. Terrell attended school at Walnut Creek Elementary and Azle Junior High and dreamed of playing varsity softball for the Lady Hornets one day. She and her teammates waited years for their turn to shine at Jim Bob Nation's Field of Dreams.

"I played with most of these girls my whole life," Terrell said, looking around

at her teammates on a recent afternoon of batting practice. "We would come up here and watch the (high school) games and the older girls, and we were like, 'Oh, that's going to be us in a couple years.' It was just so cool to watch them."

Now, when Terrell stands on the mound at games, she sees little girls in the stands and wonders what they're thinking about.

"I hope that they're just thinking the same thing we did, that they want to be us when they get older... and just work toward that goal to get where we are now," she said.

District competition is set to start at 7 p.m. Friday at Wichita Falls Rider.

Head Hornet

Kenley Buckholt takes over volleyball program at Azle High School

JEFF PRINCE
jeff@azlenews.net

Like mom, like daughter. Kenley Buckholt wanted to become a coach after watching her mother and coach, Shelly Elam, help shape the lives of many youngsters. "I was fortunate enough to see how impactful the role of a coach can be in someone's life," Buckholt said. "My mom has been a huge inspiration to me in both my athletic and professional careers." Buckholt grew up in Fort Worth, attended Western Hills High School, and began coaching youth league and club volleyball during her junior and senior years in addition to playing for her school. "I loved coaching volleyball almost more than I even did playing it," she said. "I enjoy getting to connect with people, and I love how sports are an avenue for growth, development, and teamwork for students." Always competitive as a player, Buckholt discovered an even greater competitive edge as a coach. "For somebody like me, who loves to win, it's an exhilarating experience to see your teams meet their goals and successes together." She attended Southern Nazarene University and received a Bachelor of Science in kinesiology before attending Texas Woman's University for her master of science degree in kinesiology. Afterward, she worked and coached at Trinity Valley School in Fort Worth.

"I started playing volleyball when I was 10 and have never stopped," Buckholt said. She played at various club organizations in the area and was a three-year varsity player at Western Hills. She was named the 2011 All-District Newcomer of the Year and the 2013 All-District Setter of the Year and received all-district and all-state honors. She played NCAA Division II volleyball at Southern Nazarene University in Oklahoma. In 2018, Azle High School hired Buckholt as a fulltime teacher, and she became the department chair for P.E. and Health and served on various committees and organizations. She served as assistant volleyball coach under head coach Elizabeth Snyder, who left after the 2022 volleyball season ended. The coaching staff worked to grow the sport of volleyball in Azle, and that mission has been accomplished. "Volleyball is here," Buckholt said. "We have players that are out there on the court playing well before middle school. We have girls playing club volleyball across the Metroplex. We now have four teams at the high school with the addition of a freshman B team due to the high turnout at tryouts." The popularity of the sport is entrenched. "Now that we have the numbers, and the sport of volleyball is all around us, it's time to really focus in on getting in shape and developing those skills needed to win games," she said.

The new coach wants the varsity team to continue being a playoff contender and make a run in the postseason. "I'd love to see us be bi-district champs next season and see how far we can get," she said. She plans to work on bridging the gaps between the sub-varsity levels so that "we are all on the same page program-wide," she said. "We have some true talent in our younger classes right now, and the last couple of classes have done a great job of setting the stage for them." Developing a fast offense and aggressive servers are among the priorities. "It's no secret that we have a highly competitive district, but I have no doubt that Azle can't be right there alongside the best," Buckholt said. "I want to put Azle volleyball on the map and get our players' names out there to the world." Another goal is to have the Lady Hornets become more involved in the community and create an alumni presence that gives players something to look forward to when they graduate. Buckholt wants her players to become role models and ambassadors of Azle. "I have very high expectations for myself, my staff, and my girls," she said. "The opportunity to be a Hornet is a privilege, one that must be earned every day." "We are going to work hard on the court, in the classroom, and around our community," Buckholt said. "My players can expect our



COURTESY PHOTOS

Encouraging players on and off the court is standard operating procedure for Kenley Buckholt.

program to be a place where they feel safe and accepted but also challenged to keep pushing forward. I want to help players achieve their dreams, whether that may be volleyball-related or not. My ultimate goal for our program is to develop all players to the best of their abilities, physically and

mentally, while building individual character in a positive manner that results in well-rounded people in our society." Buckholt is brimming with ideas for the program and said her players have bought into what she is pushing because they want it just as much.

"I am so excited for the opportunity to lead the volleyball program at Azle High School," Buckholt said. "I have so much pride in my heart for this community and the people of Azle and am so grateful to be a part of it. I feel confident in knowing that this is where I'm meant to be at this time in my life."

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

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The Cost of a Decision

These kids are facing a decision about spending money. What would you do?

These ZING sneakers are super popular with the kids at my school. But they cost \$69 a pair!

These generic sneakers cost \$29. They're not nearly as fancy as the ZING sneakers, though.

A lot of young movie stars wear the jeans at left. They are \$80. The generic ones in the middle are \$30. And the used pair at right is \$8 at the thrift store.

Which pair of sneakers should Kevin choose? Give at least two reasons to explain your choice.

Which pair of jeans should Emma choose? Give at least two reasons for your choice.

Which is the best deal? The small can of fruit juice or the 64 ounce size?

BOTTLE: \$3.50

The 64 ounce bottle contains 16 4 ounce cups of juice. The 12 ounce can contains three 4 ounce cups of juice.

CAN: \$1.25

MONEY PUZZLES

PUZZLE 1
How much money would you save if you put a nickel in a jar every day for a year?

PUZZLE 2
How much money would you save in four weeks if you saved 5¢ a day the first week, 10¢ a day the second week, 15¢ a day the third week and 20¢ a day the fourth week?

PUZZLE 3
How much money would you save using the plan in Puzzle 2 and kept increasing the savings amount by 5¢ each week for 12 weeks?

PUZZLE 4
How much money would you save using the plan in Puzzle 3 and kept increasing the savings amount by 5¢ each week for 26 weeks?

Game Night!

Can you come up with a family fun game night that costs \$0?

Extra! Extra!

It All Adds Up

Find four 4-digit numbers in the newspaper. Copy the numbers onto a piece of paper and add them together. Repeat with 5-digit and 6-digit numbers.

Standards Link: Math: Addition.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

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50¢ OFF

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SAVE 50%

DOGIE TREAT

\$1.50 OFF

SUBSY SOAP

SAVE 50%

Standards Link: Math/Number Sense: Calculate sums and differences.

Double Double Word Search

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

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

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

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Best Food Deal

Use the grocery store ads to compare the cost of different food items. Find two or more of the same food items sold in different quantities. Figure out which is the best deal.

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate info.

Write On!

Riddle Roundup

Send us your favorite riddle. Send us two or three or more!

Kid Scoop Together

Change Maker

With a BLUE crayon, circle the coins that add up to the amount shown on the top coin purse. Then, use a RED crayon to circle the coins that add up to the amount shown on the bottom coin purse. Have a family member check your work. You should have 5¢ left over if you circled the correct coins.

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25¢

25¢

Standards Link: Math: Add money amounts.

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Your Ad Here) Newspaper Advertising Works!

Call Jessica for details TODAY
817-270-3340

Advertise Your Business With Us
and maximize your visibility!

Contact us about advertising solutions.
817-270-3340
817-220-7217

HILLTOP FAMILY CHURCH
1227 Old Cottondale • 817-220-7177

"Caring about what Jesus cares about... You!"

Compliments of
Rural Gas Supply
PROPANE 140 W. MAIN ST.
817-444-4613
"In business since 1946"

Joe Rider Propane, Inc.

PROPANE TANKS

817-237-3325

White's Funeral Homes
Our family serving your family since 1908

Bob White, Anita White and Zack Bellenger

Full Service Funeral Home
Cremation Services
Pre-Need Plans

Azle • Springtown
Mineral Wells • Weatherford
817-444-3211 • www.whitesfuneral.com

**CLASSIFIED 817-270-3340 - Azle -
817-220-7217 - Springtown -**

kimmy@azlenews.net

Ad Classifications

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Air Condition/Heating | 24. Electrician | 46. Looking to Buy |
| 2. Antiques | 25. Equipment & Tool Rental | 47. Lost & Found |
| 3. Appliances | 26. Excavating | 48. Maintenance/Repairs |
| 4. Appliance Repair | 27. Exterminating | 49. Masonry/Stonework |
| 5. Arts/Crafts | 28. Farm Equipment | 50. Mobile Home Service |
| 6. Asphalt Paving | 29. Fencing | 51. Motorcycles |
| 7. Auctions | 30. Firewood | 52. Movers |
| 8. Autos, Trucks | 31. Free For Sale | 53. Musical Instruments |
| 9. Auto Repair Service | 32. Furniture | 54. Music Lessons |
| 10. Backhoe Service | 33. Garage & Estate Sales | 55. Miscellaneous |
| 11. Boats, Motors | 34. Garden/Mowing Svc | 56. Party Planning/Events |
| 12. Bookkeeping | 35. Hauling | 57. Pets/Livestock |
| 13. Business | 36. Hay | 58. Piano Service |
| 14. Campers/Trailers | 37. Health/Fitness | 59. Pool Service |
| 15. Carports/Patios | 38. Help Wanted | 60. Professional Services |
| 16. Equipment Repair | 39. Home Improvement | 61. Personal |
| 17. Carpet Service | 40. House Leveling | 62. Plumbing |
| 18. Catering | 41. House Cleaning | 63. Public Notice |
| 19. Cement Work | 42. Hunting | 64. Photography |
| 20. Demolition | 43. Janitorial Service | 65. Printing |
| 21. Child Care | 44. Job Wanted | 66. Roofing |
| 22. Cosmetics | | 67. Recycling |
| 23. Computers/Services | | 68. Storage |
| | | 69. Sand/Gravel |
| | | 70. Septic Tanks |
| | | 71. Sewing/Alterations |
| | | 72. Sewer Service |
| | | 73. TV/Radio |
| | | 74. Tractor Service |
| | | 75. Upholstery |
| | | 76. Vacuum Cleaners |
| | | 77. Wanted |
| | | 78. Well Drilling |
| | | 79. Welding |
| | | 80. Lots/Acreage |
| | | 81. Business & Commercial Property |
| | | 82. RV's for Rent |
| | | 83. Houses for Sale |
| | | 84. Mobile Homes for Rent |
| | | 85. Mobile Homes for Sale |
| | | 86. Mobile Home/RV Lots |
| | | 87. Rent Furnished |
| | | 88. Rent Unfurnished |
| | | 89. Wanted to Rent |

RATES

**16 Words or Less:
Combo (Azle & Springtown)
Only \$10.00 per week!**

**Over 16 words, add 20 cents per word
Extras such as Bold, Center & Border
are available for a small fee**

**Classified boxed display ads also
available for \$9.00 per column inch**

**(All ads must be paid in advance unless
you have previously established credit)**

**CLASSIFIED
AD DEADLINE:
1:00 PM FRIDAY**

Most ads require payment in advance, but we do accept VISA, MASTERCARD, DISCOVER OR AMERICAN EXPRESS by phone.



Reach more than 8,000 households with combo advertising in the Azle News and the Springtown Epigraph.

Nobody does it better!

006 Asphalt Paving
BYRUM CONSTRUCTION
Asphalt Paving
•Driveways •Parking Lots
•Asphalt Repairs & Sealcoating
•Asphalt Millings •Gravel
Bruce Byrum
Azle, Texas **817-690-2429**

029 Fencing
BOBBY'S FENCE. All types, Free Estimates, Over 26 years experience. 817-444-3213.
KILEY CHESNEY CONSTRUCTION
All Types Fences - Tractor Work
817-846-6645

035 Garden/Mowing Service
Chad's Tree Service
Trimming • Removals • Stump Grinding
Systemic Feeding • Brush Chipping • Cable Bracing
817-221-2201 • 817-246-5943
817-800-6059 CELL
Insured for your protection **FREE ESTIMATES**

039 Help Wanted

GROWING COMPANY NEEDS YOU!
Hershey's Ice Cream
Seeking to hire Route Drivers for Klement Distribution, Inc.
UP TO \$2,500.00 HIRING BONUS
We offer great benefits, Opportunities for additional commission/bonus, Time off or flex-schedule, as well as Growth and development!
Weekends and School Holiday's OFF!
A fun and safe working environment!
Apply in person at Klement Distribution, Inc.
3271 S. Hwy 287, Decatur, TX 76234
OR CALL H/R # 940-627-6362



017 Carpet Service
Alexander Carpet Care
INSURED
817-914-2822
CARPET CLEANING

LEON'S FENCING
Cedar • Iron • Pipe
Barbed Wire
817-371-8597

019 Cement Work
Allen Chesney Concrete
All Types of Concrete Work
Residential - Commercial
Foundations, driveways, sand, gravel, demolition, haul-off, retaining walls
817-271-4541

032 For Sale

2017 Yamaha drive 2 golf cart, 48 volt. Silver, Has 2 covers, \$4500.00. Call 817-798-0483.

STUMP GRINDING
Don't dig it! Grind it!
1 or 100 - We can do it.
\$85 minimum within 5 mi.
817-237-5592

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE

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

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD tollfree at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

037 Hay
SPRIGGING
5 COUNTIES:
Jack, Wise, Tarrant, Parker, Montague
COASTAL OR TIFTON
52 years Experience
940-229-1045
or **940-229-1046**

Concrete Services, Patios, Driveways, Sidewalks, Retaining Walls, Foundations, Stone Walls. Free Estimates. 817-371-8597.

Kiley Chesney Construction
Dirt & Concrete Work
Driveways • House Slabs • Garages • Add-ons
Small Land Clean-ups • Gravel Driveways
Kiley Chesney, Owner
Springtown, TX • Mobile 817-846-6645

035 Garden/Mowing Service

Need your lawn mowed, trimmed or cleaned up? Need your trees trimmed or cut? Any job big or small give Scooter a call. Free Estimates. 817-766-3834.

COWBOY LAWN CARE. Residential, farm, gardens, landscaping, tree trimming. Free Estimates. 817-271-0450. Spring Specials.

McDowell Lawn Service
Mowing, edging, flower beds, fertilizer, tree trimming, residential or business. Weekly or bi-weekly. 817-437-9100

LEON'S TREE SERVICE
Expert take downs
Stump Grinding
Residential/Commercial
Licensed & Insured • Free Estimates
817-371-8597

039 Help Wanted
Springtown ISD is accepting applications for Bus Drivers and Monitors. Training available. Contact the Transportation Dept. 817-220-1418.

MAINSTREAM group homes are hiring for FT/PT direct care staff. Weekday 3:30pm-8:30am shifts as well as 24-hour weekend shifts. Work 2 days a week, get paid to sleep, and have a full-time job! Paid training, benefits, bonuses, and OT opportunities. Start \$9.00/hr with quick advancement possible. Call 817-270-2747, Monday-Friday, 9am-3pm.

Low vision senior needs PT help w/housekeeping and local errands. Must have transportation. 817-444-2127.

SELL IT IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!

020 Demolition
MCNEELY'S DEMOLITION & CLEAN UP SERVICE
We Create Vacancy
•Tear Down •Barns
•Removal •Houses
•Haul Off •Bobcat
•Mobile Service
Homes •Dirt/Gravel
•Garages Spreading
FREE ESTIMATES
817-996-7887
253 Eagles Way, Springtown

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

YARD SERVICES
SKID STEER
SOD INSTALLATION
FENCING
STUMP GRINDING
817-371-8597

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

E-Conn Electric
Service, Remodel, New Construction
Insured/BBB Accredited
817-615-7164
Customer Satisfaction is our Goal!
C/C ACCEPTED TECL20470

Find a Lawn & Garden Specialist in the Classifieds

026 Excavating
REED EXCAVATING
• SITE PREPARATION • GRAVEL ROADS
• LOT CLEARING • PARKING LOTS
• LEVELING • DEMOLITION
• FINAL GRADE • STOCK TANKS
• LAND EROSION
Dump Truck Hauling **817-919-3696**

IRRIGATION REPAIR
Residential/Commercial
License# LI007825
\$85 Service Call
OUTDOOR SCENE
682-553-1560

Start Your Subscription today

Check one:
 \$40.00
IN-COUNTY
Tarrant, Parker & Wise only
 \$36.50
SENIOR CITIZEN
60 years and older
Tarrant, Parker & Wise only
 \$25.00
ONLINE ONLY
View an online replica of the paper without receiving a printed copy
Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
County _____ Daytime ph. _____
Circle one and Clip and mail with check:
The Azle News or The Springtown Epigraph
321 W. Main Street P.O. Box 557
Azle, Texas 76020 Springtown, Texas 76082

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.

Body Shop Porter

Performs duties throughout the Body Shop. Must be responsible, dependable and have a valid TXDL. Monday to Friday work week.

KLEMENT DISTRIBUTION, INC.
 (Hershey Ice Cream Distributor)

Client Support Specialist

To oversee a portfolio of assigned clients and serve as the Lead Point in Fulfillment; Support; and Pre & Post Delivery Resolutions. Will liaise with cross-functional internal Teams to ensure company objectives and client satisfaction. Candidate must have the ability to work in a fast-paced environment with the aptitude to plan and prioritize own workload with sharp attention to detail. Previous experience, as an Account Manager or relevant role, preferred. We offer growth opportunities and a full benefits package including Medical, Dental, Vision, Life, Short/Long-term Disability, & 401K. Paid Training & Vacation with a flex schedule during off-peak seasons.

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

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.

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

057 Pets/Livestock 068 Storage

Full blood Chihuahua puppies 9 weeks old, \$125 female, \$75 male. 817-771-2068 or 817-475-1405.

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

062 Plumbing



Bill Blankenship Contracting Inc.

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

A+ BBB Rated
 Se Habla Espanol
 ContractingBlankenship@outlook.com
 Master Plumber M849
817-831-4000

GRAHAM PLUMBING CO.



Commercial-Residential Serving Springtown, Azle, Boyd, Weatherford Area
 M#15899
817-220-2469
 grahamplumbingco.com

LANDERS Plumbing Co.
940-233-2862
 M-10078

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.

STORAGE SPECIAL
 10X10 \$60/MONTH-NO DEPOSIT
 1350 LIBERTY SCHOOL RD, AZLE
 5X10 \$45/MONTH \$20/DEPOSIT
817-246-4646



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

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.

BOBBY MCWILLIAMS PAINTING 817-821-6377. Interior/Exterior Painting Residential & New Homes. 50 years experience.

Kevin's Handyman Services
 40 Years Experience

- Carpentry
- Drywall & Painting
- Tile & Laminate Floors
- Doors & Windows
- Decks & Stairs
- Cabinets & Countertops
- No Job Too Small

Springtown and Surrounding Areas
231-445-1221

040 Home Improvement



BILL BLANKENSHIP CONTRACTING INC.

HOME IMPROVEMENT
 Residential/Commercial • Kitchens • Baths
 Showers • Add-Ons • Custom Cabinets

TILE WORK
 Tubs • Showers • Floors • Backsplashes • Etc.

DRAIN CLEANING
 Sewers • Sinks • Camera Locating • Grease Traps

A+ BBB Rated • Se Habla Espanol • M849
 ContractingBlankenship@outlook.com **817-831-4000**

049 Masonry/Stonework

Silva Masonry, L.L.C. AZLE, TX
CONCRETE
 COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL
 Landscape Designs, Outdoor Kitchens
 Patios, Retaining Walls, Mailboxes
 All Types Stone & Brick Work Free
 New Construction • Remodels Estimates
817-308-6512
 email alvarosilva@verizon.net

051 Motorcycles

2001 American Iron Horse Ranger. 113 cubic inch S&S Engine. Lots of extras. \$9,500 Negotiable. Call Leslie 682-552-9711 or 817-703-5347

052 Movers

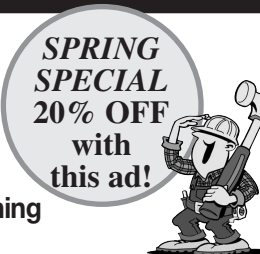
U.S. Army Retired-but not tired! Careful moving-Cheap. Call Big Jim @ 817-237-5151.

057 Pets/Livestock

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

Devin's Handyman Service

- Carpentry
- Insulation
- Cement
- Kitchen/Bath
- Rock
- Roof & Gutters
- Granite
- Powerwashing
- Tile
- Decks
- Siding



Call Devin at 817-629-9608

046 Looking to Buy

Private family looking to buy a Travel Trailer, RV, or a Pop-Up Camper. Needs to be in decent shape, will pay cash. Please call 940-577-3770.

Rescue your Ballerina from the Shelter and give her a Forever Home



EXPERIENCED ROOFING SPECIALIST
 FREE ROOF INSPECTIONS
 Insurance Claims, Licensed Local Business 34 Yrs
ECE CONSTRUCTION LLC
 cell 817-615-7164 | office 817-831-2600

DIAMOND ROOFING & CONSTRUCTION
 417 N. MAIN ST • SPRINGTOWN
817-523-4137
 Here Before The Storm. Here Long After.

Miles Roofing
 • Insurance Claim Specialists;
 • Free Estimates
817-797-3420

Storage continued on next page...

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

Deadline:
 1:00 PM FRIDAY

Classifieds

068 Storage

Ash Creek Storage

Convenient Location
 Corner of Main St. & Locust • Azle
817-444-3292

087 Rent Furnished

Room to Rent, females only, 1 bedroom \$325/Mo. All bills paid, call 682-290-5276.

1 bedroom house in Springtown also 1 bedroom house in the country. \$800 water included, secluded. 940-229-1045, 940-229-1046

SELL IT IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Check out the Home Improvement Specialists in the Classifieds for help with your next project!



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

NATIONAL HOME BUYERS LLC

Sell or lease your house in 7 days to stop foreclosure. We look at all, any condition.

901-417-9423
 www.NHBFORECLOSURE.COM

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

069 Sand/Gravel

HALL'S SAND, DIRT & GRAVEL
 Quality Family Business Since 1938
 CALL Cliff Hall
(817) 221-2681

We go the extra mile to ensure you get more for your \$. On House Pads, Driveways, Lot Clearing & Tractor Work, Etc.

079 Welding

SOLID STEEL SOLUTIONS

- Metal Buildings
- Steel Components
- Welding Supplies
- Concrete Supplies
- Fabrication Supplies
- Pipe Fencing
- Deer Blinds
- Deer Feeders

8894 W Hwy 199 • Springtown
817-220-0008
 www.SolidSS.com **Open to the Public**

079 Welding

WDC
 WELD-DONE CONSTRUCTION LTD.
Metal Building Erectors
 • Pre-engineered Weld-up
 • Barns/Shops
 • Arenas/Hangars
 • Fencing

1220 E. Hwy. 199 • Springtown
817-220-2150
 www.weld-done.net

081 Business/Commercial

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

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.

1-1 Duplex, no pets, no smoking. \$600/mo, no utilities included. 817-296-6169.

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.

2 BDRM 1 Bath upstairs Apartment in Boyd. Non-smoking, no pets, 1 year lease. \$850/mo \$850/dep. 940-390-1164 leave a message.

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.

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 gtatx.com

086 Mobile Home/RV Lots

ALL BILLS PAID! ALL BILLS PAID! RV units available now! Call today for special offer! you'll have access to laundry facility, showers, dog park, playground, BBQ grill, yard games area, gazebo and a Sparkling SWIMMING POOL! Security gates, community, great friends and wonderful neighbors!

AZLE OAKS APARTMENT
 700 JARVIS • AZLE
 817-444-1712

1 & 2 Bedroom Unfurnished
 Accepting Applications
 Rent based on income
 TDD: 800-735-2989
 This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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 

Need To Fill The Piggy Bank?



Put Your Ad in Our Classified Section Today!

The Azle News
817-270-3340
 321 W. Main St. Azle

The Springtown Epigraph
817-220-7217
 109 East First St. Springtown

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

Office **817-237-2282**
 Fax 817-237-0904
 Mark Cozart Jeremy Cozart
 817-233-6668 817-237-2028

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

POJO RV PARK

302 Allison Road
 Springtown, TX 76082
817-925-3673

30x60 RV Spaces Available

One small inside pet allowed

NEAR POJO STADIUM

GENE THOMPSON & ASSOCIATES
 HOMES and MOBILE HOMES FOR RENT
 gtatx.com
817-246-4646

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
817-444-6532
800-735-2988

Call or come by now!

Find that Perfect Vehicle for you and your buddy 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



Rescue your Ballerina from the local Shelter and give her a Forever Home



Shelter animals have lots of unconditional love to share with their new best friends. Feel the Love - Adopt

SERVICE DIRECTORY

ADVERTISE in the Service Directory! Call Jessica at 817-270-3340 for details to include your business here.

Movers

★U.S. ARMY retired - but not tired!★

Member:
 • VFW • DAV
 • Sheriff's Assn
 • American Legion
 • ET AL

MOVERS
 Courtesy ★ Punctuality ★ Care

- Full Service Moving - Local & Long Range
- Gun Safes - Pianos - Auto - Antiques
- Packing & Storage - Large or Small

Please call Jim at **817-237-5151**

Transmissions & Auto Repair

Rainwater's
 Transmission & Auto Repair
 COMPETITIVE PRICING

TRANSMISSION • BRAKES • A/C
 ENGINE SERVICE • WRITTEN ESTIMATES
 FREE TOW & FREE DIAGNOSTIC

201 E. Hwy. 199, Springtown
 LOCALLY & FAMILY OWNED!
 Accepting all credit cards **682-615-7250**
817-766-3852

Diesel/Auto Repair

TEXAS

SEMIS RVS EQUIPMENT PICKUPS CARS ATVS

Diesel & Auto
 We Fix Everything!

817-968-7867

Air Conditioning and Heating

J&J
 AIR CONDITIONING & HEATING

Serving the Springtown, Azle, Weatherford & Fort Worth Area Since 1970
 Sales • Service • Residential • Commercial
SPRINGTOWN 817-220-4506
 www.jandeac.com

Texas Air Conditioning Contractor License: TACLA014745E

Trash/Waste Service

ATEX TRASH SERVICE

\$35 per month WEEKLY PICKUP

Proudly Serving The Community We Live In

817-344-8464 **ATEXTRASH.COM**

Exterminators

Tom Samples Pest Control

YOUR COMPLETE PEST CONTROL SERVICE

Family owned and operated. Over 70 years of service.

Best of Parker County 2022
 Voted Best Pest Control
 Best of Parker County
817-915-2470





PHOTO COURTESY SALINA GIBSON

Making accounting information user friendly

TRWD receives recognition for financial reporting, accountability

MADelyn EDWARDS
madelyn@azlenews.net

Tarrant Regional Water District leaders want the public to know that they are good stewards of the money entrusted to them.

The recognitions TRWD has won for financial reporting and transparency

shows progress toward that objective.

TRWD announced last fall that the district had received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada. This award was for the district's annual comprehensive

financial report for the fiscal year that ended on Sept. 30, 2021.

According to TRWD's website, this certificate is the highest form of recognition for governmental accounting and financial reporting.

TRWD Finance Director Jennifer Mitchell said the

PLEASE SEE **TRWD** | C9

Spring Trash Bash April 22



TRWD COURTESY PHOTO

The Spring Trash Bash is a great activity for volunteers of all ages. These cleanups help keep trash from getting into the lakes and rivers that surround our communities.

Bi-annual event is essential to keeping waterways clean

JESSICA MCKINNEY
jessica@azlenews.net

Tarrant Regional Water District has opened registration for the Spring Trash Bash, set to begin at 8 a.m. on April 22. This year, the spring cleanup — happening on Earth Day this year — will focus on the Trinity River and Marine Creek Lake in Fort Worth.

Last fall, TRWD was excited to bring back the after party for volunteers to celebrate the end of a morning spent cleaning up trash from around local waterways. There will be two separate parties from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for each cleanup location featuring food, entertainment, and activities for all ages.

Trinity River volunteers will join up at Coyote Drive-In,

PLEASE SEE **BASH** | C8

Small but mighty

TRWD Law Enforcement Division acquires handheld sonar

MADelyn EDWARDS
madelyn@azlenews.net

The Tarrant Regional Water District's Law Enforcement Division acquired a new tool that is allowing the public safety dive team to do its job more efficiently and safely.

TRWD Law Enforcement Division Sgt. Rick Odom described the handheld sonar AquaEye as looking like an "oversized price scanner."

But though it is small, the sonar can take on large jobs, like scanning one acre of water in less than two minutes, according to the website for VodaSafe, which developed

AquaEye. AquaEye uses artificial intelligence and ultrasound to specifically identify human bodies in the water during recovery and rescue missions.

"AquaEye sends a sonar pulse out to 50 meters or

PLEASE SEE **SONAR** | C9

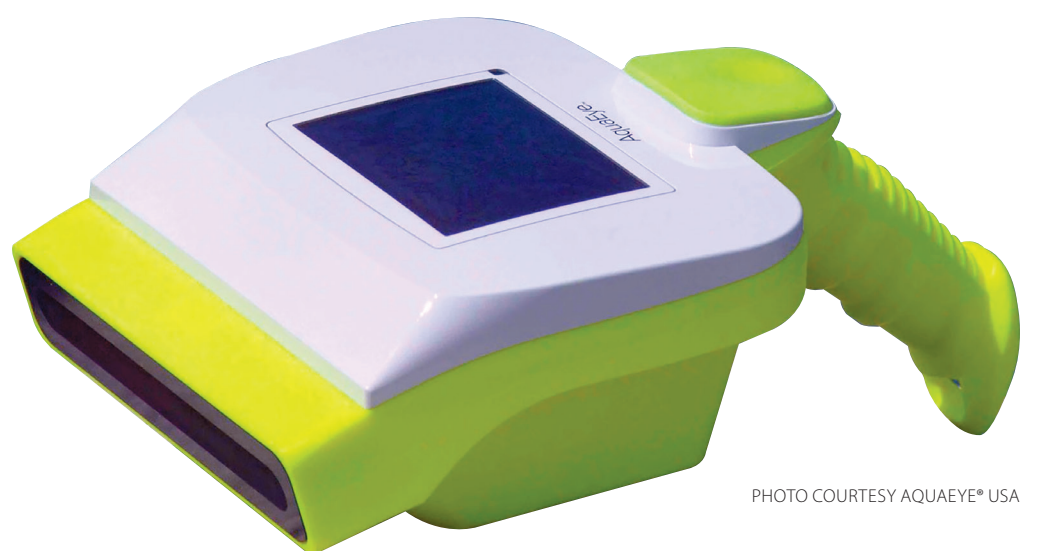


PHOTO COURTESY AQUAEYE® USA

AQUAEYE® - How it works

AquaEye sends a sonar pulse to a depth of 50 meters or 165 feet and evaluates the returning echo. AquaEye then decides which echoes match the echoes of a human body and displays the position of the missing persons on the screen. AquaEye can search 8000 square meters of water in less than 5 minutes.

Clean water for everyone

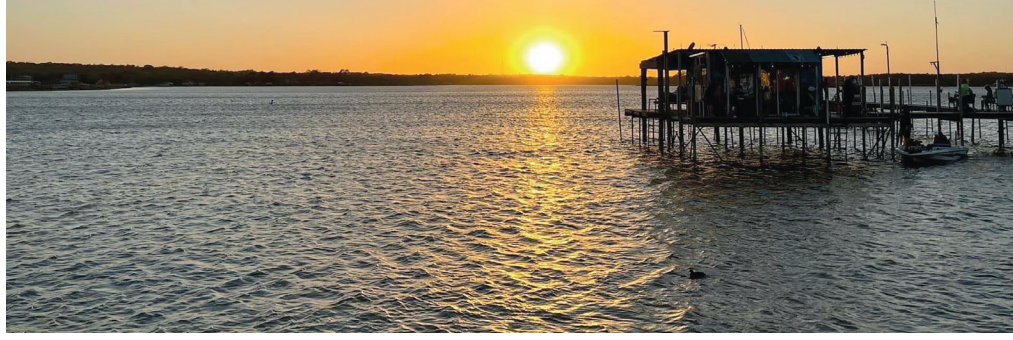


PHOTO COURTESY STACY WILBURN

MARK MICHAELS
mark@azlenews.net

The Tarrant Regional Water District (TRWD) is seeking to ramp up their efforts to bring awareness to Azle citizens and other communities about what they can do to help keep the water clean for themselves and their neighbors.

One of the primary functions of TRWD is to manage the quality of the water in the flood control system in Tarrant County. This system includes 27 miles of floodway levies that were designed by the Army Corp of Engineers. This system also includes a support dam which was constructed in 1931 and the Eagle Mountain dam, constructed a year later in 1932. TRWD is one of the largest freshwater suppliers in

Texas. More than two million people benefit from that water. Aaron Hoff, the watershed programs coordinator, explained that it's his and his team's duty to make sure everything flows smoothly.

"It really behooves us as a water supply company organization to protect that investment and that's really where program kind of birth from was to kind of be proactive about protecting that volume that is available in those water supply reservoirs," Hoff said.

According to Hoff, the board decided to take a leadership role in facilitating watershed planning activities in concession with their major reservoirs and the watersheds that feed them, as well as provide public education for the average citizen.

TRWD has a simple mission: to facilitate responsible watershed planning in management by providing technical assistance and, in some cases, financial assistance to landowners and decision makers.

"We kind of do that through a very extensive education outreach program that my team and I manage," Hoff said. "That's really just a bunch of stuff that planning aspect by increasing public awareness and knowledge and to change those negative behaviors or sometimes lack of good behaviors to build that advocacy network and really promote that idea of responsible watershed stewardship that by being a good student of the land you can improve your water in the water of your neighbors."

TRWD Board of Directors for 2023



LEAH M. KING

President
Term 2021-2025
Mrs. King joined the TRWD Board of Directors in 2017. She is currently the president and chief executive officer for United Way of Tarrant County. Mrs. King is very active in the community and serves on many boards and committees throughout Fort Worth and Tarrant County. She is also a member of the Leadership Fort Worth 2010 and Leadership North Texas 2011 classes. She and her husband, Barry, have one son.



JAMES HILL

Vice President
Term 2021-2025
Mr. Hill was elected to the TRWD Board in 2017. Born and raised in Fort Worth, he is a graduate of the Business Honors Program at the University of Texas at Austin. In addition, he received his MBA in the Accelerated Program at TCU. A banking executive with significant experience in finance and real estate, Mr. Hill is also very active in the community. He and his wife have two kids and live in Fort Worth.



MARY KELLEHER

Secretary
Term 2021-2025
Mrs. Kelleher lives in east Fort Worth along the Trinity River where she and her husband, Larry Langston, operate a cattle ranch. She became interested in TRWD after their farm flooded from the Trinity River. Mary served on TRWD's board from 2013 to 2017 and is passionate about water issues. Mary strives to provide citizens with information and insight into TRWD policies and business practices.



MARTY LEONARD

Director
Term 2019-2023
Ms. Leonard was elected to the TRWD Board in 2006. A graduate of Southern Methodist University, she owns Leonard Golf Links Practice/Teaching Facility and owns two buildings occupied by the Nike Golf Center in Fort Worth. Ms. Leonard also is president of Margolf Corporation. She is extremely active in the Fort Worth community, serving on numerous boards and committees.



C.B. TEAM

Director
Term Jan 2023-May 2023
C.B. is a fifth generation and lifelong Fort Worth resident. He joined Ellis & Tinsley, Inc. in 2006 as an associate and was named partner and principal in 2013. He holds both Texas and Colorado Real Estate Brokers Licenses. C.B. has volunteered as a Livestock Department Superintendent at the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo every winter and was appointed to its Board of Directors in 2021. He is a graduate of The University of Texas at Austin, a Texas Exes Alumnae Association member, and a commercial-rated pilot. C.B. lives in Fort Worth with his wife and their two children.

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Fishing on Eagle Mountain Lake

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/fish/recreational/lakes/eagle_mountain/

Located on the West Fork Trinity River, just north of Fort Worth and Lake Worth in Tarrant County, Eagle Mountain Lake has several species of Texas' most popular sport fishes, including largemouth bass, spotted bass, channel catfish, flat-head catfish, white bass, and white crappie.

FISHING COVER/STRUCTURE

The upper portion of the lake has reed beds. The lower and mid-lake areas have numerous fishing piers and boat houses that act as cover and structure for fish. Rocky points and bluffs in the lower end of the lake can also hold fish.

TIPS & TACTICS

Largemouth bass can be found around private boat docks and reed beds. White crappie also utilize the boat houses a habitat and congregate in the lower end of the lake in the summer. Schooling white bass offer a popular summertime fishing opportunity.

LARGEMOUTH BASS

Largemouth bass grow 4 to 6 inches (10 to 15 cm) during their first year, 8 to 12 inches (20 to 30 cm) in two years, 16 inches (40 cm) in three years. They are usually green with dark blotches that form a horizontal stripe along the middle of the fish on either side. The underside ranges in color from light green to almost white. They have a nearly divided dorsal fin with the anterior portion containing nine spines and the posterior portion containing 12 to 13 soft rays. Their upper jaw reaches far beyond the rear margin of the eye.

Adults feed almost exclusively on other fish and large invertebrates such as crayfish. Larger fish prey upon smaller bass. Immature largemouth bass may tend to congregate in schools, but adults are usually solitary. Sometimes several bass will gather in a very small area, but they do not interact. Largemouth bass hide among plants, roots or limbs to strike their prey. Largemouth bass seek protective cover



This is the largest blue catfish caught in Eagle Mountain Lake at 53.07 lbs and 45" long. It also holds the 'catch and release' record. It was caught on March 24, 2021 by Azle native Bob Matteson, left, while fishing with his friend Steve Andognini.

PHOTO COURTESY SHAWNA MATTESON

such as logs, rock ledges, vegetation, and man-made structures. They prefer clear quiet water, but will survive quite well in a variety of habitats.

SPOTTED BASS

Despite the fact that spotted bass are not nearly so large and numerous as largemouth bass (in Texas their maximum size is less than one-third that of largemouth bass), they are excellent fighters. Spotted bass are very popular in East Texas, particularly in the Sabine, Neches, and Cypress Rivers. Known maximum size in Texas exceeds 5.5 pounds. Spotted bass seem to be segregated by habitat type from closely related species. They tend to be found in areas with more current than largemouth bass, and they usually inhabit areas that are too warm, tur-

bid, and sluggish for small-mouth bass.

CHANNEL CATFISH

Channel catfish spawn in late spring or early summer when water temperatures reach 75°F. Channel catfish less than 4 inches in length feed primarily on small insects. Adults are largely omnivorous, feeding on insects, mollusks, crustaceans, fish, and even some plant material. Sexual maturity is reached in two or three years in captivity, whereas data from natural populations indicates channel catfish in Texas reach sexual maturity in 3-6 years. Most are mature by the time they reach 12 inches in length. Channel catfish are most abundant in large streams with low or moderate current. Today they range throughout Texas, however,

it is believed that the species was not native to the upper Rio Grande and Pecos basins. Channel catfish ranks behind only bass and crappie as the most preferred fish to catch in Texas. Popular with trotliners as well as rod-and-reel anglers, channel cats may be captured on a wide variety of baits including liver, worms, grasshoppers, shrimp, chicken, cheese and stinkbait, among others. Undoubtedly, part of the reason for their popularity is their delicious flavor when cooked. Channel catfish in excess of 36 pounds have been landed in Texas waters. The North American record stands at 58 pounds.

WHITE BASS

Adults are usually found in schools. Gizzard and threadfin shad are the preferred

food items. White bass more than four years of age are rare. In Texas, the species is native to the Red River drainage. They are the fifth most preferred species among licensed Texas anglers. Schools of white bass feeding on shad generate much excitement in the fishing community. Once a school has been located, successful anglers often fish the surface with spoons or spinners. Bottom fishing at night with live bait may also produce great success. White bass are excellent fighters and are considered superb table fare.

WHITE CRAPPIE

Typically, white crappie grow three to five inches in length the first year, and reach seven to eight inches during the second year. Maturity is usually reached

in two to three years. Adults feed on small fish and insects. They are native to the eastern two-thirds of Texas, but the species can now be found statewide except for the upper portions of the Rio Grande and Pecos drainages. Taken together, "crappie" (white and black combined) is the most popular panfish in Texas. The crappie group is the third most preferred group overall, ranking behind only "bass" and "catfish." Crappie are sought after by both bank and boat anglers. Typically, minnows are the preferred bait, often producing monumental results when an aggregation is located, usually around submerged trees, boat docks, or other submerged structures. White crappie in excess of 4.5 pounds have been landed in Texas waters.

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Small lake, huge fish

The Eagle Mountain Tuesday Night Fishing Tournament better than ever

JEFF PRINCE
jeff@azlenews.net

For more than 20 years, local fishermen have hauled their boats to Eagle Mountain Lake on Tuesday nights from March to August for a popular fishing tournament.

Lately, the fishing lines have been stretched tighter than ever, and this year could be the best yet. Fishing on the lake has been "phenomenal," said Jeremy Lambert, a Boyd resident who has fished the lake for two decades.

"It's the best lake in the state right now," he said.

Fish in Texas lakes run in cycles, he said. A lake will become thick with old, big fish over time, and then, as they die or get caught over the years, the numbers shrink awhile.

"There is a time where (the fish population) goes down because the new ones haven't grown to the biggest size," he said. "We're at the top right now. It's just my opinion."

Evidence appears to back his claim.

The Eagle Mountain Lake record for a largemouth bass - 16 pounds - was set last year, and 16 pounds is "unheard of," Lambert said.

Robert Bandy caught the

whopper in February, 2022, and it stretched 25 inches - too big to fit in his livewell.

The Eagle Mountain Tuesday Night Tournament is managed by another longtime local fisherman, Donnie Moore. In 2021, he caught a largemouth bass that weighed 13.08 pounds to shatter the lake record of 11.64 pounds, which had been set in 2003.

Moore loves to land a big fish, but it's not the main draw of the tournament.

"I like the camaraderie," he said. "It's not a real serious event. It's a bunch of friends getting out there and just getting to know everybody. It's a small short three-hour event, and the camaraderie out there is the best thing. Everybody trusts everybody."

Only bass are eligible to be counted in the Tuesday Night tourney, but the lake contains many types of fish.

"We caught a catfish out there yesterday," Lambert said.

He has a buddy who works as a fishing guide on the lake, and he's been hauling in big catfish recently. Another has been landing big crappie.

Eagle Mountain Lake "is as good as you're going to find,"

Lambert said. "That place is unreal, especially for the size of it. It's small."

The tournament season begins on the first Tuesday after Daylight Savings Time in March, and it runs through August. The entry fee is \$40 with an optional \$20 side pot. About 25 boats show up each week, and the payout is about \$1,000 for the winner, with smaller payouts going to the next several placers.

The tournament is also referred to as the Eagle Mountain Working Mens Tournament.

For more information, see the group's Facebook page, Eagle Mountain Tuesday Night Tournament, at <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100082847816655>

The rules include random livewell checks and no drinking alcohol during tournament hours. Entrants can go out on the water on the day of the tournament begins, but no fishing is allowed until the tourney begins.

"It's been going on for dang near 25 years or more," Lambert said.

Like Moore, his favorite part is the camaraderie.

"I'm not in those things for the money," he said. "There



COURTESY PHOTOS

In March 2021, Donnie Moore caught this 13-pound beast to set the lake record that had stood since 2003. A year later, his record was broken by Robert Brandy, who caught a 16-pounder.

is not a whole lot of money involved. We just go out there to have fun and make new friends or hang out with your friends."

Boats go out around 6 p.m., and the fish are weighed at 9 p.m.

The five biggest fish for each entrant are weighted,

and whomever hauled in the most weight wins the pot. A reward is also given for the biggest fish caught.



PHOTO COURTESY SHAWNA MATTESON

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PHOTO COURTESY JOEY LIDDICK



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Recreation on Eagle Mountain Lake



PHOTO COURTESY CLAYTON WAYNE SMITH



PHOTO COURTESY JIM STEVENS



PHOTO COURTESY LAUREN MILLER

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356
Members & Growing!

Promoting Business And Community

For those missing outdoor fun, Twin Points Park prepping for spring opening

MARK MICHAELS
mark@azlenews.net

Twin Points Park is gearing up for another great year.

Days at the lake are a staple in the summer plans for many families across North Fort Worth. It's a place where everyone can enjoy the fun in the sun. After another unusually cold winter, many are counting the minutes until they can soak in the sun, swim in the warm water, and light up a barbecue.

The Tarrant Regional Water District (TRWD) has been readying the park for its anticipated opening in the spring. While boat ramps around Eagle Mountain Lake are open all year, the Twin Points Park is scheduled to open on Memorial Day.

There will be no significant changes to the park or its amenities this year. The

only notable change this year is that the tickets will only be available online at twinpointspark.com. David Geary, the director of reservoirs, said that COVID lockdown made streamlining the sales process easier and far more convenient.

"A lot of things were modernized and smoothed out to make 2020 work, and we found that selling the tickets online just makes everything much easier," Geary said.

Ticket prices will be \$10 for a single vehicle Monday through Thursday, and \$20 Friday through Sunday. The park will be open on May 27, and will be open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. until April 28. Tickets prices are per vehicle. While there are only 320 parking spaces at the park's entrance, the park will sell 425 tickets per day. Pavilion rentals are online also. Small



PHOTO COURTESY TWIN POINTS PARK

Twin Points Park has a public beach for swimming, picnic areas with tables, and freestanding grills.



pavilions will be \$25, while the large ones will go for \$50. Loaner child life vests will be available for free.

Like most public parks in North Texas, Twin Points has certain rules that TRWD expect the patrons to follow.

- No glass containers
- No pets
- No smoking
- No disruptive music
- No foul language
- No charcoal grills
- No open fires

• No public consumption of alcohol

While charcoal grills are banned, there are freestanding grills that can be used, and guests can bring their own gas grills. The park will have written surveys beachgoers can fill out to give their thoughts and write out ideas they may have to make the park's experience better for everyone.

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TRASH
FROM PAGE C1

223 NE 4th St., Fort Worth, and Marine Creek volunteers will have their party at the public boat ramp area, 2700 Jim Wright Fwy., Fort Worth.

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- White Settlement Trailhead
- Panther Island
- Cold Springs Trailhead
- Fourth Street Trailhead
- Hope Church
- Quanah Parker Park
- Crystelle Waggoner
- Trinity Park
- River Park

Sign up to volunteer at TRWD.com/trashbash. Early registration is recommended to receive volunteer shirts and to reserve a spot for the after party.

PHOTO COURTESY TRWD

A lone volunteer helps pick up trash during the annual Trash Bash at Eagle Mountain Lake.

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Save Eagle Mountain Lake, Inc. is dedicated to preserve and protect the quality of Eagle Mountain Lake for future generations.

We love our lake! ...we are an advocacy organization that partners with governmental agencies (i.e. TRWD, TCEQ, EPA & City Planners) to protect lake quality and engages the lake community with fun events (i.e. Holiday Parade of Lights & Annual Charity Golf Tournament.)

Join us in protecting Eagle Mountain Lake - we welcome new friends on Facebook, and always have opportunities for volunteers to help with projects and events!

You may also reach us via our website **SEML.org** or e-mail at **comments@seml.org**

SONAR

FROM PAGE C1

165 feet and listens for the return echo,” according to VodaSafe’s website. “AquaEye then decides which echoes match the echoes from a human body and indicates the location of the missing persons on the screen.”

Before acquiring AquaEye in late November, Odom said the regional water district’s Law Enforcement Division didn’t have a sonar option for small bodies of water, like rivers and ponds.

“We had to get in the water and do search patterns if we felt that there was something in the water that we needed to go try to find,” Odom said.

To use AquaEye, the operator submerges it in water and then pulls a trigger to scan the area, Odom said. Divers can also use the sonar underwater. Odom described

the tool as being simple to operate.

Not long after receiving the sonar, the public safety dive team was called to use the tool, Odom said.

“We’d already been called to use it. We only had it for a day,” he said.

The fact that the TRWD Law Enforcement Division is using AquaEye makes the department unique compared to others in the state. Odom said the division is one of seven agencies in Texas that have the sonar, and the next closest agency that has it is in Waco.

The division budgeted for the \$6,000 AquaEye sonar and has plans to purchase a second one in the future, Odom said.

Ultimately, Odom said having the AquaEye sonar makes the public safety rescue team’s job safer. Oftentimes, divers are navigating water that is impossible to see through.

“The visibility in any lake

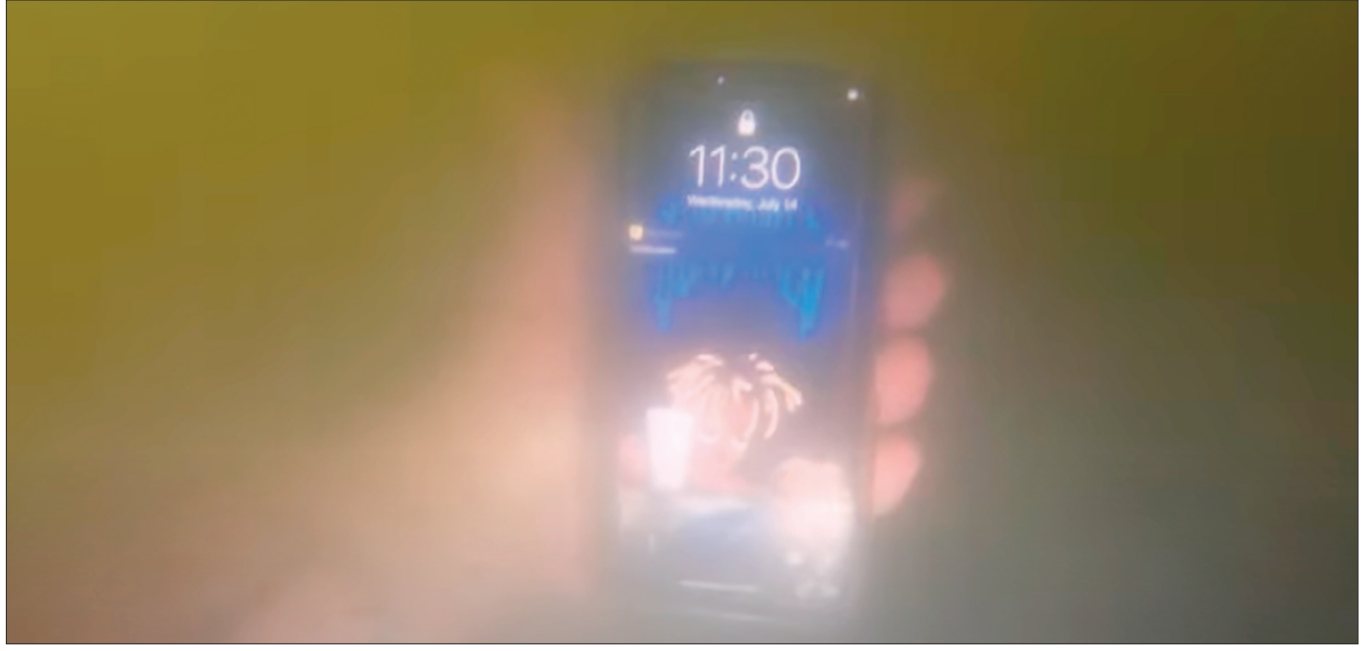


PHOTO COURTESY BLUE DIVER SEARCH AND RESCUE

Eagle Mountain Lake is considered a ‘low visibility’ body of water. Murky water and silt make it very difficult to see more than a few inches in any direction. This underwater photo from blackwater diver Ryan Prigmore, of Blue Diver Search and Rescue, shows a cell phone that was recovered from the lake. Prigmore retrieves lost items at night after boaters have lost items overboard while on the lake.

anywhere in Central Texas pretty much is you can’t see your hand in front of your

face. It’s what we call ‘black water diving.’ It’s zero visibility, so you cannot see

anything. It’s strictly by feel,” he said. “Anytime we can reduce the amount of time of a

diver is in the water actively searching for something, obviously it’s a lot more safe.”

TRWD

FROM PAGE C1

district has earned this annual award multiple times during the past several years. The goal is to make accounting information user friendly so that the public can understand it and get an idea of how the district is doing financially.

TRWD was also recognized for financial transparency and governmental accountability in the form of receiving Transparency Stars from the Texas Comptroller’s office. The district was awarded its first star in October 2021, the second in December 2021, the third star in early 2022, the fourth star in June

2022 and the fifth star in December 2022.

“It’s a nice thing to be recognized for,” Mitchell said about the honors. “Obviously, the biggest win is that the information is out there, and people are using it. But it was really exciting to get recognized for the work that our team and the district put in.”

According to TRWD’s website, the Transparency Stars honored the district in the areas of:

- Traditional finances: outstanding efforts in making spending and revenue information available.
- Debt obligations: having websites that show visual and narrative detail on outstanding debt, tax-supported debt obligations and historical bond elections.

- Contracts and procurement: having websites that show efforts in creating financial transparency around public spending in this area.

- Economic development: providing information about efforts to support economic development in Tarrant County.

- Public Pensions: providing information about public pensions.

The district is one of 15 cities, counties, school districts and special districts in Texas to obtain all five Transparency Stars. More uniquely, TRWD is the only special utility district in the state to have all five stars, Mitchell said.

“Receiving all five Transparency Stars from the Texas Comptroller of Public

Accounts indicates that the Tarrant Regional Water District is among the most financially accountable and fiscally transparent governmental agencies in the state,” TRWD’s Board Vice President James Hill said in a district news release. “This award is the gold standard in the state of Texas and is a direct reflection of the hard work performed by staff and my colleagues on the board to ensure the public receives the accountability it expects and deserves.”

Financial reporting and transparency are important to TRWD and the board, Mitchell said.

“A lot of times, we would get open records requests for that kind of information, and now it’s out there for them,”

Mitchell said. “They don’t have to put a request in and go through the process. We already have the information there for them to see and download and sort in any way they want to use the information. So, I think that’s been very exciting for us to be able to show people that we do care. We want them to know that we understand we’re stewards of their resources, and we’re using it for the best.”

Mitchell attributed these honors to the hard work of the TRWD staff that strived for excellence. Specifically, she bragged on how the information technology team was able to present check run information for when the district pays its vendors each week.

“If you go to our site, our check run information is sortable, and it is uploaded directly after every check run. So, by the next week, it’s almost real time that you’re getting the information of what we’re paying instead of updating at the end of the year or even each month,” she said. “I think the way that they did it makes it just so much easier for the public to come in and know right now what did we spend our money on, who are we spending it with, and that seems to be a lot of the questions that we get.”

For more information about TRWD’s financial reporting and transparency, visit its website at trwd.com or call 817-335-2491.

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WHAT ARE INVASIVE MUSSELS?

Zebra and Quagga mussels are a small, destructive invasive species that can spread across Texas by hitching a ride on boats and trailers. They grow to only about 1 ½ inches and develop a distinctive zebra-striped shell. One zebra or quagga mussel can produce up to one million microscopic larvae per year. Invasive mussels can cause tremendous environmental and economic damage – hurting aquatic life, damaging your boat, hindering water recreation and even threatening your water supply.

WHERE ARE INVASIVE MUSSELS?

The following Texas lakes are classified as “infested” with zebra mussels: Austin, Belton, Bridgeport, Brownwood, Buchanan, Canyon, Dean Gilbert (a 45-acre Community Fishing Lake in Sherman), Diversion (private lake downstream of Medina Lake), Eagle Mountain, Georgetown, Granger, Grapevine, Inks, Lady Bird, Lewisville, Livingston, Lyndon B. Johnson, Marble Falls, Medina, O.H. Ivie, Pflugerville, Placid, Randell (local Denison access only), Ray Roberts, Richland Chambers, Stillhouse Hollow, Texoma, Travis, Walter E. Long, and Worth. Invasive mussels or their larvae have been detected on multiple occasions in several lakes, which are designated as “positive.” Lakes Dunlap, Fishing Hole, Lavon, and McQueeney, as well as river reaches downstream on the Colorado, Guadalupe, Lampasas, Leon, Little, Red, and Trinity rivers, are classified as “positive” for zebra mussels and Lake Amistad is classified as “positive” for quagga mussels. Lake Ray Hubbard is classified as “suspect” for zebra mussels.

CLEAN, DRAIN, DRY

· Clean your boat, trailer and gear by removing all

plants, animals and foreign objects.

- Drain all water from the boat, including the motor, bilge, live wells and bait buckets, before leaving the lake.
- Dry the boat and trailer for a week or more before entering another water body. If unable to let it dry for at least a week, wash it with a high-pressure washer and hot (at least 140-degree), soapy water.

TRANSPORTING INVASIVE MUSSELS IS ILLEGAL

Possession or transportation of zebra or quagga mussels in Texas is a Class C misdemeanor for the first offense, punishable by a fine of up to \$500. Repeat offenses can be elevated to a Class B misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of up to \$2,000, jail time up to 180 days, or both.

Boaters are required to drain all water from their vessel, including live wells, bilges, motors, and any other receptacles, before approaching or leaving a water body. This applies to all types and sizes of boats used on fresh waters, effective July 1.

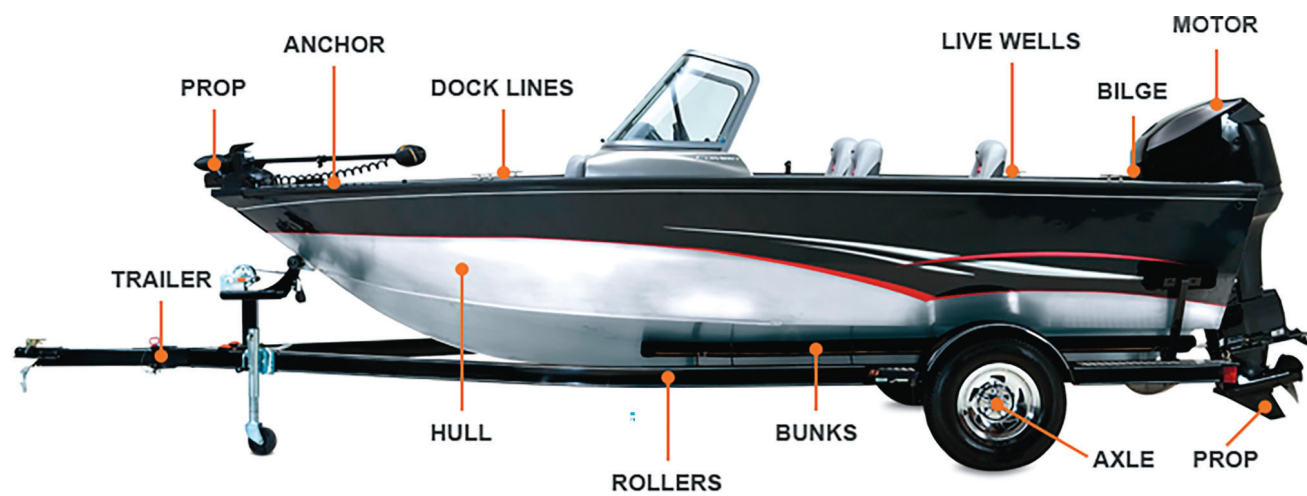
Learn more about regulations related to zebra and quagga mussels.

REPORT A SIGHTING

We need your help to stop the spread of invasive mussels! Please report any new sightings, and if possible, take a picture of the zebra or quagga mussel and record its GPS location.

FACTS ABOUT INVASIVE MUSSELS

Zebra mussels are known to have caused alarming declines in populations of fish, birds and native mussel species and can disrupt a city’s entire water supply system by colonizing the insides of pipelines and restricting the flow of water. Zebra mussels also damage boat hulls, plug water systems used in boat motors, air conditioners and heads and cause naviga-



INVASIVE MUSSELS HIDE HERE

You can’t always see invasive mussels because their larvae are invisible to the naked eye. They can survive for days in water trapped in a boat. The only way to be sure you’re not carrying invasive mussels to another body of water is to always clean, drain and dry your boat, trailer, and gear.

tion buoys to sink. Millions of dollars are spent each year controlling, cleaning and monitoring zebra mussels in other states.

Zebra mussels have a high rate of filtration (especially at high populations) which has led to increased water clarity and sunlight penetration by decreasing the amount of beneficial phytoplankton like diatoms and green algae. Increased sunlight penetration leads to increased water temperature as well as an increased Secchi depths (the depth that light penetrates underwater). This may be deleterious, in that different organisms live within various strata of the water column. Once those strata disappear, so may the organisms. Zebra mussels also feed on zooplankton, and have been associated with their declines as well. Zebra mussels pose a real threat to native mussels by competing for food and attaching to their shells. A zebra mussel colony can eventually smother a native mussel colony.

In addition to their ecological effects, zebra mussels have a negative impact on the economy. Zebra mussels have the ability to adhere to just about any substrate. Due to their sessile nature, once



PHOTO COURTESY TEXAS INVASIVE PLANT AND PEST COUNCIL

Zebra mussels only grow to 1 ½ inches and develop a distinctive zebra-striped shell. One zebra or quagga mussel can produce up to one million microscopic larvae per year. Invasive mussels can cause tremendous environmental and economic damage – hurting aquatic life, damaging your boat, hindering water recreation and even threatening your water supply.

the veliger larvae has bound to its substrate of choice, mussels develop into adults and are permanently secured via anchors known as byssal threads. These byssal threads allow many zebra mussels to cluster together on various

types of substrates including pipes, boats, boat trailers, buoys and dinghys. High cost has been associated with removing zebra mussels from intake pipes to power plants, piping associated with air conditioning, fire hoses, and

many others as they constrict water flow. The mussels may also sink buoys, destroy fishing equipment, and take over objects left in the water for a long period of time.

Spread the word, not invasive mussels!

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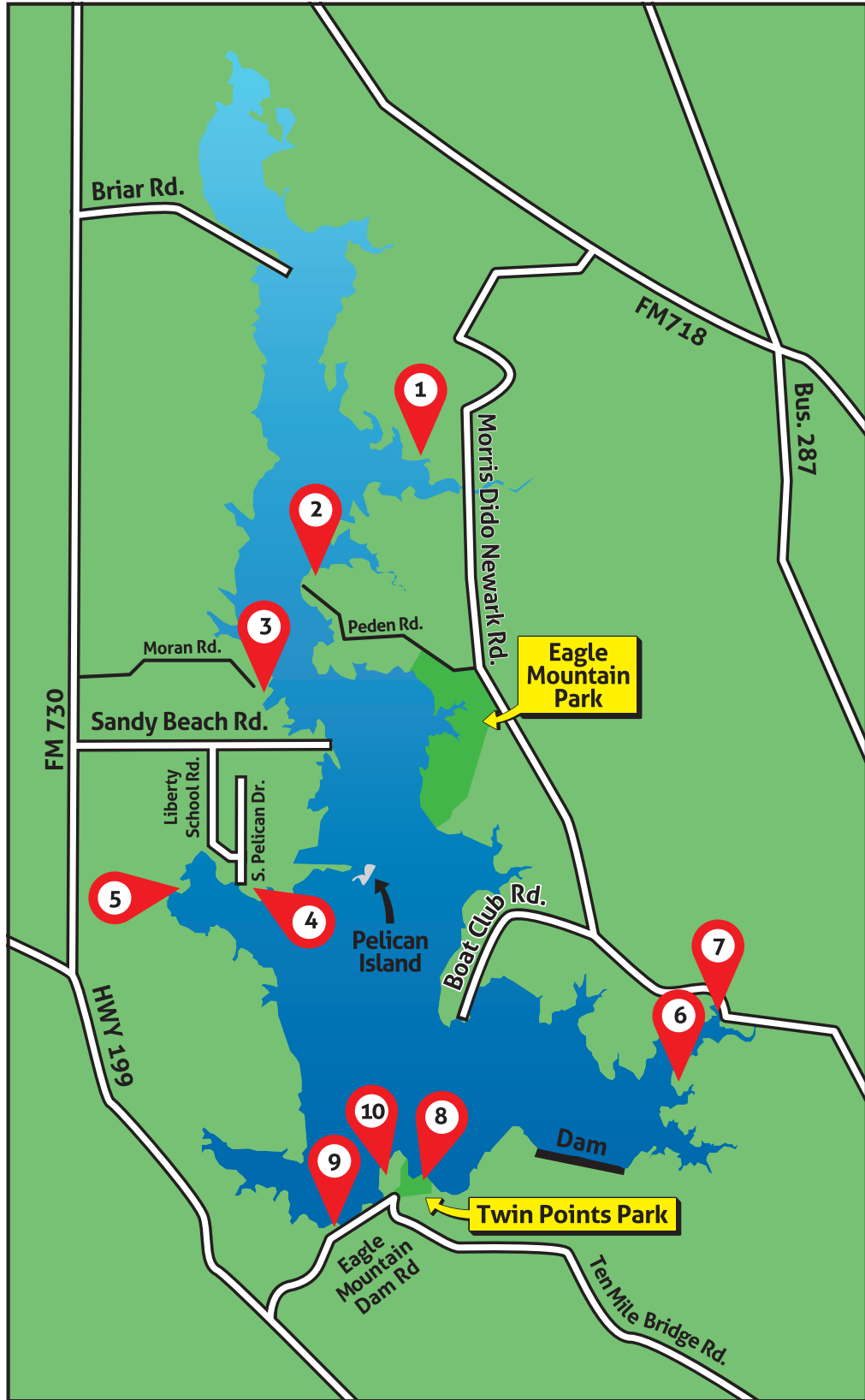
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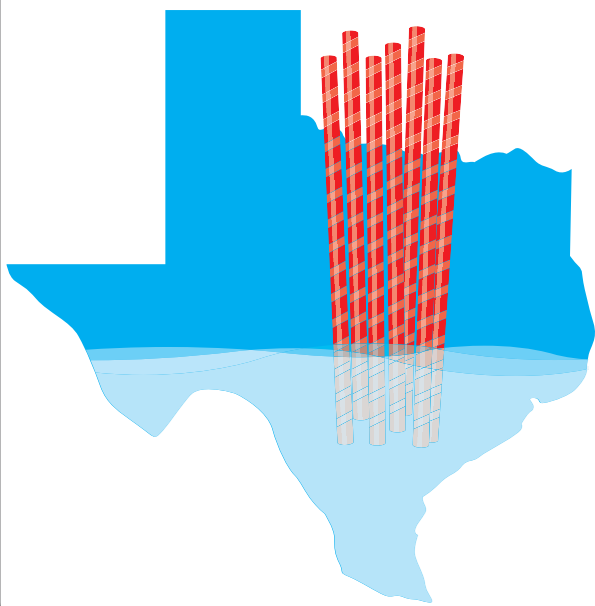


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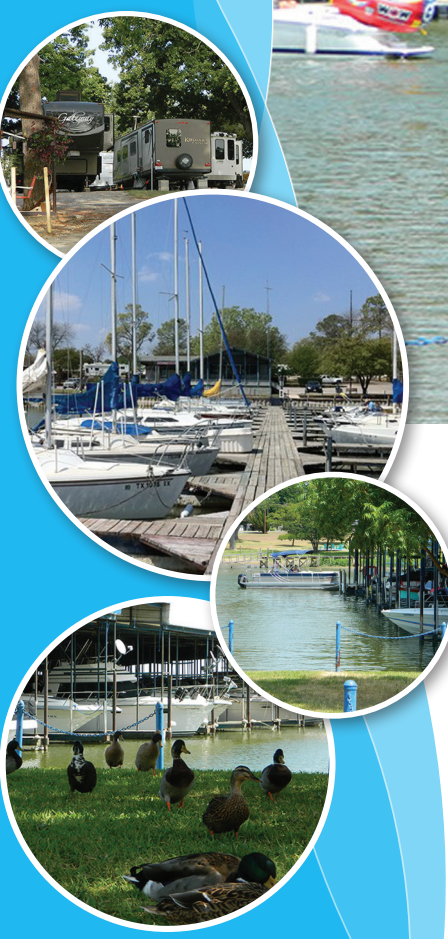
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