

## Pink Out for Athena Ride draws hundreds



PHOTO COURTESY JASON MALEWISKI  
Jason Malewiski, left, executive director of Servolution Network, stands with Daymon and Shelley Crittenden and event organizers Charla and Loren Knies with a check for Athena Strand's family. Jacob is her father.

### Thousands of dollars raised for young victim's family

#### FROM STAFF REPORTS

The death of 7-year-old Athena Strand devastated residents of North Texas and elsewhere.

On Sunday, folks came together to help Strand's family.

The Church at Azle was the starting point for a toy drive and bike ride fundraiser Sunday for the family of 7-year-old slaying victim Athena Strand, with Fox 4 News report explaining vehicles and motorcyclists registered for the event by donating \$20. The vehicles traveled to Wise County from The Church at Azle.

A little more than \$28,600 was raised. Jason Malewiski, executive director of Servolution Network in Azle, said around 1,500 vehicles participated: about 1,000 motorcycles, 350 Jeeps and 150 miscellaneous vehicles. The ride route ended at Paradise Elementary School, where Strand was a student.

Strand was allegedly kidnapped and killed by a FedEx contract driver in Wise County on Nov. 30 and her body was found near Boyd two days later. Tanner Horner, 31, remains in the Wise County Jail on aggravated

kidnapping and capital murder charges. He was delivering a package to Athena's home at the time of her disappearance.

"We live in the BEST community around — in Texas you do NOT mess with our kids," Malewiski said in an email about the ride and toy drive. "The amount of people who showed up from all over north Texas was overwhelming and a testament to the goodness of people. This is what it looks like to LOVE your Neighbor."

Athena's legacy will continue via Athena's Angels for the Parker County toy drive, Malewiski said.

Elsewhere in the community, many small businesses made T-shirts for donations to Athena's family. Crave, an Azle eatery, donated all proceeds on Dec. 5 to Athena's family, plus donations, for a total amount of \$3,000. Schools across North Texas wore pink on Dec. 5 to show support, including Azle ISD. Pink was Athena's favorite color.

A GoFundMe account has been established called Athena's Justice: Fundraiser by Maitlyn Gandy: Athena's Justice (gofundme.com).

MORE PHOTOS SEE A12

## Schools get safety audit reports

### DISTRICT CORRECTED ONE PROBLEM AREA

BY DON MUNSCH  
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Five Azle ISD school campuses drew good marks for their safety from auditors who checked building doors at the campuses this fall semester.

Four campuses received reports with no problems found. One campus, Azle Junior High School, had one problem area, a lock on the

door, that was found and fixed.

At the Nov. 28 AISD board meeting, the board heard about the Districtwide Intruder Detection Audit, with Azle ISD Police Chief Darren Brockway explaining that state mandates require that school districts perform an audit on their campuses by the end of the school year. Five AISD schools have been audited. Brockway told the

board about the one issue found at Azle Junior High School, where an audit was performed in late September.

Audits come in three phases, with the first audit centering on someone trying to enter the school without being buzzed in, and then that person (auditor) will pick four or five alternate entrances, to see whether they can get in.

PLEASE SEE DOORS | A9



PHOTO BY DON MUNSCH  
Azle ISD Police Department Chief Darren Brockway stands at a door at Azle High School. The school was one of five AISD schools to receive an audit this fall.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANGIE MARSHALL  
Emily Marshall kisses heifer Oakley at a show. Marshall is a senior at Azle High School and has found her passion in showing cattle.

## Finding her 'happy place'

### AZLE HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR FINDS NICHE IN SHOWING CATTLE

BY DON MUNSCH  
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Students spend hours at their high school activities, whether it's band, athletics and other extracurriculars.

For Azle High School senior Emily Marshall, she is all in for agriculture, specifically showing two heifers and a steer. The amount of time she puts into taking care of her animals puts a crimp into her social life, but she doesn't mind early morning wakeups and the long hours because of how much fulfillment she finds.

"I love it — it's my favorite thing ever," she said.

And the work involved is not easy, said her mother,

Angie.

"She's been kicked numerous times, stepped on, head-butted," she said.

"All kinds of things," Emily said, agreeing.

Emily shows a Chianina Heifer named Tyra, a Charolais Composite Heifer named Oakley and a Charolais composite steer named Mater under Azle 4H.

At the North Texas Fair and Rodeo in August in Denton, Oakley won first in class and was overall breed champion, while Tyra was third in her breed class. At the McKinney FFA Alumni Show in September, Oakley was breed champion and Tyra was first in class. And then at a couple of other

shows, Oakley was breed champ and went into the Grand Drive at the Mansfield FFA Alumni Show at the Ellis County Youth Expo Center in November, and Tyra took first place and third place in Grand Drive at the Kodie Outlaw Klassic Show at the Wise County Fairgrounds in November. At the Mansfield show, Emily took third in showmanship.

She attended a show this past weekend in Decatur, where she showed her heifers. She will be free from showing until January, when Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo will be held.

After high school,

PLEASE SEE STEERS | A2

Merry Christmas!

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# STEER

FROM PAGE A1

Emily plans to attend Tarrant County College or Weatherford College for vet tech and earn a two-year degree. She has been in ag for four years, but she as shown cattle for two years. Her freshman year, she showed pigs. She didn't show animals her sophomore year. She belongs to the 4-H Club.

"I just had love for so many animals, and I wanted to show my freshman year and always dreamed of showing animals," she said, explaining her start in showing. "It's just (because of) all the love that I have for them and it teaches me responsibility, and I just love them to death. They're my happy place."

Emily has logged 130 hours with her heifers this semester. At Mansfield, when she won breed champion heifer, she said "that was the first time I got to go into the grand drive out of both the years I have been showing and so that was a really good moment for me, made me feel like I actually know what I'm doing and it made me happy."

Angie was never involved in ag growing up in Haltom City. She said seeing Emily's accomplishments are "amazing" to watch.

"She's come so far," she said. "Her whole demeanor has changed."

She said Emily is happier now — she was happy taking care of her pigs — and she has really stepped up now, because taking care of cows requires a lot of work.

"And she's done a fantastic job," Angie said. "This has always been her goal, always been her dream, to have cows and to show them. She's done it, and she's rocking it."

The cows require washing, bathing and walking and vetting (overseeing medical care), and Emily described the work she puts into taking care of her "girls" — her word — and the steer. She takes advanced animal science at the school now.

She found her niche in ag, although she used to play volleyball for 13 years and she quit in high school so she could show animals. She still has involvement in sports, as manager for the softball and wrestling teams.

Emily pointed out how her older friends from her freshman year stepped up and helped her through dealing with all the stress in working with animals, and when she was sad, the animals immediately cheered her up.

"So, I knew right then and there, these animals were going to be in my life from there forward and I wouldn't have it any other way," she said. "I pretty much treat them like they're my own kids."

Emily's family has two Rottweilers, six Great Pyrenees, a horse and 24 goats, so she is used to being around animals. Emily and Angie expressed gratitude for the North Texas Veterinary Hospital, Tom Hutchins and Craig Sweatt, for their treatment of her animals.

Angie's fiancé is Dr. Matt Mishio, who works at Brace Chiropractic, and the family is proud of Emily's achievements and hard work, as there are nights when she doesn't return until 11 or 12 and gets up at 3:30 a.m. to hit a show by 5:30-6 a.m.

"And she keeps cooking right along like a champ," Angie said. "We're really proud of her. And just to see her hold her head up high when she walks out of that ring with a ribbon or banner, it's worth every long night."



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANGIE MARSHALL

Emily Marshall, above, stands with Tyra and Oakley, her heifers, and hugs steer Mater, bottom. A 4-H member, Marshall has shown cattle the last two years.

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# Reno City Council moves forward on securing one home per acre rule

BY MADELYN EDWARDS  
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Reno City Council tasked the Planning and Zoning Commission and the city attorney to come up with an ordinance to solidify the one home per acre rule.

Council member Shelli Swift brought up the topic at the November meeting to close any loopholes or contradictions in the city's

ordinances.

"I am proposing that we come up with an ordinance that stops all the questions," Swift said during the meeting. "If we want homes to be on one acre or more, we need to have a blanket ordinance that says that's the way it is."

Solidifying one home per acre in the ordinances would mean that developers seeking any variation from that would need a special use permit, Swift said.

P&Z Chairperson Brian Schrader also said during the meeting that the city's comprehensive plan and ordinances contain contradictory statements regarding how many residential units can be situated on one acre.

"I'm not going to say it's riddled with holes. I'm going to say there are enough loopholes and enough trip points that if someone wanted to

come into our community today and put in five houses on an acre, we might have a legal situation on our hands," Schrader said.

Schrader said the council has tasked P&Z with bringing the comprehensive plan up to date and clearing up the contradictions. He recommended a joint effort between council, P&Z and city staff to clear up the loopholes and update the comprehensive plan.

City Attorney Dottie Palumbo said she could draft an ordinance based on Swift's comments, and then the ordinance would need to be considered by P&Z, which would then make a recommendation to the council. A public hearing on the new ordinance is also expected.

Swift made the motion to authorize Palumbo to draft an ordinance requiring each home to be situated on no less

than one acre throughout the Reno city limits. She added that any variations to the one home per acre rule would need a special use permit that would need to be passed by the council in a supermajority vote to move forward. Her motion also required that any changes to the ordinance would need to be approved by the council with a supermajority vote. Swift's motion was approved unanimously.

# Reno discusses emergency notification system

BY MADELYN EDWARDS  
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The city of Reno is exploring the possibility of installing an emergency notification system to alert city residents of urgent situations.

Reno City Council heard a presentation about CodeRED Emergency Alerts at the November meeting from Pete Applegarth, an alert and warning consultant.

Applegarth said more than 1,200 communities in Texas use the CodeRED system. Using the system, authorized city personnel can log

in, either from an office or the field, and send alerts to either certain neighborhoods or everyone signed up in the city. Those alerts can be voicemails to landlines and cellphones, text messages, emails, social media posts and website posts.

"You can push all these different alerts out, (and) contact your entire community within minutes," Applegarth said.

The notification system can be used for severe weather alerts, locating missing persons, boil water notices, updates on power restora-

tion and helping authorities arrest criminals, Applegarth said. Certain traffic incidents or road work could also be considered emergency alerts. The system could also be used for nonemergency alerts - such as notices of city meetings and events - but that comes with an extra cost.

The CodeRED system also gathers feedback to let city officials know if the message reached a live person, an answering machine or if the line was busy, Applegarth said.

"You can send out a survey or a poll or ask them if maybe they need help or something

like that. It's not just a one-way push of information," he said. "You can get real-time feedback from your citizens that they may need help for whatever reason."

The system could be set up very quickly using a database of Reno phone records, Applegarth said. Reno residents would be able to sign up for free to receive emergency alerts and select how they want to be notified.

Council member Jeff Davis brought up a concern about how the new system could affect people without computers if the city switched to the

CodeRED system instead of mailing notices.

"I have two senior neighbors on both sides of me that I help take care of. Neither one of them are on the internet, but they do get text messages," Davis said, adding that in the past his neighbors have been notified in the mail of previous urgent situations. "I know that they check their mail more than they check their text messages."

Council member Shelli Swift reminded Davis that the alert service could also call residents on landlines or cellphones.

Applegarth said the city can get unlimited emergency alerts through CodeRED for \$2,500 annually. If the city wanted to also send out non-emergency alerts, that would cost \$3,400 annually, though costs do fluctuate from year to year. Training, customer service and setup would also be provided at no additional cost.

The council decided to further review how the expense for the emergency-only notification system would work in the budget at a future meeting.

# Wreath-laying ceremony on Saturday

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Azle Composite Squadron, Civil Air Patrol will host a local Wreaths Across America wreath-laying ceremony at 11 a.m. Saturday at Azleland Memorial Park, 850 N. Cardinal Road, according to a news release.

The local cemetery joins more than 1,500 other locations across the country for National Wreaths Across America Day. Coordinated and led by the Azle Composite Squadron, Civil Air Patrol, 500 wreaths will be placed on the headstones of fallen service members. This

annual event seeks to further the Wreaths Across America mission of "Remember, Honor, Teach," ensuring that the "memory of those who served our country endures," the release stated.

All members of the surrounding communities are invited to participate in the ceremony and wreath-laying.

Civil Air Patrol was established in 1941 and is the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force and as such is a member of its Total Force. In its auxiliary role, CAP operates a fleet of 555 single-engine aircraft and 2,250 small

Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS) and performs about 90% of all search and rescue operations within the contiguous United States as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center. As a nonprofit organization, CAP plays a leading role in aerospace education using national academic standards-based STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) education resources. Members also serve as mentors to 24,000 young people participating in CAP's Cadet Programs.

## Azle School Menu Dec 19 - Dec 23, 2022

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

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

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**PreK - 4th**

**BREAKFAST:** Everyday - Assorted Fruits and Cereal, Juice, White or Chocolate Milk, Graham Crackers, Toast  
Mon Cini Mini, Apples **Tues** Kolache, Orange Craisins **Weds** Strawberry Cream Cheese Bagel, Orange  
**Thurs** Christmas Break **Fri** Christmas Break

**LUNCH:** Everyday - Variety of milk. Your choice of 1 entree & 1 fruit or juice  
Mon Chicken Nuggets w/roll, Turkey & Cheese Sandwich, Mashed Potatoes w/gravy, Green Beans, Oranges **Tues** Fajita Chicken Tacos, Beefy Mac w/roll, Peas, Refried Beans, Pears **Weds** Sun butter & Jelly Sandwich w/string cheese, Max sticks w/marinera, Broccoli, Apple  
**Thurs** Christmas Break **Fri** Christmas Break

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**GRADES 5TH - 8TH**

**BREAKFAST:** Everyday - Assorted Fruits and Cereal, Juice, White or Chocolate Milk, Yogurt w/Granola  
Mon Breakfast pizza, Apples **Tues** Sausage Link, Eggs, Toast, Orange **Weds** Cinnamon Roll, Peaches  
**Thurs** Christmas Break **Fri** Christmas Break

**LUNCH:** Everyday: Variety of milk. Your choice of 1 entree & 1 fruit or juice, rolls, crackers • Salad bar offered daily  
Mon Chicken Nuggets w/roll, Turkey & Cheese Sandwich, Mashed Potatoes w/gravy, Green Beans, oranges • **Tues** Fajita Chicken Tacos, Beefy Mac w/roll, Peas, Refried Beans, Pears **Weds** Sun butter & Jelly Sandwich w/string cheese, Max sticks w/marinera, Broccoli, Apple **Thurs** Christmas Break **Fri** Christmas Break

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**HIGH SCHOOL**

**BREAKFAST:** Everyday - Assorted Fruits and Cereal, Juice, White or Chocolate Milk, Yogurt w/Granola  
Mon Breakfast Pizza, Oranges **Tues** Sausage, Links, Eggs, Toast, Pineapple **Weds** Cinnamon Roll, Peaches, Bananas  
**Thurs** Christmas Break **Fri** Christmas Break

**LUNCH:** • Everyday: 1% unflavored or non fat chocolate milk & juice offered daily at breakfast and lunch.  
Salad Bar • Fruit of the day subject to change due to deliveries and shortages. • Fruit, hot and cold veggies  
Mon Steak Fingers w/gravy & Roll, Sausage Link w/ mac & cheese, Cheese Enchiladas, Bean & Beef Burrito, Orange Chicken w/fried rice, Cheese Pizza, Pepperoni Pizza, Cheeseburger, Hamburger, Taquitos **Tues** Chicken Nuggets, Mini Corndogs, Beef or Chicken Nachos w/refried beans, General TSO Chicken w/o mien noodles, Chicken Alfredo, Cheese Pizza, Sloppy Joe, Hot Dogs **Weds** Mac & Cheese, Beef or Chicken Tacos, Kung Pao Chicken w/fried rice, Meatball Sub, Pepperoni Pizza, Spicy Chicken Sandwich, Popcorn Chicken w/roll **Thurs** Christmas Break **Fri** Christmas Break

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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?**

By Local Health Expert Dr. Robert Moss PT, ScD, OCS, FAAOMPT

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.

If you are looking for guidance on your next step to finding relief from your lower back pain then call our office to request my **100% FREE Report Top 10 Burning Questions for Back Pain and Sciatica**. Or if you want the report right now, just scan the QR code and you can download it instantly.

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# City council hears from resident, development engineer about development discharge

BY DON MUNSCHE  
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Conversation turned contentious at the Dec. 6 Azle City Council when a resident complained to the city manager and mayor about how a housing development's oversight of sediment discharge has affected his area of town.

During an agenda item on pre-construction processes and review for development projects, resident William Dubuis approached the council to air his grievances about the development and became so upset and spoke in such a loud voice at an early point that Mayor Alan Brundrett told him to "tone it down." The interaction among Dubuis, the mayor and City Manager Tom Muir featured some crosstalk, with Dubuis frequently interrupting responses or explanations from the mayor and Muir.

At issue is the sediment runoff that has developed from Lakeview Heights housing development, overseen by Lackland Holdings, with mud that has crept onto sidewalks and roadways. The area was hit by some heavy rains this summer and fall that created conditions for sediment to slide from the development property and onto city infrastructure, such as sidewalks and roads, and some residential properties. Dubuis, who lives on South Broadway, has appeared before council before and has written emails to city officials expressing his displeasure at the city's response.

"The whole process of the

preconstruction and what's been going on at the Lackland Holdings development is going to create problems for those of us that have lived there for many, many years and many generations," Dubuis said at the beginning of his interaction with council.

Muir said the city does not design the infrastructure - water, sewer and streets - that is installed in developments, in response to a statement made by Dubuis, who then asked whether the city has to look at the infrastructure designed by the developer to see how it will affect people downstream.

"That's reviewed," Muir said.

Muir and Dubuis then discussed the construction of Lakeview Heights, sparking Dubuis to raise his voice at one point about the phase it is in now. Dubuis then brought up the South Ash project, a road being reconstructed because of drainage and flooding problems. He asked whether the city approved of the housing projects that caused the flooding and drainage problems that occurred at Ash.

"I'm assuming they did," Muir said.

Dubuis thinks the problems that have happened at Lakeview Heights will affect South Broadway. He wondered whether the replacement of culverts at Lakeview and Broadway were paid for by the city. They will aid in the drainage from Lakeview Heights, he said, and Muir said that replacement was in

the plans anyway; the developer will pay for infrastructure it is putting in, Muir said. Muir and Brundrett pointed to a retention pond to capture stormwater and that the development is still under construction, with Brundrett telling Dubuis that no one can say for sure what has caused the flooding.

"All of those developments have caused the flooding, Mr. Mayor," Dubuis said.

Brundrett then explained how the certified engineer designed the plan for drainage and it was built to the standards that were supposed to work and tried to explain other aspects of the situation, but Dubuis often interrupted him. Dubuis then later said "you don't want to solve the problem," suggesting Muir and Brundrett should personally examine areas that have been affected and meet with people who live there. Lastly, Brundrett accused Dubuis of being argumentative, to which Dubuis responded by saying the city should solve the problem.

Scott Scherer, director of engineering at Lackland Engineering, which is part of Lackland Holdings, then spoke to council about the issues that have occurred at the area near the development.

Council examined a handout from Scherer that showed a timeline of activities at the Lakeview site, beginning in May with clearing work and then later including how a major rain event on Aug. 23 - more than 6 inches - affected erosion control measures'

ability to keep silt from leaving the construction site.

"It was just a storm we don't anticipate seeing," Scherer said.

One of the major issues that occurred was when bar ditches on Broadway clogged causing silt to enter residential properties at 105, 111 and 113 Broadway. On Aug. 26, Scherer's timeline showed his company met with property owners on Broadway to discuss cleanup.

Later, on Sept. 5, rain caused similar issues that occurred on Aug. 23, and company officials met with school district officials a few days later to discuss cleanup; a nearby school parking lot was flooded with silt. The timeline also included actions taken by the company to fix issues, such as erosion control blankets being installed to steep slopes adjacent to Lakeview Drive, the water plant and school property. A cleanup occurred at the water plant in September as sediment entered the plant in August, filling valve boxes and stacking around tanks. Other rain events occurred in October and November.

Broadway has been a focus, Scherer said.

"Several residents on that street have my own cell phone number (and) they call me personally when issues have come up," he said about the last few months, adding that he was out in the area during the last rain event and took care of problems as they occurred, such as a silt fence that was patched up after a rip happened. "We're doing

what we can."

He said the problem at the site will be eradicated when grass can grow, and silt is no longer running off in rain events, and "that's where we're trying to get to right now." The company is responding to erosion control issues as they come up, he said. Scherer's handout had pictures of the site that showed erosion blanketing that is seeded with winter rye, which will greatly reduce runoff that has happened, he said.

Scherer also provided information on what infrastructure work would be conducted on the construction site in the coming months. He then answered questions from council, explaining that he thinks the measures taken at the property will be effective.

Before he left, Scherer said he wanted it known that he was there to give up an update and that he appeared at a meeting in November, and he said he didn't see any other developers at the Dec. 6 meeting, although council learned shortly later that someone from Azle Grove (Lennar Homes) was at the meeting.

"And there are other projects that are causing the problem, too," Scherer said.

David Hawkins, director of planning and development for the city, then provided information to the council about the role of the city and developers, such as how the city ensures, whether the development is commercial or residential, that developers are in compliance with development ordinances. When

residential plans are submitted to the city by a developer's design engineer, then the city's third-party consulting engineer, Jacob Martin, reviews the plans and ensures everything is compliance with the city's subdivision ordinance, Hawkins said.

He then discussed various other aspects of coordination that occurs between the city and developers, including what the city can require from a developer beyond the borders of development. The city is limited on what it can force a developer do beyond the boundaries of the development (downstream or pre-existing problems), Hawkins said.

Later, speaking to council, Hawkins said after a development's infrastructure is completed, the city will conduct a final inspection and the city is required to obtain a two-year maintenance bond for a residential neighborhood. A developer has to correct anything related to public infrastructure, such as water lines, storm drains and streets, in the two-year period after the city accepts the development. After that two-year period ends, the city will conduct another inspection of the public infrastructure to confirm if there are any deficiencies that may need to be corrected. If none are found, the city would then take over maintenance of the public infrastructure going forward and would be liable for any maintenance problems going forward.

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# At the halfway mark

We are quickly coming to the end of the first semester for this academic school year, and we continue to have great things happening in Azle ISD. Christmas programs and activities, fall and winter sports, and state and benchmark testing mark the halfway point of the school year. Our students, staff, and families are looking forward to the upcoming break.

We recently had our fall 2022 demographic update. While not a surprise to most, our Zonda demographics report shows Azle ISD to be on track for a record year for new home starts and clos-



**AZLE ISD**  
By Todd Smith, M.Ed., Superintendent of Schools - Azle ISD

Mr. Smith just completed his 28th school year in Azle ISD, with 13 years in campus administration and six years as a district administrator. In June 22, 2020 he was named Superintendent of Schools by the Azle ISD Board of Trustees. He is thankful for the passion and dedication exhibited by Azle ISD faculty and staff and is extremely proud of the work Azle ISD has accomplished and the impact they will continue to make in the lives of our students.

ings. The average price for a new home is \$435,622 and the average price for an existing home is \$340,969. In looking at the current district enrollment of 7,082 students, our student density per county includes approximately

54% Tarrant County, 44% Parker County, and 2% Wise County. The demographers show Azle ISD to continue to grow in the 3% range for the next several years, or a little over 200 hundred students per year. Growth continues

across the entire school district, in all elementary attendance zones.

On Monday, Jan. 9, we will host our second attendance re-zoning community meeting at 6 p.m. in the Swarm Conference room of the Azle ISD administration building. Our school district's growth has resulted in adjustments needed in the elementary attendance zones and feeder patterns as we prepare to open Hilltop Elementary at the start of the next school year. For more information, I encourage you to visit our website where you can find the community pre-

sentation, along with the map of the proposed new attendance zones - [www.azleisd.net/AttendanceZoneUpdates23-24](http://www.azleisd.net/AttendanceZoneUpdates23-24)

While re-zoning is never a popular topic, it is exciting to welcome and open a new campus. The last new elementary campus to open in Azle ISD was Cross Timbers Elementary in 1998. Amy Rollmann, a veteran Azle ISD principal and AHS graduate, will lead Hilltop Elementary. Mrs. Rollmann has 15 years of experience as a campus leader and 24 years of experience in Azle ISD. We will staff Hilltop Elementary with ex-

isting Azle ISD teachers and staff from our other elementary campuses.

Our first semester ends on Wednesday, Dec. 21, followed by Christmas break starting on Thursday, Dec. 22. Kicking off our second semester, Azle ISD staff will return on Thursday, Jan. 5, and our students will return on Monday, Jan. 9.

I sincerely hope for a safe and restful holiday season for all. On behalf of the Board of Trustees and myself, we wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

*We Are Azle* - Todd Smith  
Hilltop Elementary with ex-

# ReMARKable moments

Pastor Joe had all the children gathered at the front of the church for the special children's sermon.

He read from Matthew chapter 2 about the events following the visit of the Magi to the baby Jesus:

"Now when they had gone, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up! Take the Child and His mother and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is going to search for the Child to destroy Him.'"

In just a few sentences, he told the boys and girls how God took care of Joseph and Mary and baby Jesus by protecting them from those who wished to harm them.

Seven-year-old Bobby



**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](http://www.discoveryouramazing.com).

raised his hand (always a scary moment for Pastor Joe during the children's sermon).

Pastor Joe: Yes, Bobby? Bobby: What happened to the flea?

(I'll wait ...)

Ok, here's the hint for those who haven't gotten it yet: "Get up! Take the Child and His mother and flee to Egypt ..."

Sorry about that.

There is a point to the story — Bobby got distracted and

missed the point of the story. Does that happen to us at Christmas?

Planning menus, attending parties and concerts, shopping, decorating, stressing over details — and those are the "fun" things!

There are also those among us who are grieving the loss of loved ones, struggling with broken or strained relationships, concerned that they can't afford the Christmas gifts and feasts. Distracted.

Weighed down.

In 1849, Unitarian minister Edmund Sears wrote a poem reflecting on his ministry experiences. The poem became the text for the familiar Christmas carol, "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear."

The stanza that sparked my attention today:

"All ye beneath life's crushing load

Whose forms are bending low

Who toil along the climbing way

With painful steps and slow

Look now for glad and golden hours

Come swiftly on the wing

O rest beside the weary road

And hear the angels sing"

The "crushing load" can

originate from too much of anything. Heavy is heavy, regardless of origin or content. And when all you can think about is the load, distraction is inevitable.

"O rest beside the weary road ..."

May I encourage you right now — just for a few moments — to lay down your Christmas burden and rest in the hope of the Christmas message.

An unexpected word caught my attention in my Bible reading this morning. The verse was Luke 5:26 -

"Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said,

'We have seen remarkable things today.'"

"Remarkable" is the word

I underlined in my reading today.

ReMARKable.

I \*marked\* it so I could Remember it and Refer to it again.

I want to mark the moments when I am amazed by Jesus — not just with pen in hand, but in my conscious thoughts.

When you take that moment to rest beside the weary road and contemplate the Christmas message, mark in your heart the moment of hope so you can come back and revisit it again and again.

Be amazing today, my friend.

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# OBITUARIES

## Rufus Deskins 1954 - 2022

Rufus Andrew 'Andy' Deskins, 68, passed away, suddenly, Sunday, December 4, 2022. A celebration of Life for Andy will be at a future date. Alexander's Midway Funeral is handling arrangements.

Andy was born November 23, 1954 in Greenville. He loved playing bluegrass music, fishing, flying his airplane, restoring old cars, collecting guns and most of all he loved hearing and telling a good joke.

Andy is preceded in death by his parents, Kenneth Rufus and Beulah Jean Deskins; brother, Jay Kenneth Deskins and son, Kenneth Carl Deskins.

He is survived by his devoted wife, Robin of 29 years; son, Zachary Bureson and wife Laurie; mothers-in-law Lois Slate and Becky Slate; sisters-in-law, Willene Deskins, Kelli Slate and Karen Slate;



nephew, Jay K. Deskins and wife Dawn; niece, Jennifer Deskins Villasana; great nieces and nephews Larry, Stormie, Chance and wife Katelynn, Cameron and wife Kayleigh, Jacob and wife Dallas and Caitlyn; and great great nieces and nephews Tristan, Bailey, Kynlee, Ellie, Ryder, Rayleigh, Raiden and Charli.

*The Azle News, Dec. 14, 2022 Edition*

## Harry Dekin 1944-2022

Harry George Dekin, 78, passed away Tuesday, December 6, 2022 at an Azle hospital.

Visitation was held from 6 - 8 p.m. Sunday, December 11, 2022 at White's Funeral Home, Azle.

Funeral Services were held at 1 p.m. Monday, December 12, 2022 at Azle Christian Church, Azle.

Interment was at Azleland Cemetery, Azle.

Harry G. Dekin was born May 13, 1944 in Rome, New York to Harry Arthur Dekin/Burton Howard and Bertha D. Marsh Howard. Harry honorably served his country in the United States Army. Almost everyone knew Harry as the Azle Auto Doctor, he fixed everyone's cars.

He is preceded in death by his parents; and wife, Gay Dekin; sister, Sherry Critz; daughter, Brenda Faye Dekin; and brother, Adam Morelock.

Survivors include children, Mechelle Baslee, Robin Pedigo, Burton Dekin,



Micheal Dekin and Michelle Morelock; grandchildren, Brittany Snelson, William Dekin, Sierra Baslee, Ashlyn Gonzales, Ty Pierson, Preston Dekin, Allison Williams, Payton Dekin, Colton Dekin, Cheyenne Pedigo, Daniel Morelock, Byman Morelock and Jaxton Dekin; six great-grandchildren and one on the way, sisters, Sally Rector and Joyce Lee; and brother, Pete Howard.

*The Azle News, Dec. 14, 2022 Edition*

## James Harlow 1931-2022

James Edward Harlow, age 91, passed from this life on December 7, 2022.

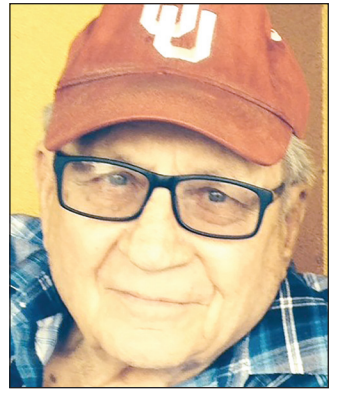
Service was held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, December 13, 2022 at Cornerstone Community Church, 2233 E. Highway 199, Springtown, Texas 76082

Interment was at Azleland Memorial Park, Reno, Texas

Visitation was 10:30 a.m., Tuesday, December 13, 2022 prior to the service.

James was born September 7, 1931 in Crawford, Arkansas to Walter H. Harlow and Maude Saterfield. He was a U.S. Marine and his profession was heating and refrigeration. James was a great father and grandfather to all his kids and grandkids. He is now with the love of his life, Emma Pearl Harlow.

James is survived by his



four children, Rod Murphy, LaDonna Judd (David), Lanny Murphy and Gail Druyman; eight grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

*The Azle News, Dec. 14, 2022 Edition*

## Billy Stinson 1941-2022

Billy Vernon Stinson, 81, passed away, Sunday, November 20, 2022 at home.

Memorial service was held at 11 a.m., Saturday, December 10 at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses in Azle.

Billy was born September 27, 1941 in Ardmore, Oklahoma to James Bufford and Ruth Pearlee (Reach) Stinson.

Billy was a diesel mechanic by trade. He owned and operated BS&J Truck Service for 17 years. Billy retired from Penske Truck Rentals after many years of dedicated service and could be found tinkering in the garage. He enjoyed listening to country and western music.

His parents preceded him in death, along with his brother, James W. Stinson; and sisters, Mildred Miller and Betty Miller.

He is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 60 years,



Helen (Wooley) Stinson; sons, Billy (Jo) Stinson, Jr., Paul (Lynne) Stinson and Michael (Michelle) Stinson; daughter, Natalie Oshel; nephew, James Miller; grandchildren, Kami, Alyssa, Cole, Joshua, Matthew, T.J., Kaity, Dayna and Xavier; and great-grandchildren, Maddie, Natalie, Jax, Danny, Alivia and Alli.

*The Azle News, Dec. 14, 2022 Edition*

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<b>ASH CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH</b> Pastor: Dr. G. Wesley Shotwell 300 South Stewart St. 817-444-3219 www.ashcreekbc.org Sunday School.....9:30 AM Contemporary Worship-TMP.....10:45 AM Traditional Worship.....10:45 AM Evening Worship.....6:00 PM Wednesday Youth Refuge.....6:00 PM Wednesday Evening.....6:15 PM	<b>CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH</b> 2233 Hwy 199 E. • Springtown 817-221-LIFE (5433) Sunday Worship Service.....10:00 AM Wednesday.....7:00 PM	<b>HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> 800 Highcrest Dr. - Azle 817-444-3063 Saturday.....5:00 PM Sunday.....9:00 AM Sunday.....11 AM (Spanish) Daily Mass (M, T, Th, F).....8:00 AM Wednesday Mass Religious ED.....6:30 PM Confessions.....Sat 4 PM	<b>SILVER CREEK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> Rev. Sheila Fiorella - Pastor 2200 Church Rd., Azle 817-444-1382 www.silvercreekumc.org Sunday School 9:30 AM • Worship 10:30 AM	Equip Sunday School at the WORD.....9:30 AM Empower Worship at the WORD.....10:45 AM Kids at the WORD.....10:45 AM PreK at the WORD.....10:45 AM Emanate at the WORD (Special Needs Ministry).....10:45 AM Nursery at the WORD.....10:45 AM Young Adults at the WORD.....6:00 PM Wednesdays Adult Bible Class.....7:00 PM The WORD Students (6th-12th grades).....6:30 PM Awana Kids at the WORD.....6:30 PM Life at the WORD Life Groups Various Times
<b>AZLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH</b> (Disciples of Christ) Senior Minister, Ashley Dargai, Katie Medlin, Worship Minister 117 Church St. • 817-444-3527 Sunday School.....10:00 AM Morning Worship.....11:00 AM	<b>CROSSROADS BAPTIST CHURCH</b> Pastor - Jon Baker Corner FM 730S & FM 1886 817-755-0279 Transportation Available Worship Service.....10:30 AM Wed. Prayer Service.....7:00 PM	<b>HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA</b> 4795 E. Hwy 199 - Reno 817-221-HOPE Follow us on Facebook for streaming services Sunday School.....9:00 AM Traditional Service.....10:00 AM	<b>SILVER CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH</b> Pastor: Jay Ditty Minister of Music: David Musick Corner FM 730 S. & Veal Station Rd. Church 817-444-2325 www.silvercreekbc.org Sunday School.....9:45 AM Morning Worship.....10:50 AM Evening Worship.....6:00 PM Wed. Prayer Service.....7:00 PM	
<b>AZLE FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD</b> Rev. Joshua Lowrance 1020 S.E. Parkway, Azle 817-237-4903 Sunday School.....9:30 AM Morning Worship.....10:30 AM Wednesday Evening.....7:00 PM	<b>THE EDGE CHURCH - AZLE</b> 1313 S.E. Pkwy, Azle 817-237-4822 Missouri Synod "Love God - Serve Others - Share Jesus" Traditional Worship.....9:30 AM Contemporary Worship.....11:00 AM	<b>SOLID ROCK BIBLE CHURCH</b> 591 S. Reno Rd., Springtown, Texas 76082 Pastor - Bill Gay - 817-304-7443 Coffee and Donuts.....9:00 AM Sunday School.....9:30 AM Morning Worship.....10:30 AM Children's Church After Music Service Wed. Prayer Meeting.....6:30 PM Wed. Bible Study.....7:00 PM		

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# Reno awards contract for new water line on Miller Road

**BY MADELYN EDWARDS**  
madelyn@azlenews.net

To help with water pressure in the Scenic Wood and North Cardinal area, Reno is moving forward on installing a new 6-inch water line on Miller Road, all the way from Ladybird Lane to North Cardinal Road, to replace the 4-inch line.

Reno City Council awarded the contract for this project to Atkins Brothers Equipment Company during the council meeting on Nov. 28.

City Administrator Scott Passmore said there were three bidders on this project, which had to receive bids from outside companies instead of doing the work in-house because the project is grant funded. The contract with Atkins Brothers is for about \$544,000.

Deputy Pro Tem Hernando Herrera pointed out during the meeting that the bid the council selected was \$100,000 less than the other two bids.

Passmore expects work on the project to begin in the next few weeks.

In total, the TX-BLK grant from the Texas Department of Agriculture is providing \$500,000 to the city of Reno for multiple projects, and the city's match is \$636,000.

In addition to the Miller Road project, the grant money is recommended to be used for converting the disinfection system at well sites from chlorine to chloramine to be compatible with water systems in Azle, Walnut Creek and Springtown, an additional booster pump at Well Site 1 and reconfiguring the booster pumps at Well Site 5.

However, because of multiple factors including inflation, the grant funds probably won't be able to cover all of those expenses. Planning and Zoning Chairperson Brian Schrader said the quotes for the projects are coming in higher than expected, including the Miller Road water line project that was originally estimated at \$402,912.

The disinfection system conversion project also received a bid that was much more than expected. The original estimate was \$369,600, but the sole bid for the project was \$1.77 million. Schrader said there may have been some confusion about the scope of the project.

"Not all of the electrical work at all the pump sites to do the chloramine is identical," he said. "The bidder that did bid, bid the same dollar value for the electrical and ancillary equipment at all seven pump sites, and that's not right."

Schrader also said the city should have acted faster to avoid incurring extra costs. "In terms of lessons learned and takeaways from what we've done, we need to take actions earlier," he said. "We've collectively sat on our hands and done nothing."

Passmore said during the meeting that the city will re-bid the disinfection system project.

The timeline for the city to use the grant money is coming up on Feb. 21, but Passmore told council that the city is seeking an extension.

### WATER TASK FORCE REPORT

Also during the meeting, Schrader gave a report to the council on the latest activities of the Water Task Force, which was approved earlier this year.

The task force, which has met a few times already, includes members civil engineer Schrader, Passmore, Mayor Sam White, Public Works Director Chris Albright, P&Z member and "chlorine expert" Jason Holden, mechanical engineer Greg Miller and Ladonna Miller, who has program management expertise, according to the report.

The task force reviewed seven projects - including the new water line on Miller Road and the chloramine project - which are expected to be funded via grants.

One of the more detailed projects in the report is

about the rented equipment at Well Site 1. New 20-horsepower pumps and variable speed controllers have been ordered and are expected to arrive next year in the first quarter. Tri-County Electric Cooperative is expected to install 480-volt, three-phase power this month at the well site, which will allow the city to no longer use the diesel tank and generator that power the rental pumps at Well Site 1 and will result in cost savings. The new pumps and motors will also save the city money when they are installed at Well Site 1 by reducing the rental costs.

"This project is a cash bleed on the city budget that needs to be resolved as quickly as we can get the new pumps online," Schrader said in his report.

Both the final system and rental system generate more water pressure and flow than what was recommended for Well Site 1 upgrades by the 2021 Cobb-Findley Potable Water Report. However, the rental system offers more pressure and flow than the final system will have. The task force recommended reprogramming the rental equipment to the flow rate and pressure of the final system so water users can adjust to what the final system will be like.

"We don't want to see a big drop in pressure," Schrader said to council. "We want to slowly bring them down and educate them to a tolerance level of what they will expect."

The Water Task Force report also noted a suggestion to change the Drought Contingency Plan because of the continued drought in the area. The proposal is that all homes with programmable irrigation systems for lawns be confined to watering at certain times on certain days, Schrader said. Houses with odd and even addresses would have alternate watering days throughout the week. This task will be considered by P&Z.

## News from Azle City Hall

We welcome your comments or suggestions on information you would like to see reported on this page. Please call Azle City Hall, 817-444-2541, or email Administrative Assistant Debbie Clayton at dclayton@cityofazle.org. Until next month.....

### CWD Christmas Tree Collection and Recycling

CWD will collect used Christmas Trees on your second collection day or your Wednesday brush day. Residents may also drop off their trees to be recycled December 26, 2022 - January 14, 2023 at Azle City Hall, 505 W. Main St. A roll off container will be located on the very last row of the parking lot for residents to use at any time. In order for trees to be recyclable, please remove all ornaments, tinsel, bags and plastic.



### Recycle Your Non-working Holiday Lights

After the Christmas season is over, many people toss non-working Christmas lights in the garbage. Christmas lights, like most electronics, are not biodegradable and will not decompose into the earth's soil. If you want to keep your lights from going to a landfill and do your part to look after the earth, recycling your lights is a great way to do it. However, DO NOT put them in the recycle bin as they tangle up recycling machinery.

The City of Azle will provide a drop off location at City Hall, 505 W. Main St. from December 26, 2022 - January 14, 2023. A roll off container will be located on the very last row of the parking lot for residents to use at any time.

### CWD HOLIDAY COLLECTION SCHEDULE

Community Waste Disposal residential trash collection will not be impacted.

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### Holiday "Safe Shopper" Tips from the Azle Police Department



- Lock your vehicle, and don't leave valuables visible in your car.
- Don't leave your purse/wallet unattended.
- Be extra cautious when using ATM's; preferably use ones in high traffic areas.
- When shopping in the evening, park in a well-lit and heavily traveled area.
- Be aware of your surroundings - strangers approaching, suspicious activity. Don't hesitate to contact the Police if you feel it necessary.
- Have your keys in hand before leaving the store.
- Take a picture of your child with your cell phone so you can give an accurate description in case they get lost.

### Azle Code Enforcement

#### WHAT WE DO

The purpose of the Code Enforcement Department is to protect and improve the health and welfare of the residents of the City of Azle. These services are provided to the residents to respond and investigate concerns in the community.

Code Enforcement emphasizes compliance over enforcement. Our personnel seek first to educate the residents about the City of Azle codes to gain voluntary compliance.

Code Enforcement issues include, but are not limited to:

- Overgrown Grass/Vegetation
- Unsightly/Prohibited Conditions (Must be visible from a public right-of-way)
- Vehicle Parked on an Unapproved Surface (Must be visible from a public right-of-way)
- Nuisance Signs
- Unpermitted Signs
- Unlawful Outside Storage
- Inoperable Vehicles (Must be visible from the right of way)

\*Vehicles parked on the public street are handled by the Azle Police Department

For questions regarding a notice of violation contact:  
Code Enforcement Department at 817.444.2541 or  
email: [codeenforcement@cityofazle.org](mailto:codeenforcement@cityofazle.org)



### City of Azle Holiday Schedule

Azle City offices will close Friday and Monday, December 23 & 26, for the Christmas holidays and Monday, January 2, for New Year's day.

Police and Fire services will be available by calling 817-444-3221, or 911 in case of an emergency. For water or sewer emergencies, please call 817-444-3221.

Azle Memorial Library will close December 23 - 26 and December 31 - January 2, 2023 for the Holidays.

The City of Azle wishes you and your family a wonderful holiday season

Scan for more information on what's happening in the City of Azle or visit us at [www.cityofazle.org](http://www.cityofazle.org)

## LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICES

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice is hereby given that the following will be sold to satisfy a landlord's lien, pursuant to Chapter 59: Self-Service Storage Facility Liens of the Texas Property Code; bidding to take place at [lockerfox.com](http://lockerfox.com) on the 23rd day of December, 2022 at 11:30 AM. The following customers containing household and other goods will be sold. 10 Federal Self Storage, 2920 Avenue F Street, Arlington, TX 76011. Melanie Morgan, Artis Starling, Cherisse K Lynn, Akinyemi Adegbayi, Akinyemi Adegbayi Shmonica L Freeman, Shawniece Arkansas, Gloria Turner

### ALIAS SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF PORTER IN RE GUARDIANSHIP OF: DUANE EDDY JOSEPH, An Incapacitated Adult. TIFFANY JOSEPH, Petitioner. IN THE PORTER SUPERIOR COURT #1 2022 TERM CAUSE NO. 64D01-2208-GU-007067

On August 23, 2022, a petition was filed in the Porter County Superior Court by Tiffany Joseph for Petition to Establish Guardianship over Proposed Ward, Duane Eddy Joseph. All interested parties are hereby notified that said Petition for Guardianship was filed in the office of the clerk of the Porter County Superior Court, 16 East Lincolnway, Valparaiso, IN 46383. If any person seeks to contest the Guardianship, they must file a motion to contest the Guardianship in Porter County Superior Court no later than thirty (30) days after the date of service of this notice. If any person does not file a motion to contest the Guardianship within thirty (30) days after service of this notice, the above named court will hear and determine the Petition for Guardianship. A Hearing on Permanent Guardianship is set in this matter to be heard on January 5, 2023, at 11:00 AM CST in the Porter County Superior Court at 16 East Lincolnway, Valparaiso, IN 46383.

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# It's best to obey the law and not be a rule breaker

Our family vacations in my youth involved traveling to where the grandparents lived and going camping. It was quite an experience and something I looked forward to in excited anticipation. My father knew an old farmer who had land adjoining the Chariton River and he would allow us to camp on his property. No state parks for us! We were out in the middle of nowhere which is right where we wanted to be.

When the family set up camp, there were tents to be erected, firewood to be gathered, latrines to be dug, and a host of other chores and activities to undertake. Looking back, it took a lot of work, but it was something the entire family enjoyed. We fished and swam during the day, played cards, and during the evening we would sit around the firepit and roast marshmallows or chase light-bugs. There was no TV



## 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.

and of course no phones, but we did have a radio so we could hear the weather and the Cardinals baseball game. Each night my grandparents would drive over to have dinner with us and then join us as we sat around the fire and traded stories.

While we did fish with rods and reels, my dad also enjoyed setting bank and trotlines to catch catfish. We would get in the aluminum canoe and go down the river, baiting the lines and checking to see if we had caught any fish since the last time we had "run our lines." Most of the time we were successful, and it was not unusual to catch three or four nice cat-

fish each time we checked.

Of course, to catch fish we had to have bait, so we seined for minnows. Seining is the process of having a big vertical net with sinkers along one edge and floats on the other edge, with a couple of long poles attached to the ends. We would walk into a shallow part of the river and while Dad grabbed one end of the net, I would grab the other. We would walk through the water for a short distance and then lift the net to hopefully find we had caught a generous quantity of minnows. The minnows we caught were then used as bait for our fishing lines. I thought seining was as much fun as fishing

because you never knew what you might catch. There could be a turtle or even a snake mixed in with the minnows.

During one episode of seining, we lifted the net and found we had managed to corral four little catfish. They were maybe 4 inches long. I immediately said to my dad, "Look Dad, baby catfish! Let's put them in the bucket and have Granddad take them to his place and put them in his pond." Granddad had a small tank and I had visions of stocking the pond with fish, giving them a chance to grow, and catching them at some future time.

My dad replied to my inquiry by saying, "Son, that would be against the law. The state wildlife code says you must return any fish under six inches in length to the water immediately upon catching it." I heard what my father had said, and I immediately started searching for excuses.

"But Dad, it is not like we are going to eat the fish, or kill them, we are just going to transport them to water in a different location. What could be the harm? No one will catch us."

Dad nodded his head and said, "I understand what you're thinking, son, but we would be breaking the law, and that makes it wrong. If a man starts rationalizing, he can always come up with an excuse to not follow the rules. It is best to simply do what the law requires. Once a man finds he can break the law and get away with it, it makes it that much easier to cross the line and break the law in another situation. Where does it stop?"

As Dad released the small fish back into the river, I shook my head seeing my dream of stocking Granddad's pond fly out the window. All I could think of was, what a waste!

I never knew my father to break the law or attempt to work around it. I never saw him not follow a rule. To him, adherence was a citizen's responsibility. It was what made society work. It took me a few years and a few practical lessons to realize the power of my father's words.

Unfortunately, it seems like there are people in our society who do not think rules apply to them. They spend the bulk of their time trying to twist the law to their advantage. The ends seem to justify the means. It happens every day, and we often witness the turmoil it creates.

Like my wise father said, once it starts, when does it stop?

Thought for the day: I busted a mirror and got seven years bad luck. My lawyer thinks he can get it down to five.

Until next time.

# Water is Life

Years ago, on a veterinary mission trip to Haiti, I was astonished when I witnessed a daily routine in the village where we worked.

Early in the mornings, villagers walked for miles and miles to a stream to gather water. They carried huge jars, filled them up with water, and balanced them on the tops of their heads to make the journey homeward.

This act required immense balance because any drop of water that was lost on the trek would mean one less drop they could have to quench their thirst. Literally hours per day were spent in the pursuit and transport of water. As a rancher, rain and water availability is a daily discussion, but watching this ordeal intensified my understanding that water is humanity's source of life, and the average American takes it for granted.

Back home, many Americans are blessed to have water at their disposal.



## 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.

But what if when we went to turn on our faucets, nothing came out? Not even a drip? It seems doubtful that this question would cross many people's minds.

Yet just in recent years, water crises have hit states and cities across the nation. From the Flint, Michigan, contaminated water, to the severe western droughts draining Lake Mead, and to the floods disrupting water systems in Jackson, Mississippi, it is evident that America is not immune from water crises. To keep local communities safe, it is imperative to stay aware of the warning signs and of the solutions to water problems.

In Parker County, many

residents rely on groundwater from the Upper Trinity Aquifer. Others, in much of western Parker County, have extremely limited groundwater and must rely on water piped in from Mineral Wells (which comes from Lake Palo Pinto) or Brazos River water that has been through a reverse osmosis (RO) system. The Walnut Creek Special Utility District relies on water from Lake Bridgeport.

For several years, Parker County has been amongst the top counties for drilling new wells. On average, counties drill less than 50 wells per year. In 2017, Parker drilled 600. In 2021, the county drilled 1154; that number

margin.

For perspective, the second-place county drilled 525 wells. In 2022, through September 30, the county has drilled 1149 wells. The Upper Trinity Groundwater Conservation District has been monitoring the situation since 2009. Not surprisingly, its work has shown water is being used faster than it is being replenished. Its research indicates that pumping affects the fluctuation of water levels more than rainfall patterns.

During dry and hot summers, private well owners tend to water their lawns more than usual, contributing to the fall of water levels. The UTGCD recognizes the need for alternative water sources in Parker County and is funding a study for Parker and Wise counties; an over-reliance on groundwater is not sustainable.

In Palo Pinto County, efforts are underway to create a new reservoir, Turkey

Peak. This project aims to double the available water to Palo Pinto Municipal Water District No. 1. This will ease the county's risk of a water shortage, which is especially relevant during dry conditions like the ones seen this past year. The project is projected to be completed no earlier than 2027, so between now and then, Palo Pinto Lake will continue to be the major reservoir supplying water in the county. A lake is only useful, however, if there is an efficient water treatment plant. Palo Pinto's plant is 70 years old and due for a major upgrade.

In the last session, the legislature proactively searched for solutions to water shortages. Senate Bill 601 created the Texas Produced Water Consortium. The consortium's diverse team of researchers concluded in its report that water produced from oil and gas operations could indeed be beneficial for use in industries such as

agriculture and for other municipal needs. They project that the state could treat an estimated two billion barrels per year of produced water.

In the upcoming legislative session, infrastructure is going to be a priority - and that includes water. Recently, I was invited to become an inaugural member of the Texas Water Caucus. The Caucus will serve as an educational platform to inform fellow members of our state's most important water issues, elevate water as a top policy priority and support the next generation of water champions at the Texas Legislature.

As the population of District 60 booms, it is critical to remain ahead of potential water issues to ensure that the basic needs of residents are met. Legislators are eager to continue researching solutions and are ready to implement plans to protect one of the most fundamental elements of life: water.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine Wholesaler Permit by Palacio Del Vino, LLC, to be located at 850 Blue Mound Road, Haslet, Tarrant County, Texas, 76052. Officer of said corporation is Cody Carter, President and Owner.

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# Plan for 111-home subdivision north of Reno moves in different direction

BY MADELYN EDWARDS  
madelyn@azlenews.net

The plan to develop a new subdivision north of Reno and annex it into the city limits has been squashed.

In early October, Reno City Council held a workshop to hear more about the potential subdivision. TA DFW Development co-owners Dustin Austin and Ben Tilley presented a residential subdivision called Reno Vista with mostly half-acre lots. This subdivision was planned to be on about 84 acres near the intersection of FM 730 North

and North Woody Road, which is north of Reno.

The subdivision would have been served by individual septic systems and water from Walnut Creek Special Utility District, according to a previous Epigraph article.

The discussion during the workshop revolved around whether to stick to the city's one home per acre rule while also seeking more revenue to fund city services.

During the workshop, Austin pointed out that the lot widths would have been more than 100 feet, consistent to the city's estate zon-

ing. He argued that half-acre lots would still afford plenty of space for folks.

The conversation about the 111-home development continued at the November Reno Planning and Zoning Commission meeting, during which the commissioners tabled a decision until December.

"The project appeared to be a win-win, a win for us and a win for the contractor," P&Z Chairman Brian Schrader said during the Dec. 5 P&Z meeting. "We collectively asked Ben to return this month with a mature development plan

for more detailed review and discussion."

However, neither the city council nor P&Z will have the chance to make a clear decision on the subdivision because of a change in direction. Schrader reported during the December P&Z meeting that Tilley had recently informed him that the property is instead planned to be turned into a sandpit.

Tilley told the Epigraph that turning the property into a sandpit is an option because there's an interested party who may want to buy it for that purpose, but as of

Dec. 7, that deal was not finalized. Tilley added that he was working with Reno for a year and a half to get the property into the city.

Schrader described the situation as a missed opportunity, in part because of the lost revenue, which was expected to be about \$500,000 in permit fees and more than \$200,000 annually in tax revenue. He also said a potential sandpit could bring more loaded sand and gravel vehicles onto FM 730, which would raise the risk of motorists' windshields being hit with rocks.

The lesson Schrader took

away from this situation is that opportunities need to be taken with more urgency.

"The adage 'time is money' is directly applicable to this occurrence. Ben Tilley and his business partners were not willing to wait for Reno to decide if they wanted the development and increased tax base. They went with a more immediate and sure return on their investment," Schrader said. "We need to be able to strike when the iron is hot, take the information that we have, extrapolate from partial data if we need to and move forward."

# Fire department chief discusses critical needs in annual report

BY DON MUNSCH  
don@azlenews.net

Azle Fire Department Chief Will Scott told the Azle City Council at its meeting last week that his department faces two critical needs in the upcoming years: a new fire station and an ability to recruit and retain personnel.

Scott provided the annual report at the meeting, and that report covered the operation of the department: fire suppression, emergency medical services, inspections, community service programs and future challenges.

The department has 32 firefighters, with 18 of them career and three open positions now. AFD has three part-time people, three support people and three administration staff, the last of whom in-

clude the fire chief, assistant chief and fire marshal.

Under the Future Challenges category in Scott's report, managing growth will be a concern for the fire department as it will see increased demands for service.

"We're looking at needing a second fire station, sooner than later," Scott said. "We're probably a little bit past due based on demand volumes and so forth."

Retention and recruiting are becoming challenges not just locally but nationally, Scott said. He said some departments are engaging in some "ridiculous" choices in trying to recruit. He said he read about some place in California that offered a \$50,000 sign-on bonus for paramedics, as an example. "I don't see how the city of

Azle is going to compete with that, but we are going to have to do something," he said.

The department also will have to examine replacement of its quint, and those replacement costs continue to rise. Also, Scott said, the department will have to hire more EMTs because paramedics are hard to find. Paramedics possess a higher degree of certifications, said City Manager Tom Muir.

Mayor Alan Brundrett asked Scott about the ideal location for the second fire station, and Scott said because of the call volume, it needs to be on Farm to Market 730 North, mentioning there are multiple schools, a Walmart and the other building occurring in that area. Also, traffic congestion during some parts of the

day is making travel difficult and fire personnel are having to take back roads to get to locations.

Under Fire Suppression, the total number of inspections for the department was 856, and for the last three years, no fire-related deaths have occurred in the city and this year there were no fire-related injuries.

The Azle Fire Department had a budget of a little more than \$3 million in FY 2021-22, with revenues totaling nearly \$809,000 from EMS. Contracts and grants totaled a little more than \$453,000 in revenue with a direct impact cost \$1.7 of million to the city last year, according to AFD information. The estimated cost per call was \$462.12 or \$129.15 per resident based on a population of 13,518

(July 2021 census) beyond revenues.

Call volume for 2021-22 was more than 3,700 for fire responses and more than 2,500 for EMS and over 6,300 responses from a single fire station. Call volume rose 9.1% from FYT 2020-21 to last fiscal year. Average response for EMS for the total area was 4.22 minutes and fire was 6.31 minutes. Part of the reason there is a delay on the fire side is putting on gear, Scott said. There were 1,570 transports and mutual aid requests were 397 and the department provided mutual aid to other departments 51 times.

This year, AFD conducted fire prevention education programs for an estimated 2,000 AISD elementary students. Community EMS awareness programs were

conducted at senior care facilities and the fire department participated in several community events, such as Follow the Flag, Sting Fling and Christmas on Main Street.

Scott pointed out how the department went to a 48/96 schedule for suppression personnel in order to help employees have a better way to accomplish rest and to improve work-life balance.

Muir praised those people who work with the AFD. "The good news is that the fire department has performed well with all the stresses and strains that they've had in the increased calls," Muir said. "They have performed well and have served the citizens well. You have a lot to be proud of with those guys."

## DOORS

FROM A1

"All of our campuses passed that part with flying colors," Brockway said.

Phase two is a review to ensure that campuses are completing their weekly door-check audits. The mandate requires campus officials to at least a minimum of once a week check every exterior door for proper functionality and that they're closing and locking appropriately. Schools are required to log that info and provide that to the auditor when the auditor comes inside.

The second part of phase two centers on checking exterior doors, and this is the issue that was found at AJHS, Brockway said. He explained it was a problem with a tumbler in the door in which if a person did not turn the key

all the way back, it would not lock. The lock was fixed, the tumbler was replaced, and the door is functioning, he said.

Later, in an email, Superintendent Todd Smith said the door "still locked but the lock tumbler did not allow for the door to remain in the locked (position) at all times. When unlocking the door, if the person was not intentional about turning the key back to the locked position, the door remained unlocked." The tumbler was changed out by AISD maintenance crew.

Phase three concerns ensuring all classroom doors were closed and locked, and all campuses came through that check with no issues. The corrective action required for any finding of a problem area is a safety and security committee meeting to discuss the problem, and instruction has to be pro-

vided to all staff and then the situation has to be placed on a school board agenda and be presented to trustees, Brockway said.

On Nov. 15, Brockway said he met with all staff at AJHS to discuss the importance of checking doors to make sure they are fixed and ensuring that employees understand the process and reporting mechanisms that are in place for that. He said a safety and security committee meeting was held on Nov. 17 and the committee discussed the issue there. Brockway submitted his corrective action report to the state in November and the Azle ISD is in compliance. The report has to be made within 45 days of the finding.

Texas schools have undergone audits in the wake of the massacre at an elementary school in Uvalde in May, when 19 children and two teach-

ers were killed in a shooting. The Texas School Safety Center, in coordination with the Texas Education Agency, is given authority to conduct in-person, unannounced, random intruder detection audits on school districts, according to a School Safety Center intruder notice document given to schools.

"This process improves accountability and ensures school districts are following the plans they created," the document stated, referring to Multi-Hazard Emergency Operations Plans.

An Education Service Center Region 11 auditor visited Azle campuses in September and October. Thus far, auditors have visited five campuses in AISD: Azle High School, Sept. 19; Eagle Heights Elementary School, Sept. 20; Azle Junior High School, Sept. 27; Hoover Elementary School, Oct. 12;

and the Pre-K Center, Nov. 2, according to information from Smith, in an email.

The audit contains four phases: Intruder Detection Audit, Exterior Door Audit, Classroom Door Audit and Weekly Exterior Door Sweeps Audit. Smith provided an example audit from the AHS visit, which showed that the auditor was required to show ID once they entered the building and "Personal identification was checked against an electronic database" and they were "provided with a visitor's badge."

No corrective actions were taken at the AHS campus, including for the weekly exterior door sweeps.

Weekly exterior door sweeps are a process of routine checking of doors to ensure they are functioning properly and are locked, Smith said. The state mandate requires a once weekly


exterior door check for the entire campus, Brockway said. That door check must be logged, and that log must be produced upon request to the auditor. This is the minimum standard, Brockway said, but most campuses check the exterior doors multiple times every school day.

Some school districts have not had any audits, while Azle has had five, so the process is "very random," Smith said.

"And the Service Center has to get so many in by the end of the school year," he said. "Region 11 kind of already knows their schedule, but we have no idea when we fall on those."

The odds are an auditor probably won't come back to another school here, but there's no guarantee of it, Smith said. He said the center is overwhelmed with handling all the audits with the people it has available to work.

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Jamie Westbrook - president  
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# Retiring senator named Secretary of State; TikTok banned on all state-issued phones

## RETIRING SENATOR NAMED SECRETARY OF STATE

Retiring state Sen. Jane Nelson, R-Flower Mound, has been named the next secretary of state by Gov. Greg Abbott. She replaces John Scott, who announced his resignation effective at year's end.

Scott was the third nominee for the post not confirmed by the Senate. He was appointed in October 2021, and the Legislature has not met since then. Nelson, who is completing 30 years in the Senate, should be a strong candidate for approval because of her lengthy tenure there. A new legislative session convenes in January.

The secretary of state's office, among other duties, oversees the state's election process.

"I look forward to this new chapter of public service and appreciate the confidence Governor Abbott has placed in me to serve as Secretary of State," Nelson said in a statement. "Voters expect fair elections with accurate, timely results, and I am committed to making that happen. Texans with all political views should have faith in our election system."

## TIKTOK BANNED ON ALL STATE-ISSUED PHONES

Abbott last week ordered all Texas state agencies to ban use of the social media app TikTok on any government-issued device, saying it risks allowing China to gain access to "critical U.S. information."

The popular video-sharing application is owned by a Chinese company and is used by an estimated 85 million people in the United States.

TikTok maintains the Chinese government has never tried to access the data of its users, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

Abbott said he is prepared to work with state lawmakers to make the ban permanent during the next session, and to extend the ban to devices



## 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.

issued by local governments, such as cities and counties.

"We must work together to stop the Chinese government's efforts to collect, store, and distribute Texans' data and personal information," Abbott wrote in a letter to Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and House Speaker Dade Phelan.

## TPWD BIOLOGISTS STRESS TESTING HARVESTED DEER

The recent discover of chronic wasting disease in Kaufman County has spurred biologists with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to stress the importance of testing deer taken this hunting season to curb the spread of the deadly disease.

The neurological disease is highly contagious and affects white-tailed deer, mule deer, elk, and moose. It has been found in 17 Texas counties and documented in both captive and free-ranging deer in 30 states and three Canadian provinces, according to TPWD.

Anyone hunting in an established CWD zone must bring their deer to a check station within 48 hours of harvest for testing. There are about 30 check stations and drop boxes across the state. For more information, visit the TPWD website at tpwd.texas.gov.

## STATE'S LARGEST TEACHER PREP PROGRAM UNDER FIRE

The Texas Education Agency is recommending that Texas Teachers of Tomorrow have its accreditation revoked after failing to improve training of teacher candidates. The Dallas Morning News reported the company, which certifies thousands of teachers mainly through

online courses, failed to meet demands by TEA that it ensure all candidates receive adequate actual classroom training.

The State Board of Educator Certification met Friday to consider the company's fate. Texas Teachers of Tomorrow and TEA are expected to present arguments before an administrative judge, and the case could stretch on for months or even more than a year.

The company has been on probation for several months, and TEA found it did not

meet the terms of their agreement to improve. The state already faces a teacher shortage that could be exacerbated if the company's accreditation is revoked.

## TABC WORKING WITH RETAILERS OVER HOLIDAYS

'Tis the season for tippling, and the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission is working with retailers to make prevent illegal alcohol sales. TABC plans inspections across the state to ensure retailers are following the law and not selling to people under 21 as well as those who are visibly intoxicated.

"Now is the best time, before the holiday season kicks into high gear, for business owners and managers to educate their staff on ways to prevent illegal alcohol sales," TABC executive director Thomas Graham said.

According to the Texas

Department of Public Safety, drunk driving was a factor in nearly one-fourth of all traffic deaths last year. Businesses who violate state alcohol laws face fines or suspension of their alcohol licenses, while individuals could face misdemeanor charges resulting in a fine or jail time.

## HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS AT STATE PARKS

State parks across Texas are hosting a variety of holiday events in December, including themed guided walks, scavenger hunts and more, according to TPWD. However, anyone planning to visit a state park should reserve their day pass in advance to avoid turned away from parks that reach capacity. You can do so on the TPWD website (tpwd.texas.gov) or by calling 512-389-8900.

Activity examples include elves running loose at Fort

Boggy State Park on Saturday, Dec. 10, with prizes to folks who spot the first 10 elves on the Lake Sullivan Trail. At Big Bend Ranch State Park, the darkest skies in Texas provide excellent star gazing. A full list of holiday events at state parks is on the TPWD website.

## COVID-19 CASES CONTINUE TO RISE

The number of new COVID-19 cases in the past week in Texas rose once again, this time to 30,096 with 91 deaths, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University. The Texas Department of State Health Services reported a slight increase, with 1,977 lab-confirmed COVID-19 patients across the state.

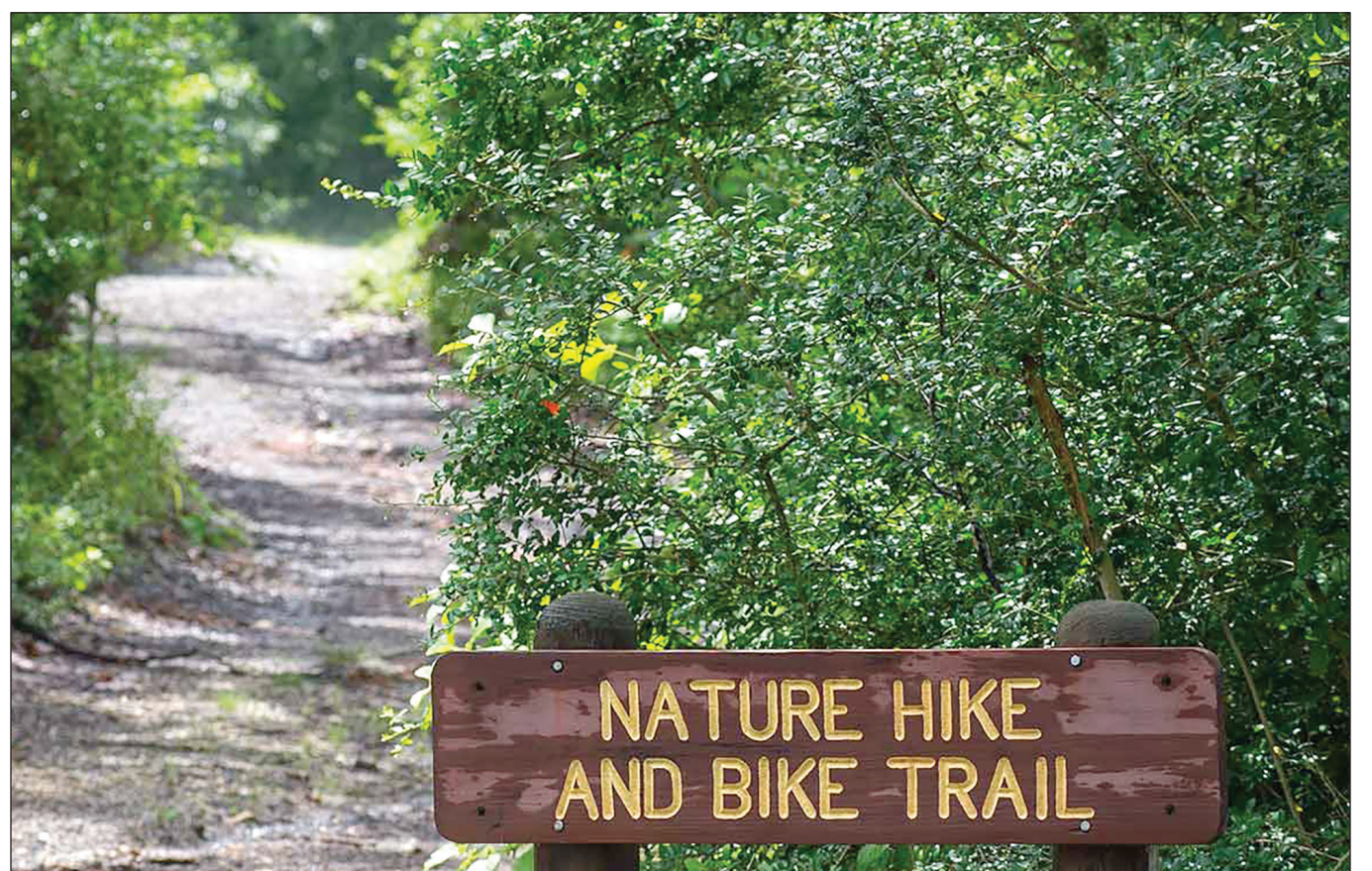


PHOTO COURTESY TPWD

The Elf Scavenger Hunt will take place at Fort Boggy Saturday, December 17, 2022 from 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. The elves have left the shelves and are at Fort Boggy enjoying the outdoors. Take a walk on the Lake Sullivan trail (approximately 1 mile) and see how many you can spot. The first 10 people to find all 10 elves will receive a prize from the park office.

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# Pink Out for Athena



PHOTOS COURTESY AZLE ISD  
Hoover Elementary students honor Athena's memory by wearing the color pink, Athena Strand's favorite color, on Monday, December 5.



*Love*  
Came Down at  
*Christmas*

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Sunday, December 18th  
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# 'Ride for Athena' fundraiser and toy drive

The community gathered together Sunday at the Church of Azle parking lot to participate in a fundraiser for Athena's family.



PHOTO COURTESY FACEBOOK



PHOTO COURTESY SERVOLUTION

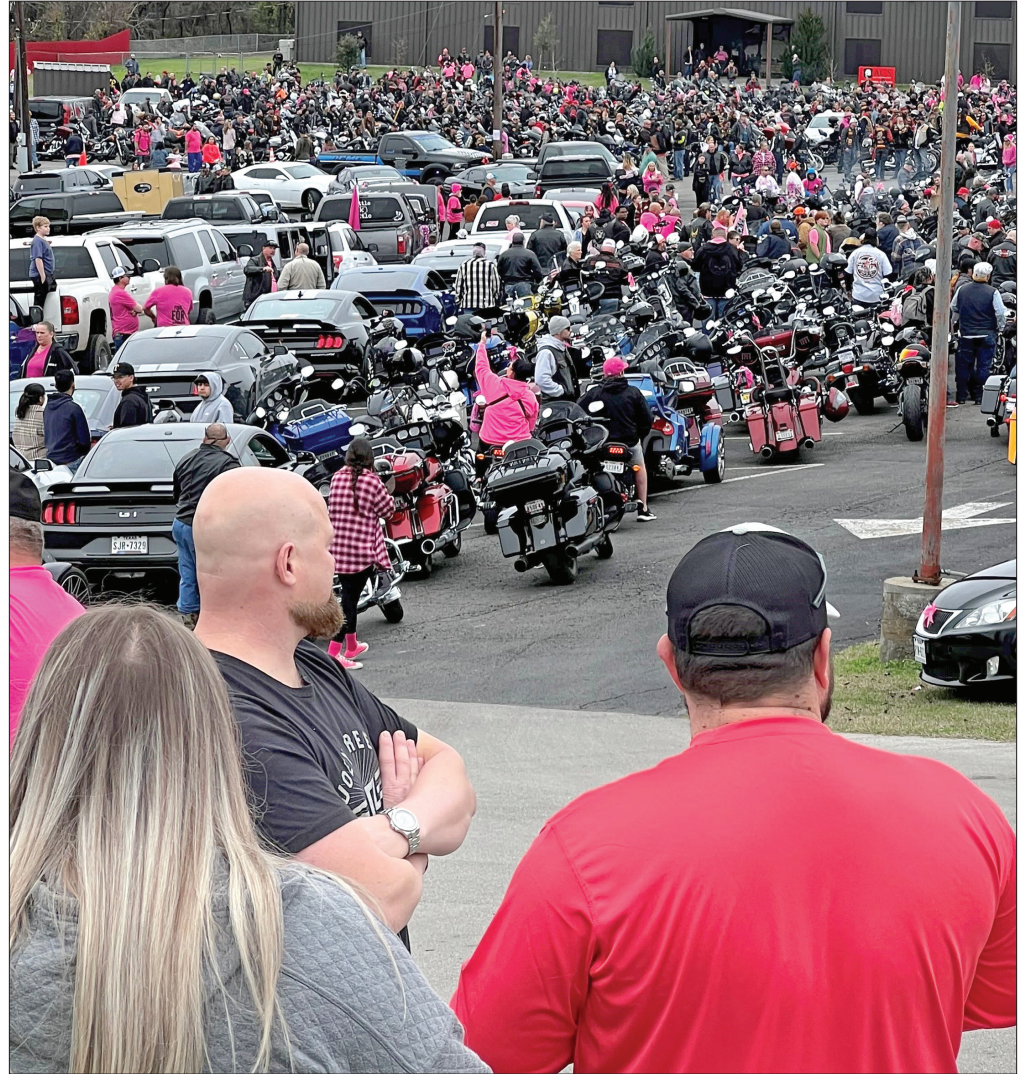


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## Azle holds open tryouts for soccer hopefuls



PHOTO BY JEFF PRINCE

Lanna Casey and Anahi Colmenero work on passing.

BY JEFF PRINCE  
jeff@azlenews.net

About 130 boys and girls showed up at Hornet Stadium three days in late November to try out for Azle High School soccer.

The boys went through their drills on one side of the field, and the girls performed on the other. At the end of the third day, coaches decided who would make varsity, who would play junior varsity, and who would be cut.

A variety of drills allowed coaches to determine a player's prowess on the soccer field.

The first drill for the boys looked excruciating.

"That was rough," said Daniel Carlson, lying on his back and heaving for air after he finished. "It's not exactly a fun drill."

The drill required players to start at the goal line and dribble a soccer ball for 10 yards, bend down and grab a cone, dribble that ball back to the goal line, set down the cone, and increase their dribbling distance 10 yards each time until they reached the

50-yard line and grabbed five cones.

Coaches timed their progress, and the drill exhausted most of the players.

"I'm going to be honest — I did not do great with it," Carlson said. "My knees just ... I don't know what happened. They hurt like they've never hurt before."

He hasn't experienced knee problems before but described them as "shaking so bad" during the drill he could barely run.

"I hope I am going to make varsity," Carlson said. "I don't know if I'm going to be able to with my performance today."

Carlson played on the junior varsity squad as a freshman and sophomore but wants to make varsity this year. If he misses the cut, he will play JV again.

"If I get JV, that's what I get, and I'll stick with it and get good enough that I can be on varsity next year," he said. "I feel like I'm good enough to be on varsity, but I'll have to perform better if I'm going to make it this year."

About 70 boys tried out

for the team, and head coach Diego Oliveros was expecting to keep 22 players on varsity and 22 on the junior varsity team with an additional five players on the JV practice squad.

That means about 20 boys would be cut.

"We always try to be direct, honest and tactful," Oliveros said. "Every student has a dream of being on the team. It's not always easy to make these decisions. I always thank them for going through the tryout process and encourage them to continue to play the game and explain (with as much detail as they request) what our decisions were based on. Every decision is different, and at the end of the day, we have to remember we are working with kids. Empathy goes a long way."

Oliveros likes the talent he saw displayed during tryouts. "I am excited for what our team will be this season," he said. "We have put in plenty of work this preseason. We have made our preparations as best as they can be made



PHOTO BY JEFF PRINCE

Stephen Perez shows off fancy moves for the coaches.

PLEASE SEE SOCCER | B4

## Lady Hornets celebrate basketball victories, Kendall Locke



BY JEFF PRINCE  
jeff@azlenews.net

The Azle Lady Hornets have played impressive basketball lately, dominating Benbrook and Chisholm Trail before falling to Eaton, a tough Class 6A team, 50-45.

During that span, the team also celebrated senior Kendall Locke for scoring her 1,000th point for the Lady Hornets.

"We are very proud of Kendall for this accomplishment in her high school basketball career," said head coach Mitzi Marquart. "This really shows how hard Kendall has worked in her four years."

Locke has evolved into a team leader during her tenure and improved her game in many ways, the coach said.

"Reaching 1,000 points is a great achievement," Marquart said.

Scoring that many points proves an athlete showed up each day, did the work, overcame injuries, sickness and

distractions and remained focused for long periods.

"We are excited to see her excel on and off the court and continue to work toward obtaining her goals," she said.

The team celebrated Locke on Dec. 6 before the game against Chisholm Trail. Locke showed why she reached the 1,000-point mark. She helped the 5A Lady Hornets knock off the Fort Worth-based 6A team 48-27.

Azle will play Granbury at 6:15 p.m. Friday at home in the first district game of the season.

PHOTO BY JEFF PRINCE

Kendall Locke holds the gift basket she received from teammates celebrating her 1,000 career points.



# SPORTS

# Roundup

BY JEFF PRINCE

jeff@azlenews.net

## AZLE HIGH WRESTLING

The Lady Hornets dominated at the Texas Women's Classic Dec. 9 at Lewisville High School. The girls won first place as a team and had several individual placers and champions.

Annabelle Davis and Alicen Dillard won first-place medals for the Azle girls.

Pella LeFever took second place in her weight class.

Jacy Williams earned third place, Eileen Pisesnakornkit fourth place, and Kaitlynn Kirkland-Lane sixth place.

On Dec. 10, the Azle boys wrestling team competed at the War Games at Frisco Memorial High School and earned sixth place.

Individual medals went to several Hornet wrestlers for their hard-fought successes.

Billy Spratt and Elias Ramirez earned second place medals.

Braxton Cates and Oliver Lorenz won third place medals.

Fourth place medals went to Dominick Evans and Landin Evans.

Chase Yancey earned sixth place.

## AZLE HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL

Makenna Dillow's volleyball prowess as a libero earned her a spot on the Texas Girls Coaching Association's Class 5A all-state team, and she

was also among eight senior Lady Hornets who earned academic all-state honors.

Other Lady Hornets earning academic all-state include Skyler Arrellano, Brittany Cato, Makynna Hinkle, Cameryn Hoskins, Karlee Locke, Kendall Locke and Riley McElvain.

## AZLE JUNIOR HIGH BASKETBALL

On Dec. 8, the seventh grade girls Green Team fell to Wayside 31-23, which coach Neosha Beach described as a "tough" game against an aggressive opponent.

"We played hard against a fast-paced team that pressed us the entire game," she said. "So proud of my girls' effort, for never giving up."

Finley Hard led the Hornets with 10 points, followed by Charli Hanson (4), Yurehime Villagomez (4), Lydia Leonard (3) and Madison Holloman (2).

On Dec. 1, the seventh grade girls Green Team walloped Highland 36-4.

The leading scorers for the Hornets were Madison Holleman (12 points); Angel Sifuentes (8), Yurehime Villagomez (5), Kimberly Licerio (4), Finley Hard (3), Charli Hanson (2) and Carly Mobley (2).

"Great game," Beach said afterward. "Everyone chipped in to make this happen."

She described Sifuentes as the "three-point queen" and applauded Lydia Leonard, Villagomez and Holleman for

their defense.

The Green Team has won its first two games of the season.

The seventh grade girls White Team took on Highland in an exciting, fast paced game won by the Hornets, 37-10. The Lady Hornets jumped to a 14-0 lead quickly and "our defense was great again, which was a whole team effort," said coach Cari Crosby.

Reese Self scored 16 points, followed by Madeline Kindlinger (6), Ella Holman (5), Hailey Laijas (4) and Addison Ackerman (4).

"Way to play ladies and way to keep hustling," Crosby said.

On Dec. 8, the eighth grade Green Team also found itself in a tough battle and fell to Wayside, 42-14.

"The team learned a lot and made adjustments throughout the game," said head coach Misty Merck. "Elle Yelle and Gracie Hennessy had some steals and fast-break opportunities throughout the game. Bella Tipton had a strong rebounding game along with a couple of buckets. Rachel Harder and Kimber Gray both stepped up defensively and made things difficult for the other team. Taylor Merrill fought through injuries to help with ball handling and hitting a 3-pointer. I am proud of how the girls played last night and the fight they had until the end."



PHOTO BY JEFF PRINCE

Elias Ramirez earned second place when the Azle wrestling team competed at War Games.

On Dec. 1, the eighth grade girls Green Team played well but didn't come out with a win, falling to Highland 22-12.

Azle's Taylor Merrill displayed much skill handling the ball and controlling the game. Leah Stewart shot well and made key free throws early in the game.

"The team is growing and continuing to develop," Merck said. "We are looking forward to the rest of the season."

The eighth grade girls White Team also fell to the Highland Lady Hawks.

"Unfortunately, we came up short, but the girls implemented some new skills," said coach Kendra Longbrake.

Top scorers were Serenity Valdez, Cheyanne Grant and Rylie Auvenshine.

## FORTE JUNIOR HIGH BASKETBALL

On Dec. 8, the seventh grade Green Team beat Marine Creek, 30-22.

"The Green Team came out ready to fight," said girls athletic coordinator Jason Jones. "Being aggressive on defense and making smart looks to the basket, they really started to look like a team against the Lady Mustangs."

Paige Harvey led in scoring with 21 points, and Sheyla Soto led in assists.

The seventh grade White Team won 17-10 over Marine Creek.

"The Lady Hornets were buzzing on defense," Jones said.

Blocked shots from Jonlyn Meissner, Danna Lopez, and Addison Steele had Marine Creek scoreless at the half. McKynlee Walden (8 points) and Belle Edwards (3 points) led the offense.

"This team continues to impress and improve every time they step into a gym," Jones said.

The eighth grade Green Team lost, 46-8, after a cold night of shooting.

"The girls have been putting in the hard work during practice with getting the ball down the court and looking for the open person," Jones said. "They showed great improvement in these areas during the game."

Audrey Hood led with 4 points and 6 defensive rebounds, while Alexis Grummert caused the Lady Mustangs to turn the ball over 6 times.

The eighth grade Lady Hornets White team was also unsuccessful in taking on the Lady Mustangs, losing 35-6. Victoria Cunningham led the team on the boards, with 7 defensive rebounds. Haydyn Jones was not far behind with 6. Jeane Wright had 4 steals.

On Dec. 1, the seventh grade girls Green Team took on Springtown but lost, 58-2. Jacey Roberson and Zaela Goodman stepped up in leading the Lady Hornets in a super aggressive defense.

The seventh grade White Team lost by a slimmer margin, 16-1,3 to a difficult Springtown opponent. The Lady Hornets swarmed the court on defense, with Lillie "Belle" Edwards and Sarai Silva having five steals each and Danna Lopez dominating the paint with four blocked shots. McKynlee Walden and Sarai Silva led the offense and came close to pulling off a heroic fourth-quarter comeback.

The eighth grade Green Team lost 55-6 in a hard-fought game against Springtown. Destoney Roper, Naytaila Davis, Avery Rodriguez-Smithers and Audrey Hood all put points on the board. Alexis Grummert battled and displayed good defense although Springtown's speed was difficult to stop. The 8th grade Lady Hornets Green team came up short against Springtown. During the aggressive game, Destoney Roper, Naytaila Davis, Avery Rodriguez-Smithers and Audrey Hood all put points on the board. Alexis Grummert fought hard and played some good defense. Springtown's speed was difficult to stop.

The eighth grade White Team lost 35-6 but showed a lot of improvement. Strong post play by Hayden Jones and Victoria Cunningham helped in the effort. Parker Neely, Layla Johnston and Victoria Cunningham all put points on the board.



PHOTO BY JEFF PRINCE

Makenna Dillow's volleyball skills, work ethic and spirit of competition earned her spots on the athletic and academic all-state team.



# Rocking Rollins

## Azle Christian basketball boys embark on new season

BY JEFF PRINCE  
jeff@azlenews.net

Fans better get used to hearing “Rollins” this basketball season at Azle Christian School.

Head coach Ryan Rollins has three sons playing on the varsity team – freshman Jakob Rollins, junior A.J. Rollins and senior Noah Rollins.

“It’s fun to coach my own sons, but I can be difficult,” the coach/dad said. “We have to separate team from family when we get home. I can be harder on them than others.”

His wife and their mom, Crystal Rollins, serves as scorekeeper, so “it’s a family affair,” he said.

So far this season, the Crusaders have struggled on the scoreboard, most likely due to players just now transitioning from the football team. The gridiron guys advanced two rounds deep in the playoffs and didn’t begin

dribbling basketballs until after Thanksgiving. Add in a few injuries and sickness, and Azle Christian started the season at 1-4.

“We have started out a little slow, but we are starting to get guys back,” coach Rollins said. “We should be pretty good by mid-December.”

Last year’s team made the basketball playoffs in TAPPS District 2-1A, and this year’s team includes every one of those players except Ty South, who graduated.

“He is a big loss, so somebody has to fill his shoes,” Rollins said.

Big bruiser Camdon Logan is back for his senior season and looking better than ever.

“He’s a returning all-state player who is going to give you 16 points and 10 boards a game,” Rollins said.

The coach considers Logan the best Class A player in the state.

“He’s our dude, but he has some help,” Rollins said.



PHOTOS BY JEFF PRINCE

**Drew Skartvedt is a force down low.**



**Jakob Rollins made the varsity as a freshman.**

A large group of juniors should spark the squad. Andy Wisniewski, a first-team all-district guard, is out with an injury but should return soon.

“When he gets back from injury, I believe he will be an all-state player,” the coach said.

Jake Skartvedt, second team all-district, is poised to take the next step as a team leader.

AJ Rollins will contribute quickness and ball-handling skills, and Zach Miles adds reliable outside shooting to

the mix.

Younger players will also be counted on to contribute. Freshman Jakob Rollins is another dependable outside shooter.

Noah Rollins broke his collarbone playing football and won’t join the basketball team until late December.

“His defense and rebounding are greatly missed,” coach Rollins said.

Drew Skartvedt will be relied upon to pick up the slack.

“He’s a force down low,” Rollins said.

The coach stacked the non-district portion of the schedule with games against bigger private schools and public schools to provide his team with constant challenges.

“I’m not concerned with non-district records,” Rollins said. “We are in a different district this year. Waxahachie Prep is going to be the frontrunner. Granbury Cornerstone, Weatherford Victory Baptist, Waco Eagle Christian and Irving Stonegate are all in our district. It will be a battle,

but we plan on making the playoffs again just like last year.”

The team’s goal is to go at least three rounds deep after making it two rounds last year.

“We are building a great basketball program here, and the numbers are way up,” he said. “We have a JV team this year, and the junior high boys are good. We will continue to put God first in everything and give 100% on the court.”



**From center, Camden Logan dribbles against Cornerstone Christian while A.J. Rollins helps clear a path.**



# SOCCER

FROM PAGE B1

and now it's time to demonstrate to ourselves how far we can go this season. The boys are all bought into our shared mission, vision and values and that will carry us far this season. With the level of work and dedication we have put in I feel proud of who we will be this season."

On the other side of the

field, the head coach of the girls team, Hannah Smith, led her group through similar drills. She was excited to see so many warm bodies. About 60 girls tried out for soccer this year compared to about 45 last year.

"We have a lot of numbers," Smith said. "It's exciting."

A year ago, soccer was implemented at the junior high level, which is increasing the level of interest in the high school. Also, the United

States soccer team's success in the World Cup might have inspired some people to try out.

"That helps the popularity" of soccer, Smith said.

The girls demonstrated their abilities to pass, shoot and dribble before running a mile while being timed. Smith and her assistant coaches met each day after tryouts to discuss what they saw.

"We write down our evaluations as we go and look at the data and the numbers and see who fits where and what are our best options," she said. "We make our teams that way."

Most girls will earn a roster spot, although about a dozen will be cut. The varsity team offers 25 roster spots, and JV offers 23 for a total of 48.

Telling a girl she didn't make the team is difficult. "We talk to them," Smith said. "We explain what's going on or where they might be lacking. We ask them if they want to come back. They can come back next year and try again. We just have an honest conversation with them and let them know this is where they're falling and that they didn't make it this year."

That's a tough conversation. "It's heartbreaking not only for me, but I know it is for them," she said. "But numbers-wise, there is nothing else we can do. That's probably the worst part of the job."

Her favorite part of the job is forging relationships with the kids and "watching them grow," she said.

Smith was head coach of the junior varsity squad for the past two years and will serve as head coach of the varsity team for the first time this season.

"I'm excited to get started," she said. "I've seen these girls grow for three years and think we are going to have a good year."

# Azle hoopsters gain experience in Mount Pleasant; Gavin Dean reaches milestone

BY JEFF PRINCE  
jeff@azlenews.net

The varsity basketball boys of Azle traveled to Mount Pleasant Dec. 8-10 to compete in a tournament, beating Corsicana 54-32 in their first game and falling to Crandall 66-51 in the second.

On the second day,

the Hornets fell 57-37 to Mount Pleasant and 60-53 to Braswell before bouncing back and defeating Princeton 52-45 to close out the tourney.

Azle's Gavin Dean earned a place on the all-tournament team.

Earlier this month, Dean's teammates noted another milestone for their high-

scoring point guard. The Hornets celebrated Dean for reaching 1,000 career points during the Weatherford tournament during the first week of December.

Dean, Azle's high scorer and team leader, plans to graduate in 2023 and continue playing hoops at the college level.



PHOTO BY JEFF PRINCE

Daniel Carlson dribbled during a tough drill at the beginning of soccer tryouts.



COURTESY PHOTO

Gavin Dean surpasses 1,000 career points with the Azle basketball team.

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**Proof It**

Are you an eagle-eyed reader? Circle the 9 mistakes in this article. Then rewrite it correctly on the lines below it. Have a family member check your work.

## A Mouse with a Trunk?

There is an animal that looks like that. It's a short-eared elephant shrew, and it looks like a mouse with a trunk. But it's no mouse.

Elephants are one of the world's largest animals and elephant shrews are one of the world's smallest. But they are related!

An elephant shrew is not a member of the shrew family.

Follow the maze to see which of these animals is an elephant shrew relative.

## Smallest of the Small

The short-eared elephant shrew weighs between 1 and 1.5 ounces (28 and 43 grams) and has a body length of about 4 inches (10 centimeters). Which of these things do you think weigh about 1 ounce?

Circle every other letter to see if you guessed correctly.

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

E

## Why is it called an elephant shrew?

Some say the elephant shrew's long nose, or snout, looks like the trunk of an elephant. Sometimes it is called a jumping shrew. Use the code to discover yet another name for this tiny animal.

⬇ = A	⬇ = I
⬆ = E	⬆ = N
⬇ = G	⬆ = S

## Home Sweet Home

Short-eared elephant shrews live in southern Africa in Namibia, Botswana and South Africa. They like to live in sandy soil, dry grass and shrub land.

**AFRICA**

How many words can you make using the letters in ELEPHANT SHREW?

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## Lunch time!

Cut and paste these sentences in order to find out what these animals eat.

even eat small worms.

Some elephant shrews will

tender shoots of young plants.

Short-eared elephant shrews eat

ants, termites, berries and the

## Critter Combos

Look through the newspaper for pictures of animals. Cut out parts of different animals and put them together to make up a new animal. Give your animal a name and describe where it lives, what it likes to eat and how it behaves.

## Kid Scoop Puzzler

### Small and Speedy

An elephant shrew is small but speedy. Color in the spaces with two dots red to find out how many miles per hour an elephant shrew can run!

## Double Double Word Search

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

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

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

## FROM THE LESSON LIBRARY

### "Sh" is a Blend

A blend is when two or three consonants are put together to make a sound. On one page of the newspaper, circle all of the examples you can find of two consonants put together in a word. Make a list of the blends you found.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Recognize the sounds created by consonants in blends.

## Write On!

### If I were an Animal

Which kind of animal, are you most like? If you were an animal, what kind would you be and why?

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# Azle News DEVOTIONAL PAGE The Springtown Epigraph

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AzleNews.net

The Springtown Epigraph  
Springtown-Epigraph.net

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- LIGHTHOUSE HARBOR CHURCH  
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817-444-1577
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- PRECIOUS FAITH TEMPLE CHURCH  
8601 Hwy. 199 @ Vance Godbey's
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1356 Reno Rd., Springtown  
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- REAL FAMILY FELLOWSHIP  
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### Ad Classifications

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| 3..... Appliances          | 26..... Excavating              | 48... Maintenance/Repairs     | 71..... Sewing/Alterations             |
| 4..... Appliance Repair    | 27..... Exterminating           | 49... Masonry/Stonework       | 72..... Sewer Service                  |
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| 8..... Autos, Trucks       | 31..... Free                    | 53..... Musical Instruments   | 76..... Vacuum Cleaners                |
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| 17..... Carpet Service     | 41 .....House Leveling          | 63..... Public Notice         | 86..... Mobile Home/RV Lots            |
| 18..... Catering           | 42..... House Cleaning          | 64..... Photography           | 87..... Rent Furnished                 |
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**039 Help Wanted**

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**Parts Driver/Warehouse Associate**  
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**KLEMENT**  
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Garage Sale  
12420 Deeds Ct, Azle. Friday-Sunday 8am-5pm. Tiller, lawn mower, kids electric bicycle, trundle bed, dishes and a lot more.

Property owner needs part time weekend help working on some of my DIY projects. I need a second person to help me with everything from fixing fences, building a couple of metal storage buildings, to pouring concrete floors and sidewalks, etc, in addition to refurbishing a mobile home I have on my back lot. You just need basic mechanical skills and can learn as you go. Call Mark 817-300-4204.

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

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

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

**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

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

Need someone, preferably living in Azle or Springtown area whom can tutor me while doing some mechanical CAD work on a basic toy project using my Free CAD software. 682-294-9066 after 2pm.

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

Azle ISD is currently accepting applications for the Azle High School evening custodial positions. Experience helpful, but not necessary. Starting pay is \$13.00-\$16.00 per hr. depending on experience. There are additional custodial positions open at several other campuses. Apply online at [www.azleisd.net](http://www.azleisd.net)

**IRRIGATION REPAIR**  
Residential/Commercial  
License# LI007825  
\$85 Service Call

**OUTDOOR SCENE**  
**682-553-1560**

**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**  
  
New 7 ft Marston Caterna Pool Table. Teflon coated cloth and accessories. MSRP \$3699. Sale for \$2300 including free delivery and installation.  
Call 817-444-7021.

**Chad's Tree Service**  
Trimming • Removals • Stump Grinding  
Systemic Feeding • Brush Chipping • Cable Bracing  
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**817-800-6059** CELL  
Insured for your protection  
FREE ESTIMATES

**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

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**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

  
Radial Saw pulled from storage. One owner. Used for crafts. Need to sell. Make an offer.  
**817-999-6736**

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


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

**039 Help Wanted**  
P/T office position available at Springtown Epigraph, three days a week, will train the right person. Send resume' to Kim Ware at [publisher@azlenews.net](mailto:publisher@azlenews.net).

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.

**WANTED**  
Property Maintenance Labor/Person  
Gene Thompson & Associates  
**817-246-4646**

Advertising Works!



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

Deadline:  
 1:00 PM FRIDAY

# Classifieds

**039 Help Wanted**

Ash Creek Baptist Church is now accepting applications for the full time position of

**Receptionist/Music Secretary**

Stop by the church office to pick up an application between 8:30 - 4:30 then return it to the office for Dr. Larry Lormand.

Ash Creek Baptist Church  
 300 S. Stewart St  
 Azle, TX 76020  
 817 444-3219

**066 Roofing**

**EXPERIENCED ROOFING SPECIALIST**

FREE ROOF INSPECTIONS

Insurance Claims, Licensed Local Business 34 Yrs

**ECE CONSTRUCTION LLC**

cell 817-615-7164 | office 817-831-2600

**086 Mobile Home/RV Lots**

*Hidden Meadow*

**MOBILE HOME COMMUNITY**

Community Location: 6501 W. Hwy 199, Springtown

**Brand New 3/2 Mobile Homes, many to choose from - 1216 S.F.**

For Rent or Rent to Own Programs Available \$1600/mo

**Contact Daryl 817-846-5997**

**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.

**057 Pets/Livestock**

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

Shih Tzu CKC puppies, male \$500, female \$600. 817523-5486.

**068 Storage**

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

**STORAGE SPECIAL**

10X10 \$60/MONTH-NO DEPOSIT  
 1350 LIBERTY SCHOOL RD, AZLE  
 5X10 \$45/MONTH \$20/DEPOSIT  
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**THANKS FOR SHOPPING & DINING LOCALLY!**

**POJO RV PARK**

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 Springtown, TX 76082  
**817-925-3673**

**30x60 RV Spaces Available**

One small inside pet allowed

NEAR POJO STADIUM

**088 Rent Unfurnished**

**AZLE OAKS APARTMENT**

700 JARVIS • AZLE  
 817-444-1712

**1 & 2 Bedroom Unfurnished**

Accepting Applications  
 Rent based on income

TDD: 800-735-2989

**062 Plumbing**

**LANDERS Plumbing Co.**

**940-233-2862**

M-10078

**062 Plumbing**

**LANDERS Plumbing Co.**

**940-233-2862**

M-10078

**Ash Creek Storage**

Convenient Location  
 Corner of Main St. & Locust • Azle

**817-444-3292**

**087 Rent Furnished**

3/2/1 brick house in Azle for \$1650 per month and a \$1650 deposit. Background/credit check \$40 per person. 817-980-3066

**088 Rent Unfurnished**

3-2 Duplex for Rent in Springtown. \$1,200/mo. \$600 deposit, no pets. 817-980-3066.

2BR 2BA in Springtown. \$950/mo \$950 security. 817-220-4095.

1 bedroom apartment for Rent, \$650/mo. \$650 deposit. Call 682-348-2884 for rental application.

1904 CORAL RD  
 2-1-1 \$1,195 MO. \$1,000 DEP.  
 1916 PELICAN DR. N.  
 3-1-1 \$1,295 MO. \$1,000 DEP.  
 1912 PELICAN DR. N.  
 3-2-1 \$1,395.MO \$1,000 DEP.  
 Gene Thompson & Associates  
 817-246-4646 gtax.com

**GENE THOMPSON & ASSOCIATES HOMES and MOBILE HOMES FOR RENT**

gtax.com  
**817-246-4646**

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**Devin's Handyman Service**

- Carpentry
- Cement
- Rock
- Granite
- Tile
- Painting
- Siding
- Insulation
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- Seamless Gutters
- Powerwashing
- Decks

**FALL SPECIAL 20% OFF with this ad!**

Call Devin at 817-629-9608

**069 Sand/Gravel**

**HALL'S SAND, DIRT & GRAVEL**

Quality Family Business Since 1938

CALL Cliff Hall

**(817) 221-2681**

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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  
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**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**

*Our Business is Metal Buildings - And We're Good!*

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Fabrication and erection of quality metal buildings at reasonable prices, any size - any design

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**817-220-0008**

**www.SolidSS.com** **Open to the Public**

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**046 Looking to Buy**

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- Used/Damaged Campers
- Motorhomes
- Farm Equipment
- Trucks And Trailers
- Horse Trailers
- Boats
- Golf Carts
- Propane Tanks
- Fork Lifts
- Heavy Equipment
- ATVs • Misc.

**817-629-7531**

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**GRAHAM PLUMBING CO.**



Commercial-Residential  
 Serving Springtown, Azle, Boyd, Weatherford Area  
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**049 Masonry/Stonework**

**Silva Masonry, L.L.C.**

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 email alvarosilva@verizon.net

**066 Roofing**

**AT HOME ROOFING & METAL BUILDINGS**

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Tired of always replacing your roof? Call us for a metal roof quote.

**We'll be here after the storm.**

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**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.

**082 RV's for Rent**

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

**084 Mobile Homes for Rent**

RV for rent, bills payed, deposit can be payed over first four months. Briar area \$600mo \$200 dep 817-996-0530

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

**088 Rent Unfurnished**

**Cross Companies Residential Properties**

Family-owned, family-run

**STEWART BEND DUPLIX HOMES** **SILVER CREEK RV PARK**

**Stewart Bend Duplex Homes: 2 & 3 bedroom units available at \$1,350 & \$1,450.** Quiet, clean, non-smoking. CALL 817-401-1796.

**Silver Creek RV Park:** Designed for local long-term stays. Best common building in Azle, secluded and quiet, city water/sewer. \$475 with \$75 electricity allotment; ABP in winter. CALL or TEXT 682-499-8616 or email scrvoffice@gmail.com.

**Barton Cottages Tiny Home Community:** COMING SUMMER 2022! Email BartonCottages@gmail.com

**051 Motorcycles**



**Miles Roofing**

- Insurance Claim Specialists;
- Free Estimates

**817-797-3420**

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

Deadline:  
 1:00 PM FRIDAY

# Classifieds



TexSCAN Week of  
**Dec. 11-17, 2022**

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

**AUCTION**

**45th Annual Cattleman Bull & Female Sale** 12:00 Noon, Jan. 21, 2023, El Campo Livestock Exchange, El Campo, Texas. 100 bulls, 250 females, cattlemansale.com.

**EVENT**

**Floresville - Top Hat Emporium Pop-Up Market,** Sat. Dec. 17, 9 a.m. - 8 p.m., outside. 48 vendors inside. 540 10th (Hwy 181), Ste. 140, Floresville, 830-251-3288.

**GENERATORS**

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

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**Costa Rica \$995 - 9 Day Tour,** with all meals, all hotels, all activities. Choose a guided tour in Costa Rica, Panama, Guatemala, Mexico. Caravan, fully guided tours since 1952. Caravan.com, 1-800-CARAVAN.

**Bob's Baseball Tours - DC Cherry Blossom Tour:** Mar. 31-Apr. 4, 2023, home games at Washington Nationals, NY Yankees & Boston Red Sox. East Coast Tour: Aug. 18-27, 2023, home games at Yankees, Red Sox, Orioles, Phillies, Nationals, Mets & Little League World Series. Tours include sightseeing, motor coach transportation and hotels/game tickets. Call or Text 507-217-1326.

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**ACROSS**  
 1 Garden City is seat of Glass\_\_\_\_ County  
 5 archaic "soon"  
 6 softest mineral found in Texas  
 7 TXism: "got \_\_\_\_ in the oven" (pregnant)  
 8 British mother  
 9 org. for academic psychology  
 12 TXism: "skinny as \_\_\_\_"  
 17 "trees" in Spanish  
 19 military NCO  
 21 Stamford's "Texas Cowboy \_\_\_\_"  
 22 TXism: "tight enough to pick a \_\_\_\_" (good fence)  
 23 Texas tennis teams can raise funds with a "\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_-thon"  
 28 ooze  
 29 catch one's breath  
 30 Queen Elizabeth II had \_\_\_\_ of 70 years  
 31 audience reaction at a comedy club  
 35 TXism: "got \_\_\_\_ under his saddle" (irritable)  
 36 "The Big Tree" at Goose Island is the \_\_\_\_ state (live oak)  
 42 TXism: "numerous as ants on \_\_\_\_"  
 44 rub out  
 46 TXism: "about \_\_\_\_ Red River \_\_\_\_ mud" (confusing)

48 TX-born Ann Doran 1955 film: "Rebel Without \_\_\_\_"  
 49 dir. from Buna to Orange  
 50 prefix meaning "large"  
 51 TXism: "down to \_\_\_\_ and bones" (thin)  
 52 TXism: "shin \_\_\_\_" (party)  
 53 TX "Cactus Jack" said the vice-presidency "\_\_\_\_ worth a bucket of warm spit"  
 54 TX Garrison who won 1988 Olympic medals in tennis  
 56 TXism: "\_\_\_\_ New York second" (quick)  
 57 where many Texans fought, for short  
 58 lamb's mom  
**DOWN**  
 1 Ruff Rider Regatta, e.g. (2 wds.)  
 2 TXism: "loud as boot heels \_\_\_\_ floor"  
 3 seat of Colorado County  
 4 Corpus Christi FM falsehood (2 wds.)  
 10 TX Patrick Swayze was this periodical's 1991 "Sexiest Man Alive" (2 wds.)  
 11 fed. ID no.  
 12 Texas "fire \_\_\_\_"

**TEXAS CROSSWORD**  
 by Charley & Guy Orbison  
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P-1615

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S-1615

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# 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!★**

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 • VFW • DAV  
 • Sheriff's Assn  
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 Courtesy ★ Punctuality ★ Care

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