

## High school bond projects set to begin



PHOTO BY JESSICA MCKINNEY  
New construction at Eagle Heights Elementary

BY JESSICA MCKINNEY  
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The Azle ISD Board of Trustees approved the Guaranteed Maximum Price for the Azle High School bond projects during the Aug. 15 meeting.

The GMP for the addition and renovations at the high school was set at just over \$24 million for construction costs. This reflects a nearly 20% increase over the original \$20 million construction

budget.

Steele & Freeman Inc. was awarded the AHS construction project. They previously conducted the construction of the indoor practice facility at AHS and replaced the stadium turf.

Representatives from the company told board members that there has been a 23.9% increase in nonresidential construction projects from the same time last year, with inflation and fuel prices contributing to the higher

costs.

Matt Adams, AISD assistant superintendent of finance and operations, told the board that they will be earmarking \$4 million from the general fund to cover the additional costs.

Superintendent Todd Smith stated that they made the decision not to cut back on any of the projects in order to avoid "taking away from the scope of the work

SEE PROJECTS, PAGE 4A.

## AISD adds four veteran police officers for student safety

### One more still to be hired

BY JESSICA MCKINNEY  
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With a growing school district of almost 7,000 students and over 1,000 employees, Azle ISD is focusing hard on the safety of students and staff.

This year, that effort includes adding six additional police officers to help keep each campus safe.

AISD Police Chief Darren Brockway announced to the school board during the Aug. 15 meeting that four new police officers had been hired for the district police department with two more still to be added.

Between the five school resource officers provided by Azle Police Department and the additional six new officers with the district, plus Chief Brockway, that provides the district with 12 experienced officers.

Sergeant Steve Holland is serving at Azle High School.

Holland was previously an SRO through Azle PD and transitioned when the school district began searching for its six officers.

Before coming to Azle, Holland was with Haltom City police for 23 years, working in criminal investigations, patrol, field training and SWAT.

"Toward the end, I got into schools," said Holland. "I was at Channing Center, which is an alternative school for kids that just can't get along. So, I was there, and I really liked it because I actually made connections with the kids and saw them change from not following the rules and being a good citizen to actually graduating and doing what they're supposed to do."

Making a connection with students is one of the job aspects that make this role so valuable to Holland, something that is evident as he walks the halls greeting each student he sees.

"I hold the door open every



PHOTO BY JESSICA MCKINNEY

Ofc. Michael Carrizales is looking forward to his role at AISD, protecting students and staff from any dangerous situation.

morning and talk to them," he said. "They don't all respond, but they will."

Holland sees his role at the high school as a way to give young people another view of police officers than the one they see in the media.

"When I first got here, I found out a lot of them ... they didn't like police," he said. "Now they're coming over and they're talking more and telling me about their problems. I'm trying to help them. So, it's a good outreach for them."

Officer John Harding has been assigned to Liberty Elementary and brings with him 22 years of experience with the North Richland Hills Police Department, plus six years in the Marine Corps.

Harding worked for two years in safety and security with Eagle Mountain-Saginaw ISD before coming to AISD. His goal remains the same in his new school district.

"The ultimate goal, yeah, it's protecting the students

SEE SAFETY, PAGE 4A.



PHOTO BY JESSICA MCKINNEY

Sgt. Steve Holland enjoys working at the high school, greeting students and making connections while keeping the campus safe.



PHOTO BY JESSICA MCKINNEY

Ofc. John Harding has more than 20 years of experience in law enforcement, which he brings to Liberty Elementary School.

## Cheer Camp



PHOTO BY DYLAN DORRIS.

Azle High School cheerleader Kyler Betz dances at an AHS mini cheer camp last weekend as one of the cheerleaders' fundraisers for the year. Anyone could attend the camp, and the camp participants will perform at the Azle-Frisco Reedy football game pre-game night Friday at Hornet Stadium. See more pictures on Diversions 1B.

## Council circulates concerns about library budget

BY DON MUNSCH  
don@azlenews.net

Azle City Councilmember Stacy Peek had some questions when she checked out the proposed Fiscal Year

2022-23 Azle Memorial Library budget.

During a budget workshop on Aug. 16, Peek thought the library budget of nearly \$959,000 was excessive, especially when she

compared it to other cities that are close in size and some larger cities. Those budgets for libraries, she said, range from \$300,000

SEE BUDGET, PAGE 4A.

## 14th annual Sting Fling is Sept. 10

BY JESSICA MCKINNEY  
azlereporter@azlenews.net

The Azle Area Chamber of Commerce will host its annual Sting Fling community event on Sept. 10.

Sting Fling will kick off with a parade along Main Street starting at 9 a.m., led by the Azle Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol. The parade route runs from Church Street to Industrial Avenue.

There will be 42 vendor booths set up inside 404 Main Place, and more than

90 outdoor vendor booths, which will be set up between Industrial Avenue and Locust Street. There will also be several food vendors along Main Street.

Vendor booths and food trucks will be open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Children will get to have fun with the bounce houses, Euro jumps, slides, games and a petting zoo, as well as several vendors catering to items for children. The train will also be running up and down Main Street. The Children's Area will be set

up in the field next to the Central Park entrance.

The crowd favorite Wiener Dog Race will take place at 10 a.m. on the green space out front of Azle Memorial Library. Pre-registration is encouraged to secure a spot, but attendees can also register the day of the race.

A classic car show will be set up in the parking lot of 404 Main Place. Registration on the day of the event will be open from 9-11 a.m., but pre-registration is also encouraged. Awards will be presented at 2 p.m.

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# Back to school

Students returned to classes Wednesday, August 17



PHOTO BY DON MUNSCH  
Walnut Creek Elementary School kindergarten teacher Kyndal Pittman talks with Mckynlee Timms on the first day of school. Also pictured are Jackson Hills and Emaleigh Mitchell.



PHOTO BY DON MUNSCH  
River Smith, right, is ready for the first day of school at Walnut Creek. With him are parents Jessica Smith and Tyler Smith along with Reese Smith.



PHOTO BY DON MUNSCH  
Jeremiah Helms hugs son and third grader Daedric on his first day of school at Walnut Creek.



PHOTO BY DON MUNSCH  
Walnut Creek Elementary School third grade teacher Delaney Machos poses with Riley Shaw.

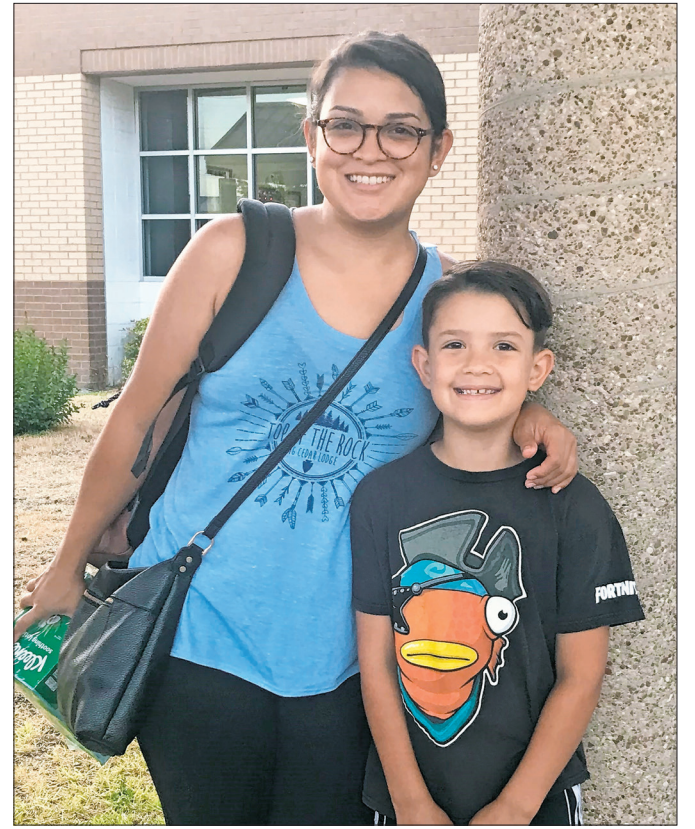


PHOTO BY JESSICA MCKINNEY  
Silver Creek Elementary School second grader Jaxon Brown, with mom Consorcia Brown, is ready for the first day of school.

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# Reno City Council member, former mayor Randy Martin dies

BY MADELYN EDWARDS  
madelyn@azlenews.net

Reno City Council member Granville "Randy" Martin III died last week after a battle with liver cancer.

He died Aug. 17. He was 65. Martin served as mayor in 2007, and he had been on city council multiple times, including as mayor pro tem.

"Councilman Granville 'Randy' Martin was a great debater and storyteller, a strong advocate for what he believed in and above all a loving family man," Reno Mayor Sam White said. "Randy brought

wisdom and knowledge to our city council and to our city and we are all better for having known him. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, family and numerous friends at this time. He will be missed."

City Administrator Scott Passmore, who remembers being hired by Martin, also said Martin will be missed and that he considered Martin as more of a friend than an elected official. Passmore credited Martin for helping put together the city's comprehensive plan, helping the city secure

grants and codifying new ordinances.

Passmore said what he liked about Martin was his honesty.

"If you had a difference with Randy, if there was something that he didn't like that you were doing, at the end of that conversation there was always the feeling that you knew where you were at with him," he said.

Passmore continued, "Me and him together never left each other mad when it was over with, and we did have some differences."

In addition to being on

council, Martin was also the owner of Just Right House Movers, LLC.

"He had a love and passion for house moving," according to his obituary submitted by his family. "However, nothing compared to his love for his family, especially when it came to going to the movies and playing the Marble Game."

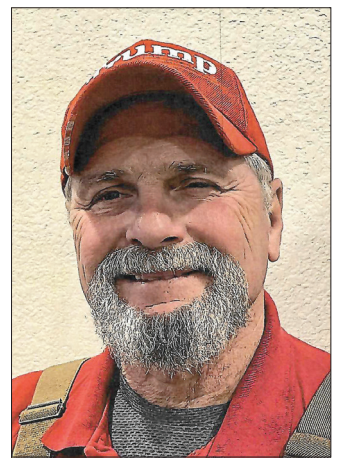
Former Reno mayor Lynda Stokes said despite their differences, Martin was a good man who cared about the city.

After everything is said and done, "Randy's heart was for

the city and the citizens, and he was very much into what was legal and what wasn't," Stokes said. "He did a lot of good work for the city."

Stokes said Martin worked on Planning and Zoning Commission and helped with bringing the water department up to date.

"He'll be missed. I can't pick up the phone and say, 'Hey, Randy, I want to pick your brain,'" she said. "It's a big loss for all of us and to the council because of everyone sitting up there on council, Randy had the experience and the knowledge."



COURTESY PHOTO  
Granville "Randy" Martin III

# Trinity RFPG hosts open house for overview of first-ever Draft Regional Flood Plan

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Trinity Regional Flood Planning Group will hold an open house-style informational session in Arlington to present an overview of the first-ever Draft Regional Flood Plan for the Trinity River Basin, showcasing flood mitigation recommendations for the local area and encourage stakeholder input.

This meeting will take place from 6-8 p.m. Aug. 31 at North Central Texas Council of Governments in the William Pitstick Conference Room in Centerpoint II Building, located at 616 Six Flags Drive.

The informational session will begin with a brief presentation, followed by a chance for the public to ask questions, review planning materials and visit with RFPG representatives about the draft plan.

The draft plan draws on the best available science, data, models and flood risk mapping to recommend more than \$1 billion in flood mitigation actions designed to fix local flooding issues and reduce flood-related loss of lives, property and livelihoods throughout the region.

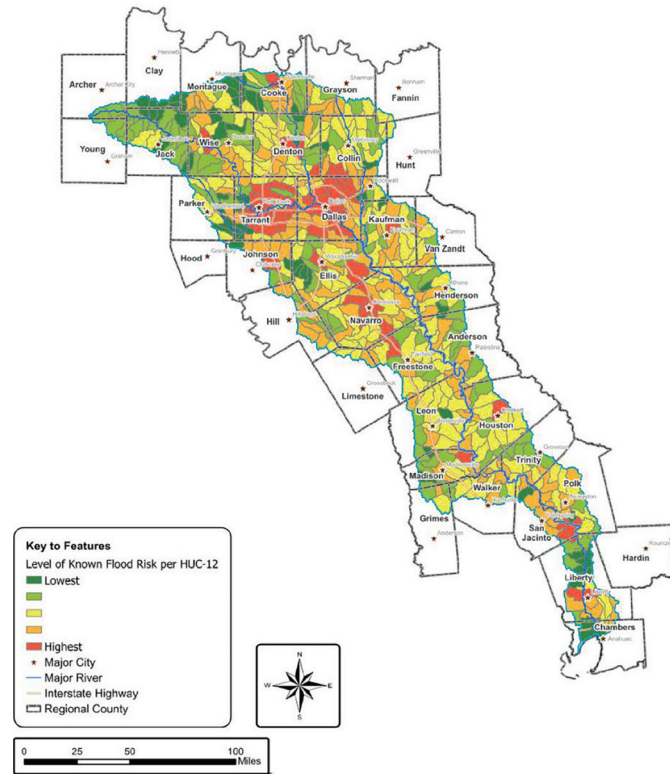
The recommended projects will ultimately have better access to future state funding, providing vital money to help fix local flooding issues.

The draft plan can be reviewed on the Planning Documents page of the Trinity RFPG website, using the Categories tool to sort by "2022 Draft Plan."

Public comments on the draft plan are due to the Trinity RFPG by Oct. 10. For more information on the public comment submission process, visit [www.trinity-rfp.org](http://www.trinity-rfp.org).

The Trinity RFPG, aka Region 3, was designated in April 2020 by the Texas Water Development Board as a result of Senate Bill 8 during the 86th Texas Legislature, which established a groundbreaking, new regional and state flood planning process in the wake of historic statewide flooding. The Trinity RFPG is responsible for creating its first Regional Flood Plan by Jan. 10, 2023. This plan will become part of Texas' first-ever State Flood Plan by Sept. 1, 2024.

The Trinity RFPG's planning region (Trinity River Basin, or Region 3) has an es-



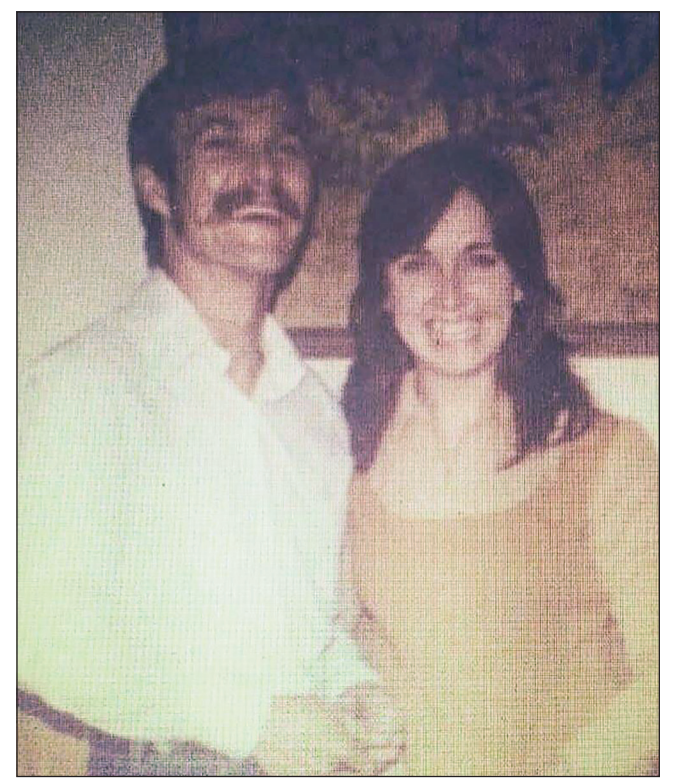
MAP COURTESY OF TRINITY REGIONAL FLOOD PLANNING GROUP (REGION 3)  
Areas of Greatest Known Flood Risk in the Trinity River Basin

timated population of about 8 million and spans a nearly 18,000-square-mile, 38-county region from Cooke County in the north to Chambers County on the Gulf Coast. For

more information, visit the Trinity RFPG website [www.trinityrfpg.org](http://www.trinityrfpg.org), follow the group on Twitter or email the group via [info@trinityrfpg.org](mailto:info@trinityrfpg.org).

## ANNIVERSARY

# Fosters celebrate 50 years of marriage



Roy and Judy Foster of Azle celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary today. The couple wed on Aug. 24, 1972 and are now happily enjoying their retirement. The Fosters have three children, Deanna Baxter, Laura Foster and Jessi Rainone, plus two grandchildren and one great-grandchild. The couple will celebrate their anniversary at David Beard's with close friends and family.

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**SEPTEMBER DATES**

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- 10<sup>th</sup> Michael Cote' Band
- 15<sup>th</sup> Michael Cote' Band
- 17<sup>th</sup> Cowboy Country (Bring Snacks)
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# Azle ISD earns an overall B in TEA ratings

BY DON MUNSCH  
don@azlenews.net

Azle schools earned an overall rating of B from the Texas Education Agency's accountability ratings that were released last week.

Other scores received a mix of grades, mostly B or above. A district official said the district has made several strides overall.

**Individual scores:**

- Azle Elementary School: C
- Azle Junior High School: A
- Azle High School: B
- Azle Hornet Academy: B
- Cross Timbers Elementary School: B
- Eagle Heights Elementary School: A
- Liberty Elementary School: C
- Pre-K Center: B
- Forte Junior High School: B
- Silver Creek Elementary School: B
- Hoover Elementary School: B
- Walnut Creek Elementary School: B

Azle ISD earned an overall district rating of an 85, which equals a "B," said Amanda Wimpee, AISD director of curriculum & student services.

"Of our 10 traditional campuses, nine campuses saw improvement in their overall ratings from 2019 to 2022," she said in an email. "This means that even through the challenges of the pandemic our campuses performed better this year than they did

prior to the pandemic. This requires that we recognize the efforts our district and parents put into prioritizing the health, safety and education of our students during this difficult timeframe. It is a credit to our collective community that our students saw the growth that they did in these accountability ratings."

She added that while nine campuses saw improvement in 2022, two campuses were able to grow into being rated "A" campuses: Azle Junior High scored a 90 and Eagle Heights Elementary scored a 93.

Wimpee also pointed out that all of AISD's traditional campuses saw improvement in Domain 2: School Progress from 2019 to 2022.

"This is notable because this component of our accountability system doesn't simply look at if a student passed the test or not," she said. "It is measuring if our students improved at the targeted rate. This means that even if a student has fallen behind they still get credit for growing. All of our campuses saw growth in this domain."

She said six campuses received Distinction Designations for their performance:

**Azle Junior High:** Science, Comparative Academic Growth, Postsecondary Readiness, Comparative Closing the Gaps

**Hoover Elementary:** Mathematics, Science, Comparative Academic Growth, Comparative

Closing the Gaps

**Silver Creek Elementary:** Comparative Closing the Gaps

**Eagle Heights Elementary:** English Language Arts & Reading, Mathematics, Comparative Academic Growth, Postsecondary Readiness, Comparative Closing the Gaps

**Cross Timber Elementary:** Mathematics, Comparative Academic Growth, Comparative Closing the Gaps

**Walnut Creek Elementary:** Comparative Academic Growth

"Overall we are impressed with the performance of our district, campuses and students," she said. "As a district we maintain a growth mindset and will continue to focus on areas where we can improve in the future while we celebrate the great work our people perform daily."

Azle Superintendent Todd Smith lauded the work of students and staff.

"For the past several years, Azle ISD has maintained a focus on individual student growth for ALL students, this includes both academically and socially," he said. "The recent accountability ratings are a result of our students and staff hard work, especially given the circumstances from the past few school years. We are very proud of this progress and remain committed to academic excellence for all our students. We will focus on key areas in which improvement is needed and while continuing to celebrate our strengths."

## BUDGET

FROM PAGE 1

to \$400,000 and then one larger city library's budget was in the \$700,000 range. Peek praised the Azle library, but she thought the library's request was too much given other city considerations.

"I feel like our streets need so much," Peek said. "I feel like our police need so much. And there's just a lot of money going into the library."

She thought some cut-backs could be made.

Of all the elements in the proposed budget - council examined the water and utility and other city budgets - just one item was denied by council: renovation of a vending area and addition of an office in the library, with a price tag of \$65,000. Most councilmembers saw no need to pay for this expense, as the sentiment seemed to be that the library can make do with the current space. A new office, priced at \$50,000, was proposed for the assistant library director, who could use it for certain purposes, such as counseling employees. Mayor Alan Brundrett thought the price tag for the office was "ridiculous."

In another part of the discussion about the library, Mayor Pro Tem Randa Goode asked about auto allowances for the library director, who uses a vehicle for various purposes. Goode thought allowances should be discontinued and that money for work-related car trips should be added to salaries. Brundrett said that if allowances are discontinued and money for travel is added to salaries, then an employee could turn in mileage for traveling and

then that would be a form of double-dipping.

Later, as discussion about the library budget continued, Brundrett said among other remarks that he thought that the library's budget seems to continue to increase over the years.

The working budget was submitted by City Manager Tom Muir, and councilmembers leafed through a budget book and could ask questions or make comments. Many aspects of the budget did not yield any comments or questions.

Councilmembers learned the FY 2022-23 budget will raise more revenue from property taxes than last year's budget by an amount of \$560,865, which is a 7.64% increase from last year's budget. The property tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year is \$205,163.

Muir began the budget discussion by pointing out items in the budget this year, such as new positions, including for animal control, which would move two part-timers into full-time positions and give the department five full-time positions. For a few items, there was no recommendation from the city for funding, such as a holiday dinner for fire staff and family members. (In the comment section for that particular item, the goal will be to "address employee unity/morale city-wide.")

One question arose about a new position - community affairs/crime analyst position - in the Azle Police Department.

"This is kind of a unicorn, for lack of a better word," APD Chief Ben Hall said.

He said the police want a person who has great ability in social media, both from

creating social media posts and performing "deep dives" into open sources. The person would assist detectives in investigations through data gathering. The person would manage multiple platforms, and it would be a civilian position.

So much happens on social media and neighborhood apps that the police need someone who can cultivate all that information for use by police, Hall said.

Councilmembers also heard the proposed tax rate of \$0.623426 per \$100 valuation, which is the most the city can charge without an election. That is 2 cents less than the current rate of \$0.646149. Broken down, the rate of \$0.623426 will have \$0.569478 for maintenance and operations and \$0.053948 for debt service. The general fund expenditure budget is \$16,563,478 and the revenue budget is \$16,287,142.

Also at the meeting, Muir gave an update of the splash pad and restroom facility at Central Park. He told councilmembers that someone put a hole in the back of the women's restroom behind one of the toilets near the flushing mechanism - a peephole, essentially - that wasn't discovered until staff and contracting crews saw it recently. The hole will be filled.

Muir hopes the splash pad can open soon. Council heard that managing the logistics of maintaining the safety of the splash pad with city personnel will have to be worked out when the pad opens. The water has to be manually tested on a daily basis so that it is safe and does not contain harmful bacteria.

## SAFETY

FROM PAGE 1

and the staff ... to make sure that we all go home safely," Harding said. "We all make it here safely, we stay here safe, and we go home safe."

The new officer at Eagle Heights Elementary is Officer Michael Carrizales, who has over 28 years of law enforcement experience.

The top priority for Carrizales and the other new district police officers is safety.

"Every day safety is the priority," Carrizales said.

"Making sure the doors are locked. Making sure that they get offloaded from the buses, parent pickup and

all that stuff, making sure that they get here safely, and they go home safe," he said. "Not only the students but the staff as well."

Ofc. Rusty Westbrook is a retired detective sergeant with the North Richland Hills Police Department. He will be taking care of students and staff at Silver Creek Elementary this year. Like the other AISD police officers, he has over 20 years of law enforcement experience in almost all facets of police work.

All of the newly hired police officers have been through high-stress situations and answered dangerous calls where they didn't know what was waiting on the other side of the door.

That experience is what makes them desirable for AISD campuses.

Each officer has also worked together in the field, so they each feel confident in the others' abilities to handle whatever comes through their campus doors.

"I was very lucky to get these officers because experience in the police profession is extremely valuable," Brockway said of the officers' experience and time in law enforcement.

Brockway said in an email to the News on Monday that a fifth officer has accepted the position with AISD and is expected to start on Sept. 7. Interviews for the sixth position are being scheduled.

## PROJECTS

FROM PAGE 1

that we told our community we would be doing."

The projects at the high school will include a kitchen and cafeteria renovation, a new two-story science lab wing, and an expanded welding shop.

Concerning the new science wing, it will include eight science labs and will be built to International Code Council 500 storm shelter standards, withstanding 250-mile-per-hour wind speeds.

The science wing will serve as the storm shelter for the entire population of AHS in the event of severe weather.

These projects are set to begin within the next few weeks. It is expected that all

projects will be complete in about 18 months.

## ELEMENTARY PROJECT UPDATES

The addition of restrooms in the Eagle Heights kindergarten classrooms is complete. There are some pink and blue temporary doors up on the restrooms as the district waits for the permanent doors to come in. The doors are expected to be in sometime in September.

Work on the new centralized library at Eagle Heights is still in progress but is expected to be complete this fall, Adams told the board.

Work at Liberty Elementary is underway with a lot of utility work having been done for the new construction and the pad going out front for the new wings. A parking lot

is also being put in thanks to an interlocal agreement with Tarrant County. This will allow buses to pull through for student drop off and pick up as well as additional campus parking.

The Hoover Elementary fine arts renovation is complete for choir and band, with some additional band storage waiting to be installed. The additions of the science labs and the expansion of the cafeteria and two special ed rooms are expected to be completed before Christmas.

The groundwork for the new Hilltop Elementary School is underway with foundation and plumbing work to begin soon. The school district will be meeting with Walnut Creek Special Utility District for providing water to the campus.

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# Surprise: Daydream of Oreo cookie bliss tragically turns into story of shock and woe

The other day, I stopped by the neighborhood grocery store. My wife Teresa does our day-to-day grocery shopping but every now and then, I enjoy going to the store and picking up a few things.

I shopped around and selected snacks I wanted to take to the office. Many times, I work through lunch, and I like to keep some yogurt, fruit or some other snack on hand in case I get hungry.

I was ready to check out when I thought it would be good idea to call my wife and see if she needed anything before I headed home. No matter how good a shopper you are, things get forgotten, so I thought maybe my call might save her a trip to the store. Teresa responded she was good, except if I saw Oreo cookies, to pick some up. The shelves were empty of Oreos on her recent trip to the grocery and I learned our 4-year-old granddaughter has quite the passion for them.

Upon hearing the word "Oreo," my mind started to drift back to my youth. Oh, how I loved having a big stack of Oreos sitting in front of me with an ice-cold glass of milk strategically placed in the middle of the plate. I had mastered a technique where I would place the Oreo between my thumb and index finger and dunk the tasty treat beneath the surface of the milk for almost 40 seconds. This would allow the cookie to absorb a significant quantity of milk, thus softening its texture to the point of nearly falling apart. At the end of 40 seconds, I would lean over, toss the cookie in my mouth, and allow it to dissolve. It did not require chewing. One could simply savor the deliciousness and wash down the residue with a taste of cold milk.



## 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.

Even as an adult, there have been times when I would buy Oreos and spend the next couple of nights devouring cookies. I don't think I had purchased Oreos in the nearly four years of our marriage, but on that day, I loved the thought of it. I cruised the aisles of the store, found a bag of the legendary deliciousness, included a half gallon of milk to my purchase and checked out. I was very pleased I was getting some cookies my granddaughter would like, but frankly, my taste-buds were more focused on dining self-gratification. It had been a long time since I had eaten an Oreo.

My wife kept the granddaughter the next day, and they had a big time. They played games at the house, did art projects and then later went to the pool. Sometime during this process, Harper managed to get into the bag of Oreos. Mind you, at least in part, I did purchase them for her to enjoy.

That night, I came home late from work and was pooped from a long and arduous day. We ate dinner and watched TV, and then my sweet tooth hit. Oh, yeah, I had forgotten I had purchased Oreos and some milk the day before. Comfort food for sure! I walked into the kitchen, got a plate and a glass of milk, and reached in the Oreo bag to retrieve four or five cookies. Boy, oh boy, this was going to be satisfying!

I walked into the living room, sat down, looked down at my plate with keen anticipation, when I noticed something was terribly wrong! The Oreos did not look right. They were somehow thinner. Could this be the result of a change in the manufacturing process? Was it an attempt to alter a legendary product in the hopes of adding a few dollars to the bottom line? How could the company modify a legend like Oreos for the sake of profits? I then looked closer.

There was no icing in any of the cookies I had taken out of the bag. It had been licked off the cookie as precisely as if the work were done by a Swiss watch maker repairing a Rolex. Once the icing had been removed, the two cookie halves were stuck back together and evidently placed back in the cookie bag with a uniformity that no machine could match.

I had been fleeced! I believe in recycling, but not with my Oreos! Heavens knows my waistline didn't need them anyway. I had been hornsoggled by a 4-year-old, and I have a feeling it won't be the last time she gets the better of me.

Thought for the day: Cleaning your home while your kids are still growing up is a lot like shoveling the sidewalk when it is still snowing. Until next time.

# Does One Rainy Spell End a Drought?

When we last visited, our topic of conversation was the droughty conditions that we were experiencing.

Even though we were blessed with rainfall this past weekend, one rainy spell does not normally break a drought, but hopefully it is the beginning of the end of our most recent prolonged period of dry weather.

Please don't assume the drought is over and start using water like there had never been a concern for the source of our water. Remember that was just last week when we were worrying about that.

Consider this: Overusing your source of freshwater after a period of no/low precipitation is missing an opportunity to learn from the past. It is similar to overusing a credit card account; it usually takes a while to get into that situation and it likewise takes some conserving and management to work your way out of it.

While we are talking about freshwater an even larger, more serious concern is the adequate supply of that freshwater for everyone. Let's look at a few facts concerning water.

First, there is just so much freshwater here on this ball that we call home. Secondly, we live in Texas in which the western one half to two thirds is not just real flush with water. The eastern part of our state has a better supply of water available but it is still finite. If the population growth of Texas were to stop today we would still be looking at a sizeable problem on the horizon that is getting closer each day.

But with the steady influx of people choosing to make Texas their new home, the problem of water



## AG 101

By Jack DeShazo

Jack DeShazo has decades of experience in the agriculture field.

supply is multiplied considerably. Yes, water can be recycled, but the first question is, has the water been so misused to the point of not being able to be recycled?

Secondly, the recycling process is not always a quick process. Nature has always recycled water through the hydrological cycle; water evaporating from the earth's surface, becoming clouds of water vapor, and then eventually turning into precipitation as it falls back to the earth for use again, and then the process starts all over again. But now with the large growth of our population, this cycle is not adequate, as we have to physically recycle our water.

Recycling impounded surface water such as lakes is not nearly as slow of a process as the recycling process of ground water which can take many, many years for the water to return to the underground supplies.

Long story short, if we are going to have an adequate supply of freshwater for our growing population and we don't want "big brother" to step in to tell us how we can and can't use our water, we have to do a better job of wisely using and conserving our water. If it's raining bucketfuls or it hasn't rained in six months, we have to do a better job. Next time we will go a little further on freshwater conservation.

'til next time.

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## Azle Area Chamber of Commerce

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For 63 years, the Azle Area Chamber of Commerce has worked to benefit all facets of the community. Through a variety of activities sponsored by the chamber, Azle residents and businesses alike see the results of their work put into the area. Each month, the chamber hosts a luncheon where business, government, and community leaders have a chance to connect in a unique way. The gatherings also function as an educational opportunity for those in attendance as each features a guest speaker. Quarterly, the chamber hosts another networking opportunity: Business After Hours. These events allow for socialization and networking in a relaxed atmosphere. At the chamber office, visitors can find a whole host of information on the area and its businesses, and the staff often provides referrals and encourages a "Shop Local" mentality. Each year, the chamber organizes multiple festivals including their largest: Sting Fling. **Annual Sting Fling Saturday, Sept. 10.** Each year on the second Saturday in September, thousands pour into town to attend the annual Sting Fling festival. This year, things will get underway at 9 a.m. with a parade on Main Street to kick off the festival. You will find vendor booths open at 404 Main Place and along Main Street. A children's area will be set up on the green space near the entrance to Central Park. The Wiener Dog Derby kicks off at 10 a.m. at the entrance to Azle Memorial Library. Don't miss the annual Classic Car Show, with registration opening at 9 a.m. and wrapping up at 2:30 p.m. Admission to the festival is free.



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# OBITUARIES

## Lee Edward Robertson 1945 - 2022

Lee Edward Robertson of Fort Worth ventured on to be with our Lord and wife Vada Robertson on Aug. 17, 2022.

There will be a Celebration of their Life on Saturday, Aug. 27, at the Robertson household at 12 p.m. Lee's Memorial Service will be held in Midway, Texas at Elwood Baptist on Saturday Sept. 3.

Instead of flowers it would be appreciated if you would donate to the Reynolds mission funds. Contact Nina and GG Reynolds 936-348-7313. They do a lot of great things for many communities.

Lee was born Aug. 31, 1945, in El Campo, Texas to father Morris Goodlett Robertson and mother Dorothy Mae Freytag Robertson. They later moved to Fort Worth, where he grew up and fell in love with the city. Entering in UTA briefly before dropping out, he moved to his parents in Austin, where he met and fell in love with Vada Reynolds. During the Vietnam War he served the Texas National Guard. After serving, he and Vada married and moved back to Texas,



where he became a proud member of the Fort Worth Police Department. Lee and Vada would have two beautiful children and were married for 52 years. In that time, he also served the Fort Worth Police Department for almost 50 years.

He is survived by his daughter Sandy Elizabeth Robertson, son Scott Matthew Robertson, grandson Warren Robertson his sister Catherine Susan Robertson and niece Crystal.

*The Azle News, Aug. 24, 2022 Edition*

## Minnie Myrtle Steinly 1931 - 2022

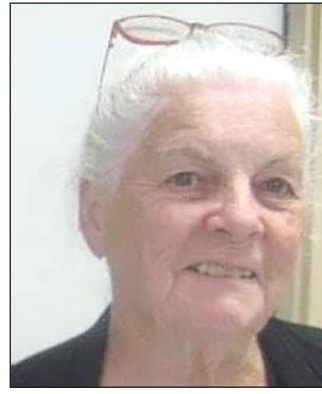
Minnie Myrtle Steinly, 91, of Azle, Texas entered into her eternal rest on Wednesday, Aug. 10, 2022 in Fort Worth, Texas.

Visitation will be from 4-8 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 25, 2022 at Shannon Rose Hill Funeral Home.

Funeral services will be held on Friday, Aug. 26, 2022 at 11 a.m. at Shannon Rose Hill Funeral Home with Pastor Thomas Kolb, officiating. Burial will follow at Isham Cemetery. Arrangements are by Shannon Rose Hill Funeral Home.

Minnie was born in Rosston, Texas to Alma Jane Sanders and Carroll Thompson Bolton on May 7, 1931. She attended John T White Elementary. She married William Fred Steinly on April 2, 1948 in Fort Worth, Texas. She worked for International Service. She later owned her own dress shop, Minnie's Warehouse in Boyd, Texas, and a general apparel store, Chastity's Gifts in Azle, Texas.

Minnie is preceded in death by her parents, husband,



William Fred Steinly; son, Rickey Wayne; and sister Caroline.

Minnie is survived by her children, Freddie Steinly and spouse Vivian, Jemmie Steinly and spouse Terry, and Jack Russell Steinly and spouse Sherry. Her brother, Jerry Wayne; her seven grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

The Steinly family wishes to extend our sincere thanks to the nurses and staff of The Hills Nursing Home, and Pastor Thomas Kolb.

*The Azle News, Aug. 24, 2022 Edition*

## If you've been praying for rain ...



### 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).

"If you've been praying for rain, today would be a good day to gather with God's people and thank Him."

So posted one of my pastor friends on Facebook early Sunday morning.

Thank You, Lord, for much needed rain!

Some of us are saying that here and in other places that have gotten a respite recently from extended drought conditions.

Some people elsewhere have prayed for it to stop. I'm thinking of places like Kentucky that experienced devastating flooding conditions within the past few weeks.

The relationship between God and weather is mysterious at best.

Jesus said, in Matthew 5:45, "He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous."

So, if you just read that part of the verse, it sounds like God controls the rain.

It also sounds like God doesn't differentiate between people who "deserve" rain and people who don't.

As I have been cleaning up wet floors this afternoon where water seeped into two rooms of my house due to the pace of the rain, I've come to a conclusion.

He not only sends his rain on the righteous and the unrighteous, He also sends it on the prepared and the unprepared!

I don't understand how rain works. Neither do meteorologists.

If they did, their forecasts would be 100% accurate. As it is, every forecast is a really well-educated guess.

Here's what I do know: There is no formula of prayer that causes God to

answer with rain.

Here's something else I know: In Matthew 5, Jesus wasn't teaching us about how God controls the weather.

Here's another look at the context of Matthew 5:45.

"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous."

Jesus was indeed talking about prayer but it wasn't prayer to affect the weather. It wasn't about what we pray for, but who we're willing to pray for and the motivation behind our prayers.

I'm not at all suggesting that we shouldn't pray for rain.

I'm suggesting that, if we're going to pray for rain but we're not willing to pray for God's blessing on those we consider "enemies" or "opponents" or even "persecutors" — and do so with their best interests in our hearts — our spiritual drought may be worse than the physical one.

My prayer for all of us is that our hearts are not drying up and withering because of the way we consider those with whom we disagree — those we see as less deserving of God's blessings than we are.

If you've been praying for rain, but not that your heart would be refreshed and softened to the needs of the world, would you at least consider it?

Be amazing today, my friend.

## Alice Fay Seale Saunders 1949 - 2022

Alice Fay Seale Saunders, 72, of Azle passed away July 29, 2022 in Cleburne.

Services at a later date in Duncan, Oklahoma.

Born in Fort Worth, Alice worked at Lockheed Martin and Charter Communications before retiring.

Alice is survived by her sons, Danny Saunders and wife Christy and Donnie Sutterfield; daughter-in-law, Tessa Libby and husband, John McHam; grandchildren, William Jones and wife Melissa, Caitlin Saunders, Taylor Finucane and husband, Brody, Garrett Saunders, Parker Libby and Lilly McHam; great-granddaughter, Rylee Finucane.

Alice is preceded in death



by her husband Jackie Saunders, parents, Shirley Seale and Clydia Worthington Bane; siblings, Shirley Russel, Kathy Remeur and Johnny Seale.

*The Azle News, Aug. 24, 2022 Edition*

## Norma Gayle Watters 1943 - 2022

Norma Gayle Watters, 79, loving wife, mother, sister and grandmother passed away Monday, July 4, 2022.

Norma will be laid to rest with her daddy at Green Acres Memorial Park in Bloomington California, on the morning of Aug. 29, 2022.

Norma was born in San Bernardino, California. June 27, 1943 to John Jackson and Juanita Beshears Beach.

Norma enjoyed camping, fishing, reading and being with her children and grandchildren. She retired from Pediatric Surgery Associates after many years of service.

Norma was preceded in death by her parents.

Survivors include her hus-



band, Charles Watters; sister, Shirley Moreno; daughters, Darla Garcia and Slepah Halvorson; 10 grandchildren; and many friends.

*The Azle News, Aug. 24, 2022 Edition*

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# BOOK REVIEW

## Working with dead people as part of the job

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

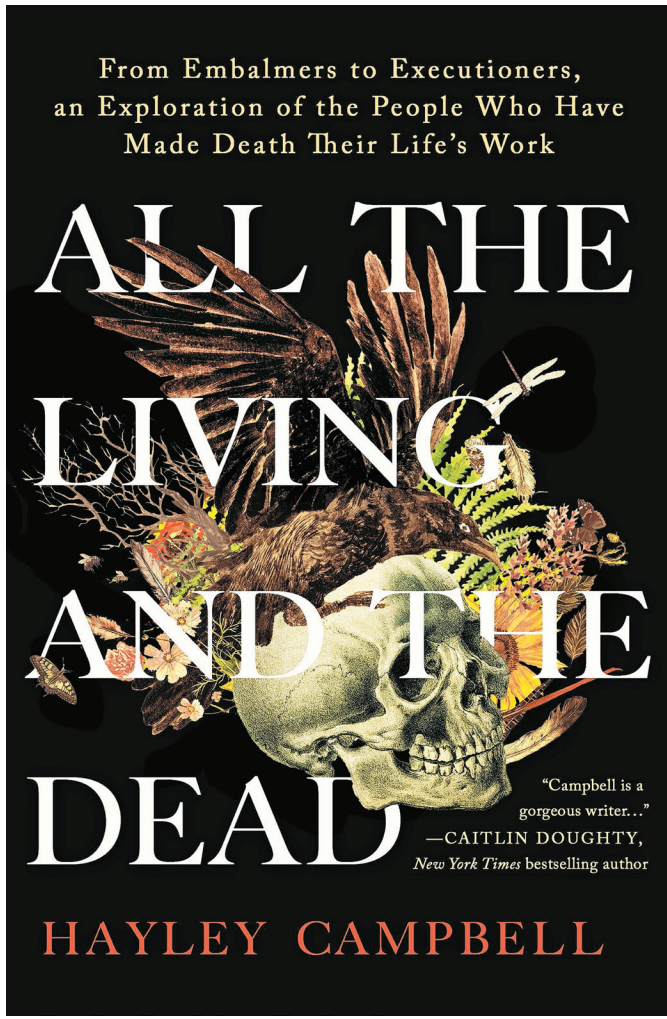
Every day, you go to work and quietly do your job. There's no fanfare, no hourly kudos, parades, or regular praise; you were hired for a task or a series of tasks and that's what you finish. It's the work you've chosen and nobody notices that you do it well but, as in the new book, "All the Living and the Dead" by Hayley Campbell, they'd notice if you didn't.

In Hayley Campbell's childhood home, death was no big deal. Her father was an artist who was paid to illustrate death as a theme, and Campbell recalls imitating his artwork, pets that met early demises, and a childhood friend who drowned. Death, for her, was just a part of life.

"We are surrounded by death," she says, in our games, the news, the songs we sing, everywhere. More than 55 million people around the world die each year but most of us don't know much about those who do the "necessary work" of dealing "with the things we cannot bear to look at..."

Are we "cheating ourselves out of some fundamental human knowledge...?" Campbell began her search for an answer with a funeral director, who advised Campbell to "separate the shock of seeing death from the shock of grief" by ensuring that the first dead body she ever saw was not that of someone she loved.

She visited the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota, to talk with a man who prepares the "gift" of body donation. An artist showed her how he memorializes the faces of those who've departed, and a disaster mitigator explained how



**"All the Living and the Dead: From Embalmers to Executioners, and Exploration of the People Who Have Made Death Their Life's Work" by Hayley Campbell**

C.2022, ST. MARTIN'S PRESS, \$29.99, 269 PAGES

he deals with "catastrophe." Campbell met with a crime scene cleaner, had lunch with someone who executed death row inmates, she heard stories from an embalmer, cleaned a cremation retort, helped an anatomical pathology technologist, spoke to a



midwife, visited with grave-diggers, and learned about cryonics.

"I wanted to see all of it," she says. "But in many of these rooms... I was, for a few moments, speechless."

Go ahead. Admit it. You were curious, too, weren't you?

That's the beauty of "All the Living and the Dead": that author Hayley Campbell gives readers plenty of room to be inquisitive, offering facts that

they perhaps haven't even had a chance to conceive yet, without shame and without making anyone feel like a ghoul. This is, in fact, a wide-eyed book, it's respectful, humble, and filled with honor and it's not gratuitously gory, although there are a few cringey moments inside.

On those, steel yourself. Campbell doesn't just write "squelchily," she's also forthright on things that left her unsettled and that which sent

her reeling. That - the emotion and its lingering effects on her entire being - can feel worse than the malodorous moments here, and Campbell honestly tells readers how she dealt with that, too. You won't be sorry knowing.

Curiosity, RIP. Bury your lack of information. If you've got questions about people who work with the dead and you need answers, "All the Living and the Dead" will do the job.

### Azle School Menu *August 28 - Sept 2, 2022*

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

**PreK - 4th**

**BREAKFAST: Everyday - Assorted Fruits and Cereal, Juice, White or Chocolate Milk, Graham Crackers, Toast**  
Mon French Toast Sticks Tues Apple Fruited Weds Sausage Biscuits  
Thurs cheerios, oranges Fri kolache, oranges

**LUNCH: Everyday - Variety of milk. Your choice of 1 entree & 1 fruit or juice**  
Mon Chicken Nuggets OR Fish Sticks w/ Roll, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Diced Peaches Tues Cheese Enchiladas OR Beefy Burrito OR Taco Salad, Rice, Beans, Squash/Zucchini, Apple Slices Weds Orange Chicken / Ham & Cheese Sandwich, Fried Rice, Mandarin Spinach Salad, Cucumbers, Orange Smile Thurs Cheese Pizza, Pepperoni pizza, Chicken Caesar Salad, Baby Carrots, Tomato, Applesauce Fri cheeseburger, hamburger, French fries, carrot sticks, cucumber, bananas

**GRADES 5TH - 8TH**

**BREAKFAST: Everyday - Assorted Fruits and Cereal, Juice, White or Chocolate Milk, Graham Crackers,**  
Mon Sausage bkfst croissant Tues Breakfast taco Weds Cinnamon roll Thurs breakfast stick, applesauce  
Fri mini maple waffles, fruit cup

**LUNCH: Everyday - Variety of milk. Your choice of 1 entree & 1 fruit or juice, rolls, crackers. Variety of burgers.**  
Mon Chicken nuggets or fish sticks w/roll, Mashed potatoes, green beans, diced peaches Tues Cheese enchiladas or beefy bean burrito or taco salad, Rice, beans, squash/zucchini, apple slices Weds Orange chicken or ham cheese sandwich, Fried rice, mandarin spinach salad, orange smile Thurs Cheese Pizza, Pepperoni pizza, Chicken Caesar Salad, Baby Carrots, Tomato, Applesauce Fri cheeseburger, hamburger, French fries, carrot sticks, cucumber, bananas

**HIGH SCHOOL**

**BREAKFAST: Everyday - Assorted Fruits and Cereal, Juice, White or Chocolate Milk, Graham Crackers, Egg Scramble w/ Turkey Sausage & Biscuit, Scrambled Eggs w/ Biscuit, Turkey Sausage Patty w/ Biscuit, Hash Brown**  
Mon Bkfst Sausage Croissant, Yogurt with Granola Tues Breakfast Taco, Yogurt with Granola Weds Cinnamon Roll, Yogurt with Granola  
Thurs Chicken Biscuit, Peaches Fri tater tots, oranges

**LUNCH: Everyday - Variety of milk, assorted pizza & salads. Your choice of 1 entree & 1 fruit or juice**  
**BALLPARK CLASSICS:** Hamburger, Cheeseburger, Turkey Bacon Cheeseburger, Breaded Chicken Patty Sandwich, Spicy Chicken Patty Sandwich, Golden Chicken Corn Dog

Mon Steak fingers w/ gravy, Sausage link w/ mac n cheese, Cheese Enchiladas, Beef Burrito, Orange Chicken Fried Rice, Cheese Pizza, Pep. Pizza, Cheeseburger/Burger, Taquitos Tues Chicken Nuggets, Mini Corndogs, Beef or Chicken Nachos, Taco Salad, General Tso's Chicken w/ Lo Mein, Chicken Alfredo, Cheese Pizza, Boneless Chicken Wings, Hot Dogs Weds Mac n Cheese , Fish Sticks, Beef or Chicken Tacos, Taco Salad, Egg Rolls w/ fried rice, Meatball Sub, Pepperoni Pizza, Spicy Chicken Sandwich, Popcorn Chicken Thurs Chicken Sandwich, Chicken & Waffles, quesadillas, taquitos, teriyaki chicken w, Lo Mein, max sticks w/ marinara, cheese pizza, corndog , grilled chicken sandwich Fri Cheeseburger/Burger, Totchos w/ Rice, Bean Burrito, Sweet n Sour chicken w/ Fried Rice, Chicken Bacon ranch Wrap, Nachos

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## Attention: Springtown And Azle Back Pain Sufferers

### FREE Report Exposes Back Pain Myths and Dangerous Treatments...

"Due To Limited Supply not everyone will qualify to receive this FREE report... Take the qualification quiz at the end of this article to find out if YOU are eligible."



By Local Health Expert Dr. Robert Moss PT, ScD, OCS, FAO/MP

**SPRINGTOWN, TX** - If you or a loved one suffer from back pain, then reading this may be the most important thing you do this year. It may unlock the agonizing mystery of your back pain and show you a way to get back the life you deserve...

- A life where you can get a restful night's sleep without tossing and turning trying to find a position that doesn't hurt
- A life where you can walk in the grocery store without the embarrassment of hanging on the cart because of your back pain
- A life where you can play with your kids or grandkids without worrying about your back "going out" and having to take a handful of dangerous pills
- A life where you can do and enjoy all the things you see so many others doing and enjoying but your bad back has kept you watching from the sidelines.

**Basically a life without the curse of back pain.**

This report exposes common myths about back pain that other "medical professionals" don't want you to know... How pain medications, muscle relaxers and back surgery don't work and can leave you with crippling side effects.

**Here's What You Will Learn Inside This Eye Opening Reports:**

- The ONE Everyday Activity Back Pain Sufferers are Doing WRONG which Blocks Healing and Actually Makes Back Pain WORSE...
- The 3 Most Common Causes of Lower Back Pain and Sciatica
- The shocking truth about lower back surgeries.
- What the drug companies don't want you to know about pain relievers that can actually hurt you.
- Why your insurance company prefers that you stay sick and injured all the time.
- A 100% Natural, Safe Solution Exists - and How You Can Access It!

**You Qualify To Receive This Report FREE Of Charge,**


If You Pass This "Qualification Quiz":

- Are you between the ages of 35-70?
- Do you currently have or have had back pain in the last 6 months?
- Is your back pain affecting your daily activities?
- Are you open minded and willing to take action to end your back pain?

Due to the limited number of reports, we ask that only those who answered yes to the questions above request this report. Please don't take one from someone who really needs the help.

**If you passed the qualifications quiz above and would like your free copy, call**

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# ON FISHING

## Hunting, fishing licenses available now for 2022-2023 season

The beginning of a new hunting and fishing season is quickly approaching, and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) is reminding hunters and anglers to purchase their new licenses for 2022-23. Texas hunting and fishing licenses (except the Year-from-Purchase All-Water Fishing Package) for the current year expire at the end of August. The new licenses for the 2022-23 season went on sale Aug. 15.

Annually, Texans purchase more than 2.7 million hunting and fishing licenses and directly fund a multitude of conservation efforts and recreational opportunities, helping make Texas one of



### ON FISHING

By Michael Acosta

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

the best places in the country to hunt and fish. Some of the many projects made possible by license sales include fish stocking, wildlife management, habitat restoration, public hunting leases, river fishing access and Texas game wardens.

Outdoorsmen and women can purchase a variety of licenses online through the official TPWD website, by phone at 1-800-895-4248

during regular business hours, or in person at more than 1,800 retailers across the state.

Brand new for this year, Texas residents can purchase a digital Super Combo license (Items 111, 117 and 990) that will authorize digital tagging of harvested deer, turkey and oversized red drum. The digital license option is available through online purchase only. A

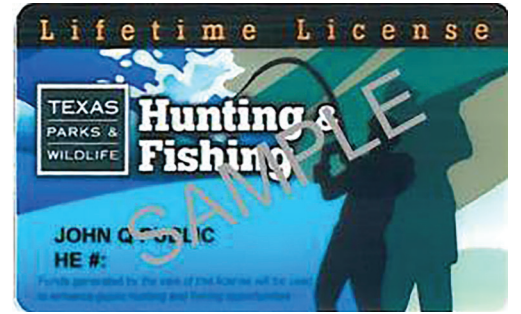


PHOTO COURTESY TPWD

A variety of licenses are available online through the official TPWD website.



PHOTO COURTESY TPWD

Texas residents can purchase a digital Super Combo license that will authorize digital tagging of harvested deer, turkey, and oversized red drum. Available online only.

digital license holder will not receive a printed license or tags but must keep their digital license available while in the field. The license can be viewed through the TPWD Outdoor Annual or the My Texas Hunt Harvest (MTHH) mobile apps.

Hunting and fishing regulations for the 2022-23 season are available online at outdoorannual.com, on the Outdoor Annual mobile app. The mobile app is free, and once downloaded, it works

without internet connectivity which makes it easy for hunters and anglers to view regulations in even the most remote locations. Other features include license lookup, location-based functionality such as "Hunting Seasons and Regulations by Location," "Where to Fish," and more. Thanks to partners at Chevrolet, a limited supply of printed booklets will be available at select TPWD offices.

When buying their license, resident hunters and anglers

may wish to purchase an entry in the Lifetime License Drawing. Three lucky winners will each win a Lifetime Super Combo License and never need to buy a Texas hunting or fishing license again. Entries are \$5 each and can be purchased online, by phone or at any license retailer. The first entry deadline is Sept. 30.

For frequently asked questions about Texas hunting and fishing licenses, visit the TPWD website.

### FISHING REPORT

Lake Granbury is 2.5 feet low. Boaters need to be aware of hazards due to the lowering water levels. Lake Granbury water temperatures are from the upper 80s to low 90s and there is a thermocline present at around 20 feet down. We need rain for sure. Crappie fishing on Lake Granbury is good to excellent on jigs and minnow near submerged timber and bridge pilings. Largemouth bass are good to 6 pounds on Texas rigged worms and deep diving crank baits fished near deeper docks and near main lake points. Catfish continue to be good on cut bait fished near creek channels/entrances. Best action on catfish is at night. Sand bass are good on slabs and spinner baits. Sand bass have been schooling in 5 to 15 feet of water near Indian Harbor and near DeCordova. Striped bass to 8 pounds are slow to fair on live bait, trolling jigs or crankbaits on the lower ends.

On other reservoirs, Lake Whitney and Possum Kingdom Lake continue to boast on limits of striped bass on live bait and down-rigged jigs on the lower ends. Possum Kingdom striped bass are good to 15 pounds.

# What is your water telling you?

### BY JR REAVIS

Director of Water Technology, Texas Water Utilities

The process of turning ground and surface water into safe water for your home can be a complex process.

By the time water reaches your tap, many factors can influence the water's color, taste or smell. These aesthetics are typically harmless and do not cause health related issues.

Where your water is sourced is a factor that can impact color, taste and smell, but other factors such as your home's plumbing and home treatment devices can also impact water quality. For these reasons, the water industry recognizes August as National Water Quality Month to encourage ways we can all ensure safe and clean drinking water.

### WATER SOURCE

Water providers monitor for hundreds of man-made and naturally occurring contaminants such as arsenic, radon and agricultural contaminants (pesticides and herbicides). You can learn about the source of your drinking water by reading your water system's annual drinking water quality report, which will provide information on minerals

or compounds in your water. Most water systems are required to provide this report to customers and post them by July 1 each year.

If you have groundwater, you may have hard water as a result of naturally occurring minerals, such as magnesium, calcium and iron. Hard water can cause spots on dishes, film on hands after washing them with soap, or a gradual decline in water pressure as it builds up in your pipes over months or years. Minerals such as manganese and iron can cause tinted yellow or orange water and can stain clothing and fixtures.

Customers who receive treated surface water generally don't have as many issues associated with the mineral content of the water, but may have issues with taste and odor compounds commonly found in surface water. In general, taste and odor issues are short lived and typically occur in the spring and late fall.

### PLUMBING

Water utilities monitor for lead and copper in drinking water, and if detected in the supply, immediate action is taken to correct the issue. However, water utilities are not responsible for a homeowner's plumbing inside or outside your home.

Black iron or galvanized pipe may react with chlorine used to disinfect drinking water and cause discoloration. If tap water is discolored every morning and clears after a few minutes, the discoloration is at one faucet, or the discoloration is in your hot water.

Periodically flushing the hot water heater can resolve discoloration. Most hot water lines going into a washing machine have a wire strainer, which is designed to catch sediment. Cleaning the wire strainer to a washing machine's hot water line once or twice a year can help prevent clothes from staining.

Home treatment devices All home treatment devices, regardless of the technologies they use, require regular maintenance. Water quality problems may result if maintenance is not performed correctly.

If you're like most Texans and have hard water, you may have invested in a water softener system. These appliances replace calcium and magnesium with sodium and potassium, which can cause the water to taste salty. Most people who install these systems either wait too long before installing or don't need them in the first place. Many

also abandon the system after a year or two of use. Water softeners must be maintained properly by changing out the filter or cartridge where bacteria can grow. Maintaining a typical water softener system also requires replacing salt, and how often salt is replaced depends on usage.

Home filtration systems that utilize carbon cartridges remove the disinfectant from the water, but this can promote bacteria growth in the home's plumbing. The best place for a filter is in the refrigerator or at the tap, and it needs to be changed on a frequent basis. Water pitcher fil-

ters also work well to address taste and odor issues.

If you notice a sudden change in the quality of your water, check your home treatment device and check with your water utility provider on the status of your water system. A disruption in service can impact water quality, and a boil water notice may be issued. If there is no disruption in service, let the water run for a few minutes to see if the water's appearance changes. Always check with your water utility provider if you have any questions.

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# Low-cost transportation program helps Azle residents

BY DON MUNSCH  
don@azlenews.net

Azle resident Sandra Ashford has to go to medical appointments outside town.

She uses a Catholic Charities Fort Worth's service that provides transportation for a small fee.

"Well, it makes it lot easier to get around to different places," she said about the service.

Her appointments have taken her to specialists off Interstate 35 in the Alliance area and downtown Fort Worth.

"I don't know what people would do before they had this opportunity to go with Catholic Charities or public transportation," she said, the latter of which she referenced was out of Parker County. "I don't know what people would have done besides (this service) if they don't have family that can take them. Because my daughter lives like an hour away and my son is an hour and half (away). This makes it easier for families."

The program in Azle is for individuals 65-plus years of age and or disabled. There is also an eligibility for low-income people 18 and older, but they must live and travel in Hurst, Euless and Bedford. It is called HEB Transit and the trips must be for work and work related activities, said Matt Jacobs, transportation director with Catholic Charities Fort Worth.

The program for Azle is through Tarrant County Transportation Service,

Jacobs said.

TCTS has transported 58 unique Azle residents, completing 767 trips this year through the end of July. The group completed 87 trips in January and in July completed 153 trips for the month. Fares for the trips start at \$2.50 per one-way trip and would be \$5 altogether for a round trip. People getting rides advise what time they want to be picked up. The program involves ride-sharing, so there will be other stops and is not a one-for-one service, Jacobs said. People are picked up at their door, and the services operates as a door-to-door service. Jacobs said people can go anywhere they want in Tarrant to go for any reason.

Because of the rise in gas prices this year, the program has experienced a rise in the number of requested rides, from 3,800 rides in spring 2021 compared to more than 5,000 rides in spring 2022.

"All of the cities get two days a week currently to go anywhere they want to go in the county," Jacobs said. "People are hearing about it and learning about it and its options."

The program has a fleet of about 40 vehicles and 30 drivers, and all of the vehicles are ADA compliant, for the most part, Jacobs said, adding his organization does have some other vehicles.

The ADA compliant vehicles have ramps, so they can use wheelchairs and walkers. Some vans have ramps to make sure people with walkers can board the



COURTESY PHOTO-CATHOLIC CHARITIES FORT WORTH

This is a van used by Catholic Charities Fort Worth to transport people to destinations around Tarrant County. For more information about the program, including setting up trips, call 817-336-8714.

vehicle. The program also has cutaway buses to board multiple people at the same time. For Azle, the two days people can receive transportation are Mondays and Wednesdays. The service is for people age 65 and up or those who have a disability. The services runs in Azle from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

"Generally, if you want to get picked up at 2, you'll get picked up between 2 and 2:30 to go back," he said.

He said his program partners with cities and Trinity

Metro to do this service through TCTS, which covers 11 cities. Among the many places people go are medical offices, schools and recreational and shopping venues. The program started a campaign that people may contribute money to offset some of the costs, and they may do that by texting FUEL to 243725 to fund life-saving rides for those in need.

"We're just real excited to serve the community and make sure people are able to get out and about where they want to go," Jacobs said.

"The whole staff just loves interacting with the clients and so we're just appreciative of the opportunity to do that for the community."

Ashford has used the program for almost two years and said she has not driven in over a year because of back and knee surgeries.

"They've helped me a lot," she said. "It's a great benefit, actually."

She said they will take her anywhere in Tarrant County and said she has been provided transportation to Walmart and a couple

of times to her daughter's house in Blue Mound.

Ashford said she uses this service for her transportation needs, along with some public transportation.

She praised the staff of Catholic Charities and said the staff treats her well.

"Really good people - really, really awesome people," she said.

To set up a trip, people may call the intake line at 817-336-8714.

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## LET'S STOP LITTERING!

**Hi, Kids!**  
You know me - I'm your friend, Earth. And there's something that really makes me sick. It's called **LITTER!**

Litter is stuff that should have been thrown into a garbage can or recycle bin, but is just dropped on the ground instead.

Litter causes all kinds of problems. It can clog up storm drains and cause flooding or pollute the waterways that are fed by storm drains. Some litter is dangerous, like broken glass and cans with jagged edges. And litter is ugly. When it's around your school or community, it looks like people just don't care about where they live.

Your friend, **Earth**

### Litter Statistics

Kevin's class picked up litter at the park. He made a chart showing the percentages of the kinds of litter they found. Use the chart to answer these questions:

- What was the most common litter item found?  
 fast food waste  plastic  paper
- Was there more glass or plastic in the litter?  
 glass  plastic
- What percentage of litter was plastic and paper combined?  
 55%  45%  40%

### Lunchtime Litter

Look for litter in this picture. Can you find all of these items?

- plastic bottle
- plastic cap
- paper cup
- straw
- plastic fork
- paper
- chip bag
- cheese puffs
- soda can
- apple core

### Sort the Litter

Some litter can be recycled. Draw a line from each piece of litter to the correct bin.

TRASH BIN

COMPOST BIN

RECYCLE BIN

**Extra! Extra!**

### Be Complete

Search the newspaper for five headlines that are NOT complete sentences. Rewrite each as a complete sentence. Which words are most often left out?

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

### Kid Scoop Puzzler

## Don't Be a Litterbug

What is the average number of steps a person will hold onto a piece of trash before they litter? Add up the numbers along the correct path in this maze to discover the answer.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

### Double Double Word Search

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

COMMUNITY	E R N E K O R B P S
DANGEROUS	G A R B A G E R O U
PROBLEMS	A D A E R A O E L O
GARBAGE	R M R Y T B A C L R
RECYCLE	E R E A L T C Y U E
POLLUTE	V O Y E I G I C T G
AVERAGE	A T M N C N U L E N
LITTER	L S G K C I S E E A
EATING	Y T I N U M M O C D
DRAINS	
BROKEN	
STORM	
AREA	
UGLY	
SICK	

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

### FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

## Newspaper Graph

Survey your classmates to find out each person's favorite section of the newspaper. Graph your results.

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information. Display data in a graph.

## Write On!

# Good Turn

Write about a good turn you did and how it helped someone or something.

### Kid Scoop Together: Litter Hunt

With an adult, walk around your school and pick up at least five pieces of litter. Write the name of each below:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

### LITTER FACT

Only ONE out of every SIX plastic water bottles we use ever makes it to the recycle bin.

### Kid Scoop-doku

Complete the grid by using all the letters in the word WASTE in each vertical and horizontal row. Each letter should only be used once in each row. Some spaces have been filled in for you.

W	A	S	T	E
W			T	
		W		
S			W	A
A	S	T	E	W



## Hornets look for return to postseason, must get past loaded district



PHOTO BY DON MUNSCH  
Latham Phillips returns for the Azle offensive line this season.

BY DON MUNSCH  
don@azlenews.net

Azle's football team shared a district title last year with Brewer and Northwest.

But claiming a district title again this year should be a tougher test for the Hornets. Not because of the team Azle will field - the Hornets appear to be in the playoff mix again - but because of the nine-team District 3-5A

Division I, a district that features two Goliaths - Aledo and Denton Ryan, perennial state title contenders. Ryan is ranked second in The Dallas Morning News' preseason poll for area Class 5A teams.

First, though, Azle has to play its non-district slate of games, and that begins Friday night against Frisco Reedy at Hornet Stadium. Kickoff is at 7 p.m. Reedy, incidentally, is ranked 15th in the DMN area

poll. "I'm really excited about the group of kids we have," Azle head coach Devon Dorris said, noting that the team's motto is "Move forward," which centers on moving ahead no matter what happens and to keep improving and enjoying the process of coming to practice and being a team.

The Hornets finished 8-3 last year, losing in the bi-

district playoff round to Mansfield Summit. Dorris said looking back at last season, he appreciates players who stepped up.

"I was really pleased with the kids' resiliency," Dorris said in an interview in early August. "We had quite a few injuries that we were having to deal with with some of our key players. So the fact that we were able to play the last game for a district champion-

ship or a share of the district championship, I think was a real testament to our kids' resiliency. Obviously, I'm excited that we came out on top of that game, but just tie-breaker wise, (we) ended up third."

In that first round of the playoffs against Summit, the Hornets played what turned out to be the regional champ. Of the nine teams in the new district, six made the playoffs

last year. Dorris said some teams that have had recent playoff appearances will not be in the playoffs this year.

"Every week is going to be a test," he said. "It's part of the season - and that's why I'm really excited about it. It's part of that journey, so to speak, and that process to continually improve yourself and you really focus on you

SEE FOOTBALL, PAGE 2B.

## Cross-country runners set high expectations

BY DON MUNSCH  
don@azlenews.net

Barak Geary sets his sights on returning to the state cross-country meet for Azle High School this year.

"As a team, we expect to make it to regionals," Geary said. "Personally, I expect to make it to state again."

"I hope to go with him to state," senior Austin Gatewood said, standing nearby and prompting laughs.

The two boys are among the top returnees this year. Other top returnees are Parker Huffaker and Jose Neri on the boys side and sopho-

more McKenzie Roberts and senior Pella LeFever. Runners who spoke to the News said they begin the season with high expectations.

Roberts said she is aiming for state as well, and freshman runners Reese Jeter and Berkley Huffaker also have ambitions to go state, to be held in November in Round Rock.

Azle High School cross-country coach Keith Boenisch said Geary could return to state this year. Two other boys with a shot of making it to state are Parker Huffaker and Gatewood, the coach said.

On the girls team, Roberts

has a chance to run at state, and Huffaker and Jeter have a shot, depending on how the season goes, Boenisch said. He praised their potential and thinks they could make it to the state level in the future if they don't make it this year.

"This year shouldn't be different than any other year, and I'm building on a base that I already have, so my time should only improve from here," Geary said. "We've had a lot of hard work this summer, so it should really pay off when it comes to putting in the speed work during the season."

SEE CROSS, PAGE 3B.



PHOTO BY DON MUNSCH  
Azle tennis coach Hayden Huff, left, teaches student Alejandro Frias how to hit a forehand and a backhand during a practice last week.

## Azle tennis coach: Playoffs are team goal

BY DON MUNSCH  
don@azlenews.net

Every high school varsity coach would like to be in the same situation this year as Azle High School tennis coach Hayden Huff.

All of her players return for this season.

"Which was great news for me," she said. "And this is my second year, so I've had everyone for a year. Everybody has improved greatly since I've been here, so that's been really exciting. A lot of that work that we made in the past year we didn't see until we started playing these past few

weeks. It's been really, really fun to see it."

As of Aug. 17, the varsity team had played eight matches this fall season, winning three. Huff has liked the competitiveness of her players in the matches they lost.

"Last year, we only beat two teams in the whole fall," she said. "We've already won three times, and we're pretty excited. We've beaten some significant teams, like we beat Weatherford High School, Krum High School and Denton Ryan, and with the magic year of 11-8 on all three of them, Apparently, that's our lucky

score."

The team has four senior boys - Jack Clark, Brent Burgess, Devin Lewis and Jacob Casperaites - and one senior girl, Samantha Thurston. The two top junior girls are Peyton Chambers and Jourja Erwin. Last fall, the team didn't make the team tennis playoffs, as Azle was in a three-way tie for fourth and they had to count matches, and Azle lost by three matches.

"So our goal for this year is to definitely make playoffs, and I definitely think we've got a great group of kids and

SEE TENNIS, PAGE 4B.



PHOTO BY DON MUNSCH  
Azle High School cross-country runners hoping to make their mark this year are, bottom row, McKenzie Roberts, Berkley Huffaker and Reese Jeter, and, top row, Barak Geary, Jose Neri and Austin Gatewood.



PHOTOS BY DON MUNSCH

Azle co-defensive coordinator and outside linebackers coach Christian Davidson gives instructions to the defense during a practice in early August.

## FOOTBALL

FROM PAGE 1

and be the best you that you can be. Week in and week out, no matter what happened the week before, you have to strap your boots on get ready to go again. It makes for very competitive games in every single game, but it's also reason to go to work every day and to get better."

A fourth seed coming out of this district can beat a top seed in the bi-district play-offs because that team will have played some of the top competition every week in its district schedule, Dorris said.

Looking at the season, there's a clean slate at hand, as Dorris said every season is different and every team possesses its own personality and journey.

"We obviously have high expectations every year, but just enjoying the process of coming to practice every single day and getting better is kind of the goal," he said. "But we have high expectations and we feel like we have a team that can compete week in and week out."

Azle has 25 returning lettermen, with about six offensive and four defensive starters returning. The team will have a new quarterback in senior Jay Jones. Last year, Chris Lee played quarterback in every game despite having a stress fracture in his foot for the last seven games. Lee did not practice during that time.

"So Jay got all the (first team) reps in practice every single day," Dorris said. "Even though Jay played sparingly in some of the games, he had valuable reps every single day in practice, operating the offense and getting everybody in (sync) and learning his assignment."

Dorris said Jones (6-3, 195) will play fine and is excited to see what he can do, as he had a good spring and summer.

"There's a light that kinda comes on for a senior quarterback, even if it's a returning starter or not a returning starter," Dorris said. "There's just something about a senior quarterback that they really know that this is their team. It's always a fun year when you can have a senior starting quarterback."

In the backfield, the Hornets return Vance Guthrie, who started some games last year.

"We've already seen him play quite a few games as a sophomore," Dorris said. "He's really grown as far as his speed and his development. He's really developed over the summer and spring and off-season. So I feel really excited about him. Who

plays with him at the running back position will be determined throughout fall camp."

At the wide receiver position, the team returns a bevy of players: Tyler Akers, Gavin Green, Conner Combs, Tyler Landon and Zeb Cross.

"We have a lot of experience coming back at the receiver position," Dorris said, adding that he has "all the confidence in the world in any of our receivers."

Regarding the offensive line position, the Hornets lost Jakson LaHue, who is now at Mississippi State University, but Dorris has confidence in players coming in to fill spots. Two starters return: Latham Phillips and Reid Norris.

"And then we feel like we have some really good kids stepping up and filling the other spots," Dorris said.

Adam May, Dylan Maines and Hunter Schultz are in that mix, the coach said.

The team's kicker will be decided in the fall camp, as there will be a competition, and the punter position will likely be Gavin Green, who was the backup punter last year, Dorris said.

On the defensive side of the ball, Bryce Trumbich returns on the D-line and "we're really excited about him," Dorris said. Other players to look for this fall are Brennan Villalta and Timothy Quarles, and then some other players are competing for positions, the coach said.

"To compete, we feel like you need to have at least six defensive linemen that rotate in, so that will be quite a big rotation there," he said. The Hornets run a 3-4 defensive scheme.

As for the linebacking corps, Denim Fields had a "tremendous spring and summer, and we look for really big things for him in his senior year," Dorris said, calling him a "tremendous young man that's worked really hard. We think that he's going to have a great season this year as an outside linebacker as a senior."

At inside linebacker, returning starter and senior Drew Dorris returns. He also had a great spring and summer as well, and will be the quarterback of the defense as far as signals and getting people in positions, Dorris said. (Drew is Devon Dorris' son.)

Other linebackers who will contribute are Jacob Martin, Matthew Garcia and Garrin Graves.

The secondary has the least amount of experience, Dorris said, but the team has one of its best tacklers coming back in senior Kaleb Vasquez at safety.

"And then we have a bunch of juniors we feel very confident in, but they have to



Azle quarterback Jay Jones, linebacker Drew Dorris and linebacker Denim Fields are three of the top players to watch for the Hornets this season.



Wide receiver Bryan Rager tries to snare a pass during practice.

see some game experience," he said, mentioning Josh Montelongo as one example. Other defensive backs in the mix for the Hornets are Cale Cohen, Bradyn Rager and Tyler Ulrich.

One other player Dorris discussed was Abraham Aguilles, a member from Grand Prairie and a senior

defensive end who is a hard worker and someone who can help the team, Dorris said.

Jones, Fields and Drew Dorris stepped away for a couple minutes from practice last week to talk about the upcoming season. They said they're excited for the season to begin.

Drew Dorris said the "train keeps rolling" for the team as it prepares for the season.

"We're not going to be the ones to let down the legacy - that's the main thing," he said.

Jones said the team had a "lot of doubters" over the summer, but through the first few weeks of practice,

he has seen the team grow.

"I think we're going to be fine," he said.

He said he definitely thinks taking snaps last year in practice has paid off for him.

The players said the tough district can help the team this year and prepare the players for the playoffs.

# AHS mini cheer camp

AHS mini cheer camp was one of the cheerleaders' fundraisers for the year. Anyone could attend the camp this past weekend, and the camp participants will perform at the Azle-Frisco Reedy football game pre-game night Friday at Hornet Stadium.



PHOTOS BY DYLAN DORRIS

Star Azle High School cheerleaders Addyson Reed, Julianna Gibson, Miranda Baker and Kylie Bennet do some motions for the young cheerleaders.



Camp cheerleader Briar Rose Iglesias practices motions and technique at the camp.



Camp cheerleader Harper Stahl chats with Buzzy at the cheer camp.

# Lady Hornets volleyball



PHOTO BY RICHARD SPRAGGENS

**Azle Lady Hornet Taylor Fischer sets the ball in a recent match against Bridgeport. The Azle Lady Hornets volleyball team headed into Tuesday night's non-district game at Springtown with an 11-6 record. They lost to Boswell 26-24, 16-25, 20-25, 15-25 in a home match on Aug. 16.**

**Kamryn Hill led Azle with 11 kills in that Boswell match. Two other Lady Hornets - Cameryn Hoskins and Kendall Locke - tied for second in kills with five apiece. Makenna Dillow led Azle with 30 digs and Karlee Locke led AHS with five blocks. Makynna Hinkle led the team with 17 assists, with Taylor second on the Lady Hornets with 14 assists.**

**The Lady Hornets will play in a tournament Thursday through Saturday in Smithson Valley.**

## CROSS

FROM PAGE 1

Roberts said she entered this year a lot more confident, and the training runners have done has made her feel faster. Berkley Huffaker and Jeter are ready to make their mark, with Huffaker saying it's exciting to know that some people don't make varsity as freshmen. Gatewood said he is confident going into the year, and he said he has Geary to train with and can advise him on what the expectations and goals are.

"I started taking the training more serious and I realized that every day is hard work and I know that one day it will pay off," junior Jose Neri said.

Boenisch pointed to the rigorous schedule that lies before Azle.

"Honestly, our region in my opinion is the toughest region - it goes from here to Amarillo to El Paso, so it's a big region and there's a lot of good distance running," he said.

Azle boys could stand out in 2022.

"The boys, we think, are going to be very good this year," Boenisch said. "We've got to move some guys up, but the guys that are moving up were proven JV runners last year in cross country and track. I don't

think it's going to be a big deal for them to step up and fill in the shoes of the guys who graduated. We're pretty solid. I think we'll go to most meets this year and be top five, and I think at district, it'll come down to us and Aledo."

He said Aledo is the team to beat but sees his team as a "close second," he said.

On the girls' side, the team has a lot of youth, Boenisch said. He said his team will fight for third place in district, noting that Azle's young girls are good runners.

Azle's teams will run in eight meets and then head to the district meet on Oct. 14. The regional meet will be Oct. 24. The boys team has made it to the regionals meet 15 years in a row and girls have made it 10 out of 15 years, Boenisch said.

"We usually assume and hope we're going to advance to regionals, and the last three years, we've had people make it to the state meet," the coach said.

All of the teams' meets are in the mornings, and so it is a difficult sport for the community to attend, Boenisch said, "But with social media being the way it is, we are on Facebook and we are on Twitter and we post results and pictures through the Azle ISD Facebook and Azle cross country on Twitter," he said.



PHOTOS BY DON MUNSCHE

Jorja Erwin gets ready to hit the ball during a practice last week.



Jack Clark hits a ball during practice last week.



Peytie Chambers prepares to return the ball.

# TENNIS

FROM PAGE 1

I really think that they can do it this year," Huff said.

District play begins next week, with Azle facing a home match against Granbury in the opener.

"We have a really great group of kids," Huff

said. "They're really hard workers."

Before a practice one day last week, players talked about the season.

"I think our goal this year should be to try to make playoffs this year since we (should be) more competitive in our district this year," Clark said.

District foes are Aledo, Brewer, Granbury, Wichita

Falls Rider, Northwest and Saginaw. Clark said he would like to get more consistent as a player, but other than that, he thinks he is hitting really well. Other senior boys said they want to do everything from improving their serve to staying more focused and having more consistency. Senior players expect to have fun this year, and Clark said Azle expects to surprise a lot

of teams.

Thurston said she expects to improve her ground strokes and her serve and for the team to make the playoffs this fall season.

"And in the spring season, I hope to play doubles and that we qualify in district," she said.

Players are excited about the season, she said, as they are getting back into the

groove.

"We've been doing way better in this preseason than we even did in the season of last fall," she said. "And I think everybody's been working really hard and if we all just put our minds to it, continue to work hard, I think we'll do good."

Erwin said she hopes the team wins more than last year, and then personally,

she said she needs to get rid of her bad habits she has acquired over the years. She is excited about the freshmen on varsity this year, but she's also excited being a junior on the varsity.

Chambers hopes to improve her game this year, including her winning strategies.

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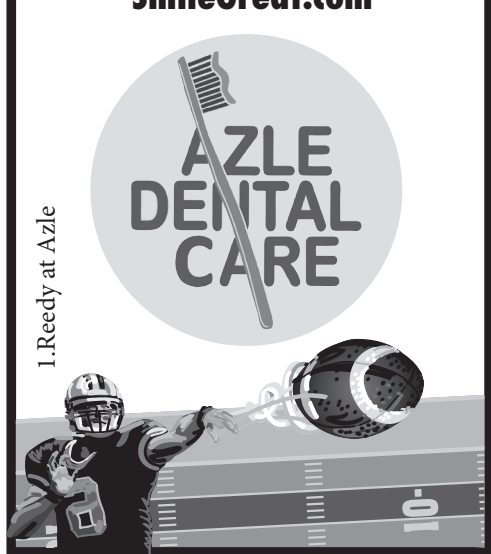
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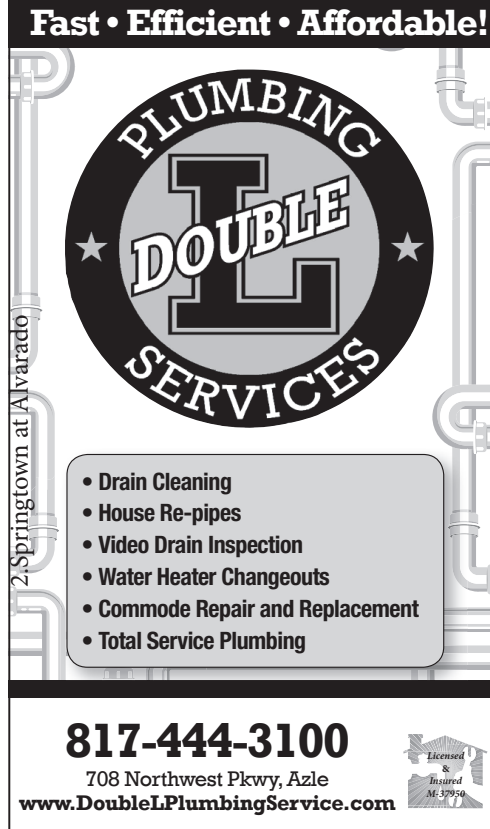
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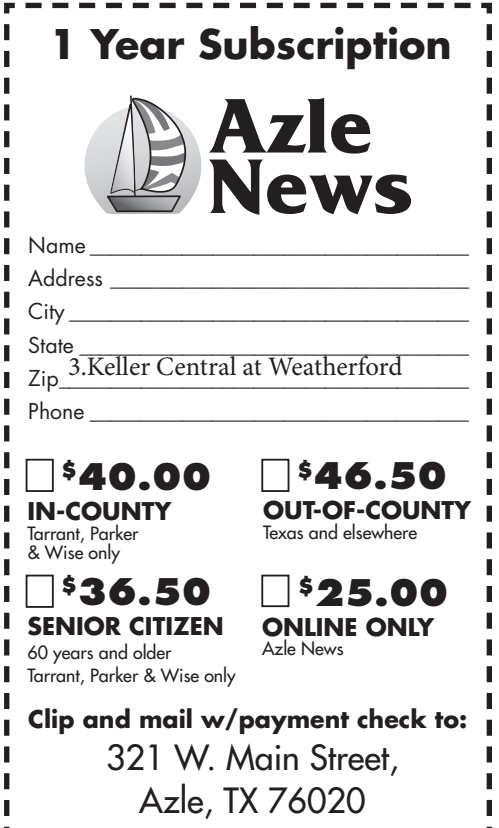
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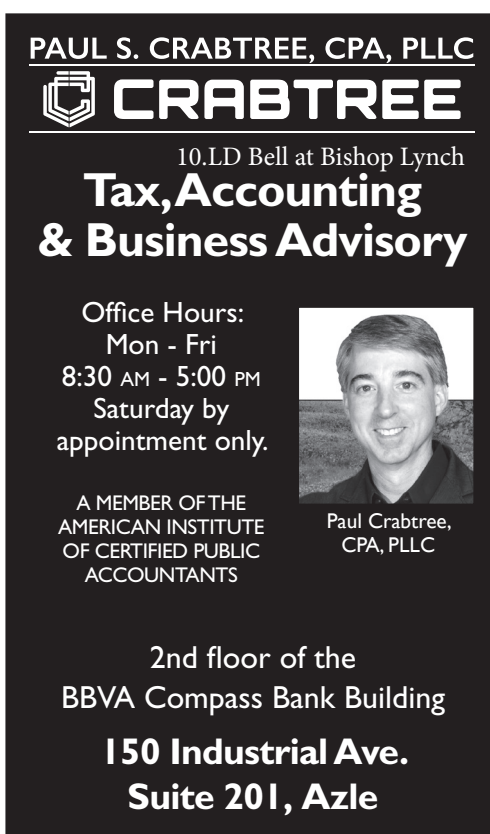
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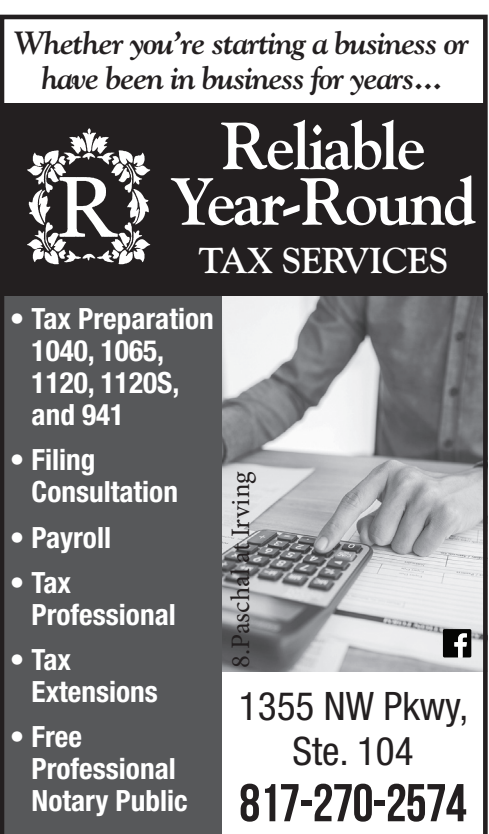
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6640 Midway Rd., Springtown  
817-694-0444  
**INDIAN OAKS PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
3229 Shawnee Trail, Lake Worth  
817-237-8441  
**LAKE WORTH BAPTIST**  
4445 Hodgkins, Lake Worth  
817-237-4163  
**METROPOLITAN BAPTIST**  
6051 Azle Ave., Fort Worth  
817-237-2201  
**NEW HOPE BAPTIST**  
782 New Hope Rd., Reno area  
817-221-2184  
**NORTHWEST BAPTIST**  
5500 Boat Club Rd., Lake Worth  
817-237-6063 or 817-270-8476  
**SILVER CREEK BAPTIST**  
730 S. & Veal Station Rd., Azle  
817-444-2325  
**NEW BEGINNINGS BAPTIST CHURCH**  
3605 Jacksboro Hwy., Azle  
817-707-2741  
**PLEASANT GROVE BAPTIST**  
FM 2048 and CR 4677, Boyd  
940-433-5477  
**PRIMERA IGLESIA BAUTISTA**  
300 S. Stewart, Azle  
817-500-3641  
**SPRINGTOWN BAPTIST TEMPLE**  
201 J. E. Woody Rd., Springtown  
817-523-0376  
**UNION BAPTIST CHURCH**  
3451 Sarra Lane, Springtown  
682-333-1645  
**WALNUT CREEK BAPTIST**  
220 W. Reno Rd. in Reno  
817-221-2110  
**BIBLE COMMUNITY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP**  
1405 Reynolds Rd., Reno  
817-521-4510  
**NORTHWEST BIBLE CHURCH**  
5025 Jacksboro Hwy., Fort Worth  
817-624-2111  
**SOLID ROCK BIBLE CHURCH**  
591 S. Reno Rd., Springtown  
817-221-3444  
**CATHOLIC**  
HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC  
800 High Crest Dr., Azle  
817-444-3063  
**CHRISTIAN**  
THE CHURCH AT AZLE  
1801 S. Stewart, Azle  
817-444-9973  
**AZLE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**  
35 West Forty Estates., Azle  
817-688-3339  
**GREATER VISION FELLOWSHIP**  
1801 S. Stewart St., Azle  
817-825-0485  
**THE ABBEY CHURCH**  
10400 Jacksboro Hwy., Azle  
817-238-1404  
**CROSSING FELLOWSHIP**  
120 E. Main St., Azle  
817-406-4577  
**CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
AZLE CHURCH OF CHRIST  
336 NW Parkway  
817-444-3268  
BRIAR CHURCH OF CHRIST  
109 W.N. Woody Rd.  
(½ block west of FM 730 N. in Briar)  
817-444-7102

## HILLTOP FAMILY CHURCH

1227 Old Cottondale • 817-220-7177

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

## Joe Rider Propane, Inc.

**PROPANE TANKS**

**817-237-3325**

- MIDWAY CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
6400 Midway Rd.  
817-221-2107  
**NEWSOME MOUND ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
1460 Newsome Mound Rd.  
817-677-3290  
**NORTHWEST CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
6059 Azle Ave., Fort Worth  
817-237-1205  
**POOLVILLE CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
West of FM 920 in Poolville  
817-594-4182  
**SOUTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
130 W. Bradshaw Lane, Springtown  
817-221-2799  
**SPRINGTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
Just west of Hwy. 51 North  
817-523-4419  
**TRI-COUNTY CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
525 Hwy. 199 W., Springtown  
817-980-8156  
**CHURCH OF GOD**  
ABUNDANT LIFE CHURCH OF GOD  
4800 East Hwy. 199, Suite 7  
Springtown, 817-677-3208  
**LAKESIDE CHURCH OF GOD THE WORD@LAKESIDE**  
9396 Confederate Park Rd. (FM 1886)  
817-237-5500  
**DISCIPLES OF CHRIST**  
AZLE CHRISTIAN  
117 Church St., Azle  
817-444-3527  
**CENTRAL CHRISTIAN**  
1602 S. Main St., Weatherford  
817-594-3043  
**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
4th & Main, Paradise  
**EPISCOPAL**  
ST. ANNE'S ANGLICAN EPISCOPAL  
6055 Azle Ave., Fort Worth  
817-237-1888  
**PROVIDENCE REFORMED EPISCOPAL**  
405 Bowie Dr., Weatherford  
817-596-7476  
**ST. ELISABETH EPISCOPAL**  
5910 Black Oak Lane, River Oaks  
817-739-0504  
**GOSPEL**  
CENTRAL FULL GOSPEL FELLOWSHIP  
3009 Delaware Tr., Lake Worth  
817-237-7919  
**JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES**  
KINGDOM HALL OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES  
212 Pearson Lane, Azle  
817-221-2242  
**LUTHERAN**  
THE EDGE CHURCH - AZLE  
1313 SE Parkway, Azle  
817-237-4822  
**HOPE LUTHERAN (ELCA)**  
4795 Hwy. 199, Reno  
817-221-HOPE  
**METHODIST**  
BOYD UNITED METHODIST  
FM 730 North in Boyd  
940-433-3334  
**FIRST UNITED METHODIST**  
200 Church St., Azle  
817-444-3323  
**LIGHTHOUSE FELLOWSHIP**  
7200 Robertson Rd., Fort Worth  
817-237-2758  
**SILVER CREEK UNITED METHODIST**  
2200 Church Rd., Azle  
817-444-1382  
**FIRST UNITED METHODIST**  
Hwy. 51 N & 3rd Street, Springtown  
817-523-7874  
**GARVIN UNITED METHODIST**  
3 miles West of Boyd on C.R. 4699  
**POOLVILLE UNITED METHODIST**  
1 block W. of FM 920 (behind Poolville Post Office)  
817-599-3601

Compliments of

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**PROPANE** 140 W. MAIN ST.  
817-444-4613

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Mineral Wells • Weatherford  
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636 Profit St., Azle, Tx

**45 Years of Quality**

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www.clarksmachine.com      bjc@clarksmachine.com

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Springtown Epigraph: 817-220-7217

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817-444-HELP (4357)      Rodney Gattin, D.C.  
400 Boyd Court

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Call Johnna to reserve this space.

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Place your ad here!  
Call **817-270-3340**

We Love Advertising

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"A Commitment to Service and Savings"

Actively Supporting our Communities!

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Call Johnna for details  
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Contact us for details.  
**817-270-3340 or 817-220-7217**

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Newspaper Advertising Works!

Call Johnna for details TODAY  
**817-270-3340**

## Advertise Your Business With Us

and maximise your visibility!

Contact us about advertising solutions.

**817-270-3340**  
**817-220-7217**

**CLASSIFIED 817-270-3340 - Azle - classified@azlenews.net**  
**817-220-7217 - Springtown - shirley@springtown-epigraph.net**

**Ad Classifications**

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

**RATES**

*16 Words or Less:*  
**Combo (Azle & Springtown) Only \$10.00 per week!**  
 Over 16 words, add 20 cents per word  
**Extras such as Bold, Center & Border are available for a small fee**  
**Classified boxed display ads also available for \$9.00 per column inch**  
 (All ads must be paid in advance unless you have previously established credit)

**CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINE: MONDAY BY 4:30 P.M.**


Most ads require payment in advance, but we do accept VISA, MASTERCARD, DISCOVER OR AMERICAN EXPRESS by phone. Reach more than **8,000** households with **combo** advertising in the Azle News and the Springtown Epigraph.

*Nobody does it better!*

**003 Appliances**  
 New 3 and 4 ton high efficiency condensing unit with dryer and freon, \$1550 and \$1850. 817-262-0024.

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

**011 Boats, Motors**  
 35-ft boat with 2 in Chevy-out Mercury Cruiser and 3-axle trailer with brakes. 817-262-0024.

**014 Campers & Trailers**  
  
 2017 Dutchman Voltage Excellent condition, 3 slide outs, sleeps 8. 5th Wheel Toy Hauler. \$67000.00  
 Call or text 817-437-2287

**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

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

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

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

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

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

**026 Excavating**  
**HASTY EXCAVATING**  
 ALL TYPES OF EXCAVATING  
 Tanks • House Pads • Clearing  
 Also ..  
 Sand • Top Soil • Gravel  
 817-523-7248 • 817-239-6215

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

**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

**034 Garage & Estate Sales**  
 Garage Sale, tools and 60 plus years of stuff, Saturday only 8am-2pm. 7970 Briar Rd.

3 Family Garage Sale, Thurs-Friday 8am-6pm, Sat 8am-4pm. Something for everyone. 6810 Agate Pl, Lake Worth 76135.

Estate Sale: 921 Rosebud Drive, 26th-27th 8-4pm. Tools, Furniture, Antiques, Kitchen jazz, small appliances, washer, collectible canister sets, Lenox spice set, depression glass and much much more!!

Estate Sale, 156 Lilac Ln, Azle 76020. Thursday 9am-4pm, Friday 9am-3pm, Saturday 9am-2pm. Limited access, no children, house full of treasures.

Garage Sale, Friday-Sunday. 1508 Red Oak Cir, Azle. Everything goes.

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

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

**KINWAY IRRIGATION SYSTEM REPAIR** 817-810-8575.

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

**OUTDOOR SCENE**  
 682-553-1560

**YARD SERVICES**  
**BOBCAT WORK SAND INSTALLATION FENCING STUMP GRINDING**  
**817-371-8597**

**Ruben's YARD SERVICE**  
 Tree Service • Stump Grinding  
 Yard Clean-Up  
**940-730-0916**

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

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

**039 Help Wanted**  
 Looking for mature people to work with small animals. Must have reliable transportation. Call for more information 817-926-3300.

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

**PLACE AN AD IN THE CLASSIFIEDS TODAY!**  
**817-270-3340**

**039 Help Wanted**  
**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.

J&E Air Conditioning Now Hiring! Service Tech, Installers and Helpers. Competitive wages and benefits. Contact our office 817-220-4506 for more information.

**NOW HIRING SCHOOL CUSTODIANS** SPRINGTOWN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT FT/PT COMPETITIVE PAY & FLEXIBLE HOURS  
 INQUIRE @ (817) 262-3162 OR (817) 999-6465

**Help Wanted in Aurora/Alvord Area**  
 •Mechanic  
 •Welder  
 •Equipment Operators  
 Competitive pay, some benefits. M-F day shift only, Overtime weekly.  
**For information call 214-802-5157**

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

**PUBLISHER'S NOTICE**  
 All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.  
 This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD tollfree at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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

**Parts Drivers/ Warehouse Associates**  
 Must have valid TXDL with acceptable driving record. Overtime available and room for advancement. Monday-Friday work week.

**Lube Tech**  
 Experience a plus, but willing to train the right candidates. Must have a valid TXDL with acceptable driving record. Must be responsible and dependable. Monday-Friday work week.

**Wholesale Sales Associate**  
 \*\*Sign-on Bonus\*\*  
 Looking for fulltime wholesale sales associates. Experience is a PLUS! Ford Certified preferred but NOT REQUIRED. Apply in person @ 605 N Business 287 Ste 102, Decatur, TX 76234.

**Parts/Service Counter Sales**  
 \*\*Sign-on Bonus\*\*  
 Experience highly preferred, but will train the right candidate. Must have excellent customer service skills and ability to work well in a process driven environment.

**KLEMENT**  
 No Positions Available at This Time

**KLEMENT DISTRIBUTION, INC.**  
 (Hershey Ice Cream Distributor)  
 No Positions Available at This Time

**Karl Klement Properties, Inc.**  
**Administrative Assistant**  
 Ideal candidate will possess an administrative background as well as strong customer service skills; however willing to train the right candidate. Must be dependable, proficient in MS Word and Excel, multi-tasker, and able to thrive in a fast paced environment.  
**Facilities Manager**  
 Must be customer service oriented, have a clean driving record and be able to pass pre-employment screening. Experience a plus, but will train the right person!

For consideration of all positions apply in person:  
**605 N. Business 287, Suite 102, Decatur, Texas**  
**OR CALL Human Resources Dept:**  
**Jodi Pettis, Alyssa Jacobs, or Lynn Mallwitz**  
 @ 940-627-6362  
**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

**Lindsey State Jail Current Openings**  
 Correctional Officers • Assistant Foodservice Manager • Testing Clerk  
 Recruiting Sgt. • Chaplain • Education Counselor  
 Assistant Maintenance Supervisor – Lock Tech  
 PLEASE CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR JOB QUALIFICATIONS.  
 Must have HS Diploma or equivalent, be able to pass a drug screen, have a clean background and valid driver's license to be considered for a Correctional Officer. EOE  
 Starting June 9th 2022, A New Correctional Officer Pay Increase will be as follows – Starting pay will be \$18.00 dollars per hour. After six months there will be a pay increase to \$19.00 per hour and at one year there will be another pay increase to \$20.00 per hour.  
 Apply online at www.mtctrains.com or call 940-567-2272 and ask for the HR Department. Minority/Female/Veteran/Disabled  
**LINDSEY STATE JAIL**

SELL IT IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!

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

**Shopping Local Helps your Community**

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

Deadline:  
 4:30 PM Monday

# Classifieds

**039 Help Wanted**

**ADS STEEL SERVICE**  
*Now Hiring!*  
 Experienced Fitter & Shop Labor, Competitive Wages,  
 Health Insurance, Paid Holidays and Vacations  
 817-763-8223



Or apply in person at  
 7461 W. Vickery Blvd.,  
 Ft. Worth, TX 76116

**049 Masonry/Stonework**

**Silva Masonry, LLC**  
**CONCRETE**  
 COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL  
 Landscape Designs, Outdoor Kitchens  
 Patios, Retaining Walls, Mailboxes

All Types Stone & Brick Work Free  
 New Construction • Remodels Estimates

**817-308-6512**  
 email alvarogsilva@verizon.net

**066 Roofing**

**at HOME**  
**ROOFING & METAL BUILDINGS**

**817-304-4224**

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

*We'll be here after the storm.*

**079 Welding**

**SOLID STEEL SOLUTIONS**

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

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

**KLEMENT Ford**  
**OF MUENSTER**  
**NOW HIRING FOR Growing Service Department!**

**Multiple Positions Open:**  
**AUTOMOTIVE TECHNICIAN**  
**SERVICE WRITER**  
**TECHNICIAN'S ASSISTANT**  
**PORTER • PARTS DRIVER**

**WILL TRAIN!**  
**Monday -Friday 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM**  
**401K - Paid Vacation - Benefits**  
**Apply in person at**  
**1005 E. Division, Muenster, TX**

EOE

**052 Movers**

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

**057 Pets/Livestock**

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

**HORSE SALE**  
**September 2, 2022**  
**Tack Sale Begins at 6:00 PM**  
**Horses Follow**  
 Stephenville Cattle Co.  
 Highway 281 North • Stephenville, TX  
 Troy 254-967-1950 • Barn 254-968-4844

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

PLACE AN AD IN THE CLASSIFIEDS TODAY!  
**817-270-3340**

**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.

**062 Plumbing**

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

**DIAMOND ROOFING & CONSTRUCTION**

**417 N. MAIN ST • SPRINGTOWN**  
**817-523-4137**  
 Here Before The Storm, Here Long After.

**Commercial & Residential**  
 • Roofing  
 • Metal Roofing  
 • Carports  
 • Metal Buildings  
 • All General Contracting

Master Seal, BBB Accredited Business

**086 Mobile Home/RV Lots**

**POJO RV PARK**  
 302 Allison Road  
 Springtown, TX 76082  
**817-925-3673**  
**30x60 RV Spaces Available**  
*One small inside pet allowed*  
 NEAR POJO STADIUM

**Hiring Route Drivers for Our Growing Company!**  
**\*\*\$1,000.00 Hiring Bonus\*\***

Seeking Route Drivers that are hardworking, enthusiastic, with a strong motivation for success! Interpersonal and customer service skills are strongly recommended. Must have a valid TX DL with an acceptable driving record

Join our team at Klement Distribution, Inc. delivering Hershey's Ice Cream! Not only will you be putting smiles on people's faces, you will earn a great income for yourself!

As a Route Driver you will unload, stock and rotate products, collect and deposit client payments and move on to your next stop, always ensuring that our customers are satisfied!

We offer:

- Competitive salary
- Paid training, vacation and holidays
- Promote from within advancement opportunities!
- Monday through Friday work-week; NO WEEKENDS!

Real ingredients, real ice cream, real smiles! **Apply Now!**

Contact Alyssa Jacobs at 940-627-6362 or submit resume to Alyssa.Jacobs@klementford.com



**GRAHAM PLUMBING CO.**



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

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

**087 Rent Furnished**

Fully furnished studio w/ private entrance & full kitchenette for 1 person, for rent in Springtown TX. Located in a cul-de-sac w/ lush, large trees & covered front patio deck: \$960/month. All utilities included: Noreen: 562/760-1100

**068 Storage**

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

**Need to sell your ATV?**  
**Call today and ask about our (\$29.95) 3-MONTH SPECIAL!**  
 Azle News 817-270-3340  
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**ACROSS**

1 TXism: "plain as the nose on your \_\_\_"

5 film about Hank Williams: "\_\_\_ the Light" (2015)

6 "the \_\_\_ of my existence"

7 historical periods

8 absorbed unit of radiation

9 in 1981 TX Orbison won a Grammy in a duet with this Harris

16 TXism: "so many you couldn't \_\_\_ 'em with a stick"

18 bad draft pick by the Cowboys? (2 wds.)

21 Cross Plains High class

22 curve an eyebrow

23 "The eyes of Texas \_\_\_ upon you ..."

24 TXism: "it \_\_\_ poke in the eye with a sharp stick"

30 bad dream

34 not MD or XL

35 Hebrew Bibles

36 you can \_\_\_ on a cruise from Galveston

37 TXism: "never let \_\_\_ you sweat"

39 TXism: "attracted \_\_\_ magnet"

43 Ruth of 1950 western "Dallas"

44 wished for

45 \_\_\_ Belo was co-founder of Dallas Morning News

**DOWN**

1 forensic evidence

2 TXism: "fast \_\_\_ up a rafter"

3 seat of Hemphill County

4 female sheep

9 star actress in 1956 epic Texas film "Giant" (init.)

10 TX singer who died in 2022 (2 wds.)

11 TXism: "school \_\_\_ (teacher)"

12 TX-born Victor Willis sang lead on this "Village People" hit

13 this TX Jim was a PBS journalist

14 TXism: "got knocked down a peg \_\_\_ two"

15 fictitious sister of TX Ima Hogg

17 TXism: "\_\_\_ concrete" (city boy)

19 TX Johnny Horton's "The Battle of New \_\_\_" (1959)

20 Lady Bird was a UT \_\_\_

24 Austin's marshal in 1881, Ben (init.)

25 first president of Rice University, Edgar (init.)

26 a dry climate

27 TXism: "\_\_\_ load off" (sit)

28 TX Lyle Lovett's "\_\_\_ Lady"

29 allocate

31 TXism for "female"

32 punched

33 joy or anger, e.g.

38 golf ball cut

40 pecan is the Texas state \_\_\_

41 skinny Gulf fish

42 TXism: "busier than \_\_\_ boomtown"

48 Rusk has longest \_\_\_ bridge in U.S.

50 rescues

51 TX George Jones' "\_\_\_ Thinks I Still Care" (1962)

56 drives out

57 TXism: "does a bear \_\_\_ in the woods?" (yes)

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FALL 2022



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# 'Throw Princess' aims for Olympic return

## [PEOPLE]

BY JESSICA MCKINNEY

It's been six years since Shelbi Vaughan Walley of Azle stepped into the throwing ring at the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. She was a member of Team USA Track and Field, and her event was discus throwing.

Although she did not come home from Rio with a medal, Walley received a hero's welcome from her hometown of Azle when she returned.

Since then, Walley has worked as a coach for select volleyball, helped train some aspiring track and field athletes, started a cookie business, and got married.

And then, the icing on the cookie, she and her husband Korben welcomed their son Hudson to the world last year.

Now that Hudson is almost 2, Walley is training to go back to the Olympics.

"I'm trying for next season," Walley said.

Walley has been training at local gyms and traveled to track meets over the last year.

"It's been very different because Hudson is there with me," she said. "I'll have someone with him at the track to watch him while I'm there."

Walley has also been training without a full-time coach to help her, al-



Shelbi Vaughan Walley got the nickname "Throw Princess," in high school, thanks to her pink bow.

COURTESY PHOTO

though she does reach out to a coach in Arizona who helps with advice and support.

Her husband has been training with her as she works toward her goal.

"(Korben) did track in high school,

so he gets it," said Walley.

The couple met in high school but didn't reconnect again until after college.

"He challenged me to a throw-off when we were dating," Walley said.



Walley in the throw ring at the 2016 Olympics in Rio.

COURTESY PHOTO

“And I beat him, of course.”

She had a minor setback with an ankle injury, but she’s not letting that push her off her path to the Olympics.

“Plus, I’m older now and recovery is different,” said Walley with a laugh. “No ice baths or trainers to help.”

While she trains, Walley has also started a cookie business, Blessing Bites, out of her home.

“I enjoy doing it,” she said. “It’s not

really for the money, but more for what I can do for others.”

Decorated cookies are a big business these days, with home bakers starting new businesses every day.

But Walley didn’t want to be one to put a high price on her work. She often bakes for fundraisers and charities.

She has also taken on the role of coach for select volleyball teams. This gives her a chance to take what she has

learned as an athlete and to share it with her players and their parents.

“It’s important to remember to love the sport, especially how much you have to give now,” Walley said. “This is something you love to do.”

Walley said as an athlete in high school, she always felt that she had something to prove, and to prove people wrong.

“I had this attitude of ‘Don’t tell me I





Walley blesses people with her cookie creations through her business, Blessing Bites.

PHOTO BY JIM STEVENS

can't do something.”

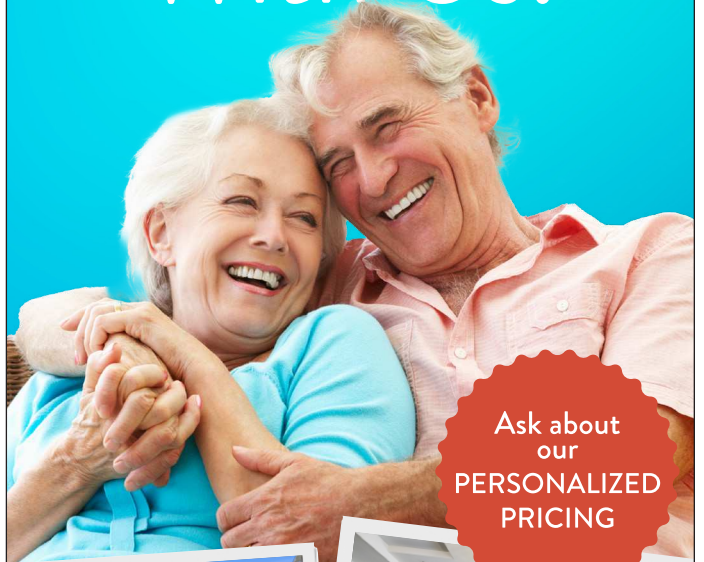
This is the same wisdom she imparts to her players.

“Don't let anybody tell you that you can't set goals high,” she said. “The sky is the limit. How bad do you want it? How hard will you work to get it?”

Walley also wants parents of athletes to know that “being there for them goes a lot further than you think.”

“Kids know what parents put in financially ... but it doesn't compare to having them there in the stands. Encourage (your kids) to not let anyone tell them they can't do something.”

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Jessica Castro speaks at a Springtown Chamber of Commerce luncheon.

PHOTO BY MADELYN EDWARDS

## [COMMUNITY]

# 'Not the only ones': Springtown overdose awareness group makes a difference

BY MADELYN EDWARDS

A few years ago, Springtown couple Jessica and Joe Castro celebrated their anniversary by going to Six Flags. The next day, their lives changed forever. Joe Castro got the call that morning that his son Joseph had died. He was 28.

At first, the family was told that Joseph died of a seizure, but then it was revealed that he had an overdose from fentanyl usage.

Joe and Jessica Castro described the loss as shocking and devastating, with Joe saying, "it's like our world fell apart." Jessica said there were days when she felt like she couldn't breathe or wasn't motivated to get up every day, like a piece of her life was missing.

Joseph's death probably would've still been painful no matter what kind

of person he was, but the couple described him as particularly special – a great older brother, a giving person, someone who Jessica Castro said could "make you smile on your worst of your worst days."

"He would just give you the shirt off his back," Joe Castro said. "He was always there for everybody, always smiling. You'd look at him and you would swear that he didn't have any troubles in the world. He was one of those to sit there and smile regardless of what his



Joe Castro holds a picture of Joseph to memorialize him for Black Balloon Day.

COURTESY PHOTO

problems were, but he would always make sure that everyone else was taken care of."

When she was grieving Joseph's death, Jessica Castro said people around her seemed quick to label Joseph and imply that he deserved to die through statements like, "He kind of knew what would happen to him." In her speech at the Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce luncheon in May, she said overdose deaths tend to come with shame and judgment from others. The labeling made Jessica Castro feel angry and lonely, she said.

"All these people are supposed to be our friends. If we tell them how he died, it's going to be like they're not going to want to be our friends anymore or they're not going to care," she said. "I didn't like that feeling."

The turning point for the couple was the establishment of the group "We ARE our brothers keeper" to raise awareness about overdoses and bring the Springtown community together. Joe Castro said the name of the group was inspired by Joseph who "always looked out for his younger brother."

The group's purpose is to allow people to be able to talk about drug ad-



Joe Castro sets up the Overdose Memorial Christmas tree to remember those lost.

COURTESY PHOTO

diction and overdoses, Jessica Castro said, and prevent deaths through communication.

The creation of “We ARE our brothers keeper” came when Jessica Castro was feeling angry and emotional over Joseph’s death. At the time, she said she drank heavily to cope with the loss and pain.

“I would pray and tell God, ‘I’m really mad. This is messed up. How can you expect us to keep going on and you’ve taken the best part about life away?’” Jessica Castro said.

Then one night when she felt particularly angry, she had a supernatural experience. Out of nowhere, Jessica Castro said she heard, “You’re not the only ones. You’re just not, and you need to go tell other people that they are loved.”

Her theory is that the message came from God and Joseph, and she interpreted this call to action as a way to keep the memory of Joseph alive.

“When I got angry that time and I heard that, I thought, that’s it - that’s how we keep him alive,” Jessica Castro said. “We don’t have to always shout about Joseph. We can just love other people.”

The best place to find out more information about “We ARE our brothers keeper” is through joining the private Facebook group. As of August 2022, the group has just over 860 members. In the group, Jessica Castro will often share news about upcoming events, and people will share information related to substance abuse or drugs and messages of hope.

While Jessica Castro is glad to see the Facebook group grow, it is not lost on her why it’s growing, and that every member represents someone whose life has been affected by drug overdose or addiction. She also recognized how important it was to connect people to resources.

“It also goes to show how necessary something like this is,” she said. “That’s 800 people that didn’t know the other one exists.”

Joe Castro said the group’s goal is not just to reach out to families who have lost loved ones to overdose but



Springtown Mayor Greg Hood presents Joe and Jessica Castro with a proclamation in honor of Black Balloon Day.

COURTESY PHOTO

also be able to intervene in people's lives and help.

"We also want to talk to those before it's a tragedy," he said.

Through "We ARE our brothers keeper," the Castros have had the opportunity to host community events and speak with people to spread awareness. They have taken time to memorialize people's loved ones who have died of overdose through the overdose memorial, the Christmas tree adorned with names of those who died, and Black Balloon Day. They hosted a car show to raise money to aid people seeking substance abuse treatment and for funeral expenses for families who have lost loved ones. They adopted a section of State Highway 199 in Joseph's honor as a way to bring the community together for clean-up days.

Mike Carter, who is the intensive outpatient program manager and alumni relations coordinator for the youth treatment center Clearfork Academy, was one of the speakers at the overdose memorial that "We ARE our brothers keeper" held in August 2021. There, he spoke about the rising number of overdose deaths, particularly those related to the synthetic opioid fentanyl, and people he had known who died of overdose. He also was able to introduce "We ARE our brothers keeper" to people they could ally with.

"We just started pulling in some people that we knew and trying to get behind what they're doing because I know that vibe that they have is such an important one and something that needs a voice," Carter said.

Carter said he started working with "We ARE our brothers keeper" because of the group's message of wanting to help people, specifically helping people access substance abuse treatment. Earlier this year, he attended the group's car show fundraiser to provide resources and information to people, and he has also attended the group's addiction support meetings.

"A lot of people just don't understand addiction and how it gets a grip on people," Carter said. "There's so many people who think that you can just quit anytime you want to and it's easy to walk away from, but it's not. It's a very difficult process."

Carter praised "We ARE our brothers keeper" for bringing more awareness to the Springtown community about substance abuse, overdose and places that can help like Clearfork Academy.

The impact Jessica Castro hopes that the group has locally is to bring about more information about drug overdoses and more understanding as opposed to judging. In the future, she would like to establish a resource center for people to access resources related to substance abuse, like counseling and classes.

"You notice there was places like Center of Hope or Freedom House where it's about domestic violence (help and awareness), things like that, which are very necessary, but there was another problem that we weren't addressing in town," she said. "I hope to make a positive impact like Center of Hope or Freedom House does, something that is very positive and helpful to the community in general."

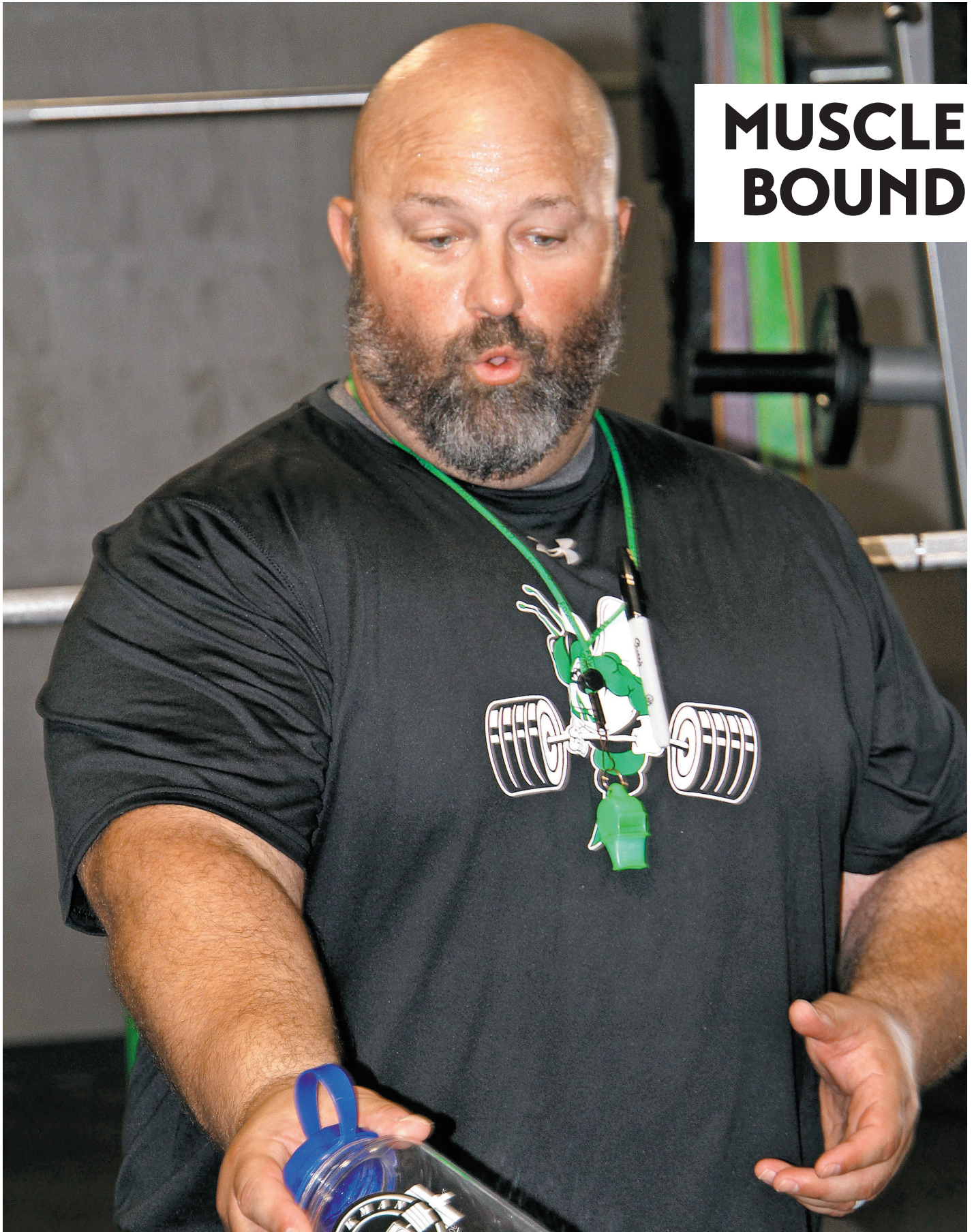
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# MUSCLE BOUND



Monte Sparkman uses his water bottle as a prop while discussing the importance of hydration during athletic performance camp.

PHOTO BY JEFF PRINCE

## [SPORTS]

# Performance coach increases athleticism while reducing injuries

BY JEFF PRINCE

The athletic performance summer camp at Azle High School is designed to improve strength, conditioning and flexibility, although coach Monte Sparkman spent most of his time on a recent morning talking about hydration.

“Water, water, water,” he said, encouraging a room full of teenagers at the Azle weight room to drink plenty of liquids before, during and after workouts.

In 2021, Sparkman became the school’s first fulltime strength and conditioning coach, teaching overall performance rather than a specific sport.

Not many high schools have created the position, Sparkman said.

“It’s still a fairly new concept,” he said. “You’re starting to see more and more (similar) positions pop up regionally, but the idea of having a full-time head strength and conditioning coach on staff is still a relatively new concept statewide. Azle is on the forefront of this new position, taking care of athletes from a performance standpoint, a nutritional standpoint and an injury reduction standpoint.”

In recent years, more high schools have begun following the examples of college programs and hiring a strength and conditioning coach to assist the sport coaches. Sparkman credited Azle athletic director Becky Spurlock with bringing him to the school.

“She is someone who has a great vision for our athletic department,” he said. “She saw the need for someone to be responsible for the training for the strength and conditioning of athletes.



The strength coach works up a sweat in the weight room alongside the student athletes.

PHOTO BY JEFF PRINCE

The tactical side of athletics has been taken care of by coaching for many, many years. But there has been a void between the tactical side and the injury reduction side. In athletic training, it’s been upon the coaches to take care of that. She saw the need to bring in somebody who was qualified, specialized.”

The coach has been certified by several national strength organizations and holds a master’s degree in educational leadership. He had been the strength

coach at Richland High School for several years before making the switch to Azle. His reasons for joining Hornet Nation included the school’s leadership under Spurlock and its impressive infrastructure.

“We’ve got a brand new state-of-the-art weight room,” he said. “Administrative support. Financial support. This is a great place to be from a resource standpoint and a support standpoint. I’ve got everything I need to create a successful strength and conditioning

program. That was the biggest reason for coming over here, the opportunity to create from scratch a brand-new program.”

Strength coaches can enhance muscle and power but also focus on speed and conditioning while adding a “layer of insulation to our athletes from an injury reduction standpoint,” he said. “A lot of people talk about preventing injuries. You can’t prevent injuries, but you can drastically reduce the incidence of injuries by proper training, proper conditioning. That’s a big component of this position.”

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts the employment of strength coaches will grow by 11% between 2018 and 2028, a faster rate than the average for all occupations. Most of that demand is expected to come from increased participation at the high school and college levels.

“Everything has a trickle-down effect from college to high school,” Sparkman said. “The next big trickle down is to get a fulltime strength and conditioning staff at high schools. It’s needed because, just like you have specialists in teaching and specialists in different sports, you need to have a specialist in the training of those (athletes).”

A workout with Sparkman involves numerous warnings. He tells kids frequently to watch what they are doing and to be aware of people around them.

“That’s the most dangerous room on campus,” he said recently, pointing at Azle’s weight room. “You want somebody who is specialized, qualified and certified running that program.”

Sparkman and his wife, Sabrina Sparkman, have been married for 16 years and have two daughters – Jackie Shea, 13, and Allie Rae, 11. Sabrina works as an engineer for the Army Corps of Engineers in Fort Worth.

## ROLE MODEL

Burkburnett, a small town in Wichita County, is where Sparkman grew up. As a kid, he was impressed by a football coach who was a former college and professional football player.

“He was really strong, and I wanted to be like him,” Sparkman recalled.



About 260 kids signed up for athletic performance camp over the summer.

PHOTO BY JEFF PRINCE

In high school, Sparkman became a fixture in the weight room. He wasn’t the tallest or biggest kid around, but he wanted to be the strongest and knew how to make it happen.

“I was drawn to the weight room and to the pursuit of strength,” he said. “Strength has always impressed me.”

He played football through high school, lettered three years on the team at Baker University in Kansas and lifted weights religiously.

“The little success that I was able to have goes back to being strong,” he said. “That was really my biggest attribute. I was never the fastest. I wasn’t the biggest. And I really wasn’t the most athletic. All I knew was to get stronger.”

He continued pumping iron after college, but it wasn’t until he was 30 that he realized lifting could become more than a hobby.

“That’s when I figured out, hey, this is what I want to do,” Sparkman said. “From then on, it’s been pursuing that opportunity full time.”

Nowadays, he considers strength just a piece of overall athleticism.

“I would go as far as to say, that’s the easiest thing to do, is to make somebody stronger,” he said. “To make them a better athlete is a whole different concept.”

The program Sparkman has developed over the years and is installing at Azle includes resistance training, movement, mobility, nutrition, restorative periods, hydration and other elements. That means a wrestler or basketball player will benefit from the program as much as a football player.

“If I’m going to get a rebound, and I can jump faster than my opponent, I’m going to have a better chance of getting that rebound,” Sparkman said. “We can train that in here.”

## TECHNOLOGICAL ASSISTANCE

Sparkman’s program includes technology that tracks each athlete’s progress, which can serve as a great motivator.

“When I come in to lift, when I train myself, I want to know that I got better or not,” Sparkman said. “Getting better each session fuels me to come back, and that’s what I try to create with our athletes, to instill success when they come in here.”

Each weight rack has an iPad, and athletes log and track their data daily, weekly, monthly and yearly. The information helps develop profiles of athletes that will eventually stretch four years if they remain in athletics.

“From the time they come in, to



the time they leave, we have a snapshot of the body of work they are doing, just like in the classroom,” the coach said. “The number of reps. Number of sets. The weight. Lasers that measure how fast you run. We have devices that tell you how fast the barbell is moving. These are all technologies that aren’t common, and we are fortunate to have them here at Azle. That goes into creating that second-to-none experience.”

Building strength and muscle can be a slow process. Tiny improvements from day to day aren’t always noticeable. Kids like to see their progress, he said.

“Having that technology allows us to show them,” he said.

That day in the weight room, several kids established personal records, which made them happy and encouraged them to try for new records.

“Are they going to improve every

day? Not necessarily,” Sparkman said. “But the idea is at least once a week or every other week, they hit what we call a PR – a personal record.”

Seeing those results inspires the kids to do better, and they keep coming back. Sparkman said he is blessed to have so many coaches around, all focused on improving the lives of kids through work ethic and good health.

“We’ve got 14 or 15 tremendous coaches who do an outstanding job working with our athletes,” Sparkman said. “It’s surrounding ourselves with the right personalities and right people who want to pour into these kids. It’s hard work to show up and train in 100-degree weather day in and day out, but if the athletes care, the athletes know that you care, and you can inject a spirit of fun and a spirit of energy into their training, that’s how you get them to buy in.”

The push appears to be working.

About 260 kids signed up for the athletic performance summer camp, where high school boys work out in the early mornings, high school girls train from 9 to 10:45 a.m., and the middle school kids go to noon.

“The goal next year is to break 300 and then to just keep it keep it going from there,” Sparkman said. “We want as many kids being a part of this thing that we can get because it is crucial, and not just from a fall sport standpoint. We’ve got cross country, volleyball and football coming up, but you also want to bridge the gap to those sports a little bit later - basketball, baseball, softball, soccer, golf, swimming.”

The Azle school district boasts about 800 kids participating in sports.

“The goal would be to get them all here,” Sparkman said with a smile. “The ultimate goal is, we want to create a program that kids don’t want to miss.”



Monte Sparkman shows kids how to lift and slam a medicine ball.

PHOTO BY JEFF PRINCE



  
WESTERN CROSS



[THERAPY]

# Putting the unit back together

## Healing PTS with equine therapy at Western Cross Ranch

BY JESSICA MCKINNEY

Winston Churchill once said that there is “something about the outside of a horse that is good for the inside of a man.”

As a young man, Dale Long came to realize that he had two fathers: the one that was every day, and the one that was in the saddle on a horse.

It was this realization — the difference in someone when they are interacting with a horse — that has led to the start of Long’s nonprofit organization Western Cross Ranch.

The mission of Western Cross, located in Azle, is to “save lives and put families back together; to provide a haven for the damaged warriors, and those they love, to heal” with Equine Assisted Learning. The programs will aid veterans and first responders, as well as their families, deal with post-traumatic stress.

Long’s father was a Vietnam veteran and was dealing with post-traumatic stress, although they didn’t know it at the time.

“That wasn’t a word that was used,” Long said. “But it was real in our lives.”

Long talked of having to “walk on eggshells” and having a father who was “emotionally voided in a lot of ways” while growing up.

“(He) was distant and quick to become angry, and volatile almost,” he said.

Dale Long is bringing his knowledge and experience with horses to Western Cross Ranch.

PHOTO BY JIM STEVENS



Cynthia Graham, a Vietnam era veteran, has partnered with Dale Long on a mission to help those living with PTS.

PHOTO BY JIM STEVENS

Then, in 1979, Long himself enlisted in the Army, flying with combat units and medivac.

“Saw a lot of trauma, death, dismemberment, injuries, burns. ... Just a lot of things,” said Long.

But through it all, and even many years after leaving the service, Long didn’t feel affected by all that he had seen and experienced in the military. It wasn’t until a few years ago that his wife Donna started to realize that something was changing in Long.

“I began to experience some, I don’t want to call it depression, but some feelings and emotions that I hadn’t had before. Donna started recognizing in me some sleep issues. She would wake me up every once in a while, because I’d be talking in my sleep. I said, well, it can’t be post-traumatic stress, (because) I’ve been out since 1990. Here we are in 2018. That’s way too long to begin.”

Long began to research what might be happening to him, and that’s when he learned about delayed post traumatic-stress.

“The best way to describe it is this: you got this beautiful slab of foundation. But if we get a crack in it, and the weeds can start getting up through it, it starts making the cracks bigger ... when it starts to break, that foundation of all that stuff that’s underneath here starts coming back up through. Well, that’s the same thing with post-traumatic stress when it’s delayed. I’ve kept it for all these years and kept it under cover.”

Long said he wanted to remember the good times about his military experience. But when the crack started happening, it was like he couldn’t stop thinking about the bad instead.

He wanted to find a way to get back to himself. But he didn’t want to rely on antidepressants or other chemical drugs. And counseling isn’t really his thing, either. So, he began to research other ways to heal.

He came across a study by Columbia University on post-traumatic stress and equine therapy.

“What they came to find out is there is a true physiological reason, medical

reason, if you will, of why horses help veterans with post-traumatic stress,” said Long.

## MAN O’WAR PROJECT

Columbia University Irving Medical Center created the Man O’War Project to “explore the use of and scientifically evaluate equine assisted therapy to treat/help individuals who suffer from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) or other mental health problems.”

The project came about when veteran and philanthropist Earle I. Mack became concerned about the mental health crisis facing veterans.

According to USO.org, research showed that more than 30,000 active-duty personnel and veterans who have served in the military since 9/11 have died by suicide.

In that same 20-year period, 7,057 service members were killed in combat. That means the suicide rate among military members is four times higher than death during military operations.

The project sought to validate and strengthen the clinical data in the

efficacy of Equine-Assisted Therapy (EAT) for veterans with PTSD, develop a standardized protocol for delivering EAT for PTSD, and prepare a manual to be used and develop a training curriculum for practitioners.

## WHY HORSES HELP

There are several studies that show the benefits of working with horses in the treatment of PTSD.

- Because horses are prey animals, they are hypervigilant, giving veterans the chance to recognize and understand fear responses.
- Horses are sensitive to nonverbal and verbal cues, which gives great feedback to veterans about how they communicate.
- Horses live in a social structure and seek those relationships in a herd.
- Horses live in the moment. They are patient and forgiving, which vet-

erans need when making mistakes and learning from them.

- Building trust and relationships with horses must be earned.

EAT allows veterans to re-learn how to trust themselves and how to build trust with others, which is essential in developing successful relationships at home, work and back in the civilian world. It also helps them build on their own emotional awareness and their skills in regulating their emotions.

## ESPRIT DE CORPS

Western Cross Ranch is developing an EAT program that will help veterans, first responders and their loved ones heal from the trauma that comes from PTS.

The term esprit de corps means “a feeling of pride, fellowship and common loyalty shared by the members of a particular group.”

Long talked about veterans and being part of a unit when they are in service.

“The unit is just like the herd of horses,” Long said.

“You pull one horse out of that herd, and he becomes nervous. Where’s my herd? Where’s my support? What am I supposed to be doing? Well, it’s the same thing with a veteran. When you pull him out of that environment, he feels like he’s alone. He’s lost that.”

What will set Western Cross apart from other organizations is that the program is being run by veterans and children of veterans who know the pain of PTS.

“It’s putting the unit back together,” said Long.

For more information about Western Cross Ranch, visit [www.western-crossranch.org](http://www.western-crossranch.org).



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Bryce Ford competes at the 3 Palms Action Sports Park in 2022.

PHOTO COURTESY OF TREMELLEN MEDIA HOUSE

## [COVER STORY]

# Springtown ATV rider to represent United States in European quadcross

BY JEFF PRINCE

Climbing onto an all-terrain vehicle – also known as a quad – for the first time at age 4 was a thrill for Bryce Ford of Springtown.

The thrills keep coming year after year.

As a child, Ford rode his ATV at a local motocross track frequented by motorcycle riders. One of them advised Ford's parents – Jon and Robin Ford – to let the kid race in the “locals.”

“My parents said, ‘What’s that?’” Bryce Ford recalled. “It was a racing series that was called TQRA. We looked into it and signed up for a local race, and then, it was up from there.”

In 2011, Ford raced the full year and won his first national title. He was 9.

Bryce, now 20, and his older brother,

Cody, now 22, both found success on the quad track, and the family created a business to oversee their efforts. Established in 2017, Ford Brothers Racing was designed to sponsor teams of riders at the youth, amateur and pro levels.

At times, as many as a dozen riders from the United States and Canada have been members of the team.

Ford Brothers Racing was created to “help other racers live their dream of racing nationally,” said Robin Ford, Bryce’s mother. “It’s an expensive sport, and training is very important to the success of the rider. We offered a free place to train as well as rider support.”

She remembers those early years as

extraordinary times for her entire family. Some of the riders who trained at Ford Brothers would soon become her sons’ competitors.

“We helped pros those years that both our boys race (against) now,” she said. “We have many long-lasting friendships from the experience.”

In 2013, the family built a practice track adjacent to their home on Jay Bird Lane. The property included 32 acres with horse stables. The Fords converted the stables into a race shop, apartment and training facility for riders, and they built a large practice motocross track. That track was later expanded to two tracks with large jumps, big berms and complicated whoop sections.



Showing off hardware from a recent race.  
COURTESY PHOTO

“That track has brought a lot of cool people that have come to train,” Bryce Ford said. “It’s super cool to wake up and go in your backyard and ride one of the best tracks in Texas.”

He trains from January through September, with much of his time spent at the backyard track.

“I know some of the neighbors probably don’t like us a ton because our bikes are pretty loud, but we’ve been fortunate enough that there have been very few complaints,” he said. “We train there are a lot.”

The overhead costs of the pro program increased over the years, and Ford Brothers Racing is currently sponsoring the Ford brothers only.

Bryce Ford’s quad triumphs continued as the years rolled by, and he has been named the American Motorcyclist Association’s ATV MX champion 12 times.

In 2015 and 2018, he was Youth Rider of the Year.

In 2019, he earned Amateur Rider of the Year.

In 2020, he won Pro Rookie of the Year.

COVID-19 decimated ATV competitions in 2020 and 2021, but Bryce Ford returned in 2022 and achieved what might be his biggest accomplishment yet. He was one of three people selected to ride on Team USA ATV MX. They will represent the United States at the Quadcross of European Nations competition slated for September 24-25 at Kramolin Track in the Czech Republic, an event that attracts riders from 20 nations and draws thousands of spectators.

Each nation sends a team with three riders. Teams compete in multiple races, with the team’s top five scores determining the overall finish positions.

Team USA is the defending champion after winning titles in 2017, 2018 and 2019.

Ford’s racing partners are Joel Hetrick and Chad Wiene.

Wiene is an eight-time winner of the AMA Pro ATV Motocross National Championship who will represent Team USA for the fourth time at the European race. Hetrick is a two-time national champ who will represent Team USA in Europe for the third time.

Ford is making his first trip to race at Kramolin Track, although he has been racing as a professional for three years in the AMA Pro ATV series. He is the youngest team member to compete at the international event.

Ford described racing on Team USA with two of his heroes as the “experience of a lifetime” and said he will do

his best.

“It’s a super big deal and something I’ve always wanted to get selected for,” he said.

He grew up watching older riders being selected for Team USA and dreamed of hearing his name called one day.

“And now getting selected and only being 20 years old in my third year of pro class, it’s a surreal thing for me,” he said. “It’s very special. I’m excited to go compete against other countries and show them that the United States is dominant and that we are going to go there and do our best, and hopefully, we can bring back a title.”

In years past, the three members selected for Team USA were the top three riders from the previous race season. However, COVID mangled the 2020 and 2021 seasons, so this year’s Team USA members were determined by which three racers had compiled the most points so far in 2022.

“There is just one team from each country to get selected,” Bryce Ford said.

Ford was sitting in third place for the season when the team was created, and he earned his place among the veteran riders, Hetrick and Wiene.

“There are two guys that are really solid,” Ford said. “They’ve been racing for a long time.”

Ford is thrilled to be included.

“It’s something special, and I’ve dreamed of that,” he said.



Bryce Ford flies across the finish line at a race in 2021.

COURTESY PHOTO



Springtown 4-Hers make deliveries to first responders in conjunction with the Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce. Pictured are 4-Hers Scarlett Webb, Makayla Beasley, Granger Farris, Brayden Beasley, Issac Gootee, Emma Hauprich, and Maverick Webb (in front.)

COURTESY PHOTO

## [ORGANIZATION]

# Raising leaders

## Springtown 4-H offers multiple activities, life skills to local youth

BY MADELYN EDWARDS

Cooking, archery, lambs and insects. These are some of the topics that Springtown High School freshman Emma Hauprich has explored under the 4-H umbrella.

“If a kid has an interest in anything, we have something for them in 4-H,” said Kara Farris, Emma’s mother.

The Springtown 4-H Community Club connects kids with a variety of activities, such as showing livestock –

sheep, goats, cattle, pigs, horses, poultry and rabbits – as well as working with crops, fishing, STEM, entomology, food and nutrition, and fashion and interior design, among others.

Members of 4-H also participate in community service around Springtown. That has included gardening work for the city of Springtown, planting vegetables for residents at Springtown Park Rehabilitation and

Care Center and helping an older resident with yard work, among other tasks.

“We do a lot of community service in our club, and I just think that feels really good,” Emma said. “It’s a lot of backbreaking work, but the aftermath feels good.”

Emma is serving her second term as president of the Springtown 4-H Club and her eighth year in 4-H.



“My family – my mom’s side and my dad’s side – were both heavily involved in livestock and 4-H and FFA, so it’s just kind of in my blood to join it,” she said.

The Springtown 4-H Club has about 63 members, about half of whom usually show up for the monthly meetings. As president, Emma is able to harness her leadership skills.

“Our club has a lot of members, and I feel like I have good leadership skills, and I have good communication,” she said. “It’s a way for me to help other people and get more people to join 4-H and get more people to be an officer and just things like that.”

Emma shows lambs in livestock shows and is involved in food and nutrition, entomology and archery, all of which have some sort of competition element. She has won awards for the confections she baked and for showing lambs. She talked about how she and a team competed in a food and nutrition competition where they were told to make a dish with random ingredients and present it to judges.

Being in 4-H has connected Emma to interests that she never knew she had, like in the study of insects.

“I’m usually like, ‘Kill that bug,’ and now, I’m just like, ‘Get a container. I want to put it in the freezer,’” she said.

The same goes with friends. Emma has made friends with people she might



Emma Hauprich with the 4-H scrapbook.

PHOTO BY MADELYN EDWARDS

not have met if it weren’t for 4-H.

“I have many friends that I don’t go to school with,” she said. “I do hang out with them because I met them for 4-H.”

What Emma does in 4-H may be a starting point for her future career. She has two aspirations – to become a veterinarian because she loves animals or a county agent to continue working with 4-H because she loves kids. Either way,

she is building a foundation for her future in the Springtown 4-H Club.

## WHAT IS 4-H?

The 4-H Youth Development Programs in the U.S. began as a way for agricultural leaders to educate rural families and agricultural producers at the turn of the century. The origins of 4-H in Texas began with a corn club for boys created in 1908 in Jack County. Thereafter, pig clubs and beef calf clubs as well as tomato clubs for girls started up. From there, Texas 4-H grew from 25 corn club members in 1908 to more than 1 million members in 2000.

Created by Dorothy Huddleston, the Springtown 4-H Club began as a group of seven girls in 1954, and about four years later it became the Springtown 4-H Community Club, Emma said.

The 4-H program began to spread education to rural families, and while Parker County isn’t as rural as it used to be, 4-Hers can still bring education home to their families, said Kathy Smith, Parker County Extension Agent for Family and Community Health.

“There’s still opportunities for youth to gain skills in helping to preserve nature, being good stewards of our land,



Springtown 4-Hers present their float at the Christmas parade in Springtown.

COURTESY PHOTO



Springtown kids play a game at their Christmas party.

COURTESY PHOTO

taking care of it,” Smith said.

Smith joined the Springtown 4-H Club when she was 12 years old in 1972, and she eventually became the club’s president during her senior year. She remembers the club having about 80 or 90 kids involved and great leaders.

“We had a good group of kids, and the thing is I’m still friends with some of those kids that were in 4-H,” Smith said. “It was great program.”

In fact, 4-H is a significant factor in why Smith became a county extension agent. She looked up to the county extension agents who were around when she was a youth and admired their jobs. After high school, she set her sights on becoming an extension agent and eventually was able to achieve her goal and return to Parker County for the job.

“I love everything I do, but I still love being involved with the 4-H program,” she said. “Although I don’t have as much direct contact, I do support them, and I try to be involved as much as I can.”

There are over 500 members of 4-H in Parker County, and the club is still going as strong as it was when Smith was a member, she said. There are more activities for kids to participate in, but the club still retains some of its traditional elements, like offering leadership opportunities and allowing kids to make a record book to commemorate their time in 4-H.

Today, the Springtown 4-H Club

meets up on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the SHS cafeteria, and the kids are usually active from September until the Parker County Livestock Show in June. The meetings, planned by the club’s officer team, usually include updates on past and future happenings, a game and a guest speaker. Separate meetings are involved depending on the members’ chosen activities.

Kids in 4-H range in grades from third to 12th, and there is also a group for younger children called Clover Kids for those 5 years old up to second-grade age, Emma said. The Springtown 4-H Club president said that most members range from third graders to sophomores, but there are not a lot of older kids, who tend to lose excitement in 4-H as they grow up. One of her goals is to recruit more older members to be leaders in the group.

Farris, Emma’s mom, said sometimes high school-age kids will choose to participate in FFA instead of 4-H, which may be more convenient since FFA meetings take place during school as opposed to 4-H which is an afterschool activity. She talked up the scholarship opportunities that 4-H has to offer.

“I don’t know that kids realize there are great scholarship opportunities through FFA but also through 4-H. I know our club personally, we have scholarship opportunities at the club,

the county and the state level for 4-H,” Farris said.

Above all, Farris said 4-H teaches skills to kids that will last a lifetime, such as leadership, helping others, making new friends and time management. She also pointed out how 4-H has shaped her daughter’s career path.

“That’s what 4-H is teaching kids is how to be a leader, have life skills that they’re going to use forever,” she said.

For more information about the Springtown 4-H Club, visit its Facebook page at Springtown 4-H or reach out via email to [springtown4h@gmail.com](mailto:springtown4h@gmail.com).



Emma Hauprich at the Fort Worth Stock Show.

COURTESY PHOTO



Lisa Brown with son Logan. Lisa, who grew up in Azle, has written a book about how the family coped with Logan's medical condition.

PHOTO BY DON MUNSCH

# Azle native writes book to encourage understanding of rare condition

BY DON MUNSCH

Logan Brown has some convention interests for a young man – video games and cars – but he hasn't led a conventional life.

His mom, Lisa, wrote a book about how much her family has had to cope with a rare condition that afflicts Logan.

"Changing Faces: A Journey of Hope and Perseverance" was written to inspire people, Lisa said in an interview. The book was released in May, with Georgia-based Abuzz Press as the publisher. Brown grew up in Azle and went to Azle High, graduating in 1989. Brown and her family live in Willow Park.

"I'm not going to lie - I poured myself into this," Brown said about the book. "It was hard to do, but I'm glad I did it for the whole family."

Logan suffers from Apert syndrome, which is a rare craniofacial condition caused by a "fluke mutation" that hap-

pens after conception, Brown said.

From [rarediseases.info.nih.gov](http://rarediseases.info.nih.gov), we learn that the disease is "characterized by fusion of the skull bones too early during development (craniosynostosis) and webbing of fingers and toes (syndactyly)," adding that the condition "is inherited in an autosomal dominant manner, but many cases result from a new genetic change in a person with no family history of the disorder."

Brown wants people to know that awareness is the key to understanding Apert syndrome and that parents can educate their children that everybody is "made differently." Not all Apert sufferers have the same degree of the condition. Doctors treat the condition by remodeling the skull and separating the fingers and toes.

Logan has had 15 surgeries, but there are a lot of young people who

have had more, depending on the severity. Apert sufferers have a good prognosis for life, and Logan will be monitored through his adulthood.

Brown said people with Apert syndrome are sweet, loving, giving and caring individuals with a lot to share with the world.

## THE DIAGNOSIS

She and her husband were "shocked" to get Logan's diagnosis.

After Logan's diagnosis, the Browns met with a geneticist who prepared them with the realities of his condition.

"I don't think anything could have prepared us for what truly we were going to go through," she said. "But it's probably a good thing to not know everything in advance. You just have to take everything day by day."

In her book, just after Logan was

born, Brown describes how the geneticist explained the condition was discovered in the early 1900s by a French physician and that it affects one in 160,000 births.

With all disabilities, there's a range of how Apert syndrome affects a person's cognitive skills, Brown said, and Logan had a learning disability in math but he did well in school with a lot of modifications and accommodations and inclusion.

"And that helped him a lot being included," he said.

Logan, 20, attended Brewer High School and graduated in 2020. He now works at Walmart in Hudson Oaks, and he has worked there about a year. He loves cars and has thought about attending college, and his dream job would be to work with a racing team some day. Logan's paternal grandfather has rebuilt street rods over the years, and so there's a lot of car knowledge in the family. Logan doesn't have his own car yet. Besides cars, he enjoys playing video games and watching Japanese cartoons.

Besides his family, one particular friend has been supportive in Logan's life: Izzy Stark, who attends the University of Arkansas. She and Logan attended school together and have known each other since they were babies. Stark's mother and Brown are good friends.

"If I ever get down, she will push me up and say, 'hey, don't worry about that,'" Logan said.

Stark was in Finland this summer working on a lab research project.

In an email, she said she and Logan trick-or-treated together for years, especially around their neighborhood in Azle.

"We would drive go-karts in our yards, spend many summer days in Logan's pool, and play video games together," Stark said. "We were neighbors for years, and our parents worked at the same school, so we spent lots of before/after school hours together. We were very close. When we were three, we were Tinker Bell and Peter Pan in one of our preschool shows and even

had matching Incredibles pajamas."

She said they had plans to attend his prom as friends, but COVID-19 canceled those plans.

"Logan was quiet, but once around those he was comfortable with, his bright personality shone," she said. "He was always ready for whatever mischievous adventures each day brought, has the most infectious laugh, and is the greatest Lego builder in the world!"

## POSSESSING GRIT

Lunches were lonely for Logan in high school, his mom said, when kids find their niche and go their separate ways from others, and it was tough for Logan, although he did meet up with a couple of students to participate in a Bible study. Logan gets through life as best he can, and his mother said he "definitely has grit."

"Sometimes, it made it pretty rough," he said about his condition.

Brown holds an associate degree in accounting from Tarrant County College and worked in the accounting field for about five years. She eventually pursued and received a degree in social work from UT-Arlington and worked for early childhood intervention through the state. She received her master's degree in special education and taught for 16 years at White Settlement ISD. She left teaching in 2016 and she is back part time in accounting.

In 2016, she decided to write the book. She started a blog in 2014 after one of Logan's cranial surgeries, and she was ready to start sharing her experiences.

"Honesty, I felt it's something God laid on my heart to do, to share our family's journey with others," she said about the book. "We've been through a lot, and I wanted to let others know that there's hope out there."

The book took five years to write. This is Brown's first book.

"It was hard because it's personal, so I had to relive a lot of things," she said. "But it was cathartic at the same time. I pitched it to literary agents for about six months. This publisher is ac-

tually a hybrid publisher and they do publish through Ingram, which is the biggest book distributor. But I do have to self-market."

She has received good feedback in the short time it has been out, and she enjoys the positive reviews it has garnered.

"Really, I just want my book to get out to people to encourage people, to inspire people, help others know they're not alone," she said. "Anyone struggling, really, not just special needs families but people who go through hard times."

Through writing the book, she learned that she was holding on to a lot of emotions.

"I learned that I don't have to feel like I'm in control," she said. "I learned I can rely on my faith a lot more than I was. I learned that even though we may feel like we're alone, we're all going through struggles, so it's a matter of how we approach how we're going to handle it."

It was obviously difficult to experience everything that happened to Logan.

"I talk about that very candidly in the book," she said. "I talk about the hard times, but I also talk about the good times. We're like normal families, too. We have normal things that happen to us, funny things. It's tough on the whole family, it's tough on the marriage, but you do what you have to get through it. And for us, it's been relying on our faith. We're true believers in God and the power of prayer. And we're fortunate to have a lot of family who have been there with us and been our support."

Brown's parents – Linda and Emmett Hartsfield – live in Azle. Her parents read the book and loved it, Lisa said.

Lisa and husband Steve are also the parents of Landon, 17, who attends Aledo High School and will be a senior this year.

The book may be found on Amazon.com, BarnesandNoble.com or BookLocker.com. A meet and greet for Brown will be held 3-4:30 p.m. Aug. 28 at The Journey Church, 9100 Chapin Road in Fort Worth.



Becky Spurlock, Azle ISD athletic director, manages various components of the athletic department, including coaches' evaluations.

PHOTO BY DON MUNSCH

## [SPORTS]

# She coaches the coaches: Spurlock shapes Azle athletics

BY DON MUNSCH

Seeing green.

Green jerseys, more specifically. Becky Spurlock oversees everything at Azle ISD's athletics – including ensuring green jerseys can be found.

It's a part of the job that one would not think would be difficult, but not many high school sports teams wear green, so Spurlock has to find companies that offer the appropriate green colors.

Locating clothing and equipment is just one facet of the job, as Spurlock has to hire coaches and ensure that those who are working here are per-

forming to district standards.

It's a year-round job with lots of demands.

"It's an honor to do what I do, to be honest with you," she said. "And I think I make a difference. I think I can help young coaches be better coaches; I can help old coaches be better coaches. You just have to approach them a different way."

Spurlock's parents were educators, and she has always had sports in her blood. She grew up in Woodville, in Southeast Texas, and was a multi-sport athlete there. She played volley-

ball, track, tennis and basketball. She attended Angelina College on a tennis scholarship. She attended the school for two years and also was a manager for the basketball team. She then went to Baylor and got involved in the sports medicine program and graduated in 1982.

Her first job after Baylor was at Waco Connally High School, where she was the head athletic trainer. She coached basketball, track, tennis and golf at the school.

In July 1992, Spurlock received a call from Baylor athletic director Grant Te-

aff and head athletic trainer Mike Sims to come back to Baylor. She worked as associate athletic trainer and worked with the football and women's basketball programs. In August 1999, Spurlock went to work with Keller ISD, and in her third year there, she was offered the assistant AD position and she stayed in there until she left in 2017, when she came to Azle where she was hired as AD.

## **"THE KITCHEN SINK"**

When asked about duties as AD, Spurlock playfully replies "the kitchen sink." She ensures coaches understand University Interscholastic League rules, and she oversees budgets and ordering of equipment.

"We do all of the game management from here, meaning setting up our tickets – everything from season tickets in football to tickets for the games to tickets for all home events, no matter what sport," she said in an interview from her office this summer. "We do a lot of that during the summer because that's our prep time. We get our schedules from our coaches. We have a certain time we do our season tickets, which we've already done our renewals in our ticket exchange and now we're in open seating. We have a few season (football) tickets left, but they're going fast."

Spurlock said Azle ISD has a three-year rotation on uniforms, and she buys uniforms every third year. Coaches pick what they want in a uniform and get a quote and then they send that information to Spurlock, who signs off and makes the orders. Football uniforms are the most expensive jerseys.

Equipment also must be purchased and managed, and the athletic department will try to buy a certain number of shoulder pads for football every year so they are up to industry standards. Helmets are purchased every year so that they don't have a bunch of helmets go out of date.

"I think that's critical – that's the best way to do your budget," she said, noting that coaches turn in a helmet roster each year.

Spurlock talked about how jerseys and pants are selected, pointing out at one point that black uniforms can last longer than white uniforms.

"You wash white in the wrong detergent and it's going to yellow – and then you can't get that yellow out," she said.

Jerseys in Azle can be emblazoned with either Azle or Hornets, Spurlock said. Sometimes, a jersey can have Azle on the front and Azle on the back.

"The one thing I try to keep very constant is our logo," she said, adding that changes to the logo are "not an option."

ADs are limited to what the suppliers provide.

"Those companies put out certain colors and they're like, 'these are the colors for the year,'" she said. "You're locked into purchasing a uniform they may not be exactly what you want because that's what the big uniform people give that year. You do have to deal with that sometimes."

The district still copes with the effect of COVID-19, as some uniforms cannot be acquired, or at least not received in a timely manner. Kelly green, Azle's color, is "very, very hard to find," she said.

## **COACHING COACHES**

Spurlock performs all the evaluations of the coaches and hiring coaches. Spurlock is involved in the hiring of junior high coaches as well as high school staff.

"Our junior high staff has gotten extremely stronger since I've been here over the five years, and I think we're beginning to see the difference in the skill level of the kids coming up from the junior high level, which is what you've got to have," she said.

Coaches have to be good classroom teachers, and that is non-negotiable, Spurlock said.

"If they're not a good teacher, I don't care if they've won 10 state championships, they're not going to come coach (here)," she said.

Spurlock said coaches are among the best teachers on the campus.

As far as coaches' performances, a win-loss record is factored into a coach's evaluation, but it's not the No.

1 factor for Spurlock.

"Athletics goes through phases," she said. "The other thing that affects high school athletics is that every two years, UIL gives you a new district."

She points to how the football team will have Denton Ryan and Aledo for the next two years in district play. But as far as the bigger picture, she looks at how well did Azle athletes compete and how coaches prepare the players. Coaches should hold "purposeful practices" to get the team ready to play its next game, Spurlock said.

"Now, we're going to win some and we're going to lose some games," she said. "We're going to compete for being in the playoffs, and I certainly think we have every chance to be in the playoffs in our sports, not just football. ... But what I look at is how coaches prepare those kids."

She also looks to see whether coaches make adjustments during a game, if the situation necessitates it. She also wants to see a coach's demeanor, and she wants to see how a coach teaches life lessons. Almost every team performs some type of community service, and that is critically important, Spurlock said.

Spurlock doesn't see herself as a micromanager in many ways, explaining she wants to hire a coach and then let the coach exhibit his or her personality as that person coaches the team. A new coach coming in has to get to know the athletes, and Azle coaches seem to do a good job of knowing how to handle certain situations with players, such as those who may not have played well in a game, she said.

## **MANAGING CONFLICTS**

As far as coach-athlete conflicts, the Azle ISD protocol calls for the student and coach to talk, and if no resolution can be found, then a parent can request a meeting with the coach. If the coach-parent meeting finds no resolution, then the high school principal becomes involved.

"I am in that loop all the way, knowing what's going on, but I'm the last person they come to," Spurlock said, noting that some parents might talk

to some other individual, such as Superintendent Todd Smith. Azle parents are respectful of the process, she said, and let their children fight some of their battles. Athletics will teach people how to handle adversity when it arises, she added. Face-to-face or phone calls are recommended for parent-coach conversations.

On another topic, if students are not maintaining grades, then they can be released from athletics, Spurlock said.

Azle ISD has an extracurricular and co-curricular code of conduct for students who want to participate in athletics. The code outlines what consequences students may face if they are not following rules or coaches' directions.

Spurlock attends games and practices, and she will be apprised if coaches are not doing their job in the classroom, noting that situation doesn't happen very often.

## A STEADY STREAM OF DUTIES

There seemingly are a never-ending number of issues Spurlock must handle, from approving schedules and out-of-town tournaments to being involved in the pre-planning of playoff game logistics. In managing budgets, she has to ensure everything is Title IX compliant.

During the summer, she looks after hiring coaches and making sure they have everything they need, and summer camps have to be approved through Spurlock's office. As for the games themselves, Spurlock has to ensure people are available to work there. There is also maintenance of facilities to coordinate, too. Spurlock also works as the district executive committee chairperson.

Spurlock said she loves her job and said her regret is that she didn't ar-

rive in Azle 10 years ago. She appreciates the support of the school board, administration and parents. She likes seeing how much the athletic department has grown in her time as AD, and Azle teams made the playoffs in nearly team sport the last two years. The most challenging aspect to being Azle ISD AD is dealing with the growth in the district, she said.

"The growth in our community is going to grow our programs, which is a wonderful thing, but when you grow your programs, you also have to grow the number of teacher-coaches you have," she said. "We have been able to able to manage the growth so far, and our coaches are pretty phenomenal."

Keeping people in education also amounts to a challenge, because there are opportunities for educators to make more money and not deal with the pressures that exist now.

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