

Police continue to investigate shooting on Highway 199

BY DON MUNSCHE
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An Azle man died from his injuries after he was allegedly shot as he rode his motorcycle through Azle around mid-day Sunday on State Highway 199.

Brian K. Turner, 43, was riding a motorcycle and was shot by another motorist while traveling on



PHOTO BY DON MUNSCHE
Azle Police Department personnel tend to the scene of a shooting Sunday on SH199. The motorcyclist died later at a Fort Worth hospital.

SEE SHOOTING, PAGE A9.

Reno police investigate homicide on Shady Lane

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Reno police are investigating a homicide that occurred in the city last week.

On July 26, Reno police officers were dispatched to a residence in the 1000 block of Shady Lane in Reno and found that 63-year-old Rodney Dale Tallant was dead inside the residence. Investigators were called to the scene because there were indications of violence, accord-

ing to a Reno Police Department news release, and the investigators identified persons of interest.

The Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office ruled that the death was a homicide caused from a gunshot wound to the head, according to the ME's website.

Reno investigators have contacted the Texas Rangers for assistance in this investigation. Reno police said they will issue more information as it becomes available.

Rolling along: Transportation director keeps department operating

EDITOR'S NOTE: Ninth in a series of stories on jobs people perform in Azle.

BY DON MUNSCHE
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Chuck Weiss fits the definition of someone who can fill in in a pinch.

Weiss, director of transportation with Azle ISD, can drive buses, as he has that experience during his career in working in the transportation department. But as director of the department, you're more likely these days to see him oversee around 60 drivers in the department. The entire transportation department has about 70 staffers overall.

"At any given time, when you've got 60 drivers here, there's days we have eight drivers call in sick the same day," he said, adding he and other employees substitute for absent drivers.

He said the most enjoyable part of his job are coworkers and meeting people around Azle.

"I love my drivers - they're awesome people," he said.

"We have a lot of fun in here."

BIG COUNTRY BEGINNINGS

He was born in Cross Plains, located southeast of Abilene, where he grew up and graduated from high school in 1987. He attended Tarleton State University but left after one year to move up to Azle to be close to friends. (Big Country refers to the counties in and around Abilene.)

While college wasn't something he wanted to pursue, he did want to learn a trade where eventually he could start his own business.

He went to work for Midair Heat and Air shortly after moving here and attended night classes for two years at Tarrant County College (South Campus) to receive his HVAC contractor's license. At the time Azle ISD was having a hard time

SEE JOBS, PAGE A4.



"It's challenging, big time," Weiss said about his job

PHOTO BY DON MUNSCHE
Chuck Weiss, Azle ISD transportation director, stands in front of part of the fleet of school buses at the school district's transportation department.

Three elementary campus principals take different journeys for their careers in education

BY DON MUNSCHE
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A third-grade teacher planted a seed inside Aubri Deheck's mind about what became Deheck's career choice.

That was a difficult time in Deheck's life, as her mother died before her third-grade year started.

"It was a little bit of a shock - she had an aneurysm, kind of out of nowhere," Deheck said.

Deheck's third grade teacher took her under her wing, and it was never a fa-

EDITOR'S NOTE: Azle ISD will have three new elementary campus principals in the 2022-23 school year. The News profiles the new chiefs at their respective campuses: Aubri Deheck at Silver Creek, Stephen Garretson at Walnut Creek and Shelley Newton at Eagle Heights.

voritism situation, Deheck said. Her father had to adjust to being a single parent, and there were days he had to coordinate picking up Deheck and her older sister, and the teacher would let Deheck stay with her after school, take her home, "all kinds of

things," Deheck said.

"I still talk to her regularly," she said about that teacher, Karen Stevens, who has retired from teaching.

When Deheck got to high school, she thought about

SEE PRINCIPALS, PAGE A7.



Stephen Garretson



Aubri Deheck



Shelley Newton



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Worth the wait: Bridge construction to enhance mobility

BY DON MUNSCH
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Motorists will notice a smoother drive when the new bridge is completed over Lake Worth.

But the Texas Department of Transportation project is still two years from finish.

The State Highway 199 bridge project over Lake Worth will enhance mobility and safety between FM 1886 (Confederate Parkway) and Hodgkins Road, said Val Lopez, TxDOT public information officer for the Fort Worth District.

"The primary improvement from this project includes the new SH 199 bridge over Lake Worth which will have three lanes in each direction," Lopez said in an email response to questions. "The existing bridges over Lake Worth will be rehabilitated and will serve as the future frontage roads across the lake."

The \$105 million project started in the fall of 2020 and is expected to be complete in 2024. Construction of the previous segment of State Highway 199, between Azle and Lakeside, was completed in early 2019.

"Motorists will experience several phases and traffic switches over the

next two years," Lopez said about the bridge project. "Motorists will have two lanes of travel in both directions - eastbound and westbound - throughout the duration of the project. Occasional closures of one lane in each direction during non-peak travel periods (weekdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p. m. or on weekends) will also be scheduled."

Currently, Lopez said, the project is focused on building the new main lane bridges over the lake and the preparing for building two major drainage culverts on the west side of the project, starting this summer. The bridge construction is making "very good" progress with the milestone of all drilled shafts in the water completed in May. Motorists will see beam and bridge deck panel installation beginning on the east side of the lake, and the first concrete pour of the Lake Worth bridge is scheduled this summer.

Motorists traveling in the project area in the westbound direction are currently on a temporary detour starting just past Hodgkins Road. Traffic patterns are anticipated to change beginning this summer to allow the contractor to build the two drainage culverts across the existing SH 199 main lanes and frontage roads.



PHOTO BY DON MUNSCH

Northbound on SH199 at the Lake Worth bridge. The bridge project is still two years from completion.

Reno P&Z proposes workshop to update ordinances regarding platting of acreage

BY MADELYN EDWARDS
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Reno Planning and Zoning Commission has scheduled a workshop on topics related to platting of acreage to update the city's ordinances.

The P&Z tentatively scheduled the workshop for 9 a.m. Aug. 16.

At last week's meeting, P&Z Chairperson Brian Schrader recommended adding definitions to Reno's ordinances, including:

OSSF, or onsite sewage facility: a field line, aerobic or anaerobic septic system for single residential households, not to exceed 5,000 gallons per day.

Centerline platting, which is when the measurements

of lots would start in the middle of the road. Schrader recommended using this practice when a parcel has more than 10 acres, but it shouldn't be used in residential subdivisions.

Gross acreage versus net acreage: Gross acreage is the total surveyed property, and the net acreage is the area that is subdivided for the individual property owners that they can fence in and build upon, excluding required offsets from roads and other city or county ownership. Schrader said the term gross acreage is "inappropriate" in this context.

Sanitation acreage: the amount of acreage included in septic area. Certain water features on the property, like

some streams and ponds, would not count toward the lot size for sanitation purposes.

The workshop would focus on creating new sections in the ordinances to discuss onsite septic facilities with lot sizes that can meet the requirements, that those receiving city water must be living on at least one sanitation acre and those using well water with an onsite sewage facility must be living on at least two acres, Schrader said.

"It is everything to do with platting of acreage," the P&Z chairperson said after the meeting. "I want to make certain we get it written into ordinances that centerline platting doesn't give you an

acre. I want to make certain that all of our septic stuff is compliant, mimics - for lack of a better term - the county regulations on acreage and just make certain that we have good permeability and ground percolation of septic waters."

Also regarding ordinance updates during the meeting, Schrader discussed the issue of residents wanting to build additional homes on their properties.

"The scenario is a homeowner - a resident (who) wants to build a mother-in-law's house, wants to build houses for their children. They want to build multiple residences and without the houses being so close together that they can reach out

their kitchen window to borrow a cup of sugar," Schrader said during the meeting.

Schrader's suggested solution was to allow these multi-acre property owners to build multiple residences, provided that they build no more than four additional units on their property and the property has to be platting like a subdivision. Each unit would have to have an individual septic system and individual drive-ways, among other rules.

Being platting with the required property setbacks would allow for 50 feet of space between these homes, Schrader said.

P&Z member Christopher Reeves questioned the definition of multiacre properties and why residents on

particularly large properties wouldn't be allowed to build more homes without replatting.

"To me, they need to replat it. If they're going to deed the property to their children, their children need to pay taxes on that," Schrader said. "There should be a tax assessment against that property and the improvements on that property."

Ultimately, Schrader's goal with the workshop is to clear up contradictions and close loopholes in the city's ordinances.

"There's too many different areas of the ordinances that contradict each other, and I want to resolve the contradictions and close the loopholes," he said.



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What 'summers off' really looks like for teachers

BY JESSICA MCKINNEY
azlereporter@azlenews.net

How many times have you heard people say, "It must be nice to be a teacher, having the summers off"?

If people say that to directly to a teacher, they'll probably get a smile and a nod from them.

But what they aren't telling you is how much work they are actually doing while their students are enjoying a break from schoolwork.

Amy Estes teaches English and history to students identified as special education at Azle High School. This will be her 27th year as a teacher. She also coaches the swim and track teams at the high school.

Estes' teaching and coaching career began at Eastern Hills High School in Fort Worth ISD, and she spent half of her career working in Hawaii on Maui and Molokai.

When Estes was asked if she ever takes the summer off, her answer was no.

"I can count the number of summers I have taken 'off' on one hand and still have fingers left. I teach swimming lessons most of the summer. ... I do teach summer school."

This summer had the added assignment of "catching up on municipal government and getting up to speed as a new councilwoman for the city of Azle." Estes won her council seat in May and serves in Place 2.

"In my opinion, you are never 'off' duty," Estes said.

"Your mind is working on different curriculum you want to try, how are you going to prepare for your sports season to be a better coach for your athletes."

Estes tries to give herself a "brain break" during the summer when she can. This year, that included a trip to Alaska.

Rachel Bevan has been teaching for 13 years, teaching almost all high school math courses except calculus.

Summer breaks are usually full of different work tasks for Bevan, and during two of



Amy Estes



Rachel Bevan



Sarah Milosh



Neil Corbett



Chad Cooke

those summer breaks she had her children.

"For two summers, I have moved. One summer, I general contracted our shopping center in Azle (Shops at Commerce). One summer, I worked as an accountant/office manager for my husband's business OEM Part Haus. Last summer, I taught summer school for June, and this summer I am camp director of the Girl Scout camp here in Azle (Camp Timberlake)."

She does take make time for her family to take vacations or "just play" during the summer months, too.

To the people who say to her that it must be nice to have the summers off, Bevan says "it can be quite draining to have 150-plus students per day constantly needing your attention for nine months, while you also have to find time to plan engaging lessons and carry on a home life."

"The summers help you remember that teaching is a fun profession and that you don't actually want to look in the private sector for a better paying job," said Bevan.

Neil Corbett just completed his eighth year as a teacher with AISD. He teaches Honors English II, creative writing, journalism and printing and imaging technology, which produces the student newspaper The Sting.

Corbett spends each summer helping with the STAAR prep classes, focusing on English I and II tests.

In addition to the STAAR

prep, Corbett typically attends a conference or two over the summer, plus continuing education.

This year, he attended the AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) Summer Institute, a three-day hands-on training with AVID curriculum and how it can be implemented in the classroom.

But what has really taken up the most time for Corbett this summer and last is grad school.

"I'll receive my MFA (Master of Fine Arts) in Writing Fiction this winter," Corbett said.

There is a two-week residency as part of the curriculum for the MFA program through Vermont College of Fine Arts where Corbett is attaining his MFA. He flew to Vermont mid-June to attend the program, which included two weeks of writing, workshops and attending lectures and readings from faculty and other students.

For July, Corbett spent the month working on his thesis and researching for his graduate lecture, which he gets to deliver this winter.

Corbett and his wife do try to make time for road trips with their dogs over the summer.

When he gets the same old comment of "must be nice" from people, Corbett likes to say that the summer is "just me getting my weekends and nights back."

"Something that not everyone realizes about teaching is that we don't actually get

paid for the summer," said Corbett.

"Our contract is for 10 months, but most teachers opt to have our paycheck split out to 12. I work 50-60 hours a week during the school year, what with lesson planning, grading, and sponsoring two extracurricular groups, which more than makes up for those two months off."

Sarah Milosh has been a teacher for 17 years and has been teaching at AISD since 2013. This year, she will be teaching Dyslexia Reading, AP Literature and AVID IV.

"In 17 years, I haven't taken an entire summer off without some sort of training, workshop, conference or working," Milosh said. "Maybe someday, I will."

Milosh taught summer school this year, and in the past, she has conducted STAAR tutorials and testing.

"Since I teach special courses, like AVID, AP Literature and Dyslexia Reading, I typically attend workshops, summer institutes and conferences to maintain my credentials in those areas," said Milosh.

"For the past couple years, I have also worked as an AP Literature Reader, which grades the essay portion of the AP test. While earning extra money, this also helps me as a teacher to prepare my students for the test."

Milosh also noted that the summer is the time when many teachers schedule those medical and dental appointments that they have been putting off.

To anyone who think of teachers having an easy summer, Milosh says that she would laugh as she told them that "we spend more than half of our time off preparing for the upcoming year and maintaining our credentials through professional development."

"I'd tell them how all year long, we spend our evenings grading papers and spend our weekends setting up Canvas courses and designing engaging lessons for our kids each week," she said.

Milosh also talked about how much time teachers spend outside of the typical workday on supporting their students during their extracurricular activities.

What free time she had left this summer, Milosh said she spent it doing household projects and spending time with family.

"Being a teacher is the most rewarding and meaningful profession," said Milosh. "I have zero regrets and know I am doing exactly what I am meant to do. However, anyone who thinks it is an easy profession and has expectations of lounging poolside all summer long, (they) will be very disappointed."

Chad Cooke is about to start his 10th year at AHS as a teacher, and this year he will be teaching Honors Algebra II.

For Cooke, he says that most of his summers have been "summers off," but he did teach summer school this year for fifth grade students. "It was interesting getting

the opportunity to work with a younger grade," Cooke said. "I have always taught high school students and working with fifth graders this summer has reinforced that I need to continue working with high school students."

Cooke likes to use his summer breaks to relax and get caught up on everything he didn't do during the school year.

"My first six years teaching at AHS, I was the Student Council adviser and I would take students on two to three weeks' worth of summer camps, not including all the times we would meet during the summer to plan events for the upcoming school year," Cooke said.

This summer, Cooke wanted to do something different.

"I wanted to come back from summer a better version of myself, not just a recovered version of myself," he said.

Cooke started the 75 Hard Challenge this summer, a "transformational mental toughness program," to improve his physical and mental self.

He also completed 30 hours of continuing education and training needed to teach the honors classes for this school year.

Cooke's response to anyone who thinks that teachers have it easy over the summer, that it "must be nice," is:

"It really is, have you ever thought about becoming a teacher? We could really use more."

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JOBS

FROM PAGE 1

keeping up with its AC and heating units with just the two guys they had on staff, Weiss said, so he and others contracted with Azle ISD quite often in the summers, helping to keep everything running.

Weiss came to work for Azle ISD as an HVAC technician in 1999. He conducted that kind of work from 1999-2014, maintaining equipment for each campus. Around 2004-2005, he started driving buses in the afternoons.

"They needed drivers real bad, so I became a bus driver for extra money, part time," he said.

In 2002, his daughter was born, and he said he found himself working every night on side work and not spending time with his family. So he decided to get a bus license and drive a bus for extra money, so he could be home every evening to be with his family and start weaning off the side work.

Then in 2014, he applied for the maintenance foreman position with Azle ISD and got the job. But, he said, the job did not "feel right" for some reason, so he went to district officials and told them he didn't think this was the right fit. Weiss knew they would be hiring a new assistant director job in transportation real soon and he thought it would be a good fit because he had been driving a bus as a sub for about 10 years, knew all of the routes and was close to all the drivers and just understood the daily tasks involved.

Then Azle Superintendent Ray Lea and Todd Smith, who was then the director of

student services, sent Weiss to business management and transportation classes and he soon got the job as assistant director. He was the assistant director from 2014 to 2021, and he has been the director for a little over a year.

"It's challenging, big time," he said about his job, adding, though, it's "a very rewarding job."

Weiss oversees a budget in addition to managing drivers and dealing with discipline issues with students.

Bus drivers work 25 hours a week, but they enjoy full-time status in that they receive benefits, insurance, teachers' retirement and 10 personal days. Bus drivers must possess a class B CDL with a school bus and passenger endorsements on top of the CDL.

Coaches who drive buses must be CDL-licensed to transport teams to games.

Days begin early

Weiss's day during the school year begins at 5:30 a.m., and when he arrives, he checks voicemails. Drivers show up at 5:45-6 a.m. Buses roll out no later than 6 a.m.

"A typical morning for me is just getting buses on the road, taking lots of phone calls in the morning from parents," he said. "The busiest time of the day for us is in the afternoon when the buses are running, for sure."

If a bus driver is sick and can't work, he or she must call no later than 5:30 a.m. to advise staff. By 8:30 a.m., the drivers have arrived back at the AISD transportation office from the morning route. They clock out and then come back at 2:30 p.m., clock in at 3 p.m. and then perform their afternoon routes.

Parents may download an app that will give them all the bus information for their children, Weiss said.

Drivers don't pick up students at a door. Students are picked up at neutral stops, such as a corner stop or in between houses.

"We don't have an elementary kid walk any more than, say, 3/10 of a mile - that's the furthest we normally ask elementary kids to walk," Weiss said.

Now, if a student is late getting to a bus and the driver does not see him or her, then the driver has to depart. Weiss said he receives a call each day from a parent whose child just missed getting on the bus.

"We ask that you be there five to 10 minutes early every day - that's what we ask, that's what we put on our website and the handbook," Weiss said.

Now, if a parent calls the transportation department shortly after the bus leaves and the child has missed it, the bus driver will swing back by and pick up the student, but if the bus is across town, then the parent has to figure out getting a ride for the child, Weiss said.

Azle ISD has 51 routes daily and they all double-run, meaning that they cover elementary and secondary routes.

"We drive around roughly 3,500 miles a day - that's what we put on our fleet," Weiss said. The district transports over 3,000-plus kids a day.

The district just purchased 12 new buses, and when they arrive, Azle ISD will have 70 buses total, Weiss said. Some new buses with Azle branding (logos) - eight in all - for athletics and band have been purchased.



PHOTO BY DON MUNSCH

Azle ISD transportation director Chuck Weiss sits in a bus at the Azle ISD's transportation department. He has been director for a little more than a year.

Licensing, training and traffic

Weiss said it takes about five to six weeks to complete a CDL.

"Once you're fully licensed and we have you trained, then whatever open route I have is the one you'll get," he said.

He said the district has extra drivers - or cover drivers - who are available in case someone calls in sick.

"We actually travel over a half million miles annually on buses in Azle," he said, noting it's a little over 600,000 miles. Three mechanics work on buses. One of those mechanics is Weiss's assistant director,

Vaughn Santo, and the other two mechanics are full-time mechanics. Weiss and the department's mechanics are on call 24-7.

Bus drivers receive safety training and learn to how work with children. Each discipline case with a child comes to Weiss, and he will call parents about any issues with children. He works with assistant principals on disciplining children, which is a particularly challenging aspect of his job.

Each bus has five cameras and a dash cam.

"We have six video cameras in every bus," he said.

Average number of students on a bus is 35, Weiss said.

"We try not to haul any more than 50 on any bus just because it's too crowded," he

said. "And when it's full, the discipline gets worse. The fuller it is, the worse the discipline is on the bus."

Another challenge - the biggest challenge, Weiss said - is traffic.

"We just noticed within this past school year that it was so much worse than it used to be," he said.

The district is hiring bus drivers, and the pay has risen from \$16 an hour, starting with no experience, to \$19 an hour with no experience. Drivers are guaranteed five hours a day, which is 25 hours a week, and drivers can seek extra pay through driving for field trips. Most drivers are retirees, Weiss said.

For more information on joining the district as a bus driver, call 817-444-1322.

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UTGCD gives advice on coping with ongoing drought

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Officials with the Upper Trinity Groundwater Conservation District have compiled resources and recommendations for water well owners during this time of drought.

"While the district cannot restrict water volumes of private domestic wells, per our rules, below are ways to keep your well and property safe and maintained until late September when rain is expected," UTGCD officials stated in a news release.

HERE ARE THE RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Traditional sprinkler heads lose 30-50% of water volumes due to evaporation and wind. Consider watering in the evenings and with soaker hoses to reduce evaporative loss.
- Some residents are encouraged to "water their foundations" to avoid compression or cracking. However, a soaker hose 10-15 inches away for 10 minutes is enough to satisfy those requirements and reduce water loss.
- Consider xeriscaping and native plants for yards, as opposed to the water hungry turf varieties commonly seen in North Texas. Bermuda grass is a non-native plant originally from Africa, and as such receives more precipitation annually than Texas biomes.
- Monitor your well pump. If water levels dip too low, pumps have the

potential to burn out over-compensating for volumes they can't produce. Burned-out pumps cost hundreds of dollars to retrieve and repair and can potentially damage PVC casing by excess heat produced. Broken casing in a well compromises the integrity and can lead to contamination.

- Listen to your well pump. Does it sound as though it is "sucking air?" If your well begins to produce large amounts of sediment or bubbles, it is time to let it rest until the water level recovers. Check the water produced by the well in your sinks or bathtubs for a milky color, indicating particulates.

- If water levels stay consistently low in your area, it may be time to move your pump. Lowering the pump deeper into the casing may provide access to additional water volumes. However, reach out to a licensed driller in your area to avoid damage or loss of equipment downhole.

- Have you tested your well water lately? Droughts bring out additional sediments and chemicals into well water, and as such you may notice a change in the taste/smell of your water. Testing your well water ensures there are no harmful additives or changes due to drought.

- Do you have a low yield well? Storage tanks will help you meet your water needs, so consider storing water

for future irrigation or domestic usage.

- Consider installing a rainwater harvesting system. With potential rain in the forecast over the next several weeks, a single 15-minute thunderstorm can generate thousands of gallons of soft water for irrigation or domestic use if treated. Rainwater harvesting is encouraged in Texas and some materials are even tax-exempt.

- Be a good neighbor. The district has fielded numerous calls in the past months about residents using excessive water on their lawns, pooling water in the streets of towns and wells losing pumping capacity across the four counties. With most of North Texas utilizing water from the same aquifer systems, consider your usage and how you can help reduce strain on groundwater systems.

- Take readings of your water levels often. A steel tape with chalk or other easy to use equipment helps produce data that landowners can use to make decisions on their pumping and usage. UTGCD is proud to offer a free monitoring well program for any registered district well users, which provides water levels readings four times a year.

For more information on conservation practices, contact the Upper Trinity Groundwater Conservation District at the Springtown office at 817-523-5200 or visit uppertrinitygcd.com.

Give me a minute to overthink this

Mrs. Sweetie says I need "drive-bys" or "hit-and-runs."

That means that I don't like making decisions the first time I hear an idea.

It's not that I'm incapable of making immediate decisions; I just don't like it. I need time to process new information, to strategize, to envision, and—to be completely honest—to improve on the idea that came from someone else.

Yeah, that's a struggle. It's not that I don't think anyone besides me has good ideas. That's not the case at all! Some of the best things I have ever done originated with someone else's idea.

It's just that my mind immediately goes into overdrive.

Sometimes that seems like I'm being critical, but that's not really what's happening. Very—and I mean VERY—rarely am I imagining all the things that could go wrong with this idea.

Truly, I'm imagining all the possibilities.

That's a good thing, right? Unless it communicates to the other person that their idea is inferior and I don't value their contribution.

And therein lies the downside of a "visionary" predisposition.

Not only does it cause



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.

unnecessary delays, it also risks hindering the growth of people.

And helping people grow into their fullest potential through discovering their own unique purpose and contribution to the world is a major component of my unique purpose and contribution to the world.

I had an assignment a few years ago to compose my "tombstone tweet"—that is, a summary of my desire of how I want to be remembered, in 140 characters or less.

Here's the result: "He helped me discover a vision for the amazing life I could live and then he championed my vision."

Do you see how my "overthinking" can work against this goal?

So, here's the deal: I cannot change my predisposition to process information and envision the possibilities.

Nor do I desire that. I can be sure that I am

more focused on people than ideas.

I can immediately respond with something like, "That sounds like a great idea. How can I best assist you with it?"

Here's why I wanted to write about this today: I want everyone to have a greater self-awareness of our strengths and how those strengths can help build stronger relationships and communities.

I also want us to see how we can hinder relationship and community-building if we are self-focused instead of self-aware.

The amazing life for which we are created is not nearly so much a destination as it is a way of traveling. And none of us travels well in isolation.

How are you traveling? What do you need to understand better about yourself? How can I assist you best?

I'd love to hear from you. Be amazing today, my friend.

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OBITUARIES

Robert Andrew Crow 1954 - 2022

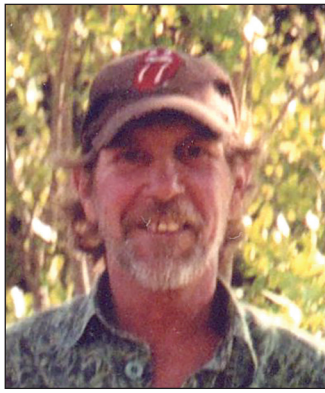
Andy Crow, age 67, passed away peacefully on July 14, 2022 in Galveston, Texas.

Graveside service is at 10 a.m. Aug. 6, 2022 at Dickey Cemetery in Weatherford, Texas.

Andy was born Dec. 23, 1954 in Fort Worth to Bruce and Margaret Crow. Andy was a lifetime resident of Parker County. He was a carpenter and cabinet maker.

Andy was preceded in death by his parents and his brother David Crow.

Survivors include his brother Mike and wife Laurie; niece Hannah Crow and nephew



Laramie Crow as well as numerous cousins and friends.

The Azle News, Aug. 3, 2022 Edition

Marelda Lois Adams 1936 - 2022

Marelda Lois Adams, age 86, died peacefully at Fort Worth Wellness and Rehab on July 22, 2022, in Fort Worth, Texas. She was born in Hollis, Oklahoma on May 23, 1936.

Service of Remembrance will be held Saturday, Aug. 13, 2022, at 11 a.m., Azle Church of Christ, 336 Northwest Pkwy, Azle, TX 76020. Officiating: Ian Mostert -

In lieu of flowers or gifts, please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers.

She was the second of six children of Forest and Ida (McAlister) Hamilton. Jan. 10, 1952, she married Frank Still in Fort Worth, Texas. In 1957, they moved to Amarillo, Texas, where the children were all raised and went to school. Frank passed away March 10, 1974, after a 3 1/2 year debilitating illness. During these years of his decline she rarely left his side. They were married 22 years.

In 1976 Marelda got a job at Maywood in Amarillo and there she met John Adams. They married in Amarillo,



June 18, 1977. John passed away Aug. 14, 2019. They were married 42 years.

Marelda was a wonderful mother and a kind, caring and friendly person. Family regarded her as a selfless, godly woman. She will be greatly missed.

She is survived by her son, Bill Still (Laura) of Lake Worth, Danny Still (Lisa), of Azle and daughter, Sue Gibson, of Fort Worth, and five grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren.

The Azle News, Aug. 3, 2022 Edition

James "J.D." Nettles 1978 - 2022

James "J.D." Nettles passed away suddenly on July 31, 2022, at age 44.

Services will be held at Biggers Funeral Home, 6100 Azle Avenue Fort Worth Texas 76135. Visitation will be held on Thursday Aug. 4 from 6 - 8 p.m. Funeral services will be Friday Aug. 5 at 10 a.m.

J.D. was born on June 8, 1978, in Webster, Texas to David and Tanya Nettles. J.D. graduated from Azle High School in 1996 and after a short college career he returned home to run the family convenience store for 20 years. In June of 2000 J.D. married Heidi and together they have three children Kate, Kollin and Sydney. J.D. enjoyed cooking, anything outdoors, especially being on the lake but most of all his family.

J.D. is preceded in death by his grandparents Kenneth and Syble Pannell; grandfa-



ther Jim Nettles; uncle Bobby Pannell and cousin Nathan Pannell.

He is survived and desperately missed by his parents David and Tanya Nettles; wife Heidi Nettles; children Kate, Kollin and Sydney Nettles; sister Shannon Gonzales and husband Nick; grandmother Jean Nettles; and many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

The Azle News, Aug. 3, 2022 Edition

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<p>THE ABBEY CHURCH Pastor: Paul Brownback 10400 Jacksboro Highway 817-238-1404 www.TheAbbeyChurch.com Morning Worship.....10:30 AM Community Groups..... Various Times</p> <p>ASH CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH Pastor: Dr. G. Wesley Shotwell 300 South Stewart St. 817-444-3219 www.ashcreekbc.org Sunday School.....9:30 AM Contemporary Worship-TMP.....10:45 AM Traditional Worship.....10:45 AM Evening Worship.....6:00 PM Wednesday Youth Refuge.....6:00 PM Wednesday Evening.....6:15 PM</p> <p>AZLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ) Senior Minister, Ashley Dargai, Katie Medlin, Worship Minister 117 Church St. • 817-444-3527 Sunday School.....10:00 AM Morning Worship.....11:00 AM</p> <p>AZLE FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD Pastor: Tim Stevens 1020 S.E. Parkway, Azle 817-237-4903 Sunday School.....9:30 AM Morning Worship.....10:30 AM Wednesday Evening.....7:00 PM</p>	<p>COMMUNITY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH Pastor - Alton Davis 817-521-4510 1405 Reynolds Rd., Azle 817-444-7117 Directions: 730 N. to 1542 .5 mi. right on Cardinal, left on Reynolds Sunday School.....9:45 AM Morning Worship.....11:00 AM Sunday Evening.....6:00 PM Wednesday Evening.....7:00 PM</p> <p>CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH 2233 Hwy 199 E. • Springtown 817-221-LIFE (5433) Sunday Worship Service.....10:00 AM Wednesday.....7:00 PM</p> <p>CROSSROADS BAPTIST CHURCH Pastor - Jon Baker Corner FM 730S & FM 1886 817-755-0279 Transportation Available Worship Service.....10:30 AM Wed. Prayer Service.....7:00 PM</p> <p>THE EDGE CHURCH - AZLE 1313 S.E. Pkwy, Azle 817-237-4822 Missouri Synod "Love God - Serve Others - Share Jesus" Traditional Worship.....9:30 AM Contemporary Worship.....11:00 AM</p>	<p>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Pastor: Dr. Richard Reed 200 Church St., Azle 817-444-3323 Morn. Worship.....8:30, 9:45 & 11 AM Sunday School.....9:45 & 11 AM Youth (UMYF).....5:00 PM Sun & 6:30 PM Wed</p> <p>HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH 800 Highcrest Dr. - Azle 817-444-3063 Saturday.....5:00 PM Sunday.....9:00 AM Sunday.....11 AM (Spanish) Daily Mass (M, T, Th, F).....8:00 AM Wednesday Mass Religious ED.....6:30 PM Confessions.....Sat 4 PM</p> <p>HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA 4795 E. Hwy 199 - Reno 817-221-HOPE Follow us on Facebook for streaming services Sunday School.....9:00 AM Traditional Service.....10:00 AM</p> <p>SOLID ROCK BIBLE CHURCH 591 S. Reno Rd., Springtown, Texas 76082 Pastor - Bill Gay - 817-304-7443 Coffee and Donuts.....9:00 AM Sunday School.....9:30 AM Morning Worship.....10:30 AM Children's Church After Music Service Wed. Prayer Meeting.....6:30 PM Wed. Bible Study.....7:00 PM</p>	<p>LEGACY CHURCH Assembly of God Church Pastor: Gary D. Veazey Hwy. 199 & Jaybird Lane 817-221-2983 Morning Worship.....9:15 & 11:00 AM Kidz Zone.....9:15 & 11:00 AM Weds Evening Legacy Group Legacy Youth, Kids All Services.....7:00 PM</p> <p>SILVER CREEK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Rev. Sheila Fiorella - Pastor 2200 Church Rd., Azle 817-444-1382 www.silvercreekumc.org Sunday School 9:30 AM • Worship 10:30 AM</p> <p>SILVER CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH Pastor: Jay Ditty Minister of Music: David Musick Corner FM 730 S. & Veal Station Rd. Church 817-444-2325 www.silvercreekbc.org Sunday School.....9:45 AM Morning Worship.....10:50 AM Evening Worship.....6:00 PM Wed. Prayer Service.....7:00 PM</p>	<p>THE WORD@LAKESIDE CHURCH OF GOD 9396 FM 1886 Fort Worth, TX 76135 817-237-5500 thewordatlakeside.com Pastors: Brandon and Kelly Bohannon Worship Pastor: Christen Moody Family Life and Young Adult Pastors: Jodie and Mark James, Kids Pastor: Katie Pearson, Student Pastors: Taylor and Sheridan Tomlin, Creative Directors: Logan and Carrie Edwards, Connections Coordinators: Preston and Ashley Larrew Equip Sunday School at the WORD 9:30 AM Empower Worship at the WORD . 10:45 AM Kids at the WORD.....10:45 AM PreK at the WORD.....10:45 AM Emanate at the WORD (Special Needs Ministry).....10:45 AM Nursery at the WORD.....10:45 AM Young Adults at the WORD.....6:00 PM</p> <p>Wednesdays Adult Bible Class.....7:00 PM The WORD Students (6th-12th grades) 6:30 PM Awana Kids at the WORD.....6:30 PM Life at the WORD Life Groups Various Times</p>
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PRINCIPALS

FROM PAGE 1

how much of an impact that teacher made.

"She was the reason I wanted to be a teacher," Deheck said, adding that she is the reason why the love of elementary education is "just the soul of my heart."

Educators' interactions are so important because a teacher never knows what is happening in a student's life, Deheck said, and if a teacher can be that light in a student's life even for a few hours a day, it can be life-changing for a child.

Deheck, who was a former assistant principal for the last three years at Azle High School, is the new principal at Silver Creek Elementary School. This is her fourth year in Azle. She is beginning her seventh year in administration - and beginning her 12th in education - and thought she was ready to move up and take everything she learned into this principal position. Her three years at AHS were her three favorite years as assistant principal, she said.

"It was a great opportunity to be even given the chance to be here, so I'm very, very excited to be at Silver Creek," she said.

Deheck was born in Fort Worth and grew up in Grand Prairie, where she attended South Grand Prairie High School. She was an athlete in high school - participating in varsity volleyball and softball - and played softball at Sterling College in Kansas. She earned her bachelor's at Sterling, an hour north of Wichita, and her master's degree from UT-Arlington.

She was originally going to teach elementary school, but her first job was in Hillsboro, where she was a seventh-grade math teacher and varsity softball and JV volleyball coach at the high school. She was there for four years, and then went back to SGP, where she coached volleyball and taught there. Her husband, Robbie, is from Azle, and he attended Silver Creek and graduated from Azle High School. He is the assistant head football coach and defensive coordinator at Bridgeport High School. She and Robbie were educators living in Kingwood, near Houston, and they worked at Splendora High School.

That's where Deheck began her administrative career. After she got pregnant with her first son, the Dehecks moved to Azle. (Deheck's father died in June 2017, and she and Robbie got married in December 2017. Robbie's family lives in Azle.)

She likes the Azle community because of the family atmosphere and parent support here, and she said parents "value education, they value that their kids are here, and they trust us to ensure that we are keeping their kids safe and that we're teaching their kids."

Deheck also lauded the teachers here for their love of teaching and their desire to grow and help the kids grow as well.

"I was welcomed into Azle, I was welcomed with open arms, I was supported, I was taught," she said. "They help continue to help grow me as a leader, which eventually put me in this position to get me ready to be an actual principal of a campus."

She said has been built a good rapport with teachers, parents and students.

"When the opportunity arose, there's no question - I had been praying and praying about it," she said.

She is excited to start and nurture relationships with students at Silver Creek. She describes her leadership style as being relationship-oriented and one that involves having significant empathy, and she loves being able to help others grow.

"It's kind of like, we're all learning, we're all in this together, and I will value our teachers and staff and their feedback and make changes if needed," she said.

She wants the school to be a team and family.

"We're going to get to know each other, we're going to build those relationships and from there we're going to grow together," she said, adding she will be as visible as possible on campus.

She and Robbie are the parents of Mack, 3, and Dash, 8 months. Away from school, she and her family enjoy outdoor activities and sporting events.

Stephen Garretson said he struggled in school as a boy, explaining that he was a not a good reader, but had parents who supported him. He became the first person in his immediate family to attend college.

"My mom really worked hard to make sure that I wasn't in debt when I came out of undergraduate school," he said. "A little different now than it was back then."

In high school, he got to be a pre-K aide at the elementary school and said he "absolutely loved it." He knew then that education is what he wanted to do with his life.

"I went to school and haven't looked back," he said, adding he wouldn't want to be in any other profession.

As he made his way through life, he earned three degrees, including a doctorate, and became an educator. Garretson, also known as Dr. G, is the new principal at Walnut Creek Elementary School. He comes to Azle from Northwest ISD, where he was the assistant principal at Cox Elementary School for five years and taught first grade before that.

Garretson grew up in Mount Vernon which is, he is quick to note, the hometown of Don Meredith, the former Dallas Cowboys quarterback and "Monday Night Football" commentator. Garretson's parents grew up in the area, and after Garretson finished high school, he attended East Texas State University. After he graduated with his degree in interdisciplinary studies (elementary education) with an emphasis in reading, he worked in Lubbock at an elementary school, Iles, where he taught second grade.

His journey led him to several school districts throughout Texas, including Mount Pleasant, where he taught eighth literature at a middle school. Garretson performed his student teaching at that school, and the principal there was someone who inspired him.

"I've been very fortunate in my career that I have had some amazing administrators that I worked with, and they have really guided me and helped me along the way," he said.

Garretson has been an educator in West Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Mesquite and Waco. Garretson began work on his doctorate when his family was in Waco.

Garretson and his wife moved to Haslet, where he worked for Northwest ISD and taught fifth and first grades. After their third child was born and he

earned his doctorate from Texas Woman's University, he made his way to the administrator's office after earning his principal's certification. He said the principal he worked with at Cox, Kim Becan, was his mentor and is the person he looks up to. She now works in central administration at NISD. (He earned his master's degree from Texas A&M-Commerce.)

Eventually landing at Walnut Creek, Garretson said the culture stands out at Azle ISD.

"Any time you go to a new place, you don't know what you're walking into," he said. "The staff here has been incredibly supportive. They have been so kind; whatever I need, they're willing to do it."

Garretson said his leadership style is one that centers on helping others to grow.

"I want to make sure that I'm providing opportunities for my teachers to experience that decision-making process," he said. "I try to be a joint decision-making in those type of things for the things I can be, and there are some things that I just have to make decisions about."

But for the most part, he said, he wants to include teachers to have a voice in what goes on.

He said building relationships is important and said is partial to a servant leadership style. He still enjoys being in the classroom and watching teachers interacting with the kids.

"I want to be visible and seen," he said.

He said he wants people to know how hard teachers work for kids and how much they love them, and that they work to ensure that children develop problem-solving skills for life.

"I couldn't ask for a better group of people to be working with," he said.

Garretson is married to Jennifer and their sons are Brendan, 20, Ethan, 18, and Ryan, 14. Away from school, Garretson enjoys wood-working, including making furniture.

Shelley Newton said she didn't take a usual route to become a campus principal at Eagle Heights Elementary.

She said she understands that she has had an unconventional path, but she credits key people in her life who helped her along the way.

"I did not do it by myself - it was just people who saw something in me, some sort of leadership quality to help me and encourage me," she said. "So, I think my career or journey is pretty unique."

Newton grew up in Azle and is an Azle High grad who attended Tarleton State University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in music. She also has a master's degree in counseling from Tarleton. She spent three years as a counselor at Liberty. She was an assistant principal at Liberty for 5 1/2 years.

She is starting her 20th year in education, and she has been in Azle ISD 17 years. She worked in Paradise ISD at the beginning of her career.

"It's been exciting, and sometimes it's been hard, especially starting in January," she said about becoming principal. She was the interim principal then. "We came back and COVID was ramping back up, and we didn't have teachers and we didn't have subs, and that's when construction started here. So, it happened at the same time."

She enjoys seeing the new space at the school, which also will have some new staffers in 2022-23.

"It's exciting to get to be part of something new," she said.

Eagle Heights will have a new library, and two special education classrooms and an administration suite will be added. Other classrooms will be added. Newton hopes all of the additions will be finished by the start of the school year, but she thinks the library won't be finished until after the new year. Eagle Heights had a very small library before. The space where the library existed will be turned into offices and a conference room.

Newton worked at Liberty Elementary School for 15 1/2 years, and she held three different jobs: music teacher, counselor and assistant principal. She spent one year at Silver Creek as the music teacher. At the beginning of her career, she took a 10-year break: After two years at Paradise and one at Silver Creek, she stayed home for a decade and raised her children. She came back and started at Liberty in 2006 and was there until January of this year.

She began her career as a junior high/high school band director and an elementary music teacher in Paradise.

"When I was in junior high, that's what I decided I wanted to do," she said, referring to be a band director and music teacher. Even during when she was at home during her 10-year break, she stayed active in music by, for example, teaching music at church.

"That's pretty much what I always wanted to do was to be an educator," she said. "I'm not sure I ever thought, 'oh, I want to be a principal.' That came as opportunities presented themselves and I changed from one role to another."

She described her leadership style as the servant-leader category, telling staffers that she would never ask them to do anything that she wouldn't do herself and sees her role as one that helps teachers and students.

She describes Eagle Heights as "very friendly and welcoming" and "inclusive" and is the only bilingual campus in Azle ISD. The school has a growing bilingual program. She appreciates the staff being "very kind and welcoming" to her.

In her experience at her latest two schools, Newton said educators knew when they showed up at school, they will make a difference.

"I would say it's my purpose," she said, in a question about what she enjoyed most about being an educator. She has loved all of her roles as educator but has loved them for different reasons.

"I will always have a place in my heart for music, because that's what got me started and that was my avenue for education," she said.

She went to college on a music scholarship. She played the saxophone but doesn't play it anymore. She performed in the Azle Marching Green Pride. All three of her children have gone to Azle High and all three children attended Texas A&M University. Her daughter-in-law also is an Aggie.

Newton and husband Jeff, who have been married 31 years, have one son - David, 27 - and two daughters, Meredith, 24, and Alison, 21.

Outside of school, Newton loves to read and enjoys being outside and observing nature.

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DSHS gets nearly 15,000 monkeypox vaccines

DSHS GETS NEARLY 15,000 MONKEYPOX VACCINES

The Texas Department of State Health Services has received and distributed 14,780 doses of the monkey pox vaccine to local health departments and DSHS regional offices. Another 27,000 doses could be made available by the Strategic National Stockpile.

The disease causes a serious skin rash with painful lesions and appears to be spreading through direct contact with the skin or saliva of an infected person. The disease is preventable by avoiding skin contact with someone who has the disease.

"Risks include having sex, kissing or hugging someone with monkeypox or sharing cups, utensils, bedding or towels with them," according to DSHS.

Through July 29, a total of 5,189 monkeypox cases have been reported nationwide, with 351 of those in Texas. While certainly painful, monkeypox is very rarely fatal.

'URBAN HEAT ISLANDS' EXACERBATE SUMMER TEMPS

It's been hot out there this summer, and cities are recording record temperatures. The Texas A&M Forest Service notes that developed areas often experience higher temperatures than rural areas.

"Areas in these micro-climates of a highly developed city, known as urban heat islands, can be up to 20 degrees warmer than surrounding areas that are more rural, according to Climate Central, a nonprofit news organization that analyzes and reports on climate science," according to the news release.



CAPITOL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders

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

Mac Martin, with the forest service, noted planting or saving large expanses of trees in urban areas can go a long way toward cooling temperatures. Mature trees can release hundreds of gallons of water vapor daily through their leaves, cooling the air. Shaded areas can be between 20 to 45 degrees cooler than peak temperatures in unshaded expanses of concrete.

FIVE TEXAS COURTHOUSES GET RESTORATION GRANTS

The Texas Historical Commission has announced \$22.5 million in grants to five counties to aid in preservation and restoration of their historic courthouses. Four of the counties — Hall, Kimble, Upshur and Wise — received construction grants for full restoration. Comanche County received a planning grant that will be used to prepare for a future full restoration.

"We are thrilled to partner with these communities on these critical historic preservation projects," said THC Executive Director Mark Wolfe. "Their dedication to their historic courthouses will pay economic and quality of life dividends for decades."

Throughout the state, 104 counties have received grants from the THC program, with \$350 million allotted to fund the full restoration of 78 courthouses and smaller grants to assist with planning and emergency needs given to another 26

counties.

DESPITE RAIN, FIRE DANGER REMAINS HIGH

Scattered rain in the upper Texas Panhandle, the Upper Gulf Coast and East Texas have lessened the fire danger somewhat in those areas, but the risk remains high with temperatures hovering above 100 degrees. There were 14 active wildfires as of Sunday, the largest still being the Chalk Mountain Fire in Somervell County, covering 6,746 acres and 53% contained, according to the forest service.

With 224 counties now under burn bans, officials are urging landowners to be extra vigilant about preventing fires. The Austin American-Statesman reported a spate of fires in Central Texas in recent days.

"We just want people to have a hyper sense of awareness," Hank Jones, Williamson County Fire Marshal, told the Statesman. "We are so dry just this week alone we had a fairly large grass fire in Jarrell caused by a truck that blew a tire and when the rim hit the asphalt it created a spark that had 20 to 30 acres burning."

Cedar trees can especially cause problems in Central Texas because they drop needles underneath that can quickly ignite. Homeowners are urged to consider limiting the use of cedar trees around their houses.

The "D" Word

Let's visit about a topic that is crossing people's lips more and more these past few months. DROUGHT !!

Actually, the current drought conditions have been making themselves known for at least the past twelve months.

But before we go very far here let's make sure that we are all on the same level playing field by defining drought. One such definition states that drought is an event of prolonged shortage in water supply; atmospheric water (precipitation), surface water (runoff and impounded water such as rivers, lakes, and stock tanks) and ground water (well water). Many people are not aware of droughty conditions until their house foundation begins to crack, more especially if their houses are built in/on clay type soils or when their landscaping plants begin to turn brown and die or the price of water from the city or co-op begins to increase. But there are some occupations that are constantly on the lookout for the next drought, even when it has been pouring down rain for the last two weeks, the lakes and tanks are full and everything is green. Those who are involved in Agriculture try to constantly be prepared for the next drought, because it's coming. At this point I'm going to take the liberty of borrowing a statement from one of President Reagan's speeches when he said "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction" and change it to "we are never more than three or four months away from a devastating drought." It appears that presently our Washington D.C. leaders are having a tough time deciding if we are in a recession or not, well I'm not a D.C. leader and we are discussing a different subject than recession but I don't think anyone should have a problem declaring that we are



AG 101

By Jack DeShazo

Jack DeShazo has decades of experience in the agriculture field.

AVERAGE PRECIPITATION

Year	Parker County	Tarrant County
2021	33.71"	33.59"
2020	33.77"	43.70"
2019	34.52"	33.08"
2018	40.44"	55.97"
2017	32.33"	36.62"
2014	17.27"	21.32"
2011	25.26"	25.88"
2006	31.30"	27.10"
2005	18.97"	16.84"

in a drought. Just to give you an idea of how serious the lack of rain problem is currently here are some tidbits of Parker and Tarrant County weather statistics. (See infographic above.) Notice the differences between the two side by side counties. Parker County's weather records are documented at Weatherford while Tarrant County's records are recorded at DFW Airport. Keep in mind that the yearly average precipitation for Parker and Tarrant Counties is 32-35 inches. For the first six months of this year Parker County has received 6.51 inches of precipitation while Tarrant has collected 12.41 inches. Notice how much catching up we have to do if this dry spell is going to break and we make it to our yearly averages. Just for the sake of comparison following are a few of recent past years records for our two counties.

Obviously, there are differences between years, but also notice the differences

between our two counties with the weather recording stations being only approximately 50 miles apart. In Agriculture one inch of precipitation here and one inch there at the right time can make a huge difference in production. Sitting in Mr. Frank Litterest's Beef Cattle Production class at Texas A&M many years ago I learned that on average one out of every seven years in Agriculture will be a boom year while the remaining six years teeter between average and bust. Obviously, there is a very close correlation between the weather and Agricultural production. And just for the record as of July 28 over 99% of the state of Texas is included in one of the five drought classifications. One of the few areas of the state not included in a drought category is the El Paso area which is usually naturally dry anyway. Go figure! We'll spend a little more time visiting about our dry weather conditions next week. 'til next time.

SHOOTING

FROM PAGE 1

SH 199, Azle police stated in a news release. Police announced Turner's death on Monday. Turner was taken to a Fort Worth hospital from the scene.

The motorcycle operator, despite the best efforts of emergency personnel and hospital staff, did not

survive. The cause of death will be determined by the medical examiner, said Azle Police Chief Ben Hall.

Just before 12:25 p.m. Sunday, Azle Police Department officers and Azle Fire Department personnel were dispatched to the 1400 block of Highway 199 East eastbound in reference to a major accident with possible shots fired, APD stated in a news release.

Upon arrival, Azle officers found a male lying in the roadway with injuries. Azle Fire/EMS began provided medical treatment to the individual, and a CareFlite air ambulance arrived to transport the male to the hospital.

This is an ongoing investigation, and anyone with information about this incident may contact the Azle PD Criminal Investigations Division at 817-444-3221.

LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

To satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale to be held at Azle Southeast Storage, 1004 Southeast Parkway, Azle, TX at 10:30am 8-11-2022 Property to be sold to the highest bidder for CASH. Property includes contents of the following tenant: Tim Gibson: Household items

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

AZCO CENTERPOINT STORAGE, will hold a public sale on Saturday, August 06, 2022. 9:15 Sign-in, 9:30 Bidding. 11400 FM 730 N Azle, TX 76020, 817-444-7066. ITEMS BEING SOLD TO SATISFY TENANTS RENT: 21 Ashlee Shank, 37Richard Carter, 59Rebecca Mitchell, 139Allen Collins, 141Kaylah Wieck, 158/159Brandon Plymale: Tools, MetalToo1Chest, MobilAirCompressors, Heaters, PortableA/C, YardTools, 100GallonWaterTank, Wardrobe racks, TattooEquip., GolfClubsW/Bag, NiceHallTable, CustonDinningTable, Couch/Loveseat, Decor Pillows, ECT.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

A-Z STORAGE 817-237-7972

A-Z STORAGE wishing to avail themselves of the provisions of Texas Revised Civil Statutes Article 523b and Texas Property Code, Ch. 59, Self-Service Storage Facility Liens Article 44, hereby gives Notice of Sale under said act to wit: On Sat., August 20, 2022, at A-Z Storage, 5824 Azle Ave., Lake Worth, TX, between the hours of 10AM - 12NOON of that day, A-Z Storage will conduct a sale to the highest bidder for the contents of units:

30 rented by Jean Carlos Huertas consisting of misc., sports, 103 rented by Curtis Farris consisting of household, boxes, At A-Z Storage, 5824 Azle Ave. at NW Loop 820, Lake Worth, TX. 817-237-7972 This sale is being held to satisfy a landlord's lien. The Public is invited to attend. Dated this 21th day of July, 2022. Void if lien satisfied in full before date of sale. Mailing address only: A-Z STORAGE, PO BOX 136369, FORT WORTH TX 76136.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF JUAN ROBERTO GONZALEZ DECEASED: Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Independent Administration upon the Estate of JUAN ROBERTO GONZALEZ, Deceased, were issued to FAITH GONZALEZ on the 27th day of July 2022, in Cause No. CIV-19-0284, County Court at Law Number 2, Parker County, Texas, which is still pending, and that FAITH GONZALEZ now holds such Letters. All persons having claims against said estate are required to present the same within the time prescribed by law. Claims should be sent to FAITH GONZALEZ, Independent Administratrix, at the offices of Catherine H. Goodman, PLLC, 600 W. 6th Street, Suite 470, Fort Worth, Texas 76102, care of Catherine H. Goodman.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The City of Pelican Bay will hold a public hearing on the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 proposed annual budgets on Monday, August 15, 2022, at 7:00 p.m., at Pelican Bay City Hall, 1300 Pelican Circle, Pelican Bay, TX 76020. The Fiscal Year 2022-2023 proposed budgets are on file with the City Secretary at City Hall and are available for inspection upon request, or can be viewed on our website at www.cityofpelicanbay.com.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Planning and Zoning Commission of the City of Azle will conduct a public hearing at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 18, 2022 in the City Council Chambers at City Hall, located at 505 West Main Street to consider text amendments to Chapter 14 "Zoning" of the Code of Ordinances, City of Azle, Texas. The purpose of the text amendment is to consider amendments to the zoning change procedures.

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Back-to-school time is just around the corner

Back-to-school time is just around the corner. The excitement of the upcoming school year is building with the shopping for school supplies and school clothes, the Marching Green Pride practicing, and athletic teams such as cross-country, volleyball, and football preparing for their upcoming seasons.

We kick off the 2022-2023 school year by welcoming more than 120 new employees at the end of this week. I want to personally welcome all of our new employees to the Azle ISD family. We are thrilled that you have joined Hornet Nation! Returning employees begin on August 9 with professional development, and students start on Wednesday, August 17. I look forward to seeing all of the great things in store for our students and staff this year.

Our Azle ISD community continues to experience growth. At our annual new student registration last Thursday, we enrolled 362 new Hornets. We will continue to enroll new students for the next several weeks and throughout the school year. Families of returning students need to complete the Returning Student Registration online through ParentPortal. Visit www.azleisd.net/BackToSchool for detailed instructions as well as other important back-to-school information.



AZLE ISD

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

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

The May 2021 Bond Election projects are well underway. Renovations at Eagle Heights Elementary will be the first to be completed. The additions and renovations at Hoover Elementary will not be complete until later in the school year. Construction at both Liberty and the new Hilltop Elementary is on track for completion next summer. The high school projects approved last November will begin soon. I encourage you to visit the construction page on our website for photos from the various projects.

As we approach the upcoming school year, safety remains on all of our minds. On behalf of our Board of Trustees and Azle ISD, I want to assure our Azle ISD community the safety of our students and staff remains a top priority. As shared in my June column, school safety is a shared responsibility amongst students, staff, parents, and our community. We encourage "See Something, Say Something" anytime anyone has a concern. We have an

anonymous tip line available on our website and through the Azle ISD app. Darren Brockway, Azle ISD Chief of Police, oversees district safety and security measures. Along with our partnership with the City of Azle for five Azle PD School Resource Officers, we have committed to adding six additional Azle ISD PD Officers to help protect our students and staff. I encourage everyone to check out all of our safety initiatives via our website.

A big thank you to all Azle ISD employees, new and returning, for choosing Azle ISD. We remain committed to providing our students and community with the best of the best. The entire Azle ISD staff is dedicated to serving the needs of our diverse student population, and is committed to our Azle ISD mission statement of Making a difference to every child, every chance, every day!
We Are Azle -
Todd Smith
Superintendent of Schools

National program works to battle childhood hunger

BY DON MUNSCH
don@azlenews.net

Local children still have a few weeks before they begin classes.

Those whose families are struggling with food insecurity in the meantime can get help now through No Kid Hungry.

"No Kid Hungry is a national campaign to end childhood hunger in America," said Mia Medina, program manager for No Kid Hungry Texas, which focuses on statewide outreach, technical assistance, grants and day-to-day operations. "In Texas, No Kid Hungry works with schools, local nonprofits and elected leaders to help launch and improve programs that give all kids the healthy food that they need to thrive. We do that work through grants, advocacy work and efforts to increase awareness about food insecurity in their community."

In a telephone interview with the News, Medina said

meals for children and teenagers - 18 and under - can be found by texting FOOD to 304-304. People who text that number can receive info on resources available in the community.

No Kid Hungry supports community organizations and school districts in their efforts to feed young people, and No Kid Hungry can provide grants and resources that can get the word out about these summer meal programs.

Proper nutrition is essential.

"Research shows that kids who do not get enough of the nutrition that they need may be at higher risk for both short- and long-term health challenges and diminished physical and emotional well-being," said Medina, who is based in Pflugerville.

Hunger can also exacerbate summer learning loss, and without accessing nutrition during the summer months, it can be that much harder for kids to return to school the next year ready to

learn, she said.

Before June ended, Congress passed and President Joe Biden signed the Keep Kids Fed Act of 2022, which is legislation that will provide tools and financial resources that entities that take care of children need to continue feeding children through the 2022-23 school year.

She said the act will increase the federal reimbursement rate to schools for each meal served and allows schools the flexibility to meet nutritional standards for meals, while they cope with supply shortages in the upcoming school year. Schools won't be penalized, for example, if they have to make substitutions for green and orange vegetables when those foods aren't available, and the act will provide additional financial resource to meet higher prices for food, staff and gas expenses.

For more information on No Kid Hungry, access nokidhungry.org.

News brings home three awards in state contest

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Azle News won three awards at the Texas Press Association Convention's Better Newspaper contest at TPA's convention over the

weekend in San Marcos.

The News took second in News Writing, third in General Excellence and third in News Photography. "We are proud of the

awards we received at TPA's convention," News editor Don Munsch said. "We look forward to continuing to serve and inform our readers in Azle."

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Jacques Cousteau

Jacques Cousteau introduced people to the beauty of the undersea world.

When he was four years old, Jacques Cousteau learned to swim. Little did his family know that swimming would lead him to a life of adventure, discovery and joy.

One day, while swimming at a beach, a friend gave Jacques a pair of goggles with rubber rims to keep out water. With these, Jacques was able to see fish, shells, plants—a whole new world under the sea.

Find a cup, pencil, glove and hat hidden here!

Movie Kid
Jacques loved movies. But not just to watch them. He wanted to make them. At 13 years old, Jacques saved his allowance, penny by penny, until he could buy a small home-movie camera.

Then he made as many movies as he could. He liked to dress up as a villain with a painted-on mustache.

Find the two identical mustaches.

How many fish can you count on this page while holding your breath? Have a friend try. Who held their breath the longest?

Explorer, Moviemaker, Environmentalist

As Jacques Cousteau spent longer periods of time underwater, he could make longer, more informative movies. Soon, his movies were getting attention and awards around the world. People wanted more.

He needed a boat to travel and explore bodies of water around the world. He found a used naval ship and turned it into an explorer's ship.

For the rest of his life, Jacques traveled the world, explored, studied and made films about the wonders of the underwater world.

Sadly, as time went on, Jacques saw underwater plants and animals dying. He saw that when people dumped garbage and chemicals into the ocean, it poisoned the animals and plants he loved so much.

He started to make movies to warn people of the dangers of pollution. His movies have raised money and helped people understand the importance of saving our oceans.

In the Navy
Replace the missing words.
CATCHING JAR HOLDING UNDERWATER

After high school, Jacques _____ the Navy. With his movie camera, he filmed pearl divers and men _____ fish with their bare hands. Soon he put his movie camera inside a waterproof _____ and filmed movies of the wonders under the sea.

The more time Jacques spent _____, the longer he wanted to stay. He and his friends practiced _____ their breath for longer and longer times.

But Jacques wanted more _____ underwater. To be able to do that, he invented something that would let him _____ underwater. He called it the Aqua-Lung. Aqua means water, and our lungs are the part of our body that breathes. The Aqua-Lung let Jacques breathe beneath the water so he could _____ for longer periods of time.

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

ADVENTURE AWARDS BREATH CAMERA DANGERS DIVING EXPLORE FISH GOGGLES INVENTION OCEAN PEARL SCUBA SEA WONDERS

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

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

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY
Science in the News
Look through the newspaper for an article about scientific developments or research. Find the answers: Who are the scientists conducting the research? What kind of science is involved? How will this help humans?
Standards Link: Cite evidence in text to respond to questions.

Write On!
Explorer's Journal
Pretend you are exploring a country you have never visited. Where would you go? Write a journal entry.

Extra! Extra!
Explore the News
Look through your newspaper to find:
 Something that needs water.
 A place you'd like to visit someday.
 Five numbers that add up to 100.
 A picture of an animal.
 A headline that is three inches wide.
Standards Link: Use a variety of media including newspapers.

Kid Scoop Puzzler
Jacques Cousteau's invention of the Aqua-Lung allowed more and more people to explore and enjoy the wonders of the underwater world. The Aqua-Lung would eventually be called SCUBA gear. Today, millions of people worldwide enjoy SCUBA diving.

CROSS OUT THE LETTERS Z AND Y TO REVEAL WHAT SCUBA MEANS:
ZSELYFCOZNTYAIYNEDZUNYDZERZW
AYTERZBREAYTHIZNGAPZPARYATUS

SE - D
U W
R A R N U S

Kid Scoop Together
How to Draw a Narwhal
Cousteau and his crew saw many unusual creatures on their voyages around the world. Follow the steps to draw a narwhal.

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

ON FISHING

Protect against ticks to avoid diseases

Hunting season will be upon us before you know it. Our super hot summer has everyone wishing for some cooler weather and some rain. But summer does not look like it is going to end any time soon and many believe that the hot dry weather may have the insects at bay. Don't be complacent about insect protection. Be prepared and take precautions before you head out to enjoy the outdoors.

Even though this summer is one of the hottest, I do remember the summer of 1980 where we had a record number of days with temperatures above 100. I remember wearing dog flea collars around our boot ankles back then to keep the ticks and chiggers off.

A bite from an infected tick can cause illnesses such as Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain spotted fever and human ehrlichiosis, according to sources for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Ticks are most anywhere in Texas and most animals will carry ticks at some time. Your pet, hunting dog or a harvested animal may expose them to you. Your pet can also get Lyme disease.

The Lone Star tick, which is common throughout the south and central United States, is apparently the tick in Texas that is likely to carry disease. I am not sure I can



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

tell the difference, but the Lone Star tick is a larger tick about the size of a watermelon seed. Different species of ticks apparently will stay on animals; however the Lone Star tick readily feeds on human blood.

Lyme disease, which is the most frequently diagnosed tick-borne problem in the country, is a bacterial infection that can cause skin, joint, heart and nervous system problems. Lyme disease usually begins with flu-like symptoms such as fatigue, headache, fever, stiff neck and joint pain. Occasionally, there may be skin lesions or rashes, usually around the site of the tick bite. Spring and early summer usually has the most instances when folks are infected.

Treatment is with antibiotics. Untreated, Lyme disease may result in severe damage to joints, the heart and nervous system. In Texas, several thousand possible cases of Lyme disease have been reported since 1990. Apparently, about 1 to 2% of ticks carries the Lyme disease bacterium.

Both Rocky Mountain spotted fever and human ehrlichiosis can be fatal if not treated quickly. Symptoms resemble flu with high fever, headaches and muscle aches. There also can be a measles-like rash.

Some commonsense prevention tips include treating your pets and yourself before you head out in the outdoors. Staying out of tall brush may help and check yourself frequently when located in areas where ticks are prevalent.

If you do find a tick on your skin, remove it right away. To remove an attached tick, use tweezers to grasp the tick at the skin surface. With a steady motion, gently pull the tick straight out. Do not crush the tick's body. The tick will come out with steady pressure.

A vaccine to protect against Lyme disease is available. Contact your doctor for more information about the vaccine. If you do get any flu-like symptoms after a tick bite, you should get medical attention as soon as possible.



COURTESY PHOTO
NICE FISH: From left, Betty and Shawn Wood show off their catch of large striped bass from Lake Granbury, taken last weekend.

FISHING REPORT

Even though I do remember the summer of 1980, I don't remember it being as hot as this summer. Water temperatures at Lake Granbury are from the upper 80s to the low 90s. Water levels are about 2 feet low and will be falling. Striped bass are fair to good on live bait on the lower ends. Largemouth bass to 6 pounds are possible near deeper docks. Sand bass are fair to good and have been schooling near Indian Harbor early. Crappie fishing is excellent on small minnows fished near submerged structure from the bypass bridge upstream. Catfish continue to be good on cut shad near baited holes mid lake.

On other reservoirs, Whitney striped bass limits are common most days on live bait on the lower ends. Benbrook crappie are good to excellent. Possum Kingdom striped bass are good to excellent on live shad fished from Hell's Gate to the dam.

JIM STEVENS PHOTOGRAPHY

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AHS Meet and Greet

PHOTO BY DON MUNSCH

Azle High School Principal Nate Driver, center, sitting, talks to family friend Gayle Hale and his mother Tracey Driver at his meet and greet for the community last week at AHS. Driver begins this year as the new principal at AHS. Also pictured here are, from left, assistant principals Brandon Duncan, Brynn Suter, Logan Enis and Heather Wilson.



Azle residents inducted into Country Gospel hall of fame

FROM STAFF REPORTS

An Azle resident has received recognition for his work in the Country Gospel music industry.

John Webster was inducted into the International Country Gospel Music Association's Hall of Fame at the 66th Annual ICGMA Awards & Convention in West Plains, Missouri. The convention was held July 21-23, according to a release from the ICGMA.

Webster is a long-time resident of Azle and has been in the Country Gospel industry for 30 years. He has traveled extensively, and his

music is heard in 12 countries around the globe. His work in the Country Gospel music ministry also includes many nursing homes and assisted living communities, senior citizen centers and years of fundraising events in Parker County for Meals on Wheels and Alzheimer's associations.

Webster currently has a weekly television show on UA NETWORK in the Dallas / Fort Worth Metro area and his music can be heard on many radio and internet radio stations around the U.S. and many other countries.



John Webster

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Outdoor & indoor vendor space available. Applications must indicate items to be sold or displayed.

- Applications and payment must be received by August 12, 2022. Checks, cash, money orders, Visa and MasterCard are accepted. After August 12, 2022, payments will include a \$25.00 late fee. Booth fees and late fees are considered donations and refunds will not be issued for any reason.
- All vendors are responsible for providing their own 10 x 10 tent, tables, and chairs. Inside booths are limited. They will be filled on a first come first served basis. Inside booths are located at 404 Main Place. You must bring your own tables and chairs. Limited booths with electrical hookup.
- Outside booths will be placed along Main Street in front of existing businesses. Electrical hookup not available. Must bring your own generator if needed.
- All vendors must sell from their booths only. No soliciting from any area other than your own rented booth. Booths must be maintained from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. No breaking down early.
- Absolutely NO READY TO EAT FOOD, FOOD SAMPLES OR DRINKS may be sold from craft and sales booths.
- Each vendor is responsible for their trash cleanup at the conclusion of the event.
- Each vendor is solely responsible for paying sales tax.
- All food vendors are required to obtain a temporary permit from the Tarrant County Health Department at their own cost. Under no circumstance will a vendor be allowed to operate without a permit. Non-profit organizations must obtain a health permit but are exempt from the fee. No food permits will be issued on the premises. Health Department #817-321-4960.
- All vendors using generators or cooking food, please be aware that the Azle Fire Department will be inspecting your area on festival day. If you have questions, you can contact Kenny Wilson with the Azle Fire Department #817-444-7051.
- Vendors will be assigned booth spaces by festival coordinators. You will be contacted with your number, location, and other important information about 1 week prior to the event.
- All booths must be safely constructed and not constitute a hazard. Walkways must always remain clear. Azle Police Department will be monitoring all traffic.
- This is a family friendly festival, profanity, alcohol, and tobacco products are not permitted.
- Anyone violating any of the above rules may be asked to leave and can be denied participation in future festivals.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE

A tax rate of \$0.493500 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of Town of Lakeside.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	0.493500 per \$100
NO-NEW REVENUE TAX RATE	0.372061 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	0.493526 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2022 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for Town of Lakeside from the same properties in both the 2021 tax year and the 2022 tax year.

The voter-approval rate is the highest tax rate that Town of Lakeside may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that Town of Lakeside is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2022 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON August 11, 2022, AT 6:30 PM AT 9830 Confederate Park Rd.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, Town of Lakeside is not required to hold an election at which voters may accept or reject the proposed tax rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate by contacting the members of the Town of Lakeside at their offices or by attending the public hearing mentioned above.

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE RATES MENTIONED ABOVE CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

$$\text{property tax amount} = (\text{rate}) \times (\text{taxable value of your property}) / 100$$

FOR the proposal: Chris Ayers Kathy Livingston Wesley Hearn
Amy Robinson Rona Gouyton

AGAINST the proposal:
PRESENT and not voting:
ABSENT:

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://www.texas.gov/PropertyTaxes) to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by Town of Lakeside last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by Town of Lakeside this year.

	2021	2022	Change
Total Tax Rate (per \$100 of value)	0.406239	0.493500	increase of 0.087261 or 21.48%
Average homestead taxable value	\$221,263	\$243,095	increase of 21,832, or 9.87%
Tax on average homestead	\$898.86	\$1,199.67	increase of 300.81, or 33.47%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$697,698	\$923,921	increase of 226,223, or 32.42%

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for Town of Lakeside at 817-237-1234 or lakeside@lakesidetexas.us, or visit www.lakeside-texas.us for more information.



Camps keep kids active in summer



BY JEFF PRINCE
jeff@azlenews.net

A guy wearing a green shirt walked up to Phoenix Clowers during a recent summer camp and made small talk for a moment before slapping the kid on the back for a job well done.

Clowers, a third grader, turned his attention back to the football field, where a running drill was taking place. Clowers had no idea that the guy who spoke to him was Devon Dorris, head coach of the Azle Hornets – a football team that Clowers hopes to play for one day.

His mom, Normandi Clowers, watched her son from the stands.

“He’s done camps all summer long,” she said. “All different sports. He’s done wrestling, a couple of football ones, basketball, and he’s currently in boxing.”

The kid is strong, fast and agile, and his prowess on the field was obvious.

“He asks us to take him to these things,” Normandi Clowers said. “He does training with his dad nearly every day. He has already signed up for the fall season for tackle football here in Azle.”

She appreciates that the camps give him an outlet to release energy and stay active, “which is really important for kids nowadays

PHOTO BY JEFF PRINCE

Deacon Hupp runs a pass route at football camp.

SEE FOOTBALL, PAGE B3.

Five philosophical questions for two Azle wrestlers

BY JEFF PRINCE
jeff@azlenews.net

Azle wrestlers Oliver Lorenz and Elias Ramirez are thoughtful and well-spoken when they’re not beating up people.

Lorenz, a senior, is about to begin his fourth season on the varsity wrestling team. He doesn’t play other sports, choosing to focus on wrestling.

When asked his age by a reporter, Lorenz said he would turn 17 in two months.

A minute later, he corrected himself.

“Sorry,” he said. “That was dumb. I’m 17 now and will be 18 in two months.”

Ramirez is a junior who plays football and soccer in

addition to wrestling and has begun working with the cheer team, as well.

Last season, he was among the top wrestlers on the varsity team in the 195-pound class.

Both boys have been participating in the summer wrestling program that focuses on basic skills and “technical things,” said wrestling coach Megan House.

“We cover things we noticed we needed to work on throughout our season or things that the girls or the boys are having issues with on their own,” she said.

The wrestlers don’t lounge around in the air conditioning and sip iced tea after

SEE PHILOSOPHY, PAGE B3.



PHOTO BY JEFF PRINCE

Oliver Lorenz and Elias Ramirez ponder life’s big questions when not dominating the wrestling mat.

Marching Green Pride band camp



PHOTO BY JEFF PRINCE

Marching Green Pride section leader Hensley Harmon works with her fellow saxophone musicians during the first day of band camp, which began July 25. Azle’s marching band will play its first halftime show of the new football season on Aug. 26 at Hornet Stadium.

Azle baseball players receive state hurrahs

BY JEFF PRINCE
jeff@azlenews.net

The Azle baseball program has been raking in the accolades, led by junior catcher Billy Spratt, the newly crowned first team All-State Catcher by the Texas High School Baseball Coaches Association.

The coaches group selects winners based on their 2021-2022 season.

Seniors Kyler Braswell, Isaac Riley, Brandon Sheets, Rylan Stults, Triton Townner and Westin Wyatt were named academic All-State.

The Fort Worth Star-Telegram included three Hornets on its All-Area Team: Spratt, Tyler Akers and De-

clan Dahl.

Spratt was also named honorable mention All-State Catcher by the Texas Sports Writers Association.

The American Baseball Association awarded the Azle baseball program with its Team Academic Excellence Award. Azle was one of 257 programs nationwide and one of just 16 programs statewide to receive the academic achievement.

“We are proud of all the accolades our program has received this year,” AHS head coach Stephen Smith said. “It takes everyone in the program competing academically and athletically each day to receive these accomplishments.”

Summer camp teaches basketball hopefuls how to become Lady Hornets

BY JEFF PRINCE
jeff@azlenews.net

Allie is her name, and volleyball is her game - but she keeps her options open.

"It's my first time doing basketball," said Allie Waldrip, who was participating in the Azle summer basketball camp on July 25.

The camp was open to girls from fifth to ninth grades.

"I just wanted to go to camp and try it out, see if I like it for a season," she said.

The sixth grader struggled during a dribbling drill because she's had little experience bouncing a basketball, but she improved by the end of the session and said she enjoyed herself.

Her mother, Jennifer Waldrip, said Allie is proactively trying as many different sports as possible while still in elementary school to determine where her strengths lie.

"She just wants to try different sports to see which one she likes before she goes into the older grades where they do it more at school," Jennifer Waldrip said. "If she likes basketball, we will do basketball for the fall and then volleyball for

the spring."

Allie's dad, Shawn Waldrip, inspired her interest in roundball.

"Her dad played basketball, so that's what makes her want to play," Jennifer Waldrip said.

The camp taught basic skills while allowing the girls to burn off energy in a fun way. During the early part of summer, Allie had spent much of her time indoors, hanging around the house. Camp provided motivation to get off the couch and start sweating.

"They've done a lot of exercises and stretches and things like that will help her get her body moving again after the summer," Jennifer Waldrip said. "This is a good one to bring her back into getting ready for the school year."

Larry Womble sat in the bleachers at the Azle gym watching his daughter, Rachel, practice at camp. She, too, struggled with a drill that required dribbling a ball around cones but showed good foot movement and shooting prowess.

"She has always liked basketball, and she watches it with me (on TV) - pros and college," he said.

They have a 36x36-foot



Allie Waldrip takes aim while Azle Junior High coach Kriss Meeker gives her pointers.



Rachel Womble dribbles at camp after spending hours at home practicing on a concrete slab.



Allie Waldrip works on her dribbling during a drill.



slab on their property where she practices her dribbling.

"I've been helping her some," he said. "She's just 11 years old. She's getting it."

Basketball and other sports help kids mentally and physically, he said.

"It keeps them sharp and strong," he said. "They build themselves up over time and, if you're good enough, you'll go further with it. You develop friendships and things like that. That's pretty important."

Rachel Womble reaches down to touch a cone while continuing to dribble under the watchful eye of Azle Junior High coach Neosha Beach.

PHOTOS BY JEFF PRINCE



Football head coach Devon Dorris talks to Phoenix Clowers during a drill.



PHOTOS BY JEFF PRINCE
Caiden Gann takes a whack at a blocking dummy.

FOOTBALL

FROM PAGE B1

because (when) they're not active, they're normally trying to get into trouble or something," she said. "This is something he loves doing, and it gives him a goal at the end of the day, which keeps him driving." Perhaps less enthralled

with football camp was Caiden Gann, who was trying football for the first time but having difficulty staying focused. He wandered off during a couple of drills to entertain himself. His mother, Shannon Gann, could tell her boy was restless, but that was OK. "He's never played sports before, so I was just kind of letting him see what he likes

and what he doesn't like," she said. "He doesn't really like football. He's had fun, but it's just not for him. He likes interacting with the kids and playing around." This summer, Gann has attended three camps - baseball, football and basketball. Only one sport grabbed his fancy. "He's more into baseball," Mom said.

Azle Emerald Dazzlers hit summer camp to prepare for football season



PHOTO BY JEFF PRINCE
Brayson Tittle, middle, works on routines with her Dazzler teammates.

BY JEFF PRINCE
jeff@azlenews.net

Halftimes at Azle football games are extra exciting and sparkly when the Emerald Dazzlers take the field

to dance with pompoms and fire up the crowd. Being dazzling takes work. "We are getting ourselves prepped for August camp," said Crystal Martinez, the

director of the Dazzlers, while leading the team through a voluntary workout on July 27. Since the early part of summer, the girls have met one day a week to shake

pompoms and work on steps. Beginning this week, the team will practice three times weekly "so we get ourselves prepped for this football season," Martinez said.

Camp began on Aug. 1, classes on campus begin on Aug. 17, and the first football game is Aug. 26. Until that first halftime show, the Dazzlers will be practicing their routines

while "bonding together and getting to know each other a little bit more," Martinez said.

PHILOSOPHY

FROM PAGE B1

morning practice. They attend strength camp afterward, creating an intense three-hour combined workout.

House isn't surprised by their work ethic. They are, after all, devoted to wrestling. "They're pretty resilient," she said. "They're used to

pushing their bodies beyond the limits." **What do you want to be when you grow up?** Oliver Lorenz: I don't have any future life plans right now, but I definitely want to go to college - the U.S. Air Force Academy. Elias Ramirez: I want to go to college, get a business degree - a communications degree - and be a territory manager for a company. It's like a sales manager. Public

speaking is a good life skill to learn. It's helped me a lot through my life, so I want to pursue that career. **If you could paint your room whatever color you wanted, what would it be?** OL: I'd definitely paint it blue. It makes my eyes pop. I got blue eyes. ER: Baby Blue. My father said, "Look up the sky. What color do you see?" I said, "Baby blue." He was like, "Alright, well, the sky

is not the limit." You've got to keep going, keep pushing yourself. **Chicken fried steak or grilled chicken salad?** OL: Definitely grilled chicken, just because I've got to get my weight down. ER: Chicken-fried steak. Too much grilled chicken salads for wrestling season. **What is your most embarrassing moment?** OL: Besides just now forgetting my age? A couple of

years ago, I was just carrying groceries and dropped a giant jar of jam on my foot. I couldn't wrestle for about three days. It was just ridiculous. The whole team saw me do it and had a good laugh about it. ER: I was at work. I do door-to-door sales. I had to use a port-a-potty. They actually were taking the port-a-potty, and they lifted me up when I was in it. I was like, "Whoa, whoa, on," and

when they put it down, the water splashed up and got on me. **What is the meaning of life?** OL: I'd say enjoyment or just leave your place in it. Everyone wants to be remembered, but at the same time, you've got to enjoy it while you have it. ER: Happiness, friendship and love.

CLASSIFIED 817-270-3340 - Azle - classified@azlenews.net
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TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

1 Yale is an _____
 5 Granbury is the seat of this county
 6 Santa _____, Texas
 7 "____ an old cowhand from the Rio . . ."
 8 money machine (abbr.)
 9 torment
 15 Kick _____ Indian Reservation is in Maverick County
 16 place of refuge
 19 TXism: "never look a gift _____ the mouth" (appreciate)
 21 distinguishing characteristic
 22 prepared something
 27 TXism: "chrome dome"
 28 "gave it _____-ho" (tossed it out)
 29 lately, one buys Texas crude _____
 30 TXism: "disappointed as _____ with a rubber chicken"
 32 former spouse
 33 Cal Farley founded this youth place in 1937 (2 wds.)
 36 Dallas' ABC television affiliate
 37 retir. savings acct.
 38 technology based on biology
 39 dental _____ for artificial teeth
 41 ICAO code for Texas "Southwest"

DOWN

1 TX Dale Evans' "____! San Antonio"
 2 this TX Tinkle wrote Alamo book: "Thirteen Days to Glory"
 3 newspaper in Mineola: "Wood County _____"
 4 TX Robert _____ was Secretary of Commerce for TX George W.
 8 TXism: "two peas in _____" (alike)
 9 TXism: "he's right (often "Tejas") _____" (big eater)

42 introduce air into your lawn
 45 Monte _____, Texas
 46 this TX Nat sang "Sweet Thang" in 1966 (init.)
 47 TX Nolan Ryan's wife
 48 what a cow says
 49 "give _____" (make an attempt)
 52 the US-Mexico-Canada agreement that was replaced by the USMCA

10 TXism: "frisky as _____ unsaddled horse"
 11 noted A&M football coach: _____ Slocum
 12 TX McArdle painted "Dawn _____"
 13 TXism: "____ 'nuff"
 14 apt. assn. in the Alamo City
 15 TXism: "got _____ big as Texas" (kind)
 16 farm storage tower
 17 old spiritual: "Down to the _____ Pray"
 18 former Mexican state: "Coahuila _____" (often "Tejas")
 20 "to _____ his own"

22 Texas singer Orbison (init.)
 23 Limbaugh's net.
 24 high tennis shot (2 wds.)
 25 TXism: "honest as the _____ long"
 26 TX Dan Jenkins book: "Life _____ self" (1984)

28 beer keg valve (2 wds.)
 31 TX-born Martin film: "All _____"
 34 this physicist was smart enough to be a Texan (init.)
 35 cheerleaders org.
 37 "burst _____ tears"
 40 TXism: "heap of" (2 wds.)
 43 destroy
 44 ambassador or military aide
 50 TXism: "drug cowboy" (dude)
 51 laugh word

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