



Azle News

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JOBS IN AZLE

Working with animals is shelter supervisor's passion



Jessie Williams interacts with a dog at the Azle Animal Shelter.

Photo by Don Munsch

EDITOR'S NOTE: Eighth in a series on people's jobs in Azle.

BY DON MUNSCH
don@azlenews.net

Jessie Williams' mother naturally knew something about her daughter's choice of a vocation.

Williams has always had a love and passion for animals. Her mother told her she knew she was meant to work with them.

SEE **WILLIAMS**, PAGE 5A.

City receives superior designation on water supply

BY DON MUNSCH
don@azlenews.net

The city of Azle has been awarded a certain designation from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, and it's a recognition that the water plant superintendent considers a "huge achievement."

Brad Geary, water plant

superintendent for the city of Azle since 2017, discussed the city of Azle's 2021 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report at the Azle City Council's June 21 meeting. TCEQ oversees water quality. The report covered such information as the water treatment process, water assessments, regulated contaminants and bacteri-

ological testing. Azle residents' water comes directly from Eagle Mountain Lake. "Because we've shown to be very good in the past, we go through a compliance inspection every three years, and it's just on a revolving deal that as they come through and they go through

SEE **WATER**, PAGE 3A.

Texas foster care system is in crisis

BY JESSICA MCKINNEY
azlereporter@azlenews.net

The foster care system in Texas is in trouble.

"We are facing a crisis in the foster care system as the Texas Child Protective Services system does not have enough bedspace for all children in its care," said a CASA flyer for an upcoming event.

ing event.

In Tarrant County, there are more than 600 children in foster care. Parker County has around 50. Statewide, the number of children in foster care is close to 12,000.

Right now, Texas is 11 years into a federal lawsuit due to the state's failure to comply with U.S. District

Judge Janis Jack's orders to fix many of the system's issues that were found to be violating the constitutional rights of foster children in Texas.

These problems include the high workload on individual caseworkers, care of children in the system and

SEE **CASA**, PAGE 3A.

Alleged hit-and-run driver sentenced to 18 months on lesser charge

BY JESSICA MCKINNEY
azlereporter@azlenews.net

A Weatherford man pled guilty to the charge of possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine) less than one gram on June 22 and was sentenced to 18 months in state jail, with credit for time served.

Larry John Hendershot, 45, had two other cases related to this offense — aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and accident involving death. Both of those cases were dis-



Larry John Hendershot

missed when Hendershot pled guilty to the possession charge.

SEE **HENDERSHOT**, PAGE 3A.

Follow the Flag



The Follow the Flag event attracted thousands of people Monday to Azle. The event included a fireworks display.

Photo by Don Munsch | **MORE PHOTOS** PAGE 2A.



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A misting station helped people cool off at the Follow the Flag event.

Follow the Flag in Azle

This is the 29th anniversary of the Follow the Flag event, held in Azle every year on July 4th.
Photos by Don Munsch



Katie and Darrin Parrish brought dog Noel, a Shepherd mix, with them to the Follow the Flag event Monday at Central Park.



Bryan Beamer, left, and brother Jason play volleyball at Central Park.



As a flag flaps in the breeze at right, Alex Dubrov, a native of Ukraine, plays a song at the Follow the Flag event at Central Park in Azle.



Faith McDonald and Delbra Calton sing during the Follow the Flag event.

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SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

A comfortable place to socialize

BY JACKIE "JJ" JOY
Special to the Azle News

We are well into the time of year when the heat makes older adults want to stay home under the air conditioning. The problem with this is the loneliness and isolation that comes with it. This is especially hard on those who are "social" beings. The Azle Adult Activity Center (Senior Center) can help with this by offering a safe, cool place for "seasoned" adults to gather for fun, food and socialization. We serve nutritious meals Monday through Friday and offer opportunities in a variety of areas.

There is a wide assortment of games available, such as dominoes, Rummikub, Wii bowling, Bridge on Fridays and oth-

ers. Additional activities include Bible Study at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays, Bridge class (for those wanting to learn) on Thursdays at 9 a.m., and exercise classes at 10 a.m. on Thursdays.

We also offer educational programs such as MasterClass on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. This is an opportunity to learn from experts about a wide range of subjects.

Starting July 18, we will be offering A Matter of Balance. Meeting on Mondays and Wednesdays for four weeks, participants will learn to overcome their fears about falling, how to prevent falls, how to make the home safer and simple exercises that will strengthen areas of the body that affect balance. Anyone interested, please call 817-444-0070

to sign up. The classes are offered from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. at our facility located at 601 Southeast Parkway in Ash Creek Park.

Also coming in July, a representative from Moncrief Cancer Screening will be here to discuss the importance of their services. This will be on July 20 at 11:30 a.m. At a date to be announced later, we will be having their mobile unit here do screening.

As you can see, we have a lot to offer at the Azle Adult Activity Center. For questions or to sign up for A Matter of Balance, make a meal reservation or any other information, please call 817-444-0070 or come to see us at 601 Southeast Parkway here in Azle. We will be glad to give you a tour. Hope to see you real soon.

WATER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.

our paperwork and they go sample water out in our system," Geary said, adding TCEQ reps watch laboratory testing and filter backwashes and tests of that nature to assess the ins and outs of a water treatment plant. The last inspection the city had was in 2021, and TCEQ rated the plant as a superior water system plant.

"For the first time in the city's history, we actually got designated as a superior water system this year," he said. "It's something we're very, very proud of."

The city received the documentation from TCEQ on June 16 on its superior public water system, and that gives the city permission to put up signs on roadways on city limits noting it has a superior public water system.

"For the rest of the world, it's inconsequential; to water plant operators, it's the peak of our world," he said, explaining the designation's significance. "It's what we've been shooting for for quite some time. You have to go so long without violations of anything water relat-

ed and then you have to have 24 months with no bacteriological positive samples. Just quite a few hurdles you have jump through in order to qualify for it and then we have to submit requests to the TCEQ and then they go through our last three compliance investigations and talk with the person that did the investigating and check with it. It's really big in our world because it means that we're doing everything we can do in order to put out the best quality of water possible."

The highway markers have been ordered, Geary said.

With the area in a drought, Geary said the city has a drought contingency plan that it updates every five years, and most of its plans are designated directly from what the Tarrant Regional Water District does.

"Once they've reached a certain level in the lake — once it gets to 75% — then they'll reach out and recommend to all the people that purchase water from them to invoke stage 1 restrictions,"

he said. "And then of course, if it keeps dropping down the lake levels, then they'll invoke stage 2 and stage 3."

Last week, he said he received a TRWD report that said it expected that if nothing changes and the climate holds up the way it's currently showing, then "we would be at conservation levels in early October."

Geary tracks climate and water predictions and he is on many membership committees, such as American Water Works and the Texas Water Development Board.

"The TRWD has done amazing things and the Water Development Board has done amazing things over the past 10 years as far as piping water in from locations that do have excess, to try and alleviate the chances of us getting to a drought as much as they can," he said.

Geary said leaders have to vigilantly maintain the water source it does have, and the water plant is doing everything in its power to reuse and recycle as much of the water as it can.

CASA, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.

placement issues.

Now, the state will likely face "substantial fines" for failing to fix the issues that Jack pointed out. Texas has already had two sanctions for violating her orders.

Because of the lack of bedspace in Texas — meaning licensed facilities and homes and approved family member homes — the state has placed children at motels and CPS offices.

Others were sent out of state. According to the Texas Tribune, from January 2021 to October 2021, the state was sending approximately 38 children a month out of Texas for placement.

FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT

Texas could miss out on millions of dollars in federal funding because Jack said

they are not compliant with the Family First program.

The FFPSA was passed by congress in 2018 in an effort to "reduce entry in foster care, limit the use of congregate care, and to increase access to substance abuse and mental health services," according to the Texas DFPS website.

This focuses on preventive services that would help keep children in the home

when possible and providing the families with support.

The loss of federal support is expected to be \$17.4 million for 2022 and \$25.6 million in 2023 because of the lack of compliance.

HOW TO HELP

Foster children in Texas need trained caregivers and advocates.

Anyone who would like to be considered as a fos-

ter family must meet state requirements and undergo training.

For information about requirements, visit www.dfps.state.tx.us/Adoption_and_Foster_Care/Get_Started/steps.asp.

Foster children also need advocates, someone to speak on their behalf.

The CASA program (Court Appointed Special Advocates) in Tarrant

and Parker counties allows adults to volunteer to visit foster children, observe parent/child visitations and speak with teachers, doctors and foster parents.

To become a CASA volunteer, qualifying individuals will need to undergo a 30-hour training. For more information about becoming a CASA volunteer, visit www.SpeakUpForAChild.org.

HENDERSHOT, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.

sion charge, which is a state jail felony.

He was arrested by Tarrant County Sheriff's Office in April 2020 following an investigation into the hit-and-run death of his then-girlfriend, Vanessa Fretz.

Fretz's body was found near the roadway of FM 730 after midnight on April 18, 2020. TCSO investigators thought her injuries indicated she had been struck by a vehicle.

Investigators interviewed

Hendershot and placed him under arrest for failure to stop and render aid, causing death.

The aggravated assault charge stemmed from a Feb. 29, 2020, complaint of Hendershot hitting a man with a pool stick.

The Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney's Office stated in an email that they did not prosecute the other two cases "because the evidence was not sufficient to prove those cases."

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Residents address proposed housing subdivision with Reno council

BY MADELYN EDWARDS
madelyn@azlenews.net

Their words were clear. “You’re bringing the city to my door, and I say, ‘No,’” Matt Cook said.

“No existing residents are saying they want smaller lots. Nobody says that. Quite the contrary,” Pam Malhorta said.

“I just don’t think it makes total sense for the city economically or for the future to actually do this as proposed with the 2,500 homes,” James Lopez said.

These are the words of residents who packed Reno City Hall and addressed the council at a special meeting last week about a development proposal. Eleven residents spoke at the meeting. Some of them just asked questions, but many took an opposing stance.

Some of the residents’ angst was because the development would go against Reno’s city ordinance that mandates one acre per home. Ultimately, the council de-

ecided to give the proposal a further look but stick to the one-acre rule.

Peloton Land Solutions principal and vice president Travis Clegg represented the developer MITX Ltd. and D.R. Horton as he gave a presentation to the council. The development would be on 728 acres between Reno Road and Jackson Trail, north of State Highway 199 and south of Walnut Creek. The number of single-family homes would have been about 2,500 ranging from 2,000 to 4,000 square feet. Lots would vary from 5,500 to 10,000 square feet. The larger lots would cost between \$200,000 and \$500,000.

Clegg said the city of Reno currently receives about \$94,000 per year in tax revenue from the property. That number would jump to about \$4.1 million per year if the land were developed and built out in the way Clegg described.

“That goes a long way towards the fire department,

the police department, the city to fix leaks in water systems,” Clegg said.

If the development would build homes on one-acre lots, there would be about 440 homes, and the development would generate about \$861,000 in yearly tax revenue, Clegg said. He told the council that having one-acre lots isn’t an option for the developer.

Some residents questioned why the council would host a discussion about going against one of the city’s ordinances and why the ordinance is in place if it won’t be followed.

“If the argument is, ‘I can get around your ordinance by increasing the tax base,’ why even have the ordinance?” resident Bart Rue asked.

At the beginning of the meeting, Mayor Sam White said that the special meeting was happening to dispel rumors and give residents the facts about the proposed development. White rejected the idea that he and the city administrator were “shoving this down the citizens’ throats.”

“I feel it’s necessary to remind each of you that our job is to bring this to the people and the council via city council meetings, and that is exactly what we have done,” he said. “There are pros and cons to any project of this magnitude. I believe it’s important for us to get the facts and to make educated decisions rather than continue with the erroneous information and the negative rumor mill.”

Residents at the meeting brought forth concerns of how the growth would affect Reno’s infrastructure, such as city emergency and law enforcement services, water,



Residents packed Reno City Hall and addressed the council at a special meeting on June 28 about a development proposal. Eleven residents spoke at the meeting. Photo by Madelyn Edwards

schools and roads.

“This month we’re having problems watering our yards because the wells are all running dry,” Rue said while making a point that the water well infrastructure couldn’t support an influx of new neighbors.

Clegg suggested that the city of Reno and the developer could set up a public improvement district, which would sell bonds to pay for infrastructure, like water and sewer lines as well as roads and amenities. The bonds would be paid off by the assessments levied to properties inside the district boundaries, Clegg said. These districts are managed by cities and wouldn’t raise the tax rate, he said.

Some residents said Jackson Trail, specifically, is too small to support the growth, and the traffic from Cross Timbers Elementary often congests the roadway. The development planned to rely on Jackson Trail as one of the roadways to access the development.

“I live at a very important part of Jackson Trail. I

live right at the corner, this unique spot, the spot that everybody has to pull over or they’re going to hit the other car or somebody walking their dog,” resident Cortney Gumbleton said. “I am the mother of a high school student – a sophomore going to be a junior at Azle High School. We have the bus get in there and pick him up. It stops everybody from going through traffic. It’s just not feasible.”

COUNCIL’S DECISION

The Reno City Council adjourned into executive session for about half an hour before returning with a decision. In a 3-1 vote, council tasked the developers, builders and landowners with finding solutions to the residents’ concerns and form an option that complies with the one-acre per home ordinance. Council member Granville “Randy” Martin III abstained from the vote. Councilmember Jeff Davis was absent.

After the meeting, Clegg wasn’t confident that the developer would move for-

ward with one-acre lots but said keeping the conversation going is a good thing.

Diane Blair, who spoke during the meeting, questioned afterward why the conversation about the development was still ongoing when the proposed subdivision went against the city’s ordinance. She was concerned that breaking one rule would allow other rules to be broken.

“Why even have an agenda to talk about it if it’s a rule? So, if we’re going to break that rule, let’s just break them all,” Blair said. “What stops us from breaking all the other rules?”

Ted Lyon, who spoke against the proposal of lots smaller than one acre, said he approved of council’s decision to continue talking about options.

“There’s still economic and development opportunities for one-acre lots,” Lyon said after the meeting. “We don’t want to be mass developed like other towns around us. If we can make Reno unique, then it will benefit us in the long run.”



Peloton Land Solutions principal and vice president Travis Clegg represented the developer MITX, Ltd. and D.R. Horton as he gave a presentation to the Reno City Council on June 28. Photo by Madelyn Edwards

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WILLIAMS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.

“She was right,” said Williams, supervisor of the Azle Animal Shelter. Williams now has four dogs, two cats and two birds. She has been shelter supervisor since 2014.

Williams celebrates an anniversary today. She began working with the city on July 6, 2009. She worked for 10 years at a vet’s office, so collectively, she has been working with animals for 23 years. It’s obviously been a calling for her.

“I had ambitions of going to school to become a vet, started working in a vet’s office, and discovered that wasn’t really where I wanted to go,” said Williams, a native of South Dakota who has lived most of her life in Fort Worth.

Williams and a former supervisor at the animal shelter (Wanda Skaggs) worked together at the vet clinic’s office before they started for the city. About a year or so after she had worked for the Azle shelter, Skaggs contacted Williams about an opening.

“It was time for me to move on to something a little bit more,” Williams said, adding it was always her “lifelong dream to be working with animals.”

When Skaggs contacted her about the opening, she jumped at the opportunity.

Williams said she loves the city she works for along with the administration, volunteers and her coworkers, and she appreciates the relationship the shelter has with the police department. The shelter has two animal control officers (including Williams) and three kennel technicians.

“I think the one thing that I just absolutely love is when we get an animal in and we feel like we’ve made their life better,” Williams

said. That’s especially true when it’s a sick or injured animal, she added. The shelter’s release rate is 97%, with releases covering various reasons, such as adoptions and animals returned to owners. Late last week, the shelter had 65 animals in its care.

JOB SPECS

There are no set qualifications to be an animal shelter director, but there are requirements to be an animal control officer. Those individuals are sent to an academy, which lasts about a week or so, depending on where someone goes and the instructors who teach classes. The prospective animal control officer learns basics of animal control, livestock, dangerous animals and zoonotic diseases, such as rabies. After finishing classes, attendees take state tests to become an animal control officer. These professionals are required to have continuing education every year.

Williams works 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The first few hours of each day are spent cleaning, feeding and medicating all the dogs and cats. When the shelter opens, at 10 a.m., employees answer phones, conduct adoptions and licensing and take drop-offs. The shelter closes at 5 p.m. each day, and Saturdays, the shelter is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The shelter is not open on Sunday, but someone drops by to clean and care for the animals. The shelter is on call 24-7.

“A lot of my time is spent doing the behind-the-scenes (work) of emails, budgeting, staffing problems,” Williams said, adding that includes dealing with the particular problems of an animal. There’s more to the job than chasing cats or dogs, she adds.



Jessie Williams, center, stands with animal control officer Samantha Gray, left, and kennel tech Cathy Reilly at the Azle Animal Shelter. Photo by Don Munsch

JOB DUTIES

Williams discussed at length some experiences she has had at the shelter along with the many tasks she and others handle regularly. The top challenge of the job is educating the public on state laws and local ordinances, such as leash laws and barking dogs, she said, and the effort to educate the public is simply communicating the importance of responsible pet ownership. Shelter representatives conduct career days at schools where they give slide show presentations about animal safety.

Animal ownership fact: Residents are allowed to have no more than three dogs and three cats per household. Pigs are prohibited in the city, as are wild, dangerous animals. Chickens are allowed, but they have to be kept cooped or close to the home. People wanting to know city laws on owning animals should contact the shelter, which can be reached at 817-752-2681.

The most frequent call to the shelter is the dog-at-large situation. Barking dogs also rank up there with the dog-at-large call.

Animal control officers do not carry weapons, but they do carry an asp or baton and OC spray. ACOs can write citations or tickets for violations involving animals, such as a dog-at-large.

“We try to work with the public when it comes to that,” Williams said, noting that accidents happen such as people leaving gates open at a home and a dog escapes and runs off. If the violation continues, citations are issued as a last resort. Each dog that is brought back to the shelter has to be vaccinated.

Has Williams ever been bitten? Oh, yes. Too many times for her to count.

“My hands are riddled with scars,” she said, adding that it’s a job hazard and that she is fortunate she hasn’t had to go to the hospital, although other staffers have had to

go to the hospital to be sutured.

ACOs encounter animal bites on humans, and the circumstances of the bite and the dog’s vaccine status will determine whether the dog can stay at home and quarantine or be transferred to an animal shelter or clinic.

At the shelter, ACOs conduct various duties such as reception work and field work, including patrol. Kennel techs strictly oversee tasks in the kennels and answering phones.

During the interview with the News, Williams was informed there was a dog at large at Ash Creek Park, and the reporter, Williams and ACO Samantha Gray left the shelter to search for the wandering pooch, all the while Williams and Gray shared stories their experiences on the job, answered questions about situations and animals and also tended to some calls as they were out and about.

It is, indeed, a calling.

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Patrick Palavicini has 24 years of experience in the commercial construction industry, and Sandra Palavicini is bringing 21 years in sales and marketing to the business. They opened their own business a year ago and have been providing exceptional service to a variety of clients ever since.

“We are an honest company who pride ourselves on integrity and customer service,” Patrick said. “Give us a chance on your next project and we won’t let you down!”

The Palavicinis take an active role in the community, giving a hand with service projects and being a member of the Springtown

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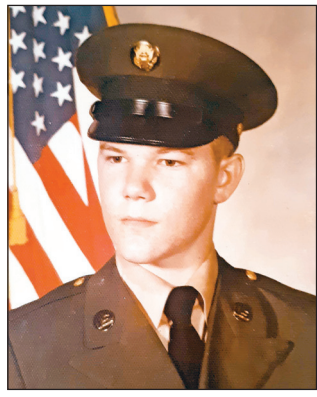
Obituaries

Jack Ray Morris 1958 - 2022

Jack Ray Morris, 64, of Azle passed away on Tuesday, June 28 at home.

Funeral arrangements are pending.

Jack was born in Fort Worth to E.A. and Peggy Morris. Jack was a long-time resident of Azle and was a manager for Taco Bell and later Whataburger. He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Barbara Morris of Azle; daughter Laurie Mishio and husband Josh; son Justin Morris and wife Ashton; daughter Kristen Morris; brothers Charles and Harry Morris; sister



Joyce Martin; six grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

The Azle News,
July 6, 2022 Edition

ON FISHING

Whiskers in the summer



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

Just like any kind of fishing, patterning catfish in the summer is required. That means trying different depths, locations and baits to coax a bite.

In the summer, catfish are generally known to feed more at night. Early morning and late afternoon can be productive at times. This does not mean they won't feed during the day but are more likely to feed late. All bets are off when a good downpour with runoff occurs. Most every catfish angler knows that the fish will feed in murky running water most any time of the day. Just pray for rain right now.

It is a good idea when fishing at night to try several different depths. They may move in shallow to feed. It is also good to present your bait on the edge of some deeper water. If you are in the vicinity of some cats, the use of stink baits or chum to bring them in is always a good idea whether you fish at night or day.

Trotlines running along a channel break are effective in putting the bait near the fish. Running these lines and checking them periodically through the night can be a blast. If the location does not produce any fish, move the line to another area. Look for creek beds or channel cuts.

Channel cats are caught on a variety of baits. Some

of the most popular are stink baits, cut-bait, shrimp, worms and chicken livers. Rotting milo or maize is typically used to bait holes or to stir up the bite, however diced up baitfish will work as well. Don't overfeed with the chum, just enough to get them going.

Channel cats can take live bait as well, but the yellow cat is better known for taking live perch, minnows or shad. Blue cats can be caught on a variety of baits as well, but this species is known to take live bait. In the summer, I will on occasion catch blues in the same areas as the stripers/hybrids hold. They will take large live shad or cut-shad. Many folks will drift live cut bait either off the boat or with the use of jug lines to catch these summer catfish.

When fishing smaller creeks, look for the deeper pools. This is where the fish will be holding. When they do decide to feed, this is where you need to be. Catfish will hold near or under structure waiting in ambush or just resting. I like to fish these areas after a good rain if we can get some rain as I alluded to earlier.

olina rig with the weight above the hook is popular. Another popular rig is placing the hook(s) on a leader above the weight. Treble hooks are popular. Prepared "stink" baits are generally fished on a special treble hook worm rig that you dip in the bait.

Catfish can on be caught on artificial baits, though few folks go after them with artificials. I have caught catfish on jigs, spoons and crankbaits fishing for other species.

Patience is a virtue with all kinds of fishing, especially catfishing. When the cats turn on, it is well worth the wait. If this time of year is too hot during the day for you, you might try fishing at night for these sporting fish.

FISHING REPORT

Lake Granbury lake level is around a foot low and falling. Water temperatures vary from the middle 80s to low 90s. Thermoclines are present in some areas. White bass and small striped bass are schooling early from Indian Harbor to Sandy Point. Keeper striped bass are slow to fair on the lower ends in 15 to 20 feet of water. Crappies are good on small minnows fished near structure, timber and bridge piliings. Catfish are good on cut-shad near creek channels near structure (timber) mid-lake. Largemouth bass are good on crankbaits and soft plastics fished near creek entrances, points and docks on many areas of the lake.

On other reservoirs, Lake Whitney limits of striped bass are common on live shad fished from the State Park area to Bee Bluffs. Possum Kingdom Lake is boasting on some of the biggest striped bass on the Brazos and they are good on live bait and down-rigging jigs with worm trailers from near Hell's Gate to the dam.

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Pinnacle Bank, Crockett National Bank sign an agreement

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Pinnacle Bank has acquired Crockett National Bank of San Antonio, officials from the banks announced last week.

Todd Huckabee, CEO of Crockett National Bank, and Sid Dinsdale, chairman of Pinnacle Bancorp, announced the signing of an agreement for Pinnacle Bank to acquire Crockett National Bank of San Antonio. Crockett National Bank has a total asset size of \$630 million with five branches in Central and Southwest Texas including San Antonio, San Angelo, Ozona and Col-

lege Station, according to a news release from Pinnacle Bank. In addition, they have two loan production offices located in San Antonio and New Braunfels.

Crockett National Bank will become part of Pinnacle Bank's 22-branch network in Texas.

"The people, hospitality and charm of the great state of Texas make it a wonderful place to do business," Dinsdale said in the release. "We appreciate this opportunity to welcome Crockett National Bank to the Pinnacle Bank family and expand our footprint in the state."

Retaining the experienced staff of Crockett National Bank was a key component of this decision, the release stated. All locations gained through the acquisition will continue operation under the Pinnacle Bank community banking philosophy of local management and local control. At closing, Huckabee will become a regional president of Pinnacle Bank.

"Pinnacle Bank's commitment to community and customer service aligns closely with the foundations that our banking philosophy has always been based on," Huckabee said. "We are happy to

enter this partnership and continue service to our local area."

The transaction is anticipated to close the second half of 2022, pending regulatory approval. Financial details of the transaction were not disclosed.

Founded in 1938, Pinnacle Bancorp is a family-owned \$17.7 billion financial holding company operating 161 community banks in eight states, including 22 across Texas. For more information, visit pinnbanktx.com.

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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) 817-755-0279 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</p> <p>Equip Sunday School at the WORD 9:30 AM Empower Worship at the WORD . 10:45 AM Kids at the WORD..... 10:45 AM PreK at the WORD 10:45 AM 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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What about Bob?

“What about Bob?” The 1991 movie by that title starred Richard Dreyfus and Bill Murray. I didn’t see it in 1991 but a few years later a friend told me it was the funniest movie he had ever seen, so I rented it from Blockbuster (yeah, I’m Blockbuster old).

I determined after watching it at home by myself that one of two things must be true. Either this is a movie that needs to be viewed with several people who are ready to laugh or my friend really needed to get out more.

The movie cause a couple of chortles, but an LOL was not to be found.

But one of my funniest memories in my 45 years of ministry involved my friend, Bob Miller. Unfortunately, I can’t do the story justice in this format. Just trust me — it tickles my funny bone over three decades later.

I graduated from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in May of 1988 and started the adventure of trying to find a church that would take a chance on a first-time pastor.

After interviewing with dozens of churches, I found a church willing to take the risk. My first Sunday as pastor of the Trinity Baptist Church of Tucumcari, New Mexico was the first Sunday of December 1988.

Bob Miller was the pastor



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.

of the First Baptist Church of Tucumcari just a few blocks away. Bob became a friend and mentor almost immediately. With a Sunday morning attendance of around 300, FBC was the big church in town.

At Trinity, we had about 45.

Bob was generous, funny, and encouraging and I learned a lot from his wisdom and experience.

I was only in Tucumcari for a little over two years before I returned to the Fort Worth area in April 1991 to pastor Eagle Mountain Baptist Church — where I had served as music/youth minister during my seminary years.

Our paths crossed a few times over the years when Bob allowed me the opportunity to return to Tucumcari for a concert and then do both a weekend youth ministry and a couples retreat (with Mrs. Sweetie) at his church after he moved to South Georgia Baptist Church in Amarillo.

Bob retired a few years ago but couldn’t stay retired.

Now 75, he’s been pastor for the past 10 years at the Crossroads Country Church in Amarillo.

We happened to be in Amarillo over the July 4th weekend and our original Sunday morning church plans fell through. So, at the last minute, we decided to drop in for the morning service at CCC.

It’s been almost 20 years since I last saw Bob, but Sunday morning was really a treat. He’s still gracious and funny and encouraging and his folks love him. It was so good to visit for a few minutes and thank him for his encouragement to me those many years ago.

I started doing the math and realized that I’m 19 years older now than he was when I met him. I hope I’ve been half the encourager to young pastors as he was for me.

And I hope there’s been a Bob for you along your life’s journey. If so, how about pausing right now to thank the Lord for that person.

Be amazing today, my friend.

When mess leads to distress

Dear Frankie,

Last week, my Nana dropped in unannounced to see the new baby. James is four months old and has been a handful since the day he arrived. My poor mom is exhausted. Nana is a neat freak and went bonkers when she saw our messy house.

To make matters worse, I had ripped the garbage bag into shreds that morning to get to last night’s leftovers and had tossed garbage and take-out boxes all over the floor. It’s not often I have access to the garbage bag, but my mom forgot to take it out and left it by the door.

Nana was so angry that she yelled at my mom, “if you can’t train a dog, how do you think you can teach a child to behave?”

I felt terrible for getting



DEAR FRANKIE

By Geneva Woodruff

Frankie is a rescue dog and an emotional support animal for Geneva Woodruff. Woodruff is a retired educator.

my mom into trouble. What concerns me is that I knew what I did was wrong, but I did it anyway. Only someone nuts would do something like that.

Do you think I have a mental problem?

Signed, Wyatt

Dear Wyatt,

What I think is you were naughty and inconsiderate. But let’s face it, you’re a dog — accessible leftovers are hard to resist. Sometimes temptation wins over reason. We have all been there, even Nana, trust me.

However, I am impressed

that you took full responsibility for your bad behavior. You didn’t blame anyone or make excuses. You didn’t say; “My mom forgot to give me a treat, no one pays attention to me since James arrived, it was my mom’s fault for leaving the bag on the floor,” etc.

It appears you have learned your lesson and will think twice before misbehaving in the future. Now it’s time to move on and focus on making life easier for your mom.

Best, Frankie

ANNIVERSARY



60 years and counting

Joe Lieb from New Ulm, Minnesota, and Nicki Brown from Iowa Park, Texas, were introduced on a blind date in 1961 while Joe was in the Air Force. The couple married in June 1962 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Wichita Falls. The Liebs will celebrate 60 years of marriage on June 30. They will host a come-and-go open house celebration on July 9 from 1 to 4 p.m. at 1120 Carpenter St. They were blessed with two beautiful daughters, Patti and Pamela, and though they have no grandchildren, they are claimed by lots of “adopted children.”

Area residents graduate, receive honors from universities

SPRINGTOWN

Britni Hays earned her Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences in general studies from Howard Payne University.

Anna Renae Stuke earned her Bachelor of Science in nursing from West Texas A&M University. She was a summa cum laude

graduate. She made the spring President’s List.

Adam Johnson, a junior music education major, earned the Dean’s List from West Texas A&M University the spring semester.

Baylee Lynn Birk earned her Bachelor of Social Work degree from Midwestern State University.

AZLE

Harleigh Schneider earned spring semester honors from Kansas State University.

Brianna Moen, a senior theater major, received Dean’s List honors from West Texas A&M University this spring.

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BOOK REVIEW

From true crime to cold cases, these summertime books sizzle with intrigue

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

So far this summer, you've read at least a dozen murder mysteries.

You love a good whodunit more than anything, and that's great: summertime is when you'll find tons of detective novels and thriller-mysteries for your vacationing pleasure. But aren't you ready for something different? Check out these great real-life true-crime books, full of actual crimes and criminals:

For something light and lively and perfect for airport or car ride, "The True Crime File," compiled by Kim Daly (Workman, \$15.95) absolutely fits.

Let's say you'll be waiting for the kids to finish their ball game at the park. Excellent: the entries inside this book are of various lengths and they're made to dive in and step out. Even better,

you can easily finish one or two chapters if you want or go on a longer journey with a killer beside you.

Learn how America searches for its missing kids and how Amber Alerts came to your phone and television. See how much you know about real crime around the country by taking a quiz. Read about cold cases, hot arson, dead bodies and Mr. Rogers' car, which was stolen by a couple of fans, obviously. Then read about survivors of crime, the as updated as possible statistics, and get a few good recommendations for your next great read.

This book is small enough to tuck into a pocket or backpack – and hang onto that thought. Get "The True Crime File" for yourself, and then remember it for stocking-stuffer time.

When you read mysteries,

you automatically become a crime solver, don't you? Because that's something you love, you need to read "Unmasked: My Life Solving America's Cold Cases" by Paul Holes with Robin Gaby Fisher (Celadon Books, \$28.99). It's by a guy who's a real-life detective.

But it didn't come quickly for Holes.

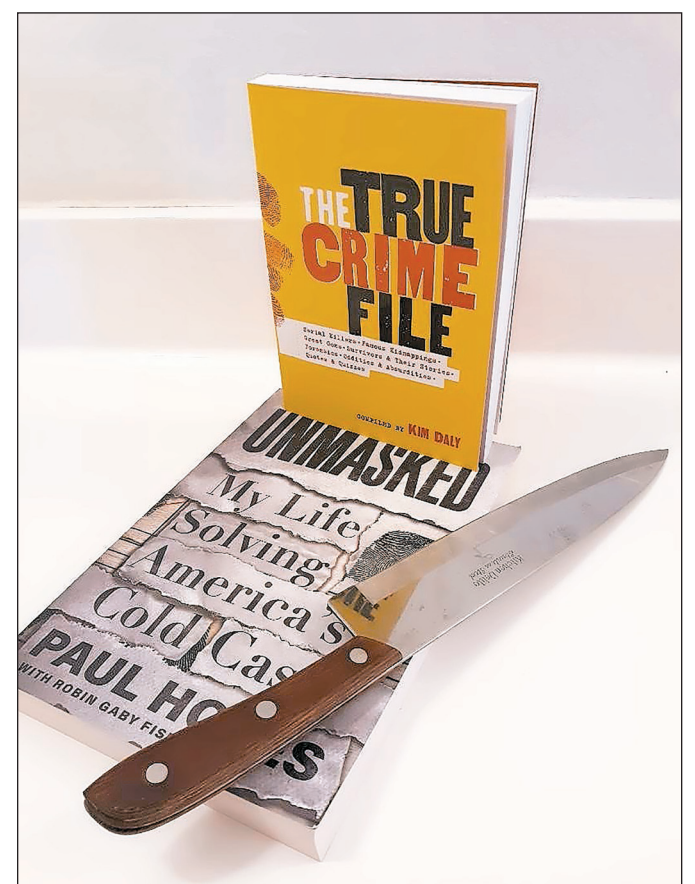
In 1994, Holes was a cold-case investigator and he promised himself that he'd find the Golden State Killer, who murdered at least 13 people. It took 24 years, but Holes did it, ultimately having a hand in capturing the until-then-elusive man who murdered. It wasn't the beginning of Holes' career but the solving happened at just the right time: he became a wanted man in a good way, appearing on TV and in interviews.

This is Holes' story, from

his early life to his amazing career solving the iciest of cold cases. Along the way, readers will learn about some of the crimes he's solved (including the Jaycee Dugard case), how he does what he does, what a real-life detective has to know, and how he ensures that the awful things he sees don't follow him home and keep him up at night.

This is a mystery lover's treat, catnip to a true crime reader, and fascinating for anyone who wants a thrilling memoir from a real-life crime solver.

If these true crime books don't strike your fancy, be sure to ask your favorite bookseller or librarian for help finding more or finding some good mystery novels to fill your time. They'll know exactly what you need.



"The True Crime File," compiled by Kim Daly

c.2022, Workman, \$15.95, 400 pages

"Unmasked: My Life Solving America's Cold Cases" by Paul Holes and Robin Gaby Fisher

c.2022, Celadon Books, \$28.99, 288 pages

AZLE AREA CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

| | | |
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| <p>Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital AZLE</p> <p>Volunteers Needed TexasHealth.org/ Volunteer/Our-Process</p> <p>RAINBOW INN GIFT SHOP Inside Hospital 108 Denver Trail Azle 817-444-8651</p> <p>ATTIC RERUNS NOW OPEN! FRI 9-4 SAT 9-1 714 SE Pkwy Azle 817-270-3690</p> | <p>Good N.E.W.S. Living at Home Block Nurse Program</p> <p>Volunteer Caregiver Training Classes Classes open to public at no charge</p> <p>Our Volunteers Make a Difference!</p> <p>Caregiver Volunteer Meeting 1st Monday of Each Month at 6pm 817-444-2300 412 Commerce St.</p> | <p>Rotary Club of Azle</p> <p>MEETS AT NOON THURSDAY 412 Commerce St. (across from Azle Post Office)</p> |
| <p>The Finish Line</p> <p>Addiction wants to destroy you & everyone around you.</p> <p><i>With Jesus there is Victory over addiction.</i></p> <p>GET BACK IN THE RACE!</p> <p>Meetings held every Friday from 7:30PM-9:30PM at The Church at Azle 1801 S. Stewart • Azle • 817-401-8513 www.ourfinishline.com</p> | <p>Faced with a DRINKING Problem? Perhaps Alcoholics Anonymous can HELP.</p> <p>AA</p> <p>Daily meetings at Noon & 6:30 pm Sunday at 3 pm</p> <p>229 S. Stewart St. • Azle 817-332-3533</p> | <p>Azle Lion's Club</p> <p>Meets 2nd TUESDAY 6:30 PM 412 Commerce, Azle e-clubhouse.org/sites/azle_tk/ Curren McLane - president 817-689-0074</p> |
| <p>Post your clubs or organization meetings here!</p> <p>Only \$100 for 52 weeks of advertising</p> <p>Call Johnna for details: 817-270-3340</p> | <p>SERVOLUTION NETWORK</p> <p>LET'S START A COMMUNITY WIDE REVOLUTION THROUGH SERVING.</p> <p>FOR QUESTIONS CALL: 833-4WE-SERV 833-493-7378</p> <p>VISIT: WWW.SERVOLUTIONNETWORK.COM</p> | <p>Azle Boy Scout Troop 243</p> <p>Meets Mondays 7 PM Azle First Assembly of God 1020 Southeast Parkway troop243azle.org</p> |
| <p>Optimist Club of Azle</p> <p>Meets every FRIDAY at 6:45 AM Moe's Country Kitchen 316 W. Main, Azle</p> | <p>Azle Lodge No. 601</p> <p>Floor School or Work 7:30 PM THURSDAY NIGHT</p> <p>Chris Akers - Worshipful Master Rocky Gralla - Secretary Clint Hall - Treasurer</p> | <p>Eagle Mountain Pregnancy Help Center</p> <p>10328 Jacksboro Hwy Fort Worth TX 76135 817-237-1819 www.emphc.org Mon 12-6 PM Thurs 12-6 PM SE HABLA ESPAÑOL</p> |

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LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice of Public Sale
Public boat sale to satisfy storage lien. Up for bids LEGALLY BELONGING TO: Manuel Arellano/Victor Sosa Jr. TX #4673BM SER#N1C19329C101, 2001 20' Beachcomber. The Sale Will Be Held on July 9th, 2022. 1:00 PM, West Bay Marina, 6925 Liberty School Tap Rd. Azle, Tx 76020 (817)444-1622. Terms are cash/cashier's check at time of sale.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
Public boat sale to satisfy storage lien. Up for bids LEGALLY BELONGING TO: Nathan Barberousse/Doyle Lawrence TX#8070CV SER#B201809188911 1979 30' Searay. The Sale Will Be Held on July 9th, 2022. 1:00 PM, West Bay Marina, 6925 Liberty School Tap Rd. Azle, Tx 76020 (817)444-1622. Terms are cash/cashier's check at time of sale.

IN THE CLARK SUPERIOR COURT NO. 5 STATE OF INDIANA

IN RE: THE MARRIAGE OF: WILFREDO D. ALVARADO, Petitioner, and ASHLEY N. ALVARADO (a/k/a ASHLEY N. WILKERSON) Respondent. Case No. 10D05-2109-DC-451
SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION TO: ASHLEY N. ALVARADO A/K/A ASHLEY N. WILKERSON Whereabouts Unknown the STATE OF INDIANA to the above-named individual as Respondent, and any other persons who may be concerned. YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a Verified Petition to Enter Permanent Custody Order has been filed in the Clark Superior Court No. 5 by WILFREDO D. ALVARADO as Petitioner, naming you as Respondent-Mother and requesting that the Court enter a permanent custody order with respect to your two children, S.A.P.A and G.M.G.A. This Summons by Publication is specifically directed to ASHLEY N. ALVARADO a/k/a ASHLEY N. WILKERSON, whose whereabouts are unknown, and you are hereby notified that you must respond in writing, personally, or by your attorney, within thirty (30) days of the last publication of this and in the event that you fail to do so, judgment by default may be entered against you for the relief requested in the aforementioned pleadings. Prepared by: A. David Hutson, #28616-22 6200 E. Hwy 62, Suite 660 Jeffersonville, Indiana 47130
Telephone: (812) 206-5905 Fax: (866) 932-5315 Email: david@hutsonlegal.com
Attest: Clerk, Clark Circuit Courts, Dated: June 21, 2022.

NOTICE TO VENDORS AND PROSPECTIVE VENDORS OF AZLE ISD REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Azle Independent School District (AISD) is soliciting proposals to establish a vendor list for commodities which are used mainly in the schools and departments on an as needed basis and to establish vendors for the 2022-2023 school year. This would include Products and Services needed for Instructional, Career & Tech Program (CTE), Fine Arts, Maintenance, and Transportation. Responses will be accepted electronically through our eBidding system beginning June 29, 2022. Closing date for this request is August 1, 2022. The Request for Proposal package may be obtained electronically via Ionwave at https://azleisd.ionwave.net/. Information will be posted on our website: www.azleisd.net/Departments/Business Office/Purchasing/Bids and Proposals, or you may call the Purchasing Office at 817-444-0805 for assistance. Vendors must be registered in the AISD Purchasing online vendor registration system to view and provide a response.

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CLASSIFIED 817-270-3340 - Azle - classified@azlenews.net
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Ad Classifications

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| 1. Air Condition/Heating | 24. Electrician | 46. Looking to Buy | 69. Sand/Gravel |
| 2. Antiques | 25. Equipment & Tool Rental | 47. Lost & Found | 70. Septic Tanks |
| 3. Appliances | 26. Excavating | 48. Maintenance/Repairs | 71. Sewing/Alterations |
| 4. Appliance Repair | 27. Exterminating | 49. Masonry/Stonework | 72. Sewer Service |
| 5. Arts/Crafts | 28. Farm Equipment | 50. Mobile Home Service | 73. TV/Radio |
| 6. Asphalt Paving | 29. Fencing | 51. Motorcycles | 74. Tractor Service |
| 7. Auctions | 30. Firewood | 52. Movers | 75. Upholstery |
| 8. Autos, Trucks | 31. Free For Sale | 53. Musical Instruments | 76. Vacuum Cleaners |
| 9. Auto Repair Service | 32. Furniture | 54. Music Lessons | 77. Wanted |
| 10. Backhoe Service | 33. Garage & Estate Sales | 55. Miscellaneous | 78. Well Drilling |
| 11. Boats, Motors | 34. Garden/Mowing Svc | 56. Party Planning/Events | 79. Welding |
| 12. Bookkeeping | 35. Hauling | 57. Pets/Livestock | 80. Lots/Acreage |
| 13. Business | 36. Hay | 58. Piano Service | 81. Business & Commercial Property |
| 14. Campers/Trailers | 37. Health/Fitness | 59. Pool Service | 82. RV's for Rent |
| 15. Carports/Patios | 38. Help Wanted | 60. Professional Services | 83. Houses for Sale |
| 16. Equipment Repair | 39. Home Improvement | 61. Personal | 84. Mobile Homes for Rent |
| 17. Carpet Service | 40. House Leveling | 62. Plumbing | 85. Mobile Homes for Sale |
| 18. Catering | 41. House Cleaning | 63. Public Notice | 86. Mobile Home/RV Lots |
| 19. Cement Work | 42. Hunting | 64. Photography | 87. Rent Furnished |
| 20. Demolition | 43. Janitorial Service | 65. Printing | 88. Rent Unfurnished |
| 21. Child Care | 44. Job Wanted | 66. Roofing | 89. Wanted to Rent |
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Only \$10.00 per week!

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

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

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



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

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Absolute Asphalt

New Construction • Overlays
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 Striping • Gravel Work

817-437-9051

P.O. Box 2031, Azle, TX 76098-2031

See our reviews: <https://www.homeadvisor.com/rated.AbsoluteAsphalt.96269565.html>

034 Garage & Estate Sales

Family Yard Sale
 July 8th-9th, 9am-7pm, July 10th, 9am-3pm
 1232 Florence Dr, Azle.

035 Garden/Mowing Service

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

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

035 Garden/Mowing Service

Chad's Tree Service **FREE ESTIMATES**

Trimming • Removals • Stump Grinding
 Systemic Feeding • Brush Chipping • Cable Bracing

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Insured for your protection

GARAGE SALE

16 words for only \$10.

A great way to raise extra money!
 Call today for more info.
 Azle News 817-270-3340
 Springtown Epigraph
 817-220-7217

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Asphalt Paving
 • Driveways • Parking Lots
 • Asphalt Repairs & Sealcoating
 • Asphalt Millings • Gravel

Bruce Byrum
 Azle, Texas **817-690-2429**

www.azlenews.net
www.springtown-epigraph.net

009 Auto Repair Service

Rainwater's
Transmission & Auto Repair

TRANSMISSION • BRAKES
 A/C • ENGINE SERVICE

201 E. Hwy. 199, Springtown
682-615-7250

LOCALLY & FAMILY OWNED!

035 Garden/Mowing Service

HOMETOWN LAWN CARE. Best Prices Around. Free Estimates. Call Cody 817-454-6090.

Wise Outdoor Solutions
 Pasture mowing 15 acres or less, Finish mowing, Lawn Service.
 940-399-1677

039 Help Wanted

Auto Techs and Transmission Rebuilders and R&R Men, Top Pay for Top Skills. Call or come by 201 E. Hwy 199, Springtown, 817-757-5144. Rainwater Transmission & Auto Repair.

039 Help Wanted

KARL KLEMENT

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

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

Service Advisor
 Must be committed to customer satisfaction, be honest, and dependable. Previous experience preferred, but willing to train the right candidate.

019 Cement Work

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

024 Electrician

E-Conn Electric
 Service, Remodel, New Construction
 Insured/BBB Accredited

817-615-7164

Customer Satisfaction is our Goal!
 C/C ACCEPTED TECL20470

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

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

TK's Pools is hiring laborers, and part time sales help. Call 817-677-2494.

KLEMENT Jeep
 No Positions Available at This Time

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

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

026 Excavating

REED EXCAVATING
 • SITE PREPARATION • GRAVEL ROADS
 • LOT CLEARING • PARKING LOTS
 • LEVELING • DEMOLITION
 • FINAL GRADE • STOCK TANKS
 • LAND EROSION

Dump Truck Hauling **817-919-3696**

035 Garden/Mowing Service

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

Wise Ready Mix
Now Hiring Class B-CDL Mixer Drivers

- Production & Safety Bonuses Paid Monthly
- Employer Matching Retirement Plan Available

Apply in person at 1349 NW Parkway • Azle

KLEMENT DISTRIBUTION, INC.
 (Hershey Ice Cream Distributor)
Route Driver
 No CDL required, but must have valid TXDL with acceptable driving record. Monday through Friday with Flexible time-off schedules, often 3-day weekends during summer months Fun work environment! Promote from within advancement opportunities.

020 Demolition

MCNEELY'S DEMOLITION & CLEAN UP SERVICE
 We Create Vacancy

- Tear Down • Barns
- Removal • Houses
- Haul Off • Bobcat
- Mobile Service
- Homes • Dirt/Gravel
- Garages • Spreading

FREE ESTIMATES
817-996-7887
 253 Eagles Way, Springtown

ALL TYPES OF EXCAVATING
 Tanks • House Pads • Clearing

HASTY EXCAVATING
 Also .. Sand • Top Soil • Gravel
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LEON'S TREE SERVICE
 Expert take downs
 Stump Grinding
 Residential/Commercial
 Licensed & Insured • Free Estimates
817-371-8597

Karl Klement Properties, Inc.
 No Positions Available at This Time

For consideration of all positions apply to:
Jodi Pettis, Business & H/R Director
Alyssa Jacobs, Assistant H/R Manager
 605 N. Business 287, Suite 102, Decatur, Texas
hr@klementford.com
940-627-6362

024 Electrician

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

029 Fencing

BOBBY'S FENCE. All types, Free Estimates, Over 26 years experience. 817-444-3213.

KILEY CHESNEY CONSTRUCTION
 All Types Fences - Tractor Work
 817-846-6645

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

Help Wanted in Aurora/Alvord Area

- Mechanic
- Welder
- Equipment Operators

Competitive pay, some benefits. M-F day shift only. Overtime weekly.

For information call 214-802-5157

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 Correctional Officers • Assistant Foodservice Manager
 Academic Instructors • Assistant Maintenance Supervisor - Plumber
 Assistant Maintenance Supervisor - Lock Tech • Lieutenant
 Vocational Instructor • Foodservice Manager • Chaplain

PLEASE CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR JOB QUALIFICATIONS.
 Must have HS Diploma or equivalent, be able to pass a drug screen, have a clean background and valid driver's license to be considered for a Correctional Officer. EOE

Apply online at www.mtctrains.com or call 940-567-2272 and ask for the HR Department.
 Minority/Female/Veteran/Disabled
LINDSEY STATE JAIL

024 For Sale

Jet Ultra Electric Wheel Chair & Charger, Bruno Lift, fits on a pick-up truck. Works great, \$1,500, cash only. 817-458-2249

For Sale
 Two Garage Igloo Dog Houses \$20.00 each. One 8x6 Dog Kennel \$175.00. One Large Dog Crate \$75.00. 817-988-1738

OUTDOOR SCENE
682-553-1560

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

Save a Shelter Animal. Find your forever friend!



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

Deadline:
 4:30 PM Monday

Classifieds

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BILL ROSSER PAINTING & REMODELING. Big Savings: \$100 off any job of \$1,000 or more. Painting, Carpentry, Porch Covers, Decks. FREE ESTIMATES. Call 817-304-9974; 866-374-3559.
 PYRAMID REMODELING. PAINTING: Interior, Exterior, Tape & Bed, Texture, Popcorn Ceilings. FREE ESTIMATES. 817-944-7658.
BOBBY MCWILLIAMS PAINTING 817-821-6377. Interior/Exterior Painting Residential & New Homes. 48 years experience.

Kevin's Handyman Services
 40 Years Experience
 • Carpentry
 • Drywall & Painting
 • Tile & Laminate Floors
 • Doors & Windows
 • Decks & Stairs
 • Cabinets & Countertops
 • No Job Too Small
 Springtown and Surrounding Areas
231-445-1221

062 Plumbing
GRAHAM PLUMBING CO.

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

LANDERS Plumbing Co.
 Plumbing Repairs
 Drains Cleaned
817-444-3054
940-233-2862
 Don Landers • M-10078

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

068 Storage
 INNERSPACE STORAGE. Hwy 199, Springtown. Now renting all unit sizes, 24-hour access. 682-842-1414.
STORAGE UNITS
 1350 Liberty School Rd
 5x10 Units \$45/mo.
 10x10 Units \$70/mo.
817-246-4646

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

088 Rent Unfurnished
 3-2 Duplex for Rent in Springtown. \$1,200/mo. \$600 deposit, no pets. 817-980-3066.
 1833 PELICAN DR. N.
 2-2-1 \$1,295 MO. \$1,000 DEP.
 1912 CORAL RD.
 2-1-1 \$1,125 MO. \$800 DEP.
 Gene Thompson & Associates
 817-246-4646 gtax.com
 3-2 Single wide on one acre in Springtown for \$1000 per month and \$1000 deposit, no pets allowed.
 817-980-3066
GENE THOMPSON & ASSOCIATES HOMES and MOBILE HOMES FOR RENT
 gtax.com
817-246-4646

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

TKO Services
 Soft Wash House Wash
 Eve's
 Roofs and Shingles
 Bricks Windows
 Decks Concrete
 Swimming Pool Area Rock Sidewalk Driveway
817-550-3745

069 Sand/Gravel
 HALL'S SAND, DIRT & GRAVEL
 Quality Family Business Since 1938
 CALL Cliff Hall
(817) 221-2681
 We go the extra mile to ensure you get more for your \$. On House Pads, Driveways, Lot Clearing & Tractor Work, Etc.

079 Welding

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

079 Welding
 owner Rodney Vick
 817-220-3044
 fax 817-523-7639
 cell 817-253-1614
 R & E Construction
 Metal Building Specialist
 • Weld Ups/ Bolt Ups
 • Pipe Fencing
 • Concrete
 • Horse Barns
 • All Types Fencing
 • Metal Roofs
 Compare Pricing
NO JOB TOO SMALL

081 Business/Commercial
 40x50 building For Rent, 3 miles west of Springtown. 817-713-7495.
PARKWAY CENTER
 Hwy 199 Frontage
 Near Hospital
 1500 SQ FT, \$1,200/mo
 Clean office space
 817-220-2021
The Bryants Company Real Estate

AZLE OAKS APARTMENT
 700 JARVIS • AZLE
 817-444-1712
1 & 2 Bedroom Unfurnished
 Accepting Applications
 Rent based on income
 TDD: 800-735-2989
 This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.


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 Find one in the Community Classifieds!
Azle News
 817-270-3340
 Springtown Epigraph
 817-220-7217

046 Looking to Buy
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 • Used/Damaged Campers
 • Motorhomes
 • Farm Equipment
 • Trucks And Trailers
 • Horse Trailers
 • Boats
 • Golf Carts
 • Propane Tanks
 • Fork Lifts
 • Heavy Equipment
 • ATVs • Misc.
817-629-7531

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

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

WDC WELD-DONE CONSTRUCTION LTD.
Metal Building Erectors
 • Pre-engineered Weld-up
 • Barns/Shops
 • Arenas/Hangars
 • Fencing
 1220 E. Hwy. 199 • Springtown
817-220-2150
www.weld-done.net

Cozart METAL BUILDING SYSTEMS
 Fabrication and erection of quality metal buildings at reasonable prices, any size - any design
 Office **817-237-2282**
 Fax 817-237-0904
 Mark Cozart Jeremy Cozart
 817-233-6668 817-237-2028

Deli/Restaurant for lease inside the Quickway Exxon Gas Station. 1704 Boyd Road Azle, TX 76020.
 For details call Sam at 817-406-4686.

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

084 Mobile Homes for Rent
 Pelican Bay: 1941 Gale Drive, 2-2, CH/A, stove only, \$795/mo. \$450 deposit. Owner/Broker 817-988-9954.

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

Spring Garden and Spring Garden V Apartments of Springtown
NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR Disabled, Low Income and Senior Tenants, 62 years of age or older, handicapped/disabled regardless of age
1,2,3 Bedroom Duplex Amenities Include
 Ceramic Tile, Ceiling Fans, Washer/Dryer Connections, Stove, Refrigerator and Dishwasher
Must Meet Housing Qualifications
 Spring Garden.....817-523-7555
 Spring Garden V....817-220-5585
 This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Advertising Works!

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

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

057 Pets/Livestock
 Will pay top dollar for grazing and hay leases. Call 940-389-1936.

AKC French Bulldog Puppies, born May 8th, 2022. Parent on site, vet checked, all shots complete. \$2,000 817-880-5873

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 Commercial & Residential
 • Roofing
 • Metal Roofing
 • Carports
 • Metal Buildings
 • All General Contracting
 417 N. MAIN ST • SPRINGTOWN
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 Insurance Claims, Licensed Local Business 34 Yrs
ECE CONSTRUCTION LLC
 cell 817-615-7164 | office 817-831-2600

Hidden Meadow MOBILE HOME COMMUNITY
 Community Location: 6501 W. Hwy 199, Springtown
 Brand New 3/2 Single Wide Mobile Homes, many to choose from - 1216 S.F.
 For Rent or Rent to Own Programs Available \$1600/mo
Contact Michael Ocampo for info 318-819-1901
 To apply: www.Turbotenant.com
 Enter Property Address: 6517 W. Hwy 199 or property ID: 916548

Save a Shelter Animal. Find your forever Friend


VACATION TIME?
 Raise some extra money through the Community Classifieds to help fund your trip. 16 words for only \$10
 What a good deal!
Azle News
 817-270-3340 &
 Springtown Epigraph
 817-220-7217
 Hometown Papers!



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

Deadline:
 4:30 PM Monday

Classifieds

088 Rent Unfurnished

Cross Companies Residential Properties

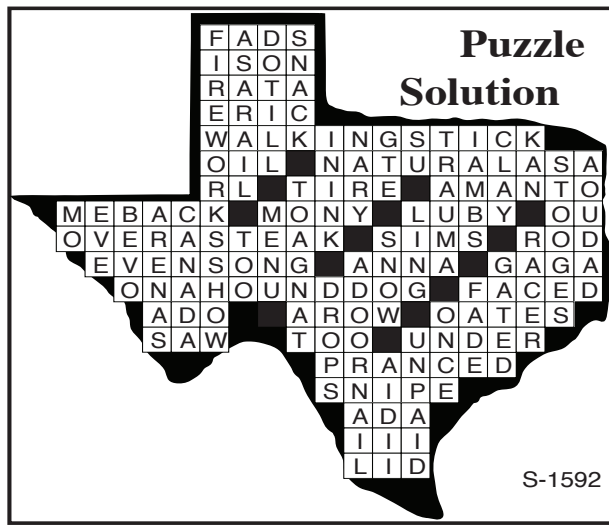
Family-owned, family-run

STEWART BEND | **SILVER CREEK** | **RV PARK**
 DUPLEX HOMES

Stewart Bend Duplex Homes: 2 & 3 bedroom units available at \$1,225 & \$1,325. Quiet, clean, non-smoking. CALL 817-401-1796.

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

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



Do you and your best friend need a new car for a road trip?

Find that Perfect Car or Truck in the Community Classifieds.

OR

You can Sell your Auto in the same section. Call 817-270-3340 for more info on our **3-Month Special Only \$29.95**

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

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 Serving North Texas
 "Se Habla Español"

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 Direct 817-917-1940

nancyandrews@weknowtx.com
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\$36.50 **SENIOR CITIZEN**
 60 years and older
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Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
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The Azle News or The Springtown Epigraph
 321 W. Main Street P.O. Box 557
 Azle, Texas 76020 Springtown, Texas 76082

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

1 hula hoops and mullets, e.g.
 5 TX George Jones' "The Race ___"
 6 "___-tat" (knocking or gunfire)
 7 TX Jamie Foxx's first name at birth
 8 TXism: "Devil's ___" (praying mantis)
 17 "Texas Tea"
 18 TXism: "___ ___ duck in water"
 21 4-term Dallas mayor: ___ Thornton
 22 truck rubber
 23 TXism: "he's ___ walk the river with"
 24 TX Bob Wills' "Take ___ to Tulsa"
 29 Laredo had a large anti-___ smelter
 30 this Bob started a chain of Texas cafeterias
 31 big Texas-___ game
 32 TXism: "like two dogs fighting ___" (vicious)
 34 QB Blake for IFL Frisco Fighters and reel
 35 ___ and reel
 36 Anglican church service at sunset
 37 in Coleman County on U.S. 283
 38 TXism: "would ___ maggot" (putrid)
 39 TXism: "thick as ticks ___"
 41 two-___ (fake)
 42 "without further ___"

DOWN

1 crowd pleaser all over Texas on July 4 (2 wds.)
 2 TXism: "skinny ___"
 3 TXism: "it'll ___ something better comes along"
 4 between meals treat
 9 TXism: "you can write it ___" (certain)
 10 "___ a scratch" (unharmed)
 11 it's now Verizon
 12 "mi casa es ___ casa" (neighborly)
 13 emotional shock
 14 poetry metrical foot
 15 Henrietta is the seat of this county
 16 state where the Chisholm Trail ended (abbr.)
 19 "The Three ___"
 20 Barbary sheep
 22 "shoo" is a word said ___
 24 "Mighty ___" does not flow in Texas
 25 New Year's ___
 26 UT-Austin mascot
 27 AT&T Center and Toyota Center

35 TX A.J. Foyt, e.g.
 37 TXism: "dead as ___"
 38 a secure Texas subdivision?
 40 TXism: "could count the ___" (light rain)
 41 TX Buddy Holly's "Not ___ Away"
 44 TXism: "went to the well ___ too often"
 47 volunteer worker
 49 TX Willie's "Farm ___" was in Manor, Texas

Find your Best Friend in the Classifieds! Check out the Azle News and the Springtown Epigraph Today!

Find that perfect Tractor in the Classifieds **OR** You can Sell yours in the same section. Call 817-270-3340 for more info on our **3-Month Special Only \$29.95**

TEXAS STATEWIDE CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING NETWORK

TexSCAN

TexSCAN Week of July 3-9, 2022

PUBLIC AWARENESS

ACREAGE

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Azle's new coach oversees boys soccer camp

BY JEFF PRINCE
jeff@azlenews.net

About 35 kids from kindergarten to ninth grade participated in the soccer summer camp held at Azle High School last week, and new AHS coach Diego Oliveros was beaming.

"It's just really positive for the people in the community to be able to bring the kids into a soccer environment and have them practice," he said. "We get them interested in soccer from a very early age, and that's something that can stick with them through their high school years."

About a dozen parents sat together in the stands to watch their children perform stretches, drills and a live scrimmage on the artificial turf at Hornet Stadium.

"I love that the parents stick around and get to see what we're doing," he said.

Oliveros is in his first year as a head coach after spending six years as a teacher and assistant coach at MacArthur High School.

Three seniors from this year's varsity soccer team volunteered to help with the summer camp, along with recent graduate Cody McIntire.

"They are volunteering their time to work with the



Owen Walton, left, and Kollin Pannell, right, try to take the ball away from an opposing player in a scrimmage at summer camp.

Photo by Jeff Prince

little ones," Oliveros said. "It's great that they're taking time out of their summer to come help us and interact with their community. It

gives the little ones someone to look up to."

PARENTAL APPROVAL

Sitting among the par-

ents in the stands was Laura Walton, whose son Owen Walton, 10, was playing in a scrimmage and displaying plenty of talent.

"He's been playing since he was 4," she said.

Owen Walton attended a soccer camp three years ago but missed the past two years

after COVID-19 precautions disrupted events.

"We wanted to come back

SEE **SOCCER CAMP**, PAGE 14A.

Azle Christian hopes to outmuscle competition under new football coach

BY JEFF PRINCE
jeff@azlenews.net

The new athletic director and head football coach at Azle Christian School has an iron-clad plan to take the gridiron boys farther than they have ever been in the highly competitive TAPPS conference.

Iron. Pumping it. Lots of it. That's the plan.

"We've got to up our workload," said Clayton Sanders, who will lead the Crusaders athletic programs into the new school year. "We've got to outwork people. The best way to do that is teach them a work ethic. Get up early in the morning. Hit the weights at 6:30. There is no better way to learn that work ethic than to wake up at 6:30 with a squat bar on your back."

Sanders was hired to replace Gary Rushing, who led the Crusaders to four state football championships in the TCAF league. This season, Azle Christian switched to the bigger and more competitive TAPPS conference.

Two years ago, the Crusaders lost a state championship game that Rushing thought the Crusaders should have won. This season, the Crusaders lost a couple of winnable games and were bounced out of the playoffs early.

Rushing described the losses as "hard to take" and decided he had not done enough to motivate and inspire his players. So, he resigned to allow for a coaching change and recommended Sanders, who was already volunteering with the team and had been a player when Rushing was coaching at Springtown High School.

"It's kind of an amazing



From left, Clayton Sanders sits with Camden Logan during a game in 2021.

Courtesy photo

journey," Sanders said.

CHURCH TALK

Sanders and his wife, Stacy Sanders, had been members at Christian Church of Azle for several years while he was coaching at South Hills High School in Fort Worth. The couple have five children: Colby, 29, Layne, 25, Cameron, 22, Logan, 21, and Rylee, 18.

Sanders and his wife were

at church one day, and Stacy wondered aloud if her husband might want to be head football coach at Azle Christian School some day.

Sanders shook his head. He was coaching 11-man football at a much larger (Class 5A) school in the University Interscholastic League and was skeptical about switching to a small private school playing six-man football.

Besides, he told his wife, "Coach Rushing is going to coach until he is 100 years old."

In 2020, Sanders re-aggravated an ankle injury he sustained originally in the United States Marine Corps. He underwent surgery and was able to continue teaching but couldn't coach football at South Hills last season.

"I ran into coach Rushing at church, and he said

he could use some help," Sanders recalled. I said, 'I can help, I just don't know how much I can do, coming off surgery and whatnot.' He said, 'Why don't you come and be kind of like an adviser?'"

Sanders volunteered as an adviser. Three weeks later, Rushing promoted him to defensive coordinator, as a volunteer.

"Then, I just fell in love

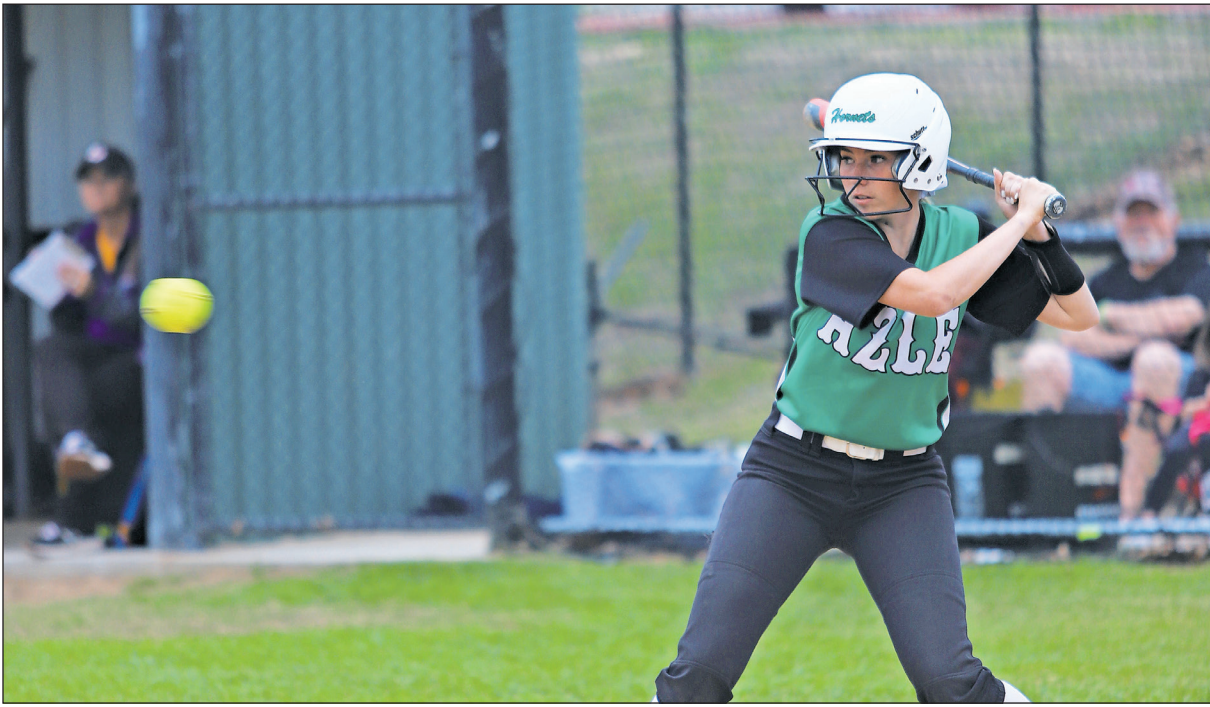
with the kids, fell in love with the mission of the church and in the mission of the school," Sanders said.

After coming up short in the playoffs for the second year in a row, Rushing told Sanders he was considering stepping down from the program.

"He said, 'I think it's time, I think I'm done,'" Sanders

SEE **SANDERS**, PAGE 14A.

Azle softball players reap rewards for strong season



Alyssa Holland earned first-team all-district recognition.

Photos by Jeff Prince

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Azle Lady Hornets fielded a young and inexperienced team last season but managed to go 11-9-1 in the regular season, earn the third seed in District 7-4A, make the playoffs and play for a bi-district championship.

That success on the field prompt-

ed big triumphs in the award season.

Torrie Johnson was named Catcher of the Year, by vote of the district coaches. Kalle Vasquez earned Utility Player of the Year. And Brandie Phillips was selected as Co-Newcomer of the Year.

Lady Hornets earning first-team

all-district recognition were Alyssa Holland and Kaylee Parrish.

Second-team all-district honors went to Lady Hornets Abigail Garner, Allison Smith and Morgan Terrell.

Azle's Casey Morrison and Raegan Williams received honorable mention.



Torrie Johnson earned the Catcher of the Year honor for her strong play behind the plate for the Lady Hornets softball team.

SOCCER CAMP, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13A.



Riley Roberts kicks the ball with style.

Photos by Jeff Prince



From left, Cody McIntyre, Brayden Hutton, Anthony Lucio and Braden Forsythe help out at soccer camp.

and do it again to get him exercise and just for him to continue practicing the sport that he loves and to meet other new kids that love the same sport," she said.

Owen Walton enjoyed learning from the older boys who had volunteered as instructors.

"It was really good," he said. "I liked the scrimmage at the end. I like all the drills. We are learning

better skills, and it's great."

Walton's friend and neighbor, Kollin Pannell, had tagged along with him to camp. The 11-year-old boy had kicked a soccer ball around with friends but never played organized soccer or attended a camp. He was trying to prepare himself to play at high school.

"I like it here," he said. "There are a lot of drills that you have to follow.

The coaches are really nice."

COACHING KIDS

Some of those coaches were teen boys who play on the varsity soccer team and had volunteered to help at camp. They included seniors Brayden Hutton, Anthony Lucio and Braden Forsythe, along with McIntyre.

"We are here helping the younger kids," Lucio said. "It was second graders earlier this morning. Now, it's the middle schoolers. We are helping them go through some drills we normally go through. Just some fundamental things. We do it to help them get in good shape and have the right components to be able to play high school soccer. We

want them to be able to have love for the sport."

Among the middle schoolers enjoying camp was Riley Roberts, an eighth grader who is new to soccer but learning fast.

"It's been really fun," he said. "I've enjoyed all the stuff we've been doing. Getting better at passing and dribbling and all that."

SANDERS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13A.

said. "I think he thought it was time for him to either take a break or just go somewhere else. Obviously, he ended up going somewhere else. But I think at that time, he just felt that Azle Christian needed a change."

Rushing asked Sanders if he would be interested in the job.

PASSING THE BATON

Sanders and his wife discussed the offer and prayed about the decision. Sanders would be taking over a program from a popular and successful coach.

"The kids, obviously, were heartbroken to lose coach Rushing," Sanders said.

Sanders, however, has a long connection with Rushing that "helped a lot with the transition for the kids," he said.

From 1990 to 1994, Rushing coached Sanders at Springtown

High School in football and track.

"He was really good," Rushing said of his former wide receiver and defensive back. "He coaches like he played. He's a hard-nosed coach. He played hard, and he coaches hard."

In 2005, Sanders began his coaching career at the Class 3A Royal High School in Brookshire, Texas. Since then, he has coached at high schools in Garrison, Kinkaid, Dallas, Chico and Fort Worth. Sanders was assistant head coach and run game coordinator at South Hills before becoming athletic director and head football coach at Azle Christian.

Sanders has the years of experience and skills required to make Azle Christian successful in the TAPPS conference, Rushing said.

"He is a really good motivator and has got really good intensity, and he's football smart," Rushing said. "He will do a great job."

Azle Christian has established a winning history in football that goes back years and was carried on by Rushing before handing the reins to Sanders. The new coach hopes to establish the Crusaders as a perennial powerhouse in TAPPS.

TAPPS is "side-by-side with the UIL as far as rules and regulations and how they run their conference," Sanders said. "There are going to be higher expectations. We've got to raise the bar even more now because we are in a higher competition."

HEFTING THE LOAD

Raising the symbolic bar means lifting actual bars loaded down with pig iron.

"The first thing that I believe we needed to do was get in the weight room," Sanders said.

One problem — Azle Christian didn't have a weight room.

In January, Sanders and the ath-

letes began meeting at 6:30 a.m. at Champion Fitness Center in Azle to lift weights. The coach put out the word to friends and fellow coaches that the school was looking for weight room equipment.

A coaching buddy from East Texas called to say his school had built a new weight room and had old equipment available.

"He said, 'I can loan you our equipment as long as you need it,'" Sanders said. "He had eight big power racks and all the weights. The bars. He gave us everything."

For now, the weights are being kept in the gymnasium, but in July, they will be moved to the new fieldhouse that was built on campus but still waiting to be hooked up for electricity.

"We are going to be moving all that weight into the fieldhouse in the middle of July," he said.

The athletes were tested for strength for the first time shortly

after they began lifting weights.

"Our numbers were obviously low," Sanders said.

The kids tested again in May after months of lifting, and the results were different.

"We had every one of our football players squat over 300 pounds," he said. "Before that, we only had one that could squat over 300 pounds. They put in the work. That is going to be beneficial."

The benefits should stand out most during the playoffs, he said.

"Going deep in the playoffs, that's when your body needs that extra muscle, especially when you're in a contact sport like football," the coach said. "That's the first thing we really attacked, building a foundation of out-working everybody around us and getting in the weight room and learning the weight room mentality."