

Wednesday, February 23, 2022 Volume 70, Number 39 AzleNews.net

City secretaries wear a number of hats

WORKING IN AZLE:

Yael Forgey, Azle city secretary

EDITOR'S NOTE: Second in an ongoing series of stories about the jobs of people in the community, from those who work in the public sector - city and schools, for example - to those employed in the private sector. The stories seek to explore various careers and what education and experience they require, as well as reveal what a typical day is like in the job, and what people love most about their jobs.

BY DON MUNSCH editor@azlenews.net

Yael Forgey's job as Azle city secretary is not merely handing agendas for Azle cated, archived and codified. City Council meetings.

revolve around providing support to the City Council – such as council meeting preparation and agenda packet preparation and distribution – but their respon- The job description states sibilities also center on elections, open records requests, or equivalent is required and records management, boards an associate or bachelor's and commissions, code of degree is preferred. A Texas ordinances, official obligations and other duties as necessary, according to a

presentation Forgey gave to council last year. The other obligations include administering oaths of office and ensuring records are authenti-

A city secretary does not City secretaries' duties have to possess a college degree to do the job, although Forgey earned a business administration and general studies degree from the University of Haifa in Israel. that a high school education Municipal Clerk's Associa-



SEE FORGEY, PAGE 2A. Yael Forgey at her desk at Azle City Hall.

Photo by Don Munsch

\$1



Candidate applications received for May elections

BY JESSICA McKINNEY azlereporter@azlenews.net

eral election is closed for the be on the ballot. cities of Azle, Pelican Bay

cil member, and veterinarian ballot. Dr. Derrick Nelson. Coun-

and Reno, the town of Lake- incumbent David McClure mayor, did not file to be on

are Bill Jones, former coun- Places 1 and 2 on the May

Tamra Olague, who cur-The candidate application cilmember Corey Wynns did rently serves as the council deadline for the May 7 gen- not submit an application to member for Place 5, has filed an application for may-Place 2 candidates are or. Glen Oberg, the current

> the ballot. David Dryden (incumbent) has filed for Place

1 and Sara Gashi (incum-

This vehicle was involved in a three-car crash Feb. 17 at FM 730 North and Kay Lane. Photo by Carla Noah Stutsman

Crash closes FM 730 North, sends one to hospital

BY CARLA NOAH STUTSMAN

FM 730 North about 11:45 that location southbound roadway for about an hour ver 2021 Suburu Outback. and sent one driver to the hospital.

turn left onto Kay Lane. impact caused the Coloraconfirm whether Huffman southbound lane of travel to an area hospital with was the driver of the Colo- where it crashed into Be- undisclosed injuries.

rado. At the same time, van's Outback. Timothy Bevan, 40, also A three-vehicle crash on of Azle, was approaching inattention and unsafe a.m. Feb. 17 closed that on FM 730 North in a sil- Reed were factors that However, a silver 2006 Dodge Charger driven by According to an accident Crystal Ann Reed, 35, of roadway in both directions report filed by Azle police, Azle was northbound be- upon arriving at the scene a blue 2021 Chevrolet hind Huffman's vehicle, and they remained closed Colorado owned by Justin did not slow down, and for almost an hour as police Edward Huffman of Azle struck the back end of the and Azle Fire Department was northbound when it Colorado. According to first responders worked to slowed down in order to the report, the force of the clear the wreckage. The Azle News is unable to do to spin around into the Colorado was transported

The report says driver speed on the part of contributed to causing the accident.

Police closed the

The driver of the

side and the Azle Indepen- and Amy Estes. dent School District Board of Trustees.

The Azle city council has Place 5 on the Azle city bent) for Place 2 three positions coming up council.

for election in May. The candidates for Place 1 an election for Mayor, and

Rouel Rothenberger is running uncontested for

In Pelican Bay, there is

The city of Reno has three

SEE CANDIDATES, PAGE 4A.

School district gives updates on bond projects

BY JESSICA McKINNEY azlereporter@azlenews.net

Azle Independent School District Superintendent Todd Smith and Assistant a new elementary campus Superintendent Matt Adams gave a presentation to mem- 6 — and renovations to bers of the Long Range Fa- Liberty Elementary, Eagle cilities Planning Committee Heights and Hoover. on Feb. 17, updating them on the progress of May and November bond projects.

MAY 2021 BOND PROJECTS

Proposition A in the May 2021 bond proposition, front entrance. which voters approved,

increased capacity and improvements at the elementarv level in AISD.

These projects include -Elementary Campus No.

Eagle Heights will have single-use toilets added to kindergarten classrooms and there will be a larger, centralized library on the campus. Administration offices will also be moved to the

Hoover will receive a new

focused on the needs for science lab, renovated band and music spaces, as well as special education classrooms.

> Projects at Eagle Heights and Hoover have begun and are expected to be complete in the fall.

> "We met with the architects and construction companies Tuesday morning and went over a few last-minute things," said Smith during the presentation, referencing the new elementary campus and the projects at Liberty Elementary.

> > SEE BOND, PAGE 4A.



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Houdeshell, Duran recognized as Young Texan/Texanne for February

BY JESSICA McKINNEY azlereporter@azlenews.net

The Optimist Club of Azle recognized two Azle High School seniors for the month of February during their himself as intelligent, inmeeting on Feb. 18.

selected as this month's Young Texan. He holds a a member of the drone team GPA of 100.57 and is ranked at AHS. No. 42 in his senior class.

cepted to both University of North Texas and University of Texas at Arlington, but he has he will go after graduation. He plans to study biomedical engineering with a focus on prosthetics.

on the prosthetic side and, to attend college. like, create attachments with nerves so you can actually eral business certifications move it and stuff like that," Houdeshell said.

Houdeshell football and robotics and is AHS.

Houdeshell has been ac- ruary Young Texanne. She with, like, oh, what do I want is ranked No. 25 in her class to do for the rest of my life? and her GPA is 102.30.

"I really want to work will be the first in her family her own accounting firm.

She has already earned sevwith Microsoft and plans to pursue a business degree with describes a focus on accounting.

Duran plays French horn dependent and resource- and has been section leader Dakota Houdeshell was ful, and has been active in for Marching Green Pride at

Of her future plans, Duran said, "Like any other high Andrea Duran is the Feb- school student, I struggled Sometimes picking your life Duran plans to tour the path at the age of 18 can be not made a decision on where Midwestern State University very daunting." She credits and Texas State University teacher Kelsie Jones with campuses before making a helping her on the path to decision on which school to business and accounting, attend after graduation. She and hopes to one day have



OPTIMIST CLUB president Leon Williams (left) welcomed Azle High School seniors Dakota Houdeshell and Andrea Duran and Principal Randy Cobb to the Feb. 18 meeting, which recognized the students as Young Texan and Texanne for February.

FORGEY, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.

employment.

City secretaries must earn certain certifications. For a city secretary to attain Texas Registered Municipal Clerk certification, he or she must have 200 hours of course work, exams and attendance at eight two-day seminars. The program, offered through the University of North Texas, requires recertification every five years.

Forgey has earned her Texas Registered Municipal Clerk and Certified Municipal Clerk designations, the but was quickly promoted to the information for the agenlatter of which came through the International Institute

within the first two years of recertification and Master gins preparations on a coun-Municipal Clerk Certifica- cil meeting a week before tion, the latter of which is the meeting date. through the IIMC.

vice is compulsory in Israel. She moved to the U.S. in 2006 with her husband everything from all the deand two children. She has worked for the city of Azle build the agenda." for 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ years, and before her city secretary.

of Municipal Clerks. She is the city secretary, Forgey to ensure accuracy. Then and commissions banquet department are the most I'm very fortunate."

"The week before, I send Forgey grew up in Haifa, an email to all the depart-Israel, and served in the Is- ment heads and ask them raeli military; military ser- to give me any items to be placed on the agenda," she said. "By Wednesday, I get partments, and I start to

Some items she deals stint here, she worked for with on the job are recurring the city of Willow Park for over time, such as elections eight years. She started in and new garbage collection utility billing in Willow Park rates. After she receives all da, City Manager Tom Muir other non-businesses ac-An average day varies for will review the information tivities, such as the boards

and agenda packets and then posts the agenda. She also will be responsive to council members if they have any questions. Agendas must be posted 72 hours before a meeting.

Forgey is the record manager for the city, and the vault with various records rests across from her office at City Hall. Among her other duties, Forgey handles legal notices for the newspaminutes from the city council meetings.

banquet. She is the chair of the committee of employee banquet, and she said it is with one for a long time," being held now after a long absence.

During meetings, city secretaries have to understand regulations on procedures, such as when the council can take a vote. For example, votes can't be taken on nonaction items.

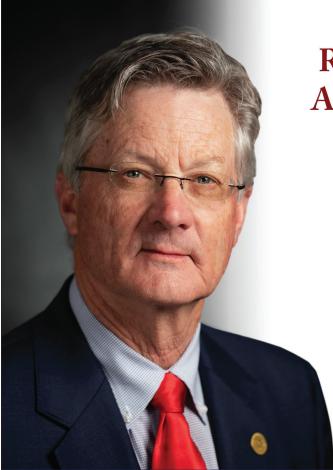
On public information requests, as needed, she can per, alcohol permits and the consult with the attorney general or the city attorney, depending on the informa-She also oversees some tion being requested. She I enjoy them too. And I love said public information requests related to the police We're like a big family. And

tion certification is required working toward her TRMC said, explaining that she be- she finishes with the agenda and employee appreciation challenging aspect of her job.

"Sometimes you're stuck she said.

Her favorite aspect of the job is working with people. She loves her job and looks forward to going to work each week with new challenges.

"I enjoy trying to be responsive to everyone," she said. "I like the election season - it's always challenging. I think we have great council members, who are very easy to work with, and all the people in the city.



Re-Elect State Representative Dr. Glenn Rogers A Proven Conservative Leader Who Gets Results

2A News

- \$2.8 billion for border wall construction and new border troopers
- Constitutional Carry to defend the Second Amendment
- Conservative budget reforms
- Election integrity reform to protect Texas elections from fraud
- Major pro-life victories including the landmark "Texas Heartbeat Act"
- Opposed Biden's unconstitutional vaccine mandates in federal court
- Banned biological males from participating in women's sports

ENDORSED BY: Former Governor and Trump Energy Secretary Rick Perry

Congressman Roger Williams

Endorsed by State and Local Law Enforcement

Endorsed by Leading Pro-Life Groups

Endorsed by the NRA

Endorsed by Numerous National, State, and Local Conservative Leaders



Glenn and his wife, Mandy, have four children and five grandchildren.

Republican Primary Election Day Tuesday, March 1

PD POL ADV BY GLENN ROGERS CAMPAIGN



www.RogersforTexas.com

AHS HOSA students advance to state

BY DON MUNSCH editor@azlenews.net

Azle High School students Lauryn Rasco and Chloe Writing & Speaking; Logan Jones are at different points Leach, Kadin Kunkleman in their high school career – and Michael Saline, Medical Rasco graduates this spring Innovation. Cochran, Estes, while Jones is a freshman Leach and Allphin will be - but both students want to attending the state conferwork on the health care field ence as voting delegates and some day.

Both students and some of their classmates have have started getting HOSA gotten a head start in learning about the medical field through participation in AHS teacher and HOSA ad-Health Occupation Students of America, an organiza- a state qualifier through the tion that affords students a health issues exam two years chance to compete in area ago, but COVID-19 emerged and state competitions. For and the student was unable AHS HOSA students, this is to go. "This is our first year their first trip to state.

In January, nine Azle students who are in HOSA off of a skill. We are taking competed in the area round three skills students and four of competition in Killeen. health issues students." These students took online health care areas and moved are eight skills she could on to the area round of competition, and with their success at the area competition, AHS now has seven students State Leadership Confer- was taking vitals and I had ence in Galveston in April.

Nursing Assisting, Chloe ing those were temperature, Jones placed third in Sports Medicine and Reeslyn Bice pressure. placed third in Veterinary Science. Michael Saline, med, which is athletic train-Elle Coleman, Zoe Weaver ing, and she has skills testand Layne Goley all ad- ing. At this last competition, course signings, that's when has eight horses. vanced to state in Health she performed in anatomi-Care Issues.

round: Haylee Allphin, had to identify where they Nursing Assisting; Brian- were, and she had to tape an

na Cochran. Home Health Aide; Elle Coleman, Prepared Speaking; Breton Estes, Researched Persuasive courtesy corps.

"In the past five years, we implemented in the high school," said Tiffany Shaw, viser, noting the school had that we have ever had skills students who have qualified

Rasco will compete in tests in December in many nursing assisting and there perform, and they range ankle. from hand washing to caring for an ostomy.

"The one that I specificalwho have advanced to the ly had at the last competition 10 minutes to do four dif-Rasco placed third in ferent vitals," she said, notpulse, respirations and blood

Jones competes in sports cal landmarks, in which the Jones said. "So that was an six or seven skills, ranging ing in the news. The following students judge would call out certain experience and it's some- from taking a temperature also competed in the area points of the body and she



Azle High School HOSA students are, front row, Reeslyn Bice, Chloe Jones, Lauryn Rasco and Brianna Cochran. Back row are adviser Jimmy Rider, Logan Leach, Elle Coleman and adviser Tiffany Shaw. Not pictured are Michael Saline, Zoe Weaver, Layne Goley, Haylee Allphin and Breton Estes. Photo by Don Munsch

Shaw said because the school. At the competition, both. school is so new in the club, she identified several instruplans on being a physical equipment and get it ready medical field. therapist or licensed athletic as if she was preparing for trainer.

I chose athletic training,"

science qualifier for the explore a career combining tion in Galveston.

students have been study- ments that would be used in medical innovation, and he just really exciting to have ing since November. Rasco surgery and wrote a few sen- and a partner worked on a competed as well as we did would like to be a labor and tences about what they're design for a technology that and to be able to take seven delivery nurse, although used for. For the skills could improve the medical students to state confershe originally wanted to be testing, she had to enter a field. He wants to work in ence," said adviser Jimmy a nurse anesthetist. Jones room and disinfect surgical the technology aspect of the Rider. He and Shaw teach

Cochran had to perform students over issues happen- technician courses.

that's where I'd want to go." on a patient. She likes law look forward to going to department," Rider said. Reeslyn Bice is the vet and medicine and wants to state for the state competi-

"This was my first year to Leach participated in be HOSA adviser, and it's health sciences classes. At the area conference, Health sciences students surgery. She wants to enter Coleman competed in pre- can leave high school with "Last year, whenever it the veterinary field. Equine pared speaking but she is five industry-ready certificame time for high school is her passion, she said. She going to state for health is- cations, from the health scisues exam, which will quiz ence clinicals and pharmacy

"We're really proud of Students said they have how they represented the thing I really enjoyed, so to performing wound care enjoyed competition and school and the health science

Azle Area Clubs ORGANIZATIONS AND Texas Health Good N.E.W.S. Rotary

Attention Men and Women over 65 years old... Do You Want To Learn How To Stay Out Of **Nursing Homes FOREVER?**

Without Risking Your Health, Safety, Or Independence?

By Balance Expert Dr. Robert Moss





Do you feel guilty that your spouse is forced to be with you all the time because of your dizziness/loss of balance? Do you feel that your dizziness/loss of balance is always there no matter what you do? Do you feel that you are handicapped by your dizziness/loss of balance? Does your spouse stay with you in the shower so that you do not fall?

If you answer yes to any of these questions, please read further...

CDC Reports: Falls Are The Leading Cause of Injuries In Seniors

If you have ever seen the Life Alert commercials then you have a picture in your mind of an elderly lady laying on the floor desperately trying to get up only to discover she is not able to.

Whether she is just weak, has broken a hip or caused some other serious injury this is a major concern for our elderly patients.



Working with seniors over many years it has become apparent that the greatest common fear is the fear of falling and not being able to get back up. This is not unreasonable as 1/3 of all adults over 65 will fall this year and each fall is potentially life changing.

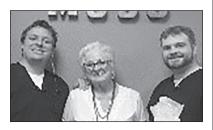
Falling should not be your lifestyle

Falls often lead to hospitalizations, serious injury or the need for assisted living of some sort. In the most severe cases a fall can lead to death.

If the fall, injury, and hospitalization isn't bad enough, frequent falls lead to loss of independence, limits in your daily activities, and increase your reliance on friends and family members to complete basic everyday tasks.

With the right information and the right guidance many falls can be prevented, keeping you out of the hospital and Nursing Homes. Here is what one of my patients had to say:

When I came to Moss, I had trouble walking due to no balance. I was not able to get in and out of a car, I was not able to do my activities. After my therapy I am able to walk and continue with my shopping and light house work. I can do this all un-assisted thanks to my therapy. - Evelyn Tinney



If you are embarrassed or reluctant to use a cane or walker because it makes you "look old" or if you feel like a burden to those around you because you need to hold on to someone when you walk or ask them to run your errands... MOSS Rehabilitation Center has prepared a FREE Report for you "The Top 8 Secrets To Improve Your Balance And Prevent Falls".

To get the guide Simply call this special number 817-220-MOSS (6677) to request the FREE Report OR if you want the report right now, please visit www. springtownphysicaltherapy.com/balance-report and you can download it instantly.

Council approves zoning for new development

BY DON MUNSCH editor@azlenews.net

The Azle City Council approved a zoning change at its Feb. 15 meeting that helps pave a way for some upscale homes to be built near Eagle Mountain Lake.

But the approval was not the north side. unanimous. In the 4-2 vote, council members Randa Goode and Corey Wynns were opposed, and council held a lengthy discussion on the 16-lot development, to be built on the north and south sides of Park Street approximately 2,100 feet meeting.

Before that vote and after a public hearing, council ap- Flory, spoke in the pubproved in a 6-0 vote an ordinance regarding a proposed Comprehensive Master Plan Amendment from the He lives on Park Street. Neighborhood Mixed Use Activity Center to Low Density Residential for approximately 28.24 acres of land. Council then approved, after the lengthy discussion, a zoning change request from the Estate One (E-1) and Institutional (INS) Districts to a Planned Development District by approving a concept plan for a proposed 16-lot of land.

be fronted by the lake and formation from the city. the rest of the lots will be on

from Graham Associates Inc., an engineering firm based in Arlington, spoke to of the kind of homes at the the council about development, as did David Hawkins, city director of planning and er," Brundrett said. "This is development. Prices of the homes would be in the \$2east of South Ash Avenue. 2.5 million range on the Council member Brian Con- lake frontage side and then and nicer things to be built ner was absent from the homes on the other side in Azle. And that's exactly would be slightly less.

> Just one person, Steve and we're nitpicking on it." lic hearing for the zoning about nitpicking, explaining change, and that individual that those with concerns are supported the development. asking for certain standards,

Mayor Pro Tem David McClure asked several drive around Southlake and questions, including about drainage, street issues and culverts and asphalt streets the sidewalk, and Goode and the "look is a lot nicer." expressed concerns about Brundrett said this developthe road at the development. ment would be the "nicest Wynns said he had reservations about infrastructure at developer's only request is the development, such as the that it just doesn't want curbroad, curbs and septic system. Each lot will be served residential subdivision on by a septic system - there email that the developer was approximately 28.24 acres are no sewer mains nearby requesting to maintain Park - and Park Street sections Street in its current design

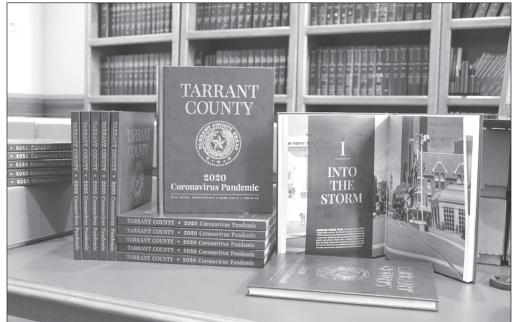
City officials said the would remain in their curproperty is currently unde- rent condition with asphalt veloped with existing trees pavement and bar ditches on the north side of Park in lieu of street pavement Street. There will be nine width of 30 feet with curbs residential lots on the south and underground stormwaside of Park Street and will ter drains, according to in-

In response to some concerns aired from council, Mike Peterson, principle Mayor Alan Brundrett said the city would get a good "bang for our buck" because development.

> "To me, this is a non-brainwhat we've been asking for - we've been asking for bigger lots and bigger houses what they're bringing to us

> Goode rejected the notion such as for streets.

Brundrett said if people Westlake, they will find open area in the city" and that the and-gutter streets for the most part. Hawkins said later in an



The city was presented a 2020 Coronavirus Pandemic historical book, which captured highlights of how the pandemic affected the area. Photo courtesy Tarrant County Clerk's Office

with asphalt pavement and bar ditches so there would no concrete street with be curb and gutter. The intent is to maintain what is out there today and locate new custom Street, he added.

Goode thought it would be prudent to table the matter until the next meeting, but she never made a formal motion. Shortly later, a motion was made to approve the zoning change motion with variances of a 60-foot right of way on Park Street and a 3,000 square foot minimum on the house sizes.

Coronavirus Pandemic historical book, which captured highlights of how the pandemic affected the area. Tarrant County Clerk Mary homes on both sides of Park Louise Nicholson made the presentation, and the book will be held at the Azle Public Library. The book memorializes the events of the 2020 pandemic through an illustrative narrative as they occurred in Tarrant County government and features the introduction by Governor Greg Abbott and a foreword by Tarrant County Judge Glen Whitley, according to Also at the meeting, the an email from the clerk's of-

city was presented a 2020 fice to the city of Azle.

"Aside from being recognized by several local and state historical organizations, we are proud to share that our book has been accepted and will be received by the Library of Congress," said Norma Gorena, executive assistant to Mary Louise Nicholson at the County Clerk Tarrant County Clerk's Office, in the email. The book is being presented to libraries in 41 cities as well as to universities in Tarrant County and high schools, Nicholson said. The book also can be purchased from the clerk's office.

CANDIDATES, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.

council spots up for election in May: Places 1, 3 and 5. Granville "Randy" held by Brian Sexton, who Martin (Place 1) and Jeff recently stepped down from Davis (Place 5) are running his position. Beth Correll uncontested for re-election, has filled in the vacancy and and incumbent Shelli Swift also submitted an applica-(Place 3) is running against tion to be one of the board candidate Jason Holden.

to be on the ballot. The third position was directors.

Other applicants for the Places 1, 3 and 5 are up for WCSUD board include Rene Esteves, Jim Cox, Jeff Carter

BOND, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.

Those projects have not fall 2023. gone out to bid yet but will as soon as plans are finalized.

The new elementary campus will have the capacity for another 600 students in the district and is going to be built on a property along FM 730 South, with entrances planned on both FM 730 South and Stewart Street.

NOVEMBER 2021 BOND PROJECTS

Voters approved one new bond proposition in November, which focuses on needs at the high school with the cafeteria and science labs.

families to the Azle area.

One option brought up in the meeting of the LRFPC pus is another idea that was the possibility of recon- some residents have sugfiguring the grade levels at gested, but the cost of a new each campus, such as hav- campus is above and being kindergarten through yond the cost of recent bond fifth grade at elementary packages that have been re-

ments continue to add more same amenities would come with a hefty price tag.

A new high school cam-

In the town of Lakeside, election.

Incumbents Wesley Hearn and Candice Chandler. (Place 3) and Rona Stratton for reelection. Christopher election is April 7. Ayers has filed to be elected for Place 1.

Places 4, 5, 6 and 7. All four incumbents have filed for reelection: Dr. Ray Lea (Place 4); Jeremy May (Place 5); Bill Lane (Place 6); and Jeff Edwards (Place 7).

David Compston filed an cation on May 7. application for Place 4 in the upcoming AISD election.

board positions. Frank Sexton, current board president, and Mike Gilley, secretary,

AzleNews

The last date to register to Gouyton (Place 5) have filed vote in time for the May 7

Early voting will run from April 25-May 3. Applica-Azle ISD has four places tions for a ballot by mail on the May ballot, including must be received (not postmarked) by April 26. Mail-in ballots must be received by May 7 at 7 p.m. if envelope is not postmarked, or May 9 at 5 p.m. if it is postmarked

The expansion at Liberty Elementary is expected to increase capacity from 476 students to 626 students. It will include a larger, centralized library and a bigger cafeteria and kitchen, and move the administration offices to the front entrance.

The new campus and projects at Liberty have an expected completion in

As of now, those projects have not been put out to bid but plans are still being formulated.

GROWTH CONTINUES

From the start of the school year through Feb. 11, the student population in Azle ISD has grown by 400 students, more than double the projected 150 students. The district will need to

find ways to address the growth as housing develop-

campuses and sixth, seventh jected by voters. and eighth grades in the intermediate campuses.

"Eagle Mountain-Saginaw just bid a new high The idea of a ninth grade school about three or four campus was brought up but weeks ago now, and it was was not favored by many at for a capacity of about the meeting because of cost 2,400, which is what we've and logistics. Having anoth- been looking at for our high er campus would mean high school," Adams said. "The school freshmen would not cost of that high school have access to the Career came in at \$270 million.... and Technical Education We know also what a chalfacilities at the high school. lenge it's been to sell \$50 Building a new campus and million in Azle ISD. How trying to duplicate all of the do we go sell \$270 million?"



Hituaries

Beverly Lou Harvey Mitchell Tuck 1929 - 2022

Beverly Lou Harvey Mitchell Tuck passed away peacefully at home on Feb. 5, 2022, at the age of 92.

A celebration of Beverly's life will be held on Saturday, Feb. 26, 2022, at 11 a.m. at All Saints' Episcopal Church in Ft. Worth, Texas. A reception will be held afterward at the church with interment following at Mt. Olivet Cemetery. A visitation will be held on Feb. 25, 2022, from 6-8 p.m. at Mt. Olivet Funeral Home, Ft. Worth, Texas.

Memorials may be made to Wounded Warriors, Salvation Army, the Tarrant County Food Bank, or a charity of your choice.

Beverly lived well and remained independent until her last few weeks. She died as she lived: gracefully, peacefully, and surrounded by her children having been visited and loved by her grandchildren, great-grandchildren, extended family, and life-long friends.

Beverly was born "An-



nabel" at The Willows Maternity home in Kansas City, Missouri on Sept. 27, 1929, was adopted soon after by Louis A. and Nellie May Harvey, and named Beverly Lou. She lived in Thrall and traveled extensively across Eureka, Kansas throughout her childhood and began first grade at the age of four. She graduated from Hamilton High School. She attended Colorado State College of Education, at Greeley in Greeley, Colorado.

est memories were of Nellie moved to Ft. Worth Texas transportation for others to

erly received her love of family home in the Town life, learning, travel, nature, of Lakeside where Beverly birds, and sewing from this lived until her death. remarkable woman who passed suddenly from this faithful members of St. Milife when Beverly was only eight years old. Her father later married Opal Pharr who became her third mother. Beverly was married briefly to Norman Tubbs and gave birth to her son, Danny. Beverly married Wilbur

Eugene Mitchell on Aug. 20, 1948 in Eureka Kansas. Young, in love, and quite the travelers, Wilbur and Beverly enjoyed numerous trips on their motorcycle and the United States throughout their marriage. They shared their love of travel with their children.

They moved from Eureka, Kansas to Independence, Missouri where their til late 2021, she volunfirst two daughters, Susan teered by running errands Some of Beverly's happi- and Julie, were born. They for friends and providing

Beverly and Wilbur were chael's Episcopal Church, having joined the congregation in 1962. Beverly became a member of the church vestry upon the untimely death of Wilbur in 1970 and continued to be a living example of faith, love, and generosity to her family, friends, and neighbors.

In 1991, at the age of 61, she married a very special man, Ralph Tuck, and gained a fourth daughter, Liz. Ralph and Beverly shared many happy adventures until Ralph's passing in 1994.

Beverly physically and emotionally supported the people she knew. Up unof her mother's joy, playful- comed their third daughter, breakfasts. Beverly has sup- mother, her dear husbands,

ness, and love of life. Bev- Rebecca, and settled in their ported many faith-based and humanitarian charities and organizations. She has enjoyed and maintained many new, close, and long-term friendships across all ages;

she has never met a stranger. Beverly believed in family, in celebrations of life, and remembering those who have died. She rarely missed a baptism, graduation, wedding, or funeral and, until recently, would routinely drive herself all over the state and country to celebrate the important moments of so many friends and family members.

An 11-year breast cancer remission abruptly ended in December 2021. Beverly accepted the news with grace. While her independence was no longer possible, our family was given a great gift in those few weeks as we did had loved us. For this we will be eternally grateful.

Beverly has been reunited with her birth mother, her band Lynn. "Mother". She often spoke in 1962. In 1963, they wel- and from group events and Mother and Daddy, her step-

and her son-in-law Steve Tabb.

She is survived by her son Daniel Lee Harvey and wife Suzie of Newkirk, Oklahoma; her daughters Susan Mitchell Tabb of Boise, Idaho, Julie Mitchell Eggers and husband Steven of Dallas, Texas, and Rebecca Mitchell Blackman of Lakeside, Texas; daughter by marriage, Liz Tuck Stokes and husband Ronnie of Kerrville; grandchildren Lisa Harvey, Danelle Harvey Gilberti, Stefanie Blackman Steele and husband Steve, Wesley Blackman and wife Katie Cook, Amanda Eggers, John Blackman, Mary Tabb, Alexander Eggers, Rebecca Tabb, Caroline Blackman, and Stephen Stokes; great-grandchildren Derek Gilberti, Dominic Gilberti, our best to love her as she Austin Steele, Seth Steele, Megan Steele, and Lacey Steele; goddaughter Mary Allinder Greenlee and hus-

> The Azle News, Feb. 23, 2022 Edition



Heating Tuneups 5 **\$**|

11345 FM730N, Azle 817-696-6421 Kenny Bates, Owner

817-361-3695

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119 Industrial Ave, Azle 817-301-8880 JenniferStephensTaxService@gmail.com WALK-INS WELCOME!



Mel Lopez, Tim Kay, Sam Berube and Annie Sovereign-Diffie are knowledgeable about the real estate market and will negotiate to get you the best deal.

It's Closing Time Realty

We love to help clients find their dream home!

Whether you are looking to buy or sell a property, the team at It's Closing Time Realty will help to ensure that the entire process goes smoothly from start to finish. With over 18 years of experience in their office, each member of the team brings a wealth of real estate knowledge to serve their clients.

Tim Kay and Mel Lopez are life-long Azle residents and graduates of Azle schools. Annie Sovereign-Diffie was raised in Fort Worth, and although she's not originally from here, she got here as soon as she could! Tim, Mel and Annie are all members of the National Association of REALTORS. Along with owner and broker Sam Berube, the team brings a high level of passion and service to each and every client.

For clients looking to sell their property, ICTR will provide a free market analysis of the property and walk you through the home-selling process.

Did you know that home buyers don't pay commissions? Commissions are paid by the sellers. We will explain all of the costs associated with buying and selling property so that you know exactly what to expect.

"All of our realtors are knowledgeable about the real estate market and will negotiate to get you the best deal. We love to help clients find their dream home!"

Kay and Sovereign-Diffie are helping serve local heroes in our community through a program called Homes for Heroes.

Every military, veteran, reserves, healthcare worker, teacher and first responder are eligible to receive a reward check at the end of their closing. Our average reward is \$2,800. We're happy to be serving such an amazing community!

Clients receive free comparative market analysis as well as professional photos and print and digital marketing.

ICTR has its main office in Grapevine but the Azle location has been open for a little over two years.

The Azle office is located at 1355 Northwest Parkway in Ash Creek Plaza.





Colleena Nichols

1956 - 2022

Wituaries

Susan A. Scott Rice 1958 - 2022

Susan A. Scott Rice of Azle went to heaven to gain her heavenly angel wings on Feb. 9, 2022 after a brief battle with lung cancer at the age of 63.

A Celebration of Life will be held on March 12, 2022 at 10 a.m. at Cornerstone Community Church located at 2233 East Highway 199, Springtown, Texas 76082.

To match Susan's vibrant most colorful attire.

Born in 1958 in San Bernardino, California, Susan death by her mother, Avonne and Star Trek fan. She was moved to the Azle area with her family in 1969. Graduating from Azle High School in 1977, she remained in the area until 2015, spending her time working at local eateries, volunteering at her children's school and helping with extracurricular activities.

For the last 12 years she held the title of World's Greatest "Naw Naw" to her grandchildren who were her Scott of Nevada; and several pride and joy.

In 2015, Susan moved to Buda, Texas to live with her son and then relocated with



personality please wear your him to Portland, Oregon in to the late Georgia Winter brothers, Jack Scott (Susie) 2017.

> Susan was preceded in "Nonnie" Scott, father, Herman Allen Scott Jr., and sister, Laurie Scott Dodgen.

She will be greatly missed by those she is survived by: daughter, Lindsay Smith and husband Kevin; grandchildren Kyle and Layton Smith; son Ryan Wright and husband Austin; brother Greg Scott and wife Debbie; sisters, Elizabeth Scott and Linda Grant; aunt Geraldine nieces and nephews.

> The Azle News. Feb. 23, 2022 Edition

Frances Ann Anderson 1957 - 2022

Frances Ann Anderson, 64, passed away peacefully Friday morning, Feb. 18, 2022 with her brother by her side.

Service was at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 22, 2022 in Biggers Funeral Chapel. Burial is at a later date in Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery.

She was born Aug. 15, 1957, in Ft. Smith, Arkansas and Thomas Scott.

She was an avid Star Wars a very generous and caring person. She loved everyone and loved animals of any size and kind.

Fran was preceded in death by her father, Thomas Burford Scott; her mother, Georgia Bernice Winter; stepfather, Klaus Winter; her grandparents; her aunt, Pearl Meier, and her dear friend and roommate Corrie from her home in Willow Park.

She is survived by her



of Azle, Kirk Scott (Mary) of Ranger; daughters, Angie Morrissette (Shaun) from England, Heather Morrissette (Jason) of Granbury, and Teresa Hollerich (Tony) of Saginaw. She has three granddaughters, Sarah and Samantha Taylor and Aubrey Hollerich; nieces, Monica Scott, Melanie Brown-Caldwell, Kayla Scott, and Rebecca Schwonke; eight great-nieces and nephews.

> The Azle News, Feb. 23. 2022 Edition

Colleena Nichols, 65, was called home, Saturday night, Feb. 12, 2022.

She passed, peacefully in her sleep.

A memorial service will be held at 4 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 26, 2022 at Alexander's Midway, Springtown.

Colleena was born Sept. 23, 1956 in Piggott, Arkansas to Anita Dixon and Colin Phillips.

Mathew Nichols and grandson, Austin Graham.

Colleena enjoyed reading, spending time with her family, and her little dog Princess. She was loved and will be missed.

She is survived by her and Nathan. mother, Anita Springer; sisters, Jerri Dougherty and



She was preceded in death Evelyn Phillips; brother, by her father; grandparents, Melton Dimock; children, George and Wilma Dixon; Christina Graham and husbrother, David Morron; son, band Joshua, Kelli Ditzler and husband Mathew, Joshua Nichols and wife Temi, David McMurrian and Kristopher Nichols; grandchildren, Devon, Maddison, Jackson, Kaylee, Colby, Michael, Logan, Neila, Layla,

> The Azle News, Feb. 23, 2022 Edition

Carmella Faye Santiago 1941 - 2022

Carmella Faye Santiago, 80, crossed over to Heaven peacefully, guided by Our Father, Sunday, Feb. 13, 2022 in Springtown.

Celebration of Life is at 12:30 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 26, 2022 Alexander's Midway Funeral Home, 3607 East Highway 199, Spring-







town.

In lieu of flowers please donate to Alzheimer's Association.

ware. Carmella loved walking, being with people, brother, Donald Schivello. having family dinners, volher church. She was greatly loved and will be deeply missed by many.

would like to give thanks to all of the people that have helped in her care in Delaware and Texas and safe move.

She was a faithful wife, grandchildren. married to her first love, Hipolito Santiago for 52 years before his passing in 2012.



She was preceded in She was born Aug. 19, death by her father, Domi-1941 in Wilmington, Dela- nick Schivello; mother, Elma (Lewis) Schivello; and

She is survived by and was unteering and being a part of a loving mother to Anthony and Helene Santiago, Steven Santiago, Chris and Yvonne Smith; devoted Mom Mom We as a family would like to Michelle Ganzman, Kristen Pelle, Anthony Santiago, Sean Santiago, Jonathon Smith, Hannah Snyder, Benjamin Santiago, Sarah Wells, Noel Santiago and 11 great

> The Azle News, Feb. 23, 2022 Edition

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... ATTEND THE CHURCH OF YOUR CHOICE THIS SUNDAY

THE ABBEY CHURCH Pastor: Paul Brownback

10400 Jacksboro Highway 817-238-1404

www.TheAb	beyChurch.com
rning Worchin	10.2

worship	
Community Groups	Various Times

ASH CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor: Dr. G. Wesley Shotwell 300 South Stewart St. 817-444-3219

www.ashcreekbc.org

Sunday School	9:30 ам
Contemporary Worship-TMP.	10:45 ам
Traditional Worship	10:45 ам
Evening Worship	6:00 рм
Wednesday Youth Refuge	6:00 рм
Wednesday Evening	6:15 рм

AZLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(Disciples of Christ) Senior	Minister, Ashley
Dargai, Katie Medlin, Wor	ship Minister
117 Church St. • 817-	444-3527
Sunday School	10:00 ам
Morning Worship	11:00 ам

AZLE FIRST ASSEMBLY of GOD

Pastor: Tim Steve	ens
1020 S.E. Parkway, Azle 81	7-237-4903
Sunday School	9:30 ам
Morning Worship	10:30 ам
Wednesday Evening	

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

Morning Worship......11:00 AM Sunday Evening6:00 PM Wednesday Evening......7:00 PM

CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH

2233 Hwy 199 E. • Springtown 817-221-LIFE (5433) Sunday Worship Service10:00 AM Wednesday7:00 PM

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

THE EDGE CHURCH - AZLE

1313 S.E. Pkwy, Azle 817-237-4822 Missouri Synod "Love God - Serve Others - Share Jesus" Traditional Worship9:30 AM Contemporary Worship......11:00 AM

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor: Dr. Richard Reed 200 Church St., Azle 817-444-3323 Morn. Worship8:30, 9:45 & 11 AM Sunday School9:45 & 11 AM Youth (UMYF) 5:00 PM Sun & 6:30 PM Wed

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH

800 Highcrest Dr Azle 817	-444-3063
Saturday	5:00 pr
Sunday	9:00 an
Sunday11	ам (Spanish
Daily Mass (M, T, Th, F)	8:00 an
Wednesday Mass Religious ED	6:30 PM
Confessions	Sat 4 pr

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

4795 E. Hwy 199 - Reno 817-221-HOPE	
Follow us on Facebook for streaming	
services	
Sunday School9:00 AM	
Traditional Service 10:00 AM	

SOLID ROCK BIBLE CHURCH

591 S. Reno Rd, , Springtown,	Texas 76082
Pastor - Bill Gay - 817-30	4-7443
Coffee and Donuts	9:00 ам
Sunday School	9:30 ам
Morning Worship	10:30 ам
Children's Church After Mus	ic Service
Wed. Prayer Meeting	6:30 рм
Wed. Bible Study	7:00 рм

LEGACY CHURCH Assembly of God Church Pastor: Gary D. Veazey Hwy. 199 & Jaybird Lane 817-221-2983

Morning Worship	9:15 & 11:00 ам
Kidz Zone	9:15 & 11:00 ам
Weds Evening Legacy Group Legacy Youth, Kids	
All Services	7.00 pm

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

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

		Auui
n n	Sunday School9:45 AM	The
/1	Morning Worship10:50 AM	
Λ	Evening Worship6:00 PM	Awa
Λ	Wed. Prayer Service7:00 PM	Life

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 WORD9:30 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

Wednesdavs

Adult Bible Class7:00 PM
The WORD Students (6th-12th grades) 6:30
PM
Awana Kids at the WORD6:30 PM
Life at the WORD Life Groups Various Times

A church alive is worth the drive! For more information or rates on listing your church, call Johnna at 817-270-3340

Vote in the Texas Primary Election

Between the campaign signs, commercials, social media posts, and mailers, you probably do not need a reminder it is Texas Primary Election season. Early voting started last week and runs through February 25, with Election Day on Tuesday, March 1.

Taking the time to educate yourself and vote in the primary election is extremely important, especially with so many candidates on the ballot. As public education continues to come under attack by some candidates, I encourage you to vote for candidates who fully support and fight for public education. This is extremely important to the future of public education in Texas be impressed with all of the dians, food service workers and the almost 7,000 students of Azle ISD.

day, March 10, from 5:30- updates on the event. 7:30 p.m. The Showcase is a free community-wide the two-year mark of the Are Azle! event you will not want to COVID pandemic, once miss. Students from all cam- again I want to say thank puses, Pre-K - 12th grade, you to the Azle ISD comwill be "showing off" their munity for your support and



AZLE ISD By Todd Smith, M.Ed.,

Superintendent of Schools - Azle ISD

Mr. Smith just completed his 27th school year in Azle ISD, with 13 years in campus administration and six years as a district administrator. In June 22, 2020 he

was named Superintendent of Schools by the Azle ISD Board of Trustees. He is thankful for the passion and dedication exhibited by Azle ISD faculty and staff and is extremely proud of the work Azle ISD has accomplished and the impact they will continue to make in the lives of our students.

best talents. Showcase is patience during these chalthe highlight of celebrating lenging times. We have all Public Schools Week, and as experienced hardships and our community continues to difficult times because of encounter fast growth, it is the pandemic, and Azle ISD important for everyone, es- remains committed to suppecially anyone new to Azle porting the social and emo-ISD, to see our Hornets in tional needs of our students action. I encourage everyone and families. I am extremely from the Azle ISD commu- proud of how our teachnity to come check out the ers, administrators, nurses, event. I am certain you will coaches, bus drivers, custogreat things happening in and every other support staff Azle ISD. It is a fun-filled segment of Azle ISD have On a local matter, be sure evening for all involved, risen to the all-important to mark your calendar for complete with a free food task of loving and serving the Azle ISD Showcase at court area. Please check our our children. Thanks to the Azle High School on Thurs- website and social media for ongoing support of our Azle

ISD community, working In closing, as we approach together we exemplify, We

Todd Smith

Superintendent of Schools

RETIREMENT NEWS

Chief Pitts retires from Lakeside

Police Chief Lee Pitts in sworn in as police chief. December announced his inservice.

Chief Carpenter is a 30tent to retire from the Town year veteran of the Fort Department as a reserve offiof Lakeside after 15 years of Worth Police Department, cer providing administrative retiring in June 2016 as a support to Chief Pitts. During the January City captain. Chief Carpenter has Council meeting, Chief commanded the PRO Team, Master of Arts in profession-Pitts officially announced Tactical Investigation Divi- al development from Dallas his retirement. During the sion, East Patrol Division Baptist University. He also February City Council meet- and Criminal Investigation is a graduate of the FBI Naing, Steve Carpenter was Division. In July 2016 Chief tional Academy Class 206, selected as the new police Carpenter was appointed has Executive Leadership chief. There will be a four- Assistant Chief of Police Development Training and to six-week transition period with the Lake Worth Police is a veteran of the U.S. Air

In March 2020, Carpenter joined the Lakeside Police

Chief Carpenter has a Force.

Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a 100-Year Floodplain

To: All interested Agencies, Groups and Individuals

This is to give notice that the **City of Reno** has determined that the following proposed action under the Community Development Block Grant administered by the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) and ERR #(7220390), is located in the 100-year floodplain, and the City of Reno will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action in the floodplain and the potential impacts on the floodplain from the proposed action, as required by Executive Order 11988, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management.

Project Location:

All work will occur in the City of Reno, Parker County, Texas in the following locations: Water Improvements:

- Well Site #1 Southwest side of Scenic Wood Dr. (32.97361, -97.57005)
- Well Site #2 Southwest corner of Parsonage St. and W. Reno Rd. (32.94392, -97.58062)
- Well Site #4 Southwest corner of E. Browser Cr. and W. Reno Rd. ٠ (32.93899, -97.56695)
- Well Site #5 Southeast corner of Bill B St. and Rhonda B Rd. ٠ (32.92238, -97.55314)
- Well Site #6 Northside of Rhonda B Rd. (32.92151, -97.54686)
- Well Site #7 Eastside of Ladybird Ln. (32.96907, -97.57355)
- Miller Rd Water Line On Miller Rd. from Ladybird Ln to N. Cardinal Rd.

Description of the Proposed Project:

Water Improvements:

Install: a 6-inch water line along Miller Rd; Disinfection systems at all 7 well sites to switch from chlorine to chloramines; an additional booster pump at Well Site #1; and Reconfigure the booster pumps at Well Site #5.

Well Site #1:

- Install disinfection building to switch from chlorine to chloramines
- Add booster pump to site
- Estimated Ground Disturbance:
- 10' x 10' for disinfection building, no disturbance for booster pump

Well Site #2

- Install disinfection building to switch from chlorine to chloramines Estimated Ground Disturbance:
- 10' x 10' for disinfection building

Well Site #3

- Install disinfection building to switch from chlorine to chloramines Estimated Ground Disturbance:
- 10' x 10' for disinfection building •
- Well Site #4
- Install disinfection building to switch from chlorine to chloramines Estimated Ground Disturbance
- 10' x 10' for disinfection building •

Well Site #5

۲

- Install disinfection building to switch from chlorine to chloramines
- Reconfigure booster pump from series to parallel ٠

Estimated Ground Disturbance

10' x 10' for disinfection building

Well Site #6

Install disinfection building to switch from chlorine to chloramines

Estimated Ground Disturbance

• 10' x 10' for disinfection building, no disturbance for

before Chief Carpenter is Department.



Brooke Porter, D.D.S., 912 Boyd Rd., Azle • 817-444-1763



booster pump reconfiguration

Well Site #7

Install disinfection building to switch from chlorine to chloramines

Estimated Ground Disturbance:

10' x 10' for disinfection building

Miller Rd Water Line

Increase the 4-inch water line along Miller Rd to a 6-inch water line

Estimated Ground Disturbance

5150' x 8' for water line construction (0.09 acres)

Professional Services including Grant Administrator and Project Engineer activities.

FLOODPLAIN

- According to FEMA floodplain map #48367C0200E (effective date 9/26/08), a portion of the project is located within a 100-year floodplain (Zone AE):
- Well Site #6 Northside of Rhonda B Rd. (32.92151, -97.54686).

Area of Disturbance: 10'x10' or 0.0023 acres

Natural and beneficial values potentially adversely affected by the activity:

- 1. In addition to concerns for life and property, the City has considered the natural values of the floodplain. The natural resources of the floodplain include water, biological, and societal resources. The proposed project will have minimal impacts to the floodplain as the project involves minimal ground disturbance within the floodplain.
- 2. After consultation with the USFWS, review of the County Lists of Endangered and Threatened Species for the County and on-site inspections of the project site, it was concluded that the construction of the facilities will have no quantifiable impact on plant and animal life. Only native plants are to be used in the floodplain and on the site.
- 3. Societal resources should also be considered during the design process. The designs are meant to complement the natural features of the area and to offer an aesthetically pleasing structure. The site will not have an effect on agricultural lands.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplains and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Commenters are encouraged to offer alternative sites outside of the floodplain, alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate impacts. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and requests for public comment about floodplains can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in floodplains, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by the City of Reno at the following address on or before March 14, 2022, (a minimum 15 calendar day comment period will begin the day after the publication and end on the 16th day after the publication): the City of Reno, 195 W. Reno Road Reno, TX 76020, Attention: Scott Passmore, City Administrator. A full description of the project may also be reviewed from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. at the same address or at the following URL: https://tinyurl.com/2p9cpfat. Comments may also be submitted via email at todd@texasenvironentals.com.

Publication Date: February 24, 2022

Happy **TWOSDAY!**



BE AMAZING By Gerry Lewis

Azle resident Dr. Gerry Lewis quides explorers to discover their AMAZING. He is an author, musician, and speaker. and a coach-sultant for individuals, churches, and organizations. More at www.discovervouramazing.com

"This is a once-in-a-life- clock, we get another one time opportunity! You don't at 2:22 p.m. How many in a want to miss it! It will never lifetime now? happen again in your lifetime!"

kind of advertisement?

As I'm typing this on Presidents Day, I'm thinking of sales on Presidents Day, Labor Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Black Friday, Cyber Monday ... Incredible deals that you will never see again. Until the next time.

There's something about a limited time, limited availability opportunity that marketers use to trigger action on the part of potential customers.

Our FOMO (Fear of Missing Out) kicks in with that special call to action.

There is a day coming tomorrow (it will have passed by the time some of you read with it. this, but stay with me) that is seriously, literally, most assuredly, without exaggeration a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

February 22, 2022 can be written as 2/22/22. The last time a date could be written memories are made. that was January 11, 1911. I suppose it's possible that difficult because loved ones someone was around on that date 111 years ago, but it would be extremely rare. I suppose it is also possible here 100 years from now on February 22, 2122, but that will again be extremely rare.

a once-in-a-lifetime experi- the calendar is. ence.

Two (2).

And all this in happen-Have you ever heard that ing on Tuesday, so let's just go with a pronunciation of Twosday.

> Now just to completely cross over into ridiculous land, wouldn't it be cool if a baby were born at either of those 2:22s tomorrow on Twosday 2/22/22?

That child would be really special. Just like every other child.

Because, if we're really being honest, Twosday 2/22/22 is no more special than any other day.

It's an interesting momentary distraction, but what truly makes tomorrow special is the same thing that makes any other day special - what we choose to do

There are 365 special days each year (one extra every leap year) on which babies are born, couples are married, milestones are reached, projects are launched, first homes are purchased, and

Those 365 days are also die, marriages end, jobs are lost, hearts are broken and projects fail.

This is the nature of life that someone will still be laughter and tears, joy and sorrow, health and sickness, success and failure.

And many of those are no For most people, it is truly more within our control than

But what is within our Now if we're talking about control is what we choose to all the digits being the same do with those days and the that is a once-in-a-millennia Early this morning, I read experience. No chance for Psalm 52:8-9: "I will always anyone to see two of those. trust in God's unfailing love. If we want to get com- I will praise you forever, pletely ridiculous with this O God, for what you have (assuming we haven't al- done. I will trust in your ready crossed that thresh- good name in the presence

LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICES

INVITATION TO BID NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the City of Azle, Texas (OWNER) will receive sealed Bids at Azle City Hall until 11:00 a.m. local time on Thursday, March 3, 2022 for Bulk Process Chemicals for the Azle Water Treatment Plant and Azle Wastewater Treatment Plant. Bids will be opened and read aloud publicly following the close of the Bid Period.

Bidders may receive a copy of Invitation to Bid from the City's website at http://www.cityofazle.org. For additional information, please contact: Michelle Stevens/Purchasing Agent at 817-444-7003 or by email at mstevens@cityofazle.org

Notice of Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that The City of Azle, Texas will conduct a public hearing in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 505 W. Main, Azle, Texas during the regular City Council meeting beginning at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, March 1, 2022. The purpose of the public hearing will be to receive citizen input on community needs and project selection relative to funds to be received in the 48th year of the Tarrant County's Community Development Block Grant Program

On March 4, 2022 we will be holding a public auction on the following homes.

1) 1999 CMH 28X64 HUD #HWC0275158/59 CURRENT OWNER OF RECORD PEARLY M HAYSLIP, PEOPLE OF INTEREST PHYLLIS BRADSHAW, KIMBERLY TERWILLINGER. CURRENT LIENHOLDERS ENSPIRE FINANCIAL LOCATED IN TARRANT COUNTY TAXING AREA

2) TITAN HOME 28X40 HUD#COL0034783/84 CURRENT OWNER OF RECORD OSCAR BARRERRA, PEOPLE OF INTEREST LAURA EWING. LOCATED IN TARRANT COUNTY TAXING AREA.

3) GUERDON INDUSTRIES INCORPORATED 14X72 HUD#ARK0024305 CURRENT OWNER OF RECORD GWEN D GOODNIGHT. PEOPLE OF INTEREST ARTURO PEREZ. LIENHOLDER CONSECO FINANCE SERVICING CORP. LOCATED IN TARRANT COUNTY TAXING AREA

ANY PERSONS WITH ANY INTERST CONTACT OUR OFFICE 817-237-1370. THE PUBLIC AUCTION WILL BE HELD AT 12125 JACKSBORO HWY. FORT WORTH, TX 76135 ON MARCH 4, 2022, AT 8AM.

> ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS **CITY OF AZLE, TEXAS EMERGENCY RAW WATER INTAKE and**

Separate sealed bids for the construction of EMERGENCY RAW WATER INTAKE and WATER TREATMENT PLANT GENERATOR - REBID (Azle bid number 22-001R) will be received by the City of Azle, Texas until 3:00 PM on Thursday, March 17, 2022, at City Hall, 505 W. Main Street, Azle, Texas, 76020, and then at said location publicly opened and read aloud. This project consists of the installation of a 350 KW emergency power generator at the City's water treatment plant and any related appurtenances. This project also consists of the installation of a 250 KW emergency generator at the City's raw water intake facility. The Contract Documents consisting of Advertisement of Bids. Information for Bidders. Bid Proposal, Bid Bond, Contract, Performance and Payment Bonds, Maintenance Bond, General Conditions, Notice of Award, Notice to Proceed, Plans, Specifications and Addenda (if any) may be examined at the following location:

JACOB & MARTIN, LLC

1508 Santa Fe Drive, Suite 203, Weatherford, Texas 76086

A non-mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at 10:00 AM on Wednesday, March 9, 2022 at the City Hall in Azle, 505 W. Main Street, Azle, Texas 76020.

The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities and to reject any or all bids. Bids may be held by the Owner for a period not to exceed 60 days from the date of bid opening for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the qualifications of Bidders prior to awarding of the contract.

Copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS must be ordered online at www.jacobmartin.com. Orders for CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may include hard copies for pick up, mail out or digital download via www.jacobmartin.com. Upon verification of online payment, hard copies may be picked up at Jacob & Martin, LLC, located at 1508 Santa Fe Drive, Suite 203, Weatherford, TX 76086. Cost for hard copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS will be \$100.00. Cost for digital download of CONTRACT DOCUMENTS will be \$0.00. Contractors must purchase a set of CONTRACT DOCUMENTS to be considered a registered plan holder eligible to bid the project. A certified check or bank draft, payable to the order of CITY OF AZLE, TEXAS, negotiable U.S. Governmental bonds (at par value) or a satisfactory Bid Bond executed by the Bidder and an acceptable surety in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the total bid shall be submitted with each bid.

City of Azle, Texas Alan Brundrett, Mayor February 16, 2022

Azle Independent School District is requesting Proposals from qualified bidders for: Food Service Management Company for the 2022-2023 school year. A Pre-Proposal conference will be held on March 9, 2022 at 2 p.m. (CST) beginning at the Azle ISD Administration Building at 300 Roe Street, Azle, Texas 76020 and concluding with a tour of campuses. The Pre-Proposal Conference is OPTIONAL for your bid to be considered. Visitors wishing to attend may RSVP to beaster@azleisd. net with names of attendees no later than 2 p.m. (CST) Monday, March 7, 2022. Please note that vendors will be limited to four attendees for the Pre-Proposal Conference. Proposals shall be in a sealed envelope marked "Food Service Management Proposal. #22-03.23" and either mailed or delivered to Azle ISD Purchasing, Attention, Beverly Easter, 300 Roe Street, Azle, Texas 76020 no later than 2:00 p.m. (CST), March 29, 2022. Any proposal received after that time will be returned unopened. A copy of the Request for Proposal can be obtained by contacting Beverly Easter by phone at (817) 444-0805, or by email at beaster@azleisd.net. All other inquiries concerning this RFP must be made in writing to beaster@azleisd.net.

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FFA support group to hold dinner, auction

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Azle FFA Alumni and ries and much more. Supporters will have a Beans and Cornbread dinner Supporters supports the Azle and auction at 5:30 p.m. Sat- FFA Chapter throughout the urday at Santo Forte Junior year by providing scholar-High School, 479 Sandy ships, support with students Beach Road.

goods, jewelry, hunting supplies and equipment, tools, and the annual FFA Banquet home and holiday décor, chil-

dren's toys, women's accesso-

Azle FFA Alumni and attending state contests, pur-Items to be auctioned baked chase of animals at the Tarrant County Livestock Show Meal.

ASH AVENUE RECONSTRUCTION

Separate sealed bids for the construction of ASH AVENUE RECONSTRUCTION (Azle bid number 22-004) will be received by the City of Azle, Texas until 3:00 PM on Thursday, March 24, 2022, at City Hall, 505 W. Main Street, Azle, Texas, 76020, and then at said location publicly opened and read aloud. This project consists of removing and lowering approximately 1,730 linear feet along Ash Avenue and 480 linear feet along Park Street and replacing it with new concrete paving. This project also consists of Right of Way drainage improvements on both sides of Ash Avenue and Park Street as shown in the plans.

The Contract Documents consisting of Advertisement of Bids, Information for Bidders, Bid Proposal, Bid Bond, Contract, Performance and Payment Bonds, Maintenance Bond, General Conditions, Notice of Award, Notice to Proceed, Plans, Specifications, and Addenda (if any) may be examined at the following location:

JACOB & MARTIN, LLC

1508 Santa Fe Drive, Suite 203, Weatherford, Texas 76086

The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities and to reject any or all bids. Bids may be held by the Owner for a period not to exceed 60 days from the date of bid opening for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the qualifications of Bidders prior to awarding of the contract.

Copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS must be ordered online at www.iacobmartin.com. Orders for CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may include hard copies for pick up, mail out or digital download via www.jacobmartin.com. Upon verification of online payment, hard copies may be picked up at Jacob & Martin, LLC, located at 1508 Santa Fe Drive, Suite 203, Weatherford, TX 76086. Cost for hard copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS will be \$100.00. Cost for digital download of CONTRACT DOCUMENTS will be \$0.00. Contractors must purchase a set of CONTRACT DOCUMENTS to be considered a registered plan holder eligible to bid the project. A certified check or bank draft, payable to the order of CITY OF AZLE, TEXAS, negotiable U.S. Governmental bonds (at par value) or a satisfactory Bid Bond executed by the Bidder and an acceptable surety in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the total bid shall be submitted with each bid.

City of Azle, Texas Alan Brundrett, Mayor February 23, 2022

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF DAVID LYNN FARRIS, DECEASED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that original Letters of Testamentary for the Estate of DAVID LYNN FARRIS, Deceased, were issued on January 21, 2022, under Cause No. 2021-PR01407-1, pending in the County Court of Tarrant County, Texas, to DEBRA LOUISE FARRIS, as Independent Executor of the estate. Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the estate, addressed as follows:

DEBRA LOUISE FARRIS

Estate of DAVID LYNN FARRIS, Deceased

c/o Carrissa A. Cleavinger

Field, Manning, Stone, Hawthorne & Aycock, P.C.

2112 Indiana Avenue

Lubbock, Texas 79410

All persons having claims against this estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated: February 16, 2022

> FIELD, MANNING, STONE, HAWTHORNE & AYCOCK, P.C.

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ON FISHING

Yes, you can catch hybrid striped bass in cold water

Can you catch hybrid striped bass in cold water? It is the belief among many that hybrid striped bass can be difficult to catch during the winter months. There are times that are better than others, but if you can pattern the fish they can be caught most any time of the year.

perature range for a hybrid and you may not get a bite. striped bass is usually in Soft plastics of many difwater between 60 and 75 ferent types can catch these degrees. This is a rule of fish. Zoom flukes, Bass Asthumb. The hybrid striped sassins, and Sassy Shads on bass is a manmade cross be- a jig head are effective. tween a striped bass and a white bass. Hybrids can be hybrid striped bass? There once hooked it is a different active in the middle 40s in are some in Lake Granthe winter and in the 90-plus bury that were transported degree water in the summer. downstream from Lake In fact, most folks including Graham and some I am myself like to consider the told are escapees from the hybrid striped bass as a spe- hatchery below Possum cies to be sought after in the Kingdom Lake. Relatively heat of summer. The hybrid close to Granbury is Benwill feed more actively than brook, Lake Proctor, Lake its full-blooded cousin the Bridgeport, Graham and striped bass in summer, as Lake Lewisville that are all the white bass that is bred stocked with hybrid striped into them allows this species bass. More Texas waters ing to rise and these fish to tolerate the heat better.

peratures below 50 de- Texas heat better than the doing the same. Be aware grees the fish will be more full-blooded striped bass. of changing patterns as lethargic. The baitfish are The Brazos, the Colorado, spring approaches. This is more lethargic and are easy and the Red River are all an exciting time of the year prey for the predators. The generally stocked with full for the angler. hybrid striped bass, and striped bass for that matter, are generally opportunistic feeders, especially the bigger, older fish. If other fish are feeding, the bigger hybrids will generally be below them waiting on an easy meal to float down to them. As the temperature warms toward spring they will get more apt to chase bait. When they start feeding actively, it is a blast any time of the year. Wintertime fishing is my favorite, as artificial presentations will outperform live bait most every day. A slow presentation is generally preferred to mimic slow, lethargic



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

baitfish or to mimic a dying blooded striped bass. There The most active tem- baitfish. Move it too fast

So where can you catch more lethargic at first, but are stocked with hybrids It is true at water tem- as they can tolerate the water as the baitfish will be

are a couple of lakes that have both species stocked, like Lake Tawakoni.

Some say the fight of a lethargic winter fish is not as good as other times of the year. They may be a little matter. Even though they can be stronger later in the year, they still uphold their "frankenfish" reputation. You are in for a fight.

The hybrid is also excellent table fare for those of you who enjoy eating fish. Winter fish are extremely obese and healthy which means thick, firm fillets. The temperatures are startwill be seeking warming

FISHING REPORT

On other reservoirs, Lake Whitney striped bass and crappie are excellent in the river near Kimball Bend. Whitney largemouth to over 12b pounds are possible near major creek entrances. Possum Kingdom Lake sand bass and large striped bass are good near Costello Island on jigs and live shad. Largemouth bass are good on PK to 10 pounds plus on soft plastics worked near structure in the backs of major creeks.

Scott signs her memoir, "True Dat."



BOOK SIGNING Lynda K. Scott (left) - Scottie to her friends - was surrounded by visitors like Bob and Krisan Buckel (pictured) on Feb. 17. She was in a beautiful home on Eagle Mountain Lake, signing copies of her self-published work "True Dat," a fun memoir featuring vintage family photos and anecdotes, news clippings, recipes and more - snapshots of a life well lived.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT Free Master Classes on Wednesday

BY JACKIE "JJ" JOY

As we prepare to start the third month of 2022, we are excited to let you know of new things happening at the Azle Adult Activity Center by Meals On Wheels, Inc. (Senior Center) located at of Tarrant County. They 601 Southeast Parkway, in are nutritious balanced Ash Creek Park.

This is a safe place where own kitchen. Lunch meals those 60 years old and over offer a choice of entrée and can come for fun, food and drink. fellowship. With our tables spaced out and limited number of seats per table, we are Friday during our regular observing social distancing. We have hands-free hand Located in room #2 of the sanitizers for your use.

der breakfast for Tuesday by Shirlene Hagan the through Friday. These are same week we closed in ordered two days in advance, 2020. Since that time, we so please call 817-444-0070 have had the donation of two sponsors that help with to learn what is available the special cutters and supplies

lunch on Fridays. We will be on any number of things ordering shelf stable meals that can be taken home for the weekend.

All meals are provided meals prepared in their

Our craft room is now open Monday through hours of 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. B.J. Clark Annex Building We are now able to or- it was set up and organized

from cooking to gardening, from learning to play drums to training your dog, from communication skills to rock climbing. Teachers include Ringo Starr, Hillary Clinton and Gordon Ramsey, among others.

The Azle Adult Activity Center offers this awesome teaching tool at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesdays free of charge. Classes on gardening are being watched at this time, but there are so many options. These are shown in our "common room" located in the B.J. Clark Annex building.

Finally, we now have Bingo every Tuesday. We have this, Eagle Crest Villa and

and get your breakfast re- booking. Also available is a served. These are available sewing machine and other by 9 a.m. on the day you se- supplies. lect.

day you would like to come that can used for scrap- Legacy Oaks Azle. These

Have you seen the adver-Another exciting happen- tisements for MasterClass 817-444-0070. We look foring is for those who come for on TV? These are classes ward to seeing you.

folks help provide prizes and "call."

For any questions or to reserve any meals, please call









AHS actors ready to perform 'Good' musical

BY DON MUNSCH editor@azlenews.net

Charlie Brown can't fly a kite, can't kick the football and can't seem to muster the from afar.

Although Charlie Brown might be the lovable loser signed everyone in the enat his school and in his peer group, he possesses many qualities that earn him love and respect, and his cheerful ter of "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," a musical High School students this one," Brewer said. "But week. The show is at 7 p.m. Thursday through Saturday AHS auditorium.

The story is based on characters from the comic strip a plot per se, as the story is by Charles M. Schulz, and the production features 15 songs. Actors in the production – Ray Lancaster (Charlie Brown), Ashlie Lewis (Schroeder), Marcus Hathaway (Snoopy) and Braden Crews (Linus) – as well as AHS theater director Bailey Brewer shared some insights about staging the show, which got pushed back from early January because of COVID-19.

Three leads were out with COVID at the same time, which necessitated moving the production to February. The show was cast in November and rehearsals began late that month before members. pausing for the Christmas

rescheduled.

"I want to say we have 60 before Lucy snatches it away cast members, and this show to direct the production and was built to be a show of said the cast, who knew courage to talk his crush, a seven, so I put together an each other already and were girl with red hair he adores ensemble to the best of my friends, have grown close ability," Brewer said.

> The costume designer assemble a different character, alities and putting their persuch as Peppermint Patty, Woodstock and Pig-Pen.

"It's been an interesting complexity lies at the cen- experience because we've been emotional for her behad COVID and we had a huge break; we've just had to be performed by Azle a lot of challenges with this the students have definitely come together among the just discover myself more," and 2 p.m. Sunday at the challenges and they're going she said. to rock this show."

> depicted in vignettes, and it resembles the Schulz com- said. "I love being someone ic strip in that sense, with that I'm not, but also being songs thrown in.

(Sally), Kameron Weger musicals, these songs are thing." very simple," Lancaster said, reflecting on the difficulty of learning the songs. Most of the cast knows music relatively well, he added.

"I don't," Hathaway said. across this process," Weger ing that the production also said. Hathaway got a schedule change to be in varsity choir.

Lancaster said he does not knowledge. sense he plays a main role, as the time on stage is split for a year and half from the- college performance of the evenly among all six cast ater and then he decided at show and it has come full

break, and then a few more ments where it's just me out weeks of rehearsals were there singing about a kite," held before the show had to Lancaster said. "It's very fun."

> Brewer said it's been fun fast.

"We've just had a lot of fun exploring their personsonalities into the characters," Brewer said.

Lewis said the show has cause this might be the last play she might be acting in; plus, it is her first lead role.

"So I'm getting to explore what acting is really like and

Weger said he's done a lot The show doesn't have of shows before but this is his first musical.

"I've really enjoyed it," he myself on stage and putting "Compared to like other on a performance and every-

> Hathaway said being in didn't dance, he did sing and High School, Weatherford "Charlie Brown" has been a eventually landed the part. "bit of journey" because up acted before.

"So I've come very far to "But he's learned music get to here," he said, addis his first musical and that he has relied on others, including younger people, for

the spur of the moment to circle for her. The piano "It's nice to have little mo- audition, and although he was last used at MacArthur



Kameron Weger (Schroeder, playing piano), Ashlie Lewis (Sally, on piano), Braden Crews (Linus, left), Marcus Hathaway (Snoopy, on the doghouse) and Ray Lancaster (Charlie Brown, right) will perform in "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" Thursday through Sunday at Azle High School's auditorium. Not pictured here is Emilia Bazan, who plays Lucy. Photo by Don Munsch

said.

comic strip, and the set is ter this show. supposed to resemble a comic book, complete with like the show's songs and vibrant colors. The piano, humor. which rolls around on stage, Crews said he took a break originated from Brewer's

High School before that and The show features the passed on to another produciconic costumes from the tion of "Charlie Brown" af-

Students said people will

"It's a funny show," We- fun for any age.

ger said.

"I personally think that "I took a year and half off then Tarleton State Univer- they'll like me," Hathaway until a year ago he had never and I still got it - nice," he sity, where Brewer attended said, drawing laughs from college. The piano will be the other students. Crews said he thinks Snoopy will steal the show, and "I think we've all just kind of come to accept that part."

> Brewer said the show is "definitely kid friendly" and

For more information on the show, visit www.azleisd.net/Page/2#calendar1/20220225/event/16578



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arolyn Gilmore is a Tarrant County native, veteran police officer, and lifelong conservative who has devoted her life to making our community a better place to live, work, and raise a family. As Chief of the Samsom Park Police Department, and a 23-year veteran of the Fort Worth Police, Carolyn has earned a reputation as a tough-but-fair officer focused on protecting families from violent criminals. Carolyn served as the Chair of Fort Worth Cops for Kids and started the Student Advisor Committee at Joy James Elementary, where she encouraged children, and their families, to work with police and find ways to positively impact their community.

Carolyn lives in Fort Worth with her husband, Raymond, a retired Fort Worth Police officer. The Gilmores are members of Grace Baptist Church.

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Citizen of the Year looks out for others

PHOTO BY DON MUNSCH



BY DON MUNSCH don@azlenews.com

Working in a grocery store guarantees one will see lots of people on a day-to-day basis.

Mark Laudenheimer discovered that fact in his many years of working in the grocery business.

Laudenheimer, a longtime employee of Brookshire's, took home The Citizen of the Year Award at the Azle Area Chamber of Commerce's Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet. The award is given to a person who has made a lasting contribution to community.

"This year's winner has done that and more by working hard to make a difference not only here in Azle, but for other communities throughout North Texas," said Jack

Stevens, presenter and 2020 Citizen of the Year.

Laudenheimer was born in Monroe, Louisiana, grew up in the Pelican State and attended Northeast Louisiana State, now known as University of Louisiana at Monroe. After college, he moved to Colorado and worked on a cattle ranch. After working as a cowboy for a little over a year, he returned home to Louisiana and went to work with Brookshire's, where he started at the bottom but "quickly moved up because of his hard work and capacity for quick learning. Not a surprising revelation to anyone here who knows him well." Stevens explained

Laudenheimer met Stephanie, his now wife, in 2002 and they married by the next vear and welcomed daughter

Mark and Stephanie and Chandler, Mark's son from a former marriage. Mark was transferred during this time to a Brookshire's in Mississippi before Mark was transferred back to Texas in 2010, this time to Azle. During this time, Stephanie gave birth to a second daughter, Addison. Mark now manages the Brookshire's store in Aledo.

"Mark has been a tremendous asset to this community," Stevens said. "Although he is the first to credit others, and the last to draw attention to himself, this good man has served Azle in different ways."

He served as an ambassador for the Azle chamber for many years and has served on the chamber's board of

Sophie in 2004. She joined

CITIZEN | PAGE 9

Businessman of the Year leaves mark on Azle

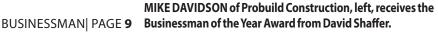
BY JESSICA MCKINNEY

azlereporter@azlenews.net

Looking around Azle, you'll find more than one building that Mike Davidson has had a hand in creating — Azle Pediatrics, Laura's Pharmacy, SporTherapy, Purple Care, Azle News, and The Orchard Event Venue and Cabins, just to name a few.

But the number of buildings that Davidson's company, ProBuild, has helped construct in Azle isn't the reason the Azle Area Chamber of Commerce named him the 2021 Businessman of the Year at this year's awards banquet.

"The Businessman of the Year award is given to a businessman who demonstrates the outstanding qualities



Not the last unicorn:

KAREN BANES NAMED BUSINESSWOMAN OF THE YEAR

BY MADELYN EDWARDS

madelyn@azlenews.net

Karen Banes is a unicorn. At least, that's what she was called when being presented the Businesswoman of the Year award at the Azle Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet.

Banes is the owner of Genesis Jiu-Jitsu in Azle and has won six International Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Federation Master World Titles. As a woman with a blackbelt in Brazilian jiu-jitsu, the term "unicorn" is common to describe female blackbelts, she said.

"Kari (Summers) is one of my lead female instructors, and when she started cross training, everybody was like, 'Oh, you have a female black belt coach? What is

BUSINESSWOMAN PAGE 10

KAREN BANES, left, of Genesis Jiu-Jitsu receives the Businesswoman of the Year award from Marsha Hardin. PHOTOGRAPHS BY JIM STEVENS

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THE ORCHARD EVENT VENUE AND RETREAT

Employees help give Business of the Year a favorable impression

BY DON MUNSCH *don@azlenews.net*

D'Andra Davidson gives credit to her employees for helping earn The Orchard Event Venue and Retreat the Business of the Year for 2021.

"I was shocked and so thankful," said D'Andra Davidson, owner of The Orchard, when she discovered the business received the top accolade from the chamber. "I never had a clue that we would be nominated for that. And the true winners of that award, really, are our office staff."

Those staffers are Lacey Davis, Kristi Stanley, Kevin Case and Shaina Davis.

"They're just so customeroriented," Davidson said.

Customers offer positive reviews for the venue and then compliment the office staff for its helpfulness. Case is the event manager and is present at the weddings and does a great job of taking care of people, Davidson said.

"Almost all reviews include his name and how helpful he was," she said.

The other staffers provide

tours and help with questionsand booking weddings beforeover the phone.the venue was even com-

The Business of the Year award goes to a "well-run business exemplifying the prosperity and success that be achieved in Azle," said Scott Kimble, community outreach director for Legacy Oaks of Azle, during the chamber banquet. The Orchard Event Venue and Retreat opened in 2011 and celebrated its 10-year anniversary last year.

"Mike and D'Andra Davidson had always to build something on their 10-acrea property, but couldn't decide what," Kimble said at the chamber banquet when announcing the award. "When their oldest daughter DeAnn was looking at venues for her own wedding, D'Andra couldn't help but think of everything the perfect venue would hold, so they put their ideas on paper and built one." At first, they did everything

themselves, Kimble said. "D'Andra booked wed-

dings along with their niece, and Mike even worked some of the first events," Kimble said. "They were giving tours and booking weddings before the venue was even complete. Guests were booking the venue based solely on the construction site and renderings the Davidsons had developed."

Once the venue opened, it grew quickly, Kimble said.

"They were able to hire amazing staff to help with the bookings and event hosting," he said. "Both Mike and D'Andra appreciate their staff very much and know that it takes the entire team to make special events happen. Since opening, the Orchard Event Venue and Retreat has hosted over 1,300 weddings and events, including many charitable events for the Azle community."

Davidson said she appreciates how the chamber has been "very supportive" of her business. The Orchard enjoys holding fundraisers and helping different organizations reach their goals, she said. The venue recently was the site for the Azle Education Foundation fundraiser, and the Orchard donated the building for that event.



SCOTT KIMBLE, right, presents the Business of the Year award to D'Andra Davidson of The Orchard Event Venue and Retreat. PHOTOGRAPH BY JIM STEVENS



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TOBY PALITTI RECEIVES DIRECTOR AWARD

Director award winner persevered for chamber

BY DON MUNSCH

don@azlenews.com

The COVID-19 pandemic threw everyone and everything off balance when it emerged on American shores two years ago.

Like other entities, the Azle Area Chamber of Commerce faced its share of challenges.

Toby Palitti stepped up to the challenge.

The Director's Award is given to someone who has shown great support for the chamber. Jennifer Herrington, executive director of the chamber, said Palitti exhibited tremendous support and loyalty.

"The COVID-19 (pandemic) has been a challenge for all of us," Herrington said at the chamber banquet. "In 2020, our chamber felt the effects of COVID as we were forced to shut down for five months in order to survive. It was a difficult time for this chamber given the fact that we rely on membership dues and fundraising as our main sources of income. Fundraising events came to an immediate stop and membership dues lagged due to an uncertain future."

Palitti served as chamber president in 2020, and he had here," he said. "It's a closeto make some difficult decisions that included staffing cuts and shutting down the chamber, Herrington said.

"In a matter of days, he found himself serving as the president, the executive director and the office assistant all in one," she said.

Palitti took on the responsibility of running the chamber while it was closed for five months.

"In fact, he did such as good job that some people didn't even know we had closed," Herrington said.

Two years after his service as president, he still serves as an ambassador and is willing to help in the chamber whenever needed, Herrington said.

"I'm feal flattered to get that award," Palitti said later. "It means a lot. I really enjoy being part of the chamber and being a member, and so I was very flattered."

He has been in the Azle community for 12 years and moved here from Fort Worth. He enjoys being familiar with the people who live here.

"Being in the business that I'm in, I've met just about everybody in Azle, so everybody knows everybody out knit community."

He works in the iPhone and computer repair sector.

The chamber gives people an opportunity to meet people and build relationships with other business people in the community, he said.

During the initial stages of the pandemic, chamber representatives had to learn to navigate the storm and there was a "lot of anxiety trying to figure out what was going to come next," he said. Cutting costs was a necessary step so that when normalcy returned to the chamber, officials would have the financial resources to continue.

"Other places were shutting down and we really had to tighten the belt and eliminate as much cost as we could so we would have money to operate when everything got back to normal," he said.

Being on the board for three years, when he was vice president and president, took Palitti out of his comfort zone, as he had to speak in front of people, and he said those experiences help build character.

TOBY PALITTI, right, receives the Director's Award from Jennifer Herrington, executive director of the chamber. PHOTOGRAPH BY JIM STEVENS





Mike's Westside Rental wins **Rising Star Award**

BY MADELYN EDWARDS madelyn@azlenews.net

The legacy of Mike's Westside Rental is providing tools for people working on projects and being on the west side of something.

The business was founded by Mike Patton in 2007 and was originally located on the west side of Possum Kingdom Lake. Since then, Mike's Westside Rental has expanded, and all subsequent locations are on some sort of west side, owner and president Bert Thompson said. This includes the newest location on the west side of Azle, which opened last summer.

Mike's Westside Rental provides construction equipment and tools as well as supplies for weddings, receptions, parties and events.

The relatively new location in Azle has apparently made an impression on the Azle Area Chamber of Commerce because Mike's Westside Rental in Azle won the Rising Star Award at the chamber's 2021 Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet. The Rising Star Award is given to new

local businesses that were established within the past year and show great potential.

Thompson said to be recognized with an award so soon after the store opened means a lot, and he is appreciative of the honor.

"It says a lot about our team and the work they put into getting that store ready for us to be open last year," he said.

Thompson thanked the chamber and said he looks forward to continued partnerships with the chamber. He was unable to attend the banquet, so the Azle store manager Graham John accepted the award.

"We were very honored and very humbled to receive the award, and to me and probably more so for all of us, it's just a stepping-stone and helps us build on what we're trying to establish here," John future residents. "We don't said.

Thompson said the Rising Star Award shows that the store is here to stay. He's looking forward to the store continuing to build relationships with customers and guide them in the right direction for their projects. He

said his favorite part of his job is building relationships with the customers, employees and vendors.

"We don't get to two stores, three stores, four stores with just me. It's truly about our team, the relationships we build within our organization and then also the relationships we build with our customers and our vendors," he said. "That's what we think sets us apart."

The expansion to Azle is about catering to smaller contractors and homeowners, Thompson said.

"If there's a Dairy Queen in the town, that's the size town we want to be in. And Azle, with the amount of growth that's happening there in terms of subdivisions, those are our customers," he said, referring to the workers that build the homes as well as the go after the large construction companies that travel all over the state and all over the country. We like the smaller contractors and homeowners, and just with the growth that's happening around Azle and in Azle, it was a place we needed to be."



GRAHAM JOHN of Mike's Westside Rental received the Rising Star Award presenter from Michael Wright. PHOTOGRAPH BY JIM STEVENS









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SporTherapy named 2021 Shining Star

BY JESSICA MCKINNEY

azlereporter@azlenews.net

The Shining Star Award is presented each year to a business that has made improvements or beautification to their property that benefits and enhances the entire community.

This year, the honorific was given to SporTherapy on Main Street.

SporTherapy was once located on Industrial Avenue as part of several other businesses. But the business looked to move into their own freestanding building and last year it was able to make it happen.

The old Bobby's Automotive building at 245 W. Main St. was bought and the building demolished, clearing the way for SporTherapy to take up residence.

ProBuild Construction was tasked with building the new physical therapy location on Main Street and within months the job was done. On June 3, the chamber hosted a grand reopening and ribbon cutting, welcoming SporTherapy to Main Street.

"Azle Main Street is known as the heart of the city," said Mayor Alan Brundrett, who presented the award.

"Over the past several years, we have seen much needed progress and beautification on Main Street, we have seen the construction of a new city hall and police department. Many businesses have received facelifts of



THE SHINING Star Award went to SporTherapy. Shown here are Azle City Council members Rouel Rothenberger and Randa Goode, Mayor Alan Brundrett, Alex Gustaf of SporTherapy (clinic director) and council members David McClure (mayor pro tem) and Corey Wynns.

their existing structures to make them more attractive. This has added greatly to the appearance of Main Street."

SporTherapy clinic director Alex Gustaf said it was a "very special moment" for our whole team to win the Shining Star award.

"Building and opening a new building and 2020 obviously posed some unique challenges and to be recognized and supported by the chamber and community is something we are very grate-

ful for," he said in an email. He said the Azle community has been a "very welcoming and caring community" and that it has been a real

privilege to work here.

"SporTherapy is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of the community as a whole and we strive to provide a place where the people of Azle can receive state of the art Physical Therapy services locally," he said. "Beyond that, we hope to give back to the community and be an example of a business that truly cares for the people of Azle."

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Community Waste Disposal earns distinction for friendliness

BY JEFF PRINCE

iprince@azlenews.net

The largest privately owned waste management company in North Texas scooped up the Friends of the Chamber Award, which is given to a person or group that has shown great support or provided much help to the chamber throughout the year or years.

Accepting the award was Robert Medigovich, municipal accounts manager at Community Waste Disposal.

"CWD is humbled and honored for the chamber board to award us this," Medigovich said. "We believe we are a community partner with the City of Azle and the chamber, and we enjoy being a partner within the community."

Medigovich serves as the chamber's "go-to person," said Jennifer Herrington, the chamber's executive director.

He is "an incredible friend to this chamber, always reaching out and ready to help whenever possible," she said. "He is personally responsible for our chamber going green, providing bags

and containers for us to use at every function our chamber hosts at 404 Main Place."

An event is considered green when waste is recycled rather than being thrown in the trash.

"We made all of the (chamber) events 'green,'" Medigovich said of CWD. "What that really does is educates the residents in the community on the ease of recycling and the importance of it."

CWD's ventures began in 1984 with two trucks and two employees. Since then, the company has worked hard to develop a reputation for reliable on-time service while offering various selections of hauling schedules, equipment and recycling programs in the industry.

The company provides assistance at the chamber's major events throughout the vear.

"They provide sponsorships, materials and equipment for Sting Fling, the Christmas Celebration, Clay Shoot and Golf Tournament," Herrington said.



ROBERT MEDIGOVICH of Community Waste Disposal receives the Friends of the Chamber award from Jennifer Herrington, executive director of the chamber. PHOTOGRAPH BY JIM STEVENS





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Businessman of the Year People's Choice: Builder of The Year

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INCOMING CHAMBER board members were introduced at the banquet by presenter Hogye Hogle and are Kim Ware, president; Debbie Bunero, treasurer; Jack Stevens; Marcy Pinkston, vice president; Jim Stevens; Dena Hall; and Michael Wright. PHOTO BY DON MUNSCH



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DAVID SHAFFER, right, receives the Outgoing Board President award from new board President Kim Ware.

PHOTOGRAPH BY JIM STEVENS

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Longtime ministry director named ambassador of year

BY JEFF PRINCE

jeff@azlenews.net

Ambassadors provide visible faces for the Azle Area Chamber of Commerce, welcoming guests, providing information, creating a friendly atmosphere and offering help.

In addition, ambassadors are out on the town frequently, attending ribbon cuttings, visiting new and prospective members in the community, assisting at Chamber events and so much more.

The chamber members appreciated and value each and every ambassador. Once in a while, though, an ambassador "truly goes above and beyond the call of duty to make a difference, both in their group of volunteers and in the community," said Eric Ogea, an outgoing chamber board member.

This year's Ambassador

of the Year Award went to David Shaffer, who has worked for the past 37 years Studies. at Son Shine Ministries, a marriage and family ministry. Shaffer has served as the ministry's director since 2002.

Shaffer said he appreciates the award most because it was voted on by the ambassadors themselves.

"Those are some of the greatest people I've ever had the chance to work with," he said. "They are all heavily involved as leaders of their own business, and yet they are willing to invest time into the community in many other ways, including as serving as chamber ambassadors."

Shaffer is a graduate of Auburn University and completed his graduate studies at Dallas Theological Seminary, where he received his doctorate, the Doctor of Ministry and two master's degrees - the Master of Arts

in Christian Education and the Master of Arts in Biblical

Ogea characterized Shaffer as "hard-working, forwardthinking and quick-witted."

Shaffer's attention to detail and smooth presentations "add much to our ambassador program," Ogea said. "Just recently, he was elected to the position of chairman for the ambassador program because of his exceptional leadership skills."

Shaffer has been married to wife Daniele for 31 years, and they have two grown sons, Nathaniel and Jonathan, and two granddaughters, Scarlett and Violet. The family loves traveling, the arts, experiencing different cultures and being outdoors.

"I'm really happy to be able to work with the ambassadors," Shaffer said. "It's a really fun part of my week. It's really just a good group of people."



ERIC OGEA, left, presents the Ambassador of the Year award to David Shaffer. PHOTOGRAPH BY JIM STEVENS



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BUSINESSMAN OF THE YEAR

necessary for the development and improvement of business," David Shaffer told the banquet attendees before announcing Davidson as the winner.

Davidson was described as smart, hardworking, determined and a workaholic, and his career path demonstrates that.

After attending the U.S. Military Academy at West Point for a time, Davidson went on to graduate from Texas A&M with a Bachelor of Science in building construction.

He and his wife D'Andra moved back to Azle in 1995 and almost immediately after jumped headfirst into creating ProBuild Construction from the ground up. Their company landed its first project — a remodel for TETCO — and have been a part of projects throughout the area, across the state, and up into Oklahoma.

Davidson learned his trade early, working alongside his dad and uncles on masonry jobs on weekends and during the summer.

"I've always been a hands-on kind of guy and knew I wanted to be a builder since high school," he said.

He has never been a stranger to hard work, having worked laboriously with hay and ranch work, newspaper routes and working at a burger joint and in construction.

"It was only mom at home so if I wanted anything or do anything, I had to earn the money," he said.

Davidson stays involved with his community, having served on the AYA board as treasurer, coaching girls' softball teams and serving on the little league board for years.

With the venue, Davidson has been able to help support local charities by hosting their events at The Orchard, such as the Azle Education Foundation's Red Solo Cup fundraiser and the Azle Library gala, as well as "lots of Azle ISD functions."

Davidson and his family have grown their roots in Azle, and plan to be here to see it grow for years to come.

His motto for life and business?

"Work hard and be proud of what you do!"

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

directors. He has served on the Community Caring Center board and as a member of the Optimist Club and Azle Rotary Club. He is involved in the Azle TD Club, which supports the AHS football program.

"He is simply what a servant leader is supposed to be, and a man who loves to serve his community, with a passion to help others with humility and good humor," Stevens said.

Stevens said he is certain Mark has never met a stranger, and his friends say his first priority is his family, even as he puts in many hours at work.

"He is honest and humble and he is always himself and never tries to impress anyone by acting like someone else," Stevens said, describing what Mark's friends said. "He is hardworking and empathetic to his partners, communityminded and a true team builder by leading from the front lines."

Stevens also said people lauded Mark as a family man and said if people asked him for his help, "he is always the first in line." Stevens also included comments from Stephanie, who said she was "a lucky woman to have such as wonderful partner by my side."

"It's just an honor to be able to follow people that were behind me, like Jack Stevens," Laudenheimer said later. "A lot of hard work went behind it, and to be recognized is always a pleasure."

He said Azle is a wonderful community and he was pleased that people immediately welcomed his family.

"It's an open-door community, and when you (avoid) the voices on the outside and the negativity and get involved in the community, you get to see how great it really is," he said. "Everybody pulls together and tries to help other people out."

He likes that the grocery business allows him to meet people and hear about their lives and get to know their children.

"You get to know every aspect of people who are in the community, supporting



JACK STEVENS, left, Citizen of the Year from 2019, presents the 2021 Citizen of the Year award to Mark Laudenheimer.

the police department, supporting the city, supporting other businesses – you're able to do everything in the grocery business," he said. "Everybody comes to see

you."

He encourages people to get involved in the community, as everybody's contribution can help.



Azle Area Chamber of Commerce silent auction



Azle Area Chamber of Commerce members browsed the silent auction tables and bid on items.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY JIM STEVENS

GENESIS JIU-JITSU

that like?' And, she hadn't experienced at that time anything other than having me as a coach," Banes said. "So, then I think it kind of gave her an appreciation for how rare it is to have a strong female leader in our community."

Banes isn't the only woman at Genesis Jiu-Jitsu. She has hired multiple women to be coaches at the gym.

"I was looking at the award, and I'm sitting there thinking ... it should be Business*women* of the Year because I have a whole staff of strong female leaders," she said. "And I think that's rare in itself for what we do."

Despite the level of female empowerment Banes brings to the Azle area, she was not expecting to win Businesswoman of the Year at the chamber banquet.

"It felt pretty emotional," Banes said about winning the award. "It was pretty unexpected. They told me I was going to get an award; I thought it would be like one of the People's Choice Awards or something like that. But then they gave all those awards out."

Banes has always enjoyed physical activity, but she didn't get into jiu-jitsu until her son started training in martial arts. Before Genesis, she was a schoolteacher and then a children's minister at New Hope Baptist Church. Opening Genesis Jiu-Jitsu in 2014 and being able to teach students has combined two of her passions: teaching and physical activity.

"It was kind of like one of those things where your hobby just turns into your career, being passionate about what you're doing, and then doors open up," Banes said.

The last two years have included challenges for Genesis Jiu-Jitsu. The COVID-19 pandemic began just as the gym opened its new location. "I invested in this property, and then all of a sudden, I had to close my gym down," Banes said. "So, then we got really creative and taught the kids how to make a grappling dummy with their teddy bears and their uniforms and towels and pillows, how to make us practice dummy at home. And we just got on Zoom and continued our classes as much as we could there."

Genesis also had to deal with a flash flood last year that brought in two feet of water into the gym.

Through the hardship brought on by the flood and the pandemic, the Azle community continued to support Genesis Jiu-Jitsu, Banes said. People kept the gym financially afloat during the pandemic and helped clean up the gym after the flood. Banes said people in the community helped pick up debris, loaned equipment to dry out the building and ordered new sheetrock. "I didn't even get emotional until like the third day," Banes said about the community aid she received for the flooded gym. "I pulled up and I could just see the overwhelming support from this community, and I just started crying because I was just overwhelmed at how much people value this business."

Having Genesis Jiu-Jitsu has allowed Banes to see her students develop, both personally and athletically. Some of the teenagers who used to be students have grown up to be instructors at Genesis, she said.

"We've had a lot of success come out of our gym and just beyond competition," she said "It's a family environment. There are people that come up here, and they literally bring their dinner, and they're here, their kids are training, and then they're training, and they're here for hours in the evening." Thank You to the Azle Area Chamber of Commerce for your hard work & dedication to our community.









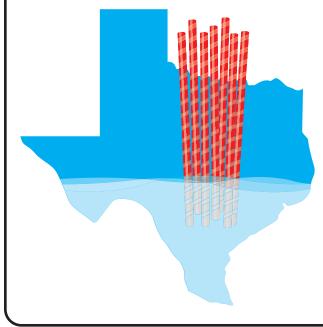
OUTGOING CHAMBER members recognized were Marsha Hardin, Eric Ogea and David Shaffer.

PHOTOGRAPH BY JIM STEVENS



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Azle's People's Choice Winners for 2021



PEOPLE'S CHOICE winners were Linda Williams, Kristie Cooper, Michael Davidson, Stephanie Koch-Bartley, Amy Estes, Kathy Diffie and Oscar Rangel.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JIM STEVENS



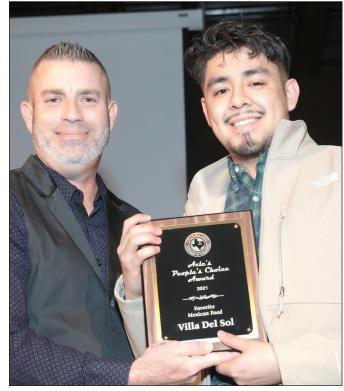
KRISTIE COOPER and Linda Williams from Community Caring Center receive the Favorite Non-Profit award from Mayor Alan Brundrett.



KATHY DIFFIE, right, of Reliable Year-Round Tax Services received the Favorite Tax Consultant/CPA/Financial Advisor award from Mayor Alan Brundrett.



STEPHANIE KOCH-BARTLEY, right, receives the Favorite City Employee award from Mayor Alan Brundrett.







FAVORITE MEXICAN Food award went to Villa Del Sol, with Oscar Rangel receiving the award from Mayor Alan Brundrett.

AMY ESTES, right, receives the Favorite Azle ISD Employee award from Mayor Alan Brundrett.

MIKE DAVIDSON, left, of Probuild Construction was awarded the Favorite Builder Home/Commercial from Mayor Alan Brundrett.

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SPORTS

Azle News Vednesday, February 23, 2022

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TEXAS CHAMPION Azle's Pella LeFever wins state wrestling title; girls team state runners-up

BY JEFF PRINCE jeff@azlenews.net

Azle, meet your champion.

Pella LeFever is Texas' top Texas girls wrestler in man. the 165-pound weight class. She earned the title after winning four matches in two days against the state's top wrestlers at the 5A UIL state case just yet. I might need to championship get one." wrestling over the weekend at Berry Center in Cypress.

Azle's best wrestlers - six peted at the meet.

state runners-up with help from second-place finishes by Annabelle Davis, Alicen but strength-wise, we kind Dillard and Mariah Dillard. The Hornets compiled 98 points but lost out to Ama- fast so they can't catch you. rillo Caprock's 107.

For the Azle boys, Dominick Evans finished in sixth ute or two." place.

LEFEVER LOWERS BOOM

In January, LeFever athletes. cleared off a space on her large trophy she won at the Bring the Hammer Invitational in Cabot, Ark.

more space.

The Azle wrestler won in top condition. district and regional titles on her way to becoming state bulk up and become stronchamp, and the hardware is ger. adding up.

that says UIL State," she on her side. She is a defend-

said. "It's on a nice ribbon I can put around my neck if I want to."

She has earned numerous medals since joining the wrestling team as a fresh-

"I'm probably going to hang it up on the curtain rod with the rest of them," she said. "I don't have a display

WRESTLING UP

LeFever weighs in the boys and five girls - com- low 140s but wrestles up two weight categories in the The girls team finished as 165-pound class, regularly taking on bigger athletes.

> "They're bigger than me, of match up," she said. "You ing champion. Wrestling up just have to stay quick and If they get on top of you, you are kind of stuck for a min-

Moving up two weight classes means taking on stronger but often slower

"You have to rely on techfamily's mantle to put the nique, strength and consistency," she said.

She spent two years learning Brazilian jiu-jitsu before She'll need to clear off joining the wrestling team as a freshman and keeps herself than one sibling at a time on

This summer she plans to

"I got a big shiny medal have the element of surprise



Pella LeFever won the UIL 5A Texas state championship wrestling title in the 165-pound class.

this season meant sneaking under the radar at meets.

"They don't expect it," she said. "You're kind of an underdog."

EARLY TRAINING

LeFefer earned her hardknocks training early, often and organically. Grandfather James Michael Taylor recalled watching his scrappy granddaughter hold her own against three brothers for years, often taking on more the living room rug.

Taylor isn't surprised his granddaughter dominates UIL wrestling matches since Next season, she won't she "only has to contend

SEE LEFEVER. PAGE 4C.



Quickness, aggression and forward thinking are qualities that help Pella LeFever win a state title. Photo by Cal Chapa of Chapa Photography



Westin Wyatt scrambles back to first base to beat a tag.

Photo by Jeff Prince

Azle baseball prepares for season of fun

BY JEFF PRINCE jeff@azlenews.net

ball squad has been scrim- I really like how they are hard to replace, but Smith maging teams in preparation for the upcoming baseball season, and head scription. coach Stephen Smith likes what he has seen so far.

have a long way to go with The Azle Hornets base- this very young team, but coming together."

The Hornets lost seven starters from last season, in-"We pitched well in most cluding the team's top two

cases and swung the bat pitchers, who were a combetter," he said. "We still bined 14-4 with an ERA under 1.50.

Those numbers will be said this year's team is Very young is an apt de- stocked with talent, and he expects "good things from all of our players."

SEE **BASEBALL**, PAGE 4C.

Azle Christian basketball wins playoff opener in final seconds

BY JEFF PRINCE jeff@azlenews.net

With two seconds remaining, Azle Christian School's Camden Logan grabbed a rebound after a missed free throw and plopped it into the bucket for a 57-56 playoff win over Cambridge School of Dallas in the opening round of 1A TAPPS playoffs.

"Our boys battled hard all night," said head coach Ryan Rollins.

The Crusaders knocked off Cambridge to earn their first postseason victory in their first season of competition in TAPPS.

The game, played on Feb. 18 in Flower Mound, had remained close for four quarters. The score was tied 16-16 after the first quarter, and Cambridge took a four-point lead into halftime.

"We went through four or five different defenses as they kept making adjustments," Rollins said.

Sophomore Andy Wisniewski played his "best game ever as a cold-blooded shooter" hitting four threepoint shots in the second half to finish with 14 points.

Logan scored 22 points and showed why he has been named offensive MVP of the Victory Baptist, and "it was district. Senior Ty South scored nine.

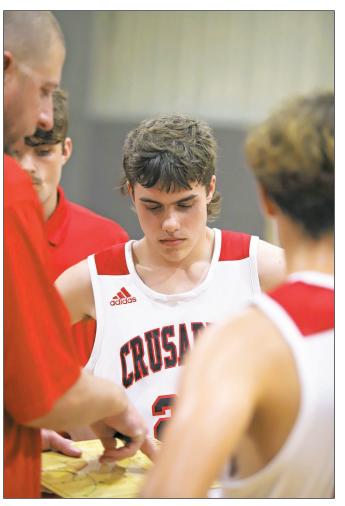
Before the season began, the Crusaders chose to move up from the TCAF league to take on tougher teams from bigger schools. On Feb. 11,

tough Weatherford Victory Baptist Academy 49-45 to 2-1A TAPPS.

a packed house, and it was loud," Rollins said afterward.

The scoring went back and forth for much of the game, as well.

"Our defense just locked



Jake Skartvedt feeds accurate passes to teammates.

Photo by Jeff Prince

the Crusaders defeated a them down in the second half," Rollins said.

Logan scored 21 points, seal second place in District and Drew Skartvedt sank 17. South and Jake Skart-The game was played at vedt handled the ball fluidly at the guard spots.

Big D affected the game most.

"Our team defense is really winning games for us," the coach said.

SEE SKARTVEDT, PAGE 4C.

Azle soccer boys win, lose, keep rolling

BY JEFF PRINCE jeff@azlenews.net

On Feb. 15, the Azle Hornets rallied from a 2-0 deficit to topple Fort Worth Brewer 3-2 and seal their first district victory of the season.

How happy was the soccer team?

The Hornets began district play with three straight losses, so a comeback victory against a district rival was as exuberant and memorable as it was necessary to maintain any playoff hopes.

Three days later, the Hornets challenged a tough Granbury team to a defensive duel but came up just short, 1-0.

Azle's next two games will be played in Wichita Falls against Old High on Feb. 25 and Rider on March 1.

KICKING IS HIS GAME

One of the most powerful legs on the team belongs to Caleb Balderas, the Hornet center midfielder who collects the ball from the defense and distributes it to the forwards during games.

"My dad threw a soccer ball at my feet when I was 2, and that's where that started," he said. "My whole family has been surrounded Anthony Rodriguez and the Azle Hornets soccer team won their first district game on Feb. 15. by soccer over the years, and he wanted to pass down his love and joy for the sport to me. He made sure I played soccer."

If Balderas' name sounds familiar, it's because he dou- like actual full-form tackbled as the football team's ace kicker for three years. This season, he made 54 of your back every now and 55 point-after attempts and then," he said. "You'll get kicked a 42-yard field goal

ing since Balderas spends more time on the field.

"You don't see as much ling, but you'll get a shoulder into your chest or into cleated. You'll get kicked."

but soccer is more demand- from all the kicking."

BRAINS AND BRAWN

Balderas is pursuing a college scholarship, although his ball of choice will be shaped like Stewie Griffin's head on "Family Guy."

"I enjoy being on the soccer field because it definitely How does somebody en- feels like I'm doing a little It's not in vain." bit more, but my ceiling for "You just kind of get football is probably higher,"

grade-point average and takes college courses in addition to his high school studies.

"I focus on my academics, getting my schooling down so I can go to a good college," he said. "There is always an end goal. There is something to work toward.





in a key game to help the Hornets make the playoffs.

He didn't attempt kicking a football until his freshman year.

"There is definitely a lot that goes into each way of kicking," he said. "It is two completely different things."

Football has the reputation for being physically tough,

dure that?

through it," he said. "Don't he said. think about it. Keep running."

pain in return.

"I do my fair share of bullying on the soccer field," an attorney one day doesn't around town. Great schoolhe said. "The only thing that spend all his time booting ing. Good teachers. You can hurts in football is my leg things. He maintains a 4.0 go fishing. You got the ten-

His chances of landing a Also, it helps to dish out college scholarship are im- well," he said. "It's a great proved by his brain power. town to grow up in. There The kicker who wants to be are fun things to do all

Balderas grew up in Azle and will carry fond memories with him after he leaves.

"Azle has treated me



Making 54 of 55 PATs proves Caleb Balderas has good accuracy.

Photos by Jeff Prince

Caleb Balderas has played football and soccer since his freshman

nis courts. You got a lake of the trend toward brighter you could swim at."

FINAL SEASON

With football in the can, soccer is all that remains in Balderas' high school athletic career. He would like the Hornets to win more games than in recent years. Azle's soccer teams haven't won more games than they've lost since 2014, including Balderas' tenure.

"It's basically been the same thing the past three years," he said.

The program is moving in a better direction, and Balderas was glad to be a part surprise a lot of people."

days for soccer. He credits new head coach Austin Fugate and his staff.

"We're looking the best that this Azle soccer program has looked in the past four years," Balderas said.

The team has struggled on the scoreboard but played many close games. The losses haven't diminished the team's spirit.

"Everybody has bought into the process that our new head coach laid out," Balderas said. "Everybody really wants to win. To put it simply, we're tired of losing. And I think we're going to

Azle Lady Hornets battle Granbury to soccer tie



Vielka Gonzalez, left, and the Azle Hornet soccer girls will play their next two games in Wichita Falls.



BY JEFF PRINCE jeff@azlenews.net

The Azle Lady Hornet soccer girls battled Granbury to a 1-1 tie and celebrated afterward.

Finishing a game in a tie was a good sign for the Lady Hornets after losing their first four district games. Head coach Madeline Wood praised her midfield for its strong performances in district contests and characterized the team's back line as "super solid."

ager of the tennis team, but I VITAMIN D declined it because I wanted to try something different," she said.

One of the soccer players told Craig the team needed a manager, so Craig went to visit Wood and expressed her interest. Craig followed up with an email a few days later.

'My mom was like, 'You should follow through, so they'll know you're consistent," Craig said. "So, I

Craig spoke from the sideline during a recent practice while watching her friends running around on the pitch. As a junior, she thinks a lot about her SAT scores and applying for colleges. She appreciates being able to stand in the sun on a pretty day and breathe fresh air and take a break from the rush.

Craig serves as manager for the varsity and junior varsity soccer girls, and her

Paytyn Craig serves as team manager.

Azle (2-14-2) plays at 7 p.m. on Feb. 25 at home against Wichita Falls High School (6-6-1).

PAYTYN'S PLACE

Paytyn Craig, a junior, has tried playing different sports, including tennis during her freshman and sophomore years.

This year, she decided to become a manager for the soccer team instead.

"I got an offer to be man-

did."

Wood gave her the job, and Craig spends her time at practices and games, helping collect balls and cones, reporting game stats and keeping the sideline organized.

"I was never a manager, so it's really fun," she said.

She enjoys bus trips on away games the most.

"I like talking to the girls, napping and missing school," she said. "That's fun. School gets stressful sometimes."

position will "look good on my resume," she said.

Junior varsity head coach Kenley Buckholt described Craig as the program's "behind-the-scenes girl" who does a bit of everything.

"She is our go-getter," Buckholt said. "She is a spunky girl who knows no strangers. She's not afraid to speak her mind. She's a bright light on our team. She brings a really good positive energy that the girls really enjoy having."



Paytyn Craig listens to the coach give the team a pep talk after a recent practice.

BASEBALL, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.



Brenden Kamnick is tagged out while trying to score in a Feb. 19 scrimmage against Abilene Cooper. Photo by Jeff Prince

a district title in years, but once you are in, anything everyone doing their part nabbing a championship can happen," he said. "I do isn't the team's top quest.

"Our first goal is to im- from previous years, but we prove as a player and feel good about our kids, as a team each day," he and we are improving each said. "Our second goal is day." to find a way to get in the playoffs. Then, after that, will stand out along the we strive for a district title."

The Hornets won bi-dissecond-seeds in recent years. "We tell the boys find a

all, the coach said.

way, but a successful sea-

son relies upon every player

The Hornets haven't won way in the playoffs, and sport," Smith said. "It takes for us to win games. We not like to compare teams have some exciting players, so come out and watch our kids compete for Azle High School and for the town of Azle. I feel like on any Individual performances night, someone will impress people who are at the game

watching." The Hornets open the trict titles as the fourth- and on the roster giving their regular season at 10 a.m. on Feb. 26 at home against "Baseball is such a team Fort Worth Country Day.

SKARTVEDT, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.

SKARTVEDT BROTHERS ON FIRE

Much of this season's success is owed to the hardcharging play of the Skartvedt brothers - sophomore Jake and junior Drew.

The younger Jake has excelled at guard, feeding the ball to his older brother and others.

Jake was a freshman when the Skartvedt family - pronounced Skart-veet - moved to Azle and enrolled him at Azle Christian.

Last year in TCAF, the games were easier, Jake said. TAPPS is different.

"This year, teams are better coached, and it's harder to out-athlete them," he said. "We have to follow our coach and make sure we're doing everything we're supposed to be doing."

He enjoys sharing time on the hardwood court with his bro.

"It's a great feeling because I grew up playing with him in our backvard," Jake said. "He is such a hard worker that it's just so fun to of the best teams I've ever complicated world, he said. play with him. I know that if I pass him the ball, if he's not open, he is ... not going to take some dumb shot."

Enrolling at Azle Christian turned out to be a good move, Jake said.



Drew Skartvedt ranks among the scoring leaders at Azle Christian School. Photos by Jeff Prince

played with," he said. "This team is really blessed with on my side, I know what I'm talent. If one person goes doing," he said. "Or I don't down, we have another player to pick the other one up." The lessons he is learning know whatever happens, it's

on court and off will carry His will, and it's for good "This is definitely one him through an increasingly reason."

"As long as I've got God know what I'm doing, but I know where I'm going. I

LEFEVER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.

with one person at a time." LeFever has improved

Tyler Harrison and ap- match. proaches her matches more analytically than in those fort put in throughout the I have to wrestle him, and living room days. The qual- entire season that pays off he's a big guy," she said. ities that help her win are at the end with state cham-"quickness, aggressiveness pionships," she said. and forward thinking," she said. "I do a lot of thinking wrestling at college after than me anyway, so I kind about how I go about things she graduates from Azle of know how to work with that tie in with skill and High in 2023.

your technique."

Mostly, though, wins tinue training in all her variher skills working with come from hard work done ous ways, including sibling coaches Megan House and weeks and months before a scraps.

Until then, she will con-

"My oldest brother "It's a whole bunch of ef- comes home from college, "In normal situations whenever I wrestle people, She plans to continue they're usually a lot bigger that."



The Azle girls powerlifting team won their home meet on Feb. 9. Regan Williams won best lifter on the light platform, and numerous Azle girls placed in the top three in their weight categories. Courtesy photo

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