

Reno P&Z keeps subdivision in county because of water uncertainty

P&Z approved subdivision to develop in ETJ, took no action on annexing it into city

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RENO — Reno's Planning and Zoning Commission approved an incoming subdivision to move forward with developing in the city's extra-territorial jurisdiction but left the door open for a reimag-

ined plat to be annexed into the city.

Waterstone Estates owner and developer Mark Mikhail addressed the P&Z at its June 12 meeting and explained that there were two options for the subdivision. It could be developed into 28 two-acre lots with water wells, or the land could be annexed into the city

limits, have 48 one-acre lots and use city water. This subdivision is expected to be located near Ladybird Lane and Knob Hill Road.

During the meeting, P&Z Chairperson Brian Schrader argued that the city does not have the water infrastructure to support the new subdivision, and the only option for

Waterstone Estates would be to develop in the county with water wells.

"You can't put the cart before the horse, and that's what we have done with Rocky Top; that's what we've done with Scenic Wood," Schrader said, referencing other subdivisions. "We have not put in the proper infra-

structure. We as a city were more than happy to take the tax dollars, but we didn't support those taxpayers. We didn't support those property owners."

Mikhail added that some land could be donated to the city for an additional water

PLEASE SEE **WATER** | A4

Kids have 'totally twisted' time at Azle Memorial Library



Mark Fuller of Twisty Art entertains, educates children during local library performance

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On Tuesday, June 13 "Mr. Mark" Fuller of Twisty Art held a spectacularly colorful balloon art performance for children and parents in an Azle Memorial Library conference room. "I love this," Fuller said. "This is my life now."

Four years ago, Fuller quit his day job driving a school bus in order to go into balloon twisting full-time. This summer, Fuller is donning medieval knight's garb to promote children to read history and fantasy. "Every year I try to have a new show," Fuller said. "I love entertain-

Mr. Mark and his audience ready for battle.

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PLEASE SEE **TWISTED** | A7

Azle Community Caring Center facing food shortages

Directors urge Azle community to donate and volunteer as more residents rely on CCC resources

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On the year of its 20th anniversary, Azle's Community Caring Center faces serious adversity. An explosion in the number of people visiting the center and a significant increase in food costs around the Dallas-Fort Worth area have led to dwindling supplies and fewer options for the organization.

"Our numbers started growing toward the end of last year, hitting numbers we never thought we would," Director Kristie Cooper said. "Pre-COVID we served usually around 450 to 500 families (per month) and in 2022 we (surpassed) 1,000



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

PLEASE SEE **CCC** | A5 Food portions and the quantity in each basket pale in comparison to what was available in previous years.

Springtown ISD to renovate area of SHS cafeteria for 'Go Center'

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SPRINGTOWN — Springtown's school board approved a plan to renovate a section of the high school cafeteria into a Career and Technical Education "Go Center."

The board made its decision unanimously at a special meeting on June 12 after hearing from district staff about the project.

The area of the cafeteria that will be renovated is a room near the former snack line for students that has since been dormant, Executive Director of Operations Micheal Chavez said. The renovation is expected to cost about \$113,000 to install heating, ventilation and air conditioning as well as drop the ceiling, add new light-

ing and fire suppression systems, and take out the roll-up door, among other renovations.

The center is expected to include a counselor's office and an open area for students to plug-in their laptops and work on tasks, like filling out college applications, Chavez said.

"Think of it as a coffee shop without coffee," he said.

The center is expected to be used by all students, including freshmen, who would come in to get counseling on their four-year plan for career and technical education programs as well as dual credit, Chavez said.

Deputy Superintendent Lisa Kirkpatrick said during the meeting that the district hopes to receive a grant to be able to hire a college and

PLEASE SEE **CENTER** | A12



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Construction nearing completion at Stafford Place

Apartment complex neighboring Legacy Oaks scheduled to receive first residents in fall 2023

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For rubberneckers traveling Highway 199, the construction at 1200 Southwest Parkway has been a sight of interest since June 2022. In mid fall 2023, the location will finally open, and Stafford Place Apartments will begin taking in its first residents.

The 21-building, 252-unit complex offers six floor plans comprised of one-and-two-bedroom apartments, 70 of which have inline garages. These townhome apartments offer an individual entrance to each unit for the safety and convenience of residents. Other amenities offered will include a clubhouse, billiards room, lounges, dog park, pet yards, yoga areas, and a pool.

The project began five years ago when Jim Thomason, founder of HJCC Properties, got a call from Azle's previous Economic Director asking him to build a multi-family development in the city. Thomason initially bought a 26-acre plot, then sold 10 acres to Legacy Oaks who built their assisted living facility.

"We feel Legacy Oaks next door is a great advantage because employees can live here, people with loved ones in there, we've had a lot of people reach out who want to live here and be independent, so we think it offers a little bit for everybody," investor and co-founder of Ethos Property Development, Trey Kostohryz said.

The project has been made possible by the cooperation between Ethos Property Development, HJCC Properties, Spring Valley Construction and the city of Azle. "(Azle) has been one of the best municipalities to work with," Kostohryz said. "In construction there's always going to be something that goes wrong, but they've always been a great partner and helped us resolve any issues." Thomason agreed, saying "I just love Azle. I'm bullish on Azle. I think it's going to grow and prosper... The school district is excellent, and the city is run extremely well. The staff, the elected officials, I'm just a real fan of all of it. They don't string you out and these construction guys love working with them."

Kostohryz, a Fort Worth native, Thomason and their third partner Bruce Myers believe Azle is a community worth investing in. "It's a great location," Kostohryz said. "You've got everything the Metroplex has to offer in the East, you're right in Azle and West Texas is just to the West. It's a great community; there's Eagle Mountain Lake, Fort Worth Nature Center, that's 3,600 acres of great parks and so it's just a great location, great people that we've found so far."

That section of highway now sees about 45,000 travelers every day. Kostohryz and Thomason indicated that they only expect those numbers to grow.

"The area here is wonderful, it's booming and there's no telling what's going to happen when (Lake Worth) bridge is finished."

Though exact pricing for units has not yet been released, Kostohryz said that good prices are a core part of the project's mission.

"That's one of our daily focuses, just trying to keep prices down," Kostohryz said. "It's going to be a great quality product at a reason-



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The current state of some of the Stafford Place apartment buildings.

able price. Right now, it's very difficult with interest rates for first-time home buyers to purchase properties. When we started interest was three-and-a-half (percent), I think, now it's eight-and-a-half or nine."

These developers have also taken steps to preserve natural beauty and tree cover surrounding the site.

"On the exterior of the property, we kept a lot more trees than we were required to," Kostohryz said. "You've got this great serene feel. It'll feel sheltered and tranquil... Don't take these numbers by heart, but y'all have a tree ordinance and we're four or five times the minimum."

The two developers have been highly impressed by the skilled labor provided by Spring Valley Construction and Construction Superintendent Joe Sebold. "You can look around here and see it's just quality construction everywhere you look," Thomason said. "These guys are really good... We've got a great team. At the end of the day, everyone wants a good project that's going to be here decades and that's going to benefit the city of Azle." Kostohryz agreed, saying, "the construction crew has been great; they've really taken ownership of the project. They're building it like it's for themselves."

Anyone visiting the site is bound to see not only see the diligent and safety-conscious Spring Valley crew at work, but also the project's unofficial mascot, Jake the dog, garbed in the right gear for the job as well.

"(Joe) got on Jake for not wearing a helmet, so I had to get him one," Kostohryz said.

For Thomason, the finished project will hold significant sentimental value, as he gets to name the complex after his grandson, Stafford. The final buildings in the complex are expected to be completed in late summer of 2024, stretching behind the neighboring Legacy Oaks facility in a boot shape.



Follow the Flag

Azle Area Ministerial Alliance will be hosting its 30th annual Follow the Flag event from 7 to 10 p.m. on July 4 at Azle Central Park. This event is free to the community and will feature live patriotic and Christian music at the amphitheater with a fireworks show at dark. There will be free water and tea, hot dogs, snow cones, and more. Kids can get free face painting and enjoy playing at the park before the fireworks show begins.

"The AAMA is excited to serve up another spectacular July 4th," AAMA president Alton Davis said. "Join us at the park!"

PHOTO COURTESY ALAN BRUNDRETT

2022's Follow the Flag event was a great success.

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Stepping up and showing humility in a big-league sort of way

Many of you may remember the name David Freese. A native Texan born in Corpus Christi, David had one of the most memorable and historic World Series games in history in 2011 against our Texas Rangers. In game six, with Texas leading 7-5, and leading the series by 3 games to 2, Freese came to bat in the bottom of the 9th with two out and two men on base. With a two-strike count, Freese hit a two run double to tie the game and send it to extra innings. In the 11th inning of the same game, and again with two strikes, Freese hit a game winning walk-off solo home run to center field and send the World Series to a 7th game where the Cardinals won capturing their 11th World Series title. For his efforts Freese was named the World Series MVP.

Freese went on to have a successful career. With a career batting average of .277, he was voted to the all-star team, played with the Los Angeles Angels, Pittsburgh Pirates, and Los Angeles Dodgers. Since retirement from the game, he has made his home in Austin.

Baseball in St. Louis is like a religion. It is hard to go to a restaurant, store, or bar within a 100-mile radius of the stadium, where the ball game is not playing on a radio or TV. For generations, families and friends have planned their family vacations around a trip to the ballpark to catch the Cardinals play a game. The supporters are fanatical, and players are idolized. At the conclusion of their playing days, the best of the best become part of team his-



FROM MY FRONT PORCH

By Sam Houston

Sam Houston is a syndicated columnist and newspaper executive. He is also an author, actor, playwright and entertainment producer/promoter.

tory by being voted into the Cardinal Hall of Fame.

Unlike some such entities, the Cardinal Hall of Fame is voted on by the fans and not solely by the sportswriters nor simply selected by the ownership of the team. Hence, the men who are enshrined have a special place in the history of the team and the hearts of the fans. The list of players includes all-time baseball greats like Stan Musial, Bob Gibson, Lou Brock, Joe Medwick, and Roger Hornsby.

The past few weeks an election was held, and the fans of St. Louis cast their votes. When the results were announced, David Freese had been selected to join the other legendary Cardinal players in the Hall.

Now comes the most amazing "at bat" David Freese will ever have. He turned down the honor of admission in the Hall!

David grew up in suburban St. Louis and like all his friends and neighbors, loved and worshiped the Cardinals. When he was young, he wore the number 45 like his hero Bob Gibson. The greatest thrill of his life was to take the field wearing the Cardinal uniform, representing the city and the legacy of the players who came before him.

So why did he refuse to accept the honor of joining the

Hall? Simply put, he did not think his performances and credentials were worthy of being included with the players he would join in the Hall. He did not feel deserving. While he thanked the fans for their devotion and support, he felt his inclusion would diminish the accomplishments of those who had gone before him.

David announced, "The Cardinals and the entire city have always had my back in every way. I'm forever grateful to be part of such an amazing organization and fan base, then, now, and in the future. In short, Freese told the Cardinals while he was honored and humbled by the fans, he simply did not feel deserving.

In today's world of "it is all about me", and where some professional athletes seem to care little about anything other than recognition, ego fulfillment and money, David Freese stands alone. He is a shining example of humility and respect for the game he loves. In my book, he should be voted into the human being Hall of Fame, on the first ballot.

Thought for the day: true humility is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself less.

Until next time... I will keep ridin' the storm out.
sam@hcnews.com



Ken Mills recognized as Honored Elder

Ken Mills of Azle was recognized as an Honored Elder with the Fort Worth Fire Department on June 10. Mills served at FWFD from 1954-1992.

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JUNE 22, 2023

	2	6	1					
4		7				3		2
					4	9	1	
				7		2	3	
7	4			3			9	5
	3	2		1				
	8	4	6					
3		5				6		9
					2	7	4	

Solution to last week's puzzle

JUNE 15, 2023

7	1	6	5	3	9	4	8	2
9	2	5	4	8	1	3	6	7
4	8	3	2	7	6	9	5	1
5	9	7	3	1	4	8	2	6
1	3	2	8	6	5	7	9	4
6	4	8	7	9	2	1	3	5
2	6	9	1	4	3	5	7	8
3	7	4	6	5	8	2	1	9
8	5	1	9	2	7	6	4	3

Puzzle by websudoku.com

Cookie champs

Two Springtown girls win grand champion for baking cookies at Parker County Project Fair

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SPRINGTOWN — Neither youngster Ella Taylor, nor teenager Abby Kennedy had ever entered baked goods in the Parker County Livestock Improvement Association's Project Fair until this year.

However, both Springtown girls left the contest victorious as they claimed the top spot for baking cookies in their respective age divisions.

Ella won first place in the junior division for her coconut lime white chocolate chip cookies, while Abby took home the grand champion title in the senior division for her French macarons.

Both girls started baking and cooking because of their mothers.

"She's a really good cook, so she kind of inspired me," Ella said about her mom, Jaclyn Taylor.

Abby said she likes the creative and scientific process of baking, putting all the ingredients together to make something.

"I like how even if it doesn't turn out right, then you can go back and do it later and

like retry," she said. "I like the science of everything and how it works and how everything reacts with one another."

Experiencing trial and error is what started Abby's journey to learning how to make French macarons. Her macarons didn't turn out good the first time she made them, so she took a class to learn more about making them and has been perfecting her technique ever since.

"They're a little bit easier now," Abby said about baking macarons. "But it is a long process."

Abby explained that making macarons involves multiple steps, and it takes about an hour and a half to two hours to make one batch.

"For the contest, I chose those because I felt like I would stand out from the crowd," she said. "Mine was just different, and I think that's why I won."

Ella figured that her victory may have been because of the combined flavors of coconut and key lime in her cookies. Her recipe came from her grandmother who had baked them around Easter. For the contest, Ella baked multi-



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Ella Taylor smiles as she shows off the plaque and ribbon she won for baking cookies for the Parker County Livestock Improvement Association's Project Fair. Ella's mother Jaclyn Taylor is also pictured.



COURTESY PHOTO

Abby Kennedy won first place for baking French macarons in the senior division of the Parker County Livestock Improvement Association's Project Fair.

ple trays of cookies in a few hours.

"We made a lot of dough for just 10 cookies, so we used the rest of the dough just for cookies that we could snack on," she said. "I needed a few taste testers."

Ella turned in her plate of cookies on the morning of the contest. When she returned later that day for the results, she noticed that the judge had taken a big bite out of one of her cookies.

"That's when I knew maybe

I have a good chance," she said.

Still, Ella was in disbelief when her name was called.

"I just heard the name. 'First place goes to Ella,' and they took a while to introduce the last name," she said, adding that she thought the award may go to another contestant named Ella. "Then, they said, 'Taylor,' and I was so surprised."

Before the contest, Ella didn't think of herself as a good cook, but now, she's

changing her mind. Her mother said she hopes the contest has taught her daughter to be confident.

Coincidentally, Ella's grandmother who inspired her choice of cookie for the contest was with her when she won. Ella said her grandmother cried tears of joy after her victory was announced. Ella was thankful that her grandmother shared the recipe for the award-winning cookies.

"I don't know what cook-

ie I would have made if she wouldn't have helped me with the recipe," Ella said.

Abby was also surprised by her triumph in the senior division. She said she was nervous before the contest but didn't expect to win on her first try. Overall, the effort she put into making the macarons paid off.

"I learned that if you put in more work, it'll reward you better," Abby said. "Like the harder you work, the better you will win."

WATER

FROM PAGE A1

well site if Waterstone Estates was annexed into the city, and the developer offered to pay for some materials and connection costs related to that well site.

Schrader referenced the 2021 CobbFendley Potable Water Model report on the city's water system that states, "Improvements need to be made to the water system before future developments begin in the area."

Greg Miller, a mechanical engineer who serves on the city's Water Task Force, spoke during the meeting to point out that a few water infrastructure projects — to replace the 4-inch water main on Miller Road with a 6-inch line and to install booster pumps at Well Site

1 — are nearing completion. Converting the citywide water disinfection system from chlorine to chloramine is expected to be complete by the year's end, which is supposed help Reno connect with other entities to subsidize the city's water supply.

Considering this progress, Miller said the city's public works director had asked an engineer to review the existing water studies with the infrastructure improvements in mind to find out if the city could accommodate more development.

Without a definitive answer on whether the city could reliably provide water to Waterstone Estates, Schrader said the plan to bring the development into the city limits should not be approved until it's known for certain that the city can supply water to the subdivision.

"I'm not looking at future; I'm not looking at speculation," he said. "It has to be known, and it is not."

The P&Z voted on the two-acre plan and the one-acre plan for Waterstone Estates separately. The members approved the plan for the two-acre lots but took no action on the plat with one-acre lots. Schrader said after the meeting that this means the P&Z could reconsider the one-acre plan in the future.

Mikhail started working with the city of Reno on this subdivision plan at least a year ago. He said after the P&Z meeting that he plans to move forward with the two-acre lots.

"I've been paying a lot of interest and a lot of money to the engineers to go from one acre to two acres and all this stuff," Mikhail said. "We can't just keep waiting."

Laura Forkner Pritchett to be sworn-in to Tarrant County College Board

Forkner Pritchett of District 4 admitted as trustee on June 22

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Azle resident Laura Forkner Pritchett unseated incumbent Bill Greenhill in a June 10 run-off election, 53.11 percent to 46.89 percent for the District 4 Tarrant County College Board of Trustees seat.

District 4 includes Azle, West Fort Worth, Haslet, Watauga, North Richland Hills and Haltom City. On June 22, Forkner Pritchett will be sworn-in at the Trinity River Campus Boardroom in downtown Fort Worth on 300 Trinity Campus Circle. The event will begin at 6 p.m. and will be open to the public.



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Forkner Pritchett

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CCC
FROM PAGE A1

families and that number just sounded absurd years ago. So far this year we have not been under 1,000 and for the month of May, we've served 1,300 families. Typically, what we see is our numbers grow all summer long and fall is our biggest need; we see those numbers really increase October, November, December, (and) we're worried that we already hit those 1,300 families in the month of May. What is June, July and August going to look like? We know we've got kids at home and they're eating more, so we're just a little nervous on what our food supply is going to look like."

A March 28 report from the Government Accountability Office stated that retail food prices in the U.S. generally increased by about two percent per year from 2013 to 2020. From 2021 to 2022, Dallas-Fort Worth saw an increase of 14.03 percent. D-FW had the second-largest increase in food prices out of the 17 major metro areas in the report, only behind Detroit. As a result, food pantries throughout the Metroplex have faced unprecedented demand going into the summer season.

"Our shelves in the distribution center at the Tarrant Area Food Bank are not stacked where they should be at this time of the year" said Julie Butner, president and CEO of the Tarrant Area Food Bank (TAFB). "We need support now more than ever."

Azle CCC gets about 50 percent of its food from TAFB. "If they're struggling to get food, that's going to trickle

down to us," Cooper said. "We budget every year for our grocery store expenses and we've already exceeded our annual budget and we are halfway through the year. We're looking for other avenues, we're looking for other sources to get food because Tarrant is struggling to get what they need."

With school out for the summer, many children need shelf-stable, easily-prepared meals at home.

ITEMS NEEDED

- Canned vegetables
- Canned fruit
- Rice
- Beans
- Pasta and pasta sauce
- Macaroni and cheese
- Canned chili
- Chef Boyardee
- Canned soups
- Ramen noodles
- Applesauce
- Similar canned goods

"Those kinds of staples that we want to keep in our pantry, that's what we want to keep on our shelves," Cooper said. "If everyone buys a couple extra cans of vegetables on their next grocery trip or looks through their pantry (to donate,) then that makes a huge difference."

Most food items are accepted. The only requirements are that canned goods must be unopened, have an expiration date and have an ingredients list. The CCC is looking for financial donations and volunteers as well.

"We're looking for other avenues to purchase large quantities of food. It just gives us some buying power to know we have those funds available to go purchase by the pallet."

The easiest way to volunteer is to go through the ccc website <https://community-caringcenter.com/online>.

With such massive demand, the turnover rate for staple foods is much higher than it once was.

"If someone brought us a grocery basket worth of any of the food we need, it would more than likely go on the shelf that same day or would be handed out that day or the next day," Cooper said.

In these trying times, the CCC relies on its church and grocery partners more than ever.

"Almost every church in town supports us in some form or fashion. They really are our backbone; they support us month after month through volunteers or financial contributions," he said.

Albertson's Nourishing Neighbors and similar programs have become an increasingly vital resource for the CCC. "In the fall they do a big push around the holidays," Cooper said. "Last year we were able to get almost \$10,000 in gift cards so that allowed us to buy the exact items that we needed."

Efforts like these have allowed the CCC to expand into adding hygiene products to budget in recent years. Shampoo, body soap, deodorant and other basic hygiene necessities are also accepted for donation.

The CCC's goal is to supplement a week's worth of groceries, with families being allowed to receive a grocery cart full of items once per month. "What we're seeing is that quantity is going down, the amount of food per family is decreasing," Cooper said.



Azle CCC Director Kristie Cooper and Assistant Director Bonnie Monninger.

ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Donations can be dropped off at the CCC at 317 Commerce Street during operating hours or at the Porch Resale Shoppe, next door. "(The Porch is) our year-round fundraiser," Cooper said. So, making donations there of clothing and household items helps us not only give them away for free to our families but the portion we sell at our resale shop helps

fund our operations here. It lets us look at what we can do on a bigger scale for our families. It allowed us to build our hygiene corner. I think it's a big part of how we've been able to at least somewhat manage the increase in families that we serve."

Ultimately, CCC staff and volunteers know that the Azle community will pull through for them. "This

community is very generous," CCC Assistant Director Bonnie Monninger said. "It is heartwarming. It really is a great place to live, this is a wonderful place to work. It's just the economy and all the effects that are still happening from COVID and the supply chain it's just still affecting us negatively and it's making it difficult to keep our shelves full."

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www.EMPHC.org

The center does not receive state funding of any kind and is reliant on donors to provide services to clients.

Eagle Mountain Pregnancy Help Center
Providing assistance with preborn needs for expectant mothers and families

Eagle Mountain Pregnancy Help Center is a non-profit, donor-funded ministry that provides assistance with preborn needs for expectant mothers and families.

Located at 10328 Jacksboro Hwy. in Fort Worth, the Eagle Mountain Pregnancy Help Center was founded in 1997 and has served at this location for over 20 years.

The services and resources provided include pregnancy testing and Medicaid verification, prenatal vitamins, parent training, education and lifestyle classes, adoption referrals, medical referrals, church referrals, counseling, baby food, diapers, formula, baby equipment, nursing mother supplies, prayer support, books and materials.

"Our goal is to honor Christ by uniquely demonstrating His truth and passion for all those He sends to us," said Karen Ogea, who serves on the Board of Directors.

Since the overturning of Roe v. Wade in 2022, the center has seen an increase in the number of mothers and families who are seeking options for the lives of their preborn babies.

"While this is the best news, the difficult economy is also responsible for the need

for our services as we strive to equip families with emotional, spiritual and material needs."

The small center is able to serve more families than ever before, coming from Azle, Springtown, Lake Worth, White Settlement, Saginaw and beyond.

The center does not receive state funding of any kind and is reliant on donors to provide services to clients. On August 3, Eagle Mountain Pregnancy Help Center is hosting its first-annual Embrace Life Benefit Gala in Azle. This event is open to the community. To purchase tickets, become a sponsor, or to pledge monthly donations, visit EMPHC.org and click "Gala."

Joanne Stull is the administrator, bilingual client advocate, lay counselor, and presenter at the center. Office assistant Ginger Thomas works alongside Joanne in keeping the center organized, prepared for clients, and is the hospitality queen!

Eagle Mountain Pregnancy Help Center is open from noon to 6 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays. Appointments are preferred but walk-ins will be seen. To schedule an appointment, call 817-237-1819.

EAGLE MOUNTAIN PREGNANCY HELP CENTER

10328 Jacksboro Hwy, Ft. Worth
817-237-1819

Open Mon & Thurs 12-6 pm

- Free pregnancy testing
- Free options counseling
- Free prenatal vitamins
- Educational & prenatal classes
- Medical & Social Referrals
- Material Resources (diapers, baby clothes, etc.)
- Mentoring for Individuals and Families

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WE CATER!

Reno city well site close to operating at full capacity

MADelyn EDWARDS
springtownreporter@
tricountyreporter.com

New booster pumps installed, rental equipment returned

RENO — Attendees of a recent Reno City Council meeting broke out into applause when Public Works Director Chris Albright said that rental equipment used to aid a city well site would be returned. Since last year, Well Site 1 — located on the southwest side of Scenic Wood Drive — was using a rented generator with a diesel tank that powered rental pumps,

all of which cost the city about \$27,000 per month. The rental equipment was a temporary fix to help with water capacity and pressure in the area. In the meantime, the city ordered permanent booster pumps and took steps to install 480-volt, three-phase power at the well site. “This project is a cash bleed on the city budget that needs to be resolved as quickly as

we can get the new pumps online,” said Brian Schrader, Reno Planning and Zoning Commission and Water Task Force chairperson, in a previous task force report. The 2021 CobbFendley Potable Water Model report stated the city needed to “add 400 (gallons per minute) of total booster pump capacity at Water Site 1 to increase pressure in the northern part of the system.” This recom-

mendation was one of 21 suggested in the report to “rectify minimum system capacity and the failing fire flow junctions.” Adding a booster pump at Well/Water Site 1 was also one of the projects receiving grant funding from the Texas Department of Agriculture’s Community Development Block Grant Program. During a P&Z meeting in

April, Schrader reported that supply of 480-volt, three-phase power was being installed at the well site, which removed the need for the rented generator. Schrader also said during that meeting that the city received permanent booster pumps that would replace the rented ones. At the council meeting on June 8, Albright said the rental equipment would soon be

returned as the project was moving forward. As of June 14, the public works director said rental equipment is no longer in use. Both booster pumps have been installed, but only one is working. An electrician is expected to wire in the other pump soon, and once that happens, the plant site will be operating at full capacity. “That whole job has been haunted this whole time, and I’m glad of that progress,” Albright said during the June 8 council meeting.

OBITUARIES

Curtis Linehan 1959 - 2023

We are sad to announce the unexpected passing of Curtis Linehan, 63, on June 8, 2023. A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, June 24, 2023, at the First Baptist Church of Castle Hills, 401 Beverly Road, Azle, beginning at 10 a.m.



Curtis grew up in Azle. He graduated in 1977 and joined the Army National Guard. Curtis married Carol McBride and together shared two beautiful children. He was a man of many talents. Curtis was a true “Jack of all trades” and known as a handyman to his family. He had many talents as a machinist, mechanic, plumber, and builder. Later in his life, he met and married Karen Leman. Curtis enjoyed being outdoors, hunting, fishing, archery, and boating. His best times were spent with his friends and family by his side. Curtis had a larger-than-life personality, and always kept a smile on everyone’s faces with a quick-witted joke. He was the life of the party and true treasure to be around. Curtis was preceded

in death by his parents, E.F.(Frank) Linehan and Doris Linehan Jernigan; and his daughter, Amber Linehan-Lemke. He will be deeply and lovingly missed by his wife, Karen; son, Joshua and wife, Lara; sisters, Donna Van Kirk and husband, Gary, and Jan Blagg and husband, Ed; stepfather, Gene Jernigan; three grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and a host of extended family and friends. A part of our lives and a piece of our hearts are gone. He will be missed.

The Tri-County Reporter,
Thursday June 22, 2023

TxDOT urges Texans to give driving their full attention

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Distracted driving is on the rise in Texas, and TxDOT is urging all Texans to pay attention on the road. Karin Zaltsman lost her teenage daughter when a driver made the decision to take his eyes off the road to text while driving. TxDOT is sharing the Zaltsman’s story to remind Texans to keep their eyes up and phones down while driving. Described as kind, funny, smart, and driven, Emily had her whole life ahead of her, but one driver’s decision to text and drive cut her life short.

“Emily didn’t die in an accident,” Karin Zaltsman said. “Emily died in a crash that could have been prevented.” Emily is one of more than 2,000 people killed on Texas roadways due to distracted drivers since 2017. Distracted driving deaths increased by 10% in the Lone Star State in 2022. Approximately one of every six crashes on Texas roadways last year was attributed to distracted driving. “Distracted driving is a choice, and it has devastat-

ing consequences for communities,” TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams said. “Texting, adjusting audio or navigation systems, or scrolling on a social media site can wait until you’re safely parked. We’re urging Texans to make the right choice and put the phone away.”

Texting while driving is not only incredibly dangerous, but also a crime. Since Sept. 1, 2017, it has been illegal to read, write or send a text while driving in Texas, and violators can face a fine of up to \$200.

Distracted driving crashes are 100% preventable. TxDOT offers these tips to help drivers steer clear of a potentially deadly situation:

Always give driving your full attention. Any distraction is dangerous.

Put your phone away, turn it off or use an app or phone settings to block texts and calls while driving.

Pull off the road entirely and come to a complete stop before you use your phone.

Tell friends, family, and coworkers you won’t respond to texts or calls while driving. Avoid eating or drinking

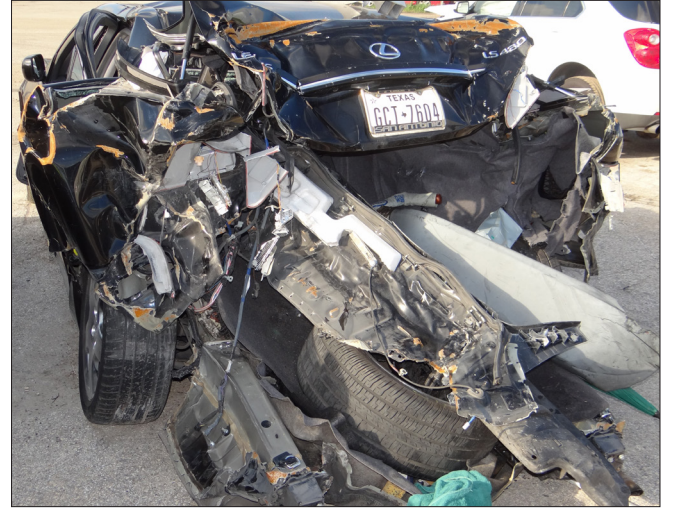


PHOTO COURTESY TxDOT

Emily Zaltsman was killed in a collision because of a distracted driver.

until you are parked.

TxDOT’s “Talk. Text. Crash.” distracted driving awareness campaign is a key component of #EndTheStreakTX, a broader social media and word-of-mouth effort that encourages drivers to make safer choices while behind the wheel to help end the streak of daily deaths. Nov. 7, 2000 was the last deathless day on Texas roadways.

The information presented represents reportable data collected from the Texas Peace Officer’s Crash Report (CR-3). It was received and processed by the department as of Jan. 31, 2023.

The Texas Department of Transportation is responsible for maintaining 80,000 miles of road and for supporting aviation, maritime, rail and public transportation across the state.

Public Notice
Early deadline for Thursday, July 13th will be Monday, July 3rd at 4:00 pm Thank You!

Classified
Early deadline for Thursday, July 13th will be Monday, July 3rd at 4:00 pm Thank You!

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... ATTEND THE CHURCH OF YOUR CHOICE THIS SUNDAY

<p>THE ABBEY CHURCH Pastor: Paul Brownback 10400 Jacksboro Hwy 817-238-1404 www.TheAbbeyChurch.com</p> <p>Morning Worship.....10:30 AM Community Groups.....Various Times</p> <p>ASH CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH Pastor: Dr. G. Wesley Shotwell 300 South Stewart St. 817-444-3219 www.ashcreekbc.org</p> <p>Sunday School.....9:30 AM Contemporary Worship-TMP.....10:45 AM Traditional Worship.....10:45 AM Evening Worship/Youth Refuge.....6:00 PM Wednesday Evening.....6:15 PM</p> <p>AZLE FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD Rev. Joshua Lowrance 1020 S.E. Parkway, Azle 817-237-4903</p> <p>Sunday School.....9:30 AM Morning Worship.....10:30 AM Wednesday Evening.....7:00 PM</p> <p>COMMUNITY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH Pastor - Alton Davis 817-521-4510 1405 Reynolds Rd., Azle 817-444-7117 Directions: 730 N. to 1542 .5 mi. right on Cardinal, left on Reynolds</p> <p>Sunday School.....9:45 AM Morning Worship.....11:00 AM Sunday Evening.....6:00 PM Wednesday Evening.....7:00 PM</p>	<p>AZLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ) Senior Minister, Ashley Dargai, Katie Medlin, Worship Minister 117 Church St. • 817-444-3527</p> <p>Sunday School.....10:00 AM Morning Worship.....11:00 AM</p> <p>CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH 2233 Hwy 199 E., Springtown 817-221-LIFE (5433)</p> <p>Sunday Worship Service.....10:00 AM Wednesday.....7:00 PM</p> <p>CROSSROADS BAPTIST CHURCH Pastor - Jon Baker Corner FM 730S & FM 1886 817-755-0279 Transportation Available</p> <p>Worship Service.....10:30 AM Wed. Prayer Service.....7:00 PM</p> <p>THE EDGE CHURCH - AZLE 1313 S.E. Pkwy, Azle 817-237-4822 Missouri Synod</p> <p>“Love God - Serve Others - Share Jesus” Traditional Worship.....9:30 AM Contemporary Worship.....11:00 AM</p> <p>FIRST METHODIST CHURCH OF AZLE Interim Pastor: Rev. Tim Thomas 200 Church St., Azle 817-444-3323</p> <p>Morn. Worship.....8:30, 9:45 & 11 AM Sunday School.....9:45 & 11 AM Youth (UMYF).....5:00 PM Sun & 6:30 PM Wed</p>	<p>GRACEPOINTE CHURCH 4110 E. Hwy 199, Springtown Pastor: Timothy McKeown 817-221-5683 gracepointesbc.org</p> <p>Sunday School.....9:45 am Sunday Service.....11:00 am Wednesday Bible Study.....6:00 PM</p> <p>HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH 800 Highcrest Dr. - Azle 817-444-3063</p> <p>Saturday.....5:00 PM Sunday.....9:00 AM Sunday.....11 AM (Spanish) Daily Mass (M, T, Th, F).....8:00 AM Wednesday Mass Religious ED.....6:30 PM Confessions.....Sat 4 PM</p> <p>HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA 4795 E. Hwy 199 - Reno 817-221-HOPE Follow us on Facebook for streaming services</p> <p>Sunday School.....9:00 AM Traditional Service.....10:00 AM</p> <p>SOLID ROCK BIBLE CHURCH 591 S. Reno Rd., Springtown, Texas 76082 Pastor - Bill Gay - 817-304-7443</p> <p>Coffee and Donuts.....9:00 AM Sunday School.....9:30 AM Morning Worship.....10:30 AM Children’s Church After Music Service Wed. Prayer Meeting.....6:30 PM Wed. Bible Study.....7:00 PM</p>	<p>LEGACY CHURCH Assembly of God Church Pastor: Gary D. Veazey Hwy. 199 & Jaybird Lane 817-221-2983</p> <p>Morning Worship.....9:15 & 11:00 AM Kidz Zone.....9:15 & 11:00 AM Weds Evening Legacy Group Legacy Youth, Kids All Services.....7:00 PM</p> <p>THE RANCH CHRISTIAN COWBOY CHURCH Pastor: Greg Slankard 7955 Reed Rd., Azle 682-327-7082 www.TheRanchCCC.org</p> <p>Sunday School 9:30 AM • Worship 10:00 AM Weds 7:00 pm • Thurs Potluck 6:30 pm</p> <p>SILVER CREEK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Rev. Sheila Fiorella - Pastor 2200 Church Rd., Azle 817-444-1382 www.silvercreekumc.org</p> <p>Sunday School 9:30 AM • Worship 10:30 AM</p> <p>SILVER CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH Pastor: Jay Ditty Minister of Music: David Musick Corner FM 730 S. & Veal Station Rd. Church 817-444-2325 www.silvercreekbc.org</p> <p>Sunday School.....9:45 AM Morning Worship.....10:50 AM Evening Worship.....7:00 PM Wed. Prayer Service.....6:00 PM</p>	<p>THE WORD@LAKESIDE CHURCH OF GOD 9396 FM 1886 Fort Worth, TX 76135 817-237-5500 thewordatlakeside.com</p> <p>Pastors: Brandon and Kelly Bohannon Worship Pastor: Christen Moody Family Life and Young Adult Pastors: Jodie and Mark James, Kids Pastor: Katie Pearson, Student Pastors: Taylor and Sheridan Tomlin, Creative Directors: Logan and Carrie Edwards, Connections Coordinators: Preston and Ashley Larrew</p> <p>Equip Sunday School at the WORD.....9:30 AM Empower Worship at the WORD.....10:45 AM Kids at the WORD.....10:45 AM PreK at the WORD.....10:45 AM Emanate at the WORD (Special Needs Ministry).....10:45 AM Nursery at the WORD.....10:45 AM Young Adults at the WORD.....6:00 PM Wednesdays Adult Bible Class.....7:00 PM The WORD Students (6th-12th grades).....6:30 PM Awana Kids at the WORD.....6:30 PM Life at the WORD Life Groups Various Times</p>
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A church alive is worth the drive! For more information or rates on listing your church, call Jessica at 817-270-3340



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Mr. Mark wowed the audience with magic tricks and invited volunteers from the audience up to play out scenes.



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Mr. Mark teaching his audience to make their own balloon swords.

TWISTY

FROM PAGE A1

ing kids. I've been in education my whole life. I took a hiatus for a while, but it's in my blood. The magic and balloons are one thing, but I had to teach and reach out and I found this was a really great way to do it."

Fuller encourages young people to follow their dreams and passions.

"Triumph is 99 percent try and one percent 'ump,'" Fuller said. "If you put your heart into something, even if it's not perfect, it makes all the difference in kids' lives. Really the bottom line is hoping and praying that they'll get that passion to do something like that and they'll want to carry it on and give back to their community or with their friends. Hey, it's summertime, Google balloon making."

Fuller has made it his mission to help and teach children during times of trauma or need. Following the tragic and deadly Uvalde school shooting in May 2022, Fuller put together a troop and went to the town.

"Their library was not really getting support that many libraries get," Fuller

said. "About a dozen of us went out there, we had face painting, we had magic, we had the storytelling, we had glitter tattoos, balloon twisting." According to Fuller, a couple who had just returned from mission work in Mexico even drove children around the El Progreso Memorial Library parking lot in a barrel train. "People were thanking us," Fuller said. "It was the first-time kids had been out of their house in a week, the first-time kids had smiled in a week, it was just so moving and the blessing out of all of this is that people realized that (the) library is a hub for the community. Now the library is exploding with donations, community events and things going on now like you'd never believe before."

This theme would be persistent even early in Fuller's adult life. After graduating college, Fuller became a missionary, teaching children in South America and Mexico. Fuller was present for the civil conflicts that plagued Peru throughout the 1980s. At one point, Fuller's group was threatened at gunpoint by forces that had entered their compound. After realizing the purpose and goals of the missionaries, they later became their armed

bodyguards.

After returning to the states, Fuller wanted to continue teaching children, but did not have the right credentials. Fuller's missionary group began twisting balloon animals as a way to raise funds and along the way Fuller learned about a program which used balloon animals to teach children.

"I knew that's what I wanted to do," Fuller said.

Parents and kids both were delighted at Fuller's show, stories, skits and audience participation. At the end of the event, Fuller taught the room of children to tie their own balloon swords, providing the materials and then releasing them out into the community.

"It was hilarious," Children's Librarian Olivia Todd said. "We're having a great time at the Azle Library so far, we've had packed events and we can't wait to see you at the next one."

Todd recorded 213 guests coming through the door for Fuller's performance. Directly following his Twisty Art show in Azle, Fuller had another performance in Cleburne that same day.

More information on Mr. Mark can be found on <https://twistyart.com/>

CALENDAR

June 2023

TO SUBMIT CALENDAR ITEMS

The community calendar is a free listing in the Tri-County Reporter to inform readers of programs, special meetings, and nonprofit events. The event should be open to the public and free to attend. Information should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event for consideration. Email the who, what, when, where and why to jessica@tricityreporter.com, with "calendar item" in the subject line. Calendar information runs in chronological order as space is available.

FRIDAY, JUNE 23

KINDERMUSIK LEVEL 1 for ages 10-24 months. Offers sensory-rich, gentle environments where children can explore and react to new sounds, sensations, and objects. Starts at 10 a.m. at Family Resource Center, 314 E 5th Terrace, Springtown. Visit parkercountyfrc.eventbrite.

AZLE MUSIC IN THE PARK is every Friday in June. Concerts start at 8 p.m. and go until 10 p.m. at Central Park, 263 W. Main St., Azle. This week's concert features Escape Band, a Journey tribute band. Food trucks will be parked at the Azle Memorial Library for the event. Follow Azle Special Events on Facebook.

FAMILY FILM FRIDAY featuring "Minions: The Rise of Gru" is at 2 p.m. in the Community Room at Azle Memorial Library. Free popcorn and water provided.

MONDAY, JUNE 26

LAST MONDAY MATINEE featuring "Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris" is at 2 p.m. in the Community Room at the Azle Memorial Library. Free popcorn and water will be provided. Adults only, please.

KIDS CORNER-CENTER PLAY GROUP at 2 p.m. at Family Resource Center, 314 E 5th Terrace, Springtown. Enjoy a time to bond with your child as everyone sings, reads, plays and makes memories together. For ages 2-6, siblings welcome.

TUESDAY, JUNE 27

FUN AT THE PARK with Family Resource Center will be from 10 a.m. to noon at Ash Creek Park playground at 605 Southeast Pkwy. in Azle. Fun at the Park is every Tuesday at a different area park each week. For more information about events visit parkercountyfrc.eventbrite.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28

KINDERMUSIK LEVEL 2 for ages 18-36 months. Offers sensory-rich, gentle environments where children can explore and react to new sounds, sensations, and objects. Starts at 10 a.m. at Family Resource Center, 314 E 5th Terrace, Springtown. Visit parkercountyfrc.eventbrite.

THURSDAY, JUNE 29

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE DETACHMENT 1297 meets the last Thursday of every month at the American Legion Hall, 3409 Davis Rd. in Granbury Chow is at 6 p.m. and meeting starts at 7 p.m. FMF Navy Corpsman/ Navy Chaplains memberships and associate memberships available. Call 682-498-3250 for information. **PAPER LANTERNS AT**

THE LIBRARY for Teens and Tweens 12-18 years old at 4 p.m. at Azle Memorial Library. Participants will make a wire frame and use tissue paper to make their own paper lanterns. Supplies and space are limited so reserve a spot by calling 817-752-2682.

KIDS CORNER GARDENING AND YOGA at 10 a.m. at Family Resource Center, 314 E 5th Terrace, Springtown. Explore the garden as you plant, grow and learn about food. For ages 0-6. Light stretching, yoga mat and water provided.

KINDERMUSIK LEVEL 3 for ages 3-5. Offers sensory-rich, gentle environments where children can explore and react to new sounds, sensations, and objects. Starts at 2 p.m. at Family Resource Center, 314 E 5th Terrace, Springtown. Visit parkercountyfrc.eventbrite.

FRIDAY, JUNE 30

KINDERMUSIK LEVEL 1 for ages 10-24 months. Offers sensory-rich, gentle environments where children can explore and react to new sounds, sensations, and objects. Starts at 10 a.m. at Family Resource Center, 314 E 5th Terrace, Springtown. Visit parkercountyfrc.eventbrite.

AZLE MUSIC IN THE PARK is every Friday in June. Concerts start at 8 p.m. and go until 10 p.m. at Central Park, 263 W. Main St., Azle. This week's concert features local favorite Poo Live Crew. Food trucks will be parked at the Azle Memorial Library for the event. Follow Azle Special Events on Facebook.

AZLE ISD Summer Feeding Program

Free Breakfast & Lunch
Meals for 18 years and younger

June 5 - June 30, 2023

Mon -Fri Breakfast 7:30 - 8:30 am
Lunch 11:00 - 12:30 pm

Cross Timbers Elementary
831 Jackson Trail
Hoover Elementary
484 Sandy Beach Rd.
Santo Forte Jr. High
479 Sandy Beach Rd.

Walnut Creek Elementary
500 Stribling Drive
Pelican Bay Squiggly Park
1300 Pelican Circle 11-11:30 am Lunch Only

June 5 - July 27, 2023

Monday-Thursday
Breakfast 7:30 - 8:30 AM • Lunch 11 - 12:30 PM

Santo Forte Jr. High
479 Sandy Beach Rd.
Walnut Creek Elementary
500 Stribling Drive
Pelican Bay Squiggly Park
1300 Pelican Circle
11-11:30 am Lunch Only

SPRINGTOWN ISD Summer Feeding Program

Free Breakfast & Lunch
Meals for 18 years and younger

June 5 - 29, 2023

Monday-Thursday
Breakfast 7:30 - 8:00 am
Lunch 11:00 - 12:00 pm

Springtown Elementary
416 East 3rd Street

Entrance to summer feeding will be from the parking lot off Avenue D behind the school

For more information, contact Kim Nash, Child Nutrition Director (knash@springtownisd.net) or Laura Champagne, Child Nutrition Secretary (lchampagne@springtownisd.net), office number

817-220-2460

The Edge Church pledges 'Life Match' to Eagle Mountain Pregnancy Help Center

Donations up to \$5,000 are expected to be matched by The Edge in September

ZACH FREEMAN
azlereporter@
tricountyreporter.com

The Edge Lutheran Church is looking to award a grant and match donations to benefit the Eagle Mountain Pregnancy Help Center (EMPHC). Donations collected from June to August up to \$5,000 will be matched by The Edge.

People can donate by sending a check made out to The Edge Church with "EMPHC" in the memo line to The Edge Lutheran Church of Azle, 1313 Southeast Parkway,

Azle, TX, 76020. You can also give online by following the QR code or go to edge4all.com under the "GIVE" tab and use the drop-down menu to choose EMPHC.

Cynthia Chapa, executive director of The Edge Lutheran Church, described this as a big endeavor for the small congregation.

"Katherine Ewing, a committed and gifted volunteer member of The Edge Lutheran Church of Azle, is currently completing the demanding task of writing a grant to benefit the Eagle Mountain Pregnancy

Help Center," Chapa said. "She is joined by a team of Edge church members who are spreading the word and organizing fundraising efforts. The grant, if awarded in September, would secure a dollar-for-dollar match, up to \$5,000, yielding a maximum total of \$10,000. This 'Life match' is offered by the congregation's national organization, the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. All donations collected through the end of August, whether matched or not, will be delivered to the Eagle Mountain Pregnancy Center."

Once the church has received the matching funds, its treasurer will write a check for the entire amount to the pregnancy center.

"Many members of the community are not able to attend the gala, and so contributing toward the matching grant doubles their efforts to support the ministry and help the center save babies and serve families," Karen Ogea, EMPHC Board President said. "To see another local ministry in such support of the ministry at EMPHC shows that the community is becoming aware of the increas-

ing need for family services in our area. The EMPHC deeply appreciates all the efforts of the community to keep the center a vital role to these women, children, families, and the preborn!"

FUNDS ARE EXPECTED TO COVER THE COST OF:

- Client-related software
- Pregnancy tests and supplies
- Baby equipment (ranging from sippy cups to bouncers)
- Bible study materials
- A Christ-centered Christmas party for clients and their families



COURTESY THE EDGE CHURCH
Scan the QR code to be taken to The Edge's website.

Don't let your fingers get you in trouble

One of the great things about being human is having fingers. Seriously, we can do all kinds of cool things with them. And if you don't fully appreciate how cool that is just ask someone who has either lost a digit or two or has lost full functionality.

Fingers can also get us in trouble. I'm going to give vague examples. You can use your imagination for the specifics.

We can get in trouble when we put our fingers where they don't belong.

We can get in trouble when we use our fingers in unwelcome gestures.

And who among us has never picked a nose in public?

Sorry about that last one. That was way too specific!



BE AMAZING

By Gerry Lewis

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

I'm thinking today, in this 7th installment in the art of healthy conversations, about a specific way that our fingers can get us in trouble from a distance.

I'm thinking about being keyboard warriors.

There is a certain reckless bravado that we can assume when we are typing that we would rarely assume in a face-to-face conversation. I say "rarely" instead of "never" because some of us have mastered the art of being jerks in person.

But that's a discussion for another day.

I could give tons of examples of the the keyboard warrior approach, but you've likely seen plenty of them on social media or in letters to the editor, blogs, op-eds, and the like.

In this post, however, I'm going to limit my thoughts to what I believe to be some helpful principles that invite and enhance healthy dialogue among people who are willing to listen, learn, and engage for the sake of building better

communities.

Principle #1 - Don't type something from a distance that would get you punched in the nose in person. Do I really even need to explain this? It seems that some of us really like to stir the pot, poke the bear, open a can of worms—whatever metaphor works.

Ok, that's the nature of public communication.

But some of us seem to enjoy getting personal about it. Name-calling, gaslighting, doxing, dog-whistling, virtue-signaling. Enough already!

Just. Don't.
Principle #2 - Don't invite a crowd into conversations that should be private. It's really difficult to have a productive dialogue on social media because observers often want to join in and be-

come participants. And if the dialogue starts to get tense, people start taking sides and it can easily degenerate into the kind of things that violate principle #1.

We need to be discerning about how we engage on public platforms. Some discussions are best conducted offline or, at the very least, in private messages. This allows us to stay on topic and control the "temperature" of the dialogue.

Principle #3 - Don't try to communicate digitally what can be easily misinterpreted. In the days before social media (and sometimes still today), we might fire off an angry email. Have you ever sent one of those and immediately wished you could unsend it?

Or have you ever had ei-

ther your email or text messages misinterpreted by the recipient and hurt feelings resulted?

Digital communication is convenient when we need to share information quickly. But it can't communicate tone of voice, facial expression (emojis notwithstanding), and other nonverbal expressions.

Some things just need to be spoken through a human voice and heard through human ears so that human hearts can truly connect around common interests and needs.

Knowing when to say it and not type it is an amazing measure of maturity and awareness.

Until next week, be amazing, my friend.



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Springtown to host citywide job fair June 29

MADELYN EDWARDS
springtownreporter@tricityreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — The city of Springtown will host its first-ever citywide job fair next week to help employers connect with potential employees.

The job fair will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, June 29 at the Springtown ISD administra-

tion building, located at 301 E. Fifth St. People who are looking for a job as well as employers in search of workers are encouraged to attend, City Secretary Christina Derr said.

"The city has heard from several local businesses who are struggling to find staff," Derr said. "Some of these businesses have had to reduce their operating hours due to their staffing short-

ages. The city, just like our business community, is also in need of candidates for several positions we have available. Additionally, we all routinely see residents on social media inquiring about available jobs because they need employment. It is our hope to serve as a facilitator and bring those two groups together and meet both sets of needs."

People seeking employ-

ment should bring anything they need to apply for a job, including their resumes, Derr said. The companies that are expected to be at the job fair include Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Springtown Police Department, Springtown ISD and its nutrition department, Springtown Park Rehabilitation and Care Center, Hometown Building Center, Howell's Café, the United States Postal Service,

Maddie Lou's Bar & Grill, El Cerrito Mexican Bar and Grill, Brookshire's, Atmos Energy, Jack in the Box, Senshi Sushi & Grill, Domino's Pizza, Slappy's Car Wash, Chicken Express and MRBraz and Associates.

"As you can see from the list of businesses that are already committed to participating, they are overwhelmingly local businesses," Derr said. "We have had a great

response from the business community, and I believe they are looking forward to the event."

Depending on the success of this year's event, Derr said the job fair may reoccur next year as well.

Employers who are interested in participating in the job fair should reach out to Rachele Ortega by email at rortega@cityofspringtown.com.

Survivors Studio holding book drive

Local therapy provider is seeking books for at-risk youth during month of June

ZACH FREEMAN
azlereporter@tricityreporter.com

Survivors Studio is partnering with Gracefully Planted to get essential reading materials to children in need for the upcoming school year. Gracefully Planted is a non-profit organization that provides back-to-school supply

kits and Christmas presents to underprivileged and at-risk children in the state of Texas and Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex.

Gracefully Planted also partners with Day 1 Bags, Grapevine Faith School, Northeast Baptist Church and multiple Child Protective Services offices to provide foster care youth with a new

duffel bag with their presents for the holidays. Gracefully Planted has been providing community members opportunities to donate and volunteer for almost 10 years. Whether it be wrapping gifts, stuffing duffel bags, making back-to-school kits or delivering the blessing for drop off, the organization also offers service hours for youth

needing an outlet to serve for school and sports or who are just wanting to serve the community.

"This year our new task is to be able to provide a book in every back-to-school supply kit for our 800-plus kids," Karen Kimbrough, therapist and founder of Survivors Studio said. "We currently have around 200 and still

need 600 books to make sure every child receives a book. This is where Survivors Studio comes in. They have offered to be a book drop-off point in the community."

She asked that people bring gently-loved books appropriate for children, adolescents and teenagers to the Survivors Studio drop-off location, at 1313 Southeast Parkway.

Drop-off hours are set for 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on Wednesdays throughout the month of June.

"Please make sure donated books are in like-new condition," Kimbrough said. "No markings or scribbles are appreciated. We look forward to planting new seeds in the Azle area." Survivors Studio is located on the side of The Edge Church in Azle.

Azle City government to survey residents at Music in the Park

Arrive at Azle Central Park before 8 p.m. on June 23 to be part of shaping city master plan

ZACH FREEMAN
azlereporter@tricityreporter.com

For the first time in almost

two decades, the city of Azle will begin writing a new comprehensive master plan. The plan will inform goals, direction and improvements for

the city in the foreseeable future.

One of the critical steps in drafting the document is getting community feedback

and gauging interest in future projects.

The city of Azle plans on having a booth at Azle's Music in the Park on June 23

from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., where residents can contribute ideas for the future of the city. More information and

updates on the progress of the project can be found at <https://cityofazle.org/684/Comprehensive-Plan> online.



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Eagle Crest Villa reminisces on 25 years of service

Director, assistant director celebrate with residents, look to future

ZACH FREEMAN
azlereporter@
tricountyreporter.com

During the week of June 11, Eagle Crest Villa Assisted Living Facility celebrated its 25th anniversary. To celebrate, Eagle Crest held an Island Birthday Party for the business on June 12, Sun and Fun outdoor activities with treats, and Angel Care. The main event for the week was Eagle Crest's June 16 Hot Rods Diner party. Residents, guests and staff donned pool skirts and slicked-back hair while the decorations and music from the 1950s created a truly retro scene. Residents and their visitors were served burgers and milkshakes by employees wearing 50s-inspired outfits.

Assistant Director Ashley Sands and Director Heather Simpson were thrilled the week went off without a hitch and were excited to celebrate 25 years of excellence in care. "I remember when Eagle Crest opened back in June 1998," Simpson said. "Assisted Living was a newish concept to the long-term care market. We were 'pioneers' of a sort. Dorothy Cherryhomes, the director who opened Eagle Crest and stayed until her retirement in 2015 (when I took the reins from her) did an amazing job at establishing a wonderful legacy that I strive daily to follow. That legacy being that we are here to serve our residents and care for them. And with that comes an amazing team who strives to follow in that legacy as well."

Ashley agreed, impressed by the landmark moments Eagle Crest has experienced and looking forward to what the future holds. "Regarding Eagle Crest's 25 years in business, it's a surreal experience for me to be a part of," Sands said. "It's almost unheard of for a locally owned business such as ours to stand the test of time like it has. This organization has remained steadfast through some of America's major historical milestones, and I feel extremely lucky to be near the front of the helm looking towards the future. I'm enthusiastic about the possibilities of where we can go from here." Simpson also remarked on the major technological changes that have impacted assisted living through



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER
Resident Melba Geeslin moved to Eagle Crest to be closer to her granddaughter, Ashley Sands, assistant director.



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER
Resident Jackie Ford with her guests wearing 1950s attire.

the years. "I am really looking forward to see what the future holds as far as resident care," Simpson said. "Technology has really changed the healthcare industry in the 13 years I have been involved here at Eagle Crest. I remember when I first started in 2003 as the activity director, I used magazines to get activity ideas whereas now, Diane our activity director uses an iPad. And wi-fi was not a thing in Eagle Crest in 2003. Now wi-fi is included for all our residents. And

Amazon alone has changed so much. During the pandemic our residents used Amazon and other delivery services more than ever, and still use them. COVID really changed the healthcare industry as well. Many healthcare workers got weary and burned-out by COVID. The long-term care industry saw its fair share of burn-out. But those of us who thrived during COVID are seeing the fruits of our labor. It made us stronger than we have ever been. I am looking forward to the next 25 years

and Eagle Crest being better and stronger than ever while continuing to serve and care for our residents while doing so. Of course, our Azle community has been so supportive of us over the last 25 years. We could not have been as successful as we have been without the community's involvement... Eagle Crest is owned by locals who live and work here in Azle. If there is a need here at Eagle Crest, they are a phone call away."

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Springtown Education Foundation raises \$19,500 from golf tournament

MADELYN EDWARDS
springtownreporter@tricityreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — The Springtown Education Foundation collected \$19,500 at its annual golf tournament fundraiser earlier this month. The foundation's 22nd annual golf tournament hosted

52 golfers on June 9 at Cross Timbers Golf Course in Azle. "We're very appreciative of all of our donors," said Tootie Hall, foundation board member and school board trustee. "Our sponsors just always come out and do a great job. We have a lot of fun, too." Started in 1992, the Springtown Education

Foundation is a nonprofit that supplements funding for the Springtown school district to support educational programs and classroom activities as well as recognize student achievement and staff excellence through scholarships and grants, according to the foundation's website.

At the foundation's golf tournament — a prominent fundraiser for the organization — awards were given to golfers based on their performances. Hall said first-place winners received \$100 each, second place \$75 each, and third, \$50 each. The first-place team, which won with a score of 56, fea-

tured Phillip Dutton, Joe Benefiel, Mike Adcock and Russell Hunter. In second place was the team that scored 57 points with Matt Gadway, Nate Erdmann, Trace Kloven and Mauro Ganzon. The team with Bryce Snyder, Joe Darter, Blake Radke and Jordan Ray scored

58 points and won third place. Awards were also given to golfers who came closest to the pin and for longest drive. Jordan Ray and Crystal Quintinella came closest to the pin in the men's and women's contests, respectively, and Rhett Gallagher had the longest drive.

Texas leads nation in jobs growth

FROM STAFF REPORTS

For the first time in history, the Texas seasonally adjusted civilian labor force crossed the 15 million threshold, adding 49,000 people over the month to reach 15,009,300 in May. Though the unemployment rate increased slightly to 4.1%, the number of employed also reached a new record high at nearly 14.4 million. Texas' total nonfarm employment increased by 51,000 positions over the month—adding more jobs than any other state—to reach a 20th consecutive series-high job count at 13,918,700 total nonfarm jobs and achieved 27 consecutive months of growth. Since May 2022, Lone Star State employment grew by 529,800 positions—outpacing every state in the nation

by number and percentage of jobs added. "With a record-breaking 15 million Texans in the civilian labor force, the Lone Star State is a great place for employers and job seekers alike," TWC Chairman Bryan Daniel said. "And the 687,000 job openings reported by Texas employers represent even greater opportunity for Texans and the Texas economy." Texas outpaced the nation for jobs added over the month and over the year, with a 4% annual growth from May 2022 to May 2023, compared to the nation's 2.7%. Professional and Business Services led all major industries with a monthly addition of 21,500 jobs, followed by Trade, Transportation and Utilities with 11,800 positions.

Mining and Logging notched 7,000 jobs, a 3.3% gain over the month. "One of the many strengths of Texas employers is the ability to lead the nation when it comes to job creation, innovation, and industry standards," TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Alberto Treviño III said. "TWC supports quality childcare and early learning, career and technical education, and adult education and literacy opportunities to obtain or enhance those skills." Employment estimates released by TWC are produced in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. All estimates are subject to revision. To access this and more employment data, visit TexasLMI.com. Texas Governor Greg Abbott also celebrated the strength of the growing Texas workforce and the state's robust jobs economy following the release

of May employment data showing Texas again smashing all previous records for total jobs, total Texans employed, and total Texas labor force. Texas has now added more than 2.1 million jobs under Governor Abbott's leadership. "Texas' robust economy stands apart as a model for the nation," Abbott said. "Not only are more Texans working than ever before, Texas leads the nation for jobs added over the last 12 months. Texas has also smashed the record for total jobs 20 months in a row, proof that jobs grow and people prosper where free enterprise flourishes. With the Texas labor force now surpassing 15 million people and larger than the population in 46 states, we truly are building an even stronger Texas of tomorrow."

May employment data released by the Texas Workforce Commission and the Bureau of Labor Statistics shows Texas again setting new record highs:

- Texas reaches a new high for total jobs at 13,918,700 as employers added 51,000 nonfarm jobs over the month.
- Texas reaches a new high for Texans working, including employed and self-employed, at 14,393,000.
- Texas reaches a new high with the largest labor force ever in the state's history at 15,009,300.
- Texas again leads the nation for job creation over the last 12 months, adding 529,800 jobs and growing at a 4.0% annual rate, well above the annual growth rate for the nation as a whole of 2.7%.



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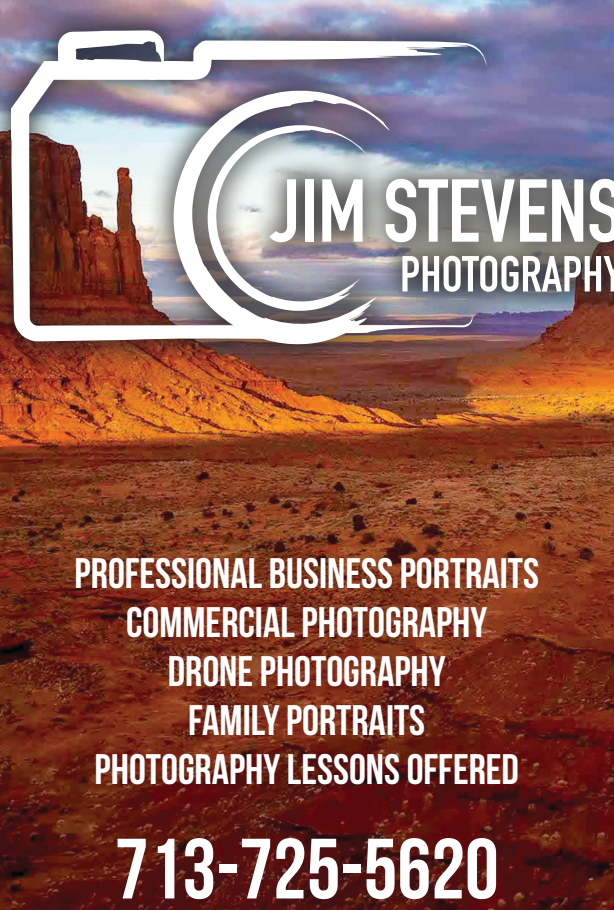
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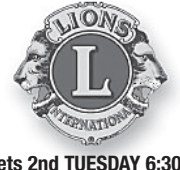



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Abbott vetoes bills; feud with Patrick grows

ABBOTT VETOES BILLS; FEUD WITH PATRICK GROWS

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick claimed last week that Gov. Greg Abbott is sabotaging the Senate's work because of their ongoing feud over which approach to property tax reform is best, The Dallas Morning News reported. Abbott vetoed three bills by Sen. Paul Bettencourt, R-Houston, who has been Patrick's point senator on increasing homestead exemptions in order to provide tax cuts. As of Sunday evening, the governor has vetoed 76 bills.

Abbott has threatened a string of vetoes if the House and Senate can't agree on a compromise on property tax relief. In each veto proclamation, Abbott has issued the following statement: "This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

Patrick took issue with that. "The governor's suggested threat today to veto a large number of Senate bills is an affront to the legislative process and the people of Texas," he said.

WILL THE STATE'S ELECTRIC GRID HOLD THIS SUMMER?

Much of Texas is in the throes of a sweltering heat wave, prompting concern that the electric grid will be strained as Texans try to keep cool. However, the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, which operates the grid, predicts it will be able to handle forecast peaks in energy usage, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

The biggest factor is de-



CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders

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

mand for air conditioning of homes and businesses, according to Robert Hebner, director of the University of Texas Center for Electromechanics.

"Any rapid change in temperature causes great difficulty. If you have a gradual change, (companies) usually adjust to it fairly well," Hebner said. "This summer, there's a good chance they've anticipated well enough that we'll be able to get through."

The first official day of summer was Wednesday, June 21.

NEW LAW BANS PAPER LICENSE PLATES

Temporary paper "dealer tags" will soon be a thing of the past after Gov. Abbott signed House Bill 718. The new law phases out the tags and requires dealers to issue \$10 metal plates to buyers purchasing vehicles, the Houston Chronicle reported.

Paper Texas tags have been criticized by law enforcement officials for years, since they are easy to fake and often used on vehicles used to commit crimes. A report by KXAN in 2021 found that selling of fake Texas tags had become a \$200 million illicit business.

The Department of Motor Vehicles has until December of next year to come up with a plan for creating and distributing metal plates to deal-

erships. The law itself goes into effect on July 1, 2025.

BILL RESTRICTING LOCAL CONTROL SIGNED INTO LAW

Cities and counties will be further restricted from implementing ordinances or regulations on issues normally addressed by the state after Abbott signed House Bill 2127, the Statesman reported. According to the bill's language, it is a means to "provide statewide consistency by returning sovereign regulatory powers to the state where those powers belong."

Previously, regulations put into place by cities were unenforceable if found to be in violation of a state code. An oft-cited example is an Austin ordinance passed in 2018 aimed at forcing most private employers in that city to provide sick leave. However, that ordinance never took effect since courts ruled it unconstitutional.

Opponents of HB 2127 fear it will further erode local governments' power to handle community issues.

"We barge into bedrooms, locker rooms, boardrooms, examining rooms and now city council meetings," Sen. Sarah Eckhardt, D-Austin, said during the debate. "We should be doing our job rather than micromanaging theirs."

CENTER

FROM PAGE A1

career adviser. The adviser would be responsible for "all of our college prep assessments, coordinating all of

that, really making sure that our kids are getting what they need as far as being ready for post-graduation plans," Kirkpatrick said.

Board President Rick Beall said incorporating the "Go Center" to SHS meets a need

that the community has been wanting.

"They want to see more CTE things," Beall said during the meeting. "This gives us the opportunity to work on that."

June is National Pet Preparedness Month

Commissioner Dawn Buckingham encourages Texans to prepare pets, livestock for natural disasters

FROM STAFF REPORTS

In observance of National Pet Preparedness Month, Texas Land Commissioner Dawn Buckingham, M.D., is encouraging Texans to include pets and livestock in their emergency plans and build a separate emergency kit for their animals. Hurricane season began June 1, and the Texas General Land Office (GLO) continues to remind coastal and inland Texans to know their risk, purchase flood insurance, protect their home, safeguard documents, and prepare emergency supplies and an evacuation route.

"Having evacuation plans and an emergency kit ready for your animals is one less thing you have to worry about when a storm is bearing down on your community," Commissioner

Buckingham said. "Knowing they're prepared means you'll have more time to protect your family and home. During hurricane season, every minute counts."

The GLO encourages all Texans to prepare for hurricane season by preparing an evacuation "go bag" for their pets, including the following: Each pet should have enough food and water to last them at least 3-7 days. Don't forget to change out their food every 2 days.

If daily medication is required for your animal, be sure to have enough for at least two weeks and store them in an airtight container. In case of any injury to your pet, be sure to include a first-aid kit. Include the animal's health and vaccinations record book with other documents.

Bring copies of your animal's registration papers, adoption information, or other records for each pet. Include pictures of your pets individually with you. This will help reunite you if your pet gets lost during an evacuation.

Make sure your pet is microchipped, which provides the best chance for efficient reunification if you get separated during a disaster.

You can begin preparing your livestock and horses for a natural disaster by maintaining an inventory, making sure animals have some type of identification, and planning evacuation arrangements.

<https://recovery.texas.gov/documents/disaster-preparedness/pet-preparedness-flyer.pdf>

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS CITY OF AZLE, TEXAS SHADY GROVE PARK LIGHTING

Separate sealed bids for the construction of **SHADY GROVE PARK LIGHTING** (Azle bid number 2023-008) will be received by the **City of Azle, Texas** until **3:00 PM** on **THURSDAY, JULY 20, 2023**, at City Hall, 505 W. Main Street, Azle, Texas, 76020, and then at said location publicly opened and read aloud. This project includes the furnishing and installation of 74 bollard lights, 3 pole mounted lights, conduit and conductors, breakers, panel, and all other appurtenances.

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

1925 Fort Worth Highway, 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.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 1925 Fort Worth Highway, Weatherford, TX 76086. Cost for hard copies of the **CONTRACT DOCUMENTS** will be **\$100.00** for 11x17 half size plans. 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 (06/22/23)

LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICES

"We, Eleazar Fontanez & Maria Santos Desnoyers are bringing forth a Land Patent Benefit for the following parcel located at 120 W Franklin Ave, Saginaw, Texas, NON-DOMESTIC .usA. Any party interested in viewing or challenging this claim can view the associated documents here <https://WWW.W.statenationalhelp.com/Eleazar-fontanez-maria-santos-desnoyers>"

ORDINANCE NO. 23-005

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PELICAN BAY, TEXAS, PROVIDING FOR THE REGULATION OF PARKING OF RECREATIONAL VEHICLES, BOATS, OVERSIZED VEHICLES, AND UTILITY TRAILERS WITHIN THE CITY; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR A PENALTY FOR VIOLATIONS; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION IN THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

SECTION 4.

PENALTY FOR VIOLATION

Any person, firm, or corporation violating any of the terms and provisions of this ordinance shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be fined up to five-hundred (\$500.00) dollars. Each such violation shall be deemed a separate offense and shall be punishable as such hereunder for violation of this ordinance.

SECTION 6.

PUBLICATION CLAUSE

The City Secretary of the City of Pelican Bay is hereby directed to publish the caption, penalty clause, publication clause, and the effective date clause in the official City newspaper two times as required by Section 52.011 of the Texas Local Government Code.

SECTION 7.

EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication, as provided by the law.

PASSED AND APPROVED ON THIS 13th DAY OF JUNE 2023.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER AN ON-SITE SEWAGE FACILITY ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF RENO, PARKER COUNTY, TEXAS:

The City of Reno, Parker County, Texas proposes to hold a public hearing on an On-Site Sewage Facility Ordinance. A copy of the proposed ordinance is on file in the Office of the City Secretary. A public hearing will be held by and before the City Council of the City of Reno, Parker County, Texas on the 26th day of June 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers of the City Hall of the City of Reno, Parker County, Texas, located at 195 Reno Road, Azle, Texas for all persons interested in the above, On-Site Sewage Facility Ordinance. At said time and place all such persons shall have the right to appear and be heard. For more information, please contact the City at (817)221-2500 Ext. 103.

THE STATE OF TEXAS CITATION BY PUBLICATION CAUSE NO. 23P236

In the Matter of the Estate of Donald Harbour, Jr., Deceased TO ALL UNKNOWN OR MISSING HEIRS OF THE ESTATE OF DONALD HARBOUR, JR., DECEASED. Lisa Ann Harbour in the above-numbered and entitled estate filed an Application for Issuance of Letters of Independent Administration and for Declaration of Heirship on 05/24/2023 In the Estate of Donald Harbour, Jr., Deceased, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of Donald Harbour, Jr., Deceased, and their respective shares and interest in such estate, and appointing Lisa Ann Harbour to serve as the Independent Administrator of said estate and Determined Heirship. The court may act on said application at any call of the docket on or after 10:00 o'clock A.M. on the first Monday next after the expiration of 10 days from the date of publication of this citation, at the Parker County Court, One Courthouse Square, Weatherford, TX 76086 in Parker County, Texas. All persons interested in this case are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court by filing a written contest or answer to said Application before the above stated time and date should you desire to do so. To ensure its consideration, you or your attorney must file any contest, objection, intervention, or response in writing with the County Clerk of Parker County, Texas on or before the above noted date and time. Given under my hand and the seal of said Court of Parker County, Texas at the office of the Parker County Clerk, on this 25th day of May, 2023. LILA DEAKLE, County Clerk, Parker County Texas, by Sharon Hall, Deputy Clerk.

Legal Notice

Notice is hereby given that the Springtown Independent School District intends to accept and examine contract proposals and negotiate a contract for complete custodial services of the District. Proposals shall be due at Springtown Independent School District, 301 E 5th St, Springtown, TX 76082. Proposals will be accepted until 10:00 am, July 31, 2023. Information will be posted on our website: www.springtownisd.net/Menu/Departments/Business/Purchasing. The Springtown ISD reserves the right to accept any proposal which it deems most favorable in the best interest of the school district and to reject any or all proposals or any portion of any proposal submitted, which, in their opinion, is not in the best interest of the District.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

To satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale to be held at Azle Southeast Storage, 1004 Southeast Parkway, Azle, TX at 10:30am 7-6-2023 Property to be sold to the highest bidder for CASH. Property includes contents of the following tenants Cindi Odum :Household Items

Climbing the ranks

Springtown Cub Scouts in Pack 22 advanced to the next level during ceremony



MADELYN EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Pack 22 Assistant Cubmaster Kay Hunnicutt and Mike Snyder tie neckerchiefs on Bella Moya and Izayah Zapata-Snyder symbolizing their progression to the Arrow of Light rank on June 14.



MADELYN EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Abel Lockwood beams while he holds up his certificate announcing that he has advanced to the Wolf rank in Springtown Cub Scouts Pack 22 in last week's ceremony.



MADELYN EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Avram James Squires, a Springtown Cub Scout in Pack 22, gives a thumbs up to the audience as he receives his new neckerchief symbolizing advancement to the Tiger rank at a ceremony on June 14.



PUBLIC MEETING

RECREATION MASTER PLAN

YOUR COMMUNITY. YOUR VOICE.

Tarrant Regional Water District is looking towards the future of recreation and we need your community's input.

In partnership with Dunaway Associates, a landscape architecture and engineering firm, the plan will focus on TRWD trails, trailheads, parks, recreation areas, events and event spaces specific to our assets along the Trinity Trails System, Eagle Mountain and Marine Creek Lakes.



Public meeting location:

Azle City Hall

505 W Main Street, Azle, TX 76020

Meeting date and time:

Thursday, June 29 at 6:30 pm

To learn more about the TRWD Recreation Master Plan, visit **TRWD.com/MasterPlan**



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Girls in the troop

Springtown's new BSA troop for girls received its first members

MADELYN EDWARDS
springtownreporter@
tricountyreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — Involvement in Scouting has been an important part of Arieyl Snyder's life, and unlike girls of yesteryear, she is able to pursue the Boy Scouts of America's top rank — Eagle Scout.

Arieyl, 12, and her friend Elizabeth Stegman-Salinas, 10, are the first members of the Scouts BSA Troop 22 for girls in the Springtown area. They participated in a ceremony where they crossed a model bridge to symbolize advancement from Cub Scouts, which is for younger kids, to Scouts BSA. (One boy, Hayden Silva, also advanced into Troop 22, though he'll be in the one for boys only.)

Cub Scouts Pack 22 and BSA Troop 22 started last year, but the BSA troop only had boys at first. After the bridging ceremony on June 14, the girls troop is now official. Currently, Troop 22 is the only one in Springtown with female scouts.

The ceremony was an emotional experience for Arieyl. Pack 22 Cubmaster Shane Gross led the ritual, and Arieyl said seeing him tear up made her want to cry "because I was so happy that I did this."

"I'm very proud," Gross said. "The girls and the boys work very hard to get to this, and I'm honored to

have been the cubmaster for most of the year to see them through this, this part of the journey. And then I'll be honored to watch them grow on the other part of their journey."

In 2019, girls started being officially allowed in Scouts BSA. In girls-only troops, they learn the same program and earn the same badges and advancements as boys and can pursue the Eagle Scout rank.

"It makes me feel like girls can do anything boys can," Arieyl said about being able to start a new troop for girls.

Arieyl was attracted to Cub Scouts after she heard about it at school years ago. She thought it would be a good activity, and though she was shy at first, Arieyl said she made friends and learned a lot.

"I've actually cooperated with all of the stuff that they have taught us and how to do things," she said. "I've learned so much more things than I did."

Moving into the troop, Arieyl wants to be a leader for younger kids.

"I want to teach the kids how to respect people and honor Scouting," she said.

Arieyl and Elizabeth both have some ideas of what they may do for their future Eagle Scout projects. Arieyl wants to keep people safe on hikes, and Elizabeth envisions teaching kids not to bully each other.

"I don't want little kids being bullied," Elizabeth said

about her inspiration for this project concept.

Arieyl's and Elizabeth's mothers — Assistant Cubmaster Kay Hunnicutt and Christy Stegman, respectively — volunteered during the bridging ceremony and said they were happy to see their girls advance to the troop.

"I'm still new to scouts, so I like being part of a new pack and a new troop because I'm learning at the same time they're learning, and we can all just build it together," Stegman said.

Hunnicutt described Cub Scouts as teaching kids the basics of Scouting, whereas the Scouts BSA program is more challenging.

"They camp for longer. They hike for longer. They travel more than we do," Hunnicutt said. "They're building stuff. They're more hands-on. Their service projects are way more hardcore than ours."

Despite the increased challenge, both moms were certain that their daughters would rise to the occasion. The moms said they want their daughters to become leaders who are independent, know how to handle emergencies and make connections with others.

"I'm excited for more independence," Hunnicutt said. "They're going to learn on their own instead of having somebody hold their hand and do it, and I feel like they'll do great."



MADELYN EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER
Arieyl Snyder became one of the first members of the Scouts BSA Troop 22 for girls in the Springtown area during a ceremony on June 14. Currently, Troop 22 is the only one in Springtown with female scouts.



MADELYN EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER
Ashley Gross adjusts Elizabeth Stegman-Salinas's collar around her new Scouts BSA Troop 22 neckerchief at the bridging ceremony on June 14. Troop 22's group for girls is now official after last week's celebration.

TCR

Junior

WORLD
Music
DAY
JUNE 21

COLOR Time

World Music Day

Words can be found in any direction (including diagonals) and can overlap each other. Use the word bank below.

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

Music
Instrument
Cello
Tuba

Note
Tempo
Treble
Soprano

Tenor
Rhythm

HEALTH
FACT:

TERAPY INVOLVING THIS
ACTIVITY CAN ENHANCE
COMMUNICATION AND COPING AND
HELP PEOPLE BETTER
EXPRESS THEIR FEELINGS.

ANSWER: LISTENING TO MUSIC

NEW
Word

CLEF

a musical symbol to
indicate the pitch
of the notes written
on a staff

Did You
Know?

THERE ARE FOUR MAIN CLEFS
USED IN MODERN MUSIC:
TREBLE, BASS, ALTO, AND TENOR.

PEOPLE
FACT:

THIS INSTRUMENT
IS OFTEN INTRODUCED
TO YOUNG CHILDREN IN
SCHOOL MUSIC CLASSES.

ANSWER: RECORDER

World Music Day is a very special day that happens once a year where people all over the world celebrate the magic of music!

On this day, musicians and music lovers come together to play, sing and dance to all kinds of music. It doesn't matter if the music is from your country or another country, if it's fast or slow, or if it's played on a guitar or drums - everyone can enjoy it!

There are concerts and performances happening in lots of different places, like parks, streets, and music venues. You might see people playing music on instruments like guitars, pianos, drums, or even just using

their voices to sing.

The best part about World Music Day is that it's a day to celebrate how music can bring people together from all around the world. It doesn't matter what language you speak or where you come from, music is something that we can all enjoy and understand.

So, World Music Day is a day to celebrate the joy of music and to appreciate all the different sounds and rhythms that make it so special.

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THE TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

DIVERSIONS

B

THURSDAY, June 22, 2023



Hevenli Scribner ranks fourth in the state in pole bending as she prepares for nationals.

COURTESY JENNINGS RODEO PHOTOGRAPHY

Azle rodeo's Hevenli Scribner qualifies for nationals

JEFF PRINCE
sports@tricityreporter.com

AZLE - A girl who didn't begin riding horses until 2019 has done something few Azle rodeo members ever accomplish.

In early June at the Texas High School Rodeo Association state finals in Abilene, sophomore Hevenli Scribner beat out 96 of the 100 best pole riders to finish in fourth place in pole bending and qualify to compete at nationals.

The National High School Rodeo Finals will be held on July 16 in Gillette, Wyoming.

Scribner competed in three rounds of pole bending competition at the state contest. The event features the top rodeo athletes in Texas, and the combined times of three runs determine the winners.

Kristy Scribner is "extremely proud" of daughter Hevenli's accomplishment. The Scribners adopted Hevenli, who had no prior experience with horses.

"She has had to work extremely hard to obtain this level of riding," Kristy Scribner said. "She rides almost daily and works to (be) the best. This is one of the hardest qualifications for a rodeo athlete to achieve, and she did it. Texas is probably the toughest state to qualify for National High School Finals because (of) the amount of talent Texas has entered at state finals."

Scribner's teammate Laurel Allred finished in 11th place in the state competition. Only the top four in each event advance to nationals.

The Texas High School State Finals Rodeo is an annual week-long event that draws youths from around

the state as well as surrounding states. Awards and scholarships are available, as well as the opportunity to represent the Lone Star state at the National High School Finals Rodeo.



JEFF PRINCE | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER
Hevenli Scribner qualified for Texas High School Rodeo Association state finals, despite not riding her first horse until 2019.

Hall of Famer

Oklahoma university honors Azle man who blazed baseballs 50 years ago

JEFF PRINCE
sports@tricityreporter.com

AZLE - Before moving to Azle in 1990 to coach at the high school, John Ward had been a star athlete, earning local legend status as a baseball outfielder in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

Oklahoma Panhandle State University hasn't forgotten him.

The college will induct Ward into its Hall of Fame on Saturday, Sept. 30, for his athletic achievements and lasting impact on the Aggie baseball program.

Ward, who resides in Azle, grew up in Milford, Conn., and excelled in sports. While at high school in the late 1960s, he played in the Connie Mack World Series in Farmington, New Mexico.

He pursued his love of baseball on scholarship at OPSU, known as Panhandle State College then.

In 1969, Ward was named the team's Most Valuable Freshman. He followed up that stout debut by earning all-conference recognition in 1970, 1971, and 1972.

His alma mater praised his "consistent excellence and unwavering dedication to the sport" and characterized him as "one of the conference's most formidable athletes."

In 1972, his senior year, Ward was named team MVP and was the sole Panhandle player to participate in the Oklahoma Collegiate



COURTESY PHOTOS FROM ROYAL WARD

John Ward was a wizard on the baseball field while growing up.

PLEASE SEE **WARD** | B6



COURTESY PHOTOS

Kate (Wright) Webb earned a place in the Tarleton State University Athletic Hall of Fame.

Former Azle athlete inducted into Tarleton State Hall of Fame

JEFF PRINCE
sports@tricityreporter.com

AZLE - Being inducted into the Tarleton State University Athletics Hall of Fame didn't make Kate (Wright) Webb expound on her athleticism.

The honor made her think about all the people who helped shape her along the way.

"It's very humbling," Webb

said, praising a "combination of people pouring time and energy and effort into me unselfishly."

On May 6, Tarleton honored Webb at a ceremony on campus. The former track star wowed crowds for four years at the college and was voted team MVP each year. In 2000, she earned wide recognition while competing in the heptathlon at the

NCAA Division II National Championships.

During her senior year, she won championships in the 400-meter run, javelin, and was on a winning mile relay team. She medaled in the 100-meter hurdles and the sprint relay, and qualified for the national championships. She earned a bronze

PLEASE SEE **HOF** | B5

All net

Springtown basketball summer camp a slam dunk with kids

JEFF PRINCE
jeff@azlenews.net

SPRINGTOWN - The twins had never played basketball before, but each little fellow found an element of the game that spoke to him.

On June 13-15, Springtown High School hosted its boys basketball summer camp, and about 100 kids ranging from the second to ninth grades participated.

Two of the youngest were identical twins Adam and Nicholas Garcia. They dressed identically except

for their footwear. Nicholas wore blue sneakers. Adam donned red. Their skill sets are what made them stand apart from one another.

During drills, Nicholas displayed all the signs of a defensive specialist, creating turnovers by chasing down other campers dribbling balls.

"I like to knock the basketball away from the other people," he said.

Adam was all about offense — shooter — He pre-



JEFF PRINCE | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER
Max Harris drives to the bucket.

SEE **CAMP** | B3

Fancy footwork

Azle soccer camp teaches new skills while reinforcing basics

JEFF PRINCE
sports@tricityreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — Watching her two daughters moving around the soccer field at Azle High School gave Holly Nelson a warm feeling.

Her youngest, Marley, was learning new skills at summer camp. Marley's older sister, Emma, was serving as a volunteer coach. Both girls appeared happy to be there. "I'm just excited to see them all improving out here and developing the soccer program," their mom, Holly Nelson, said. "Our whole family loves soccer."

On June 12-15, girls and boys soccer camps drew 170 participants, exceeding the attendance from previous years.

Emma Nelson, a sophomore member of the varsity team, volunteered to work with the youngsters to "get them stronger so that whenever they are up here, we can keep growing and get an even better team in the future," she said. "We're trying to help out the coaches and help out with younger generations. If their technical skills aren't the best, we can help them out and make them better."

Younger sister Marley has

focused on gymnastics in recent years but decided to try soccer for the first time. Her mother supported the switch.

"We took a break from gymnastics," Holly Nelson said. "She kind of wanted to follow her older sister's footsteps and give soccer a shot."

So far, Marley has shown natural talent and an appreciation for the game.

"She is loving it," Holly Nelson said. "Every day, she's excited to come back."

Girls soccer camp drew 70 participants, and the boys camp attracted more than 100.

Last year, the camps drew about 30 boys and fewer girls, said coach Diego Oliveros.

"We definitely exceeded expectations as far as sign-ups," he said. "We more than tripled the numbers, and that makes me excited for soccer at Azle."

He credited the boost in popularity to hard work by the players, exciting games, and a strong effort to involve the fans.

"We've made the community a part of it," Oliveros said. "We've gone out to the elementary schools to greet them in the morning. We put our flyers out. We've had oc-



From left, Lady Hornet varsity members Sarae Perez, Anahi Colmenero, Emma Nelson, and Braylee McKown help out with summer camp.

casions during our games where we can have kids come out. We have really promoted ourselves online — Instagram and Facebook. We've done a lot to involve the community into Azle High School soccer."

Attracting younger kids to the sport is a key to growing the program and instilling all the good things that come with that — discipline, self-respect, and setting goals.

"My goal here for the long run is to get all these kids as excited and as interested in soccer as possible," Oliveros said. "I'm making something that lasts for a lifetime like it did with a lot of us who play soccer. The earlier they start playing and the more skills

they develop, the more passion they have for the game."

Nate Ortega, 12, enjoys soccer, but his passion was fading on the first morning of camp. He would have preferred being in a vertical position at home.

"I didn't want to come because I wanted to sleep," he said.

His grandmother, Vera Deleon, had driven him to camp and stayed to watch. The seventh grader has played soccer since he was 5 and hoped to improve his skills before trying out for the junior high team, she said.

Deleon worked as a teacher and coach for 30 years, including 19 at AHS. She hoped

to see her grandson play at Hornet Stadium one day.

"I love it," she said. "Azle is a great community."

Teagun Swatsworth, 9, has played soccer for two years but figured he could learn more at camp. On the first day, he developed new techniques for dribbling the ball and passing to teammates "when they are really far," he said. "Camp helps you learn stuff."

Christina Harder brought her son, Ben Harder, an eighth grader, to camp even though he has played soccer for years.

"He loves soccer," she said. "He played at junior high this year. He wants to continue to get better and get to know

some of the high school coaches so when he gets to high school, they will kind of be familiar with him."

Christina Harder enjoyed watching him run around.

"He just loves playing," she said. "Loves touching the ball. That's how you get better. Just keep practicing. Getting outside. Getting exercise. Getting to know some other kids he may not know. Listening to other adults he is not used to listening to. It's good for his whole person. Otherwise, he'd be home, probably on the computer. Why not come outside, get some exercise, touch the ball, and play a game that you love to play?"



In center, Marley Nelson joins hands with teammates at the end of soccer camp.



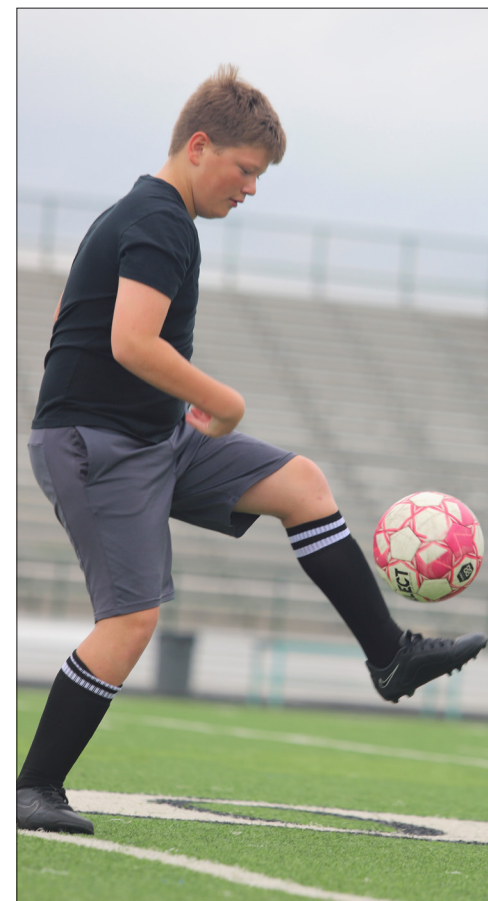
Marley Nelson works on dribbling in traffic.



Ben Harder practices his dribbling skills.



Nicole Johnson practices her footwork.



Nate Ortega enjoys summer camp despite wanting to sleep in late.



Kamryn Paschal learns the sport of soccer at camp.

NET
FROM PAGE B1

ferred dribbling to the basket and hoisting the ball toward the net.

"I like scoring," he said. Their dad, Manuel Garcia, was happy to see them on the basketball court, running and smiling. At first, they had resisted camp — even shed tears. Dad insisted they attend.

On the first day, the twins arrived fearful.

"They are very shy," their dad said. "This was very needed for them. Initially, they didn't want to participate, but they're starting to soften up."

It was the boys' first time inside a gymnasium, and they were unaccustomed to the sights and sounds. Bright lights. Loud whistles. Kids yelling. Shoes squeaking. Seeing so many older boys inside the gym unnerved the twins, who began crying, thinking they would be going against larger kids.

By the final day of camp, the twins' nerves had vanished. Both boys ran around the court with confidence.

Nicholas had become more adept at shooting and was sinking baskets regularly.

"I'm seeing a lot of progress," their father said. "They're doing pretty good for their first time at a ball camp."

Watching his boys overcome their fears pleased him.

"The first day, I couldn't go to the restroom because they chased me in the hallway," he said. "They didn't want me to leave them alone. Now, they probably don't even know I'm here."

The twins had worked on drills as part of a small group of second graders being led by Hudson Hulett, a senior on the varsity basketball team at Springtown High School. Hulett and several teammates donated their time to help at camp.

Garcia pointed to Hulett, whom he didn't know, and praised the teenager for showing patience with his inexperienced kids.

"The fellow that they assigned to this group has been really kind to them," he said. "I can tell he's got some experience with younger ages. He encouraged them and follows through



Rhyder Flores looks to make a pass.

JEFF PRINCE | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER



Hudson Hulett shines while working with the youngsters.

JEFF PRINCE | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER



Holden Purvis had fun trying to shoot a basketball that was almost as big as himself.

JEFF PRINCE | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER



Nicholas Garcia takes aim while twin brother Adam launches a shot.

JEFF PRINCE | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

with his instructions."

Hulett will be the starting quarterback on the football team, the basketball center, and the track and field discus thrower when school begins in August. He has earned plenty of second-hand experience with coaching. His father, Brian Hulett, is athletic director and head football coach.

Varsity basketball coach Nathan Purvis was happy to see the large turnout at summer camp, including three of his own kids. The boys camp drew 100 participants, the most ever, Purvis said.

"It's gradually been get-

ting more and more every year," he said. "I love to see these little Pines in the gym and dribbling a basketball, getting better, and having fun."

He, too, praised Hulett and the other high school athletes who donated their time. The little tykes look up to the older boys and enjoy working with them. When basketball season is underway, some of these young boys show up at varsity games and ask the high school athletes for autographs.

"They look up to them," Purvis said.

His varsity players "do a

great job of upholding the standard of our program," Purvis said. "They are high character kids doing the right thing. They make it a lot of fun for them."

He wasn't surprised that Hudson Hulett showed such grace working with the little ones.

"Hudson is a phenomenal leader in our (basketball) program and the football program," Purvis said. "He is going to do everything right every time. That's a testament to his parents doing a great job with him. I'm super proud of that kid."

WARD
FROM PAGE B1

Conference All-Star game.

His wife, Royal Ward, said the Hall of Fame honor is well deserved by a man too humble to ever "toot his own horn."

John Ward taught social studies and coached football and baseball from 1990 to 2013 at AHS. He retired as the head tennis coach.

John and Royal Ward's three children graduated

from AHS — Adam Ward (1997), Jill Ward Cross (1999), and Carly Ward Sawford (2002).

People around Azle still recall John Ward as a teacher and coach, but few of them ever saw him dominate the baseball diamond like he did in college. Royal Ward is one of the few. She and John met at college and have been married 50 years.

"Most people didn't know that he had such success as a baseball player at his college," she said. "I watched



him play baseball. My dad was an avid baseball fan. So, my dad looking down from heaven would be the most proud of anything that anybody's ever done. It's important to us."

COURTESY PHOTOS FROM ROYAL WARD
Azle resident John Ward is being inducted into the Oklahoma Panhandle State University Athletic Hall of Fame.

"Most people didn't know that he had such success as a baseball player at his college... I watched him play baseball. My dad was an avid baseball fan. So, my dad looking down from heaven would be the most proud of anything that anybody's ever done. It's important to us."

ROYAL WARD
wife of John Ward

Hot Time in Sim City

I just can't get enough of bossing people around

I've been a big fan of the Sims franchise since I encountered the first game by Sid Meier, 1989's "Sim City." If you think micro-managing a city is a bunch of fun, then "Sim City" is for you. The game is built on an isometric grid. Zone your city for residential, commercial, and industrial, put down your roads, place a power plant and run your electrical grid to your city to power it. And don't forget the water supply!

The real challenge of "Sim City" was always to not build too quickly. Because it's a resource game, you need resources to fund the building of your city. You can't build too much, because you're spending money to maintain these structures. It has to match the number of people moving into your city or the city will stagnate. Put down industrial zones, so people will start building businesses, and residential, so they'll live near their jobs. Don't forget the police stations, fire stations, health clinics, and oh no, those people want schools for their kids. Do you pick a coal power plant that produces lots of electricity, but also lots of pollution? Or do you put down a bunch of wind turbines that will need to be replaced in 20 years?

As the years went by, Sim City got more complicated. "Sim City 4," released in 2003, was the last 'good' Sim City game. It allowed you to terraform an entire region, joining bodies of water and landmasses together across a region. Each city was a stand-alone economy, but could be joined with other cities to make a region-wide economy of commerce. Unfortunately as the game got more complex, it required more and more time to play it, and nobody had that kind of time any more. "Sim City 5" was released and we all hated it — it tried to create an easier Sim City experience, but instead took away all of the stuff we liked about the game in the first place.

To play "Sim City 4" now, you need an older PC running on Windows XP. The kiddo loves playing it on my old laptop, although sometimes I think he just plays it to turn



GAME ON

By Jennifer Harrison

My opinions on computer gaming and some of my favorite games. I've been playing games on the home computer since the days of the Trash 80. I love indie, open-world, unique, puzzle, and resource games. The cake is a lie.

on disaster mode and watch an alien invasion or a volcanic eruption.

Fortunately people like me who loved Sim City went to make other games. If you're looking for a build-your-own city game, there's lots of them out there. Some are a time investment, while others are more casual.

Here's a list of my personal favorite Sim City-type games:

CITIES SKYLINES

This is a full-on city building game, very much like Sim City, but better. Handy guides allow you to line up your structures and roads instead of just counting the blocks. You get a refund when demolishing infrastructure. You'll provide power, clean water, road systems, zoning, city services, waste management and sewage control. Along with keeping the citizens happy, you have full control over taxes, city management, ordinances and laws. You can terraform using the map editor by importing grayscale images. Regular gameplay is similar to Sim City, but without the complex building of regions. You can purchase more land and expand your city. One of the highlights of "Cities: Skylines" is the ability to pre-build highway elements like cloverleaves and overpasses.

TIMBERBORN

Like Sim City, but with beavers. In the world of "Timberborn," you're in a post-apocalyptic world. Droughts happen regularly. Your goal is to help your group of beavers survive by building dams, water barrels, farms, water wheels and pumps, and even eventually mills to produce planks, gears, paper and more. Just like with any other resource game, you must use your beavers' labor where it will do the most good in the shortest possible time. Your beavers'

first priority should be storing water so they can make it through a drought. Farming is also extremely important and will provide food for your beavers to live longer.

MINI MOTORWAYS

Do you like all the road-building in Sim City but wish that you didn't have to mess with the rest of it? Try "Mini Motorways." Your job is to build roads so that the citizens can get to their jobs and their homes. You've got surface streets, highways, roundabouts, and bridges to manipulate. The more efficient, the better.

BANISHED

This is a great game that seems to have been abandoned by its developer. You start with a group of settlers and a wagon of supplies, and your goal is to build a self-sufficient town. Modes range from extremely hard (Adam and Eve, only one hand tool and no clothing) to easy (storehouse of food and a town center already built). Challenges include building farms, raising cattle, maintaining beehives and fighting disease.

CIVILIZATION

I can't go without mentioning "Civilization," another epic series of games by Sid Meier. "Civilization" starts with your choice of one of several cultures. Your job is to take that culture from the very first glimmers of 'civilization' to space exploration, a new world order, or world conquest. Explore your land and conquer or occupy areas to mine its resources and build farms. Expand your territory to include access to the ocean so you can build ships to explore other countries. There's even diplomacy when you encounter other cultures, or war if the diplomacy doesn't go so well. Like other resource games it can be a

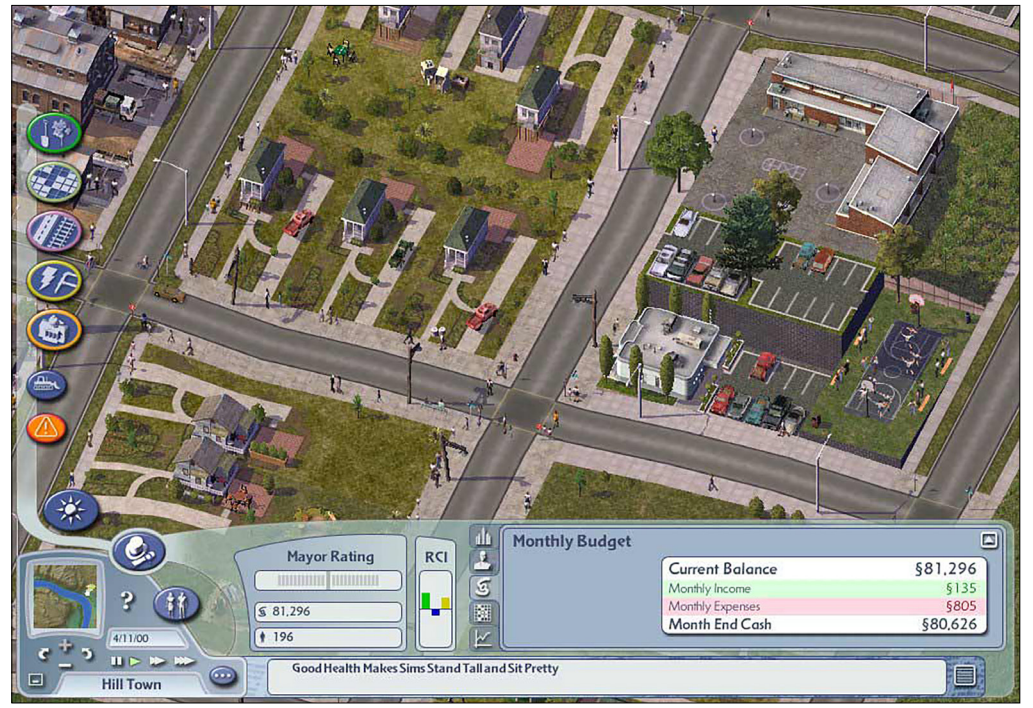


PHOTO COURTESY EA GAMES

Sim City 4 gameplay



PHOTO COURTESY PARADOX INTERACTIVE

Cities: Skylines gameplay features more natural looking streets, cities, and even has weather patterns like rainfall.

time suck — be prepared to spend several hours of gameplay before you reach the end of the game. But if you're like me you won't notice what time it is until you're yawning, looking at the clock, and realizing that it's midnight and you still have to go to work tomorrow. This game really deserves its own in-depth column, but I will say that I recommend it highly.

STELLARIS

"Civilization" in space. Instead of individual cultures, you have an entire Universe of solar systems and planets, some populated, some not. Using a system of

alignment and beliefs, the beings inhabiting these planets will either be receptive to joining your alliance, while some will wage war with you instead. Some solar systems can be claimed by your empire, mined for resources, or used for their wormholes and ancient alien gateways. Scientific research unlocks better weapons, better ships, terraforming to make your planets more hospitable, and inventions to make your inhabitants happier. There are ancient alien civilizations and technologies you will discover. Unfortunately, much of this story content is locked behind a DLC wall.

It is a very large game. Just a warning: A single game can be 60-70 hours of play time. You'll pick the speed that you want to play the game at, but as you expand your empire, you'll need to pause the game to manage several solar systems at once.

These are just a sampling of the types of games that I've played. There are so many out there, some better than others. We're in a golden age of gaming when it comes to playing resource-gathering city simulation games. It makes it hard to pick and choose which one to play next.

Agnes Schoolhouse educating residents on rainwater harvesting

FROM STAFF REPORTS

SPRINGTOWN - Community volunteers are lovingly restoring the nearly 100-year-old schoolhouse on a hill and turning it into a thriving community center, bringing new life to an abandoned landmark.

Located in the shadow of Springtown, the Agnes Schoolhouse is a place where residents can buy fresh produce from a "Garden on the Go," or attend a family reunion where they can celebrate their past and future.

Thanks to the Tarrant Regional Water District, visitors can also see how to build a system that captures rainwater and uses it for irrigation, a tradition that saves water and protects the watershed by cutting down on erosion.

Starting in 2022, TRWD, along with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, built two rainwater harvesting systems - including installation of guttering and rain barrels - on the schoolhouse and its well pump house.

"It shows how easy it can be to build a rain harvesting system from things you can buy at Home Depot or a Tractor Supply store," said Aaron Hoff, TRWD's watershed program manager. "It's not hard, you don't need an engineering degree to do this."

Christina Adcock, who lives down the street from the Agnes Schoolhouse and has led the efforts to restore it, said the center was looking for a way to cheaply irrigate its community gardens. Rainwater harvesting fits the bill.

"Water is important to us

out here and every little bit counts," Adcock said.

Saving water, and protecting the watershed, is especially important as North Texas' population grows and stretches out into the rural areas, or exurbs. These communities feature low housing density, but still bring with it some suburban ills such as increased water demand and covering over soil that used to absorb rainwater with structures and impervious surfaces.

What used to be Agnes is a good example. Located about 18 miles north of Weatherford and eight miles west of Springtown, it originally was settled in the 1870s. At one time it had a blacksmith shop, a general store, a cotton gin, a post office and a school.

The town never got bigger than 100 residents and people began going to Springtown to shop and attend school. The three-room schoolhouse, this version built in 1927, stopped serving students in 1946, Adcock said.

But now, Springtown is stretching out and taking in Agnes, with its newer residents being lured by the rural, spacious living atmosphere. Many of them have never lived on a farm. There is a disconnect with that way of life.

"Historically, going back 50 or 60 years, a lot of rural areas caught rain runoff and put it in cisterns. As people got more urbanized, they forgot about the importance of making good uses of our natural resources, including rainwater," said Jay Kingston, a Texas AgriLife extension



PHOTO COURTESY TRWD

TRWD, along with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, built two rainwater harvesting systems - including installation of guttering and rain barrels - on the schoolhouse and its well pump house.

agent.

"There is a loss of knowledge of the rural way of life and it's having an impact on the watershed," Kingston said.

Adcock wanted to re-create a sense of that rural community with the schoolhouse, which is still publicly owned, and had been a community center before. But it had fallen into disrepair.

Adcock made some phone calls to see what she could do with the property. She now works with a volunteer board. "I wanted it to be a place where the community can come together like it used to," Adcock said, a place with events for kids as well as canning, sewing and beekeeping classes for the adults.

The group has restored the property little by little through donations.

A well was donated for the

gardens. Concrete bricks were provided by the local hospital to build the community education gardens. A young man working on his Trail Life project built the well house and storage shed.

A board member put on a new metal roof. It was when that was done that Adcock reached out to TRWD about doing rainwater harvesting. The idea is to make the community center as self-supporting as possible, she said.

"This is a unique project because of the public access to it. Not many places are forward thinking enough to put in a system like this that other people can learn from," Kingston said.

TRWD started by designing a rainwater harvesting system that would collect the rainfall flowing from the rooftop of the well pump house.

The pump house was outfitted with gutters and downspouts that fed rainwater into three, 55-gallon barrels. During a class, the idea was to show residents they could do this on a small scale, Adcock and Kingston said.

The cost for a project like this, using existing gutters, is about \$75, he said.

Then, TRWD tackled the schoolhouse, a much bigger project. It took more planning and the rain barrels were replaced with a 2,500-gallon cistern. It's the kind of layout that may be connected to a large shed, or barn.

TRWD built out part of the system prior to the event and had people who attended the class put the pieces together, said Katie Myers, TRWD's Rural Programs Coordinator in the Watershed Protection Division.

"Everyone gets to feel in-

involved. They get a little more hands-on experience and they get to touch things and ask questions. I think people enjoyed having that community buildout," she said.

TRWD said the Agnes Schoolhouse has generated phone calls about rain harvesting systems. The ultimate goal of the project is to do whatever is possible to protect the watershed in the growing exurban areas.

"Rain harvesting benefits water quality because collecting the rain water off of these impervious surfaces and putting it to good use prevents it from being runoff, which helps abate erosion off of a property," Myers said.

"We're trying to keep sediment out of the reservoir and if we can capture water that would otherwise become runoff, we've accomplished that goal," she said.



We're #1

Cheerleaders win awards at UCA summer camp at TCU

JEFF PRINCE
sports@tricityreporter.com

AZLE — The Azle High School varsity cheerleaders competed at the Universal Cheerleaders Association summer camp and returned home with plenty of mementos.

The camp was held June 6-10 at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, and Azle's cheer squad earned first place in the sideline competition, and first place in cheer.

The group also captured the Traditions Award, plus a superior ribbon, an excellent ribbon, and spirit sticks. Nine Azle campers earned All-American recognition, and Hornet Muscle member Ollie Faouis-Olah was voted the male jump-off winner.

COURTESY PHOTO

The Azle cheer squad earns results at the UCA summer camp.

Great Outdoor Scavenger Hunt is back with new category — GASP!

FROM STAFF REPORTS

This summer, Texas Parks & Wildlife magazine kicks off its fourth annual Great Outdoor Scavenger Hunt (GOSH). Participants can choose from 35 locations in seven regions for chances to win prizes from Buc-ee's, Whole Earth Provisions Co., the Texas Historical Commission and more.

Participants must travel to various locations regionally or statewide, take selfies and post them with the hashtag #GOSH2023. This year's contest offers a new category as well - Grand Adventures in State Parks (GASP), added to commemorate 100 years of Texas State Parks.

"We're blown away by the popularity of GOSH," Publication Manager Nathan Adams said. "This year's competition is the biggest yet, and offers a fun way to discover history, wildlife, parks, waterways and quirky attractions."

GOSH 2023 ends at midnight on Labor Day, Sept. 4.

The challenge features seven regions: Dallas/Fort Worth, Central Texas, Houston, the Panhandle, South Texas, East Texas, and West Texas. Register on the GOSH 2023 website, find each spot, take a smiling self-

ie, and tag it with #GOSH2023 on Twitter, Instagram or the GOSH homepage. Here is a complete list of GOSH locations for 2023.

DALLAS-FORT WORTH REGION:

- Take a selfie in front of the statue of Dwight Eisenhower, the first president born in Texas.
- Cool off at Ray Roberts Lake State Park, which features sandy beaches and hidden coves. Snap your selfie knee-deep in the refreshing water.
- At Eagle Mountain Park, check out more than 5 miles of hiking trails; then take a rest from your hike and snap a selfie on one of the park's eight benches.
- Baseball fans will be intrigued by the little gem of Texas History at Majors Stadium, where Joe DiMaggio and the New York Yankees played an exhibition game in 1949. Snap a selfie in front of the Majors Stadium arch, one of the last remaining structures of the old ballpark.
- GASP challenge: take a picture of yourself fishing at one of the local state parks. Bonus if you are holding a fish you caught. Make sure to tag the park where you are fishing.



PHOTO COURTESY TRWD

TRWD's Eagle Mountain Park in northwest Tarrant County is a featured stop in the 2023 Great Outdoor Scavenger Hunt (GOSH), presented by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department!

Those who complete all activities in a particular region will receive a Buc-ee's logo hat and be entered into a drawing to win a regional prize pack, courtesy of our GOSH sponsors. Complete every statewide challenge in this year's GOSH and you'll

be entered into a drawing to win one of four grand prizes courtesy of Whole Earth Provisions Co. and the Texas Historical Commission.

To register, go to the Gosh 2023 website at <https://woobox.com/qdsmqm?web=1&entry=1>.



HOF
FROM PAGE B1

medal in the heptathlon at nationals and became an NCAA Division II All-American and the Lone Star Conference Women's Track and Field Athlete of the Year.

Webb still holds the Tarleton record with 5,125 heptathlon points.

At Azle High School, Webb finished third in the state track meet in the 400-meter run, played volleyball and basketball and earned MVP honors.

When asked how she accomplished such lofty feats, she began naming numerous coaches who helped her along the way, from youth sports through high school and college. Former Azle

baseball coach Mike Hardin was a major influence on Webb.

"He lived up the street, and his daughter and I are best friends," Webb said. "He taught us sports and love of the game, but his big deal was how to be a team player, how to be part of something greater than yourself, and how to be unselfish when you play. He was really big on the

character side. He was my foundation for sports."

Another early influence was a man she only remembered as "Mr. Mooney," who created a track club for local youth in Azle for a couple of years before he moved away. Webb credited the club with her love for track.

"I didn't know what track and field was," she recalled, but was grateful to run across someone "volunteering their time and pouring into people."

She recalled coach Kay Morris and others at Azle Junior High.

"I had amazing junior high coaches," she said.

She remembered Pam Ribble, Melody Dennis, and others at AHS.

Her brothers, Alex and Zach Wright, were strong athletes and mentors. They own Shell Rock Metal Works and have built metal structures in the area for more than 20 years.

"They have always been my role models, and I loved watching them compete when they played for AHS," she said.

She and her brothers all graduated from Tarleton. "I was always trying to keep up with them," she said.

She thanked her grandparents, Johnnie and Bob Wright.

Both grandparents graduated from AHS, and Johnnie taught there for 30 years. Webb's great-grandparents Robert Wright and Ruth (Landers) Wright also attended AHS. Ruth played basketball at AHS in the 1920s.

"I have pictures of all of them from the (AHS) annuals," Webb said. "One time, I asked my grandfather why he was not in the annual, even though he received the Lone Star Award for FFA. He told me he woke up early to milk cows, went home at lunch to milk cows, and then left after school to milk cows."

Her grandfather and great-grandfather ran a dairy named Shell Rock Farm in Azle.

"My parents, brothers, nieces and stepdad, Joe Becerra, all live on Shell Rock Farm to this day," Webb said. "I am very proud to be part of this community."

Webb's parents, Susie Sonntag and Weldon Wright, graduated from AHS.

"My mom was a cheerleader and was in the band, and my dad was in the band," she said. "I was blessed along the way. It's those kinds of things that helped me be a successful college athlete."

Receiving a scholarship at Tarleton made her happy, although she remained modest,

just like she'd been taught.

"I didn't go in there high stepping all about me," she said. "I went in there wanting to be the best with what God gave me. Pray before every race: 'God, give me the strength, and I'll give you the glory.'"

After college, Webb went into coaching to have a similar impact on kids. Later, she moved into performance and fitness training. Currently, she is studying at Texas Christian University to attain a PHD in health and human science.

"I'm studying the benefits of recess for elementary school children and trying to work on getting movement back into the lives of young kids," she said.

Kate and her husband, Nick Webb, have four children — Gemma, Eli, Asa and Latham Webb — who attend school in Azle.

For the past seven years, Kate and Nick Webb have operated the free Azle Track and Field Club along with friend Bo Burgess.

"We do it free for the community, just giving back and sharing our love for kids and trying to teach them about the sport," she said. "That's a continuation of just trying to give back for the people who poured into me."



COURTESY PHOTOS

Longtime Azle resident Kate (Wright) Webb thanks a long line of mentors for her success.

Azle Library holds watercolor painting lesson

Penny Conn teaches free, fun art class at Azle Memorial Library

ZACH FREEMAN
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On Saturday, June 17, the Azle Memorial Library held a free watercolor painting class. Guests were provided with tips, tricks and instruction from qualified instructors and the 29 who showed up that morning walked away with self-made paintings of galaxies, flowers, feathers and mushrooms.

One attendee, Mandy Knudson hosts a free painting hangout in the park on some weekends, though this is the first time she's worked with watercolors in a long time.

"It's really nice because I don't have very much experience in watercolor, but I learned a lot today," Knudson said. "I feel very comfortable around paint but not watercolors, so this is giving me some courage. I really feel like I picked up a lot today and I know I'm looking forward to doing some more and expanding myself. Penny's been really nice, and it's been really great. It sounds like everyone is having a great time. It's just fun to do something you haven't done since you were a kid."

The instructor, Penny Conn is an artist and retired dog groomer who moved to Azle last December.

"I work in almost any medium," Conn said. "I teach off and on, I've taught senior citizens, I taught art and music at my daughter's private school. I'm in my 70s, so I've been doing a lot for a long time."

Conn sells art on her Facebook page and has also received commissions.

"I don't do portraiture, but animals and inanimate objects I can do. I work in graphite, acrylics, oils, colored pencils, watercolor, just about anything," Conn said.

Conn's 13-year-old grandson, Liam Forrester was also present, acting as a co-instructor for the class. Forrester has been learning to paint with his grandmother for most of his life.

"I had a wonderful time helping people, giving advice," Forrester said. "I love to do art with my mee-maw. I just like to help people, give them tips and help them feel confident making their art. For me, the best part is just seeing how things turned out and being happy with what I made."

Conn was grateful for the

library for inviting her to teach.

"It was great," Conn said of Saturday's class. "Everybody was so kind and so nice, and they were very good with Liam. Rebecca was great and the library was fantastic through this whole thing. They furnished everything. It was wonderful."

Conn hopes to return to the library to instruct a painting session in the fall.

"We'll do pumpkins and what I'm thinking too is there's certain tricks to painting Christmas trees, so we can do both because Christmas is just right around the corner, but hopefully graphite too in the next month or two."

Rebecca Buchanan, Adult Activities Director affirmed Conn's sentiments and looks forward to her returning to the library soon.

"We loved having Penny come out here and teach this class, we had such a great turnout and we're looking forward to having her come back for future opportunities, perhaps a charcoal and graphite class and another watercolor class in the future," Buchanan said. "Everyone has talent, it's just a matter of trying."



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

The library provided copies of outlines created by Conn which could be filled-in and personalized by the class.



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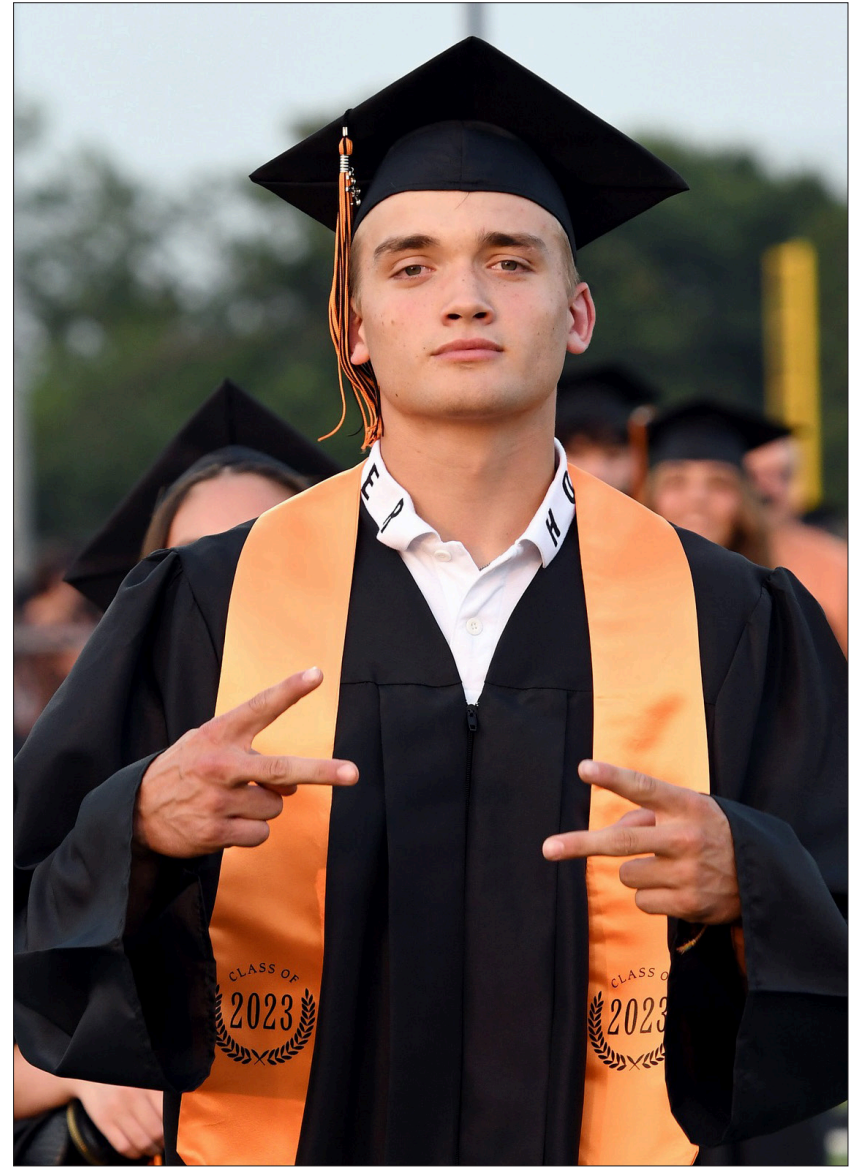
Buchanan, Forrester and Conn.

So long, seniors

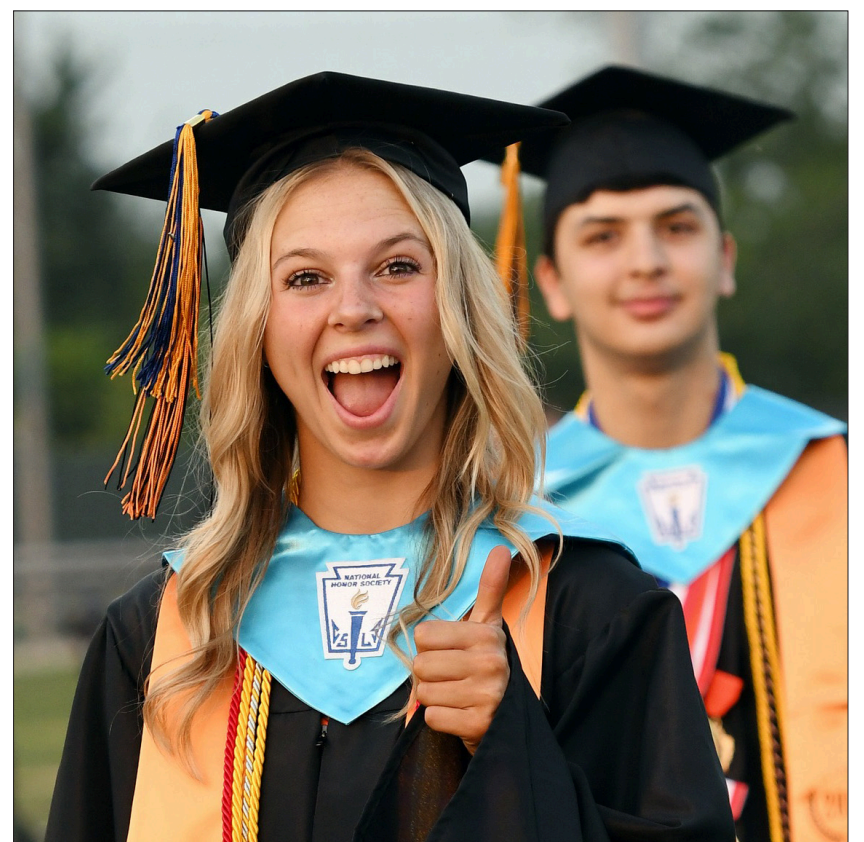
Springtown graduates enjoy final ceremony before embarking on new chapters



JEFF PRINCE | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER



JEFF PRINCE | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER



The Springtown High School graduation ceremony on May 26 was the final official school event for the seniors. Laughter and tears were in near equal supply as the young adults prepared to begin the next phase of their lives, whether that means work or more education or both. Good luck to the recent graduates!

TRI-COUNTY REPORTER DEVOTIONAL PAGE

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4445 Hodgkins, Lake Worth
817-237-4163

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6051 Azle Ave., Fort Worth
817-237-2201

NEW HOPE BAPTIST
782 New Hope Rd., Reno area
817-221-2184

NORTHWEST BAPTIST
5500 Boat Club Rd., Lake Worth
817-237-6063 or 817-270-8476

SILVER CREEK BAPTIST
730 S. & Veal Station Rd., Azle
817-444-2325

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3605 Jacksboro Hwy., Azle
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PLEASANT GROVE BAPTIST
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817-523-0376

UNION BAPTIST CHURCH
3451 Sarra Lane, Springtown
682-333-1645

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220 W. Reno Rd. in Reno
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817-521-4510

NORTHWEST BIBLE CHURCH
5025 Jacksboro Hwy., Fort Worth
817-624-2111

SOLID ROCK BIBLE CHURCH
591 S. Reno Rd., Springtown
817-221-3444

CATHOLIC HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC
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817-444-3063

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817-444-9973

AZLE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
35 West Forty Estates., Azle
817-688-3339

GREATER VISION FELLOWSHIP
1801 S. Stewart St., Azle
817-825-0485

THE ABBEY CHURCH
10400 Jacksboro Hwy., Azle
817-238-1404

CROSSING FELLOWSHIP
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817-406-4577

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AZLE CHURCH OF CHRIST
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109 W.N. Woody Rd.
(1/2 block west of FM 730 N. in Briar)
817-444-7102

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1460 Newsome Mound Rd.
817-677-3290

NORTHWEST CHURCH OF CHRIST
6059 Azle Ave., Fort Worth
817-237-1205

POOLVILLE CHURCH OF CHRIST
West of FM 920 in Poolville
817-594-4182

SOUTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST
130 W. Bradshaw Lane, Springtown
817-221-2799

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817-523-4419

TRI-COUNTY CHURCH OF CHRIST
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817-980-8156

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817-237-4822

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817-319-7364

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| 2..... Antiques | 25..... Equipment & Tool Rental | 47..... Lost & Found | 70..... Septic Tanks |
| 3..... Appliances | 26..... Excavating | 48..... Maintenance/Repairs | 71..... Sewing/Alterations |
| 4..... Appliance Repair | 27..... Exterminating | 49..... Masonry/Stonework | 72..... Sewer Service |
| 5..... Arts/Crafts | 28..... Farm Equipment | 50..... Mobile Home Service | 73..... TV/Radio |
| 6..... Asphalt Paving | 29..... Fencing | 51..... Motorcycles | 74..... Tractor Service |
| 7..... Auctions | 30..... Firewood | 52..... Movers | 75..... Upholstery |
| 8..... Autos, Trucks | 31..... Free | 53..... Musical Instruments | 76..... Vacuum Cleaners |
| 9..... Auto Repair Service | 32..... For Sale | 54..... Music Lessons | 77..... Wanted |
| 10..... Backhoe Service | 33..... Furniture | 55..... Miscellaneous | 78..... Well Drilling |
| 11..... Boats, Motors | 34..... Garage & Estate Sales | 56 Party Planning/Events | 79..... Welding |
| 12..... Bookkeeping | 35..... Garden/Mowing Svc | 57..... Pets/Livestock | 80..... Lots/Acreage |
| 13..... Business Opportunity | 36..... Hauling | 58..... Piano Service | 81..... Business & Commercial Property |
| 14..... Campers/Trailers | 37..... Hay | 59..... Pool Service | 82..... RV's for Rent |
| 15..... Carports/Patios | 38..... Health/Fitness | 60..... Professional Services | 83..... Houses for Sale |
| 16..... Equipment Repair | 39..... Help Wanted | 61..... Personal | 84..... Mobile Homes for Rent |
| 17..... Carpet Service | 40..... Home Improvement | 62..... Plumbing | 85..... Mobile Homes for Sale |
| 18..... Catering | 41..... House Leveling | 63..... Public Notice | 86..... Mobile Home/RV Lots |
| 19..... Cement Work | 42..... House Cleaning | 64..... Photography | 87..... Rent Furnished |
| 20..... Demolition | 43..... Hunting | 65..... Printing | 88..... Rent Unfurnished |
| 21..... Child Care | 44..... Janitorial Service | 66..... Roofing | 89..... Wanted to Rent |
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 Huge Yard Sale!
 Name brand purses, woman's shoes and clothing, pool pump and filter, game table & much more. Friday-Saturday June 23-24, 9am-3pm. 323 Sandy Oaks Rd, Springtown.

Lawn Care by Rubio
Tree Trimming
Other Lawn Care
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 Stump Grinding
 Residential/Commercial
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Eagle Remediation is hiring environmental technicians at our Springtown, TX location. This position supports environmental services we perform at our customers' locations. An environmental technician is responsible for safely and efficiently performing general labor duties which may include site clean-up, fueling vehicles and equipment, general vehicle operation, mowing, sweeping, trimming, shoveling, pressure washing, pumping and other related duties. This is an entry level position into the environmental services business. Opportunities for training and advancement are available. Some travel required. Benefits include medical, dental & vision insurance, 401K & paid vacation. Call 214-884-2096 or come by the office at 3131 E. Hwy 199, Springtown, TX to schedule an interview.



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YARD SERVICES
SKID STEER
SOD INSTALLATION
FENCING
STUMP GRINDING
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Eagle Remediation is hiring Class A CDL Drivers at our Springtown, TX location. This position supports environmental services we perform at our customers' locations. A Class A Driver is responsible for safely and efficiently operating various heavy vehicles, which may include, End Dumps, Roll-offs, Vacuum Trucks & Dry Vans. Opportunities for training and advancement are available. Some travel required but home most nights. Benefits include medical, dental & vision insurance, 401K & paid vacation. Call 214-884-2096 or come by the office at 3131 E. Hwy 199, Springtown, TX to schedule an interview.

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 Name brand purses, woman's shoes and clothing, pool pump and filter, game table & much more. Friday-Saturday June 23-24, 9am-3pm. 323 Sandy Oaks Rd, Springtown.

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

Eagle Remediation is hiring Class A CDL Drivers at our Springtown, TX location. This position supports environmental services we perform at our customers' locations. A Class A Driver is responsible for safely and efficiently operating various heavy vehicles, which may include, End Dumps, Roll-offs, Vacuum Trucks & Dry Vans. Opportunities for training and advancement are available. Some travel required but home most nights. Benefits include medical, dental & vision insurance, 401K & paid vacation. Call 214-884-2096 or come by the office at 3131 E. Hwy 199, Springtown, TX to schedule an interview.

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

LINDSEY STATE JAIL CURRENT OPENINGS
Correctional Officers • Assistant Foodservice Manager
Education Counselor • Academic Instructor
Human Resource Supervisor
Assistant Maintenance Supervisor - Electrician
 PLEASE CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR JOB QUALIFICATIONS.
 A New Correctional Officer Pay Increase will be as follows - Starting pay will be \$18.00 dollars per hour. After Six months there will be a pay increase to \$19.00 per hour and at one year there will be another pay increase to \$20.00 per hour. Must have HS Diploma or equivalent, be able to pass a drug screen, have a clean background, and valid driver's license to be considered for a Correctional Officer.
Apply online at www.mtctrains.com or call 940-567-2272 and ask for the HR Department.
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Assistant Maintenance Supervisor - Electrician
 PLEASE CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR JOB QUALIFICATIONS.
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ACROSS

1 UH is TX Dennis Quaid's ___ mater

5 TX Jordan Spieth is on the PGA ___

6 out on the Gulf 7 mailed a letter

8 network of old soap opera "Dallas" 9 gun rights grp.

12 TXism: "drawing ___ on it"

17 "Texas" is an ___ drama in Palo Duro Canyon

19 whooping ___ migrate to Texas in November

21 church tower, spire

22 TXism: "gone ___" (deteriorated)

23 1952 "Viva ___!" was filmed in Texas

28 rod and ___

29 NPR FM station in Commerce

30 wheeler-dealer

31 TX Charley's "All ___ to Offer You"

35 late Texas "Lemon Tree" singer, Lopez

36 TXism: "nervous as ___"

42 TX Roy Orbison group: "Wilburys"

44 apple drink, e.g. old AstroWorld ride: "Batman ___"

48 airplane garage 49 state to the NE

DOWN

1 tributary of the Frio, a tributary of the Nueces (2 wds.)

2 "it's not whether you win or ___ how you play the game"

3 in Cooke County on U.S. 82

4 "I smell ___"

9 TXism for "no"

10 Coleman was founded on one (2 wds.)

11 late TX Kenny Rogers sang "You ___ So Beautiful"

12 ___ your age"

13 TXism: "I'm so ___ pay attention"

50 Midland news/talk AM

51 TXism: "a day late ___ dollar short"

52 horse morsel

53 Lone ___ State

54 Sam Houston's 2nd wife, Rogers

56 stat for a Ranger or Astro hitter

57 this Desmond represented the Rangers at the 2016 All-Star Game

58 dir. from Grapeland to Nacogdoches

14 " ___ up a little" (relax)

15 Gulf shrimp catcher (2 wds.)

16 ___ Park, Texas

18 this TX Winters was drafted by the 49ers in 2023

20 TX actress, Duncan (init.)

23 hero general in Texas, Zachary (init.)

24 Garfunkel of "Catch-22" with TX Paula Prentiss

25 Texas actors want to land a ___

26 ___ road (unpaved)

37 TXism: "couldn't ___ his upper lip" (weak)

38 how Bowie crossed Alamo line (3 wds.)

39 actress, TX Darnell Buchanan of 1941 film "Texas"

41 drug trafficking agcy.

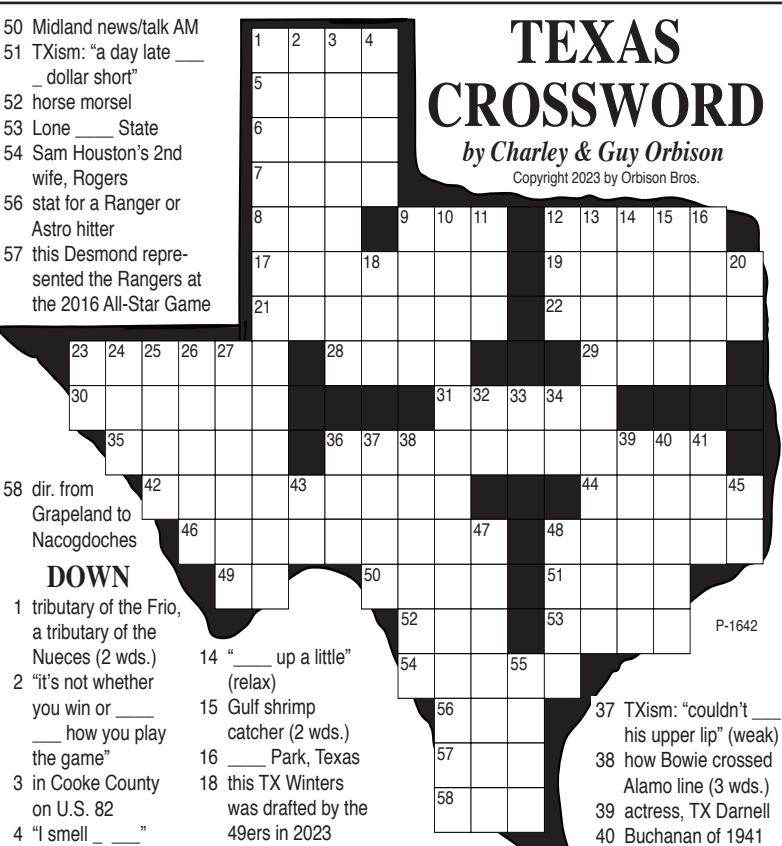
43 a boot with

45 TX-born Dale Evans cowboy hubby (init.)

47 "were" in Spanish

48 TXism: " ___ grip like a snappin' turtle"

55 the ___-banded armadillo is the state mammal of Texas



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NARO - National Association of Royalty Owners Convention. July 26-29, San Antonio, Learn How To Better Manage Your Minerals. Over 19 sessions: 'Mineral Law 101', 'How To Read Surveys & Plats', 'Property Transfers & Estate Planning', 'Operators: Friends or Enemies?' Register online: WWW.NARO-US.ORG/EVENT-5151387. Call to register: (918) 794-1660.

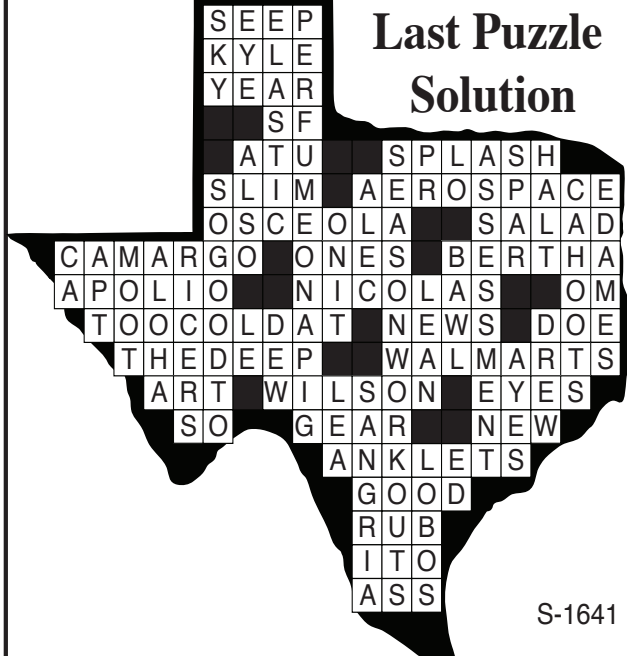
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