

THE TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

THE NEWS OF AZLE, SPRINGTOWN, AND SURROUNDING AREAS

THURSDAY, July 13, 2023 • \$1.00

Kim Ware awarded Lew Shaffer award

Local residents worship and celebrate at Follow the Flag with one resident receiving commendations.

ZACH FREEMAN
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Azle, TX - During Azle's July 4 Follow the Flag event, the Azle Area Ministerial Alliance presented Kim Ware, Tri-County Reporter Publisher, with their an-

nual Lew and Sandy Shaffer Award. The award has been presented during Follow the Flag event since 2012.

Lew Shaffer, founder of Son Shine Ministries and Follow the Flag, was the first to receive the award alongside his wife, Sandy. This year's award was presented by

David Shaffer, the son of Lew and Sandy Shaffer, director at Son Shine Ministries and last year's co-recipient. The award is presented to an individual or couple each year for their steadfast and profoundly impactful contributions to the community and their support for local Christian endeav-

ors, according to Shaffer's presentation.

"The award recipient this year is someone who is dramatically used by God to positively impact our community," Shaffer said. "Whether it is through Chamber leader-

PLEASE SEE **AWARD** | A10



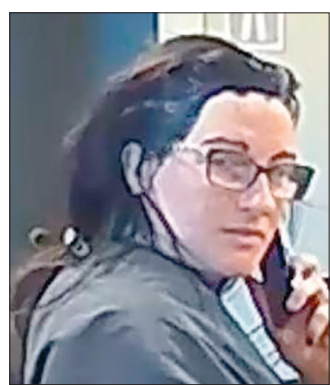
ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER
Kim Ware's family surprised her at the event and offered their congratulations.

Azle hosts 30th annual Follow the Flag

Fireworks light up the night sky with hundreds in attendance

ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER
On July 4, Azle held its 30th annual Follow the Flag. The end of the evening was marked with a spectacular firework show which awed the hundreds of spectators present.

SEE MORE PHOTOS | A12



Azle woman indicted in \$3 million fraud case

Sarah Doherty-McKibbin also accused of writing bad checks by Azle and Springtown businesses

COURTESY ASHLEY TRESTER
Doherty was photographed by Salon 76082 security cameras during the encounter with the business.

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Springtown, Tx - An Azle woman named Sarah Doherty, also known as Sarah

McKibbin, was recently indicted on 11 counts of wire fraud and four counts of tax evasion in Wisconsin. Doherty is alleged to have defrauded a business of an estimated \$3.43 million while

providing services through her corporation, Faith Outdoor Consulting, LLC. The news caught the attention of local Azle and Springtown businesses who recognized Doherty as hav-

ing written fraudulent checks for goods and services. In March, Doherty was arrested for an August 2022 theft of services case against Classic

PLEASE SEE **FRAUD** | A7

Springtown memorializes city's Santa Claus, local educator

Bill Foster's daughter remembers the contributions of her late father

MADelyn EDWARDS
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SPRINGTOWN — Springtown Middle School counselor Rachel Moreno is used to receiving kind words about her late father, but ahead of a memorial for his volunteer service, one message stuck out to her.

For more than 30 years, William "Bill" Foster worked in multiple areas of education, including as a special

education teacher, administrator and bus driver. He retired from Springtown ISD and then worked as a substitute for another decade or so.

Moreno recalled how often former students would approach her or Foster saying that her father made a significant impact on their lives. One of those comments came at about Christmastime in 2019 from someone who rode Foster's bus and became a teacher. Moreno read that text message aloud:

"Your dad used to always

tell me that I was his favorite bus rider. Looking back, I realized he probably told everybody that, but he probably also never realized how special he made me feel. He made a difference for me, and he made the start and the end of my school day wonderful."

Moreno's voice cracked with emotion as she read the last part: "I hope you know what an impact he made."

Moreno said words like that about her dad make her feel proud.

Foster died in April at age 78 after dealing with heart issues. In addition to being a Springtown educator, he lived in the city for decades and dressed up as Santa Claus for the city's annual Christmas events since 1983. He is survived by his wife Kandy as well as multiple children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Springtown City Council memorialized Foster during the meeting in June. People

PLEASE SEE **FOSTER** | A5



COURTESY PHOTO

One of the ways Bill Foster served Springtown was by dressing up as Santa Claus for the city's annual Christmas events since 1983.



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Woody's Salute set for Aug. 18

Veterans honored amidst announcement for fundraiser auction to be held at 404 Main Place next month

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Azle, TX - A date and location was confirmed for the Woody's Salute fundraiser and auction during the July 4 Follow the Flag event. Woody's Salute is a yearly fundraiser and ceremony held to honor Woody Williams, who was the last surviving Medal of Honor recipient from World War II and is the founder of The Gold Star Families Memorial Monuments project.

Gold Star families are those who have lost a loved one during U.S. military service. The Woody Williams Foundation has placed monuments honoring fallen sol-

diers and these families in every state in the United States. Local Azle veterans are now looking to raise money for an Azle Gold Star Monument through Woody's Salute on Aug. 18.

The announcement was made shortly after Mark Donahew, a major Azle advocate for the Gold Star Memorial, recognized five veterans on stage during the park's yearly Independence Day celebration.

Gerry Brown, a U.S. Airforce Korean War veteran and former radar operator was the first on the stage. Jack Stowe, who joined the U.S. Navy in 1942 at 15 years old and served around the Solomon Islands, followed. Next was Al Chatwin, who served in Guam

during WWII in the Pacific Theatre.

"I'm very thankful to be out here this evening, I think it's going to be a great night," Charles Braun (a.k.a Charlie Brown), an Airforce veteran of WWII, Korea and Vietnam said.

Last on stage was Bill Henry, who served in Vietnam during 1971 and 1972.

"He's the one that propels out of the slick into a hot LZ when you watch a Vietnam movie," Donahew said.

"These guys have been off and seen war and right now they're helping me get a Gold Star Family Memorial built."

Donahew is Vice President of Roll Call, a veteran's organization that holds a monthly



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER
Mark Donahew, Gerald Brown, Jack Stowe, Al Chatwin, Charles Braun, and Bill Henry.

lunch in Fort Worth where, on average, about 150 veterans from wars ranging all the way back to WWII gather to meet and eat.

"I try and get our WWII

vets out and show them off because there aren't a lot of them left," Donahew said. "It helps them to get out and be able to tell their stories... I look forward to building the

Gold Star Memorial so families who lost loved ones in service to their country have a place to go to recognize their sacrifice."

Springtown welcomes three new police officers



MADelyn EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

New Springtown police officer Christopher McClain grins at his father-in-law Jason Cobb, who was a lieutenant at Springtown Police Department before taking a law enforcement job in Decatur, as he attached McClain's badge during a pinning ceremony on June 22.



MADelyn EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Sgt. Katy Wacasey pins the badge on new Springtown police officer Timothy Sheppard during a ceremony at the city council meeting on June 22.



MADelyn EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

New Springtown police officer Cory Moreno smiles wide as his wife Rachel Moreno pinned his badge at the city council meeting on June 22.

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Follow the Rules and Don't Make a Wake

One of the great things about the United States is we are a country of individuals. By the very nature of our Constitution, we are guaranteed the freedom to be allowed to live our lives and express ourselves, even if we choose to do so in a way that is "different" than our neighbors. Of course, individual rights must be balanced with the rights of others.

We have the individual right to play music in the middle of the night. Yet the exercise of that right must be balanced against the rights of my neighbor who is trying to sleep at 2 a.m. and does not want to hear a stereo cranked up to the point of shaking him out of bed. This balancing act is what creates a world where people can still be individuals, but society can still function effectively. It is the social contract. It requires a little give and take sometimes, but isn't that the way it ought to be? Shouldn't we try and be respectful of the wishes of others and



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.

shouldn't they "bend" a little sometimes to accommodate the "other guy"? Sounds a little like the "golden rule" doesn't it?

Just this past week I volunteered to help with the organizational part of the big 4th of July parade. I got to my post early in the morning, and as parade participants arrived, helped direct them to their proper location in the parade line. The organizers of the parade had given each entry specific instructions of where to park their cars, the time for entries to arrive, and the directions for lining up. After years of experience, there is a plan in place which assures the best flow of traffic and eliminates difficulties and confusion.

This was not some every

day, small-town parade. It had over 100 entries and the parade took an hour and fifteen minutes to pass. Crowds were overflowing and full of enthusiasm. The floats were designed and constructed masterfully. The whole town looks forward to the parade and cooperates to make it come off without issues.

Irrespective of the planning, the instructions and all the hours spent on organization, there are always a few people who believe they do not have to follow the rules. Mind you, there were not many, but there were a few folks who had not read the instructions they had been provided. They simply showed up, drove into the parking lot, and wanted to go about "lining up" as they wished. When

instructed they had to go through the same procedures as everyone else, they became a little indignant.

I tried to be as nice and civil as I could be when I instructed the few "rulebreakers" they had to take their vehicle or float into a different gate. I explained if the guidelines were not followed, traffic would grid lock and the parade would come to a halt. In response, I got, "but I know where I am supposed to go", or "nobody told me where I needed to go".

The offenders I refer to did finally adhere to the same guidelines as everybody else. All they did by complaining and trying to circumvent the instructions everyone else was happily following, was to get themselves upset and to waste everyone's time.

Were these few violators a major problem or did they prevent the parade from happening? Of course not. The matter goes to a larger issue; the mindset of some who believe they are exempt from

adhering to normal everyday social rules. It is those simple rules which allow the world to function. It is respect for others.

It would seem there are those who either feel privileged and above adhering to rules, or they simply do not care about others than themselves. My guess is these same folks who sometimes park in a handicap space because they are in a hurry despite the fact they are not disabled. Or they go through the express line at the grocery store with more than the allotted items because the line was shorter, never minding how they back up the line behind them. Neither one of these incidents are major crimes, but they are reflective of an attitude which is all too prevalent.

My old "lake" friend told me a human should never be a "wake maker". Never be the person driving a big boat, who leaves the dock area at full throttle. That man is looking forward and sees the

smooth water, the beauty of the day, and is excited to have fun. He never looks behind him and sees the problem he creates by generating a huge wake. His failure to follow the "no wake" instructions does not affect him or the operation of his boat, but what he leaves behind sends boats slamming up against the dock and causes problems for others.

The world is not all about any one of us. It is about the shared experiences which make up the event we call life. It is ok to be an individual, to have your own views and to live life as you choose, but sometimes the social contract asks for you to remember your neighbors and think of others besides yourself. Is it that hard?

Thought for the day: Rules are for the obedience of fools and the guidance of wise men.

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

Azle Hornet Community

Summer is in full swing. As usual, it is quickly going by. I hope everyone had a wonderful July 4th celebrating Independence Day. We have been busy preparing for the upcoming school year, which started with transitioning to a July 1 budget cycle. I am pleased to announce our Board of Trustees adopted a balanced budget at the June board meeting. We, along with most of you, continue to await the outcome of what is now the second round of Special Sessions in Austin. We look forward to expected property tax relief, with continued support from the State for public education. Our Board of Trustees, administration team, and I remain



AZLE ISD

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

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

committed to making the most of every dollar entrusted to us.

As an Azle ISD community, we continue to experience student growth throughout our district. We are thrilled to welcome new students and families on July 27 at our new student central registration at Azle Junior High (K-8)

and Azle High School (9-12). Additional information is available on our website. We look forward to providing ALL students with an enriching educational experience.

Related to growth, our Azle ISD Long Range Facilities Planning Committee has been meeting monthly for over a year to review our facility

needs. The Committee, with administration and board support, has focused on student capacity at our Pre-K through 8th grade levels, knowing we are approaching capacity challenges at our 5th and 6th grade campuses in upcoming years. This could be addressed without taking on the expense of building a new campus by changing our grade level configurations to Pre-K through 5th grade and 6th through 8th grade. These changes include taxpayer financial savings, cost of construction, and operational expenses; along with benefits to students by eliminating a transition year, a year in which a student moves from one campus to

another. Advantages also include a more neighborhood attendance zone concept, especially with Walnut Creek Elementary and Azle Elementary becoming Pre-K through 5th grade campuses, and students at the 6th grade level would benefit from Fine Arts and Athletic programs.

We are in the final stages of the May 2021 bond projects. Hilltop Elementary is on schedule to open in just a few weeks, as well as the additions at Liberty Elementary. Construction projects at Eagle Heights Elementary and Hoover Elementary have been completed, and students and staff began using the spaces this past school year. November 2021 bond proj-

ects, which include additions and renovations to Azle HS, continue to track on schedule. The new kitchen and cafeteria will be ready at the start of school, along with renovations to existing science labs, classrooms, and restrooms. The science lab addition will not be complete until late fall and this addition will serve as a storm shelter as well.

Please be sure to check out our new website. As summer continues, I wish you joy and happiness with family and friends.

We Are Azle-
Todd Smith, Superintendent of Schools - Azle ISD

House Democrats' tax plan would help renters; Paxton won't testify at impeachment

HOUSE DEMOCRATS' TAX PLAN WOULD HELP RENTERS

Texas House Democrats unveiled a \$20.9 billion plan for property tax relief that drops tax rates, increases the homestead exemption, gives annual rebates to renters, and includes pay raises for teachers, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

The newest proposal comes as the Legislature continues wrangling over the issue in the second special session this year.

The bill, proposed by Rep. John Bryant, D-Dallas, is a combination of previous proposals with the added wrinkle of providing benefits for renters, who do not directly pay property taxes. The proposal also would raise the state's per-student funding to public schools by \$1,000 and give a permanent annual raise of \$4,300 for teachers.

"Our effort is one that recognizes that you can't talk about property taxes without talking about public education," Bryant said of his proposal to raise the state's basic allotment for school funding by \$1,000.

The Senate has already passed a proposal to increase the homestead exemption to



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.

\$100,000 and give a \$2,000 pay hike for teachers in urban districts and a \$6,000 increase to teachers in rural districts over the next two years.

PAXTON WON'T TESTIFY AT IMPEACHMENT TRIAL

Attorney General Ken Paxton won't testify at his upcoming impeachment trial in the Senate, according to his lead defense attorney, Tony Buzbee.

"We will not bow to their evil, illegal, and unprecedented weaponization of state power in the Senate chamber," Buzbee said. The Senate could still try to force Paxton to testify, but Buzbee's statement makes it apparent the defense would fight those efforts, the Statesman reported.

The House impeached Paxton in late May on 20 counts of misusing his office and other alleged crimes. He

was immediately suspended from office pending the trial, which is set for Sept. 5. The rules adopted by the Senate give Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick as presiding officer the "power to compel the attendance of witnesses."

Paxton was indicted on securities fraud charges in 2015. In 2020, several whistleblowers in his office claimed he had abused his powers to assist Austin developer Nate Paul, who was charged in June with eight felony counts of making false statements to lenders.

TXDOT SEEKS INPUT ON \$100 BILLION PLAN

The Texas Department of Transportation is seeking public input on a proposed 10-year, \$100 billion transportation plan. The Unified Transportation Plan for 2024 is the agency's road map to developing projects across the state.

"It's important to work with our transportation partners and hear from the public to guide transportation improvements that address congestion and enhance safety," Marc Williams, TxDOT executive director, said.

Projects included in the plan seek to ease congestion and improve connectivity. They address all types of transportation, including aviation, rail, freight, maritime and public transportation. The public comment period ends on Aug. 7. To weigh in, go to txdot.gov and click on the public input link.

STATE GETS \$60 MILLION FROM FEDS FOR GRID

The federal government is providing \$60.6 million to the Texas Division of Emergency Management to help utilities strengthen the state's power grid, the Texas Tribune reported. The grant program is funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law passed in late 2021.

"These grants will help modernize the electric grid to reduce impacts of extreme weather and natural disasters while enhancing power sector reliability," U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm said in a statement.

State emergency officials will decide how to use the money. Possibilities include improving how power-producing equipment performs in extreme heat or cold or trimming trees near power lines.

Since Winter Storm Uri caused widespread outages in 2021, other storms have also caused power crises. An ice storm in late January and early February sent tree limbs crashing into power lines, particularly in Austin. In June, severe storms swept through East Texas, again knocking out power lines.

A total of \$2.3 billion will be distributed by the Department of Energy across the nation to address power grid reliability issues.

NEW AREA CODE PROPOSED FOR HOUSTON AREA

The four area codes serving the greater Houston area — 281, 346, 713, and 832 — will run out of available numbers in about two years, prompting the Public Utility Commission of Texas to take public comments regarding a proposal for a fifth area code to be added by the North American Planning Administrator.

Counties affected include

Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, San Jacinto, and Waller. The phone numbers of existing customers would not be affected, and customers in the current area codes already have to dial all 10 digits to place local calls.

To make a public comment, go to this link: <https://tinyurl.com/44scxf5>.

SAHARAN DUST BRINGS HAZY SKIES TO STATE

Dust from Africa's Sahara Desert is once again sweeping across Texas, making for hazy skies, pretty sunsets and a reduced chance of tropical storms forming in the Atlantic, according to KXAN-TV.

The waves of dust are caused by thunderstorms kicking up dust from the desert and sending it several thousand feet in the air, where easterly winds blow it across the ocean and, eventually, into the southern United States.

The dusty air plumes suppress tropical cyclone formation and also slow down the intensity of the storms that do form.

Springtown police deputy chief gives quarterly report

Oliver finished first quarter as deputy chief since February promotion

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SPRINGTOWN — Springtown Police Department's Jamie Oliver has completed his first quarter as deputy chief.

"I'm still here," Oliver joked as he began his report to the Springtown City Council on June 22.

Earlier that evening, the council hosted a pinning ceremony for three new police officers, and another new officer was pinned in May. Oliver said during the meeting that two more cadets are expected to be sent to the police academy, and the depart-

ment has received another applicant.

"With the new additions, we are close to being fully staffed at a level that will allow us to have multiple officers on duty per shift," Oliver said in his report.

The police department's calls for service have increased during the March through May quarter to 4,108 compared to 2,974 during the previous quarter, but Oliver said this change is to be expected as outside temperatures have increased.

"The weather gets warm, activity picks up," Oliver said. "More people are out and about."

These calls have included

59 roadway accidents and 44 arrests for the quarter, Oliver said. Out of 697 traffic stops, officers issued 499 citations and 198 warnings between March to May.

The department has received 138 animal control calls during the spring quarter, for a total of 323 for the year so far, Oliver said.

"We get calls daily, all day long on animal control, anywhere from livestock to non-livestock," he said.

The deputy chief said 47 animals were taken in by animal control between March and May, with seven returned to their owners and 28 adopted. Springtown's animal shelter stays full with 20 ani-

mals and utilizes the help of foster homes.

Oliver reported that theft calls have increased to 31 from 28 during the last quarter, which he said is probably because of heightened activity during warmer weather. The majority of thefts investigated by Springtown police are for items valued at less than \$100.

Meanwhile, reported burglaries have decreased to five from eight in the previous quarter.

"I believe our guys are getting out more, knocking on doors, checking doors, keeping everything secure," Oliver said about the decrease in burglaries.

Springtown Police Department offers free courtesy security checks to aid Springtown residents who go out of town, Oliver said.

"All they have to do is give us a call," the deputy chief said. "We put them on a roll call, and officers - every night and day - go out and check the business or the home and make sure it is secure, doors are locked, so that way, they know their stuff is protected while they're gone."

As far as equipment, Oliver said the department received seven new shotguns, and four of those were converted to a less lethal option.

"This is something we've been needing for a while,

other than our Tasers and OC spray," he said, adding that this new equipment will give officers more options when handling certain situations.

As Oliver closed his report, City Administrator David Miller heaped praise on the deputy chief.

"I want to give kudos to Deputy Chief Oliver, who has done a tremendous job," Miller said during the council meeting. "I pick on him all the time, telling him, 'The quarter is still young' and all that sort of thing. But he's done a fantastic job in just a few months that he's been at the helm."

Azle ISD approves balanced budget and July 1 budget cycle

Amidst deficits and cuts for school districts, Azle ISD balances budget, transition to July 1 budget cycle

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AZLE - On June 19, Matt Adams, Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Operations, gave a presentation on Azle ISD's budget for the upcoming year during a Board of Trustees meeting. Unlike many neighboring districts, Azle ISD is looking at a balanced budget with teacher pay raises for the 2023-2024 school year.

"We are very happy to be able to adopt a balanced budget for Azle ISD," Adams said. "There are some key

factors that allowed this to happen. First, our enrollment continues to climb. Second, our property values continue to climb with the new growth. We also began transitioning in the 2022 - 2023 school year positions that were being paid with ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief) funds. Because of the growth Azle ISD is seeing we have also been designated as a fast growth district and that comes with some additional funding from TEA. Our staff has also done an excellent job at applying for and getting approval for various

grants that help supplement the budget. The board and administration have done a great job at managing the funds for the district over the years."

Other schools across Tarrant County and surrounding areas are facing deficit budgets and possible cuts after the Texas legislature failed to increase school funding for the 2023-2024 school year. Increased costs and calls for higher pay have left many schools in a position where they're spending more than they were last year. After the state came into a \$32 billion budget sur-

plus, districts across the state were hopeful that increases to school budgets would follow in the legislative session.

House Bill 100 nearly delivered on school administrators' hopes, promising \$4.5 billion in funding for teachers' raises and for districts to balance their budgets.

This bill would have also increased the funding districts receive on a per student basis from \$6,160 to \$6,250 in 2024 and \$6,500 in 2025. It was approved by a vote of 141 to three before it went into the Texas Senate. The bill failed after amendments were added to give tax-fund-

ed vouchers to parents to pay for private schools. The vouchers would have allocated as much as \$8,000 in taxpayer money to per private school student each year and were added by the senate after a similar voucher bill failed in the Texas House of Representatives. The lack of additional funding this school year means that many districts will have to dip into reserve funds to cover the cost of raises.

In addition to a balanced budget, Azle ISD also transitioned from Sept. 1 budget cycle to a July 1 budget cycle. "The primary reason for the

change was to provide better service for our campuses and departments throughout the district," Adams said. "By transitioning to July 1 that allows them to have access to their board approved budgets when they return in July or August. In the past, campuses and departments were forced to operate 4 - 6 weeks before they had access to budgeted funds for the new year. Now they will be able to access those funds immediately when the school year starts. This should create a more efficient and beneficial system for everyone involved."

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FOSTER
FROM PAGE A1

packed into the council room that evening, filling up all the available seats and standing along the walls.

"I would say the largest part of this gathering here is to show the appreciation of how much we love and admire Bill and his service to our community," Mayor Greg Hood said during the meeting. "Not just being Santa but everything that he's done in our community, and it gives me great pleasure to take this opportunity to present a plaque to the family at this time."

Moreno was one of the family members who attended the council meeting and thought it was "incredible" that her father was be-

ing recognized, even though he wasn't one to seek out acknowledgement.

"He loved this town, and he served this city, and he would do it again a million times over with absolutely no recognition because that's just who he was," she said.

Humorously, she added that he probably would have shed some of that humility in other circumstances, like winning his church's chili cookoff.

Moreno described her father as a caring, giving person, a judicious parent, a "phenomenal granddad" and a Betty Crocker-like cook. Her parents would offer a home to people in need, and the money Foster earned from playing Santa Claus at events was all donated either toward Christian missions or Christmas gifts for kids.

"Every penny that he made, he gave it straight back," Moreno said.

Moreno first met Foster when she was a young child after her mother went on a blind date with him. From their first interaction, Moreno could tell that Foster was a caring man.

"I'd fallen down or something, scraped my knee, and he had a Band-Aid in his wallet, and that was it for me," she said. "That hooked me." Even though Foster wasn't her biological father, Moreno never felt that he considered her to be a stepchild.

"He treated me like I was his own," she said. "It didn't matter that there wasn't blood in my veins that was from him."

Growing up, Moreno recalled Foster being strict but also just and steady, which is



COURTESY PHOTO

Rachel Moreno takes a photo with her father Bill Foster while he's dressed up as Santa Claus.



COURTESY PHOTO

Bill Foster and his wife Kandy had been married for 42 years.

a quality she believes he used in his work with children.

"He was very fair and very consistent and gave kids boundaries that they didn't know they needed that they really needed, and it made a difference," she said.

As she became an educator, Moreno said her father instructed her that she could make her job easier by befriending two people - the school secretary and the janitor. On a more serious note,

she said her dad inspired her as an educator to treat students like her own and give them the grace to start over and have a new opportunity each day.

"If you have a bad day today and you do something stupid, or you say something dumb, he's still going to love you tomorrow, and tomorrow is a new day," she said. "He didn't hold grudges. He treated those kids like they were his own. And I think that's

definitely something that I have taken in my career that in my classroom, in my building, whatever kids that I'm responsible for, I'm going to treat them like they were my own kids, and that's the way everybody should teach."

Moving forward, Moreno wants her father to be remembered for his faith and his service to others.

"That's who he was," she said. "That's what he stood for."

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Restore Civility

I often find myself reflecting on perhaps the greatest American President in my lifetime, Ronald Reagan. He sparked a conservative movement across this country by holding fast to his faith, cherishing the Constitution, and by promoting limited government while ensuring the protection of every citizen. While championing for Republican priorities, he still showed respect for colleagues, and often found a way to work with those across the aisle. Yet for that very reason, it seems that if President Reagan were around in today's hyper-political climate, he would be labeled a "RINO," a "Republican In Name Only." This epithet divides our party and limits our legislative effectiveness.

Loud fringe groups hate the fact that in the Texas House, Representatives often work together. Certain organizations of the political swamp press legislators to vote according to a hyper-partisan "scorecard" that is often gamed by "Scorecard



DISTRICT 60
By Glenn Rogers

Representative Glenn Rogers is a sixth generation Texas rancher, where his family has deep ranching roots in Palo Pinto County going back to the 1890s. He represents District 60 in the Texas House of Representatives.

Republicans," more concerned with their rating than providing conservative solutions in their district. At times, "scorecard votes" are inhumane and wrong for Texas. Yet there are people in Austin who fear the revenge of the extremist billionaires behind the scorecard and vote in lock-step. In fact, those few legislators are sometimes pressured to kill solid bills from their fellow conservative colleagues in their mission of obstruction and retribution. Frankly, those legislators who practice this mindset accomplish extraordinarily little in their time at the Capitol.

Despite a barrage of half-

truths and outright lies by these angry groups, I was elected to serve my district, to defend the Constitution, and to advance our conservative ideals. In two terms, our team has facilitated the passage of conservative legislation, not by making enemies, but by building relationships and creating credibility. "My way or the highway" is an absolutely destructive attitude. Good governance happens when individuals from different backgrounds, with diverse ideas, come to the table and sit together to create conservative solutions and positive, incremental change. The recently completed Texas 88th legislature

banned gender-transition procedures for minors, banned men from competing in women's sports, banned sexually explicit materials in schools, reined in rogue district attorneys, increased the penalty for fentanyl crimes, and passed many other conservative priorities.

Name-calling, petty fighting, and the slandering of those we disagree with are the poisons of our society. As Texans, we are better than that. Our roots are that of setting aside our differences to make a difference; never forget that Tejanos and American immigrants to Texas, while vastly different in religious and ethnic aspects, came together to defeat Santa Anna and establish this great Republic. As Republicans, we are better than that. Are we not the party of Reagan, who never wavered on his core beliefs, but was willing to seek common ground with people with differing opinions? As people of

faith, we are better than that, and instructed in Ephesians to "Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice."

There are extremists on the left and the right that demand passage of a 100% Purity Test or "Cancel Culture" tactics are employed. The "Politics of Personal Destruction" utilized by these groups are destroying the very fabric of our political and social culture. Political discourse and civility seem to have passed into oblivion. We need to remember the words of President Reagan, "The person who agrees with you 80% of the time is a friend and an ally - not a 20% traitor."

The primary objective of statesmen or stateswomen should be to prioritize their district's needs and apply conservative solutions. One hundred percent agreement with all Republican colleagues or hyper-partisan

scorecards should not be the primary goal. I love my wife, but even we do not agree 100% of the time. We are blessed in this great country to have the freedom to disagree, but at the end of the day, we are still neighbors, fellow citizens, working for a better society and to keep America and Texas great.

Our destiny as a state and nation will only be reached by working together when possible, and when not possible, at least with civility. I urge all to take an active role in government, but encourage this endeavor be approached with respect and courtesy. Our Constitutional Republic depends on citizens with strength of character. As John Adams once wrote, "Public virtue cannot exist in a nation without private virtue, and public virtue is the only foundation of Republics."

OBITUARIES

David Weekly 1969-2023

David Walter Weekly, age 54, died June 30, 2023, at his home in Azle, Texas.

A celebration and remembrance of David's life will be held on Friday, July 14 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at 605 Sunset Dr., Azle, Texas 76020.

David was born August 30, 1969, in Flanagan, Illinois to Denver and Joan Weekly. He was the youngest of three brothers, Robert and John Weekly.

David was an entrepreneur and owned several construction companies. He enjoyed helping others by renovating and reconstructing homes and businesses. Although never married, David loved the women in his life deeply and whole heartedly. He loved animals and was always willing to help any stray that wandered into his life.

David attended Azle High School.



He was preceded in death by his father, Denver.

He is survived by his mother, Joan Weekly; brother and sister-in-law, Robert and Kelly Weekly; brother and sister-in-law John and Staci Weekly; niece, Alexis Weekly; and nephew, Robert Weekly, Jr.

The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday July 13, 2023

Jerry Easterwood 1956-2023

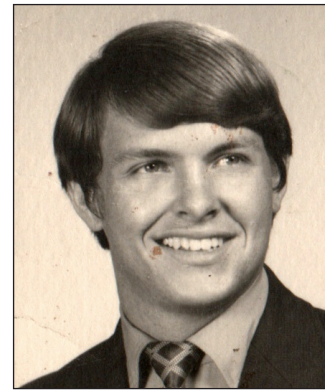
Jerry Marce Easterwood, 67, passed away April 14, 2023 in Azle.

Memorial will be held 11 a.m., Monday, July 24, at Alexander's Midway, Springtown.

Jerry was born January 4, 1956 in Fort Worth, to John Roger and Lois Ann (Williamson) Easterwood.

Jerry was a professional driver for over 40 years. He was most comfortable in his overalls and trucking cap spending time with his family. Jerry Loved writing poetry. He was a loving father, grandfather and friend, who will be dearly missed.

Jerry was preceded in death by his parents and his son Jerry Mark Easterwood.



He is survived by his daughter, Stasha Gilcrest; granddaughters, Shelby, Emily, Layce Easterwood and Lilly Gilcrest.

The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday July 13, 2023

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Getting ready for back to school

Parents can knock out dealing with supply lists and registration now for an easier transition into the school year.

ZACH FREEMAN
azlereporter@tricityreporter.com

AZLE - Whether it's your child's first, first day or their last first day, the new school year is just around the corner. Before sending your kids off on August 16, there's a few things that you

might need to get squared away. From finding out what your student needs for classes, to keeping up with events and information, Azle Independent School District has unveiled a new website by Apptegy that's meant to make things go much more smoothly.

Back to school lists are

now available for kindergarten through eighth grade students for the 2023-2024 school year. You can find your student's required materials for the year by following this link <https://app.teacherlists.com/districts/1000206238-azle-ind-school-district?fbclid=IwAR2agS4D->

[JlRowJ6vHsE3QrLkYxgx7B-waUhkxSqbZqa770U8YH-MtZhbHpo](https://www.facebook.com/azleisd/)

Or by going to Azle ISD's Facebook page or at www.teacherlists.com, clicking "Find a list" and entering the information for Azle ISD campuses, and clicking on your student's school.

Returning student registra-

tion for 2023-2024 is open online through Parent Portal.

For new students, Azle ISD is holding a Central Registration event on July 27, from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. for grades Pre-K through eighth grade at Azle Junior High. Registration for new ninth grade through 12th grade students will be held at

Azle High School on the same day.

Student athletes must also register over the summer through parent portal after receiving their yearly physical. More instructions can be found at azleisd.rankonesport.com.

FRAUD

FROM PAGE A1

Pest Control Operators, Inc in Springtown. Doherty has since made bond is still believed to be living in Azle. More recently, Ashley Trestler, the co-owner of Salon 76082 in Springtown and Salon 76020 in Azle has contacted the Tri-County Reporter with claims that Doherty defrauded her Springtown location in late May. Trestler claims that Doherty paid for services at the salon using a bad check and was unavailable for response afterward, allegedly only communicating through her mother until

contact stopped. Trestler describes Doherty as having what appears to be a "brand-new truck".

"She has run havoc," another anonymous local business owner said of Doherty. This owner alleges that Doherty has filed for bankruptcy at least five times and is well-known for her scams amongst many Azle and Springtown businesses. According to federal records, Doherty has also filed for bankruptcy under the name Sarah Burkeland and Sarah Gill in Texas, Wisconsin and Colorado.

Doherty is set to appear in court for her Wisconsin charges on July 13.

Local organizations aim to help locals in need stay cool for summer

MADelyn EDWARDS
springtownreporter@tricityreporter.com

AZLE — As North Texas weather settles into 90-degree temperatures and up, local organizations are trying to aid people who don't have adequate air conditioning.

Servolution Network is collecting donations for air conditioning units to provide to local people in need through Operation Be Cool. As of July 6, Servolution has collected \$12,465, which equals out to about 124 5,000-BTU units from Home Depot sold at a discounted price for this annual project, Servolution Executive Director Jason Malewiski said.

"The challenge we're having now is logistics," Malewiski said. "It's hotter than heck in Texas. So as fast as Home Depot can get them and sell them to me is when we're buying them."

As of last week, Servolution has been able to deliver 43 of the units, Malewiski said.

Servolution is also facilitating air conditioning repairs with partners Hart HVAC - which matched 50 units in the donation drive - as well as One Hour Air Conditioning & Heating, CMB Mechanical Heating & Air, and Strickland Heating and Air. Malewiski said about a dozen repairs have been completed this year. People's

donations can also be used to help with repair costs.

"If there's other contractors who would be willing to help with HVAC repairs, by all means please connect with us," Servolution's executive director said.

People can help with Operation Be Cool by donating funds as well as used yet functioning air conditioning units or fans.

"Anything to keep people cool would be a blessing," Malewiski said.

Monetary donations can be submitted at servolutionnetwork.kindful.com/?campaign=1248521&fbclid=IwAR3jEzntH8Rw-Cr9oZRIhmV9JLM-FvVj3sikg-vKcZvKkM_g_MkX8TLAgwxQ online. For

more information about Operation Be Cool, email ServolutionNetwork@Info@ServolutionNetwork.Com or call at 833-493-7378.

Angels Care Home Health in Weatherford is also asking the community for donations of new boxed fans to help families and older adults stay cool during the summer. Fans can be dropped off at the Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce at 112 S. Main St, the Azle Area Chamber of Commerce at 404 W. Main St. or Azle Manor Health Care & Rehabilitation at 721 Dunaway Lane. For more information about the fan drive, call Angels Care Home Health at 817-807-0224.



COURTESY ASHLEY TRESTLER

Alleged photos of Doherty's truck parked outside the salon.

HEARING NOTICE

The City Council of the City of Azle will conduct a public hearing at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, August 1, 2023 in the City Council Chambers at City Hall, located at 505 West Main Street to consider a proposed zoning change request from Agriculture (a) District to Industrial (IND) District for approximately 28.64 acres of land, being described as a tract of land in the G.W. Robbins Survey, Abstract No. 1155, City of Azle, Parker County, Texas. The property is generally located on the east side of Ashwood Street approximately six hundred seventy feet (607') north of Northwest Parkway (Hwy. 199).

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A lesson in asking for help

Community makes Azle man's home wheelchair accessible ahead of amputation

MADELYN EDWARDS
springtownreporter@
tricountyreporter.com

AZLE — While attending Bible study, Waylon Dacy found himself being randomly called on by the pastor to ask for help with a situation that needed attention.

Going to that Bible study at The Church at Azle, Dacy knew he needed to get his leg amputated but hadn't opened up to his friends about his post-operation concerns. Though he was looking forward to the surgery, Dacy's home was not wheelchair accessible, and without modifications, accessing his home after the operation would be difficult.

Dacy had kept quiet about his needs. Beyond small requests, he had never asked for help with major needs like the ones he had.

That changed when Pastor Mike Miles — while preaching about asking for help — called Dacy out by name during the Bible study.

"Out of nowhere, he looks at me and he goes, 'Waylon, you just need to ask,'" Dacy



MADELYN EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER
Waylon Dacy and his friend Bruce Adams take a picture on Dacy's new ramp. Servolution in partnership with other organizations helped make Dacy's home wheelchair accessible.

said. "So, I put it out there. I didn't want to, but like they said, I asked. I was like, 'I need help doing this.' And boom, there it is."

That Bible study was at the end of May. In mid-June, a calvary of volunteers came

to Dacy's home to make it wheelchair accessible. He described the experience as humbling and enlightening.

"We just have a loving, caring, amazing group of people that are out there to help anybody and everybody," he

said.

Both of Waylon's knees have been replaced, but one of his knees has been causing him trouble for years. The prosthetic in the problem knee broke and was repaired but was still painful. Then a few years ago, a specialist recommended that Dacy have a hinged knee replacement, but the hinge unit broke and became loose, which puts Dacy in pain daily.

"I have to keep myself from screaming out loud at the pain if I'm in public," Dacy said. "There are days it's debilitating where I really can't walk. I have to sit. But like, today's a good day. I'm walking just fine. Everything's good, but there's more bad days than good days."

Dacy had a choice between amputation and fusion, which is when the leg becomes fixed in place through an immobile joint — an option Dacy won't do. When asked how he felt about the amputation, he said he was

happy because he would no longer have to deal with daily abnormal pain, and he would pursue a prosthetic leg to be more physically active.

"Once this is said and done, I'll be able to go hiking with my family again, go camping and fishing, things I used to enjoy that right now it's hard for me to do because I don't get to walk very far. I can't carry stuff," Dacy said. "There's a light at the end of my tunnel."

Last month, Servolution Network partnered with The Church at Azle's Man Up team, Adult & Teen Challenge of Texas, Cindy Bishop Ministries and U.M. Army to help local families in need of home modifications and repairs. For Dacy's home, this included about a week of work to build a new ramp, remodel his bathroom and shower area, and widen some doors.

Without these changes, Dacy wouldn't have been able to get much farther than his bedroom post-operation. While he already had a ramp to his home previously, Dacy said it was shoddy and steep. He also worried about being able to afford modifications to his home.

One of Dacy's friends from Servolution, Bruce Adams, helped with the project.

Adams commented that asking for help is the only way Servolution can be effective.

"If Servolution doesn't ask, then we're not going to get nowhere," he said. "We have to ask for partners. We have to ask for all these different contractors. And if we don't ask, we're not going to get anybody to help."

Dacy is no stranger to Servolution. In fact, he was honored as Volunteer of the Year at the organization's gala last year. Dacy started volunteering for Servolution a few years ago after hear-

ing about the organization's activities at church and in the community. He worked with Servolution until his physical pain became too much for him.

Servolution Network Executive Director Jason Malewiski said assisting Dacy modify his home — a project that was submitted through the organization's Good Neighbors application process — was a "no-brainer" decision.

"He's invested so much time and effort into helping us," Malewiski said. "It's the right thing to do."

Through Servolution, Dacy was able to help locals in need, and now having been on the receiving end of that aid has brought him enlightenment.

"It becomes addictive to see the smiles you put on people's faces by helping them out and to have the tables turned where I'm helped, now I know why I did what I did or why Servolution does what it does because I have that feeling now," he said.

Dacy's 15-year-old daughter, Sherilyn, also helped out with the work that needed to be done at her father's home. Sherilyn Dacy is used to assisting her dad and was happy to be there for him.

"There's been a couple of days that it's been hard enough for him to even stand up," she said. "Helping him out just a little bit really made me happy knowing that he still knew in mind that he has people around here that love him, who care for him and that we're OK with helping."

Waylon Dacy thanked volunteers and helpers, including Servolution Network, Adams, Mia Giannes, Rusty Cage, Dynamic Decks, Man Up Ministries and the U.M. Army, for their service while also giving credit to God.



COURTESY PHOTO

Teens volunteered to help make Waylon Dacy's home wheelchair accessible.

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Volunteer/Our-Process

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Our Volunteers Make a Difference!

Caregiver Volunteer Meeting
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817-444-2300
412 Commerce St.

Rotary Club of Azle

MEETS AT NOON THURSDAY
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(across from Azle Post Office)

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412 Commerce, Azle
e-clubhouse.org/sites/azle_tk/
Jamie Westbrook - president
817-550-7625

AZLE AREA MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE
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Christian Leaders partnering together with one voice to impact our culture for Christ. We celebrate unity amidst diversity as we pastor our community.

Luncheon meetings
11:45 a.m. - 1 p.m. 2nd Tues of each month; location varies.
See www.azlema.com or email director@azlema.com for additional information.

SERVOLUTION NETWORK

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FOR QUESTIONS CALL: 833-4WE-SERV
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Azle Boy Scout Troop 243
Meets Mondays 7 PM
Azle First Assembly of God
1020 Southeast Parkway
troop243azle.org

Optimist Club of Azle

Meets every FRIDAY at 6:45 AM
Moe's Country Kitchen
316 W. Main, Azle

Azle Lodge No. 601

Floor School or Work
7:30 PM THURSDAY NIGHT

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Rocky Gralla - Secretary
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SE HABLA ESPAÑOL

Azle Chamber of Commerce collecting goods for “swag bags”

New Azle teachers to be awarded gifts and goodies at Aug. 2 orientation

ZACH FREEMAN
azlereporter@tricityreporter.com

Azle, TX - The Azle Chamber of Commerce is looking for local Azle Chamber of Commerce members to provide items for “swag bags” to be handed out

to new Azle ISD teachers at the new teacher orientation on Aug. 2.

To be included in this year’s bags, you must provide 105 items to the Azle Chamber office at 404 W Main Street by July 21, 2023. The Azle Chamber of Commerce recommends do-

inating items that teachers are likely to use like pens, note pads, gift cards and the like. Chamber members can reach out to Jennifer Herrington or Hartley McCauley for any questions, email info@azle-chamber.com or call (817) 444-1112.

Springtown P&Z approves final plat on 186-lot subdivision

MADELYN EDWARDS
springtownreporter@tricityreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — Springtown Planning and Zoning Commission approved the final plat for the second phase of a 186-lot residential subdivision during its meeting on July 6.

P&Z, which voted unanimously on this item, is the definitive authority on final plats. Unlike most cases the commission considers, deci-

sions on final plats are not recommendations for the city council to approve or disapprove.

The subdivision, called Covenant Park, is located northwest of Springfield Road and Smith Road and was annexed into the city limits in 2021. Phase 1 of the final plat that included 22 lots was previously approved, and those homes are under construction. The final plat that the P&Z approved last week represents the remain-

ing 164 lots.

During the meeting, City Secretary Christina Derr said staff recommended approval of the final plat, which complies with the city’s ordinances. P&Z members had little discretion and had to approve the plat because it met the requirements of state law. Lots in Covenant Park are about 6,500 square feet, and the subdivision will have sewer service by the city and water from Walnut Creek Special Utility District, Derr said.

CALENDAR July 14-28

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, JULY 14

FAMILY FILM FRIDAY at 2 p.m. at Azle Memorial Library. Bring the whole family to watch a family-friendly movie with complimentary popcorn and water. This month’s movie is “The Bad Guys,” rated PG. Space is limited so arrive early.

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 parkercountyfrcc.eventbrite.com.

MONDAY, JULY 17

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.

SATURDAY, JULY 15

HERO HOTLINE 10 a.m. to noon. at Azle Central Park. Kids can enjoy music, crafts, games, snow cones, hot dogs and more at this free event hosted by Revive United Methodist Church.

TUESDAY, JULY 18

MAVERICK ALL STAR TUMBLERS for kids 3-8 years old at 10:30 a.m. at Azle Memorial Library. Participants will get to learn about tumbling when Maverick All Stars brings mats and beams to help learn some tumbling skills. No experience required. Shoes will not be worn during this activity.

FAMILY FUN AT THE PARK for kids at 10 a.m. at Shady Grove Park, 1000 Stribling Dr. in Azle. Bring a picnic lunch and enjoy some playtime with friends at the park.

KINDERMUSIK LEVEL 4 for ages 4-6. 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 parkercountyfrcc.eventbrite.com.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 19

LEGO CLUB for kids ages 4 and up at 4:30 p.m. at Azle Memorial Library. Join in the fun with LEGO challenges, free play and fun. LEGOs are provided and creations will be put on display in the Children’s Section at the library.

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 parkercountyfrcc.eventbrite.com.

MAKERSPACE at 2 p.m. at Family Resource Center, 314 E. 5th Terrace, Springtown lets kids make, learn, explore, and share with a variety of STEAM materials.

THURSDAY, JULY 20

ARTIST AFTERNOONS for kids 6-12 years old at 2 p.m. at Azle Memorial Library. Participants will explore different art styles geared toward elementary students. Supplies and space are limited so reserve a spot by calling 817-752-2682.

STAMPED BOOK DÉCOR for adults at 6 p.m. at Azle Memorial Library. Create a piece of home décor with a small stack of books, paint, and stamps. Materials and instruction provided. 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 parkercountyfrcc.eventbrite.com.

FRIDAY, JULY 21

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 parkercountyfrcc.eventbrite.com.

MONDAY, JULY 24

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, JULY 25

FAMILY FUN AT THE PARK for kids at 10 a.m. at Springtown Park on Walnut Creek Dr. in Springtown. Bring a picnic lunch and enjoy some playtime with friends at the park.

KINDERMUSIK LEVEL 4 for ages 4-6. 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 parkercountyfrcc.eventbrite.com.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 26

ROCK PAINTING AND MEET POLICE OFFICERS at 10:30 a.m. at Springtown Public Library’s back parking lot. Kids get to decorate rocks with paint and meet Springtown Police Officers. This activity is messy so wearing clothes you don’t mind getting dirty is encouraged.

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 parkercountyfrcc.eventbrite.com.

MAKERSPACE at 2 p.m. at Family Resource Center, 314 E. 5th Terrace, Springtown lets kids make, learn, explore, and share with a variety of STEAM materials.

FRIDAY, JULY 28

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 parkercountyfrcc.eventbrite.com.

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>”

HEARING NOTICE

LEON GREEN, ESQUIRE, ATTORNEY AT LAW

P O BOX 1215 AIKEN, SC 29802 Plaintiff’s Attorney State of South Carolina County of Aiken In the Family Court Case No: 2022-DR-02-665 FOSTER vs FOSTER. You are hereby notified to be present for the Family Court Hearing of the Second Judicial Circuit located at 109 Park Ave., SE Aiken, SC 29801 August 1, 2023 at 11:30 a.m.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice is hereby given that the following will be sold to the highest bidder with bidding to take place at lockerfox.com on Monday the 24th day of July, 2023 at 11:00 AM to satisfy a landlords lien, pursuant to Chapter 59, Texas Property Code. Payment to seller via credit/debit card and pickup at the facility. Self-Storage unit contents of the following customers containing household and other goods will be sold. 10 Federal Self Storage, 2920 Avenue F, Arlington, TX, 76011 Dave Clark. Tammy Milliman. Jana Kundert. Ann Clem. Tina Marie Alonzo. Angel Forsythe. Crystal Butterfield. Samantha Ditata. Samantha Ditata. Clark Pannier. Joni Willis. Waleed Wilks. Patrick Milam. Tracey Hipple. Frances Alexander. Janine Jackson-Collins. Kirsten Garcia.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC/ONLINE AUCTION

Pursuant to Chapter 59 Texas Property Code, Springtown Self Storage, which is located at 1050 W Hwy 199, Springtown, TX 76082 and will begin an online auction with storageauctions.com of contents to satisfy the landlord’s lien. The sale will begin online on July 6th to July 17th, 2023 ending at 9:00PM Property will be sold to the highest bidder for cash only! The contents of these units contain mainly household goods. The contents must be removed from the property within 72 hours of the winning bid. The seller reserves the right to reject any bid or withdraw from the auction. Contents from the following tenants will be sold: Nathan Alford, Robert Bigby, William Cook, Kevin Evans, Ruby Everett, Linda Fisher, Kaylee Holder, Joshua Jackson, Dustin Kelley, Amanda King, Opal Luedke, Zachary Mann, Tephania Read, Ian Reed, Somer Rojo, Christine Sanchez, Mary Christine Sanchez and Matthew Teafatiller.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

City of Springtown is accepting sealed requests for a contract on group medical insurance until 10:00 A.M. local time, July 27, 2023 via email, at which time they will be publicly opened. Specifications may be obtained from Brinson Benefits at 214-379-5157. The Title of the email should include “RFP# 10-23-817 for Group Medical Insurance”. Any bids received after the time and date stated above, regardless of the mode of delivery, will not be considered. The City of Springtown reserves the right to accept, negotiate, amend, accept and/or reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, or to waive any informality in any bid, which, in its discretion, is in the best interest of the City of Springtown.

THE STATE OF TEXAS

CITATION BY PUBLICATION CAUSE NO. 23P298

In the Matter of the Estate of Robert Michael Griggs, Deceased TO ALL UNKNOWN OR MISSING HEIRS OF THE ESTATE OF ROBERT MICHAEL GRIGGS, DECEASED Shawn Bradley Griggs in the above-numbered and entitled estate filed an Application to Determine Heirship And For Independent Administration And Letters Of Administration Pursuant To Section 401.003 Of The Texas Estates Code on 06/28/2023 In the Estate of Robert Michael Griggs. Deceased, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of Robert Michael Griggs, Deceased, and their respective shares and interest in such estate, and appointing Shawn Bradley Griggs 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 6th day of July, 2023. Lila Deakle County Clerk, Parker County Texas. By: Meridith Hawk, Deputy Clerk. Appocant’s Attorney: Jenifer S. Ruelas. 1020 Fort Worth HWY STE 500 Weatherford, TX 76086.

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



AWARD
FROM PAGE A1

ship, Azle events leadership, Christmas bike giveaways, charity fundraising, meeting individually to listen to people, or publishing newspapers, this person consistently and freely gives her time to help strengthen our community.”

The 2023 recipient for the award was Kim Ware. Ware is publisher for the Tri-County Reporter, formerly the Azle News and Springtown Epigraph. Ware is also heavily involved in the Azle community and organizes such events as Azle’s National Day of Prayer.

“Her faith and support of the Azle Area Ministerial Alliance over the years also stands out as remarkable” Shaffer said.

Ware accepted the award with her husband Mark by her side.

ZACH FREEMAN
TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

David Shaffer and Kim Ware with the Lew Shaffer award.

LEW SHAFFER AWARD RECIPIENTS

- 2012: Lew and Sandy Shaffer
- 2013: Azle PD Chaplain and retired pastor Glyn Murphy.
- 2014: Retired AISD Director of Administration Ray Ivey.
- 2015: Retired AHS Principal and Azle city council member Rouel Rothenberger, Jr.
- 2016: Paul Brownback, pastor of The Abbey Church.
- 2017: Lee Sipe, pastor of First Baptist Church Azle.
- 2018: Retired Lt. Col. Stony Stonebraker, long-time supporter of the AAMA.
- 2019: Tim Stevens, pastor of Azle First Assembly.
- 2020: Longtime former AAMA Treasurer Nate Simmons.
- 2021: Paul and Amy Collins, staff members and marriage ministers at Son Shine Ministries.
- 2022: David and Daniele Shaffer; David is President of Son Shine Ministries, where he and Daniele serve together in marriage ministry.
- 2023: Kim Ware

In addition to the Lew Shaffer Award, many Azle area churches and Azle Area Ministerial Alliance members were instrumental in guaranteeing that Follow the Flag was a major success. From live music, catering and the grand finale of a fireworks show, local churches put their all into the celebration. One band which made a big impression on the crowd was the Praise Band from The Word Church in Lakeside.

“This has been an incredible event. I’m so honored by the Azle Ministerial Alliance that they even thought about our church and for me to be a little part of it,” Taylor Tomlin, youth minister and campus minister for the upcoming The Word church in Springtown said. “I got to MC part of the event. It’s just been so cool to see churches come together, and we’ve all got one goal and that’s for a bunch of people to come out here and hear the message of Jesus Christ. So, it’s been really really neat, we’re just hoping we can spread a good word and spread some love in the process.”



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

A crowd gathered in front of the stage while The Word’s band played.



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Excited crowd members jumping and dancing to the worship music played at the July 4 event.

The Azle Area Ministerial Alliance would like to “Thank You” for being a part of the 30th Year of “Follow the Flag.”



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- First Methodist Church Azle
- Larry’s Carpet VF Lakeside
- Optimist Club of Azle
- Probuilders Construction, LTD
- Prosperity Health
- The Abbey Church
- TriCounty Reporter
- Turkey Mountain Feed Store

Follow the Flag Planning Committee

- Alton Davis - Coordinator
- Chris Aylesworth - Concessions
- Eric Hunter - Pyrotechnician
- Kim Ware - Fund Raising
- Sandra Stonebraker - General Advisor
- Stonie Stonebraker - General Advisor

Special Donations & Support

- Azle Fire & Paramedics
- Azle ISD Athletic Dept.
- Azle Library
- Azle Parks & Recreation
- Azle Police Department
- Adut & Teen Challenge
- Albertson’s Azle
- Boys Scout Troop 243
- Brookshire’s Azle
- Chicken Express Springtown
- CMA Chapter Koinonia Riders
- City of Azle
- Community Bible Fellowship
- David Shaffer
- First Baptist Church Azle
- Gateway Chiropractic (Dr. Walls)
- Grace & Faith Center
- Greg & Carey Boggs
- Jerry Cotten
- Jim Magnuson (Drone Pilot)
- Mark & Kim Ware
- Office on Main
- Ol’ Bugle Boy Bob Russell
- Phillip Lalonde Family
- Servolution Network
- Sandy Shaffer
- Son Shine Ministries
- Taylor Tomlin
- The Edge Church
- The Gideons
- Quik Trip Azle

Thank You!

State Sales Tax Revenue Totaled \$3.9 Billion in June

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar announced state sales tax revenue totaled \$3.92 billion in June, 6.8% more than in June 2022. The majority of June sales tax revenue is based on sales made in May and remitted to the agency in June.

"The overall rate of sales tax revenue growth was in line with the rate of growth over the last three months," Hegar said. "Growth in receipts from sectors principally driven by business spending continued

to outpace that from consumer-oriented retail trade."

Hegar said receipts from the oil and gas mining sector showed the largest year-over-year gain once again.

"Nonetheless, this increase represents a slowing of the rate of increase from that sector in recent months," Hegar said.

Manufacturing and construction sectors were also up from a year ago. Wholesale trade sector receipts were down only slightly from last year as a result of build-

ing materials prices coming down, Hegar said.

Higher consumer spending resulted in an increase in the services sector. More people spent money at concerts and other live performances, sporting events and theme parks.

"Restaurant receipts also increased, but at a rate about 1% less than the May inflation rate for food away from home," Hegar added. "Remittances from the retail trade sector just barely surpassed year-ago levels after

dipping below the prior year last month, with large gains from online general merchandisers countered by declines from major store-based general merchandisers and department stores."

Not all numbers increased. "Remittances from furniture and home furnishings stores were down compared with year-ago levels for the fourth consecutive month," Hegar said. "Receipts from the home improvement, clothing and accessory stores, electronics and appliance

stores, and sporting goods and hobby stores sectors were also negative compared with June 2022."

Total sales tax revenue for the three months ending in June 2023 was up 5.9% compared with the same period a year ago. Sales tax is the largest source of state funding for the state budget, accounting for 56% of all tax collections.

TEXAS COLLECTED THE FOLLOWING REVENUE FROM OTHER MAJOR TAXES:

- Motor vehicle sales and rental taxes — \$597 million, up 2% from June 2022;
- Motor fuel taxes — \$324 million, up less than 1% from June 2022;
- Oil production tax — \$456 million, down 33% from June 2022;
- Natural gas production tax — \$184 million, down 58% from June 2022;
- Hotel occupancy tax — \$71 million, up 6% from June 2022; and
- Alcoholic beverage taxes — \$156 million, up 4% from June 2022.

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WRITTEN BY BILLY ST. JOHN

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7:30 PM

JULY 23
2:30 PM

JULY 28-29
7:30 PM

JULY 30
2:30 PM

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Azle hosts 30th annual Follow the Flag

ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

The event, which was organized by the Azle Area Ministerial Alliance offered attendees free fun, food, and festivities to celebrate the nation's 247th birthday. Fireworks of all colors and patterns lit up the skies over Azle on this warm summer night.



TCR Junior

Horses are magnificent and gentle creatures that have been our companions for a very long time. They have strong and powerful bodies, covered in soft fur or hair. Horses are known for their long, flowing manes and tails. They have hooves instead of feet, which help them run fast and jump high. People ride horses for fun or use them to pull carts or carry things. Horses are really good at understanding humans and can become our friends. They communicate with us through sounds like neighs and body movements. Taking care of a horse requires love, patience, and responsibility, but it can also be a wonderful and rewarding experience to have a horse as a friend.

National



EQUINE

relating to horses

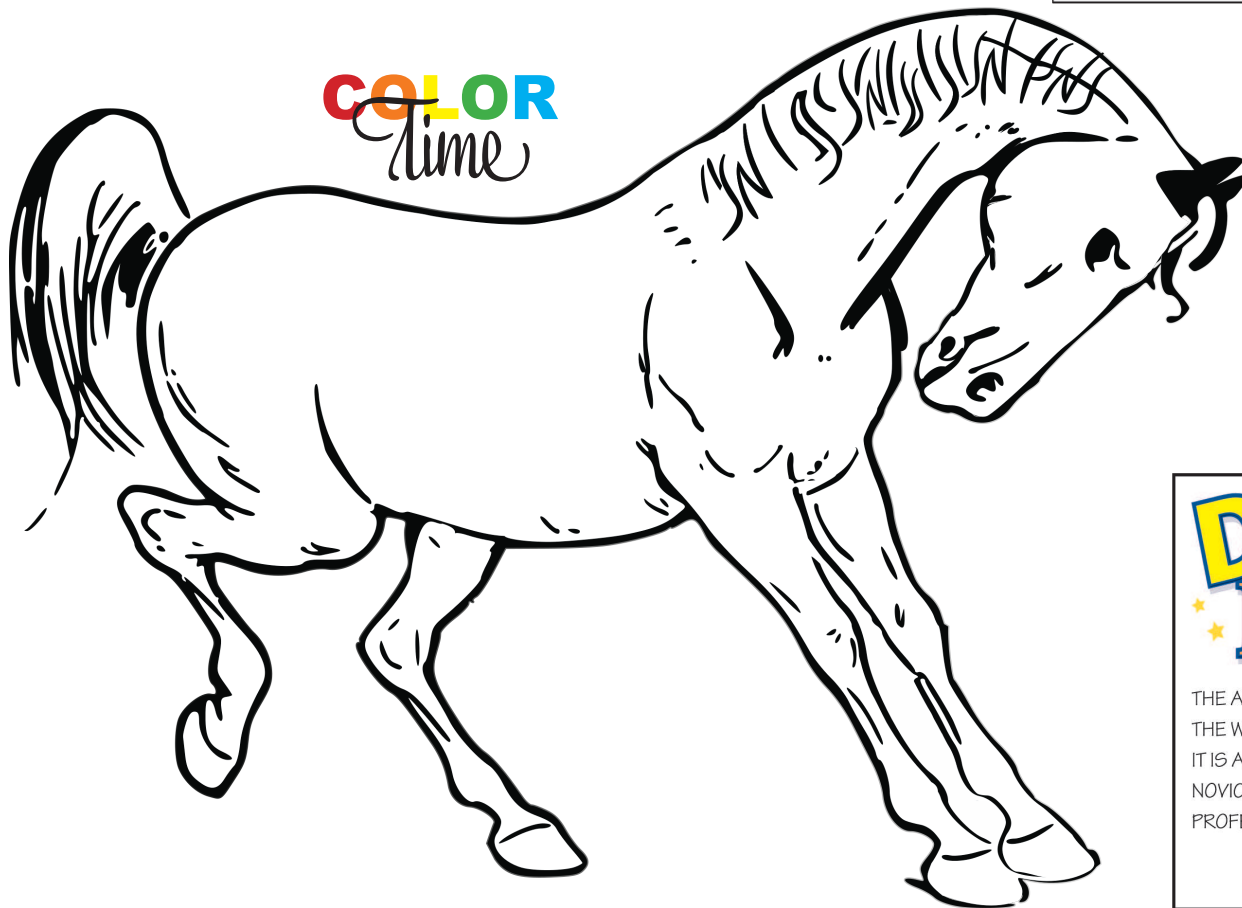
What's the Difference?

There are four differences between Picture A and Picture B. Can you find them all?



Answers: 1. Missing stump right side 2. Black horse has white on chest 3. Brown horse has longer mane 4. No hole in tree on left

COLOR Time



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THE TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

DIVERSIONS

B

THURSDAY, July 13, 2023

Winning the stock show lottery

SHS student's hard work pays off as she clinches grand champion market goat at county show

MADelyn EDWARDS
springtownreporter@tricityreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — Achieving a grand champion title at the Parker County Stock Show is a goal that many agriculture students in the county pursue, and Springtown's Kylie Altom reached that peak before her sophomore year of school.

At this year's Parker County Stock Show, 15-year-old Altom won grand champion in the market goat contest as

well as champion in the market goat middleweight and lightweight divisions. She has ambitiously worked toward the grand champion title for years, and when she finally won, she said it felt like "a big weight (was) lifted off (her) shoulder."

"I felt very, very happy because (for) the past three years, that's been my main goal," she said. "I've won the division but haven't really gotten to the grand goat. And so, it was just like exciting to

PLEASE SEE **LOTTERY** | B5



MADelyn EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

In addition to banners, Parker County Stock Show winners also receive belt buckles. Springtown FFA member Kylie Altom holds up some of the buckles she won from the show, which took place at the end of May and beginning of June.



JEFF PRINCE | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Brooklyn Grothe tries golfing for the first time at the Cross Timbers summer clinic for kids.



JEFF PRINCE | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Isaiah Gage Lee participates in the clinic for the third summer in a row.

Fore!

Youngsters learn golf at Cross Timbers summer clinic

JEFF PRINCE
sports@tricityreporter.com

If he were holding a baseball bat, he'd have smashed a home run. Jack Daugherty knows how to make a mighty swing and send baseballs flying.

Daugherty, however, was holding a golf club. The skinny metal shaft felt unfamiliar. His first couple of swings missed their target completely. Then, smack! The ball sailed far, and Daugherty began finding his groove.

On July 3, Daugherty was among a handful of youngsters participating in a week-long golf clinic at Cross Timbers Golf Course.

"He looks pretty good," said Joe Daugherty, Jack's father. "The pro is trying to help him with his swing and

to get his elbow down."

Joe and Alisa Daugherty sat in the front seat of their vehicle in the parking lot at Cross Timbers, enjoying air conditioning while watching their son take practice swings on a hot summer morning. Jack finished his select baseball training earlier in the summer and was excited to try golf for a change.

"We thought we'd let him try this out and see how it goes," Joe said.

"Get him some exercise and get him out of the house a little bit," Alisa added.

"I've always liked golf," Joe said. "I thought it would be something good for him to try."

Other moms and dads were also in the parking lot watch-

PLEASE SEE **GOLF** | B3



MADelyn EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Brylie Clark, 4, smiles as she shows off her creations of painted rocks at the Springtown Public Library's event on June 7. The library reopened its building after being closed for more than three months on July 10.

Springtown Library reopens after being closed for over three months

MADelyn EDWARDS
springtownreporter@tricityreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — Springtown bookworms, rejoice! The city's public library has finally reopened.

The Springtown Public Library closed for more than three months starting at the end of March to undergo repairs because of a flood. Now, that work has finished, and the library reopened on Monday, July 10.

Operating hours at the library will resume as follows: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesdays and 10 a.m. to 2

PLEASE SEE **LIBRARY** | B3

Pin 'em down

Wrestling club returns to Azle High School

JEFF PRINCE
sports@tricityreporter.com

The wrestling program at Azle Independent School District is focused on middle and high school students and has been growing in popularity in recent years. The program could expand more with the recent establishment of the Hornet Wrestling Club.

The club is designed to engage children, their parents, and volunteers in the sport of wrestling and provide an affordable opportunity for athletic development for AISD students.

"It's been really great," said Tyler Harrison, head wrestling coach at Azle High School. "We've been having a lot of fun with it this summer."

AISD offered a similar wrestling club in the past under the supervision of a volunteer coach, but the club disbanded after the coach left.

Some local wrestlers compete at private wrestling clubs in the area.

PLEASE SEE **WRESTLE** | B3



JEFF PRINCE | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

AISD students Cash Milligan and Laythen Richardson, shown here at summer camp in June, can compete and learn about the sport by participating in the Hornet Wrestling Club.



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Guests make tile coasters at Azle Memorial Library

Over 20 guests attended this 18+ class and went home with unique hand-designed drink coasters

ZACH FREEMAN
azlereporter@tricityreporter.com

AZLE - On July 6, the Azle Memorial Library (AML) held an event where library guests could make their own coasters out of tile, Mod Podge, and old library books.

"It's cost effective, 100 of these tiles only costs \$15," Rebecca Buchanan, AML Adult Activity's Director said. "I worked as a dispatcher at the Parker County Sheriff's Office for seven years. I got this idea for this craft from a coworker who used to make coasters as a gift for everybody in the office. Every year had a theme. When Sheriff Fowler passed away it was a picture of him." While some chose pictures

from books, they found interesting or aesthetically pleasing, others picked images with sentimental meaning to them. One Azle woman scoured through the encyclopedia and old dictionaries looking for a map of Germany because her family had been stationed there in the military.

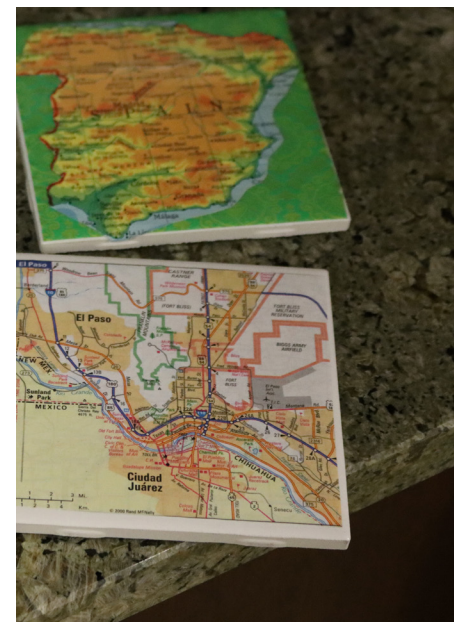
"I've never cut up a book before," said another crafter laughing.

All resources for the event were provided by the library.

After an hour or so of selecting and cutting images, applying layers of Mod Podge and drying their creations under fans, many Azle residents walked away with truly creative and functional pieces of art.



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER
Attendees thumbed through discarded and damaged library books for images or words that held meaning to them.



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER
Many residents chose to create map coasters with locations that they felt were significant. Others chose images or symbols that they had some connection to in their life.

Dave Campbell says

Specialty magazine examines Azle, Springtown football teams heading into 2023-24 season

JEFF PRINCE
sports@tricityreporter.com

Crane flies. Heat. Humidity. Swimming in lakes. Dave Campbell's Texas Football Magazine.

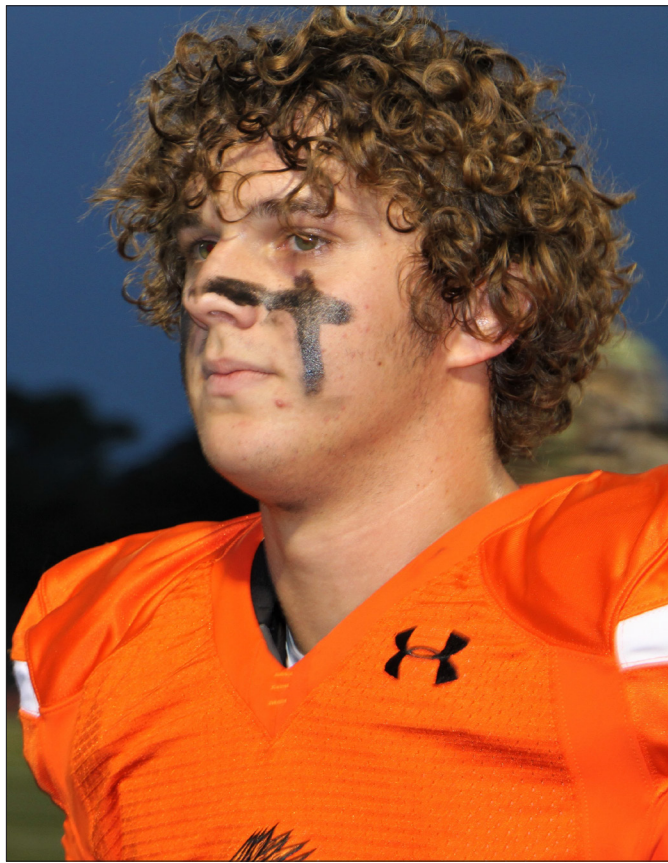
All those things made an appearance, so summer is definitely upon us.

Fans of Friday night football lights look forward all year to the thick, glossy magazine that comes out around June and previews more than 1,500 high school football teams in Texas.

The current edition of Dave Campbell's Texas

Football predicts Azle to finish in sixth place among the nine teams in District 3-5A Division I. Aledo was picked to win the district, followed by Burseson Centennial, Denton Ryan, Justin Northwest, The Colony, Azle, Fort Worth Brewer, Saginaw, and Fort Worth South Hills.

The magazine's "Players to Watch" include Adam May, a tall offensive lineman who tops 280 pounds; defensive back Tyler Ulrich, a speedy 6-footer; all-around athlete Vance Guthrie; linebacker Jacob Martin; defensive lineman Devin Wingfield, an-



JEFF PRINCE | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Hudson Hulett will return to lead the offense and beef up the defense in his senior year.



PHOTO COURTESY RICHARD SPRAGGENS

From left, Vance Guthrie's athleticism is expected to fuel the Azle Hornets.

other 280-pounder; Hunter Schultz, a 290-pound offensive lineman; Dylan Maines at outside linebacker; Canaan Kaznowski and Austin May at quarterback; Josh Montelongo; Garrin Graves; Cale Cohen; Hagen Hughes; Bradyn Rager; and strongman brothers Cash and Case Moore.

The magazine described Martin as "the leader of the defense" and predicted he will "team with Ulrich and Wingfield to give Azle a strong defensive foundation to build on."

The offensive line was predicted to be a strength "with two anchors returning in May

and Schultz, as they'll open holes up" for running backs.

Guthrie earned distinction as a returning skills player with notable varsity experience.

"Guthrie can play all over the field, but the coaching staff would probably prefer to keep him at running back where he shined as a junior," the magazine said.

Springtown, according to the magazine, will finish in fourth place in District 4-4A Division I. Decatur was picked to finish in first, followed by Wichita Falls, Burkburnett, Springtown, and Mineral Wells.

Players to watch for

Springtown included Hudson Hulett, the tall, stout quarterback who has started for the past two seasons and is slated to start again as he enters his senior season. Hulett also plays on the defensive line. Others earning mention were speedy linebacker Yair Hernandez; burly defensive lineman Ridge Westendorf; athletic Drake Doggett; big tight end Kelby Castro; and the smallish but tougher than nails Dallin Fabrizius.

Top juniors to watch included Darren Sweely and James Snyder, and sophomore running back Robert Lewis. Other prospects mentioned included Ty

Parrott, Brayden Fox, Brady McDonald, Alex Rivera, Nathan Johnson, and Zane Sudduth.

The magazine predicted the Porcupines to "bounce back after a relatively down year," when Springtown finished 3-8 and were knocked out of the playoffs quickly.

"Among the 17 starters returning is dual-threat QB Hulett (1,478 yards, 20 TDs passing) who will have to find a new favorite target," the magazine said. "Hernandez and Westendorf should have impactful senior years after earning all-district honors last fall. Doggett will also be a key two-way player."

Team USA

Springtown racer selected as Quadcross of Nations representative

JEFF PRINCE
sports@tricityreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN - A local quadcross racer received a dream come true...again.

Earlier this month, Bryce Ford of Ford Brothers Racing was chosen to represent the American racing team in the Quadcross of Nations, a race that pits the world's best ATV riders against one

another.

Ford will carry experience with him into the race. Last year, he earned the honor for the first time and raced at the Quadcross of Nations, held in the Czech Republic, alongside ATV racing legends Joel Hetrick and Chad Wiene.

Team USA won the race. This year, the race is being held in October in Cingoli,

Italy. Hetrick, Wiene, and Ford will attempt to win Team USA's fifth Quadcross of Nations championship since 2017.

COURTESY PHOTO

Bryce Ford will represent Team USA for the second year in a row in ATV racing.



Sis boom bah!

Forte Junior High cheer squad wins awards at summer camp

STAFF REPORTS

sports@tricityreporter.com

AZLE – On June 28, the Forte Junior High cheer squad traveled to the Great

Wolf Lodge in Grapevine to compete at the Universal Cheerleaders Association



The Forte cheer squad earned ribbons, trophies, and a spirit stick.



COURTESY PHOTOS

The Forte Junior High cheerleaders check into Great Wolf Lodge to begin a three-day summer camp.

summer camp and came back home with trophies and awards.

The UCA camp drew hundreds of cheerleaders from the area and lasted three days. On the second day of camp, cheerleaders worked

on stunts, dances, cheers, and sideline routines. They also worked on team building exercises.

Forte earned a blue superior ribbon for their game day cheer and sideline routine. On the third day of camp,

Forte cheerleaders received a gold superior ribbon for their camp dance and a spirit stick. One of the girls received a pin-it-forward award, and three girls were selected as All-American cheerleaders.

GOLF

FROM PAGE B1

ing through windshields from the cool confines of their cars. Brittney Grothe had come to watch daughter Brooklyn try to learn the game. Brooklyn's father, Benjamin Grothe, is a golfer, and the fourth grader wanted to learn the game so she could play with dear ol' dad.

"It's fun," Brooklyn said of camp. "We get to learn how to golf, and we can learn how to hit really high."

The kids played a game that required hitting a golf ball between two poles. The poles began far apart but were moved closer together gradually to force the hitters to aim more precisely.

"I love that game," Brooklyn said. "It's a competition, and you're going against people. It's really stressful because you want to make it in, but you get out sometimes."

Brooklyn signed up for camp after receiving a package in the mail on a recent afternoon.

"A huge package arrived," she said. "My dad opened it. I thought it was a tent, but it was a thing of golf clubs."

The clubs were the perfect size for a kid her age, and the shafts were painted a pretty pink. A surprised Brooklyn had received her first set of golf clubs.

"Me and dad started hitting some golf balls in our yard," she said. "He asked me if I wanted to do golf camp. I said yes."

With help from the clinic, how long would it take Brooklyn to become better than her dad at golf?

"Maybe a few more years," she said.

So, about three years? "Yeah," she said. "About

that much."

After camp ended for the day, Brooklyn and her mom were about to drive away when they were waved down by Dustin Nelson, the second assistant golf pro at Cross Timbers who was overseeing the clinic. Nelson had found one of those pink-colored clubs lying near a practice tee.

Finding forgotten clubs is a common occurrence for a guy who teaches youngsters how to golf. Focus isn't always children's strong point. Nelson isn't trying to construct the next Tiger Woods at clinics as much as to instill a simple love for the sport in the hearts of the kids.

"They are the future of the game," Nelson said. "If we can get them started now, then maybe they will get interested and pick it up when they get to high school. Maybe play college golf if they get really interested. Even after that, maybe they'll just play for fun. The game has got to survive. They are the ones who will take it to the next level."

Youngsters can benefit in many ways beyond being able to knock a ball in a hole, he said.

"Golf is the greatest networking tool there ever was," he said. "It's better than social media. It's better than everything else. I played my first golf tournament when I was 10. I'm 35 now. The amount of people I know in the different areas of work, I could give them a shout and get a job anywhere doing anything just because of the people I know from golf."

Golf can provide years of satisfaction.

"It's one of the only sports you can play forever," he said. "You can get out and get some exercise for the rest of

your life."

The clinic was open to ages 7-14 and included a mixture of beginners and experienced players. The sessions included jogging, stretching, warming up, hitting balls, working on stance, form, and grips, and playing games.

"As long as they're enjoying it and having fun, that's the main goal," Nelson said.

"Possibly later on in the year, we are going to do some for high school kids to try to get ready for college golf or to try to make their high school team," he said.

One day in the future, Isaiah Gage Lee might be among those high schoolers participating in the clinic. For now, though, he is a fifth grader trying to fine tune his skills. This was his third summer attending the clinic at Cross Timbers.

"Golf clinic is very good," he said. "They teach you a lot about keeping your eye on the ball, getting straight, and looking where are you going to hit before you hit the ball."

He has improved his skills at the clinics and hopes to be playing with his dad and granddads before long. From there, who knows what he can achieve?

"When I'm older, I could probably be a professional if I practice a lot," he said.

His mom, Holly Lee, is happy to see Isaiah embracing the game and enjoying the clinic.

"He looks so forward to it every year," she said. "It's his favorite thing to do during the summer. I hope he enjoys it for life. It's a wonderful sport. A lot of good camaraderie in golf and opportunities to meet people."



JEFF PRINCE | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Jack Daugherty tries whacking golf balls rather than baseballs for a change.



JEFF PRINCE | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Isaiah Gage Lee takes a drink after practice while his mom, Holly Lee, talks to clinic instructor Dustin Nelson.

WRESTLE

FROM PAGE B1

"We've had several clubs in the area that our kids have attended, but our main goal with Hornet Wrestling Club

is to provide an opportunity for Azle ISD students to be able to come and learn wrestling before they get into our middle school and high school programs," Harrison said. "We started this summer with a free summer program just so that we kind of

take some of those financial barriers away and provide opportunities for the kids to be involved."

The coaching staff uses wrestling as a vehicle to teach student-athletes how to strive for success in various areas of life while developing

character, confidence, discipline, work ethic, and mental toughness.

Club participation is limited to AISD students. Workouts are held on Monday nights for kids 6 to 18, split into groups according to age. In the fall, the club

will begin meeting two or three times a week.

"Through a club, we can have alumni, some of our guys and girls that are wrestling in college, they can come back in and give back and help out," Harrison said. "We've seen a lot of different

coaches in the room besides just our high school and middle school staff. It also gives the opportunities for volunteers in the community to come out and help."

LIBRARY

FROM PAGE B1

p.m. on Saturdays.

"We are really looking forward to seeing all of our patrons again, and we are also excited for everyone to see some of the changes that we made while we were closed," Library Director Andie D'Avignon said.

The flood affected multiple areas of the library, including some sections related

to juvenile and young adult works, D'Avignon said. The Sheetrock and carpet had to be replaced in the main area as well as the tile in the bathrooms and the affected bookcases. The main area of the library was also repainted.

"We used this as an opportunity to rearrange the affected sections, and I think our patrons will really enjoy the changes that we made," D'Avignon said. "We also shifted a few other things around when we put every-

thing back together, such as moving the audiobook section up to the front to make it a bit more accessible. In our children's room (which was not damaged in the flood) we created a new section of easy non-fiction books for little ones that want a bit of education with lots of fun dialog and cool pictures. There are a few other small changes that we've made, always with the goal of creating a positive experience for our patrons."

The library closure was

initially only supposed to last about 30 days, but the repairs and readjustment of the library took longer than expected, D'Avignon said.

"Sometimes it's all those small (but necessary) issues that take the longest," she said. "We wanted to be certain that there won't be a repeat of the flood. We did run into a few snags, but what construction project doesn't? Plus, you would be surprised at just how long it takes to unpack and reshelve that

many books."

After reopening, library programming and services are expected to resume as they were before, D'Avignon said. Children's Story & Craft Time will still begin at 10:30 a.m. on Fridays, and Teen Movie Afternoon will take place on the last Saturday of each month at 2:30 p.m.

The library's summer events are still happening on Wednesdays throughout July. The closure didn't affect the summer craft events, which

have occurred outside in the library's back parking lot. However, the summer schedule included showings of children's movies that must be premiered inside the library and therefore had to be cancelled because of the library's closure. Now that the library has reopened, kids may finally be able to make plans to watch movies at the library.

For more information about the Springtown Public Library, visit its website at springtown-library.com/ online.

Film noir with cyberpunk on top



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.

I just finished playing the game Cloudpunk. I had high hopes for it. It's a great-looking game.

Released in 2020, Cloudpunk is "A neon-noir story in a rain-drenched cyberpunk metropolis. It's your first night on the job working for the Cloudpunk delivery service. Two rules: Don't miss a delivery and don't ask what's in the package."

The premise of the game is simple. You're a delivery driver, flying a HOVA to various destinations within the game. Your goal is to get to the location and deliver the package to your customer. Most missions are easy. There are a few missions that are timed, but the outcome of the mission isn't essential to complete the game.

The location is a city called Nivalis, and from in-game exposition and dialogue, you're told that it's one of the last cities on this planet. Many of the individuals you meet in the game are androids or artificial persons, instead of human beings. Your companion is CAMUS, a talking augmented artificial intelligence who identifies as a dog.

What I noticed right away is how fun it is to drive a flying car through the city. Controls are simple, the usual W-A-S-D plus shift and space to move up and down. Everything in the game is rendered as cubes, which probably saves

a bit on processing speed. It's a huge open-world environment, so there's a lot of data for the computer to juggle. The buildings look great and straight out of Blade Runner. You're given a sense of distance and space with strategic use of lighting and transparencies.

The characters, however, are a different story. The game relies on 'voxels' for the objects you interact with in the game. This works fabulously for the buildings and structures, but not the NPC characters. When you compare them with how the rest of the game looks, it's jarring how ugly they are.

It's dialogue-heavy for no good reason. Every character you talk to will have a conversation with you that you can't skip through, and some of them aren't really relevant to finishing the story.

You also have to gas up the HOVA and repair it every once in a while, depending upon how bad of a driver you are.

The base game is an oddly short story for such a huge world. It feels like developers spent a lot of time on building Cloudpunk's environment and not enough time to work on the story inside this environment. Considering all the flying around that's essential to complete the game, there are many areas in the game that have nothing in



SCREENSHOT COURTESY ION LANDS

Driving through Nivalis in a flying car is one of the most fun things you can do in Cloudpunk.

them.

Total game play for me was 35.5 hours, and I spent a lot of time looking around for punch cards and other items.

CLOUDPUNK: CITY OF GHOSTS

The DLC (downloadable content) for this game was released in 2021: Cloudpunk: City of Ghosts. It promises to be as long of a story as the base game and has more meaningful plot direction based upon your choices in the game.

One thing I noticed right away was that they've worked to make the characters more

realistic. The cubes used for the faces are smaller and there's an attempt to control shading so that they look more like rendered faces instead of Minecraft monsters. The character movement slideshow is still very short, so they'll do the same thing about five times in a long conversation.

There's a better interface for your HOVA. The base game only has a fuel indicator, no damage indicator. The DLC has a fuel indicator to tell you when to gas up, and a damage indicator to tell you when it's time to repair the

vehicle.

Gameplay is quite a bit darker than the original base game. Our original main character gets into trouble and has to resolve it with help from some new characters.

Just like with the base game, there's way too much talking. The interactions with the NPCs are tedious. More than once I had to wait impatiently for a conversation to end so I could get on with playing the game.

The story and its resolution in the game left me feeling decidedly meh. I just didn't care about the char-

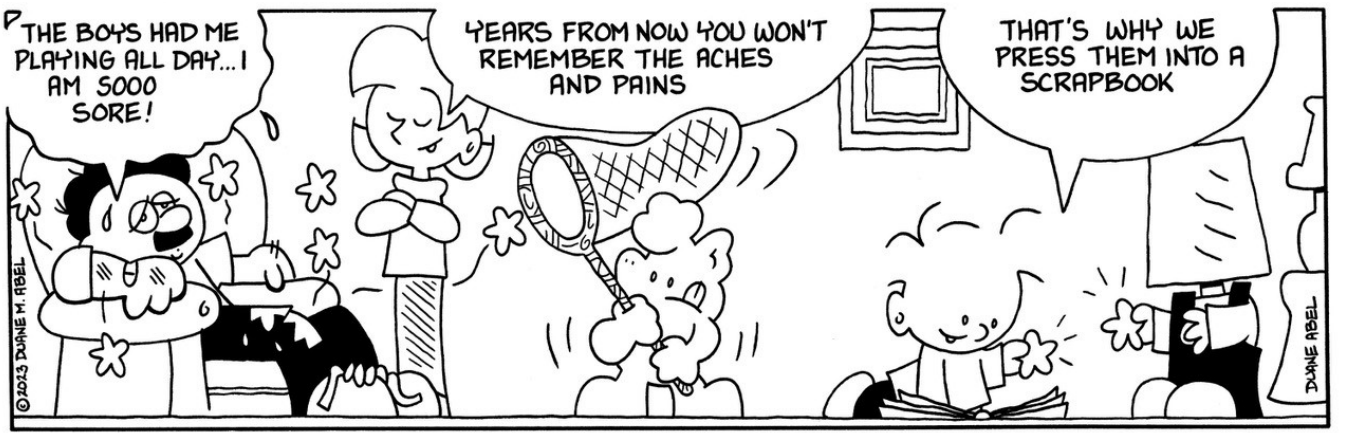
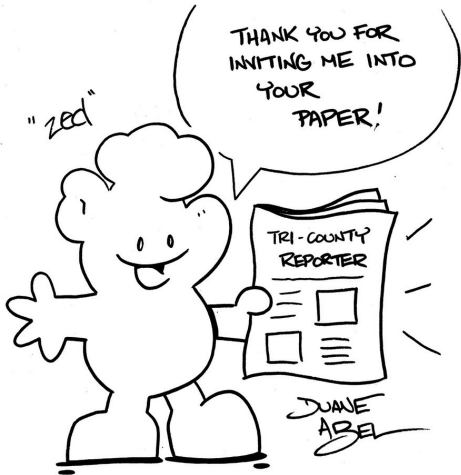
acters or what happened to them, aside from CAMUS, the Automata dog.

This game might have been better if there were more missions that were just deliveries, without some kind of story attached to them. Driving a flying car through a city, avoiding obstacles, getting to locations on time - that was fun. Slogging through the story was less so. The final insult was the five-minute long credit sequence that also can't be skipped through.

Don't waste your money buying this at retail - wait until it's on sale.

ZED BY DUANE ABEL

WWW.CORKYCOMICS.COM



Introducing ZED, by Duane Abel

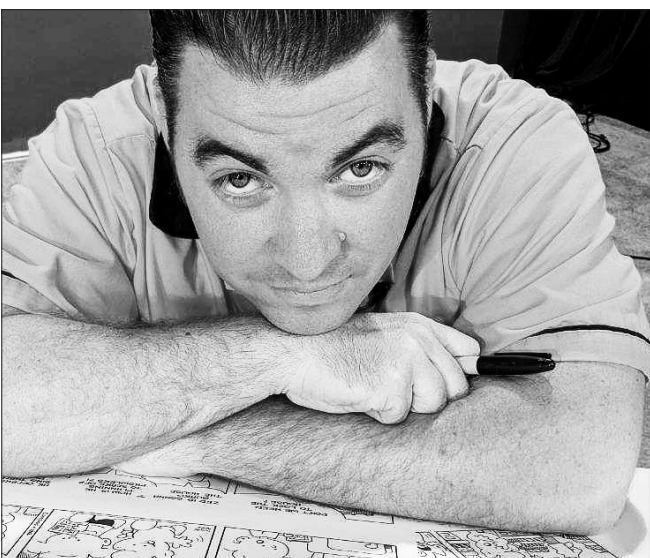
This week we are pleased to introduce our readers to the family friendly comic strip series ZED, written and drawn by cartoonist Duane Abel (who resides in a small Ohio community).

ZED is a lovable piece of fabric softener and dryer lint that found his way into the hearts of a loving family. ZED (who is about to celebrate his 28th year of publication) appears in over 50 weekly newspapers nationwide and has been collected into several books by Corkey Comics Publishing. GARFIELD creator Jim Davis has called ZED "a comic strip with a ton of heart".

Cartoonist Duane Abel is a proud member of the National Cartoonists Society and even prouder dad to two boys. His first children's book "BOWLERS: The Cereal Mascot" was just released last year and he is on the list of noted Ohio cartoonists from OSU's Billy Ireland

Art Museum and Cartoon Library. Duane's first feature film as a screenwriter is the romantic comedy feature film "THE GREEN OAK GUARDIAN" which is now available on Amazon and Tubi and where he

also appears as Hollywood super agent Cy Glasbery. Duane plans to draw the comic strip ZED for at least 85 years, making him 100 year old when that feat is achieved! Duane calls this his "Thrive to 85!"



Duane Abel

Sudoku

JULY 13, 2023

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

Solution to last week's puzzle

JULY 6, 2023

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

Extra! Extra!
Read All About It!

TRI-COUNTY REPORTER
THE NEWS OF AZLE, SPRINGTOWN, AND SURROUNDING AREAS

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Quilter's Guild of Parker County



SUBMITTED ITEM

The Quilter's Guild of Parker County will meet in-person and via Zoom on Thursday July 20 at Lakeshore Drive Baptist Church, 200 S. Lakeshore Dr. in Hudson Oaks.

This month we will have a Zoom presentation from Linda & Carl Sullivan of Colourwerx. They love color and love creating colorful contemporary fabric designs and patterns. With over 22 years' experience as professional designers and quilt makers, Linda and Carl are intensely passionate about bold bright colors, midcentury modern art and contemporary pattern design.

Always searching for a twist on the traditional, their fabric designs and quilt patterns are well known for their modern look, spontaneous movement, and fearless use of color. Come for a great time and discussion about color and design.

The meeting will begin at 6:45 p.m. but come earlier to socialize. Visitors are welcome in-person and online. If you wish to join us online, email your name and telephone number to qgpc2000@gmail.com. To learn more about the Guild, visit our website quiltersguildofparkercounty.org or find us on Facebook.

Quilter's Guild of Parker County

Thursday July 20, 6:45 pm

Lakeshore Drive Baptist Church,
200 S. Lakeshore Dr. in Hudson Oaks

COURTESY PHOTO

One of Colourwerx's fun and colorful patterns by Linda and Carl Sullivan, ModCat # CW-109 features slash 'n sew applique with a jelly roll or fat quarters.

LOTTERY

FROM PAGE B1

see. I've worked so hard for it."

Altom's mother, Allie Altom, also recalled crying and feeling overwhelmed by her daughter's big win.

"For all of us, it was like winning the lottery, kind of, in the stock show world," Allie Altom said.

Allie Altom pointed out that Kylie chooses to dedicate a lot of time to her livestock animals and has had to miss out on spending time with her friends as a result. So, Altom said seeing her daughter achieve grand champion made it seem like those sacrifices paid off.

Kylie Altom started showing goats when she was 6 years old, following the lead of her mother who also raised livestock in her youth. Kylie said her grandparents - who have always owned goats - encouraged her to get into stock shows, and from there, she was hooked.

"I absolutely loved it and just stuck with it," she said, adding that she enjoys caring for animals and watching them grow.

After years of competing, Kylie Altom has won many belt buckles. Still, she recalled feeling nervous before this year's Parker County

Stock Show.

"You've done all this work, and you never really know how it's going to go because it's one judge's opinion and everybody likes their animals differently," she said.

To get a better idea of how to prepare for shows, Allie Altom said the family will find out who the judges are and will buy certain types and styles of animals based on who the judge is. Kylie Altom also works with a personal trainer who gives guidance on an animal's feed and workout programs.

Though she has learned tips and tricks, Kylie Altom said raising a show animal ultimately takes time and effort.

"I think also finding your rhythm, like your specific program that works for you is what's going to be best for you in the end," she said, referring to an animal's feed and workout routines.

Kylie Altom also said having an individualized plan per animal to meet their specific needs is also important. For example, she got her grand champion-winning goat in January when he was younger than four months old and looked long and skinny like a limousine, she said. Therefore, she made sure the goat got plenty of exercise and food to gain weight, muscle and fat.

"We really weren't sure about him, but you just got

to trust the process," Allie Altom said about her daughter's show goat.

The goat himself wasn't exactly easy to work with. Kylie Altom named him Batman because the dark coloring on his face and ears kind of resembles that of the iconic superhero. The goat may also draw comparisons to Batman because of his temperamental attitude, particularly on the day of the show when Kylie was trying to set him up in the show ring.

"You can go in his pen one day, he'll be fine, and then if he's not feeling it, he's going to run you through the wringer," Allie Altom said.

By the time of the show, Kylie Altom said Batman had the potential to win his class or division but didn't expect him to win grand champion.

"Our county is so tough, and we have so many good animals in our county," she said. "It's so, so hard to win the show."

Even though the start of the major show season is months away, the Altoms are continuing to work with their animals and don't expect to be taking breaks anytime soon. Kylie's next goal is to be able to win her class at one of the major stock show competitions.

Moving forward, Kylie Altom plans to show Batman at a major show - which includes the stock shows in Fort Worth, Austin, Houston,



MADELYN EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Springtown High School incoming sophomore Kylie Altom named her award-winning goat Batman because of the dark coloring around his eyes and ears. She is pictured at her family's home in Springtown.



San Antonio and San Angelo.

This means she will eventually have to say goodbye to him since major shows are terminal for market livestock. Having a distraction, such as another show to participate in or something fun to do afterwards, helps ease the pain of leaving behind an animal. However, she doesn't let the thought of having to say goodbye keep her from bonding with animals in her care.

"Give them the best life you can while you have them," Kylie Altom said.

Raising show animals is a family project, Allie Altom said. She and her husband Corey Altom aid Kylie in caring for their animals and motivate each other to do so.

"There's a lot of days I do

not want to go out to the barn; I don't want to come home from work and go feed and wash and do all that," Allie Altom said, adding that the family pushes each other to work on the animals even when they don't want to. "(The animals are) depending on us just as much as we depend on them to do good for us."

Kylie Altom's little brother, Bodie, is following family tradition by also getting involved in showing goats. When asked what advice she would give to Bodie, Kylie said, "just to work hard with it. And even when it can get discouraging when you aren't achieving your goals, just keep pushing because eventually it will come with time."

MADELYN EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

At this year's Parker County Stock Show, Springtown teenager Kylie Altom won grand champion in the market goat contest as well as champion in the market goat middleweight and lightweight divisions.

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JEFF PRINCE | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER



Chloe Hennessy shows off her silly side while hanging from a bar.



Colton Cook does leg lifts/toe touches at strength camp.



Teagun Swatsworth takes a break at soccer camp.



Ben Gurley yells "Hornets!" at track and field camp.



Caysen Leatherwood works on a takedown move in wrestling camp.

SPRINGTOWN

Camp Faces

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Allison Kimball playfully swings a boy around.



Nayeli Machado



Tucker Tadlock stops to tie a shoe.



Jordy Graham shows his enthusiasm.



Kelsey Isabella Sharp dancing to the music at Family Resource Center.



Caroline Barone

AZLE Game Faces

JEFF PRINCE | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER



Dani Najero



Dylan Alexander



Assistant cheer coach Chasity Benne.



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<p>039</p>  <p>KARL KLEMENT</p> <p>Custodian Performs custodial tasks throughout the building. Position can be full-time or part-time.</p> <p>Sales Associate If you are looking for an exciting and rewarding career; join our team as an Automotive Sales Associate. Previous auto sales experience preferred; however, exceptional and in-depth training, of vehicles and technology are offered to candidates that demonstrate a commitment to providing exceptional customer service. In addition to paid training and opportunities for growth, we offer a competitive compensation & benefits package.</p>	<p>Help Wanted</p> <p>Karl Klement Properties, Inc. No Positions Available at This Time</p> <p>KLEMENT DISTRIBUTION, INC. (Hershey Ice Cream Distributor) No Positions Available at This Time</p> <p>Apply in person at: 605 N. Business 287, Ste 102, Decatur, Texas or call Human Resources 940-627-6362 hr.info@klementford.com Jodi Pettis, Executive Director</p> <p>All full-time positions offer growth opportunities & a full benefits package including Medical, Dental, Vision, Life, 401(k) & more. EEOC</p>	<p>079 Welding</p>  <p>SOLID STEEL SOLUTIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metal Buildings • Steel Components • Welding Supplies • Concrete Supplies • Fabrication Supplies • Pipe Fencing • Deer Blinds • Deer Feeders <p>8894 W Hwy 199 • Springtown 817-220-0008 www.SolidSS.com Open to the Public</p>
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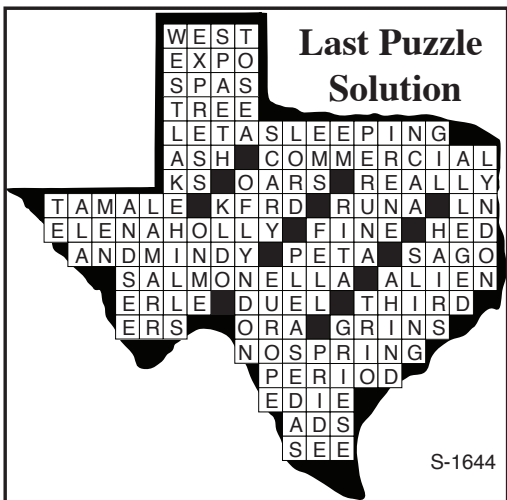
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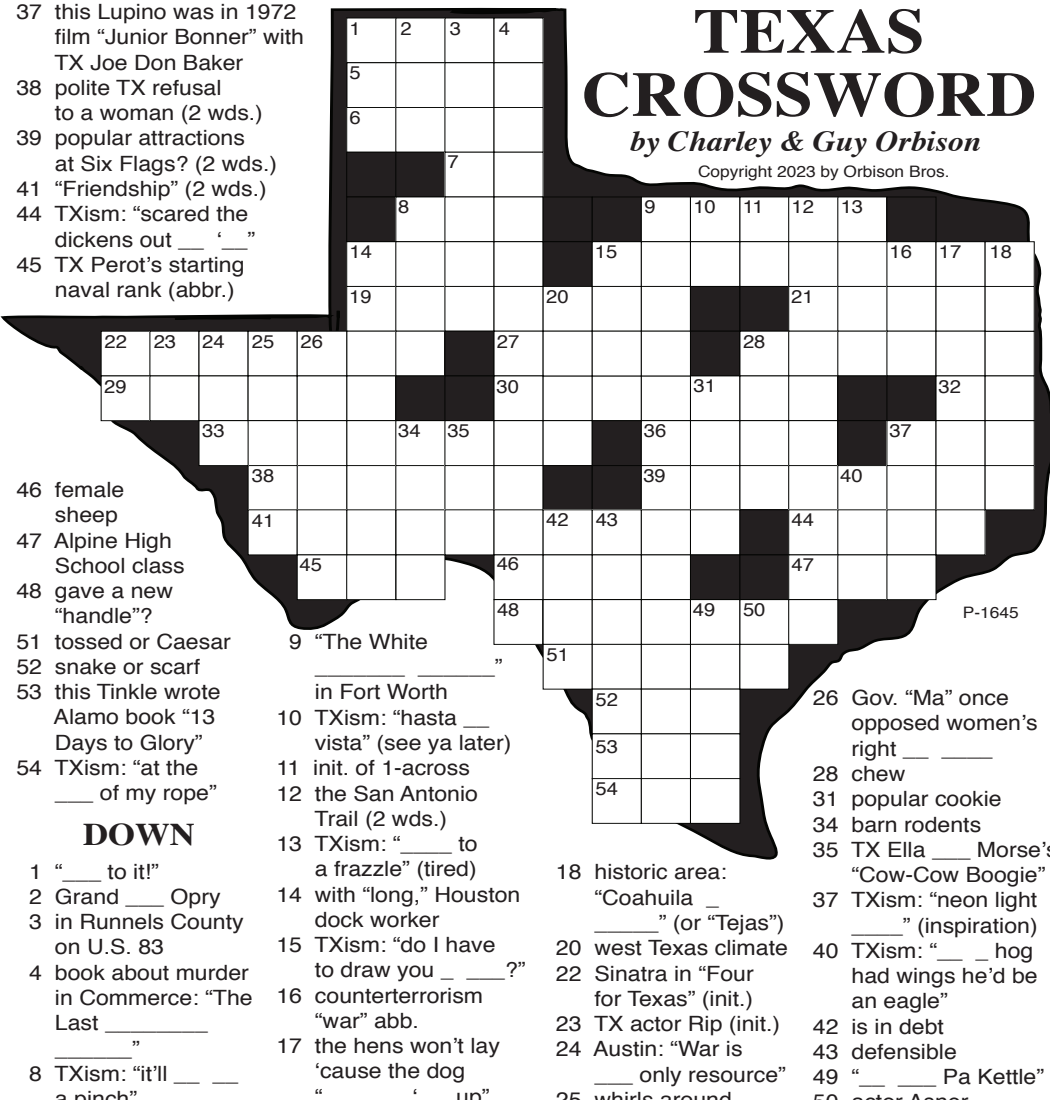
Last Puzzle Solution



S-1644

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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P-1645

ACROSS

- TX golfer Nelson book: "___ Played the Game"
- longtime U.S. representative Teague
- TX-born Robin Wright's husband actor, Sean
- TXism: "too lazy ___ swat flies"
- Congress voted to admit Texas as a state in this mo.
- TXism: "give me some ___ room"
- TXism: "a sight for ___ eyes"
- he coached for the Longhorns, Oilers, & Cowboys (2 wds.)
- what TX "Spanky" wrote on the flying red horse atop Dallas' Magnolia Bldg. (2 wds.)
- a legal right
- Brady hosted the "___ the Cactus Shoot"
- TXism: "mobile mouse ___" (cat)
- country ballad: "___ on My Mind"
- a dazed state
- takes gas with a hose
- ___-con (now free)
- TXism: "about as clear as Red ___" (confusing)
- TXism: "fast as ___ up a rafter"
- this Lupino was in 1972 film "Junior Bonner" with TX Joe Don Baker
- polite TX refusal to a woman (2 wds.)
- popular attractions at Six Flags? (2 wds.)
- "Friendship" (2 wds.)
- TXism: "scared the dickens out ___"
- TX Perot's starting naval rank (abbr.)
- female sheep
- Alpine High School class
- gave a new "handle"?
- tossed or Caesar
- snake or scarf
- this Tinkle wrote Alamo book "13 Days to Glory"
- TXism: "at the ___ of my rope"
- "___ to it!"
- Grand ___ Opry
- in Runnels County on U.S. 83
- book about murder in Commerce: "The Last ___"
- TXism: "it'll ___ a pinch"
- "The White ___" in Fort Worth
- TXism: "hasta ___ vista" (see ya later)
- init. of 1-across
- the San Antonio Trail (2 wds.)
- TXism: "___ to a frazzle" (tired)
- with "long," Houston dock worker
- TXism: "do I have to draw you ___?"
- counterterrorism "war" abb.
- the hens won't lay 'cause the dog "___ ___ up"
- historic area: "Coahuila ___" (or "Tejas")
- west Texas climate
- Sinatra in "Four for Texas" (init.)
- TX actor Rip (init.)
- Austin: "War is ___ only resource"
- whirls around
- Gov. "Ma" once opposed women's right ___
- chew
- popular cookie
- barn rodents
- TX Ella ___ Morse's "Cow-Cow Boogie"
- TXism: "neon light ___" (inspiration)
- TXism: "___ hog had wings he'd be an eagle"
- is in debt
- defensible
- "___ Pa Kettle"
- actor Asner

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