

THE TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

THE NEWS OF AZLE, SPRINGTOWN, AND SURROUNDING AREAS

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BACK TO SCHOOL

Azle ISD Convocation 2023

Azle ISD teachers and staff gathered at Azle High School to celebrate the start of the new school year

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On the morning of Aug. 3, Superintendent Todd Smith welcomed teachers back at Azle Independent School District Convocation, saying few professions make as big a ripple as teaching.

Dressed in matching school shirts, the hundreds of teachers in attendance from each of the district's campuses met in the Azle High School auditorium after a 9 a.m. vendor fair. Local businesses and artisans set up shop in a high school gym to sell AHS related attire, promote their organizations and demonstrate their crafts.

At 10 a.m., a host of

speakers greeted and welcomed teachers, praising the educators' accomplishments in recent years and the semesters ahead. School Board President Bill Lane described feeling proud that Azle ISD now had police officers present on every campus. This comes as part of an Azle ISD effort to build up its own district-employed police presence and rely less on student resource officers provided by the Azle Police Department.

On Aug. 1's Azle City Council meeting, councilmembers approved a plan to send fewer SRO's to Azle ISD campuses than in previous years.

Later in the convocation,



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

PLEASE SEE **AZLE** | A16 Jonathan G. Brown during his speech.

SISD board hears facility financing presentation

MADelyn EDWARDS
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SPRINGTOWN — The Springtown school board may be mulling over the possibility of calling another bond election after hearing a presentation on facility finance at the last board meeting.

Deadline to call for a November bond election is on Aug. 21

In the last few years, the school board has called for three bond elections, all related to the goal of alleviating space needs at campuses, and voters rejected all those

proposals at the ballot box. Springtown ISD Communications and Marketing Director Kendra Hutchison said the school board and the district's

administrators have been searching for new architects and financial advisors to give guidance. The district has found a new architect who lives and pays taxes in Springtown and would be responsible for designing the school district's new facilities if a bond election were to be approved.

"After experiencing unsuccessful bond elections, they decided to thoroughly investigate the reasons behind the failures," Hutchison said. During the board meeting on July 24, Douglas Whitt of SAMCO Capital revealed that the tax rate impact of a potential bond would be lower than previously expected,

Hutchison said. Instead of a 29-cent increase to the district's interest and sinking rate, the impact would be a 17-cent raise. "There is ongoing discussion about the possibility of running for a bond again, and the focus is now on gathering

PLEASE SEE **FINANCE** | A14



MADelyn EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Springtown ISD Communications and Marketing Director Kendra Hutchison laughs while Paula Ardoin - new teacher at Springtown Elementary School - does her impersonation of Rip, a character from the T.V. series "Yellowstone," at the new teacher luncheon on Aug. 3.

BACK TO SCHOOL

Building each other up

Springtown welcomes new teachers at annual luncheon

MADelyn EDWARDS
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SPRINGTOWN — An incoming Springtown

Elementary School fourth grade teacher achieved a small victory at her new job before classes started.

At the new teacher luncheon on Aug. 3 at Oak Knoll

Ranch, Paula Ardoin found out that her team won the scavenger hunt during new teacher orientation, which included making a video introducing the Tabernacle,

visiting a boutique to teach educators how to dress, thanking the mechanics at a tire shop and battling another

PLEASE SEE **BUILDING** | A2

'We are stuck'

Reno Council makes hiring decisions amid budget uncertainty

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RENO — After lifting the city's hiring freeze, Reno City Council authorized the interim city secretary to look into hiring a temporary part-time water clerk but delayed filling an open spot on the police force.

On July 31, the council discussed hiring for a second time, the first being at the July 24 council meeting where the council initially tabled action on hiring a part-time water clerk and a police officer. The council's discussion during both meetings revolved around the same question - could the city afford to hire?

The council has been working on its budget, both settling the 2022-23 one and planning for 2023-24. Elected officials and city staff have been meeting for weekly budget workshops on Tuesdays, which will continue through-

out August. Council member Hernando Herrera advocated for upholding the hiring freeze with the caveat that the council could always reconsider in the future.

"Just bringing up the numbers that we saw, we don't even know if we're going to be able to pay this current staff," Herrera said during the meeting. "We don't know if we can pay our bills. Why are we adding to our bills?" Interim City Secretary Rebekka Roberts said some reports show that the city is receiving more money in revenue than what was shown on the budget.

Mayor Hector Bas Jr. recommended that the council think about how work will be accomplished if needed positions are not filled and advised against putting more responsibility on staffers.

"I respect your guys' decision whichever way you guys

PLEASE SEE **HIRING** | A12



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Local, zone(s) 2 sections, 28 pages

INSIDE
News - A1- A16 | Obituaries - A7 | Diversions B1 - B8 | Classifieds B10 - B12

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MADelyn EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER



MADelyn EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Goshen Creek Elementary School Principal Kelly Jones introduced the school's new teacher at the luncheon last week.

The new teacher luncheon took place on Aug. 3 at Oak Knoll Ranch. The luncheon is an annual event sponsored by the Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce, the Springtown Pastoral Fellowship, the Springtown Education Foundation and the city of Springtown.

BUILDING
FROM PAGE A1

er teacher group in karaoke.

"We do the scavenger hunt because we want to show how amazing our community is and our businesses are," Springtown Independent School District Communications and Marketing Director Kendra Hutchison said at the luncheon.

For the Tabernacle video, Ardoin showed off her voice impersonation of Rip, a character from the T.V. series "Yellowstone." During the luncheon, the reading and language arts teacher was invited to do that impersonation in front of the crowd of new teachers and chamber of commerce members.

Ardoin used to teach at High Point Academy in White Settlement. Since she resides in the Springtown area, she decided to change schools because she wanted to work in the community she lives in. Her children will also be going to Springtown Elementary

School.

"I love the community, and so I wanted to teach here," Ardoin said. "I wanted my kids to come here as well."

Overall, Ardoin enjoyed the luncheon – the food, the venue and the welcoming people.

"I'm very happy," she said. "I think this kind of solidified this is where I'm supposed to be."

The new teacher luncheon – for SISD educators who are new to Springtown or new to the teaching profession – is an annual event sponsored by the Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce, the Springtown Pastoral Fellowship, the Springtown Education Foundation, and the city of Springtown. Principals introduced their new employees, and teachers left with goodie bags.

"I'm inspired by the people that are in this room and the impact that you're going to have on our students and this community," SISD Superintendent Shane Strickland said during the luncheon.

Local pastors also spoke

at the luncheon, including David Bennett of Springtown Church of Christ who gave the keynote address. He focused on the word edify, which means to instruct or improve someone, and encouraged teachers to build up their students as well as know that the community and churches are there for them.

"That's one reason we have so much fun here," Bennett said in his speech. "People don't look to tear each other down. We look to build each other up. We look to support and strengthen one another."

Bennett also told a story to educators about having a teacher who gave a test at the beginning of the year. When the students failed, the teacher rewrote the syllabus to address the class's needs.

"As your students walk into your class, evaluate them individually," he said to the audience of teachers. "Let them be who they are. And when you walk into our churches, we're just going to see who you are."



Springtown School Board President Rick Beall speaks at the new teacher luncheon last week.

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Old Memories Make a Wonderful Gift

This past week my friend Neva Sundvahl brought me a package. She had been going through things which her mother Rosanne had passed on to her and found some old notes. Neva knows and appreciates that I like a good story and she thought I would enjoy some of the clippings she had recently uncovered. I was in a meeting when she came by the newspaper office, but when I returned to my desk there was a folder full of antidotes and quaint



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.

little stories. Here is one I wanted to share with you:

THINGS WE CAN LEARN FROM A DOG

Allow the experience of fresh air and the wind in your face to be pure ecstasy.

When loved ones come home, always run to greet them.

Let others know when they have invaded your territory.

Take naps and stretch when rising.

Eat with gusto and

enthusiasm.

Run, romp, and play daily.

Never pretend to be something you are not.

Thrive on attention and let people touch you.

When someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close by and nuzzle them gently.

Avoid biting when a simple growl will do.

On hot days, drink lots of water and lay under a shade tree.

When you are happy, dance around and wag your entire body.

No matter how often you are scolded, don't buy into the guilt thing and pout.

Delight in the simple joy of a long walk.

Be loyal.

Sounds to me like we all have a lot to learn from dogs. I want to thank Neva for bringing me the treasures which her mother had so copiously collected over her life. It is my loss that I never got to meet Ms. Sundvahl. I am sure she and I would have been friends and would have enjoyed sitting on her front

porch, regaling each other with story after story.

This week let's all try and be a little more "dog like" and enjoy the wonderful life which God has given us.

Thought for the day: A woman marries a man thinking she will change him, and he never does. A man marries a woman thinking she will never change, and she always does.

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

Fire chief asks Reno Council to budget for emergencies, fire marshal's office, staffing

Reno Council working on 2023-24 budget preparation

MADelyn EDWARDS
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RENO — Briar-Reno Fire Department Chief Moses Druxman outlined needs for the upcoming budget year, including a temporary solution to Reno's pressure-related fire hydrant issues, during a recent Reno City Council budget workshop.

During the meeting on Aug. 1, Druxman split his presentation to the council into three parts, focusing on emergency management, the fire marshal's office and the fire department. The fire department contracts with the city of Reno as well as Sanctuary, Pelican Bay and Tarrant County Emergency Services District 1. Druxman said he is asking all these entities for funding increases, including Reno.

Druxman said the fire department is facing a water pressure issue with the city's fire hydrants. If a fire hydrant doesn't have enough pressure, then a fire truck cannot extract that water. After testing the fire hydrants, he reported that more than 50% of the city's hydrants failed, mostly because of water pressure issues.

"The other major issue

that we have is the pressures go up and down," he said. "Sometimes we have good pressure; sometimes we don't."

Mutual aid partners in La Junta or Azle can bring water, but that takes about 10 minutes at least, Druxman said.

The fire chief proposed adding another staff member per shift who would be dedicated to bringing water to fires in Reno, which would cost about \$159,000 per year.

"The request for the additional \$159,000 will aid in covering the cost of an additional one person per shift dedicated solely to driving our Engine/Tanker and supplying water to fires," Druxman said to The Tri-County Reporter. "Current water pressures throughout the city do not allow us to safely use fire hydrants solely in fire attack. I am working to find a way to lower that cost if possible. We have been faced with new insurance and fleet maintenance costs that will require some of the current funds dedicated to staffing be reallocated."

However, Druxman said the extra funds needed for staffing would only be a temporary solution.

"That is not the answer to the problem," he said dur-

ing the budget workshop. "The answer to the problem is beginning to fix your water system. So, at the end of the day, if my \$159,000 (request) becomes \$79,000 or \$40,000 or \$50,000 or \$5,000, I hope that we are doing that because we're fixing the water system because that has to be the situation that we're focused on."

The city purchased two new booster pumps to improve pressure in the northern area of the city, but only one will work at a time. Reno Public Works Director Chris Albright said a special chip is needed to sync the pumps so they will run simultaneously. If more pressure was needed for fire response, Albright would send a worker to manually operate the second booster pump.

But getting that chip so the booster pumps will run at the same time would only improve pressure on the north side of Reno.

"(Druxman) needs a fire flow of 250 gallons a minute," Albright said during the budget workshop. "We're nowhere near that."

Reno's water pressure issues put the city in violation of its own fire code, Druxman said. If water pressures aren't improved, that will affect the

city's ability to accept new developments.

"If we don't get pressures up, we can't keep building houses because I can't keep telling developers, 'Sure, bring in a home, five homes, 10 homes, whatever,' because water pressure is not going to be there if it catches on fire," Druxman said.

Druxman also suggested that a budget needs to be built for emergency management because of issues Reno has had with frozen roads during the winter.

"Council and the mayor at the time had asked me to prepare a budget for emergency management for this year to prep the roads," he said. "Parker County will assist you if it's related to public safety for the fire and police to clear the roadways, but they're not going to come out and clear our roadways just because. They expect municipalities to clear the roadways themselves."

Ideally, Reno would need to allocate \$40,000 to \$50,000 to emergency management to procure proper equipment, including replaced and upgraded barricades, Druxman said. However, the city may not be able to afford that, so Druxman suggested that the city budget \$10,000

for the equipment needed to sand key roadways, such as Reno Road and the intersections of Farm-to-Market Road 730 and State Highway 199. Though FM 730 and SH 199 are state highways, Druxman said those roadways in Reno will not be seen as a priority for the state.

"Where you're located is a tier three area or tier four area, and the state's not going to go to you first," he said. "They're going to go to the Metroplex, the major highways first. That's why we had issues."

Another emergency management priority is getting more outdoor warning sirens for the city, but Druxman isn't planning on asking for city funding for that until he can secure a Federal Emergency Management Agency grant. The only warning siren in Reno is an old one on top of the fire department that can be heard maybe about two miles away. Druxman said the city needs six to eight sirens.

The fire chief also brought up that the fire marshal's office, which completes building inspections for life safety, is unfunded. Fees collected for inspections are paid to the city, not the fire department.

"Right now, when one of the inspectors goes out and does that inspection, they're either doing it for free or I'm paying for it," Druxman said.

This lack of compensation prevents the fire marshal's office from being proactive about inspections, Druxman said. He proposed a retention fee of \$3,000 to \$5,000 and a compensation plan be budgeted.

"The retention fee allows the city to compensate fire marshals for their time regarding plan review, code review and code enforcement separate from the life safety inspections themselves as well as funding any required equipment," Druxman said to The Tri-County Reporter. "Currently our Fire Marshal's office performs all life safety and certificate of occupancy inspections for the City of Reno but is not compensated for these. The retention fee and compensation plan ensures we can continue to have inspectors performing these duties."

Reno City Council did not make any decisions at the budget workshop. The council is working on the city's 2023-24 budget and has workshops planned on Tuesdays throughout August.

Child care centers closing across state; no additional impeachment articles for Paxton

CHILD CARE CENTERS CLOSING ACROSS STATE

An unprecedented number of childcare centers are expected to close across the state as pandemic relief funding ends, the Texas Standard reported. A survey conducted by the Texas Association for the Education of Young Children of about 1,600 childcare programs indicated 44% were likely to close their doors without additional funding. Federal pandemic relief funds ended for most centers in June.

The Texas Legislature declined to pass a \$2.3 billion House proposal for childcare providers, with the intent that the money be used to raise the average wage of staff from \$12 per hour to at least \$15 per hour.

Since 2020, Texas childcare providers have received more than \$4 billion in COVID-19 funding, according to the Texas Tribune. The money helped cover childcare costs for more than 800,000 Texas children.

"This is going to be something that affects every community here in the state of Texas and will have a lasting effect on our economy as the supply of workers in all industries is shortened



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.

because of the lack of childcare," Cody Summerville, executive director of TAEYC, said.

NO ADDITIONAL IMPEACHMENT ARTICLES FOR PAXTON

The deadline has passed with no additional impeachment charges against suspended Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, who already faces 20 articles of impeachment in a trial set in the Senate for Sept. 5, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

House members in late May voted 121-23 to send the articles of impeachment to the Senate, accusing Paxton of bribery and misuse of office. Paxton was indicted in 2015 for securities fraud, with that trial now set for 2024.

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, who will preside over the impeachment trial, said it will likely last two to three weeks.

NEW LAW CRACKS DOWN ON STREET RACING

Gov. Greg Abbott last week signed two laws cracking down on illegal street racing. House Bills 1442 and 2899 enhance penalties for those involved in such activities and provide law enforcement and prosecutors additional tools to address those crimes.

"Street takeover" events have been occurring in Austin, Fort Worth and other cities, where intersections are blocked by vehicles doing donuts in intersections while others film the event.

Abbott ceremonially signed the bill in Fort Worth, where a street takeover led to a pair of fatalities.

"Street racing and street takeovers are not a victimless crime," Mayor Mattie Parker said. "Right here in Fort Worth, we lost a wonderful young couple who had three children. These types of incidents are all too common

across the country."

Abbott announced the formation of a task force in February to combat street takeovers. The Texas Department of Public Safety, working with local law enforcement, has made more than 50 arrests and nearly 400 traffic citations related to illegal street racing across the state.

WILDFIRE DANGER CONTINUES TO RISE AS STATE BAKES

Texas A&M Forest Service is warning of increased wildfire danger as high temperatures and dry conditions continue to cover the state.

"Since mid-July, wildfire activity has increased substantially across Texas due to expanding drought conditions," said Wes Moorehead, Texas A&M Forest Service Fire Chief. "Over the past two weeks, state and local firefighters have responded to 280 wildfires that burned almost 10,000 acres."

While the risk of wildfire has increased, the five active wildfires across the state have largely been contained. The number of counties with burn bans in place increased to 168 as of last weekend.

A&M REACHES \$1 MILLION SETTLEMENT WITH JOURNALISM PROFESSOR

Texas A&M University reached a \$1 million settlement with a journalism professor whose botched hiring led to the resignation of the university's president, The Dallas Morning News reported.

University officials released the results of an internal investigation last week that admitted "mistakes were made during the hiring process."

Kathleen McElroy, a former editor for the New York Times and a journalism professor at the University of Texas at Austin, accepted a tenure-track position to restart A&M's journalism program. A public signing ceremony was followed with backlash, including from six A&M regents, because of her work to diversify newsrooms. The original offer eventually was reduced to a one-year contract with no protection from being summarily fired. McElroy decided to stay at UT-Austin while making public how the offer had changed.

"I hope the resolution of my matter will reinforce A&M's allegiance to excellence in higher education and its commitment to academic freedom and journalism," McElroy said. She is a Texas

A&M graduate.

TEXAS LEADS NATION IN 'FAMILY ANNIHILATION' CASES

Cases of "family annihilation," where one family member kills at least two close family members, occur every five days in the United States, according to a study originally made by the IndyStar and analyzed by the Statesman. That analysis indicated since 2020 such homicides have occurred in Texas 33 times — more than any other state.

Firearms are used most frequently in family annihilations in the state, the study showed. Texas, the second most populous state in the nation, leads the country in firearm-related deaths, with 4,613 reported in the state in 2021, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

The data focused on the two and a half years since the COVID-19 pandemic.

"A lot of the stressors of the COVID pandemic exacerbated the issues around domestic violence and mental health," Mikisha Hooper, with the Texas Council on Family Violence, told the Texas Standard. "So that isolation, the financial pressure, and those types of things are exacerbating the increase in the number of homicides that we're seeing," she said.

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Reno public works director gives update to council on city's water system

City maintaining water levels amid drought, restrictions

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RENO — Reno Public Works Director Chris Albright reported to the city council at a recent meeting that Reno would have run out of city water if not for Azle.

"We are getting water from the city of Azle right now," Albright said during the meeting on July 24. "They're basically our saving grace because if we didn't have that water coming in, we would have already run out of water."

Albright said at the meeting that water levels have maintained at around 8 to 10 feet. However, water levels have been maintained at about 10 feet as of Aug. 1.

"It's just a bad time of year," Albright said at the July meeting. "This is a very old and outdated water system. It really could have started upgrades 15 years ago, and like everything else, we're having to play catch up."

The public works director said he and another staffer are looking into grants that could help the city continue

to upgrade its water system. Getting the system up to par is a process that is likely to take multiple years to accomplish, Albright said.

The city entered Stage 3 of the drought contingency plan on June 28, and as of Aug. 8, the city was still in Stage 3. Being in Stage 3 of the drought contingency plan means that residents are required to follow restrictions to preserve water. This limits residents to watering their yards once a week between midnight and 6 a.m. and prohibits them from washing their vehicles and limits

filling/refilling any outdoor or indoor pools, among other restrictions.

Albright said he is trying to prevent having to upgrade the city to any drought contingency plan stages more severe than Stage 3. To go back to Stage 1 would mean that water levels would need to be maintained at 15 feet for three consecutive days.

"Right now, I'm maintaining; that's about as best as I can ask for at this time with this heat and this drought that we're coming back into," he said. "I'm trying not to go a stage further. I just need

people to go easy with their watering days."

On Aug. 1, Albright said he hopes to reach 15 feet in the next couple of weeks.

Broadly speaking, water issues at this time of year are not limited to Reno but extend throughout the state and country, Albright said. Reno was in a worse situation last year when water levels sunk to three feet.

"I think I put these water restrictions in place early enough that I was able to maintain that level," Albright said about this year's water levels. "I was hoping to main-

tain about 15 feet, but like I said, when we have wells that only pump 45 gallons a minute, it's hard to do."

Mayor Hector Bas Jr. confirmed other cities are having similar issues with water, which is something that he noticed while attending a meeting for mayors in Weatherford. Bas praised the work of Albright and his team.

"I know you're spread out thin with your crew and yourself," Bas said to Albright during the July meeting. "I appreciate all your help. You're doing a great job."

Springtown Council tables Taco Bell site plan

Council has outstanding questions for project representatives

MADELYN EDWARDS
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SPRINGTOWN — Springtown City Council has stalled the installation of a Taco Bell restaurant in the city by tabling the site plan at a recent meeting.

The proposed Taco Bell restaurant is expected to be located at the southwest corner of South Birch Street and State Highway 199, next to the new Slappy's Express Car Wash. The site plan for the project adheres to the city's ordinances, including those related to landscaping and parking.

Because the development is located on SH 199,

the Texas Department of Transportation had to approve a driveway permit. TxDOT also required the addition of a left-hand turn lane on SH 199 leading into the car wash and proposed restaurant's shared driveway, which was reportedly done before the council's meeting on July 27.

At the meeting, council members had questions about where exactly the new left-hand turn lane was located and how South Birch Street and Goshen Road, which surround the property, would be affected by the new restaurant. Specifically, council member Richelle Pruitt was concerned that neither South Birch Street nor

Goshen Road are sufficient to handle the vehicular traffic generated by the businesses without improvements.

"If we've got people going up and down Goshen trying to get into a spot and they're trying to pass each other and they have these terrible roads, they're going to have a hard time getting up and down that road, and it's going to cause a danger, just like it's going to keep us from getting out of there for our emergency services," Pruitt said during the meeting.

The car wash and proposed Taco Bell have a shared entrance and exit on SH 199. The car wash has an additional entrance on Goshen Road — which can be used to access

both businesses — while the proposed Taco Bell's entrance on Goshen Road is for emergency access only. City Secretary Christina Derr said the Taco Bell originally had a public entrance on Goshen Road but turned it into an entry for emergency purposes only because of concerns from the council.

City Administrator David Miller said the major concern of emergency services is traffic during the school year, and the city has tried to help mitigate that issue. For Goshen Road itself, Miller said he wasn't sure how the new developments would impact that road, if at all, since it's a secondary entrance point.

"The potholes and the condition of Goshen Road was prior to the car wash getting here," Miller said. "Goshen Road is one of those streets that we're going to have to address ourselves as a city."

The council questioned whether the city would initiate a traffic impact study for Goshen Road. Derr said after the meeting that the city would need to show that a certain number of trips would be produced on a city road from the developments to require that study.

"Even a Taco Bell/car wash combo is just not going to generate that number of trips," she said.

Technical issues prevented a project representative from

answering the council's questions via Zoom at the meeting. Therefore, the council unanimously voted to table approval or disapproval of the site plan until a representative could appear before them and answer questions.

"We have a lot of concerns, or at least I do, and I just don't feel comfortable with making those decisions without all the information that we need," Pruitt said before the Taco Bell agenda item was tabled.

The council did approve the site plan for the Taco Time convenience store located at 432 W. SH 199 to expand the existing store and diesel fuel islands at the July meeting.

You got a PAL within yourself

High school PALs program installs values into students

ARIANNA PARDUE

The PALS (Peer Assistance and Leadership) program at the high school allows students to make a difference to the community's youth through nurturance. Select elementary school students are paired up with high school students and spend around an hour doing activities, like playing games or coloring.

"I have learned from my pals to look at the positive in things even if you keep losing at Candy Land," recent graduate Lilly Rollmann said. "Although my pal wasn't having the best of luck, she always had a smile on her face and was ready for a good card."

Each high school student's part of the program has between two and three elemen-

tary students. They go to the elementary school during their respected class period and are responsible for getting there and back.

"Your kids are so excited to see you on their respected days and it really makes you feel like you're doing something good for them," Azle graduate Angel Brown said.

Students involved in PALS also have the chance to help with the field days and the Fish camp (incoming freshman tours) to gain community service hours. While community service was offered, PALS instilled important values that are often used outside of the program.

"I have learned through PALS how to be positive and uplift everyone around me, also how to talk and converse with someone I don't know and become best friends re-

ally fast," senior Paul Leonard said.

The PALS Program has been established for years. Over the years, the program has affected both the students and the community. Shaping the students and bringing what they have learned from PALS into the real world.

"PALS honestly made me more affectionate, more observant," Brown said. "Being a PAL, we saw how badly our kids needed basic affection sometimes and it's always better to be kind in every situation, especially with children."

COURTESY PHOTO

Select elementary school students are paired up with high school students and spend around an hour doing activities like playing games or coloring.



PLEASE NOTE AS OF AUGUST 7TH, 2023 Walnut Creek SUD is now in Stage 3 watering restrictions.

Stage 3 is being implemented due to the following factors listed below:

1. To conserve water: engage conservation efforts, before lake levels reach a critical point.
2. To maintain adequate supply for the essential needs of **ALL Customers**. (While in the prior Stage 2 watering restrictions, attempts were made to establish odd and even watering days, however, water was being used faster than it could be supplied to outer areas of the system). System infrastructure improvements are in the construction process to assist with this issue.
3. To ensure adequate supply of water to all areas for fire protection.
4. To preserve the life of WCSUD equipment and to prevent mechanical breakdown that could lead to water outages.

Thank you for your cooperation,
James Blackwood,
General Manager, Walnut Creek SUD

Actions Available Under Stage 3, Water Emergency

The General Manager may order the implementation of any of the actions listed below, as deemed necessary. Measures imposing mandatory requirements on customers require notification to TCEQ. WCSUD must notify TCEQ within five business days if any mandatory measures are implemented.

- Continue or initiate any actions available under Stages 1 and 2.
- Require customers (including indirect customers) to initiate Stage 3 in their drought contingency plans. Indirect customers include any wholesale customer of WCSUD's primary wholesale customers.

All Water Users Prohibit all landscape watering, including parks, golf courses and sports fields.

Exceptions:

- Foundations may be watered for up to two hours on any day by hand-held hose; or using a soaker hose or drip system placed within 24-inches of the foundation that does not produce a spray of water above the ground.
- Trees may be watered for up to two hours on any day by hand-held hose, drip irrigation or a soaker hose. Tree watering is limited to an area not to exceed the drip line of a tree.
- Prohibit establishment of new landscaping.
- Vehicle washing restricted to commercial car wash or commercial service station and can only be done as necessary for health, sanitation, or safety reasons, including but not limited to, the washing of garbage trucks and vehicles used to transport food and other perishables. All other vehicle washing is prohibited.
- Prohibit the operation of ornamental fountains or ponds that use potable water except where necessary to support aquatic life.
- Prohibit the draining, filling, or refilling of swimming pools, wading pools and Jacuzzi type pools. Existing private and public pools may add water to maintain pool levels; however, they may not be refilled using automatic fill valves.

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2023-2024 Azle Elementary School Supply List

PRE-K

The Beginners Bible
Brown Clipboard
Washable Crayola Markers
Crayola Crayons 24 ct.
Blunt Scissors
Wide Ruled Spiral Notebook
Bottle of Glue
Construction Paper
Kleenex (2)
6 pk of Playdough
Clear Front Zipper Pouch
Plastic Folders with brads and pockets (2-red)
Pencil box
Change of clothes in a Ziploc Bag
Headphones
Spill Proof Water Bottle
Baggies: Girls (Gallon)
Boys (Quart)
Baby Wipes
Backpack (No Rollers)

KINDERGARTEN

The Beginners Bible
Supply Box
Colored Map Pencils
Crayola Crayons 24 ct. (3)
Blunt Scissors
Wide Ruled Spiral Notebook (3)
Glue Sticks (24 ct.)
Kleenex (2)
Pink Erasers (2)
Clear Front Zipper Pouch
Pencils (24ct.)
Plastic Folders with brads and pockets (1-red, 1-yellow)
Headphones
Change of clothes in a Ziploc Bag
Construction Paper
Manila Paper
Baggies: Girls (Gallon)
Boys (Sandwich)
4 pk. Of Extra Fine Expo Markers
Spill Proof Water Bottle
Backpack (No Rollers)

1ST GRADE

The Beginners Bible
Supply Box
Pencils (24ct)
Crayola Crayons 24 ct. (2)
Scissors
Wide Ruled Spiral Notebook (3)
Glue Sticks (12 ct.)
Kleenex (2)
Pink Erasers (2)
Elmer's Glue Bottle
Crayola Markers (2)
Plastic Folders with brads and pockets (3)
Headphones
Manilla Paper 9x12
Construction Paper (9x12)
4 pk. Expo Markers
Backpack (No Rollers)

2ND GRADE

Adventure Bible
Supply Box
Pencils (24ct)
Crayola Crayons 24 ct. (2)
Scissors
Wide Ruled Composition Notebook (3)
Wide Ruled Spiral Notebook
Kleenex (2)
Pink Erasers (2)
Manila Paper
Crayola Markers
Plastic Folders with brads and pockets (1-red, 1-yellow, 1-blue)
Headphones
Glue Sticks (12)
Baggies: Girls (Gallon)
Baggies: Boys (Quart)
Expo Markers (4)
Backpack (No Rollers)

MUSIC (ALL GRADES)

Crayola Crayons (24ct.)
Crayola Pencils (12ct.)

3RD & 4TH GRADE

Adventure Bible
Zipper Pouch (2)
Pencils (24ct)
Crayola Crayons 24 ct. (2)
Scissors
Wide Ruled Spiral Notebook (3)
Colored Map Pencils
Kleenex (2)
Pink Erasers (2)
Glue Sticks (6 Large)
Crayola Markers (Classic Colors-2)
Plastic Folders with brads and pockets (1-red, 1-yellow, 1-blue)
Headphones
12 in. Ruler
Construction Paper: Girls
Wide Ruled Notebook Paper: Boys
Black Expo Markers (8)
Baggies: Girls (Gallon)
Boys (Quart)

5TH & 6TH GRADE

Bible with Concordance/Topical Index
Index Cards (300ct.)
Wide Ruled Spiral Notebook
Composition Notebook (3)
Pencil Bag/Box
Pencils 24ct. (3)
Pink Eraser (2)
Kleenex (3)
Scissors
Notebook paper (2)
Glue sticks (4)
Plastic Folders with brads and pockets (4 different colors)
Small Manila Paper (9x12) Markers
Highlighter (3)
Post-It Notes (2 Packs of 400)
Girls: Expo Markers
Boys: Pack of Red Pens
Clorox Wipes
Backpack (No Rollers)



BACK TO SCHOOL

Tips to Make Your Back-to-School Shopping Game Plan

STATEPOINT

Staying on top of consumer trends can make for a better shopper experience this back-to-school season, helping you land the best deals on the right products at the right time.

The results of a new survey from Sensormatic Solutions, a leading retail solutions provider of Johnson Controls, show that despite new shopping options popularized during the pandemic, such as buy-online-pick-up-in-stores (BOPIS), 79% of respondents plan to conduct their back-to-school shopping in stores this year, a slight increase from 2022. The most important factors when shopping in-store include price (91%), product availability (75%) and a safe and comfortable store environment (44%).

"Consumers are still viewing in-store shopping, particularly in the back-to-school season, as an experience to be enjoyed rather than an errand," says Kim Melvin, global leader of marketing and communications at Sensormatic Solutions. "Retailers are accommodating and encouraging this point of view, and it's creating a better, more responsi-

ble, and more agile industry for customers and retailers alike."

Consumers are also less worried about how the current U.S. economy will impact their back-to-school shopping budget than they were last year. Despite talk of a recession, 51% say their budget will not be impacted or that they even plan to spend more this year, a notable increase as compared to 43% in 2022. Consumers plan to spend the most on clothing and apparel (70%), shoes (58%) and school supplies (53%).

No matter how much you've budgeted for back-to-school shopping or what items you plan to spend the most on, you can use these top strategies from Sensormatic Solutions to make your back-to-school shopping experience successful and stress-free:

- 80% of respondents plan to begin their back-to-school shopping in July or August - an increase over last year - so don't wait. If you're like many shoppers, and price and product availability are heavily factored into your shopping habits, you may want to jump on the trend of shopping earlier in the sea-

son to ensure you'll find the supplies you need at the best prices.

- Don't worry about what days you plan to head to the store. In-store traffic is likely to be steady throughout the week, with 35% of consumers saying they're more likely to shop on weekdays, 32% saying weekends and 33% saying they have no preference.

- With 75% of respondents saying product availability is an important factor when shopping in-store, consider planning out your shopping list to ensure retailers have your items in-stock before you arrive. Thankfully, technologies like inventory intelligence are making brick-and-mortar shopping more reliable and convenient.

For additional survey results and insights, visit <https://www.sensormatic.com/resources/ar/2023/back-to-school-survey-2023>.

"Gearing up for a new school year is always exciting for both parents and kids. And with a bit of knowledge of how your fellow consumers plan to get their seasonal shopping done, you can develop smart shopping strategies," says Melvin.

Spotlight on BUSINESS

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Kaitlyn Fleming offers photo sessions for high school seniors, families, maternity and newborns, children, couples, engagements and lifestyle headshots.

Kaitlyn Fleming Photography

Capturing memories that will last a lifetime

Kaitlyn Fleming is the owner and executive photographer for Kaitlyn Fleming Photography. Kaitlyn has been involved in creative arts for more than 10 years and has been doing photography professionally for six years. For the past year, she has focused on photography full time. Kaitlyn has been featured in eight national and international magazines for her work.

Kaitlyn Fleming Photography specializes in portrait photography, but she has a special place in her heart for senior portraits. She is mostly self-taught but has gone to school for studio lighting, film photography, and commercial photography.

"I'm here to capture memories that will last a lifetime," Fleming says. "I always strive to make sure my clients are comfortable and having fun. I'd like to think I'm not just their photographer, I'm their friend too!"

Photos these days have moved beyond the "sit and pose" portraits so many people

remember. Now, it's more like "dance and laugh your butt off." At least with Kaitlyn it is.

"If you're a senior in high school, photos with me should feel like a dance party. If you're a couple, it should feel like a date night. If you're a little kid, photos with me should feel like a game."

Kaitlyn Fleming Photography offers portrait packages starting at \$265 plus tax. She also offers membership packages starting at \$850 plus tax for clients who know they will be booking more than one session in the future.

She offers photo sessions for high school seniors, families, maternity and newborns, children, couples, engagements and lifestyle headshots.

Kaitlyn Fleming Photography is available by appointment only and serves Azle, Springtown and the DFW area. For more information and to book a session, call or text 817-845-4764.

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OBITUARIES

Darlene Acree 1950-2023

Darlene Acree passed to her Heavenly home on August 5, 2023, after a lengthy battle with chronic liver disease and liver cancer.

Visitation will be Monday, August 14, 2023, beginning at 8:30 a.m., at Azleland Memorial Park, 850 N. Cardinal Road, to be followed by a celebration of her life at 10:00 a.m.; friends from the Azle Opry will be singing some of her favorite gospel songs. Internment will follow at the Cemetery.

Darlene was born Estha Darlene Acree on December 7, 1950 in Malvern, Arkansas, the third child of Imigene Bolin Acree and Syggle Woods "Woodie" Acree.

Darlene's family moved to Azle in July of 1955; she started school in Azle and graduated from Azle High School in 1969. She has an associate degree from Tarrant County Community College, and retired from the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department in 2013.

Darlene loved life and wasn't one for sitting idle. She enjoyed taking trips, both short and long, with friends and family, and especially trips with her sons and their families.

She will be remembered by those who loved her as a very caring and giving person. She was not verbally demonstrative, but rather showed her love by always being ready to help others. She did not criticize others and you rarely heard her complain. She was fiercely independent and even in the last days of her illness she insisted on doing things for herself as much as possible, and kept on going



to places that she had always enjoyed. She particularly liked the "Azle Opry" and seeing her friends there, and last attended a week before her passing. She loved gospel music, and surely is enjoying it now in Heaven.

She is preceded in death by her parents; a sister, Donna Gail Dines and brother-in-law Randy Dines; life partner James Phipps; brother, Joel Acree and sister-in-law Kathy Whately Acree; and brother-in-law Don Mathes.

She is survived by sons, Kevin Higgins and life partner, Misty Patterson, Russell Higgins and life partner LaShawn Jackson; granddaughter, Makayla Higgins; four grandsons, Clinton Higgins, Trenton Higgins, Christopher Higgins, and Ryan Higgins; sisters, Faye Murphree and husband David, Leanne Browning, Deana Mathes, and Robbie Jones and husband, Stephen; 13 nieces and nephews; an aunt and uncle in Arkansas; a host of cousins in Texas and Arkansas; and many good friends.

The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday August 10, 2023

Laura "Joan" Brunette 1944-2023

Laura "Joan" Brunette passed away Thursday, August 3, 2023, in Saginaw.

Joan was born June 20, 1944, in Macon, Missouri to Charles and Frances Eastham.

Joan was preceded in death by her parents and the father of her daughters Johnnie Brunette.

Survivors include her daughters Kim Ware and husband Mark, and Johnna Bridges and husband Blair; grandchildren Kristen Lindner and husband Chris, Adam Campbell and wife Angie, and Kyle Ware; three great granddaughters, Kayla



Lindner, Baylor Lindner and Lily Campbell.

The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday August 10, 2023

Paula Seipp 1956-2023

Paula Kurns Sipp passed away on August 1, 2023.

Paula was born March 16, 1956, in El Paso, Texas to Albin and Tommie Kurns, with older brother Sanford (Sandy) Kurns ready to play.

Having attended Ysleta ISD schools and graduating from Eastwood High School, she went on to study at Sul Ross State University, completing both a Bachelor's and Master's Degree.

While her original intention was to become a Vet Tech, a story she shared often, a distinct fear of blood changed her major to Education and there she found where she belonged. Across multiple grade levels, predominately in Middle School and High School, which she taught in Burnet CISD and Springtown ISD for 40 years, retiring in 2018.

She loved teaching and worked hard to support students in her classroom, thriving on those moments when her 'kids' felt that light bulb of critical thinking and seeing the world in new ways. Known for her eclectic classroom decorations, a vast collection of idioms (a favorite being 'that dog won't hunt') and the unique variety of shoes to match, she ventured out in hopes of seeing her graduates and hearing updates about their lives, families and careers. One of her proudest moments was being recognized as the Teacher of the Year at Springtown High School.

While battling breast cancer in the early 2000s and having won, she was again called to fight in 2018 with a diagnosis of MDS. After a successful bone marrow transplant and a lengthy recovery, she was declared 'cured' recently and was looking forward to spending more time sharing her love of reading, stickers, Legos and coloring books



with her grandsons. Winning this battle was another one of her proudest moments.

Although she was a teacher at heart, at her core she was proudest to be called "Omie" by her two grandsons whom she loved deeply. In almost every conversation, she could find a way to bring up a story or a picture (or three) to share of their adventures.

Paula was preceded in death by her parents, Albin and Tommie; her brother Sandy; and 'son' John Akinloye.

She is survived by her son, Kyle and his wife Gretchen; grandsons Benjamin and Grey Seipp; and former husband Lonnie Seipp. She is also survived by her long-time best friend, Linda Grant and her husband Buzz.

In lieu of flowers, and to honor her request, please consider donating to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (www.lls.org) in her name. Similarly, in honor of her passion for reading and written word, share a book, conversation and smile with a friend or loved one.

'Do not go gentle into that good night. Old age should burn and rave at the close of day' - Dylan Thomas

'Be defined by your blessings, not your tragedies' - Paula Seipp

The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday August 10, 2023

Mike Rose 1948-2023

Mike Rose, 74, passed away, Thursday, July 20, 2023, in Fort Worth.

Services were held, Tuesday, July 25 at Western Star Cowboy Church with burial at Annis Chapel.

Mike was born December 12, 1948, in Fort Worth to Gene and Juanita (Newby) Rose.

His parents preceded him in death along with his former wife, Ginger Rose.

Survivors include wife, Lori (Shelley) Rose; sons, Jamey Rose and wife, Melicia, and Jesse Shriver and wife, Brittany; stepsons, Cody Carter, Jerromy Adamo and wife, Kristi, and Ernest Adamo; stepdaughter, Joy



Parrish and husband, Jake; stepmother, Dora Rose; nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday August 10, 2023

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

BACK TO SCHOOL

Meet Azle's teachers



Sarah Milosh and her son, Jake.

ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

New teachers attend orientation, speak on past and future in Azle schools

ZACH FREEMAN
azlereporter@
tricountyreporter.com

AZLE - With the first day of class starting on Aug. 16 for many Azle Independent School District, teachers, staff and administrators are preparing to return. Alongside last year's familiar faces are the 125+ new educators and staff that are joining the district. On Aug. 1 and 2, these individuals attended orientation at the Azle ISD administration building and their respective campuses to train, prepare and get to know their colleagues.

While some teachers are entirely new to the Azle area, many are returning alumni.

"It's a little surreal honestly, Amanda Diffie, a teacher with 15 years of work experience outside the district, said of returning to teach at her alma mater. "But I'm glad to be home helping the kids and making an impact like those that had an impact on me."

Diffie attended orientation after being hired as a Pre-K through fourth grade speech pathologist. While attending Walnut Creek Elementary as a kindergartner, she received speech therapy herself. Diffie's job will be to teach children who may have trouble with speaking certain sounds, help them practice language skills and

enable children with speech impediments or conditions like autism to communicate more effectively and better navigate their world.

Another former Azle student returning to teach will be Theatre Director Rebecca Crabtree, AHS class of 2018. "I'm very excited to return to the place I discovered theater," Crabtree said. "The first show I ever saw was as a Walnut Creek Elementary student walking across the parking lot to see High School Musical at AHS. I want to kind of bring back that community and vertical expansion of the theater department, since we're only at the high school, and have outreach with the junior highs and the elementary schools. It's very nostalgic to be back and everything's different but everything's also the same."

Azle athletics is also in fine hands with new staff like Ma'Darius Hobson. Hobson was a top player for the Ouachita Baptist University basketball team after receiving a full ride scholarship. Over the last two summers, Hobson has also taught basketball to the children of NBA players. Hobson will be an assistant football coach, an eighth-grade basketball coach, a PE and health teacher as well as being involved in sprint and track at Forte Junior High.

"I'm looking forward to the year," Hobson said, "I just wanted to give back fulltime as a teacher. I love this area and I'll probably be moving here soon."

Some current Azle teachers are even seeing their own children follow in their footsteps. Jake Milosh will be a new Crossroads teacher, his mother Sarah Milosh, is a longtime English teacher at AHS who was recently awarded teacher of the year.

"I always saw her as a motivator," Jake said. "She's got a generation ahead of me as a teacher. She's been doing this for probably 15+ years. I like having the prior generation and hopefully generations to follow. I'm looking forward to being a part of a good team, the kids and it being the first year in a brand-new environment I'm looking for surprises."

Jake was inspired to be a Crossroads teacher after being taught by behavioral specialists in college and working as a substitute and life-skills teacher.

"I think SPED is a very interesting genre because you see such a variety of kids," Jake said. "I met a non-verbal in a college clinical semester. He was non-verbal, he didn't know how to talk, but he could draw identically 100 characters on the white board. It was very awesome

to see that."

The community showed no lack of support for these teachers on their orientation day. Aug. 1, lunch was provided and served by volunteers from Azle's Optimist Club.

"We managed to show our appreciation to the new teachers and let them know who we are and that they can always count on our help because of how much they benefit the city of Azle," Josh Reed, Optimist Club member said.

On the second day, new teachers received \$250 from the non-profit Azle Education Foundation to help furnish their classrooms, gift bags provided by the Azle Area Chamber of Commerce, as well as a lunch provided by Texas State Representative Charlie Geren.

Parents can meet these teachers and many more at each school's respective Meet the Teacher Night.

MEET THE TEACHER TIMES AND DATES

- All Elementary Schools (PreK- fourth grade) - Monday, Aug. 14, 5-6:30 p.m.
- Hoover Elementary - Monday, Aug. 14, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- Azle Elementary 5th grade - Thursday, Aug. 10, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- Azle Elementary 6th grade - Monday, Aug. 14, 6:30-7:30 p.m.



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER
Amanda Diffie, speech pathologist.



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER
Coach Ma'Darius Hobson.



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER
Theatre Director Rebecca Crabtree.



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER
Another teacher drawn to Azle through family connections is Amber Williams (left), a second-grade Walnut Creek teacher who has nephews attending Azle schools. "I feel really supported and like they want us here." Julie Smith (right), a fourth grade Walnut Creek teacher, looks forward to sending her own kids to the district. "I love the way they support new teachers," Smith said. "The incentives for retention help draw a good crowd."

SHAYE HOGLER **817-444-6389** **HOGLER HOGLER**

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BACK TO SCHOOL

Teach Kids Kindness and Gratitude With Thank You Notes

STATEPOINT

Nearly 60% of Americans say they send thank you notes at least occasionally to show their appreciation for a gift or favor, according to a recent poll from AmericanGreetings.com. While writing thank yous might seem time consuming, it's actually a wonderful opportunity to teach children important life lessons such as kindness, gratitude and empathy.

Whether they are thanking their new teacher, their favorite fall sports coach, or a friend or family member, here are a few tips and tricks for creating meaningful - yet simple - thank yous with kids this back-to-school season and beyond.

FOCUS ON THE POSITIVE

It's important to give children a "why." Parents should explain that when people receive a thank you note, it not only makes them feel good, but it lets them know that the gift arrived safely and was appreciated. By placing the emphasis on the person who gave them the gift - rather than on themselves - it changes thank yous from a pain-point to a positive.

MAKE IT FUN WITH DEVICES

Kids love devices - so put their screen time to good use with apps like American Greetings Creatacard for iPad. The app offers a fun, easy and engaging tool to make and send greeting cards. Plus, receiving them will be just as exciting - as homemade cards from kids are enjoyed by 93% of Americans!

Whether making a card from scratch, coloring a card or customizing a pre-made design, the Creatacard app allows kids to explore their imaginations. Simply choose from a variety of virtual (and mess-free) tools, such as pencils, paint, markers, photo frames, stamps and stickers to add designs, images and personalized messages. Best of all, the app is free to download, and cards can be sent instantly via email, text, messaging apps or shared on social media.

POWER OF PERSONALIZATION

According to the American Greetings poll, personalized messages are the most important and enjoyed part of thank you notes. Parents should encourage kids to think about what made the gift so special and be sure to

communicate that message. Was it something they really needed or wanted? Will they use the check or money for a specific purpose? Spending a few extra minutes personalizing each note will go a long way to show their sincere appreciation.

TIMING IS EVERYTHING - THE SOONER THE BETTER!

It's proper etiquette to be timely in sending thank you notes. In fact, 54% of Americans say they should be sent within one week of receiving a gift. Build good habits with kids by sending thank yous as soon as possible. It may be helpful to plan ahead and establish a set time within a week of the celebration for children to create and send their cards. And luckily, if you're sending digital greetings, they'll arrive instantly, save money on postage, and save time by eliminating the need to find current street addresses.

Teaching kids the importance of properly showing gratitude is a life skill they can take with them as they grow older. Starting small with thank you notes can be an invaluable step to becoming a kinder and more gracious person.

Why community journalism is important

ARIANNA PARDUE

The rise of technology may have changed the ways that journalism occurs, but it has not changed the purpose. Community journalism provides a vital outlet to share information and the voices of the locals.

An important part of community journalism is the fact that it covers issues and events that are local instead of being overlooked by larger news platforms.

Residents look to the local newspaper to get information on citywide events to

grand openings. With a more centralized objective anything of an importance or even just shedding light on the school district or an outstanding citizen.

Having local journalism allows the community to get involved in events and social gatherings that don't have as much press. And allows the community to have input into the newspaper by reporting an issue or sharing a story.

Many local news outlets will even take stories from the community that have

been submitted. Local news outlets also support and advertise the small business around the area. This creates involvement as well as strengthen relationships within the community. An important aspect of community journalism.

Local journalism fosters the growth of community and provides information that without it might not get around. It also has the possibility to inspire the youth of the community as they play a vital role in how the town runs.

LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICES

Charity Care Notice

Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Azle is a faith-based, non-profit organization dedicated to improving the health of the people in the communities it serves. Decisions regarding health care treatment will not be based on race, creed, sex, national origin, age, disability, or sources of payment. Uninsured or underinsured patients may be eligible for charity care if their income is below a specific percent of the federal poverty guidelines issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In addition, a patient whose family income exceeds a specific percent of the federal poverty guidelines who has significant medical bills may also be eligible for charity care if the patient lacks sufficient funds to pay the out-of-pocket portion of their hospital bill. For more information on the charity care program at Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Azle, contact the hospital's admitting or business office.

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 Friday the 25th day of August, 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 Claudia Samuel. Wanda Walter. Brian Sorrells. Kevin Fountian. Mallory Ramos. Robert Jackson. Rod Rawlins. Lauren Harrison. Bryan deane. Adriana CASTRO. Jennie Crawford. Special arrington. Chuvon Mccgary. Kim Ridges. Jonathan M Averill. Bria Goodman. Aliscia Barron. Giselle Roussell. Waleed Wilks. Charlotte Brown Hodges. Sherrell Balog. Janine Jackson-Collins

Notice of Public Sale

pursuant to Chapter 59 of Texas property code to satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale to be held at Azle Self Storage at 11400 FM 730 N; Azle TX 76020 on storageauctions.com starting on August 3, 2023, at 9:00am CST and ending on August 14, 2023 at 9pm CST. Cleanup deposit is required. The seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale. Unit items sold to the highest bidder. Property includes the contents of spaces of the following tenant and is primarily household items and furniture. Rebekah Boatman, Ronnie Cerna, Sandra Cherry, Jennifer Davis, Donna DeBow, Jennifer Galtin, Joshua Holden, Wayne Johnson, Jennifer King, Jesse McWhorter, Luretha Rodgers Eric Sanchez, Roger Smith, Garnica Sudduth, Elizabeth Wilson, Michael Young.

THE STATE OF TEXAS CITATION BY PUBLICATION

CAUSE NO. 23P324

In the Matter of the Estate of Danny Thomas Grace, Deceased TO ALL UNKNOWN OR MISSING HEIRS OF THE ESTATE OF DANNY THOMAS GRACE, DECEASED Brenda Kay Grace in the above-numbered and entitled estate filed an Application To Determine Heirship on 07/25/2023 In the Estate of Danny Thomas Grace, Deceased, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of Danny Thomas Grace, Deceased, and their respective shares and interest of said estate and Determined Heirship. The court may act on said application at any call of the docket on or after 10:00 o'clock A.M. on the first Monday next after the expiration of 10 days from the date of publication of this citation, at the Parker County Court, One Courthouse Square, Weatherford, TX 76086 in Parker County, Texas. All persons interested in this case are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court by filing a written contest or answer to said Application before the above stated time and date should you desire to do so. To ensure its consideration, you or your attorney must file any contest, objection, intervention, or response in writing with the County Clerk of Parker County, Texas on or before the above noted date and time. Given under my hand and the seal of said Court of Parker County, Texas at the office of the Parker County Clerk, on this 25th day of July, 2023. LILA DEAKLE County Clerk, Parker County Texas. By: Meridith Hawk, Deputy Clerk. Applicant's Attorney: Jennifer S. Ruelas, 1020 Fort Worth HWY STE 500 Weatherford TX 76086

THE STATE OF TEXAS CITATION BY PUBLICATION

CAUSE NO. 19P370

In the Matter of the Estate of Kenneth Ray White, Deceased TO ALL UNKNOWN OR MISSING HEIRS OF THE ESTATE OF KENNETH RAY WHITE, DECEASED Kenneth Lee White in the above-numbered and entitled estate filed an Amended Application For Independent Administration And Letters Of Administration Pursuant To Section 401.003 Of The Texas Estates Code And To Determine Heirship on 10/31/2019 In the Estate of Kenneth Ray White, Deceased, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of Kenneth Ray White, Deceased, and their respective shares and interest in such estate, and appointing Kenneth Lee White 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 28th day of July, 2023. By LILA DEAKLE County Clerk, Parker County, Texas. Applicant's Attorney: W. Faye Murphree 337 W Main Street Azle, TX 76020

CITY OF SPRINGTOWN 2022 ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Visit www.cityofspringtown.com/2022-CCR to view the City's annual water quality report. A public hearing will be held on the report August 24, 2023 at 7 p.m. at the Municipal Annex Building at 200 N. Main Street, Springtown, Texas 76082. Ciudad de Springtown Informe Anual de Calidad del Agua 2022 Visite www.cityofspringtown.com/2022-CCR para ver el informe anual de calidad del agua de la Ciudad. Se llevará a cabo una audiencia pública sobre el informe el 24 de Agosto de 2023 a las 7 p.m. en el Edificio Anexo Municipal en 200 N. Main Street, Springtown, Texas 76082

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On August 24, 2022, at 7 p.m. the City of Springtown City Council acting as the Zoning Board of Adjustments will hold a public hearing and consider a request for a variance for Lot 1, Block 1, Holbrook Farm, an addition to the City of Springtown, Parker County, Texas, being 0.23 acres of land situated in the WM Copeland Survey, Abstract No. 242, City of Springtown, Parker County, Texas for the required front yard setback. The meeting will take place in the Council Chambers and the Municipal Annex Building located at 200 North Main Street, Springtown, Texas 76082.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The City of Springtown is requesting proposals for a banking services contract to be awarded August 24, 2023, with service to begin October 1, 2023, and extend through September 30, 2028. Through this contract the City intends to minimize banking costs, improve operational efficiency, and maximize investment capabilities. The City of Springtown will accept sealed proposals for a banking services contract until 4:00 p.m. CST Monday, August 21, 2023. Two printed copies of the proposal and one electronic copy must be received by the City of Springtown, 102 East Second Street, PO Box 444, Springtown, Texas 76082 in sealed envelope clearly marked "BANKING SERVICES PROPOSAL." Any bids received after the time and date stated above, regardless of the mode of delivery, will not be considered. Questions regarding this RFP or the service requested will be accepted in written form at the address below on or before 4:00 pm Thursday, August 17, 2023. Responses to all material questions submitted will be communicated to each prospective bidder. Melony Crawford HR/Accounting Manager 102 E. Second Street Springtown, TX 76082 The City of Springtown reserves the right to waive any information or irregularities in any proposal and to reject any or all proposals.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The City of Springtown will conduct a public hearing on August 24, 2023 at 7 p.m. Springtown Courthouse Annex Building, located at 200 North Main Street, Springtown, Texas, 76082, to consider the annexation of the following real property into the corporate limits of the City, at the request of the property owner: BEING a 34.392 acres tract of land out of the Valentine Yoakum Survey, Abstract No. 1691, Parker County, Texas. A depiction of the area proposed for annexation is available at City Hall, 102 East Second Street, Springtown, Texas 76082 and is posted on the City's website.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The City of Springtown will conduct a public hearing for the proposed operating budget for fiscal year 2023-2024 on Thursday, August 24, 2023, at 7:00 pm. The adoption of the ordinance approving the budget is scheduled for Thursday, August 24, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will take place at the Municipal Annex Building, 200 N. Main Street, Springtown, Texas 76082. THIS BUDGET WILL RAISE MORE TOTAL PROPERTY TAXES THAN LAST YEAR'S BUDGET BY \$469,053 OR 31.11%, AND OF THAT AMOUNT, \$184,232 IS TAX REVENUE TO BE RAISED FROM NEW PROPERTY ADDED TO THE TAX ROLL THIS YEAR.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE

A tax rate of \$0.466087 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of the CITY OF SPRINGTOWN.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.466087 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE RATE	\$0.379438 per \$100
VOTER APPROVAL RATE	\$0.466087 per \$100

The No-New-Revenue rate is the tax rate for 2023 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for the CITY OF SPRINGTOWN from the same properties in both the 2022 tax year and the 2023 tax year.

The Voter-Approval rate is the highest tax rate that the CITY OF SPRINGTOWN may adopt with holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate.

The proposed property tax rate is greater than the No-New-Revenue rate. This means the CITY OF SPRINGTOWN is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2023 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED RATE WILL BE HELD ON August 24, 2023 at 7 p.m. at the Municipal Courthouse Annex Building at 200 N. Main Street, Springtown, Texas 76082.

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

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

Property tax amount = (tax rate) x (taxable value of your property)/100

FOR the proposal: Ted Martinez, Place 1; Michele Chandler Kelley, Place 2; Walter Roberson, Mayor Pro Tem/Place 3; Richelle Pruitt, Place 4; Scott Richardson, Place 5.

AGAINST the proposal: None
PRESENT and not voting: Greg Hood, Mayor
ABSENT: None

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

The following table compares taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by CITY OF SPRINGTOWN last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by CITY OF SPRINGTOWN this year.

	2022	2023	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.487744	\$0.466087	Decrease of \$0.021657, or 4.44 percent
Average homestead taxable value	\$185,453	\$218,288	Increase of \$32,835, or 17.71 percent.
Tax on average homestead	\$904.54	\$1,017.41	Increase of \$112.87, or 12.48 percent
Total tax levy on all properties	\$1,503,563	\$2,025,001	Increase of \$521,438, or 34.68 percent.

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for the CITY OF SPRINGTOWN at (817) 596-0077 or parkercad@parkercad.org, or visit www.parkercad.org for more information.

BACK TO SCHOOL

Interviews with Azle principals

Nine Azle ISD principals list expectations for school year and talk

FROM STAFF REPORTS
PHOTOS COURTESY AZLE ISD



STEVEN GARRETSON – WALNUT CREEK ELEMENTARY

Experience: "I was an assistant principal for six years prior to becoming principal at Walnut Creek Elementary. Before that, I had served as team lead, curriculum writer, and department head. In this position you have to be a good listener and have lots of patience, both of which are strong points. Building relationships with students is also a big strength."

Most excited for: "Starting my second year in Azle is what I am most excited about. Last year was a learning curve and this year, I know more about what to expect."

Expectations: "My expectations have not changed. I want every student to reach their fullest potential. We are focusing more on writing and goal setting. We have added some goal setting bells in the building where students can ring the bell when they meet their goals. It is about celebrating the growth."

Personal life: "I have been married for 26 years to Jennifer. She is a veterinarian. We live on a ranch in Decatur. We have three boys, Brendan (21), Ethan (18) and Ryan (15). We are avid Beekeepers and have more animals than we need but we love them."



LISA KOEHLER – LIBERTY ELEMENTARY

Experience: "I started in education teaching 3rd grade, Kindergarten and 1st grade. I was an Assistant Principal on

an Intermediate and Middle School campus before coming to Azle and spending time as an Assistant Principal at both Silver Creek and Liberty Elementary. This is my 6th year as Principal at Liberty."

Most excited for: "I am most excited to see our Liberty Leaders learn and grow in our new learning space. Azle ISD is a wonderful place to work and learn. I am grateful and blessed to be part of such a caring and unique community."

Expectations: "My expectations for Liberty are that all students will be provided a positive learning environment built on respect and meaningful relationships."

Personal life: "I married my husband Brett four and a half years ago. I have two sons, Michael and Daniel and a Pug named Baxter. On Friday nights my husband and I work High School football on the sidelines pulling the chains and holding the down marker."



AUBRI DEHECK – SILVER CREEK ELEMENTARY

Experience: "This is my 8th year in administration. I served as an Assistant Principal for six years and I am currently serving my 2nd year as Principal of Silver Creek Elementary. I love people! I love building relationships! In my position, I get to build relationships every single day with my kids, my staff, my PTO, and the community of Silver Creek. It truly is such rewarding work. At Silver Creek, it's always what's best for our kids and staff!"

Most excited for: "Striving to have an even better school year than last! I can't wait to get into classrooms and see all the amazing things our kids can do. GO HORNETS!!!!!! #WeAreAzle #SCCHAMPS #DIG"

Expectation: "Support teachers to support students! Support can wear many hats and look like many things. That's why relationships are so important! I am able to get

to know the people around me so well, that they know they can come to me for help, to problem solve, for a hug, questions, anything! I love to troubleshoot, problem solve, collaborate, and help others get things done. That's the plan for this year!"

Personal life: "I am married to an amazing guy! He's a football coach and educator as well. We have two boys who are four and one. They keep us very busy! We love playing outside, riding bikes, hiking, and traveling."



SHELLY WYNNS – CROSS TIMBERS ELEMENTARY

Experience: "I have taught special education and 4th grade. I was the AP at Eagle Heights for four years, before taking the principal position at CT. This will be my 5th year at CT."

Most excited for: "School isn't school without the students. I am excited to see the continued growth of our students and to continue building relationships with our CT Family! I love our community and am very proud to be a HORNET!"

Expectations: "This school year CT will continue school-wide goal setting and a focus on writing and critical thinking."

Personal life: "I am married to Corey and have three daughters, Sarah, Emily and Gracie and a wonderful son-in-law RJ (who are all Azle graduates). I LOVE to read! Currently Corey and I have a "mini farm" that includes chickens, ducks, quail and our two dogs, Bear and Oliver."



SHELLEY D. NEWTON - EAGLE HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY

Experience: "I am beginning my 21st year in education. I was a band director and/or music teacher for the first 10 years of my career, a school counselor for three years, an assistant principal for five and half years, and I have been the principal of Eagle Heights for one and a half years. I've never just had a class of 22 students, so I learned early on to manage, engage, and teach large groups of students as well as look at the big picture before making decisions and carefully consider how those decisions effect the school community as a whole as well as individuals."

Most excited for: "I'm excited to open Eagle Heights this year with a newly refurbished interior and a beautiful new library for our EH students, staff, and families to enjoy."

Expectations: "My expectations and plans for the new year and in the future are to support my students and staff in their pursuit of academic, social, and emotional growth. I believe that education can change people's lives and that every child deserves a quality education regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, country of origin, religion, economic status, or ability. I believe it is my calling to ensure that all students in our care receive the highest quality education we can provide and that the staff of Eagle Heights receives the support they need to reach their highest desired potential."

Personal life: "My husband, Jeff, and I have been mar-

ried for 32 years. We have a son & daughter-in-law and two daughters, all of whom are graduates of Texas A & M University. Our three children are also graduates of Azle High school, as am I."



JONI BETTIS – HOOVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

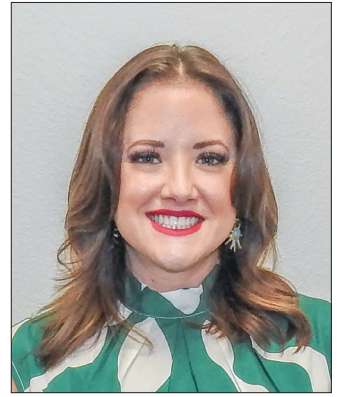
Experience: "I am going into my 27th year in Azle ISD and year 11 as Principal for Hoover. I was the school counselor at Liberty Elementary for nine years prior to my principal appointment at Hoover. I use my counseling skills on a daily basis with all stakeholders (staff, students and parents). Some students may remember LE (Ellie), a therapy dog I brought to school each day. She loved her work, especially on the first day of kindergarten; she would lick the tears away from anxious students which would quickly turn into laughter. As the counselor, I was a facilitator of Love and Logic. I taught teachers and parent classes on how to use Love and Logic in the classroom and at home. I used Love and Logic techniques regularly. I taught 2nd, 3rd grades as well as kindergarten."

Most excited for: "I love working with students and watching them grow. When I was a teenager, people would say I was just a kid person. I was the one babysitting eight or nine kids on New Year's Eve and loved it. I feel very fortunate that my career allows me to work in an atmosphere that I love."

Expectations: "At Hoover we focus on growing our students academically, socially and emotionally. Regardless of where they start, we want to see at least a year of growth for each student. We are an AVID campus, so we have lots of emphasis on skills that will help students throughout school and in whatever they choose as a career. We want to get even

better at helping students organize themselves, take ownership of their learning and the grades they receive for their efforts. In my opinion, those skills will pay off for them regardless of their career path."

Personal life: "I am married to my best friend, Tom Bettis, we will celebrate 35 years together March 2024. I have two sons 37 and 32, and a stepson that would have been 49 this year. I have six grandchildren, that I love to spend time with. I have two dogs both Australian shepherds: Carlos and Lucy. When I have time, I love to sew and use my embroidery machine."



KRISTEN A. KISS – AZLE ELEMENTARY

Experiences: "I have previously taught in Keller ISD and Coppell ISD in grades 4th, 6th, 7th, and 8th. I served as an assistant principal in Keller for the last four years and did my administrative internship in Coppell. Much of my experience and strengths lie in creating a positive school culture. My goal is to create a place where students and teachers want to come and feel supported and successful each day."

Most excited for: "I am most excited to meet all our students and families as I learn all about Azle! My wardrobe is quickly turning green, and I am so glad to be a hor-net! I can't wait for our building to be full with joy and see the incredible progress our students make this year."

Expectations: "Being a new principal, my plan for the upcoming year is to learn Azle and serve the community anyway I can."

Personal life: "I have two wonderful boys and am married to a firefighter. We have two VERY lazy dogs. I love to read, listen to podcasts, crochet, and swim!"

SEE PRINCIPALS | A11

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PRINCIPALS

FROM PAGE A10



WILLIAM MANLEY – FORTE JUNIOR HIGH

Experience: "This will be my 28th year in education. I have served as a CTE teacher, CTE curriculum specialist, junior high assistant principal, high school dean of instruction, high school principal, and junior high principal. The past 16 years of my career has been in the role of campus administration."

Most excited for: "Continued focus on the great things that are happening at Forte every day. The Forte teachers are very dedicated to the success of the students they work with and it is great to be part of a team that is so focused on positive student outcomes."

Expectations: "For the upcoming 2023-2024 school year, we have several initiatives that we will continue to develop. We have essential expectations for our students and the Forte staff works with students on our three expectations of being 'ready, responsible, and respectful'. These are life skills that students will develop that will serve them beyond their time at Forte and help them be successful in whatever future path they choose. Academically we will continue to develop our Professional Learning Communities to ensure that we have rigorous, relevant, and engaging lessons and activities for our students in class."

Personal life: "My wife is

also an educator serving as an Instructional Coaching Specialist. We love to travel and learn about different cultures as well as spend time outdoors. I love to fly fish and try to get in sometime during our travels and was able to catch some Brown Trout in the Pyrenees Mountains of Spain this summer."



BRIAN ROBERTS – AZLE JUNIOR HIGH

Experience: "I began teaching at Liberty Elementary as a 3rd grade teacher for four years, and then was awarded the opportunity to be assistant principal at Azle Jr. High. I have been at Azle Jr. High for 15 years, five as assistant principal, and this will be my 10th year as principal. I worked for AT&T wireless and some other telecommunications companies for 14 years, during the infancy of cell phones. Previous management experience was very beneficial when I became the principal of Azle Junior High."

Most excited for: "We are excited to welcome our staff and students back to campus to start a new school year. There are so many things to be excited about, but watching our students grow academically and be active participants in extra-curricular activities are at the top of the list."

Expectations: "Continue to build on our successes. Azle Junior High received an A rating for 2022-23 and our staff and students strive for excellence every year both in the classroom and out."

Personal life: "Married to my amazing wife for 28

years. We have two adult children; our son lives in Azle and works for Azle ISD maintenance. Our daughter lives in Brooklyn, NY and is working on her master's degree in art therapy. Both of our children graduated from Azle High School. We also have two bulldogs, a baset hound, and two cats. My wife and I love to spend time on our boat, when the lake isn't so low."



NATE DRIVER – AZLE HIGH SCHOOL

Experience: "A) Math teacher, Football/Basketball/Track Coach, Assistant Principal, Academic Principal.

B) Unique skills- the ability to build positive relationships with students and staff.

I am a lifelong learner, and I try to instill with all students the importance of continually learning and that making mistakes is a part of the learning process."

Most excited for: "For me it's the same thing every year, building relationships and making a positive impact in students' lives every day."

Expectations: "Our school theme this year is, 'Be the Spark.' I am looking forward to sharing this message with everyone at AHS. We have made a lot of plans this summer to bring the joy back into our school and our classrooms. We will be charging everyone, students, and staff, to 'Be the Spark' in an area that they have influence over. We are excited about the plans we have and can't wait to get this year started!"

Personal life: "My wife Shelby and I just celebrated our 14-year anniversary in July. We have three children, Brady (12), Madelyn (9), and Grace (6). We have two pets, a Retriever/Pyrenees named Willow and a bunny named Belle. If we aren't at campus events, then we are usually found on a soccer or ballfield of some kind. Our kids are very active playing soccer,

baseball, volleyball, kickball, basketball, and piano. I know that is more sports than kids, that is because they are involved in multiple things, so we keep ourselves pretty busy with all of their activities. When we don't have games to attend, we like to be outdoors camping and hiking."



CHRIS HILL – HORNET ACADEMY AND DAEP


Experience: "Lake Dallas Middle School - 8th grade US History/Coach (football, basketball, and track) - 2 years, Lake Dallas High School - 9th grade World Geography/Coach (football, softball, and track) - 7 years, Lake Dallas High School - Academic Advisor - 1 year, Azle - Forte Junior High Assistant Principal - 5 years, Azle - DEAP Principal - starting my 4th year and Azle - Hornet Academy Principal - starting my 1st year.

I think the skill that serves me the best is my ability to stay calm in all situations. I'm never going to be emotional too high or too low. My students and staff always know what they are going to get from me and it has a calming effect on them."

Most excited for: "I am most excited for the addition of Hornet Academy to my plate. It will be challenging to run two separate academic programs. However, experienced staff that are already familiar with the programs should make it easy for me to navigate between the two."


Expectations: "It is difficult to plan for DEAP. It really is a day-to-day and week-to-week undertaking. I know with some of the new laws we will be busier than normal, but my expectation remains the same - we will meet and overcome any difficulties that come our way. For Hornet Academy, the expectation is to continue to help at-risk students graduate."

Personal life: "My wife, Noel, is a librarian at Calhoun Middle School in Denton ISD. We have been married for 25 years. We have one son, Curran, who is a Junior at Lake Dallas High School. We have two dogs - a terrier mix named Shiner and a Rottweiler/Shepherd mix named Guinness. We like to travel and find new to us places whenever we can."



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It is the policy of Azle ISD not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or handicap in its vocational programs, services or activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

It is the policy of Azle ISD not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, handicap, or age in its employment practices as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

Azle ISD will take steps to assure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all educational and vocational programs.

For information about your rights or grievance procedures, contact the Title IX Coordinator, Mark Kehoe, at mkehoe@azleisd.net, (817) 444-2368, and/or the Section 504 Coordinator Krista McFarlane at kmcfarlane@azleisd.net, (817) 444-2851.

Notificación Pública de No Discriminación en Programas de Educación Técnica y Vocacional

Azle Independent School District ofrece programas de educación técnica y vocacional en Agricultural, Food and Natural Resources, Architecture & Construction, Arts, A/V Technology & Communication, Business Management & Administration, Education & Training, Finance, Health Science, Hospitality & Tourism, Human Services, Information Technology, Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security, Manufacturing, Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics, Transportation, Distribution & Logistics. La admisión a estos programas se basa en interés y aptitud, adecuación a la edad, requisitos previos del curso y espacio de clase disponible.

Es norma de Azle ISD no discriminar en sus programas, servicios o actividades vocacionales por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo o impedimento, tal como lo requieren el Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, según enmienda; Título IX de las Enmiendas en la Educación de 1972, y la Sección 504 de la Ley de Rehabilitación de 1973, según enmienda.

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Azle ISD tomará las medidas necesarias para asegurar que la falta de habilidad en el uso del inglés no sea un obstáculo para la admisión y participación en todos los programas educativos y vocacionales.

Para información sobre sus derechos o procedimientos de quejas, comuníquese con el Coordinador del Título IX, Mark Kehoe en mkehoe@azleisd.net, (817) 444-2368, y/o el Coordinador de la Sección 504, Krista McFarlane en kmcfarlane@azleisd.net, (817) 444-2851.

Corny Kernels Improv Aug. 19

Azle Arts Association to host Corny Kernels improv show at Popcorn Players Theatre

ZACH FREEMAN
azlereporter@
tricountyreporter.com

The Corny Kernels Improv Troupe dropped by an Azle Chamber of Commerce luncheon to perform and give a sneak peek for their upcoming Aug. 19 show. Bryson Ingle, Cassie Jacobs, Kain Simmons and Joshua Holden played famous celebrities in a round of Dating Game for an audience of Azle business owners and community leaders.

Ingle, who acted as the split-personality host and contestant looking for love, was tasked with revealing the identities of other troupe

members who answered questions as Mike Tyson, Chuck Norris and Spider-Man actor, Tom Holland. Dating Game, along with many other skits and scenarios will feature at the upcoming, Aug. 19 show. This show will be the Popcorn Players fourth improv show after Ingle spear-headed the first Corny Kernels performance in January. The event will begin at 7:30 p.m. and tickets will cost \$10.

"I really enjoyed coming out and we're happy to come out and do this for the community," Ingle said. "I hope everybody else in the community can come out and see it. It's been so fun. Be there please, it's awesome!"



Holden shows off his martial arts moves as Chuck Norris alongside the rest of the troupe.

ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

HIRING FROM PAGE A1

go, but when we start losing people and you're saying don't fill those positions, who's going to take on those responsibilities?" Bas said during the meeting. "If I put that load to another person to go do the extra work, what do you think I'm going to do? I'm going to overload that other person, and that individual is going to get overworked, and guess what they're going to do because they're underpaid and overworked; they're going to quit."

Later when the council discussed rehiring a police officer, Mayor Pro Tem Shelli Swift agreed with Bas about not overworking people but maintained that the city cannot afford to pay its bills unless hundreds of thousands of dollars in revenue is coming in.

"We are stuck," Swift said during the meeting. "Whatever money, whatever changes they're going to make on this budget, whatever we missed, whatever we miscalculated, if it's not \$700,000 to our favor, we can't afford it."

Police Chief Scott Elsner recommended rehiring a former Reno officer amid multiple vacancies on the city's police force.

"I'm down three officers," Elsner said to council. "All I'm looking for is a replacement of a rehire, not a new hire, a rehire of one to replace three. The items have already been budgeted. This person is already trained. They already have uniforms. They have their firearm. They have everything."

To a question asked by someone in the audience, Elsner said the Parker County Sheriff's Office doesn't have the capacity to provide consistent law enforcement service in Reno.

"With the sheriff, you get one deputy that could be dedicated to this area," he said. "The sheriff has come here to the meeting, and he told you that you would maybe have, depending on their call load, maybe one deputy out here, and he tries to get a deputy out to the (extraterritorial jurisdiction) areas as often as possible. It's not always a

guarantee."

Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Jennifer Vogle argued for rehiring the one police officer who is already trained and ready to work.

"It would be nice if we lived in a bubble-wrapped world where we didn't need police protection," Vogle said. "It would be great to leave my truck unlocked and not have somebody call because I had something stolen. I've had to call the police before. Whether it be Parker County or the city, I want somebody to show up, and I don't want somebody worked to death to where a mistake is made, and somebody possibly dies innocently."

A part-time water clerk is needed to answer the phone and man the office window, thus allowing the data entry clerk who handles accounts payable to focus on her job without interruptions, Roberts said.

Council member Joy Jenkins observed that the accounts payable employee gets interrupted every 10 minutes at least.

"The job that she's doing is very crucial," Jenkins said. "She has to make sure the checks go out (and) all of the accounting is taken care of and posted in the right place. There's like 16 bank accounts. So, her job is very important."

Herrera's motion to uphold the hiring freeze indefinitely - seconded by Swift - failed in a 2-3 vote. Then, Jenkins made a motion to lift the hiring freeze and have all new hires be approved by council, which was passed by the majority of council.

The council voted to table rehiring a police officer until Oct. 1 when the new budget takes effect. After the meeting, Elsner said this move by the council won't put Reno residents in danger.

"We're not going to neglect our citizens," he said. "We're making ends meet right now. This would just make it easier on the folks that are already working. It would take some of the burden off of them."

Then, council members voted to authorize Roberts to look into hiring a part-time water clerk to work up to 15 hours per week on a temporary basis until the end of the calendar year, for which Herrera cast the sole "nay" vote.

Exceeding Expectations



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A Pojo reunion

SHS Class of 2013 graduate plans event for all Springtown alumni

MADELYN EDWARDS
springtownreporter@tricityreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — Calling all Porcupine alumni: a reunion for all Springtown High School graduates is coming up on Aug. 26.

Rebecca Dauenhauer-McCarver, an alumna who graduated in 2013, is planning this event to bring the community together and raise money for a future Springtown High School graduate. After watching her family be involved in Springtown, she wanted to do her part to give back to the community as well.

"One of the big things I wanted to do was to start an alumni scholarship fund, so a portion of the proceeds will go to a Springtown graduate for 2024," Dauenhauer-McCarver said. "Hopefully, as this event grows, then we can continue to give scholarships."

The event will take place at 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 26 at the Covered Bridge Venue.

Tickets are \$50 and comes with an alumni shirt, dinner catered by Villa Del Sol Mexican Restaurant and an alumni koozie. The event will also feature a DJ, a cash bar, a silent auction, cornhole and dancing.

This is Dauenhauer-McCarver's first time to plan such an event, and she expects to build up the reunion to include more activities in the years to come. She sees the upcoming reunion as a chance to "get everyone together and mingle and see people you haven't seen in years."

The reunion is expected to be a multi-generational event, and Dauenhauer-McCarver said she is looking forward to meeting and talking with people who graduated with her parents. She hopes that attendees will bring their yearbooks and be able to reminisce with people in older and younger classes.

Dauenhauer-McCarver was born and raised in Springtown and has continued to live there after she

graduated from college. She especially enjoys the camaraderie among people in town.

"You go to the grocery store, and you're like, 'I'm going to be in and out in 10 minutes.' You're in there for 30-40 minutes because you see 10 people you know," she said. "I love that, that everybody knows everybody."

People can help with the reunion by donating items for the silent auction, Dauenhauer-McCarver said, adding that attendance alone will help generate funds for the scholarship. She hopes the event will reoccur on a regular basis to bring Springtown alumni together to bond and help the next generation of graduates.

To purchase a ticket for the reunion, visit <https://tinyurl.com/pojo23> online. To donate for the silent auction, contact Brooklyn Gunter via email at bgunter@naecontracting.com or by phone at 817-307-2357.

BACK TO SCHOOL

Stay Organized This Back-to-School Season

STATEPOINT

The start of a new school year carries with it so much potential, particularly when students -- and their parents -- stay organized. Amid the back-to-school chaos, use these tips and gear recommendations to help keep everyone on track, whether they are at school, at home or on-the-go:

NOTES AND BIG IDEAS

Color-coded notebooks and binders, along with labeled dividers, can help you keep your coursework straight and your note-taking organized. Take your color-coding a step further by extending the concept to the tools you write with. Pilot Pen's G2 gel pen is a go-to for busy students and parents with its smooth, long-lasting gel ink that's able to keep up with busy schedules. Science has shown that writing a to-do list with an appealing color can lead to greater productivity. Inspired by color trends and color psychology, the G2 Harmony Collection

colors were developed to promote balance, relaxation and hope, helping students get more done, stay positive and achieve their highest potential this school year. G2 is available in four point sizes and over 35 colors, so it's ideal for note-taking, writing down big ideas, goal-setting and more.

PLANNING AND SCHEDULING

With the back-to-school season comes a flurry of planning and scheduling -- from after-school activities to field trips. Parents and kids alike can stay on top of all the last-minute changes with a desk calendar and an erasable pen. Pilot's FriXion line of erasable pens and markers write smooth and erase clean, so you can edit plans as often as they change. It's much easier to remember tasks and events when you've recorded the details in a central location, so start a habit of entering all activities into your calendar as soon as they're planned. The smooth gel ink and

precise point of the FriXion Synergy Clicker is great for detailed planning, while FriXion Fineline brings color, mistake-free writing to notes and calendars.

LOCKERS, BACKPACKS AND DESKS

Use organizational tools anywhere school supplies are stored, such as lockers, backpacks and home study areas. Simple shelving and magnetic door organizers can maximize storage potential in any locker, whereas a backpack with multiple pockets allows you to arrange items by subject. Periodically empty your backpack completely; you may be surprised by the loose papers you find at the bottom. Use the opportunity to re-order items as-needed and to wipe down the bag's interior. Parents and kids should keep clutter to a minimum in home workspaces with filing systems and supply trays. This will help prevent important papers and other items from going missing and improve productivity.

Low cost pet vaccinations coming to Azle, Aug. 15

Texas Coalition for Animal Protection visits site of old Azle Library to provide rabies shots and other pet health services

ZACH FREEMAN
azlereporter@tricityreporter.com

AZLE - On Tuesday, Aug 15, the Texas Coalition for Animal Protection will be in Azle to provide vaccines and others health services at a low cost. From 10 a.m. to noon, TCAP staff will be available to provide annual rabies vaccines for \$5 at the old Azle Library located at 613 SE Parkway. Microchipping, flea and tick prevention, heartworm testing and prevention and spaying and neutering are also available with an appointment. TCAP visits Azle on the third Tuesday of every

month. To make an appointment or get information on TCAP services call 940-566-551 or go online.

TCAP began operations in 2002 as a way for Dallas-Fort Worth pet owners to receive vital pet care and to promote animal welfare. Today it has eight North Texas locations, over 40 offsite travel locations and has provided vaccinations for almost 1.4 million pets and has spayed or neutered over 700,000 animals.

"Vaccinating pets against rabies is not only required by law, but it's crucial for your pet's health and safeguarding the community," Stacey Schumacher, TCAP Executive

Director said.

By offering cheap vaccinations, spaying, and neutering, TCAP hopes to improve the health of animals across North Texas and reduce the number of strays left abandoned on the streets or facing an uncertain future in, sometimes, overcrowded shelters.

TCAP operates low-cost clinics throughout North Texas, including locations in Fort Worth and Weatherford. To learn more about TCAP and see their full list of available services and prices, you can also visit their website at www.texasforthem.org.

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FINANCE

FROM PAGE A1

ing community feedback to determine the necessary steps to ensure the bond's success," Hutchison said. "The urgency is because of the current issue the district is facing of overcrowding, which has put the board and administration under pressure to take all essential measures available."

In Texas, most of school facility improvements are done with funding from public bonds, Whitt said.

"In the state of Texas, the overwhelming majority, not even close, the way that we finance school facility improvements is through voting bonds, so much so that we have a dedicated tax rate to that; we have a dedicated budget to that," he said.

School district budgets are split into two parts - the maintenance and operations budget and the interest and sinking (or debt service) budget. Whitt said about 80% of a school district's maintenance and operations budget is spent on compensating employees, and the rest of the budget is spent on other needs, such as supplies, classroom technology and gas for the school buses.

"There's no room in there to build a new building; that's over on the voted bond and (interest and sinking) side," Whitt said. "Anything that builds buildings, or renovates buildings, that takes any maintenance costs and moves it from the maintenance and operating side to the (interest and sinking) side does nothing but to help your operating budget and leave those dollars in the classroom."

In May 2023, Whitt said

there were 120 school bond elections in Texas, which represented \$24.7 billion being decided on by voters. Texas school districts have bond elections once every 10 years on average.

"If you think that we're in a different position than anyone else, you need to get rid of that thought because you're right in the middle of what everyone else is doing," he said.

Whitt said SISD's net taxable values are growing, despite the increase in homestead exemptions.

"Even with a large increase to the homestead exemption, you still are a district who is growing," he said. "I'm not telling you anything that you don't already know, but I see it in your tax base. I see it in your population. I see it in your student count. I see it in your economic activity, and I see it in your region."

However, Whitt pointed out that as taxable values increase, state funding decreases.

"All the money has gone to the state," Whitt said. "Hence, they pat themselves on the back about the biggest tax break ever. Well, they've been accumulating your money while you've been trying to make ends meet, and this is one example of that in your (interest and sinking) account where they now pay zero state funding for your principal and interest."

Whitt said three-quarters of his clients throughout Texas used to be state funded in 2015-16, but now, 10% or less of his clients are state funded. He said SISD is an illustration of this statewide situation because the district's tax base has outpaced its student count, which

is the basis for the state's funding formula.

Whitt reassured the school board that the district is still in a good position.

"It's better to be with the value growing than it is to be state funded because there's restrictions on that, limitations on that," he said. "I prefer to be where we are."

The school district's tax rate in 2005-06 was \$1.67, but today it is \$1.14 and is expected to decrease again, Whitt said. While the public is acutely aware that the appraised values of their homes have increased, some of them do not realize that the district's tax rate has decreased. Even fewer people may realize that higher appraisal values benefit the state more than the school district since the district receives funding based on the number of students.

"That's a communication challenge," Whitt said.

Whitt reminded the board that the school district's needs related to growth are not going away.

"I grew up in a small community; I graduated with 125 students," he said. "I would love for my little hometown to be exactly as it was when I was there, and I could go back and so forth. That is not how it works. Developers and home builders and population growth do not care if you want growth or you don't want it. They do not care. They are for-profit entities, and if they can sell a house for a profit and someone will occupy that house, they will do it."

If the school board wants to call for a bond election in November, members must do so by Aug. 21, Whitt said. Likewise, a bond election in May would need to be called for in February.

CALENDAR August 10-31, 2023

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

THURSDAY, AUGUST 10

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

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

RENO COMMUNITY GAME NIGHT FROM 6-8 P.M. AT Reno City Hall Community Center, 195 W. Reno Rd. Bring your "A" game to Reno and get to know your neighbors. Bring a game to share or use the provided games. Spare some time for fun. Looking for future hosts on 2nd and 4th Thursday nights, contact reno.events@renotx.gov to sign up.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 11

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

MONDAY, AUGUST 14

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, AUGUST 15

FAMILY FUN AT THE PARK for kids at 10 a.m. at Friendship Playground, 379 Jack Borden Way, Weatherford. Come enjoy some playtime with friends at the park!

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16

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

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, AUGUST 17

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

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

FRIDAY, AUGUST 18

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

MONDAY, AUGUST 21

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, AUGUST 22

FAMILY FUN AT THE PARK for kids at 10 a.m. at Ash Creek Playground, 605 Southeast Pkwy., Azle. Come enjoy some playtime with friends at the park! Picnic lunch optional.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23

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

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, AUGUST 24

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

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

FRIDAY, AUGUST 25

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

MONDAY, AUGUST 28

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, AUGUST 29

FAMILY FUN AT THE PARK for kids, End of Summer Celebration at 10 a.m. at Cherry Park, 300 S. Alamo St., Weatherford. Come enjoy some playtime with friends at the park!

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30

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

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, AUGUST 31

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

JULY 2023 ACTIVITY

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20
CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS

27
CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY

643
TRAFFIC STOPS

33 ACCIDENTS
DWI RELATED: 1
DWI ARRESTS: 10

801
911 CALLS

4,376
CALLS TAKEN BY DISPATCH

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Party like an educator

Springtown Education Foundation hosts Denim and Diamonds Gala fundraiser



MADELYN EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Dru Doggett bursts into laughter as ventriloquist Gloria Gilbert performs with Springtown Independent School District Superintendent Shane Strickland during the Springtown Education Foundation's Denim and Diamonds Gala last week.



MADELYN EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Springtown ISD Superintendent Shane Strickland, dressed as a baby, prepares to be in Gloria Gilbert's ventriloquist act during Springtown Education Foundation's Denim and Diamonds Gala on Aug. 4.



MADELYN EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Ventriloquist and former Miss Texas Gloria Gilbert performed her act at Springtown Education Foundation's Denim and Diamonds Gala on Aug. 4 at the Covered Bridge Venue.



MADELYN EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Springtown High School biology teacher Hannah Adams and Sheila Larson don stylish and dress code-conscious outfits for Springtown Education Foundation's Denim and Diamonds Gala on Aug. 4.



MADELYN EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Amy Walker, Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce executive director and Springtown Education Foundation board of directors member, checks out the silent auction at the foundation's Denim and Diamonds Gala at Covered Bridge Venue last week.



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AZLE
FROM PAGE A1

Azle Education Foundation member Phillippe Lalonde announced the creation of the Bernice Finny Graduate Student Education Grant which will divide \$20,000 between Azle teachers pursuing post-grad education. The grant was named

after a former Azle ISD employee who had pursued grad school and had made a big impact on Lalonde's decision to send his son, Valedictorian Henry Lalonde, to Azle schools. In support of the life-changing work that teachers do, guest speaker, Jonathan G. Brown told his story of being abandoned, growing up in the foster care sys-

tem and how teachers and mentors interrupted this negative part of his life to help him succeed, go to college, and become successful today. Lastly, the Marching Green Pride performed for the teachers at the end of the ceremony, alongside the color guard, Emerald Dazzlers, Hornet Muscle and Buzzy.



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

AHS Color Guard entering the auditorium.



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Some education grant recipients.



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Hoover Elementary teachers in matching attire.



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Emerald Dazzlers and Hornet Muscle.

Let's Bowl

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

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

Word Bank

1. gutter	2. frame	3. pin	4. split
5. ball	6. spare	7. throw	8. score
9. strike	10. pinsetter		

Can you spot the differences in these two pictures? Look closely! (the answers are down below)

Bowling is a fun game that people have been playing for a really long time. It all started a loooong time ago, even before there were computers or smartphones! People used to play a game called "bowls," where they would roll a ball as close as possible to a target.

In ancient Egypt, there were special bowling-like games with stones and balls. Then, in the Middle Ages, people in Europe played a game called "skittles," which is like bowling with pins.

But the modern game of bowling that we know today started in the United States. Back in the 1800s, people would bowl outside on grass. They soon realized it was more fun to play indoors on wooden lanes, so they built special bowling alleys.

Over time, bowling became really popular all around the world. People would gather with their friends and family to have a great time knocking down pins. Nowadays, we have cool bowling balls, fancy shoes, and automatic pinsetters to make the game even more fun! So next time you go bowling, remember that you're part of a game with a long and fascinating history!

PICTURE ANSWERS

1. The bowling ball is a different color.
2. The picture on the wall is new.
3. The boy's shorts changed color.
4. The boy in the background wasn't there before.

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JEFF PRINCE | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

The Azle Hornet football team beats the sun to practice.

Hornets arise

Azle pumped up for challenging football schedule

JEFF PRINCE
sports@tricityreporter.com

AZLE - The instructions were simple. Be in the locker room by 5:30 a.m. on Monday July 31. Be dressed in shorts, practice jerseys, and helmets and on the field before 6 a.m. at Hornet Stadium.

Be ready to sweat, grunt, and train for two hours.

The first day of football practice at Azle High School began on time. Stadium lights battled to illuminate the morning's pitch blackness. An hour would pass before the sun peeked over the horizon.

"Everyone's a little bit

tired, but other than that, everyone is pretty excited," said senior quarterback Austin May, warming up before practice began. "It's super early."

He described the July 31 practice as "one of the biggest."

"It's the first," he said. "We want to make sure we get ready for the season."

May and three other quarterbacks tossed footballs back and forth while waiting for practice to begin. Canaan Kaznowski, a junior quarterback, was fired up to be back on the field after a summer break.

"I'm kind of nervous, but it will be all right," he said.

He predicted the team will fare well this season because of its chemistry. He has played football in Azle since he was four, and most of his teammates have taken the same journey.

"We've got a lot of young kids coming in," he said. "We played with each other so long, I think we'll do pretty good. We've known each other so well."

Someone else excited about the new season and team is head coach Devon Dorris. The team's offseason program and summer camps were highly attended.

"I'm excited to see the

SEE **FOOTBALL** | B8

Top notch

Springtown elite volleyball camp teaches advanced techniques to experienced players

JEFF PRINCE
sports@tricityreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN - A guest coach was instructing the Lady Porcupines on the finer points of playing the net at elite volleyball camp in late July when her words stopped short.

Among the many girls listening was Rylie Hunt, who wore blue and gold.

"Are you wearing a Boswell shirt?" said coach Julie Price.

Hunt smiled, nodded, and said, "That's where I came from."

Price suggested Hunt

might "find something orange" to wear next time.

Price, head volleyball coach at L.D. Bell High School, led the camp along with Fossil Ridge coach Holly Houston and professional volleyball player Kennedy Warren. Observing from the top seat of the bleachers was Springtown head coach Leighann Strickland and her assistant coaches.

This year's team has the potential to be "phenomenal," Strickland said. Only three members from last year's team graduated, leaving a solid roster of experi-

enced girls, including seven seniors.

"We will have good leadership," the coach said. "The majority of our kids - our core - will be back, so we are looking to be pretty good this year."

Among the youngest is Libby Tedder, a freshman entering high school but skilled and savvy on the court.

"She is coming in as one of the most experienced freshmen I have seen in a long time," Strickland said.

More than 100 girls partici-

PLEASE SEE **ELITE** | B6



JEFF PRINCE | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Rylie Hunt returns a serve in her dreaded Boswell shirt.

Springtown football team eyeing new season, turf

JEFF PRINCE | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Senior quarterback Hudson Hulett and the Springtown Porcupines football team are practicing for the new season. The team is relying on the indoor facility and the soccer pitch for practices while work crews continue replacing the artificial turf at Porcupine Stadium. Springtown opens its season at 7 p.m. on Aug. 25 at home.



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Charles Bryson plays baritone euphonium.

JEFF PRINCE | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Fine tuning

Springtown hosts full band camp to polish up for season

JEFF PRINCE
sports@tricityreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN – Discipline and integrity run rampant through the Sound of Springtown marching band, and that’s how Caleb Sudduth likes it.

Sudduth, who has played in band for six years, participated in two weeks of all-day band camp on July 24 to Aug. 4. He loved every minute. In previous camps, he’d noticed more horseplay and talking. This year’s group has been focused and prepared, he said.

He credited the drum majors, squad leaders, and other band members for being role models.

“They are a good group to become embedded with,” he said.

“The fun thing about it is the kids, the discipline, learning something new,” he said. “In the end, you are going to have lifelong friendships.”

Last year, the marching band qualified to compete at the state contest and earned

15th place. Many band members felt they performed well enough to score higher.

This year, the band wants to return to the state contest and do better than ever.

“I think we are going to go really far this year,” Sudduth said. “We are going to beat our highest ever (score) in history.”

Two years ago, during his freshman year, the Sound of Springtown finished in ninth place with its highest score at state.

Director Scot McPhetridge doesn’t make prognostications about contests, but he likes what he’s been seeing from the marching band this summer.

“The kids have a really great attitude,” he said. “Everybody is working hard. We don’t have a lot of discipline issues to deal with. It’s real exciting.”

Kate Mitchell, a senior, is serving as drum major for the second year in a row. She is also captain of the Showstoppers dance troupe. Helping her are assistant

drum majors Luke Holtman, senior, and Tempe Wood, junior.

At camp, the band members worked on fundamentals while becoming acclimated to the outdoor heat. Some kids spent the early summer lounging indoors with air conditioning.

“We are getting them used to being in the heat,” McPhetridge said.

Victoria Brooks, a sophomore trombonist, was sweating while leaning against the band hall building after a recent practice. She was tired but wasn’t complaining.

“I like camp,” she said. “It’s been good. I like being in a big group together and doing all the fundamentals. If you’re not used to the heat, it can be a little hot, but once you get used to it, it’s pretty good.”

She’s been in band for four years because she appreciates “the people and the purpose,” she said. “It makes me feel good being able to put together something to perform for other people.”



Mia Guillan and her color guard comrades add pizzazz.

JEFF PRINCE | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER



Victoria Brooks works on her steps and movements with the band at summer camp.



Sean Rose returns as trombonist.

HOF Reception

Azle Athletic Hall of Fame to induct new members Sept. 30



COURTESY PHOTO

The 2013 girls wrestling team will be inducted into the Azle ISD Athletic Hall of Fame on Sept. 30.

JEFF PRINCE

sports@tricityreporter.com

AZLE - Several former Hornets are slated for induction into the Azle Athletic Hall of Fame.

The additions include an entire girl wrestling team that won a 2013 state title, a longtime track coach, and a high school wrestler who has become a professional mixed martial arts specialist.

The 2013 girls wrestling team inductees will be Hannah McFarland, Paige Wolf, Montana Stewart, Jesse Grubbs, and Bernie Duhan. Stewart will also be inducted individually under her married name. Montana Stewart De La Rosa is a successful UFC professional fighter.

Also slated for induction is former track coach Don Ostermann.

The reception will be held on Saturday, Sept. 30, at AHS.



COURTESY PHOTO

Don Ostermann's success in working with local student athletes earns him a place in the hall of fame.



COURTESY PHOTO

Kennedy Warren signs a pro contract with Geneva Volleyball in Switzerland.

Swiss bliss

JEFF PRINCE

sports@tricityreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN - A dream of playing professional volleyball has come true for Kennedy Warren, the daughter of Carol Ann Warren, a member of the Springtown Athletic Wall of Honor.

In late July, Kennedy Warren signed a professional contract to play with Geneva Volleyball in Switzerland. She had never been to Switzerland and knew little about the country but boarded an airplane to begin a new life overseas.

"I've talked to the coach," she said. "I've talked to a few of the girls. It sounds like a really great program. I'm very excited. We've been dreaming this up for a

Kennedy Warren inks contract with Geneva Volleyball

while." Warren, 23, is a 2018 graduate of Peaster High School. On July 28, she spoke about her new job while helping coach Springtown's elite volleyball camp. She helped with numerous camps this summer, including one at her alma mater. She enjoys helping "high school girls in Texas get ready for two-a-days," she said.

Her parents, Carol Ann and Keith Warren, are Springtown natives. Keith is an executive pastor at Northside Baptist Church in Weatherford, and Carol Ann teaches school and is

assistant volleyball coach at Peaster High School.

Once Kennedy Warren settles down in Switzerland and begins playing pro ball, she will be "loving life," she said.

Warren signed an eight-month contract with Geneva. Afterward, she hopes to renew the contract and remain with that team or move up to a bigger league.

What does she think will happen?

"I have no idea," she said. "It's kind of more fun that way. I'm excited. Very excited. I like the unknown. It adds to the adventure of life in general."

Smart Hornets

Azle baseball players land all-state athletic, academic awards

JEFF PRINCE

sports@tricityreporter.com

AZLE - Numerous Azle Hornet baseball players are being noted for their brains and brawn after another solid season.

The Texas Sports Writers Association announced its 5A All-State team recently, and three Hornets made the list. Billy Spratt was named third-team All-State catcher. Grant Tune earned honorable mention All-State shortstop. And Declan Dahl nabbed honorable mention All-State pitcher.

The Azle baseball program under head coach Stephen Smith set a school record by making it to the postseason for the fifth consecutive year. The 2022-23 team won 26 games and went three rounds deep in the postseason, its best showing in 17 years.

In addition to being skilled on the field, the Hornets were among the top teams in Texas in the classroom.

The Texas High School Baseball Coaches Association recognized its Academic All-State members recently, and Azle landed eight players in the spotlight. Just one other 5A school in Texas had more players on the list.

Azle players included Ethan Bissonnette, Luis Cruz, Jackson Davis, Cayden Fowler, Luke Olmsted, Michael Seeton, Billy Spratt, and Grant Tune.

The recognition didn't stop there.

Azle was acclaimed by the American Baseball Coaches Association as one of the top 300 academic high school baseball teams in the United States. Azle was one of just 23 baseball teams in Texas to earn the ABCA Team

Academic Excellence Award.

"We finished the year strong athletically," Smith said. "It's a whole team effort when you talk about academics. I'm really proud of our boys and how they did in the classroom."

Earning an ABCA team academic award requires the team to maintain an average GPA of 3.75 or higher.

"We've had a lot of good kids academically," Smith said. "That's the one thing we push here. We tell them all the time that we're striving for A's and B's. We're not striving for average. We're trying to be above average academically just like we are athletically. Baseball will come and go, but your education will always be there. That's the most important thing when we talk about student athletes. That's why 'students' is first."



JEFF PRINCE | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Michael Seeton was one of eight Hornet baseball players to earn academic all-state status.

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All you need is loathing

Kingdom of Loathing, West of Loathing, and Shadows over Loathing

I started playing "Kingdom of Loathing" (by Asymmetric Publishing) back in the old days, when the Internet was really slow. I think I still had dial up. 2003's "Kingdom of Loathing" (www.kingdomofloathing.com) is a parody of role-playing games, especially the dungeon crawler type games where you smash and bash (or zap) your way to a victory. It's a simple browser-based game, with turn-based role playing. It's very similar to the dungeon crawler games I used to play as a kid on the Apple, with one small change - this is a game for grownups. Or at least adults.



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.

The artwork features crudely drawn stick figures that look like they were done in Microsoft Paint. It takes a bit to get used to, but it's completely consistent with the non-serious mood of the game.

What makes all of this really appealing are the jokes. It's full of weird jokes, puns, silly names, and a completely original storyline.

In the Kingdom of Loathing, there are six character classes and three main stats. Like every other dungeon crawler you've ever played, there's strength, dexterity and intelligence, but in the KOL universe it's Muscle, Moxie and Mysticality. You can play as your choice of Seal Clubber or Turtle Tamer (Muscle),

Accordion Thief or Disco Bandit (Moxie), Sauceror or Pastamancer (Mysticality.) Instead of gold you have Meat. Meat can be turned into Meat Paste (crafting component) or used to purchase items you'll need for your adventures. You'll get a Familiar to help you on your adventures - so far I've had a mosquito, a leprechaun, and a turtle. Right now, my character has a miniature Adventurer familiar who also makes mini martinis.

I started playing this in

2008, and as entertaining time wasters go, it's perfect. A low stakes game that can be played with limited bandwidth, no animations, no sounds, and it's free. Asymmetric Publications runs entirely on the donations of its supporters.

Zack Johnson created "Kingdom of Loathing" in a week. After developing several games that he felt weren't good enough, he decided to take things less seriously and just make a game that he would release in a week, no matter what. He published it in 2003, and within a year over 300,000 player accounts had been created. Before long he was able to quit his job as a programmer and start working on "Kingdom of Loathing" full time, along with his childhood friend Josh Nite. Asymmetric Publishing has grown quite a bit since then, and now employs around 8 full time programmers. Zack still does all the illustrations.

WEST OF LOATHING

When Asymmetric's "West of Loathing" (2017) showed up on Steam, I was of course intrigued. It was the perfect adaptation of the Loathing style to a larger platform. "West of Loathing" has complex puzzles and an entertaining storyline, while still keeping the stick figure animations and the Microsoft Paint style graphics. Just in a higher resolution. Game play is click through and not timed, which makes things less stressful.

It also has sound! Much

of the music is the classic Western movie music, as well as an out of tune piano and a disco banjo. You'll collect musicians throughout the game and enjoy their performance together at the end.

In "West of Loathing" you start as a character who's heading West toward the city of Dirtwater. Play as your choice of three character classes: Snake Oiler, Beanslinger, or Cow Puncher. Just as in KOL, you'll pick a character class and equip your character with items you'll find or purchase with Meat along the way. You have different options for your character's destiny. Do you choose the path of cow-ruption? Or do you take the Kellogg purity regimen? Maybe both!

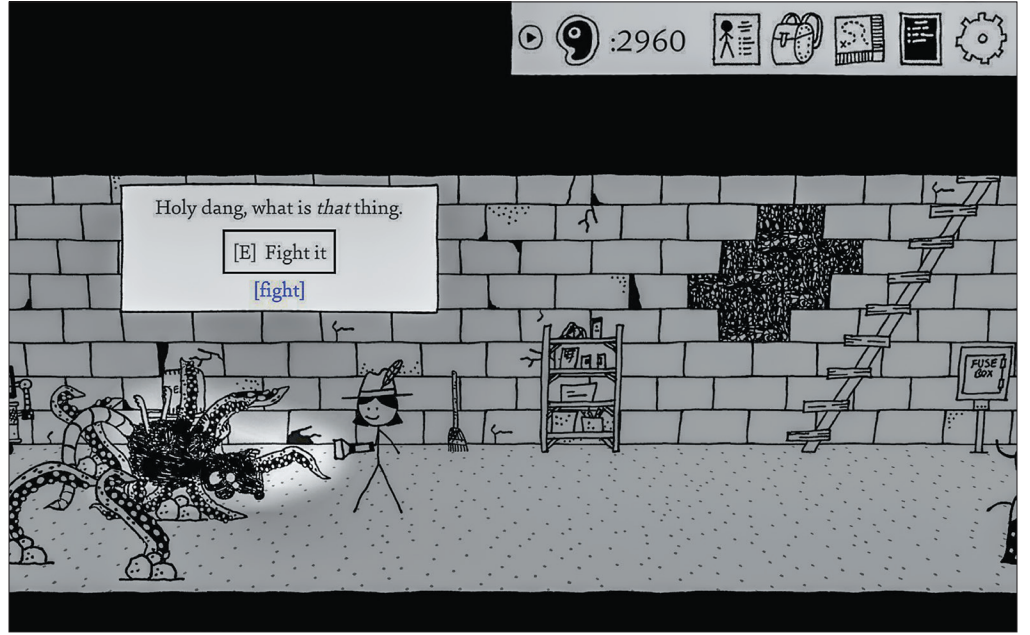
I've played through the game a couple of times, because once a decision is made, you can't go back and change it, which keeps you from unlocking parts of the story. I've also played the DLC content for this game, "Gun Manor." A fun extension for the base game and worth the \$7.99.

SHADOWS OVER LOATHING

Set twenty years or so in the future of "West of Loathing," "Shadows over Loathing" (2022) is a bit darker. You're the niece or nephew of Uncle Murray, who has disappeared under mysterious circumstances while investigating cursed objects. Play as your choice of Pig Skinner, Cheese Wizard, or Jazz Agent. There're vampires, fish men, mysterious



A screenshot from West of Loathing, showing the town of Ghostwood and the Salooooon.



A screenshot from Shadows Over Loathing, showing just a bit of cosmic horror.

shadow monsters, the mob, and a speakeasy. Depending upon your choices, you can unlock various stories within the game, solve puzzles, and help your Uncle Murray.

This is probably the first game I've ever played that had musical puzzles to solve. The music throughout the game is well done, very lis-

tenable. If you play as a Jazz Agent, you'll pick up instrument attacks to use during battle, and eventually will have a whole band playing with you as you fight.

I'm on my second play through and making different choices within the game. Just like in "West of Loathing," actions have consequences,

and there's a couple of things I should have done differently. I don't want to spoil it for you, but you'll most likely play through this at least twice.

Available on the Steam platform from Asymmetric Publications for Linux, PC and Macintosh.

Sudoku

AUGUST 10, 2023

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

Solution to last week's puzzle

AUGUST 3, 2023

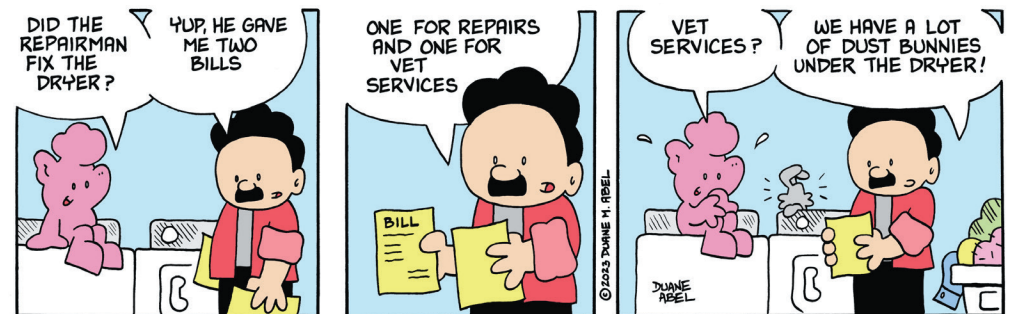
2	7	9	1	8	5	3	4	6
3	4	8	2	9	6	5	7	1
1	6	5	7	4	3	2	8	9
4	8	7	5	3	9	1	6	2
5	1	6	8	2	7	4	9	3
9	3	2	6	1	4	8	5	7
7	5	4	3	6	2	9	1	8
6	2	1	9	5	8	7	3	4
8	9	3	4	7	1	6	2	5

Puzzle by websudoku.com

ZED

BY DUANE ABEL

WWW.CORKYCOMICS.COM



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BREAKFAST: PreK-4th Grade, 7-12th Grade \$1.55, 5-6th Grade FREE, 2nd Meal \$2.00, Visitors/Employees \$2.75

LUNCH: PreK-4th Grade \$2.55, 5-6th Grade \$2.75, 7-12th Grade \$2.55, 2nd Meal \$3.20, Visitors & Employees \$3.75

PreK - 4th

BREAKFAST: Everyday - Assorted Fruits and Cereal, Juice, White or Chocolate Milk, Graham Crackers, Toast
Mon No school **Tues** No school **Weds** Breakfast on a stick, Fresh Apples **Thurs** Cinnamon Toast Crunch Cereal Bowl, w/ Graham Cracker, Oranges **Fri** Breakfast Pizza, Fresh Apples

LUNCH: Everyday - Variety of milk. Your choice of 1 entree & 1 fruit or juice
Mon No school **Tues** No school **Weds** Chicken Nuggets w/ Roll, Fish sticks w/ Roll, Mashed Potatoes, gravy, green beans, Pineapples, Fresh Oranges **Thurs** Tater tot casserole w/ biscuit, Cheese nachos, Steamed Carrots, Applesauce, Fresh Bananas **Fri** Cheese Pizza, Pepperoni Pizza, Sun butter & Jelly Sandwich, Crinkle Fries, Pinto Beans, Mixed Fruit, Fresh Apples

GRADES 5TH - 8TH

BREAKFAST: Everyday - Assorted Fruits and Cereal, Juice, White or Chocolate Milk, Yogurt w/Granola
Mon No school **Tues** No school **Weds** Pancakes & Sausage Patty, Fresh Oranges **Thurs** Biscuit & Gravy, Applesauce **Fri** Breakfast Pizza, Fresh Apples

LUNCH: Everyday: Variety of milk. Your choice of 1 entree & 1 fruit or juice, rolls, crackers • Salad bar offered daily
Mon No school **Tues** No school **Weds** Chicken Nuggets w/ Roll, Fish sticks w/ Roll, Mashed Potatoes, gravy, green beans, Pineapples, Fresh Oranges **Thurs** Tater tot casserole w/ biscuit, Cheese nachos, Steamed Carrots, Applesauce, Fresh Bananas **Fri** Cheese Pizza, Pepperoni Pizza, Sun butter & Jelly Sandwich, Crinkle Fries, Pinto Beans, Mixed Fruit, Fresh Apples

HIGH SCHOOL

BREAKFAST: Everyday - Assorted Fruits and Cereal, Juice, White or Chocolate Milk, Yogurt w/Granola
Mon No school **Tues** No school **Weds** Pancakes & Sausage Patty, Fresh Oranges **Thurs** Biscuit & Gravy, Applesauce **Fri** Breakfast Pizza, Fresh Apples

LUNCH: • Everyday: 1% unflavored or non fat chocolate milk & juice offered daily at breakfast and lunch. Salad Bar • Fruit of the day subject to change due to deliveries and shortages. • Fruit, hot and cold veggies
Mon No school **Tues** No school **Weds** Chicken & Waffles, Hash brown, Cheese Pizza, Pepperoni Pizza, Meatball Sub, Chicken & Cheese Crispos w/ Cheese Sauce, Pinto Beans, Hamburger, Cheeseburger, Hot & Spicy Chicken Sandwich, Smile Fries, Chicken Fried Rice w/ Vegetable Egg Roll **Thurs** Steak fingers w/ biscuit, Mashed potatoes & gravy, Cheese Pizza, Hamburger Pizza, Pinto Beans, Beef Nachos, Salsa, Hamburger, Cheeseburger, Crinkle Fries, TSO Chicken w/ noodles, Steamed Carrots **Fri** Mac n Cheese w/ roll, Pinto beans, Cheese Pizza, Pepperoni Pizza, Cheese Enchiladas, Green Beans, Hamburger, Cheeseburger, 2 Chicken Egg Rolls, Mixed Veggies, Black beans

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From left, Gabby Balderas, Chloe Jones, and Kaylee Iglesias are among the two-dozen students who signed up work as trainers this year.

Water everywhere

JEFF PRINCE

sports@tricityreporter.com

Student trainers prepare for season alongside football team

AZLE - Last summer was the second hottest on record in Texas.

This summer has also been formidable, especially for people wearing helmets and playing football. Practices have begun at Azle High School, and the need for student trainers is stronger than ever.

Thirsty Hornet players can be thankful, since the number of kids who volunteer as trainers is keeping pace with demand. About two dozen students signed up to keep ice chests and water bottles filled and knees and elbows wrapped.

"We have doubled in size since last year," said Evan Poer, one of three athletic trainers at Azle High School who oversees the student trainers.

Poer, now in his sixth year as an athletic trainer at AHS, said he and his fellow trainers have been recruiting new members and welcoming back familiar faces.

"A lot of them wanted to re-sign up," he said. "We got some new kids out here that found out through the grapevine and thought it might be kind of fun. We've been in communication with them all summer long, just keeping them aware of dates and start times and things like that."

During the first week of football practice, the experienced student trainers worked with rookies to teach them the job. One of the most important tasks was hauling ice from the field house to the sidelines. Once there, the kids fill dozens of squirt bottles with cold water for the players.

"We have an open water policy where the players, at the coach's discretion, can get a quick drink," Poer said. "Once the bottles get empty or run low, (trainers) come back and refill. We just kind of keep it going."

Student trainers must complete an application, provide two recommendation letters, attend an in-person interview, pass a physical, show up on time, and work hard.

Observing players for signs of trouble is crucial.

"They are eyes and ears out there," Poer said. "They are looking for abrasions, bruises, things that we need to see. They will triage some of that and bring it to our attention, and we will go and check on them. They are kind of everywhere that we can't be at one time. The veterans that were here last year kind of know what to recognize and how to deal with some basic first aid

things."

Not everyone is guaranteed a spot. Students must be dependable.

"If they enjoy us, and we enjoy them, and they've got a good work ethic, and we feel like they could do a good job and benefit from it, we will let them come with us for summer workouts and be with us during the season," he said.

Trainers screen the kids to make sure they are serious-minded. Being a student trainer can be difficult, and the responsibilities are big.

"We talk about why they want to do it, what do they think it is going to be about," Poer said. "We talk about how it's going to be hot, and it's going to be cold. They are going to be dealing with a lot of different types of situations - very stressful situations - a lot of multitasking, being able to work well with others. If they can do that, we will give them a try."

Futures can also be made. Many kids go on from high school to become athletic trainers as a career. The median wage, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, is about \$50,000. Athletic trainers in professional sports can earn more.

"We kind of treat it like a

vocation," Poer said. "We try to teach these kiddos some really good worthwhile skills that may allow them to get into a college or... go ahead and get their license and certificate to do it for a living."

Chloe Jones, a junior, plans to do that. She is in her third year as a student trainer and has loved her experience.

"If you like football, you get to experience the sport firsthand," she said. "I plan on going to college and doing it as a degree."

In the fourth grade, she saw her first Azle football game and was intrigued by the kids running out onto the field to care for players.

"I'm like, OK, I love football, and I like medical care because my grandmother is a nurse," Jones said. "I knew I wanted to do something that helped people."

Helping players is a frequent task.

"If you get someone with an injury, you learn how to treat that injury," she said. "If someone gets a busted elbow, for instance, you learn how to wrap it the correct way that prevents pinching. If you do it too tight, then they're not going to feel their hand anymore."

A positive good attitude

can be an effective medicine, as well.

"You can help them even if it's just saying, 'Good morning,' to them, or 'good afternoon,' and 'How are you doing?'" she said. "You don't know what someone is going through. You can make lasting friendships."

She pointed to Gabby Balderas, a sophomore in her second year as a student trainer.

"We went to a summer training camp at TCU," Jones said. "We grew closer with our friendship."

Balderas enjoys the responsibilities and the friendships she's made.

"I love it," she said. "Getting to know people. Learning new things. I like it all."

Kaylee Iglesias is a senior who will graduate early at just 16. She decided to become a student trainer in her final year at AHS.

"I love helping people, and I really love making a positive impact if I can," she said. "I love trying new things. I have friends that are in it, and it seems like a fun deal. I'm kind of a morning person, so it works."

Iglesias heard about the program through Jones last year and decided to apply for

a position this year.

"We had Spanish together, and she would come in and talk about it," Iglesias said. "It just sounded like something that was super fun. She was always in a pretty happy mood. I figured I'd give it a try."

She hadn't paid much attention to trainers in her first two years at AHS but has developed more appreciation.

"I've always seen them," she said. "I guess I didn't really understand what they did."

On July 31, Iglesias attended her first official football practice, filling water bottles and keeping players hydrated. She awoke at 4:30 a.m., left her house at 5 a.m., arrived at the stadium at 5:15 a.m., and was filling water bottles soon after. She didn't mind rising two hours before sunup to begin the day.

"I'm a ranch hand, so I usually get up pretty early," she said. "I'm used to it."

She felt like she made a good decision to become a trainer.

"Already, just from the first practice, I really like the environment and all the people," she said. "I can't wait to make new friendships and help where I can."

BACK TO SCHOOL

Play-it-Safe Tips to Protect Young Athletes' Feet and Ankles

STATEPOINT

"The back-to-school season is prime time for foot and ankle injuries from fall sports like soccer, football and cross country," says Richard Baker, DPM, FACFAS, a foot and ankle surgeon and Fellow Member of the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons (ACFAS). "Fortunately, there are many steps parents, coaches and young athletes can take to prevent injuries from occurring in the first place and to discourage kids from playing through pain."

Here are eight play-it-safe tips from the foot and ankle

surgeon members of ACFAS to help prevent injuries and to treat them properly when they do occur.

1. Get a pre-season check-up. A pre-season medical evaluation can help identify whether your child could possibly benefit from using an orthotic or wearing a supportive ankle brace while playing. This is especially important for those with previous sprains and injuries.

2. Start the season with new shoes. Old shoes can wear down and become uneven, causing the ankle to tilt. And, as your child's feet may have grown between seasons, their

old shoes may not fit. The smart move is to replace athletic shoes at the start of each season. While children under 10 should wear all-purpose sports shoes, older youth athletes should wear sport-specific footwear.

3. Train for the season. It's important that your child's feet and ankles are accustomed to the level of activity required for the sport. Adequate conditioning in the off-season can help maintain a player's ability to meet these demands, reducing their risk of injury and improving their performance during the season.

4. Encourage warmup ex-

ercises. Calf stretches and light jogging before competition help warm up ligaments and blood vessels, reducing injury risk.

5. Check fields for dips, divots and holes. Ninety percent of ankle sprains are due to poor playing conditions. That's why some surgeons recommend walking the field, especially in non-professional settings like public parks, looking for spots that could catch a player's foot. Alert coaching officials to any irregularities.

6. Watch their technique. A difference in the way your child is moving is often a telltale sign that something is

wrong. Playing with pain is never a winning strategy so encourage kids to be honest about pain or discomfort.

7. Be mindful of other physical activities. Your child doesn't need to be involved in a formalized athletic program to be vulnerable to sports-related injuries. Foot and ankle surgeons warn of common injuries like plantar fasciitis, bone spurs, fractures and Achilles tendonitis due to repetitive, forceful motions, which can occur in activities such as skateboarding. When skateboarding or engaged in other non-formal activities, always wear protective gear, including support-

ive shoes, and seek treatment when there is pain or injury.

8. Remember RICE. Often, an injured foot or ankle can be treated with rest, ice, compression and elevation. Those with foot or ankle pain should take a break from playing and allow time for recovery. If pain persists, something more serious may be happening, such as cartilage injuries or broken bones in the foot. Consult a foot and ankle surgeon for a complete evaluation, proper diagnosis and treatment plan. The sooner rehabilitation starts, the sooner your child can safely get back into the game.

ELITE

FROM PAGE B1

pated in elite volleyball camp this year, compared to the usual 75 or so from recent years.

"We love the growth of our program and our sport at SHS," she said.

BOSWELL SHMOZZWELL

Hunt moved to Springtown recently and will attend SHS this year for the first time. She was surprised when the coach called attention to her Boswell T-shirt.

"I didn't really think anyone would call me out on it," Hunt said. "Most people that I talked to knew that I was from

Boswell. Then, when she said that, I was like, 'Oh! It kind of scared me a little bit.'"

Hunt grew up in the Saginaw area.

"I've gone to Boswell for my whole life," she said. "This year, I have moved in with my dad, and I'm going to Springtown. I'm very excited for the change."

She wore the Boswell garb because it's soft and breathable and fit well. She probably won't burn her Boswell shirts, as Price suggested in jest, but Hunt would resist wearing them to Springtown practice in the future.

Hunt's parents split up when she was seven, and she lived with her mother full-time until a few weeks ago,

when she moved in with her dad.

"At Boswell, stuff just wasn't working out for me, and I needed a change," Hunt said.

Last year, she played on Boswell's JV team as a sophomore. This year, she hopes to make varsity and see plenty of action on the court. If she misses the cut, she will shrug it off, play JV, and work harder.

"I know stuff doesn't work out all the time," she said.

Boswell has a successful volleyball program, and it's a 6A school, much larger than 4A Springtown. Boswell teams typically feature ath-

PLEASE SEE ELITE | B7



JEFF PRINCE | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Gracyn Lea is one of seven seniors returning to the team.



JEFF PRINCE | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Bailey Walker, a junior, will be counted upon this year. Libby Tedder watches behind her.



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Kelbie Druyman is the younger sister to recent graduates Railey and Kylie Druyman and big sister to incoming freshman Libby Tedder.



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Addison Burtnett chases a ball.



JEFF PRINCE | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Ryleigh Strickland shows her skills at camp.

FOOTBALL

FROM PAGE B1

fruits of our labors," he said.

The team's goal is to represent District 3-5A in the playoffs, although the Hornets are focusing now on the daily steps required to take them there. District 3 is one of the toughest of the state's 5A districts. Azle's non-district portion of the schedule is equally tough. Dorris expects the preseason to prepare his warriors for the regular season.

"Last year, we played five teams that were ranked in the top 10 in 5A at some point of the year," he said. "This year, we have the same schedule, but every year is different. Our kids have put in great preparation for the challenge."

In 2022-23, the Hornets finished 3-7, missing the playoffs for the first time in five years.

This year, few if any players are locked into starting positions. Dorris wants his guys battling for jobs. He and his coaching staff watch players during practices, scrimmages, and preseason games and



Blocking drills are part of the fun.

JEFF PRINCE | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER



Catching balls – or preventing someone from catching them – are both important skills.

determine starters later in the process.

"Competition makes us all better," he said. "We have some good football players that are going to take advantage of their opportunities. I look forward to seeing exactly who that ends up being through our scrimmages and non-district games."

The defense looks like it will be a strong point this year.

"We lost a few leaders from last year, but I have seen great leadership from our returning seniors on this side of the ball," he said.

The team is less experienced on offense.

The coach doesn't know how the team will finish record-wise, but he made one prediction with certainty.

"You will see unbelievable effort from a group of young men that have a common goal, and you will be proud to be a Hornet fan when you come to the games," he said.

JEFF PRINCE | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER



Austin May, a senior quarterback, warms up before the first practice of the football season.

JEFF PRINCE | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER



Canaan Kaznowski likes the team's chemistry.

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817-523-4462
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408 S. Ash St., Springtown
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817-626-5556
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West of FM 730 N. at sign, Briar
817-444-3484
CALVARY HEIGHTS BAPTIST
1 block off Hwy. 199, east of David's Patio, Springtown, 817-221-2241
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817-594-5918
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817-444-3752
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817-220-9133 or 817-220-3581
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Corner of FM 730 & Ragle Rd., Weatherford, 817-594-1154
EAGLE MOUNTAIN BAPTIST
8780 Eagle Mtn. Circle, Azle
817-237-4135
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1017 Boyd Road
817-444-4828
FIRST BAPTIST CASTLE HILLS
401 Beverly Rd., Azle
817-797-4706
FIRST BAPTIST LAKE WORTH
700 Charbonneau Tr., west side of Effie Morris Elementary
817-237-2624
FIRST BAPTIST LAKESIDE
8801 Jacksboro Hwy., Lakeside
817-237-8113
FIRST BAPTIST COTTONDALE
1 block N. of FM 2123, Cottondale
940-433-5539
FIRST BAPTIST POOLVILLE
1 block W. of FM 920, Poolville
817-594-3916
FIRST BAPTIST SPRINGTOWN
5th & Main Street, Springtown
817-220-5229
FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST
801 Friendship Rd., 9½ miles S. of Springtown off Hwy. 51 S.
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817-237-8441
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817-237-4163
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6051 Azle Ave., Fort Worth
817-237-2201
NEW HOPE BAPTIST
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817-221-2184
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5500 Boat Club Rd., Lake Worth
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817-523-0376
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817-221-2110
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1405 Reynolds Rd., Reno
817-521-4510
NORTHWEST BIBLE CHURCH
5025 Jacksboro Hwy., Fort Worth
817-624-2111
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AZLE CHURCH of CHRIST
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817-594-4182
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817-980-8156
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817-594-3043
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1649 S.E. Parkway, Azle
817-319-7364
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3282 FM 2048, Boyd 76023
817-755-7021
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112 Optimist Rd., Springtown
682-229-1433
GOSPEL GATHERING FELLOWSHIP
7315 Silver Creek Rd at Flatrock Rd, Azle
832-289-8720
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6409 FM 730 S., Azle
817-444-4311
LIGHTHOUSE HARBOR CHURCH
1960 Long Circle, Pelican Bay
817-444-3547
THE LIVING WORD COUNTRY CHURCH of TEXAS
1240 E. HWY 199, SPRINGTOWN
817-913-2717
NEW LIGHTED WAY
624 Harbor Dr. Circle, Azle
817-444-1577
NORTHWEST TEMPLE OF PRAISE
6781 Jacksboro Hwy., Lake Worth
PRECIOUS FAITH TEMPLE CHURCH
8601 Hwy. 199 @ Vance Godbey's
THE HOUSE of PRAYER
1356 Reno Rd., Springtown
817-221-2551
THE RANCH CHRISTIAN COWBOY CHURCH
7955 Reed Rd., Azle
682-327-7082
REAL FAMILY FELLOWSHIP
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817-677-5963
GRACE & FAITH CENTER
11701 Jacksboro Hwy., Azle
817-210-6295
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Ad Classifications

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| 1... Air Condition/Heating | 24..... Electrician | 46..... Looking to Buy | 69..... Sand/Gravel |
| 2..... Antiques | 25..... Equipment & Tool Rental | 47..... Lost & Found | 70..... Septic Tanks |
| 3..... Appliances | 26..... Excavating | 48... Maintenance/Repairs | 71..... Sewing/Alterations |
| 4..... Appliance Repair | 27..... Exterminating | 49..... Masonry/Stonework | 72..... Sewer Service |
| 5..... Arts/Crafts | 28..... Farm Equipment | 50... Mobile Home Service | 73..... TV/Radio |
| 6..... Asphalt Paving | 29..... Fencing | 51..... Motorcycles | 74..... Tractor Service |
| 7..... Auctions | 30..... Firewood | 52..... Movers | 75..... Upholstery |
| 8..... Autos, Trucks | 31..... Free | 53..... Musical Instruments | 76..... Vacuum Cleaners |
| 9..... Auto Repair Service | 32..... For Sale | 54..... Music Lessons | 77..... Wanted |
| 10..... Backhoe Service | 33..... Furniture | 55..... Miscellaneous | 78..... Well Drilling |
| 11..... Boats, Motors | 34..... Garage & Estate Sales | 56 Party Planning/Events | 79..... Welding |
| 12..... Bookkeeping | 35 ...Garden/Mowing Svc | 57..... Pets/Livestock | 80..... Lots/Acreage |
| 13..... Business | 36..... Hauling | 58..... Piano Service | 81..... Business & Commercial Property |
| 14..... Campers/Trailers | 37..... Hay | 59..... Pool Service | 82..... RV's for Rent |
| 15..... Carports/Patios | 38..... Health/Fitness | 60..... Professional Services | 83..... Houses for Sale |
| 16..... Equipment Repair | 39..... Help Wanted | 61..... Personal | 84..... Mobile Homes for Rent |
| 17..... Carpet Service | 40Home Improvement | 62..... Plumbing | 85..... Mobile Homes for Sale |
| 18..... Catering | 41..... House Leveling | 63..... Public Notice | 86..... Mobile Home/RV Lots |
| 19..... Cement Work | 42..... House Cleaning | 64..... Photography | 87..... Rent Furnished |
| 20..... Demolition | 43..... Hunting | 65..... Printing | 88..... Rent Unfurnished |
| 21..... Child Care | 44..... Janitorial Service | 66..... Roofing | 89..... Wanted to Rent |
| 22..... Cosmetics | 45..... Job Wanted | 67..... Recycling | |
| 23..... Computers/Services | | 68..... Storage | |

RATES

16 Words or Less:
Only \$10.00 per week!

Over 16 words, add 20 cents per word
Extras such as Bold, Center & Border are available for a small fee

Classified boxed display ads also available for \$9.00 per column inch

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

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



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- Haul Off
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- Barns
- Houses
- Bobcat Service
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 • LAND EROSION
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 All Types Fences - Tractor Work
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LEON'S FENCING
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031 Free

For RV - Tan 70" JackKnife Sofa; low usage. FREE to someone who needs it! Reno - 817-676-4488.

032 For Sale

5 bedroom Palm Harbor home for sale. Huge discount for quick sale. Needs minor upgrades and repairs. 1 acre lot available, good location off Knob Hill Rd. Call 417-365-2325 for info.



2017 Polaris RZR XP4 Turbo. Custom cage, doors, bumper, lights, spare tire & holder, big stereo w/sub. \$24,000.
909-557-0158.



2003 Suzuki VL800 \$2000
817-681-6854



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Excellent condition inside and out, low mileage, grey in color \$4300 OBO
817-237-3803

034 Garage & Estate Sales

ESTATE SALE
 113 Pecan St, Azle. August 11th and 12th. Furniture, tools, riding mower, zero turn mower, push mowers, other yard equipment, vehicles, tv's, household items. No item left unsold.

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STUMP GRINDING
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 Expert take downs
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039 Help Wanted

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

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

Alpha Health Care Services is looking for Care Givers in Azle, Haslet, Burleson, Joshua, Alvaredo, Fort Worth, and Arlington. Please call 817-467-7955 or email; ouralphahealthcare@yahoo.com.

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039 Help Wanted

SILVER DOLLAR CUSTOMS HELP WANTED

2 Mechanics needed and 2 Body Technicians Experience a must and tools a plus! Mechanics We work on all types of vehicles; we specialize in classics.

From full restorations, modifications, rebuilds and upgrades, maintenance, and repairs but not limited to. Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm

Occasional Saturday Body Shop Technicians Metal work, fabrications, welding, body working, sanding, grinding, and sand blasting. Hours: Monday - Friday 6:00am to 2:30pm Occasional Saturday Pay Negotiable Contact: Elizabeth @ 817-752-2165 or Come by: 408 Commerce St Azle, Tx 76020

Shop hand needed for busy Electrical contractor.

Duties include pulling material/ delivering material to jobsites as needed. Organizing and returning material to stock. Hours are Monday-Friday 7-4:30 pm.

Please come into our office at 1355 NW Parkway, Azle to fill out an application. 817-444-5371 817-360-0261.

individual for our full time office position. This position includes all accounting and general administrative duties .This is a full time position, Monday through Friday, in a casual, yet professional, small office environment. Job requirements; Knowledge of accounting, data and administrative management practices and procedures Experience in Quickbooks and Excel. Contact :817-360-0261

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- Mechanic - Diesel/ Heavy Equipment
- Loader Operator

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

For information call 214-802-5157

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PLEASE CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR JOB QUALIFICATIONS.
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Apply online at www.mtctrains.com or call 940-567-2272 and ask for the HR Department.
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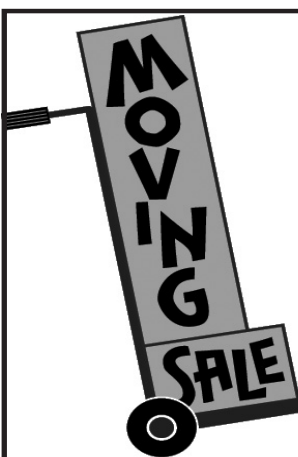
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TRI-COUNTY REPORTER



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TRI-COUNTY REPORTER
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Hometown Paper!

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Deadline:
1:00 PM FRIDAY

Classifieds

<p>039</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <h2>KARL KLEMENT</h2> </div> <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>Body Shop Technician Provides automotive services by performing inspections and repairs and/or installations efficiently and according to manufacturer's quality and time standards. Great schedule and excellent earning potential!</p> <hr/> <p>Karl Klement Properties, Inc. No Positions Available at This Time</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Help Wanted</p> <p>KLEMENT DISTRIBUTION, INC. (Hershey Ice Cream Distributor)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Route Driver</p> <p>This position requires a valid driver's license with a good driving history. Company vehicle provided and CDL not required. <u>Our Driver positions are the most rewarding because Associates earn a great income by satisfying client orders with tasty treats!</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">We offer <i>promote from within</i> advancement along with great benefits and opportunities for additional commission/bonus! Plus, paid training/vacation/flex-schedule. M-F workweek</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">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 style="text-align: center;">All full-time positions offer growth opportunities & a full benefits package including Medical, Dental, Vision, Life, 401(k) & more. EEOC</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">079 Welding</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <h2>SOLID STEEL SOLUTIONS</h2> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li style="width: 50%;">• Metal Buildings <li style="width: 50%;">• Fabrication Supplies <li style="width: 50%;">• Steel Components <li style="width: 50%;">• Pipe Fencing <li style="width: 50%;">• Welding Supplies <li style="width: 50%;">• Deer Blinds <li style="width: 50%;">• Concrete Supplies <li style="width: 50%;">• Deer Feeders <p>8894 W Hwy 199 • Springtown 817-220-0008 www.SolidSS.com Open to the Public</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">owner Rodney Vick 817-220-3044 fax 817-523-7639 cell 817-253-1614</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>R & E Construction Metal Building Specialist</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weld Ups/ Bolt Ups • Pipe Fencing • Concrete • Horse Barns • All Types Fencing • Metal Roofs <p>Compare Pricing NO JOB TOO SMALL</p> </div>
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TEXAS CROSSWORD

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ACROSS

- Lavaca, TX
- "Hill Country State Natural ____"
- "The King and I" country
- bottom of a boot
- he went on a killing spree in Houston area, 1983 (2 wds.)
- "war on drugs" agcy. reductions
- TX Robert Benton directed this Streep in 1979 film "Kramer vs. Kramer" (init.)
- kinda like PTAs
- TXism: "got ____ my plate than I can say grace over" (overextended)
- "just ____"
- what a "legal eagle" charges (2 wds.)
- TXism: "that's a ____ pill to swallow" (difficult to accept)
- TX Jim Reeves hit: "He'll Have to ____"
- TX Stormie Jones got first ____ - ____ transplant
- TX Larry Hagman's mom, Martin
- respectful response to a man: "Yes ____"
- a Texan, in a national sense
- this Estrada was in "Midway" with TX Dabney Coleman
- "____ a nice day"
- TXism: "lower than a ____"
- provide food at an event
- TXism: "fits like ugly on an ____"
- TXism: "worn to a frazzle"
- oldest Polish town in the nation: Panna ____, TX
- "yes" in Mexico
- Texas river fish
- TX Pride's "Is Anybody Goin' ____ Antone"
- TXism: "let ____ be bygoness" (make peace)
- Texas site of Space X Starship: ____ Chica
- TXism: "don't give a hoot ____ holler"
- "____ of thieves"
- "you ain't seen nothing ____"
- 12 first half of the Bible (abbr.)
- make a comment
- Rains County seat
- dork or geek
- TXism: "____horse town" (small)
- TXism: "looks good enough ____ sermon" (dressed up)
- a noisy sleeper
- a German monetary unit before the euro
- Gov. Hogg's only daughter (init.)
- nat'l teacher union
- photographic devices, for short
- Spurs' AT&T Center
- 35 glossy fabric
- TX-born Sly Stone sang "____ Is a Star"
- TX Keyes book: "Scarlett O' ____ Younger Sister"
- a Bedouin
- "in ____ of"
- TX Helmond was ____ Robinson on "Who's the Boss?"
- TXism: "works from can't see ____ see" (hard worker)
- in Knox County on U.S. 277

DOWN

- TXism: "____ was up on jacks" (speeder)
- Palmeiro went from the Rangers to this team, twice
- everyday objects as teaching aids
- domesticates an animal
- "cheater, cheater, pumpkin ____"
- Dallas Symphony instrument, e.g.
- mates of "pas"

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