

Clowning around at the carnival

Springtown Cub Scouts Pack 303 host last summer event before starting new Scouting year

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SPRINGTOWN — On the last Saturday before the start of the new school year, Cub Scouts in Pack 303 got together at Springtown First United Methodist Church for one more afternoon of summer fun.

The kids tossed bean bags at targets, catapulted rubber frogs onto plates, knocked down cans arranged in a pyramid formation and played other such games at the pack's carnival on Aug. 12.

Cubmaster Holly Lowe, who is known for wearing themed

costumes to Cub Scouts events, donned an inflatable clown suit and greeted kids as they arrived at the carnival. Lowe said the event was easy enough to host and allowed scouts to have fun before the end of summer.

"They're starting school next week; let's let them let loose," she said during the carnival.

The carnival marked the pack's last summer activity. If scouts participated in one of the pack's events during June, July and August, they are eligible for the National

PLEASE SEE **CARNIVAL** | A2



MADelyn EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Arrow of Light-ranked Cub Scout Jerrik Hansen is filled with excitement as he gets ready to throw a ball and knock down some cans in a game at his pack's carnival on Aug. 12.



MADelyn EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Springtown Elementary School third grader Tyrus and second grader Tucker were ready for their first day of school at 6 a.m. Aug. 16.

EDUCATION

Springtown Elementary students, parents conquer first day of school

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SPRINGTOWN — The new school year in Springtown began last week, and two little boys could hardly wait to start their first day back at Springtown Elementary School.

Darby Tadlock said her boys Tyrus and Tucker told her that it was time to go to school at 6 a.m. Aug. 16, even though they didn't need to be in class until 7:40 a.m.

"I said, 'It's not time to get

up yet. It's not time to go,'" Tadlock said she told her kids with a surprised tone.

"They were ready to go. They were very, very excited. I think maybe (during) a small time last night they were both a little nervous. But overall, they're very excited to be back to school."

Tyrus is a third grader and Tucker is in second grade. Both boys have been attending school at Springtown Elementary since they were in kindergarten.

Tadlock said Tyrus plans

to work on having perfect attendance this year and hopes to win first place in the UIL chess competition. When he was four years old, Tyrus learned about chess randomly on a day that he felt bored. Now, he loves playing the game and has taught his brother how to play.

"He's very competitive," Tadlock said. "He was very upset last year that he didn't get straight A's. He was three points shy of getting straight A's. He's my very much competitive intellectual child."

Meanwhile, Tucker is also competitive but with sports. Tadlock said he enjoys soccer and has been looking forward to playing football with his friends at recess.

"He has to be the fastest," she said. "He has to be the best in any sport."

For her part, Tadlock is excited that the school year has begun, though she empathizes with the teachers.

"They are wonderful people here, and they don't get

PLEASE SEE **SES** | A14

EDUCATION

New beginnings at Azle ISD

Teachers welcome students and parents back to Azle schools for the new academic year

ZACH FREEMAN
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AZLE - On the morning of Aug. 16, schools all around Azle filled back up after a

summer of fun. Students and parents embarked on the next phase of their journey through life and education.

For some teary-eyed parents, today marked the first

time they've spent almost a whole day away from their kids since their birth.

"You don't realize how

PLEASE SEE **NEW** | A14



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

The Franks family, Thea, McKinley and Bryar, are ready for their first days of kindergarten and pre-k at Hilltop.



JEFF PRINCE | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Averii, Ronnie and Cohen Whitehead at Reno Elementary.

Back to School

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MADelyn EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER
Cub Scouts Pack 303 Cubmaster Holly Lowe dons an inflatable clown suit for the pack's carnival earlier this month at Springtown First United Methodist Church.



Liam Gottlieb, a Cub Scout in the Webelos rank, fixes his eyes on the target before throwing his bean bag during Springtown Cub Scouts Pack 303's carnival earlier this month.



Chloe Salazar, a Wolf-ranked Cub Scout, winds her arm back before throwing a bean bag at the target in a game during her pack's carnival on Aug. 12 at Springtown First United Methodist Church.

CARNIVAL

FROM PAGE A1

Summertime Pack Award. Lowe said several scouts in Pack 303 will earn this achievement.

"It is to help keep our scouts engaged over the summertime," Lowe said about the National Summertime Pack Award. "We do have quite a few families that participated in at least one event in those three months, and they will earn that award."

Typically, Pack 303 only hosts one event in each of the three summer months, but this year, Cub Scout leaders provided more than that. This meant more work for the adults, but Lowe was fine with that.

"It's for the kids," she said. "That's what we're here for to give them a great time."

As of the carnival, Lowe said Pack 303 has 26 scouts,

but she would like to see that number grow. The pack lost seven scouts who aged out of Cub Scouts and transitioned into the Boy Scouts of America Troop earlier this year. Lowe would also like to see more people in Scout families stepping up to be leaders.

"We just would like to build those numbers up and always welcome the new faces and always have room for them," she said.

Pack 303's leaders have planned out the activities that are aimed at keeping scouts entertained for the new Scouting year.

"It's going to be the same great program, but we're going to continue to provide a fun twist on it to keep it interesting so that we're not doing the same thing over and over and over," Lowe said.

Lowe thanked the Springtown First United Methodist Church for al-

lowing Pack 303 to use the church's facilities for events and meetings.

"They're always going above and beyond to help us with our needs," she said. "We're thankful for them."

Pack 303's new year kicked off earlier this week with its Welcome Back/Recruitment Night on Aug. 22. If families missed this event, they can still sign up for Cub Scouts throughout the year by visiting beascout.org online. For more information about Pack 303, visit its Facebook page at facebook.com/springtown-cubscoutspack303 online.

Webelos-ranked Cub Scout
Abi Carter plays a game at
Springtown Cub Scout Pack
303's carnival on Aug. 12
at Springtown First United
Methodist Church.



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What happened to the days when men carried pocketknives?

Our culture changes every minute of every day. Sometimes the change is glacier slow, and it takes us a while to notice it. Occasionally the changes are very sudden and unexpected. But make no mistake, our society grows or digresses every day. I guess whether those changes are good or bad depends on your point of view.

In the mid to late 1960s the change was quick and occasionally shocking. The Beatles erupted on the music scene and almost overnight boys grew their hair to a length which previously would have been outlandish. Clothing styles changed to where bell-bottom pants, "love beads" and sandals become a norm among the youth. Formality seemed to fly out the window. These changes shocked a great many people and sparked discussions around the family dinner table about decorum and societal norms.

I remember working at a department store when I was 16 and having the store



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.

manager send a young female employee home because she wore sandals to work! I can still hear him explaining to the staff how a girl's "bare naked feet being displayed in public" was simply an image which the store did not want to project. The action of the manager seems rather shocking now, doesn't it? It wasn't at the time.

The 60s was a time when women went from wearing hats and gloves in church, to wearing slacks. Some young women even had the temerity to not wear a bra when in public! Men stopped wearing hats with their suits, suspenders gave way to belts, and some even stopped wearing undershirts. All these acts were significant changes in our cultural norms.

One of the changes which evolved over the last 50 years is many men have stopped carrying pocketknives. This is not to say no men still carry a pocketknife, but I believe the number has dropped precipitously since I was a child.

There are probably practical reasons for the change. Our society was much more rural 50 or 60 years ago, and having a pocketknife in the front pocket of your pants was necessary for a couple hundred reasons. It might be to cut the string on a box wrapped with twine, or the opening of an envelope. It could be used in an emergency when a screwdriver was not available, or when a splinter needed to be removed from a thumb. It could cut off the end of a cigar so when

lit, it would "draw" better. It would cut the insulation off an electric wire that needed to be spliced, or even remove the skin off an apple. It had hundreds of purposes.

For my granddad, the major use of a pocketknife was to whittle on a piece of wood. No, he did not carve anything specific nor was he an artist. He simply carried a small piece of wood in his pocket and when he sat under the shade tree after dinner, he would "whittle" shavings while he enjoyed after dinner conversations or the setting of the sun. Whittling allowed him to keep his hands busy while his brain and heart could relax. He taught me to whittle, and I still enjoy it today. Sometimes I think most of what I know I learned under that shade tree listening to my grandfather's thoughts, while we whittled.

I have a pocketknife my dad bought for me on my tenth birthday. It is in my tacklebox, so it is available if I need it when fishing. My

mother gave me an ivory handled pocketknife which is the one I utilize when I whittle. I keep the edge razor sharp and over the course of my life there is no telling how many trees I have turned into shavings using that one single knife.

Not many men carry a pocketknife these days. A fella cannot carry one into a school, governmental building, or on an airplane. The world has changed, and I understand the reasons why restrictions are in place. They are reasonable and appropriate. It is an evolution in our society. It is a new "norm". Is that part of the reason why men do not carry pocketknives, or is it simply a tool which is no longer necessary? Does it needlessly take up space in our pocket and is it rarely used? Who knows the reason, it just happened.

Before I leave this world, there will be many more cultural shifts. Not sure I will welcome them all.

I do hope it is always the

norm to open the door for a lady, to address elders as "sir or ma'am", and to shake hands with a man when you see him.

I hope looking a man in the eye when conducting business is always important, and keeping your word has meaning and purpose.

No matter what the rest of the world does, I will keep whittling and using my pocketknife. It may be a relic by the time it gets passed down to one of the grandchildren; maybe to the point where someone will have to explain what the utensil was used for.

I hope the important parts of our culture never change, but I fear they will, and it saddens me.

Thought for the day: Yesterday I was clever, so I wanted to change the world. Today I am wise, so I am changing myself.

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

STAAR scores show continued struggles in math, reading; Lawyers: Paxton used burner phones, fake Uber account

STAAR SCORES SHOW CONTINUED STRUGGLES IN MATH, READING

Texas public student scores in standardized testing continue to improve since the pandemic, but more than half of those taking the test still struggle with math and just under half read below grade-level, the Texas Tribune reported.

Students in grades three through eight took the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness tests in math and reading last spring. The results were released last week by the Texas Education Agency.

Math scores have improved since the pandemic low of just 35% meeting grade level or above in math in 2021, up to 43% in the latest STAAR scores. The percentage of students reading at grade level or above was essentially flat at 52%, but still above pre-pandemic levels, which were 47% in 2019.

"Teachers across Texas continue to work with passion and skill to help students learn," Mike Morath, Texas Education Commissioner said. "This year's

results show the efforts of our educators continue to deliver improved results for students."

LAWYERS: PAXTON USED BURNER PHONES, FAKE UBER ACCOUNT

A series of documents filed by House impeachment managers claim suspended Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton gave indicted real estate developer Nate Paul "unfettered access" to the AG's office in order to "harass his enemies," The Dallas Morning News reported.

Paxton used burner phones, a secret personal email account and a fake Uber account in order to visit a woman with whom he was having an extramarital affair, the documents indicate.

"Uber records reflect drivers picked up Paxton under the alias of 'Dave P' a block from his home and ferried him to his lover's or Paul's properties more than a dozen times from August 6, 2020, until October 2, 2020," the House managers wrote.

Paul allegedly bribed Paxton by paying for a house remodeling and giving Paxton's lover a job, the documents indicate.



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.

Paul was indicted in June for federal financial crimes. A federal grand jury is reportedly looking into Paxton's connection with Paul. Paxton was impeached by the Texas House in late May and faces trial in the Senate on Sept. 5. He was immediately suspended without pay upon being impeached.

Paxton also faces a criminal trial next year on a 2015 indictment for securities fraud.

NEW STRAIN OF COVID-19 BEING MONITORED

The World Health Organization is monitoring a new strain of COVID-19 it says is accounting for a growing share of cases in several countries, including the United States, according to the Texas Standard.

EG.5, or "Eris," is being monitored to see how it might mutate.

Dr. Catherine Trosi, an infectious diseases epidemiologist at UTHealth Houston School of Public Health, said it's hard to know the exact cause of the recent uptick in COVID cases.

"When the public health emergency ended, a lot of tracking went away," she told the Texas Standard. "The latest data shows 17% of cases are due to this variant. But we're not tracking cases really well because people have stopped testing. Even if you test positive, it doesn't get reported to health departments. So really the markers we have are hospitalizations, which we have seen go up quite significantly - although it's important to remember we are still at historic lows in

terms of hospitalizations due to COVID."

The Texas Department of State Health Services reported a rolling seven-day average of 929 hospitalized COVID-19 patients, up 132 from the previous week, with 21 fatalities.

SURVEY: 80% OF ANTI-MIGRANT BUOYS ARE IN MEXICO

A survey by the binational agency in charge of the Rio Grande indicates nearly all of the anti-migrant buoys Texas has installed in the river are on the Mexican side of the river, The Dallas Morning News reported.

The survey by the International Boundary and Water Commission found that of the 995-foot string of buoys installed near Eagle Pass last month, 787 feet — nearly 80% — are on the Mexican side.

The U.S. Justice Department has sued the state in attempt to force it to remove the barrier. In court, the state has insisted the barrier is on the U.S. side of the river. Mexico contends the barriers violate both federal law and an international treaty between it and the United States.

EMPLOYMENT RECORDS SET IN THE STATE

Texas has more jobs and more people employed than ever before, according to the Texas Workforce Commission. The state has recorded 29 consecutive months of growth and again leads the nation in the number of jobs added over the past year — 441,700 new positions since July 2022.

"Texas leads the nation in sustainable job growth with more than 2.7 million positions added in the past decade," said TWC Chairman Bryan Daniel. "The Texas economy remains strong, and TWC will continue to provide support through tools and resources for job seekers and employers alike."

The leisure and hospitality sector led job growth with 9,800 jobs, while manufacturing added 6,600 positions, closely followed by private education and health service with 6,400 jobs. Of the 26,300 new jobs added in July, all but 400 were in the private sector.

Azle City Council appoints Crime and Prevention board member, holds hearing on tax rate

Azle City Council voted on and discussed several important issues in Aug. 14 meeting

ZACH FREEMAN

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AZLE - During an Aug. 14 city council meeting, Azle native Bryan Weaver was appointed to the Crime Control and Prevention District Board, Place 4. Weaver has previously served on the Azle Independent School District Long Range Facilities Planning Committee.

"I want to give back to the community and serve, this seemed like a good way to do that," Weaver said. "I grew up here, my parents grew up here. This is my home."

One of Weaver's jobs that intersects with his new board appointment is his civil attorney practice.

"I don't practice criminal law, but I do have familiarity with it. I do take crime kind of personally, because as I said, this is my home, and I

don't like things going on in my house," he said.

Weaver graduated from Azle High School in 1986 and went on to receive a bachelors in music education from TCU.

Alongside his law practice, Weaver is also a music teacher at Eagle Heights Elementary. Weaver was a music teacher for 17 years before he began law school in 2008 as a way to make extra money. In 2012, Weaver graduated summa cum laude from Texas Wesleyan University School of Law, now known as Texas A&M University School of Law. The city council unanimously voted to approve Weaver's appointment.

One area where Weaver's property law expertise could have come in handy was agenda item number three of the meeting, wherein the

Azle City Council voted to abandon a city-owned portion of property formerly intended to be a right-of-way to Southeast Parkway from Oregon Avenue. In 2008 or 2009, TxDOT instead acquired a neighboring property and created an exit there. Aqualine Pools would eventually build part of their parking lot on the former planned site. Aqualine Pools recently requested the city relinquish ownership of the 0.16-acre strip so that the business can legally pave and fence the remaining property. Half of the property will automatically revert ownership to the neighboring Marie Pigg Real Estate, which plans to transfer their 0.08 acres to Aqualine Pools. The city voted to legally abandon the property in a six-to-one vote, with Mayor Pro Tem Randa Goode dissenting.

On another agenda item, the city council held a public hearing on the proposed 2023 tax rate for the City of Azle. The city has proposed a \$0.5688744 total tax rate per \$100 of value for 2023. This rate is about five cents less than last year's rate of \$0.6234260.

The Azle City Council also conducted a public hearing on the parks report for Azle's softball program. Kyle Culwell, Parks Superintendent, spoke with the council on the expansion of the program to Tuesday nights and its relatively high attendance compared to similar programs in other nearby cities. The council agreed to meet again with Culwell after more data is gathered on other city softball programs in order to solidify rates and budget costs.



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Bryan Weaver will begin serving on Azle's Crime Control and Prevention District Board after a brief period of training.

Texas officials raise CWD awareness

ZACH FREEMAN

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AZLE - This summer, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department launched a public awareness campaign for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). CWD is a highly transmissible prion disease of deer and other cervids. It is similar to "mad cow disease" in cattle, scrapie in sheep, and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD) in humans. There is no vaccine or treatment for CWD, and it is fatal in 100% of cases. Drastic weight loss, poor coordination, excessive thirst and unusual behaviors are some of the symptoms of this disease.

CWD has a long incubation period, remaining in an animal's body for 12 to 34 months before symptoms occur. Because of this, infected deer, moose or elk can travel long distances and have ample chance to spread the disease. Once clinical signs appear, the animal may live anywhere between a few days to as much as a year. Prion disease is caused by a misfolding protein. Once the protein enters the body, it will begin to replicate and prevent necessary functions of the brain from being carried out. CWD can be spread by urine, feces, saliva, and blood from an infected animal and can survive in the environment for years.

The origins of CWD are not certain, but one leading theory is that CWD originally jumped from sheep infected with scrapie to deer at a research facility in Fort Collins, Colorado in 1967. It was

Increase in deer prion disease moves Texas officials to action

documented in the wild just 12 years later after Wyoming Fish and Wildlife traded deer with said facility.

The first recorded case of CWD in Texas did not occur until July 2012. Wild mule deer in the Hueco Mountains of far West Texas, and then later the Panhandle, were the first to test positive. About 500 cases have been recorded since. This month, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) reported cases of CWD in breeding facilities in Frio, Zavala and Brooks County. In May, CWD was also detected in a free-ranging deer in Bexar County for the first time.

In 2023 alone, CWD has been detected in nine deer breeding facilities in seven counties, prompting TPWD to tighten rules surrounding the transportation of deer in these facilities.

"Since 2021, we have seen an increase in CWD detections from breeder deer at an unprecedented rate," John Silovsky, Wildlife Division Director for TPWD said. "It's our hope that these emergency rules will strengthen our surveillance and reduce the number of CWD positive detections across the state."

On July 25, TPWD issued an emergency order in response requiring that all live breeder deer be tested for CWD before transfer to another facility or release site. These changes will be in effect for 120 days but may be extend-

ed an additional 60 days.

During a July 18 Azle City Council meeting, an Oak Harbor resident expressed concerns on the number of deer roaming her community. Among her concerns were the possible spread of CWD. While CWD has not been detected in Azle, the TPWD recommends against feeding deer or other wildlife in order to reduce risks according to Jessica Alderson, Urban Wildlife Technical Guidance Program Leader.

"The recent CWD positive case detected in Bexar County has been the first positive found in a major urban area," Alderson said. "CWD was first detected in a free-range white-tailed deer that was tested during the late spring of 2023 as part of a deer overpopulation management program in Hollywood Park..."

Potential impacts of CWD include long term declines in deer populations and impacts to wildlife viewing and hunting economies. CWD is primarily transmitted through deer-to-deer contact. However, it can also potentially be transmitted by tires of contaminated vehicles, hunting equipment, supplemental feed, improperly disposed of carcasses, as well as byproducts of taxidermy."

Deer hunting generates about \$4 billion in Texas each year. Texas game officials worry CWD can present dangers to the long-term viability of this industry. In Colorado,

as much as 30 percent of a densely populated wild herd may be infected. Infection rates up to 79 percent were even recorded in one captive population. Once contracted, CWD has the potential to spread exponentially and wreak havoc on local deer populations. In a 10-year span, Colorado's mule deer population decreased by more than a third. While many factors can be attributed to this reduction, CWD is speculated as one potential cause of population decline in deer herds in states like Colorado and Wyoming.

"To date there is no evidence of CWD infect-

ing humans," Alderson said. "However, based on recent research the risk is not zero. The Center of Disease Control (CDC) and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) recommends hunters test harvested deer for the disease and not consume meat of infected animals..."

Please report sick or dying deer to your local TPWD biologist or Game Warden for evaluation and potential testing for CWD. TPWD recommends the public not handle diseased animals." A study conducted in 2014 demonstrated that squirrel monkeys were highly susceptible to

CWD while macaques were not. A later study found that macaques could contract the disease under certain circumstances that are unlikely to occur in nature. Whether or not CWD can present a direct threat to humans, it's a situation where we don't fully know and don't want to find out.

For more information about CWD and what people can do to help spot and combat it, visit tpwd.texas.gov/cwd. The updated webpage has CWD distribution maps, information on the disease and resources for hunters and landowners on identifying and reporting sick deer.



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER
Whitetail deer, like this one pictured in a Lakeview Drive neighborhood, can harbor and spread CWD for years before symptoms occur.

Reno police chief: City animal shelter is 'definite need'

MADELYN EDWARDS

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RENO — Though not budgeted for the upcoming fiscal year, Reno City Council discussed the feasibility of creating a city animal shelter at a recent budget workshop.

Council members have been meeting weekly to talk about plans for the 2023-24 budget. This has included hearing presentations from a variety of city departments, including animal control during the Aug. 15 workshop. The council has not made any formal decisions at these meetings, and the 2023-24 budget is still a work in progress.

The topic of an animal shelter came up while animal control and code compliance officer Joe Harris gave his presentation to the council. Harris receives 20 to 30 calls on average related to animal

Reno animal control officer doesn't have consistent place to take animals

control per month and said that from October 2022 to Aug. 15, he has had 286 animal control calls. However, he doesn't have a consistent place to take the animals that he is called to deal with.

"I try to find rescues," Harris said during the budget workshop. "I try to find also other facilities that's able to take them or people that's able to watch them."

Reno Police Chief Scott Elsner said some people in the community have kindly allowed Harris to leave the animal on their property while Harris looks for a solution.

"Some of these folks have been very courteous to him and have allowed him to leave the animals there for a day or two or three, and they

even feed them until he can rehome them or something," Elsner said.

There are plenty of times when Harris can't do anything with the animals other than leave them where they are, he said.

Harris reported there haven't been many opportunities to partner with nearby animal shelters in other cities, most of which lack space capacity in their own facilities. To use the Weatherford Parker County Shelter, Harris said it would cost about \$130,000 a year plus \$350 per animal taken to the shelter.

"The only facility that is willing to help us on a temporary basis is the city of Pelican Bay, and that's when they do have room," Elsner said during the meeting.

Elsner also said the sheriff's department has expressed interest in partnering with the city for animal control because of Reno's large extraterritorial jurisdiction areas.

Harris has found that it would likely cost at least \$500,000 to \$600,000 for Reno to have its own animal shelter, and someone would need to clean the shelter as well as feed and water the animals daily. Having a facility would allow the city to charge impound, boarding and adoption fees, but those fees would not completely cover the cost of the shelter.

Elsner said the city could utilize grants to either partially or wholly fund the cost of building an animal shelter. During the meeting, he

estimated that the city could erect a facility with \$60,000 to \$68,000 with a grant provided.

"Anything's feasible," Elsner said when asked after the meeting about the possibility of the city having an animal shelter. "It depends on the people that sit on the dais if it becomes actual. You've got all the surrounding cities around here that have shelters, but they're small. We're not trying to make one any bigger than anybody else's because ultimately, the taxpayer has to pay for that building. But we're not trying to make one any bigger, not trying to make it any more impressive than anybody else's. There's a definite need, obviously."

Building an animal shel-

ter was not part of Harris's 2023-24 proposed budget. His budget did include the potential purchase of an air conditioning unit to maintain a climate-controlled environment for animals while they are being transported in the city's animal control vehicle.

Natural air flow is utilized in the city's current animal transportation system, Elsner said, but having an air conditioning unit would be more beneficial to the animals considering the Texas heat.

"Hot is hot, and animals are more adaptable to this environment than we are, but still, it makes them sick, especially if you get an older animal," he said to The Tri-County Reporter. "(We're) just trying to do what's best for the animals themselves."



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<p>Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital AZLE</p> <p>Volunteers Needed TexasHealth.org/Volunteer/Our-Process</p> <p>RAINBOW INN GIFT SHOP Inside Hospital 108 Denver Trail Azle 817-444-8651</p> <p>ATTIC RERUNS NOW OPEN! FRI 9-4 SAT 9-1 714 SE Pkwy Azle 817-270-3690</p>	<p>Good N.E.W.S. Living at Home Block Nurse Program</p> <p>Volunteer Caregiver Training Classes Classes open to public at no charge</p> <p>Caregiver Volunteer Meeting 1st Monday of Each Month at 6pm 817-444-2300 412 Commerce St.</p>	<p>Rotary Club of Azle</p> <p>MEETS AT NOON THURSDAY 412 Commerce St. (across from Azle Post Office)</p>	<p>The Finish Line Addiction wants to destroy you & everyone around you.</p> <p><i>With Jesus there is Victory over addiction.</i></p> <p>GET BACK IN THE RACE! Meetings held every Friday from 7:30pm-9:30pm at The Church at Azle 1801 S. Stewart • Azle • 817-401-8513 www.ourfinishline.com</p>	<p>Faced with a DRINKING Problem? <i>Perhaps Alcoholics Anonymous can HELP.</i></p> <p>Daily meetings at Noon & 6:30 pm Sunday at 3 pm 229 S. Stewart St. • Azle 817-332-3533</p>	<p>Azle Lion's Club</p> <p>Meets 2nd TUESDAY 6:30 PM 412 Commerce, Azle e-clubhouse.org/sites/azle_tk/ Jamie Westbrook - president 817-550-7625</p>
<p>AZLE AREA MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE UNITED IN CHRIST</p> <p>Christian Leaders partnering together with one voice to impact our culture for Christ. We celebrate unity amidst diversity as we pastor our community.</p> <p>Luncheon meetings 11:45 a.m. - 1 p.m. 2nd Tues of each month; location varies. See www.azlema.com or email director@azlema.com for additional information. 817-200-4611</p>	<p>SERVOLUTION NETWORK</p> <p>LET'S START A COMMUNITY WIDE REVOLUTION THROUGH SERVING.</p> <p>Love God. Love People. Love Your City. Dream Center open 9-3 M-F 11698 FM730 S. Azle FOR QUESTIONS CALL: 833-4WE-SERV servolutionnetwork.com</p>	<p>Azle Boy Scout Troop 243 Meets Mondays 7 PM Azle First Assembly of God 1020 Southeast Parkway troop243azle.org</p>	<p>Optimist Club of Azle</p> <p>Meets every FRIDAY at 6:45 AM Moe's Country Kitchen 316 W. Main, Azle</p>	<p>Azle Lodge No. 601</p> <p>Floor School or Work 7:30 PM THURSDAY NIGHT Kenny Patrick - Worshipful Master Chris Akers - Secretary Clint Hall - Treasurer</p>	<p>EAGLE MOUNTAIN PREGNANCY HELP CENTER</p> <p>10328 Jacksboro Hwy Fort Worth TX 76135 817-237-1819 www.emphc.org Mon 12-6 pm Thurs 12-6 pm SE HABLA ESPAÑOL</p>

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New Reno P&Z chair: 'I still have faith in the city'

Recently appointed Reno P&Z members are sworn in for new terms

MADELYN EDWARDS

springtownreporter@tricountyreporter.com

RENO — Reno Planning and Zoning Commission now has new leaders and a new face or two after last week's meeting.

Reno P&Z met on Aug. 14, and the recently appointed members were sworn in. Reno City Council previously assigned Kevin Vandenberg to Place 1, Justin Williams to Place 2, Charles Hale to Place 3, Diane Blair to Place 4 and Steve Streiffert to Place 5. Interim City Secretary Rebekka Roberts administered the oath of office to all members except for Blair, who was absent and will have to be sworn in later.

After taking office, P&Z members voted for Vandenberg to be the chairperson and for Williams to be the secretary.

Vandenberg has been on P&Z for two years, and he said being the chairperson feels odd because his new role means that he will have to lead meetings instead of just taking notes. Despite having to adjust to a new position, Vandenberg wanted to return to the P&Z for another term to serve Reno.

"I still have faith in the city," he said. "I think we can do it. But we have to have volunteers to be able to keep going with the P&Z because we're required by city ordinance. And if we're not here to help the council, then they're going to be overwhelmed and nothing is ever going to get done because they need to focus on the wa-

ter and they need to focus on the budget. And they can let us focus on the ordinances."

Vandenberg said he likes being able to serve Reno residents by being on P&Z. He hopes to listen to the citizens and make decisions based on their vision for the city.

"I get to come up here and help people," he said. "I get to see what the citizens need and hopefully I get to help

them keep the ordinances and the rules on their side (and) try not to get too controlling because nobody wants that."

Currently, P&Z has five members - assuming Blair will be sworn in and take her place behind the dais - but has had up to seven members. Vandenberg said he would like to see more residents volunteer with P&Z,

which makes recommendations to the council on zoning, plats and ordinances, among other tasks.

"This affects them," he said. "I hope that people still have faith in the city, and I hope that they'll volunteer."

Most of the P&Z members sworn in last week previously served on the commission and have been reappointed by the council. Streiffert, who

has lived in Reno for about eight months, is the exception and is new to P&Z.

"I just feel like I have the time and it'd be a great opportunity to give back to the community, participate in the community and see if I can help things," Streiffert said.

Streiffert is familiar with municipal operations from his time working for the city of Fort Worth in the informa-

tion technology department, and he has leadership experience from having served in the Air Force for 20 years. His goal is for P&Z to be efficient and clearly communicate with people.

For new P&Z members, Vandenberg had this advice: "Pay attention. Do your homework. Study."



Recently appointed Reno Planning and Zoning Commission members took the oath of office on Aug. 14. From left is Secretary Justin Williams, Chairperson Kevin Vandenberg, Charles Hale and Steve Streiffert. Diane Blair was also supposed to be sworn in, but she was not present at the meeting.

MADELYN EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

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OBITUARIES

Javier "Alex" Colon 1990-2023

Javier Alexander "Alex" Colon, 33, of Weatherford, sadly passed away Sunday, August 13, 2023, in Weatherford.

A memorial service was held Saturday, August 19, 2023, at Alexander's Midway Funeral Home in Springtown.

Alex was born June 26, 1990, in Westchester, New York.

Alex served proudly in the U.S. Army as a Military Police Officer. He enjoyed historical reenactments, theatre arts, video games, and bowling, where Melissa usually beat him.

Alex loved spending time with his wife Melissa and his two cherished pups Wyatt and Luna. They were the apple of his eye.

He is survived by his wife Melissa DeOrion; sister, Brittney Corley, several



aunts, uncles, and cousins. Alex also had an adopted sister and brother-in-law, and he adored their children.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that a donation be made to the Humane Society of North Texas in Alex's name.

The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday August 24, 2023

Nancy "Jan" Washburn 1941-2023

Nancy "Jan" Jane Fox Washburn passed away peacefully on August 12, 2023.

A memorial service to honor Jan's life will be held Saturday, August 26 at First Baptist Church Springtown, 500 N Main St., Springtown, Texas, 76082. Visitation will be 1-2 p.m., followed by a service at 2 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to The Choir ministry at First Baptist Church Springtown.

Jan was born on August 22, 1941, in Quanah, Texas, to Naomi Fox Kinsey and Glenn W Fox.

She graduated from Wichita Falls Senior High School in 1959. Professionally, Jan worked for AT&T.

She was a member of First Baptist Church Springtown, where she actively participated with the JOY Singers.

Jan is preceded in death by her husband, George Washburn; and daughter, Angela Pierce.

She is survived by her daughter Cissie Wester, and husband Jimmy; her grandchildren Dustin Pierce,



Michael Pierce and wife Katrina, Anna Pierce, and Jessica Wester; her sister Connie Wilson and husband Billy Bob; stepsister Gayle Williamson and husband Glenn; and great-grandchildren Jayden and Maddie Pierce, and Hunter and Lily Pierce.

She will be forever remembered by her family, friends, and community for her kindness and joyful spirit. May her soul rest in eternal peace at the feet of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday August 24, 2023

Veronica Atwell 1943-2023

Veronica Atwell, loving wife, mother, and friend has gone to live with God in a world without hurt on Friday, August 18, 2023, after a courageous battle with cancer, surrounded by her family.

There will not be a formal service.

In lieu of flowers, you can donate to her favorite charities to include Saint Jude or ASPCA.

Veronica is preceded in death by her parents, Veronica and Vincent White; and two sisters, Kathy, and Maggie; and brother, Vincent.

She is survived by her loving husband, Tony; three daughters, Veronica, Leslie, and Kathy (Jay); one son, Kane (Jamie); local grandchildren, Corey (Crittty), Taylor (Vanessa), Aidan (Justin),



Maggie, Jensyn, Dakota; and numerous loving grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews across the country.

"Till we meet again...." - Ronnie

The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday August 24, 2023

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CALENDAR

August 24-September 16

TO SUBMIT CALENDAR ITEMS

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

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.

LAST MONDAY MATINEE at Azle Memorial Library. Adults of all ages are invited to attend a showing of "Champions" in the Community Room at 2 p.m. Popcorn provided.

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 the meeting starts at 7 p.m. FMF Navy Corpsman/Navy Chaplains memberships and associate memberships available. Call 682-498-3250 for information.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

STORYTIME AT AZLE MEMORIAL LIBRARY returns! Join the librarians at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesdays for stories, songs, rhymes, playtime and more. Best suited for young children ages 2-5.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

STING FLING Azle's annual community festival starts with a parade down Main Street at 9 a.m. Vendor booths, a car show, wiener dog races, entertainment and children's activities will be set up along Main Street and inside 404 Main Place. Come celebrate at this free community event!

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

WILD WEST FESTIVAL on the historic Springtown Square kicks off at 9 a.m. with the parade starting at 10 am. Visit over 200 vendors, enjoy the BBQ cookoff, and visit the children's area until 3 p.m.

60TH ANNUAL LORD'S ACRE starting at 9 a.m. at Silver Creek Methodist Church, 2200 Church Rd., Azle. Join the celebration that includes live music, car show, vendors, auctions, kids' activities and more. Enter the drawing to win a 2023 Hustler Turf FasTrak zero-turn mower.

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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..... 6:00 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.silvercreekbc.org Sunday School..... 9:45 AM Morning Worship..... 10:50 AM Evening Worship..... 7:00 PM Wed. Prayer Service..... 6:00 PM</p>	<p>THE WORD@LAKESIDE CHURCH OF GOD 9396 FM 1886 Fort Worth, TX 76135 817-237-5500 thewordatlakeside.com Pastors: Brandon and Kelly Bohannon Worship Pastor: Christen Moody Family Life and Young Adult Pastors: Jodie and Mark James, Kids Pastor: Katie Pearson, Student Pastors: Taylor and Sheridan Tomlin, Creative Directors: Logan and Carrie Edwards, Connections Coordinators: Preston and Ashley Larrew Equip Sunday School at the 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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Springtown families receive school supplies, snow cones, pizza at Back to School Bash

MADELYN EDWARDS

springtownreporter@tricountyreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — Families arrived at Newby Pavilion in Springtown Park for the Back to School Bash — where school supplies were given away to those in need — before the event's 11 a.m. start time on Aug. 12.

The event was hosted by the city of Springtown and the overdose awareness group We ARE Our Brother's Keeper. Ahead of the bash, collection boxes were set out around town for people to donate school supplies. Those supplies were packaged in backpacks and given out for free to families with Springtown Independent School District students.

The Back to School Bash was supposed to take place from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., but by 12:30 p.m., the event had ended, and volunteers were packing up tables and chairs. We ARE Our Brother's Keeper co-founder Jessica Castro said a total of 206 backpacks were given out, including 156 at the bash and 50 during the week before the event.

Castro said supplies had run out in about 30 minutes. "Everything was gone except for the loose supplies," Castro said. "By 11:30, it was just gone."

Kim Ham, who works at Springtown First Baptist Church and volunteered at the bash, said families were lining up for the event by 10 a.m. "I think we were passing

backpacks out before 11," Ham said. "The line had gotten so long, which is great. That is wonderful. I think there was a lot of good that was done (that day)."

Castro was impressed by how many school supply donations were received. She said supplies filled up a room at city hall, and three trucks were needed to pick them up.

"It just really confirms that nobody, not even I, am doing this alone," she said. "This whole community is one loving place. We all take care of each other."

Castro said any remaining loose school supplies would be donated to Springtown schools.

After getting their supplies, families headed toward the snow cones truck that was parked near Newby Pavilion. Brain Freeze manager Sara Russell said more than 200 snow cones were served.

"I'm just glad that the community pulled together and got it done for the kids," Russell said.

Brain Freeze has been open for about three months under new ownership with a new name. Russell said the city invited Brain Freeze to serve snow cones at the bash after the vendor previously worked at an event at Hilltop Family Church. About 168 snow cones were sold at the Hilltop event, and Russell said she didn't expect to see more people at the Back to School Bash.

"There were a lot of kids



PHOTO COURTESY OF HALLE HUGHES

After getting their supplies, families headed toward the snow cones truck that was parked near Newby Pavilion. Brain Freeze manager Sara Russell said more than 200 snow cones were served.

out here so just glad we got to be a part of it," Russell said.

Brain Freeze was joined by Nate's Pizzeria at the Back to School Bash, though Nate's was only able to serve seven customers. Still, co-owner Tina Gorby-Powell didn't regret coming out to the event.

"I think it was worth it," she said. "We got to meet people, talk to people. It was really nice."

As a newer business that started up earlier this year, Gorby-Powell said Nate's Pizzeria came to the event to spread the word about the pizzeria and to be there for local kids. She said when the city invited Nate's to serve food at the event, she couldn't refuse the offer.

"How do you say no to kids?" Gorby-Powell said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF HALLE HUGHES

We Are Our Brother's Keeper co-founder Jessica Castro and Kim Ham of Springtown First Baptist Church take a picture at Springtown's Back to School Bash, where school supplies were given away to those in need on Aug. 12.



MADELYN EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Nate's Pizzeria owners Diane Robinette and Tina Gorby-Powell sold food to a handful of customers at Springtown's Back to School Bash on Aug. 12 at Newby Pavilion.



MADELYN EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Snow cones at the Back to School Bash on Aug. 12 were provided by Brain Freeze owner Chris Lunsford, Bailey Lunsford and manager Sara Russell.

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Party starters

SHS graduate lives his best life working for events DJ

MADelyn EDWARDS
springtownreporter@tricityreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — Springtown High School graduate Kamron Lunsford described his job as getting paid to party.

Put more accurately, Lunsford works for the entertainer Leonardo. (Leonardo declined to give his last name, saying that his name was in the style of the late music legend Prince). Through his event group, Leonardo serves as DJ, master of ceremonies and lighting designer at weddings, mitzvahs, school dances, corporate gatherings and the like.

Lunsford, whose duties mostly consist of setting up equipment, assists Leonardo at these events and likes that he has a job that makes people smile.

"I love this job," he said. "I get to come out here and have fun and make money."

More recently, Lunsford worked with Leonardo at an event to benefit his alma mater. Leonardo provided DJ services at Springtown Education Foundation's Denim and Diamonds Gala on Aug. 4, where the foundation raised more than \$55,000 for student scholarships and teacher grants.

Lunsford graduated in

2020, amid the COVID-19 pandemic and having remote classes on computers, which he was not a fan of.

"We did good in football," he said, as one of the players on that year's team. "But that's about it."

Lunsford was related to the Denim and Diamonds Gala in another way as well; his father owns KL Concrete and Construction, a main sponsor of the event.

"I know so many people here," he said during the event at Springtown's Covered Bridge Venue. "It's crazy."

The purpose of the gala was to support students and teachers, and Lunsford was all in on being of service.

"If I can do something to help somebody else, by all means, let's do it," he said.

After about five years of working with Leonardo, Lunsford has set his sights on the possibility of becoming a DJ himself someday.

"Music kind of just brings out your soul," Lunsford said. "It would be really cool to take over. Like I said, (Leonardo has) been doing it 20 years, so maybe I can get my foot in the door."

When asked about Lunsford, Leonardo rattled off a series of positive descriptors — hard worker, dependable, trustworthy, hon-



MADelyn EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

DJ and entertainer Leonardo takes a picture with his protégé Kamron Lunsford at Springtown Education Foundation's Denim and Diamonds Gala on Aug. 4. Lunsford graduated from Springtown High School in 2020 and has been working with Leonardo for about five years.

est — and called Lunsford his right-hand man.

"Some of these events, I need him. I can't do it without him, so I really appreciate him being the young man he is," Leonardo said. "We started from high school so now he's a grown man. He's one of my best workers."

Lunsford has no lack of respect for his mentor. He said Leonardo "killed it" when he deejayed the Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce gala, and he described how Leonardo worked around the clock at a corporate event in Houston.

"The grit he has, it's incred-

ible. He don't quit no matter what," Lunsford said. "It don't matter what is thrown at him. This man really helped me in my life, my personal life, my spiritual life, everything."

Lunsford doesn't take life for granted and feels that being alive means he has a rea-

son to exist.

"God don't have to wake us up," he said. "If He wakes us up in the morning, that means He ain't done with us. We're supposed to be somewhere, supposed to meet somebody somewhere. It's beautiful."

LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICES

Cause No.: CV23-1003

43rd District Court Parker County, Texas 117 Fort Worth Highway Weatherford, Texas 76086 THE STATE OF TEXAS July 31, 2023 Unknown Heirs at Law of Jennifer Galaway, Deceased Wherever May be Found NOTICE: YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. YOU MAY EMPLOY AN ATTORNEY. IF YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY DO NOT FILE A WRITTEN ANSWER WITH THE CLERK WHO ISSUED THIS CITATION AT 117 FORT WORTH HIGHWAY, WEATHERFORD, TEXAS, 76086, BY 10:00 A.M. ON THE MONDAY NEXT FOLLOWING THE EXPIRATION OF FORTY-TWO (42) DAYS FROM THE ISSUANCE OF THIS CITATION, THE SAME BEING MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2023, A DEFAULT JUDGMENT MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU. IN ADDITION TO FILING A WRITTEN ANSWER WITH THE CLERK, YOU MAY BE REQUIRED TO MAKE INITIAL DISCLOSURES TO THE OTHER PARTIES OF THIS SUIT. THESE DISCLOSURES GENERALLY MUST BE MADE NO LATER THAN 30 DAYS AFTER YOU FILE YOUR ANSWER WITH THE CLERK. FIND OUT MORE AT TEXASLAWHELP.ORG A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to-wit: The Petition seeks an order to foreclose the lien on the property and assert a claim to the property located at 100 N Hill Top Ct, Springtown, TX 76082 and legally described as: Tract 20, Of Oak Haven, An Addition In Parker County, Texas, According To The Map Or Plat Thereof Recorded In Volume 362A, Page 34, Plat Records Of Parker County, Texas Now Being Located In Plat Cabinet A, Slide 417, Plat Records Of Parker County, Texas. As is more fully shown by Plaintiff's Petition on file in this suit. The suit is numbered CV23-1003 and was filed in the 43rd District Court in and for Parker County on June 29, 2023, and styled: Mortgage Research Center, LLC d/b/a Veterans United Home Loans, a Missouri Limited Liability Corporation vs. Jennifer Galaway and the Heirs at Law of Jennifer Galaway, Deceased; re: 100 N Hill Top Ct Springtown, TX 76082. Parties to the suit: Plaintiff(s): Mortgage Research Center, LLC, Defendant(s): Jennifer Galaway; Unknown Heirs. ISSUED under my hand and seal in Weatherford, Parker County, Texas on this 31st day of July, 2023. SHARENA GILLILAND, District Clerk Parker County, Texas. By: Jasie Pool, Deputy. Plaintiff(s) Attorney Renee Casas 13105 Northwest Fwy Ste 960 Houston, Tx 77040 713-462-2565; 682-201-8980.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Zoning Board of Adjustment for the City of Azle will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, September 12, 2023, to consider a variance request to Section 5.3, Development Regulations, Setback Requirements of the City of Azle Zoning Ordinance for the property located at 309 N. Broadway Road, and also known as Lot 8, Westlake Point Addition, an addition to the City of Azle, Tarrant County, Texas. The purpose of the variance is to allow for the construction of a new outdoor kitchen patio cover to encroach the minimum fifteen-foot (15') side yard setback. The meeting will begin at 6:00 P.M. in the City Council Chambers located at 505 W. Main, Azle, Texas.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The City Council of the City of Azle will conduct a public hearing at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 19, 2023 in the City Council Chambers at City Hall, located at 505 West Main Street to consider a Specific Use Permit request to operate an in home daycare for property located at 117 Huling Drive and also known as Lot 18, Block 1, M.G. Huling Addition. The property is located on the east side of Huling Drive approximately four hundred fifty feet (450') south of S. Stewart Street. The applicant is requesting a Specific Use Permit to allow the daycare facility with a maximum of 12 children.

DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE

In the Circuit Court of Christian County, Missouri CASE NO:23CT-DR00203 In Re: The Marriage of Gary Wayne Norsworthy and Latricia Lux Norsworthy Cross To Whom It May Concern, Please take notice that on June 9, 2023, a Petition for Dissolution of Marriage was filed in the Circuit Court of Christian County, State of Missouri by Gary Wayne Norsworthy against Latricia Lux Norsworthy Cross. The parties have been living separately since 11/25/1994. The Court has jurisdiction over the case and a hearing is scheduled for October 19, 2023, at 1:30pm virtual Court of the Christian County Circuit Court. All interested parties are invited to attend. This notice is published pursuant to the requirements of law in Missouri to provide public notice of the dissolution of marriage proceeding. Dated:8/21/2023

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Staying safe through ROPS

An Azle resident was the first in Texas to receive a rebate through the NRRP program.

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

AZLE - Recently, an Azle resident was the first ever Texan to receive a grant from the National ROPS Rebate Program (NRRP). A rollover protection structure (ROPS) is a system or structure used to protect and shield the driver of a tractor or other vehicle in the event of a rollover. ROPS can be anything from a simple bar to a full-cover cage or cabin surrounding the vehicle's passengers and can range anywhere from a few hundred dollars to over \$5,000.

Azle resident Ed Sorrow of Sorrow Family Insurance and Texas Ranch Direct received a \$1,882 rebate from the NRRP which covered 70% of the cost of purchasing and retrofitting a ROPS on his tractor. The safety of Sorrow's adult sons and his small grandchildren, when they're old enough to drive the tractor themselves, was the impetus that drove his decision.

A film crew from Tyler-based Pine Curtain Film Co. was hired by the University of Texas at Tyler (UTT) to document Sorrow's story on Aug. 4. In an early morning interview on the Sorrow property, Ed Sorrow described how, as a teenager, he had witnessed a tractor rollover on top of his friend's father. The man did not survive.

Farming is one of America's most dangerous jobs with a workplace fatality rate five times higher than the national average. Tractor overturns are the most frequent cause of death on the farm. With only about 50% of U.S. tractors having a ROPS installed and these structures being found to be 99% effective at preventing injury or death during a rollover, the National Tractor Safety Coalition (NTSC) formed in May 2014 with the goal of saving lives by incentivizing farmers to install ROPS.

The NTSC is composed of a wide range of organizations and members like the American Farm Bureau Federation, State Farm Insurance and many universities like UTT's Southwest Center for Agricultural Health, Injury Prevention and Education. Through sponsors, donations, and fundraising, the NTSC is able to reduce out-of-pocket expenses for ROPS to about \$391 for an average beneficiary of their rebate program. To date, at least 26 potential injuries or deaths due to accidental rollovers have been prevented with NRRP subsidized ROPS.

The NRRP has been available in some states for nearly a decade, but Texas was only recently allocated a small amount of funds for ROPS rebates. While ROPS funds have been depleted for Texas



Pine Curtain Film Co. filming Ed Sorrow's testimonial.

COURTESY AMANDA WICKMAN



Ed Sorrow with his grandchildren prior to his tractor's ROPS retrofit.

COURTESY ED SORROW



The Sorrow family in front of their tractor after its ROPS installation.

COURTESY AMANDA WICKMAN

this year, safety-minded tractor owners can still sign up for the NRRP waitlist at www.ropsr4u.org/apply.php.

"The SW Ag Center hopes to use Ed's story to identify

champions for farm safety who want to invest in the NRRP," Amanda Wickman, SW Ag Center Program Director said. "We want to keep this program going in

Texas and expand it to the other states in our service region including Louisiana, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Arkansas."

Sorrow's testimonial will be

available on www.swagcenter.org sometime this fall. Success stories and more information about ROPS and the NRRP can be found www.ropsr4u.org.

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15th annual Sting Fling

The Azle Area Chamber of Commerce will host its annual Sting Fling community event on Sept. 9

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricityreporter.com

AZLE - It's that time of year

again! On Sept. 9, Azle will be hosting its annual Sting Fling celebration. Advertised as the largest annual community

event in Azle, the 15th annual Sting Fling will begin at 9 a.m. with a parade. The parade will include the Marching

Green Pride, Azle Cheer and Azle residents and businesses who signed up to flaunt their float, vehicle or group.

This year's parade trophy categories are Best Overall, Most Sting Fling Spirit, Best Thing on Wheels, and Best Decade Theme. Vendor booths will be set up inside 404 Main Place and outdoor vendor and food booths will line Main Street.

Check-in for the parade will be at the back area of the Azle Administration Building, 301 Church St. Participants should check in by 8 a.m. The entry deadline for the parade is Sept. 6.

A classic car show will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., with registration starting at 9 a.m. The event will be held in the parking lot of 404 Main Place and will cost \$20 to display a vehicle. Cars, trucks and motorcycles are welcome to participate in such categories as Best in Show, Mayor's Choice, People's Choice, Sponsor's Choice, and Top 30.

Azle will also be holding its yearly Wiener Dog Derby and costume contests. Registration and check-in are between 8 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. Starting at 10 a.m., the best costume for any breed and best dog and owner costume contests begin. The "Wannabe Wiener Racer"

event for any breed less than 25 lbs. will follow. This is limited to ten entries. The event will end with the ever-popular Wiener Dog Races in front of the Azle Memorial Library. The races will cost \$10 to enter as will both costume contests.

A children's play area will be set up near the entrance of Azle Central Park. The play area will include bounce houses, rock climbing walls, a train, slides, carnival style games and a petting zoo.

"We are super excited to share the joy of community with our Azle family yet again," Azle Chamber of Commerce Director Jennifer Herrington said. "This event brings us all together for a day of fun for the entire family! The kiddos light up with the parade and the children's area, the shoppers get to see all the small business owners in town, and the overall feeling that crowds the streets makes all the work worthwhile."

Please mark your calendars and come experience the Azle feeling in the heart of Azle on September 9th, 2023, from 9 a.m. to 3 a.m.!"



COURTESY AZLE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Winners and wieners from last year's Sting Fling Wiener Dog Derby.

Reno P&Z to consider tree preservation ordinance in workshop

MADELYN EDWARDS

springtownreporter@tricityreporter.com

RENO — Reno Planning and Zoning Commission scheduled a workshop for Aug. 29 to discuss the city's proposed tree preservation ordinance that would limit developers' ability to remove trees.

Reno City Council previously discussed the tree preservation ordinance during a special meeting on July 31 and approved sending the ordinance to P&Z for consideration with the amendment that the penalty fine for violations be based on each tree instead of each incident. Mayor Pro Tem Shelli Swift advocated for this amendment to prevent developers from being able to buy their way out of following the ordinance.

Reno currently doesn't have a tree preservation or-

dinance. The draft ordinance that the council considered on July 31 was the same as the city of Azle's ordinance, Reno Interim City Secretary Rebekka Roberts said, and is aimed at preventing developers from clear cutting properties.

"We've had a couple of subdivisions that were looking at properties that they wanted to clear, and (the council doesn't) want them to clear it," Roberts said after the city council's meeting on July 31. "They want them to preserve as much as they can because we need those trees."

Speaking to P&Z on Aug. 14, council member Joy Jenkins described the effect that clear cutting trees has had on Azle.

"I don't know if you have driven around Azle, but massive amounts of trees are gone over in town, real

close to the lake, very heavily wooded places," Jenkins said at the P&Z meeting. "Then there's probably three or four subdivisions on South Stewart (Street) that they did the same thing to, and it makes a huge difference in everything, the wildlife, the appeal of the property."

During the P&Z meeting, newly elected chairperson Kevin Vandenberg pointed out that Azle is a home rule city, which is a type of city that has more than 5,000 people and has adopted a charter that allows those cities to self-govern within the bounds of the Texas Constitution, state law and federal law. Reno is not a home rule city and cannot enforce the same rules as the city of Azle can.

For example, Vandenberg said during the meeting that Reno can only charge up to



FILE PHOTO

The City of Azle adopted a Tree Preservation and Public Tree Care Ordinance in 2021 following an influx of residential and commercial development requests. This photo from 2021 shows a bulldozer grading the land at the Oak Harbor construction site.

\$500 in penalties while Azle's penalty for violation of the tree preservation ordinance results in fines not to exceed \$2,000.

P&Z decided to examine the ordinance further in a workshop to ensure that the proposed new rules are aligned

with state law. Other questions brought up during the P&Z meeting that may come up during the workshop were regarding enforcement of the ordinance and what the ordinance would mean for homeowners. This workshop is expected to take place at 6

p.m., Aug. 29.

The next steps after the workshop would be for P&Z to recommend approval or disapproval of the ordinance to city council, and then allow the council to make the final decision on the ordinance.

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Reno Elementary

JEFF PRINCE | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER



Karleigh Wiggins and Karter Wiggins



Falcon Nipp



Kayla Perez, Elizabeth Cruz, and Fabian Perez

Azle Christian School

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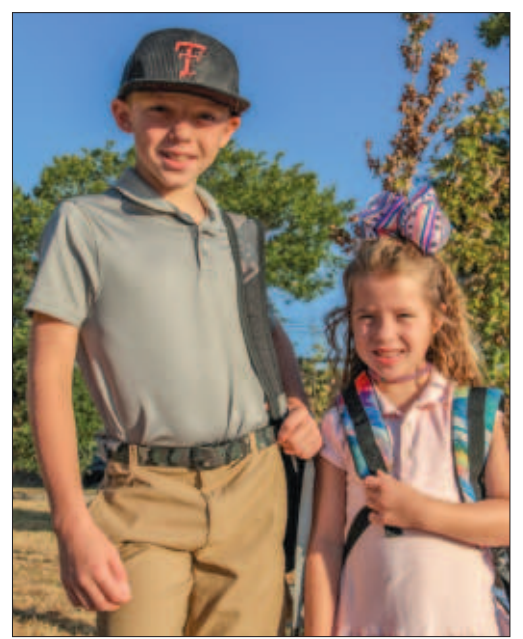
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National Clown Day at Legacy Oaks of Azle

PHOTOS COURTESY LEGACY OAKS OF AZLE

Silly times were had at Legacy Oaks of Azle's memory care neighborhood, The Cottage. On Aug. 7, residents celebrated National Clown Day with art, costumes, and smiles. The residents painted the most colorful and cheerful clowns. And the fun didn't stop there - the game clown toss had everyone laughing!



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SISD board calls for November bond election

STAFF REPORTS

SPRINGTOWN — At a school board meeting on Aug. 15, Springtown Independent School District trustees voted unanimously to call for a \$120.78 million bond election that will be on the Nov. 7 ballot.

According to a SISD press release, registered voters living within the school district's boundaries will be able to vote on a bond proposition that would generate funding to add seats for an additional 1,500 students by building a new middle school, converting the intermediate school into a fourth elementary campus and creating a ninth-grade center.

Trustees are expected to set the district's tax rate to \$0.9578 per \$100 of property valuation at their Aug. 28 meeting, which amounts to an 18-cent decrease from last year's rate of \$1.1432. The

Bond proposal to include new middle school, repurposing intermediate school, current middle school

November 2023 bond proposal would increase the interest and sinking tax rate by 15 cents per \$100 of property valuation, which means taxpayers would still pay 3 cents less than last year's rate.

In recent years, the SISD school board has called for three bond elections to address space needs at campuses, and voters rejected all those proposals. The upcoming election will ask voters to decide on the same proposal that was presented in the May 2023 election.

District officials sought feedback from community members to evaluate the failed May 2023 bond proposal and worked with residents to present a recommendation to trustees for

consideration.

"SISD leadership has worked hard since May to determine the best way to move forward as our student enrollment continues to climb," School Board President Rick Beall said. "We've retained a new financial advisor and a new architect and bond planning team who have already found ways to reduce the cost to our taxpayers. We will also be able to take advantage of tax compression to keep our tax rate low. It's our hope that residents will take the time to learn more about the projects proposed, our tax rates, ballot language and ask questions before casting their vote in this election."

The proposed projects in the upcoming bond elec-

tion include building a new middle school for grades sixth through eighth. If approved, this building would have classrooms and learning spaces for 1,500 students, a cafeteria and stage, library, and a fine arts wing for groups like band and choir. The new middle school would also have Texas Education Agency-required athletic facilities, such as a weight room, practice football field, track and competition gym. Purchasing additional land would be necessary to build this school.

In this bond proposal, Springtown Intermediate School would be converted to a fourth elementary campus to serve grades pre-kindergarten through fifth and alleviate

overcrowding at Springtown Elementary School and Goshen Creek Elementary School. This project would require restroom renovation and making the learning spaces age appropriate.

If approved by voters, the current middle school campus would become a ninth-grade center to provide additional space at Springtown High School. SISD plans to engage parents, staff and community members in the planning and design of this center.

Any SISD resident who is registered to vote may cast a ballot "for" or "against" the bond proposition in this election. Voters will have from Oct. 23 to Nov. 3 to cast ballots during early voting, or they can cast ballots on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 7. The last day to register to vote in time to participate in this election is Oct. 10. New

residents are encouraged to check their voter registration to ensure their current address is on file.

In accordance with state law, all Texas school bond ballots now must include this language: "THIS IS A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE." Springtown ISD's current total tax rate is \$1.1432. The 2023-24 tax rate will be \$0.9578 per \$100 of property value after the board adopts it on Aug. 28, and the rate is expected to be \$1.1078 following the election.

SISD officials will schedule informational meetings to share details and answer questions. As soon as those meetings are finalized, information will be shared through the district's regular communication channels. Residents are encouraged to visit www.springtownisdbond2023.com for more information.



Asdyn, a Walnut Creek student, high-fiving Officer Hardin on his way into the school.

ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

NEW FROM PAGE A1

hard it is for a parent," Walnut Creek Student Resource Officer Vicky Hardin said. "This is like the next stage of their life; they're starting their school years and it's hard because parents are like 'just yesterday you were an infant and now you're in the first grade.'"

Even on just the first morning, some school staff have already seen the effect that adding a new campus to the district is having.

"The first day has been awesome," Hardin said. "Compared to last year when they had like 200 more kids, the opening of Hilltop has really made the first day of school run quite smoothly. I

think the opening of Hilltop has really eased the traffic around us. Walnut Creek was bursting at the seams last year."

Officer Hardin has lived in Azle since 1993. Sept. 8, 2023, will mark Hardin's one year anniversary as an SRO at Walnut Creek. Hardin has 27 years of policing experience and retired from Haltom City last year.

"This is a great school district, great school, great people, great teachers," Hardin said. "I'm extremely impressed with the teachers, the principal, and Mr. Todd Smith. It's all about the kids."

The newest school in Azle ISD is captained by longtime district employee and Azle native, Amy Rollmann. On the first day back to school, Rollmann stood outside her

elementary school to greet incoming students and parents alongside Superintendent Todd Smith.

"I can't wait for the day to start and all of our kids to be here," Hilltop Principal Amy Rollmann said. "To open a school in my hometown is a dream come true and I know we're going to have a fabulous year. We have the most amazing staff; we've worked so hard and we're ready to have a great year."

Hilltop teachers shared Rollmann's sentiment.

"This will be awesome," Kristie Cobb, special education teacher, said. "Any first day is a lot of fun, but the first day at a new school is even more fun."

SEE PHOTOS | A15

SES FROM PAGE A1

enough recognition from it," she said. "I know they enjoy their summer, but I enjoy the school year as well."

After her first day back, second grader Anais Martinez said her day was "pretty good."

"She said she's got some new friends already," Anais's mother Paloma Ortiz said. "She has her teacher that she loves that she's back with, so she's happy about that."

Springtown Elementary

Principal Pearl Russell said the campus's goal this year is to "create a positive learning environment that focuses on whole-child development, including social/emotional well-being along with their academic growth."

Russell added, "We are also focusing on student attendance to help us develop each individual child fully."

If families have school-related questions, Russell recommended that they talk with their child's teacher first. Parents should also familiarize themselves with the school's pick up and drop off

procedures, if they haven't already, and know that the school has denied transfer to students who are not in the school's attendance zone unless they are in fourth grade, bilingual pre-kindergarten through second grade or in the life skills classroom.

For Springtown Elementary students, Russell encouraged them to "come into the school ready to learn, to be kind to each other, and do their best."

SEE PHOTOS | A16

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The SPRINGTOWN ISD will hold a public meeting at 06:00 pm, August 28, 2023 in SISD Board Room, 301 E 5th Street, Springtown, TX 76082. **The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.**

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax (proposed rate for maintenance and operations)	\$0.757500/\$100
School Debt Service Tax Approved by Local Voters (proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)	\$0.200300/\$100

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories.

Maintenance and operations	10.41 % increase
Debt Service	-1.06 % decrease
Total Expenditures	9.40 % increase

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value (as calculated under Section 26.04, Tax Code)

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$3,255,294,363	\$4,810,360,633
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$151,355,459	\$245,060,555
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$2,200,040,736	\$2,633,288,769
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$151,355,459	\$245,060,555

*Appraised value is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code.
 ** "New property" is defined by Section 26.012(17), Tax Code.
 *** "Taxable value" is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness*	\$44,765,000
---	--------------

*Outstanding principal

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate	\$0.942900	\$0.200271	\$1.143171	\$5,896	\$4,983
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service					
Proposed Rate	\$0.757500	\$0.200300	\$0.957800	\$7,233	\$7,842

*The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$236,937	\$340,749
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$177,771	\$164,545
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$1.143200	\$0.957800
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$2,032.28	\$1,576.01
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		-\$456.22

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.

Notice of Voter-Approval Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is \$0.957800. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the voter-approval rate of \$0.957800.

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment.

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$11,400,000
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$50,000

A school district may not increase the district's maintenance and operations tax rate to create a surplus in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the purpose of paying the district's debt service.

Visit Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

The 86th Texas 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.

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Hilltop Elementary

ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER



Superintendent Todd Smith greeted students on their way into Hilltop Elementary.



Nolan and Noah with their parents, Samantha, and Coach Jeremy Doyle.



For Kyle, a Hilltop student, the first day of school is a family affair. Her siblings JB, Lila and Nekoda tagged along on their way to their own first days of sixth through ninth grade.

Walnut Creek Elementary

ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER



Aspen and Reese Winter, first and fourth graders, starting their day together at Walnut Creek.



Damien Gurrero, a Walnut Creek first grader, excited for his first day with his favorite teacher, Coach Perry.

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Springtown Elementary School

MADELYN EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER



Caedence and Cooper Smitt started their first day of the new school year at Springtown Elementary School in fourth and first grades, respectively.



Fourth grader Blaise White and his second grader sister Blaire White take a picture with their dad Daniel White as he picked them up from their first day of school at Springtown Elementary.



Second grader Ara'bella Andresen smiles big in a photo with her third grader brother Ace Andresen during their first day of school at Springtown Elementary School.



Paloma Ortiz picked up her second grader Anais Martinez from Springtown Elementary School on the first day of the new year on Aug. 16.



Springtown Elementary School fourth grader Cannon Glovetsky plans to make straight A's and play basketball this school year.



Kindergartener Harmony Kennedy finished her first day of the new academic year at Springtown Elementary School on Aug. 16.

TCR Junior

National DOG DAY

August 26

Dogs

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

Dogs have been our furry friends for a very long time! Thousands of years ago, when people were living in caves, they started noticing that wild wolves were coming closer to their homes. These wolves were smart and helpful, so people started to befriend them. Gradually, through a process called domestication, wolves became more like the dogs we know today. People trained them to help with hunting, guarding, and even pulling sleds! As time went on, people realized that dogs could also be great companions. They became part of families, and different breeds were developed for different jobs and purposes. Nowadays, dogs are loved all around the world. They come in many shapes, sizes, and colors. Some dogs help the police, others assist people with disabilities, and many are simply beloved pets. Dogs are loyal, playful, and loving. They bring so much joy to our lives, and we're lucky to have them as our best friends!

COLOR Time

Word Bank

1. poodle	2. beagle	3. hound	4. terrier
5. shepherd	6. canine	7. collar	8. husky
9. leash	10. labrador		

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THE TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

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THURSDAY, August 24, 2023

Strike up

JEFF PRINCE

sports@tricityreporter.com

AZLE - A voice boomed across the parking lot, and the loudspeakers made it sound like it was coming from a great and powerful wizard from on high.

The Azle High School marching band was practicing their steps on a recent morning in a school parking lot as a director stood 20-feet above on an observation platform. The director watched the band's movements, pointed out problems, and called for changes.

The voice, which sounded firm for the most part, adopted a more playful tone for a moment: "Nolan, I don't know what you've been eating for breakfast, but you are doing so much better than last year," the director said. "Your steps are immaculate."

The rest of the band gave trumpeter Nolan Wright an enthusiastic round of applause accompanied by whoops and hollers. Wright smiled. The sophomore has been in band since sixth grade but didn't begin marching until last year in high school.

As a freshman, he struggled to hit his steps while playing his horn.

"At first, it's hard," he said. "I'm not very coordinated. I've never been very coordinated. Now, I'm starting to get it. I've had more experience."

Practice brought fluidity,

Marching Green Pride puts one foot in front of other

and his confidence and coordination grew.

"It feels pretty good," he said. "It feels like my efforts to get better have been working."

The marching band practices regularly. They strive to look and sound dynamic during halftime shows at Hornet Stadium, as well as at contests and events.

Just as Wright was once a wide-eyed freshman missing his steps, other newbies have arrived this year. Freshman Korbin Chaudron, a tuba player, served as a shadow at a recent practice. He and other shadows attend practices, learn the steps, and walk alongside veteran members but sit out during performances. They are like understudies.

"A shadow gets to fill in if the primary marcher can't make it," Chaudron said.

During a break, Chaudron wiped down his tuba with a rag. The nickel silver had become marred with fingerprints and smudges, and Chaudron was determined to make it "look sparkly," he said.

Band director Aaron Martin praised the band members for working so hard in the summer heat to prepare for the season.

"We are really excited about

this year's band and the show that we planned for this season," he said.

More than 200 students enrolled in band. About 30% are ninth graders, 30% are sophomores, 20% are juniors, and 20% are seniors.

Nobody was newer to the Marching Green Pride than Andrew Treishelt. The freshman had moved to Azle from Saginaw six days earlier and was attending his first practice.

Treishelt hopes to play the snare drum next year. This year, however, he was assigned to play the rack, an instrument with a metal frame adorned with wind chimes, cymbals, blocks, and a large gong.

The band was working on Savannah River Holiday, a song that demanded every sound effect from the rack, including a big crashing blow on the gong at a precise moment, followed by total silence. To achieve the effect, Treishelt would strike the gong with a mallet, wait a moment, and then, clamp his gloved hands on the metal disk to snuff the sound.

"It's cool," Treishelt said.

He joined band in fifth grade and has looked forward to marching at high



JEFF PRINCE | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Anthony Fitch relies on a sweatband and sunglasses to keep cool at a recent practice.

PLEASE SEE STRIKE | B6



JEFF PRINCE | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Kamryn Cleveland brings sticky fingers to the receiving corps.

Season opener

Springtown football to challenge Alvarado at home under Friday night lights

JEFF PRINCE

sports@tricityreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN - The last time the Springtown Porcupines played a football game was Nov. 11, 2022 - a playoff loss in Amarillo.

PLEASE SEE OPENER | B7

Big help

JEFF PRINCE

sports@tricityreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN - The head drum major for the Sound of Springtown marching band is Kate Mitchell, and she is a busy girl.

Mitchell also serves as captain, the top leadership role, with the Springtown Showstoppers dance troupe. And she is one of the top students in academics at Springtown High School.

Sometimes, Mitchell's busy schedule conflicts with itself, and she must miss a band practice. She doesn't worry much, knowing her two associate drum majors will cover for her seamlessly.

Luke Holtman, a senior,

Sound of Springtown drum majors provide marching orders

and Tempe Wood, a junior, are Mitchell's right and left hands when she is absent. At a recent practice in August, the two drum majors played leading roles at practice since Mitchell was busy leading the Showstoppers through a rehearsal.

When practice was about to end, Holtman filled in for Mitchell in calling the band to attention and dismissing them.

"Just little stuff like that," he said.

Director Scot McPhetrige

relies on loudspeakers to help carry his voice to the more than 130 band members during practices in the parking lot. After practice ends, band members head to the air-conditioned band hall to cool off and drink water. The drum majors, however, must roll up speaker cables and carry speakers inside.

Wood and Holtman split up chores evenly.

Being drum major comes with responsibilities. They

PLEASE SEE HELP | B2



JEFF PRINCE | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

From left, Luke Holtman and Tempe Wood serve as drum majors alongside head drum major Kate Mitchell.



JEFF PRINCE | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Edward Holt relies on gloves to keep from burning his hand on flag poles at practice.



JEFF PRINCE | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Sara Gonzales spins a rifle.

HELP

FROM PAGE B1

point out faulty playing or bad behavior to their peers, some of whom are older.

"I'm not a big fan of being the bad guy," Holtman said. "Having to do that sometimes is annoying. I just like having fun."

He might become strict if "somebody is not standing at check, or talking to their friend," he said. "You don't want to get on their bad side, but you have to tell them to be quiet. I just try to think of it like, you're not being mean to them, you're just doing something that you have to do."

Last year, Wood was the band's music librarian. This year, she wanted one of the top leadership positions.

"It was kind of a big step up," she said. "I tried out and didn't expect to get it, but when they sent the leadership thing out and I saw that I was on it, I was really excited."

Mitchell beat her out for

head drum major, but Wood was happy to be chosen as one of her associates. Next year, Wood wants to become head drum major as a senior.

"I'm very committed," she said. "Once I decide I would like to do something, I work really hard toward it."

Six band members tried out for the three drum major positions this year. The audition

involved conducting, marching, playing music, and two interviews.

"I've always loved band," Wood said. "I've played clarinet the entirety of the five years that I've done band. There are a lot of fun experiences, when we're out here at 6 a.m. And competitions, where we get to miss school and



JEFF PRINCE | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Tempe Wood gives the thumbs up to her musical peers.

Boy band

JEFF PRINCE

sports@tricityreporter.com

AZLE – Waving flags for color guard is fun, although the job comes with hidden hazards.

"That pole was on fire," said Edward Holt, setting down his flag after a routine.

The color guard was practicing in the parking lot at Azle High School on a recent morning, and temperatures approached 100 degrees. In between routines, color guard members would set their flags on the asphalt pavement of the parking lot.

In no time, the poles soaked up the sun and became almost too hot to touch.

"They're made of metal, so they get really hot," he said.

The Marching Green Pride performs during halftime at football games, and color guard members do their part by waving flags, spinning rifles, and adding dance movements. Most years, the

Azle color guard welcomes guy to group

color guard consists of girls only, although not by design. Auditions are open to everyone.

"We've had a few (boys) interested, but it's not as popular for guys," said Caleb Hunter, color guard director.

That might change now that Holt is on board.

"From my experience, when you start getting one or two (boys on the team), they start trickling in," Hunter said.

Guys show up for auditions, interested in tossing rifles and waving flags. Then, they shy away sometimes after hearing feedback from schoolmates.

"They sign up on the form, but when they start telling their friends that they're going to do it, their friends say, 'Oh, isn't that a girl thing?'"

Hunter said. "So, it's a little bit of a stigma associated with it."

Similar stigmas accompany cheerleading, gymnastics, and dance. Boys who join those groups show independence and courage, Hunter said.

In 2009, Hunter joined color guard while attending high school. Now, he is in his 10th year of teaching color guard, including five years at AHS. He has had a total of four guys on his color guard teams during the past decade.

"Most of them have gone on to continue color guard," he said. "I have one that worked here (at AHS) last year. I taught him at my previous district in White Settlement."

Hunter has seen former students use color guard to



JEFF PRINCE | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Gracie Cazares is captain this year.

launch their careers.

"Because it takes so much gumption for a guy to do it socially in the high school setting, when they do it, they are super committed," he said. "Two of the guys I've taught are currently performing outside of high school in the color guard field."

Hunter recalled being in color guard in the 2000s. When someone would say, "Isn't that for girls?" He would respond, "I'm doing it, and I'm not a girl."

Now, Holt is forging a trail. The freshman has been looking forward to joining color guard for two years.

"I had dance class in seventh grade, and (Hunter)

came over and had a class for color guard, and I was interested," Holt said.

He doesn't know other guys on the verge of trying out for the team, but he has encouraged friends to give it a shot.

"They ask me about it, but they never do it," Holt said. "It is a lot of work, but it's a lot of fun."

Holt was among the first group of color guard cadets that began competing two years ago in middle school, preparing for when they entered high school.

"It's amazing," he said. "It's the best thing I've ever done."

Hunter is glad to have Holt on the team.

"He's in ninth grade now,

and he's killing it," Hunter said. "It's a really beautiful thing to have students express their creativity. It's a really important outlet for a lot of the students to center on the arts."

Captaining the team this year is Gracie Cazares, a senior. She expects the color guard to have a great season, perform well at shows, win competitions, and have a blast.

"It's going well," she said. "My lieutenants are very supportive. I love my team. There are a lot of rookies, a lot of freshmen, but they learn very quickly. They have easily exceeded me in my first year. I'm very proud of them."

go on long bus rides. Playoff games."

Holtman knows several older friends who have served as drum majors, planting the seed in his mind to audition.

"I knew I could probably do it, and I just felt like I would enjoy the experience and could learn something from it," he said. "I'm getting to know more people. I like the idea of people saying it's one big family. It's a group of people that all love music. It's just a great experience all around."

Wood doesn't know if she will achieve her goal of becoming head drum major next year, but she is determined to be the best drum major she can be this year. Her leadership role could impact Sound of Springtown in a big way.

"The drum majors start the band and conduct all the music," she said. "Knowing that I could be what helps the band win state is a lot of fun."

JEFF PRINCE | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Luke Holtman calls the band to order for dismissal at the end of a recent practice.



Raising a racket

Azle tennis team enters fall season with enthusiasm

JEFF PRINCE

sports@tricityreporter.com

AZLE - The tennis team at Azle High School has a new coach and two new captains but a familiar goal, to make it to the district playoffs.

It won't be easy. "Our district is tough, and earning a playoff spot is not an easy task," said head coach Connor Mason. "The best way to do it is to put our kids to the fire and get them used to it, get them used to playing tired, playing tough teams."

Mason stocked the pre-season schedule with worthy opponents, and the Hornets have performed well. On Aug. 10, Azle beat Arlington Heights 15-4 before losing to Chisholm Trail 4-15. On Aug. 11, Azle defeated Cleburne 11-8.

"We've got the team going," Mason said.

Overall, the Hornets played matches against five other teams in the two weeks leading up to the start of school on Aug. 16.

"We are really working hard," Mason said. "This is going to test our grit and our resiliency when it comes to those district matches that do count for the playoffs."

While Mason spoke, his athletes were practicing on the

outdoor courts at the school. "Good job, Emma!" the coach hollered.

Emma Kabetzke was volleying balls with another player, and Mason appreciated her effort. Kabetzke hasn't been playing tennis for long. She first picked up a racket in 2022. Since then, she has proven to be a quick study and a natural leader.

"I feel like I've progressed pretty quickly," she said. "I love the sport. I'm willing to do whatever it takes to keep progressing and not take this quick growth for granted. I'm going to keep working on it so that I can keep getting better."

Younger players on the team are seeded higher than Kabetzke, but she brings intangible qualities to the mix. She and Baker, the team's top-seeded boy, work as co-captains to help other players find their footing in the sport.

"Coach kind of had an idea of who he saw that represented good leadership on the court and off the court," Kabetzke said. "Also, we're seniors, so we have a lot more experience in high school than some of the other kids do. We can help guide them and set good examples for them."

Baker began playing tennis in middle school and has



Luke Petersen is playing on varsity for the first time.

JEFF PRINCE | TRI COUNTY REPORTER

blossomed into the most dependable guy on the roster when it comes to winning tennis matches. Serving as captain comes with responsibilities, but Baker makes sure to stay even keeled.

"I get their attention and be a team leader for them," he said. "Be overall helpful, but don't be too strict about it."

Taking a supervisory role with peers can be a sticky situation. Rather than become a strict authority figure, he would rather show up on time, work hard, and keep a good attitude. Leading by ex-

ample is easier than being a verbal taskmaster, he said.

"I was a little nervous at first, but I'm excited to be captain for this team," he said.

New faces to the varsity squad include Jayden Saez and Luke Petersen, two juniors who were paired up to play doubles during a preseason match against Cleburne on Aug. 11. Both boys prefer playing singles, but they jump at the chance to play a double match, as well.

"Doubles is a lot different," Saez said. "It gets you to work

with your teammate throughout the matches. It really helped me with my court awareness."

He has high hopes for the Hornet racketeers.

"We are going to be pretty strong this year," he said. "I'm really excited to be with them."

Saez is a fan of the new coach.

"He really helps us figure out what we're doing wrong when we do it wrong," he said. "He gives us the tips we need, even when we're playing."

Petersen comes to the varsity squad after having won the district championship in singles on the junior varsity squad in the spring. He was the first seed on the JV squad but is fifth seed on varsity.

"It's a new experience," he said. "So far, I'm loving it. I've had a couple good matches. I like playing doubles, especially with people like Jayden. It really helps with teamwork and coordination and kind of allows us to try playing at the net and at the back. It offers us some variation, which is fun."



Emma Kabetzke is still new to tennis but taking a leadership role.



Jayden Saez, a junior, plays doubles at a recent match.



Royce Baker is the top-seeded boy and a team captain.

Net wins

Springtown volleyball girls overcome slow start in preseason

JEFF PRINCE

sports@tricityreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN - The Lady Porcupines started the volleyball season with energy, excitement, and...five consecutive defeats.

Not to worry. The girls continued working hard, kept their spirits high, and bounced back dur-

ing recent contests.

On Aug. 15, Springtown beat Wichita Falls Rider in four games: 25-12; 12-25; 25-19; 25-15. Offensively, Stoli Cox led the way with 15 kills, with freshman Libby Tedder close behind with 13. Senior Sterlyn Smith added 16 digs, and sophomore Kallie Conway made 22 assists.

On Aug. 12, the Lady Pines

knocked off Shoemaker of Killeen in two sets and won second place in the silver bracket at the Denton Ryan tournament. Springtown beat Lindsey in the tournament, as well. Cox, a senior, was selected to the all-tournament team.

Next up, Springtown will play at 6 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 25, at Peaster.



The Lady Porcupines are finding their groove on the volleyball court.

COURTESY PHOTOS



Stoli Cox was named to the all-tournament team at the Denton Ryan tourney.

COURTESY PHOTOS

New blood

Azle Independent School District stocks up on new coaches

JEFF PRINCE
sports@tricityreporter.com

AZLE - Almost two-dozen new coaches have accepted positions at Azle ISD this

year.
The new hires include six head coaches:
· Stephanie Behrens, tennis head coach, Forte Junior High School
· Connor Mason, tennis head coach, AHS
· Taylor Hodges, cheer head coach, AHS
· Assistant coaches who were hired recently include:
· Chasity Benne, cheer as-



Chasity Benne, an AHS graduate, returns to help coach cheerleaders at AHS.



JEFF PRINCE | TRI COUNTY REPORTER

Connor Mason is the new head coach of tennis at AHS.

- Jayson Conger, girls wrestling head coach, Azle High School
- Misty Creasy, cheer head coach, Forte
- Rick Dickson, girls basketball head coach, AHS
- Connor Mason, tennis head coach, AHS
- Taylor Hodges, cheer head coach, AHS
- Assistant coaches who were hired recently include:
· Chasity Benne, cheer as-

- assistant coach, AHS
- Dakota Bradshaw, football and boys wrestling assistant coach, AHS
- Payton Berger, girls basketball assistant coach, AHS
- Olivia Cherry, girls assistant coach, FJH
- Bret Cockerham, girls basketball and golf assistant coach, AHS
- Kristen Cook, cheer assistant coach, AHS
- Dusty Crafton, volleyball

- assistant coach, AHS
- Ma'Darius Hobson, boys assistant coach, FJH
- Casey Jones, boys assistant coach, Azle Junior High School
- Dakota Jones, boys assistant coach, FJH
- Erin McAlpin, girls wrestling assistant coach, AHS
- Will Morgan, football and baseball assistant coach, AHS
- Jody Riley, girls assistant

- coach, FJH
- Kolton Self, football assistant coach, AHS
- Rick Serda, girls wrestling assistant coach, AHS
- Chris Tiner, football and softball assistant coach, AHS
- Also hired was Terrell Hawkins, who will serve as the boys sports coordinator at FJH.

ZED BY DUANE ABEL

WWW.CORKYCOMICS.COM



Sudoku

AUGUST 24, 2023

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

Solution to last week's puzzle

AUGUST 17, 2023

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to adventure seeking.

ASGLO

□ □ □ □ □

Answer: Goals

CRYPTO FUN

Solve the code to discover words related to adventure. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 20 = e)

A. 20 15 13 18 4 20 14
Clue: Very enthusiastic

B. 9 5 20 11 4
Clue: Long search

C. 4 6 8 22 20 21
Clue: Make a journey

D. 23 5 4 14 23 23 6 11
Clue: In the wilderness

Azle School Menu Aug 28-Sept 1, 2023

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 Soft Filled Cinnamon Toast Crunch, Fresh Apples **Tues** Breakfast Pizza, Orange Craisins **Weds** Sausage Egg & Cheese Taco, Fresh Oranges **Thurs** Mini Waffles, Strawberry Craisins **Fri** Glazed Donut, Fresh Bananas

LUNCH: Everyday - Variety of milk. Your choice of 1 entree & 1 fruit or juice
Mon Steak Fingers w/ roll, Mac n Cheese w/ Garlic Breadstick **Tues** Beefy Mac w/ Roll, Ham & Cheese Sandwich, Mixed Veggies **Weds** Breaded Chicken Sandwich, Grilled Cheese, Steamed Carrots Steamed Peas, Pineapple, Fresh Oranges **Thurs** Cheese Enchiladas, Popcorn Chicken Wrap **Fri** Max sticks w/ Marinara, Pepperoni Pizza, Ham Wrap, Curly Fries, Apples

GRADES 5TH - 8TH

BREAKFAST: Everyday - Assorted Fruits and Cereal, Juice, White or Chocolate Milk, Yogurt w/Granola
Mon Breakfast on a stick w/ Syrup, Pears **Tues** Egg & Cheese Biscuit, Pineapples **Weds** Cinnamon Roll, Fresh Oranges **Thurs** Breakfast Pizza, Fresh Apples **Fri** Glazed Donut, Fresh Bananas

LUNCH: Everyday: Variety of milk. Your choice of 1 entree & 1 fruit or juice, rolls, crackers • Salad bar offered daily
Mon Steak Fingers w/ roll, Mac n Cheese w/ Garlic Breadstick **Tues** Beefy Mac w/ Roll, Ham & Cheese Sandwich, Pears, Fresh Apples **Weds** Breaded Chicken Sandwich, Grilled Cheese, Steamed Carrots Steamed Peas, Pineapple, Fresh Oranges **Thurs** Cheese Enchiladas, Popcorn Chicken Wrap, Steamed Corn, Applesauce, Fresh Banana **Fri** Max sticks w/ Marinara, Pepperoni Pizza, Ham Wrap, Curly Fries, Apples

HIGH SCHOOL

BREAKFAST: Everyday - Assorted Fruits and Cereal, Juice, White or Chocolate Milk, Yogurt w/Granola
Mon Breakfast on a stick w/ Syrup, Pears **Tues** Egg & Cheese Biscuit, Pineapples **Weds** Cinnamon Roll, Fresh Oranges **Thurs** Breakfast Pizza, Fresh Apples **Fri** Glazed Donut, Fresh Bananas

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 Chicken nuggets, Cheese Pizza, Pepperoni Pizza, Chicken Quesadillas, Breaded Chicken Sandwich, Orange Chicken **Tues** Spaghetti w/ meat sauce w/ garlic bread stick, Max sticks w/ marinara, Pepperoni Pizza, Cheese Nachos, Corn dog, Sweet & Sour Chicken & Noodles **Weds** Chicken & Waffles, Cheese Pizza, Pepperoni Pizza, Meatball Sub, Chicken & Cheese Crispiitos w/ Cheese Sauce, Hamburger, Cheesesteak, Hot & Spicy Chicken Sandwich, Chicken Fried Rice **Thurs** Frito Chili Pie Cheese Pizza, Hamburger Pizza, Beef Nachos, Salsa, Hamburger, Cheesesteak, TSO Chicken **Fri** Fish Sticks w/ Roll, Cheese Pizza, Pepperoni Pizza, Cheese Enchiladas, Hamburger, Cheesesteak, 2 Chicken Egg Rolls, Mixed Veggies, Black Beans

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SPRINGTOWN SCHOOL MENU
Aug 28-Sept 1, 2023
PK through 12th Grade

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EC-12th Reduced \$0.30
Adult \$2.25

LUNCH PRICES
PK-4th Grade \$3.00
5th-8th Grade \$3.25
High School \$3.00
Reduced \$0.40
Adult \$4.25

Students may prepay for their meals.

PK - 12th Breakfast **BREAKFAST: Everyday** - Various Juices & Cereals, Toast, Milk Variety, Fruit, Jelly Assortment, Buttermilk Biscuit, Variety of milk is offered every day for breakfast and lunch.

Mon Dutch Waffle, Sliced pears **Tues** Breakfast Stick, Blueberries **Weds** Breakfast Scramble Pizza, Apple **Thurs** Cinnamon Roll, Strawberry Applesauce Juice **Fri** Yogurt Cup, Banana, Juice, Variety of Milk

K - 4th Lunch **Lunch: Everyday** - Choice of one meat, two vegetables, and one grain/bread with milk. Variety of milk is offered every day for breakfast and lunch.

Mon Pulled Pork Sandwich; Hot Dog French Fries, Coleslaw, Fresh Veggies **Tues** Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce; Chicken Parmesan, Fresh Veggies, Grapes, Applesauce **Weds** Chicken & Waffles (Regular & Spicy) Tator Tots; Orange, Blueberries **Thurs** Tostadas or Nachos (Beef or Chicken) Apple Slices, Peaches **Fri** Cheese Pizza; Chicken Nuggets; Baked potato w/ham, Roll; Fresh Veggies, Banana or Blueberries

5th - 12th Lunch **Lunch: Everyday** - Choice of one meat, two vegetables, and one grain/bread with milk. Variety of milk is offered every day for breakfast and lunch.

Mon Steakfingers; Popcorn Chicken; Roll Mashed Potatoes; Corn; Variety of Fruit **Tues** Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce; Crispy Chicken Sandwich, Chef Salad, Garlic Roll, Green Beans, Variety of Fruit **Weds** Cheese-burger/Hamburger French Fries, Variety of Fruit **Thurs** Tostadas (Beef or Chicken) Variety of Fruit **Fri** Cheese Pizza; Chicken Nuggets; Baked potato w/ham, Roll; Fresh Veggies, Banana or Blueberries

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Gospel duo opens studio on Main Street

John and Don Webster hope to use Eagle Mountain Plaza as location to build up Webster Media Ministries

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricityreporter.com

AZLE - John Webster has been a member of the Azle community for 27 years, but this year he and his brother Don brought their work and passion here too. In March, John and Don opened Eagle Mountain Plaza at the former site of Eagle Mountain Motorcycles to serve as a home for their non-profit, Webster Media Ministries.

The building and some adjoining lots were purchased in December by Azle native, Deb Turpin.

"For eight years, my husband and I, along with John, have been looking for a place where we could bring gospel venues to Azle," Turpin said. "We had explored nearly every possibility, but everything was either out of reach pricewise, the location was not workable or the building itself needed way too much done to it. We had just about given up when (the Eagle Mountain Motorcycle building) came up."

While the shop was in rough condition, Turpin believed they could make it work. Turpin was inspired by Azle community pillars from her childhood like Jim Bob Nation and Sid Dechert who organized gospel shows at the Azle High School auditorium.

"I just loved those things," Turpin said. "It seems like anything right now that's open to public talent in a local area is just passing off the scene and I didn't want to see that happen. I have a great love for inspirational music and gospel music, and I know there's a lot of local talent around here."

Turpin said Eagle Mountain Plaza is committed to maintaining a positive drug and alcohol-free grounds and wants parents to know that it's also a place where they can feel safe and secure leaving their children and teens. Turpin is also looking for groups or individuals to rent out some of the office space in the

building.

"We took this on as an addition to the community, not a money-making venture," Turpin said. "We're going to struggle our best and do our best to keep our prices where any family can afford it. We're planning some open mic nights and an outside venue this fall and we just want to make everyone feel welcome and let them enjoy what we enjoy."

The Websters have years of combined media experience to help guide the ministry toward its vision. The brothers hosted a D-FW morning Country Gospel television program for five years on 28.2 UANetwork until the owner of the network passed. Don Webster has managed five different general family radio programs in his career. With their own location in Azle, the Websters hope to produce and host music, television and online Christian media from local, state and national artists. They hope to have the T.V. program up and running by the end of next year.

The musical duo has won multiple awards from the International Country Gospel Music Association, where John is now a board member, and Kentucky Fan Fare. They have also been promoted in three national magazines: Christian Voice, Cross Country USA and Cash Box and have been featured in the Cross Country and IUU Country Gospel Hot 100.

John, who once owned a Christian book and Bible store on Main Street, is a dedicated and active community member, having served on Azle's Chamber of Commerce Board. He and his brother are excited to feature Azle pastors, local faith community related news and features on Azle para-church organizations through their Ministry Spotlight.

"I never gave up my Azle home," John Webster said. "We're going to use (Eagle Mountain Plaza) to create platforms for all kinds of



Don Webster (left) and John Webster (right) during the livestream of their show.

ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

music, videos, and programs along with television and small concert venues. Anything that has to do with media platforms that we can connect into to get our stuff out into the world. Our television station will also be on Roku, Amazon Prime and Apple TV."

John plans to largely focus on music while Don is program director, but the two are excited to continue building their ministry and streaming their music and talk-shows through traditional television as well as websites like YouTube, Rumble and Facebook. The Websters have big plans to expand the scope and volume of Christian media they produce from their Azle studio.

"We're thinking and planning big for it to be a small place," Webster said. "It's all going to be right here. This

place is undergoing a metamorphosis. It will be continuously changing to accommodate whatever we need done here. Our plan is to utilize every inch of this place for the gospel."

On Fridays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., the brothers livestream gospel music with the two speaking between songs. They also hold shows where they exhibit live music talent in front of a studio audience. On Nov. 4 at 3 p.m., Chris Golden, son of William Lee Golden, the lead singer of the Oak Ridge Boys, will be performing at the studio. The Webster Brothers have also partnered with Branson Missouri Theatres to bring in such talent as "The Gambler", a Kenny Rogers cover band and Barbara Fairchild who had a string of country music hits in the 1970s.

Through this partnership,

the Webster Brothers plan on taking Azle seniors on an annual trip to Branson Missouri in the first week of December in what they call "Christmas in Branson."

John describes the mission of Webster Media Ministries as "sharing Jesus with the World" and quoted Zig Zigler in saying, "in order to get where you want to go, help others get to where they want to go."

Webster continued, "That's a very true statement and I'd share that with anyone. To be able to do what you love, there's no greater blessing. Every day you never go to work if you're doing what you love. It's a dream, basically. I never dreamed that I could get into it and have it provide for me and provide things for others."

The Websters plan on expanding their current fa-

cilities to include an outdoor stage and hope to continuously keep building up the studio.

"It's a lot of work but it's a lot of fun and it's well worth it," Webster said "There's a lot of people out there who have dreams but they're not where you're at. Just like you might not be where someone else may be. If everybody's looking back but wanting to pull people along with them and helping them then that's kind of the way the life cycle is. If you help others, then God will definitely help you."

For more information, visit www.thewebsterbrothers.org or email John at john@johnwebsteronline.com and to buy tickets for the Nov. 4 performance of Chris Golden go to www.emplaza.net.

Botanicula

A very lively game



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.

Dark, many-legged parasites are killing your tree, and you, along with your tree friends, have to save the last seed.

The game starts with a view of a branch, with seeds budding on every twig. Click on the buds, and the seeds form. A dark parasite with one red eye comes and eats all the seeds but one, which escapes. It falls from the branch and lands on Mr. Lantern, our main character. He looks like an acorn to me, but he's supposed to be a physalis (part of the gooseberry family, like a tomatillo). In a quick, simple montage, the seed communicates with Mr. Lantern, telling him that they must escape from the parasites, and plant the seed somewhere safe, so it can grow. Mr. Lantern hides the seed within his papery hull. He and his friends, Mr. Twig (a stick), Mr. Poppy Head (a poppy seed pod), Mr. Feather (a fly) and Mrs. Mushroom (you guessed it) travel through the tree branches, evading parasites and other dangers on the way. Eventually they'll defeat the parasites and plant the seed, creating a new home for them and their children.

This is another beautiful

game from Amanita Designs. Jára Plachý, the project's lead animator, signed up with them to create it back in 2009.

"With Botanicula, I wanted to create a game that will be faster and have more locations to explore."

The original intent was to create a narrative like an animated movie. But after consulting with Jakub Dvorsky of Amanita Designs, they made it a more playable game with puzzles to solve.

"I started to work on games when I was hired by friends from Amanita Design to create some animations for Machinarium, and I really enjoyed working on the project," Plachý said. "It was Amanita that actually showed me how to create a game. Until this collaboration, I worked mostly on animated movies, and I realized it's possible to create original and unique computer games that have narrative and expression equal to animated movies or graphic novels."

The backgrounds are huge and lush. When your mouse hovers over small objects like root hairs, dust clouds, and leaves, a small animation plays. With the click of a



The characters escape from a black fuzzy parasite that threatens their tree.

SCREENSHOT COURTESY AMANITA DESIGNS

mouse, leaves unfurl, lights blink on and off, and little creatures hop from branch to branch. This makes the game feel larger, because of the number of actions you can take. There's lots of hidden animations that are triggered with the right combination of clicks.

Not every element solves a puzzle, which addresses one of the issues with a point and click gaming system. If you limit your active elements to only those that are important to complete the game, then it makes the solutions easier. The active elements are consistent with the look of the rest of the game. You'll need a bit of patience and thorough examination of the graphics to solve the puzzles, instead of just clicking things until something happens.

These puzzles fit within the universe of the story, instead of being shoehorned in. One solution requires you to change the way stems are arranged, so that a drop of dew can fall in the exact right spot. Some are elimination or combination puzzles, so that eventually you'll find the right combination through perseverance. Mr. Lantern and his friends solve puzzles in different ways, and each bring their own strengths to the table. Mr. Lantern protects the seed and can use it to activate elements. Mr. Twig can grow his stems longer and can sprout flowers. Mr. Poppy is the largest and can solve problems with his size. Mrs. Mushroom can duplicate herself and bounce things from her cap. Mr. Feather is the smallest and can fly.

This is a relatively large game for an indie. One of Plachý's goals was to create a larger game that would take more time to play. There are several different levels, including a final boss level, and lots of hidden in-game achievements to unlock.

Amanita hired DVA, a Czech alternative rock music duo formed by Bára Kratochvílová and Jan Kratochvíl, to create the soundtrack and the sound effects for the game. Since the game features trees, plants and seeds, they thought,

"Hey, maybe we can do it with sounds from real nature... We had a Dictaphone, and there are many sounds of birds and flies." But since this was February, there were no mosquitoes to be found.

They set up a Foley studio

for the rest of the sounds they needed. Twenty percent of the sounds in the game are real, and the rest were recorded by the duo making sounds that seemed appropriate with their mouths. This makes the game so endearing and organic. There's no language barrier, even though the game is Czechoslovakian, because all the creatures speak in nonsense words, with the meaning in an animated thought bubble above their heads.

If you had to describe this game with one word, it would be 'joyful' - it's a pleasure to play, with beautiful backgrounds, and an awesome soundtrack. Great for all ages.

Botanicula, 2012 is available on SteamOS. It's on sale this month for \$2.24.

STRIKE

FROM PAGE B1

school ever since. Playing the rack, however, means standing still due to the bulkiness of the instrument. Treishelt is satisfied to play the rack for

now and work toward securing a spot on the drumline later, he said.

The new kid is glad to have found a spot on the field, and he is eager to bond with his bandmates.

"They are welcoming," he said. "Everyone here seems

cool. No complications."

The band's first performance will be on Friday, Aug. 25, at the Hornet football game at Frisco Reedy. The first contest is Sept. 25 at the annual Denton Golden Triangle event.



Nolan Wright smiles after being praised at practice.

JEFF PRINCE | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER



Jacob Hill lugs a heavy tuba.

JEFF PRINCE | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER



A floppy hat protects Piper Duddles from the summer sun.



Korbin Chaudron de-smudges his sousaphone.



Luke Sipe and the marching band work on their sound.



Andrew Treishelt is familiarizing himself with the rack.



JEFF PRINCE | TRI COUNTY REPORTER

Dallin Fabrizio helps lead the offensive line.

The temperature was in the 40s. On Friday, Aug. 25, when Springtown steps back onto the field for its season opener at Porcupine Stadium, the temperature will be well over double that. Almost triple. The forecast calls for 107 degrees. Physical conditioning will be crucial for players to make it through four quarters.

That's why coach Brian Hulett and his staff made sure to push the Porcupines into playing shape over the summer at strength and conditioning camp.

Friday's game will showcase two teams eager to start their seasons with a victory after somewhat disappointing finishes in 2022. The Alvarado Indians fell to Lake Worth in a heartbreaking

overtime loss, 23-20, in the first round of the playoffs. Springtown lost to Randall 31-7 in the first round. This year's Porcupines are a senior-heavy, experienced team ready to make up for last year's early exit. Springtown is fresh off a scrimmage with Kennedale, held Aug. 17 at Porcupine Stadium. The score wasn't kept, but Springtown players

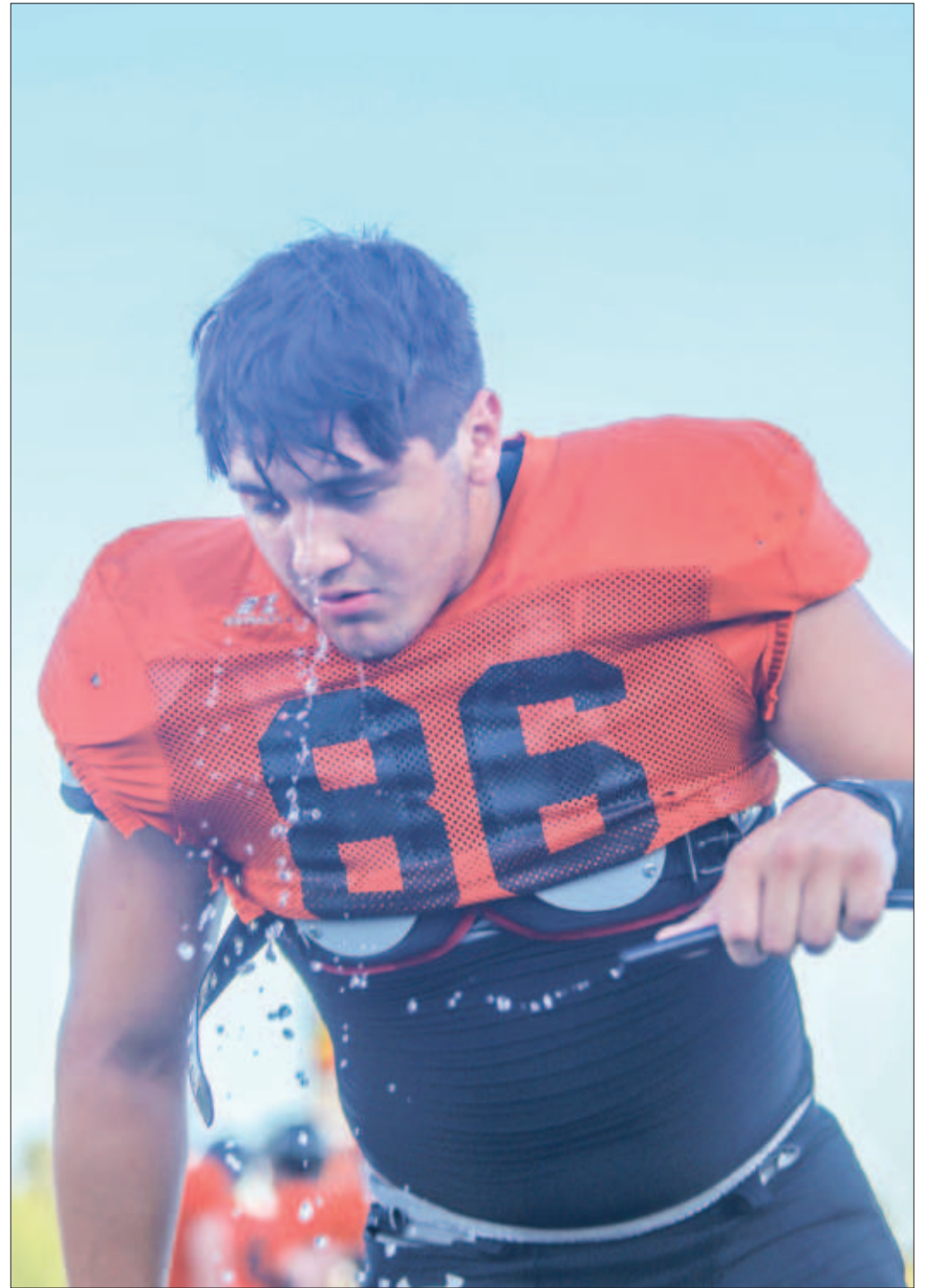
created quite a few turnovers during the scrap and showed enthusiasm. The team had scrimmaged Brock a week earlier. Hulett liked what he saw at both scrimmages. "I feel like our kids have played aggressively and at times hard," he said. "We have dealt with being inconsistent and not executing real well, both of which would be ex-

pected at this point of the season. But overall, we have had a really good camp and start to our season." Beating Alvarado in the season opener would make the start even sweeter, although Hulett will be happy if he sees his team fight hard for four quarters. "It's important for us to play from the start of the game and for the entire

length of the game," Hulett said. "Alvarado is very good and will be extremely tough to beat. Would it be a huge shot of energy and benefit to us? Of course. Mandatory? Of course not. But we want to see our guys play an entire 48 minutes." Springtown and Alvarado square off in the season opener at 7 p.m. Friday at Porcupine Stadium.



Hudson Hulett leads the Porcupines at quarterback in his senior year.



Big Kelby Castro hydrates during the scrimmage against Kennedale.

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Game Faces

JEFF PRINCE | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER
Young athletes are ready for the 2023-2024 school season.



Courtney Anderson



Ally Kitchen



Addison Dorris



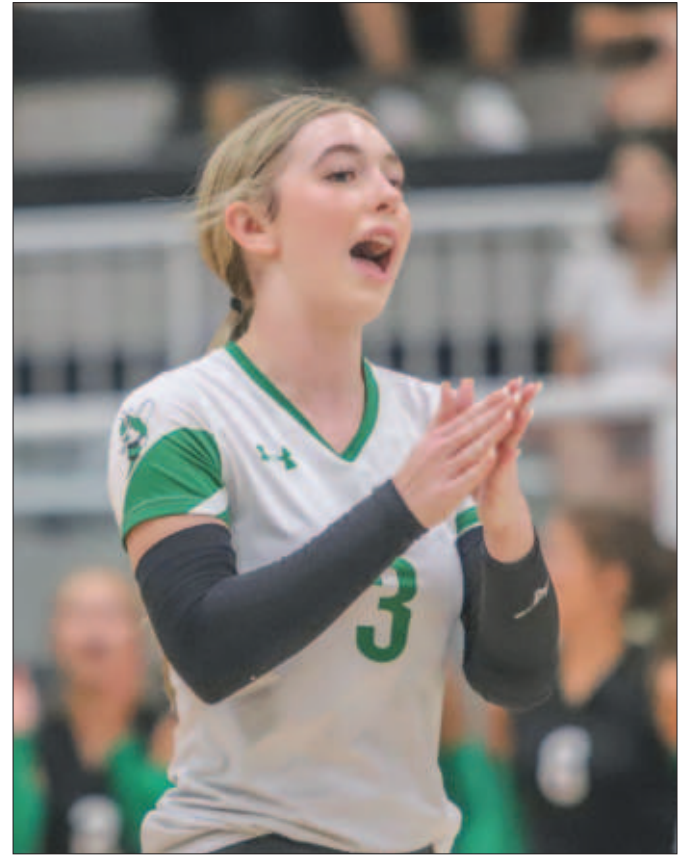
Keren Iya



Haylee Hefley



Ellie Lund and Miley Massey



Heather Lockridge



Melanie Harder and Peyton Hill



Aiden Buscay

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817-237-4903

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4024 Dakota Trail, Lake Worth
817-237-9433

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810 Goshen Rd., Springtown
817-523-4462

LEGACY CHURCH
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817-221-2983 / 817-221-5760

VICTORY CHRISTIAN CENTER
737 Boyd Rd., Azle
817-444-LOVE

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300 South Stewart, Azle
817-444-3219

AGNES INDEPENDENT BAPTIST
350 Agnes N., Springtown
817-523-7271

BETHEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST
408 S. Ash St., Springtown
817-220-4238

AZLE AVENUE BAPTIST
2901 Azle Ave., Fort Worth
817-626-5556

BY THE WORD BAPTIST
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

CENTRAL BAPTIST
4290 Old Agnes Road
817-594-5918

CHURCH ON THE HILL
836 NW Parkway, Azle
817-444-3752

CHRISTWAY BAPTIST
7673 West Hwy. 199, Agnes
817-220-9133 or 817-220-3581

CLEAR FORK BAPTIST
Corner of FM 730 & Ragle Rd., Weatherford, 817-594-1154

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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

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700 Charbonneau Tr., west side of Effie Morris Elementary
817-237-2624

FIRST BAPTIST LAKESIDE
8801 Jacksboro Hwy., Lakeside
817-237-8113

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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.
817-594-5940 or 817-599-4917

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817-523-5477

GRACE BAPTIST
3 miles N. of Springtown on Hwy. 51 across from Radio Tower

GRACE POINT CHURCH
4110 E. Hwy. 199, Springtown
817-221-5683

HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH
3577 FM 51 N., Weatherford
817-564-3946

IGLESIA BAUTISTA
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6640 Midway Rd., Springtown
817-694-0444

INDIAN OAKS PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH
3229 Shawnee Trail, Lake Worth
817-237-8441

LAKE WORTH BAPTIST
4445 Hodgkins, Lake Worth
817-237-4163

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

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

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

MIDWAY CHURCH OF CHRIST

6400 Midway Rd.
817-221-2107

NEWSOME MOUND ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST
1460 Newsome Mound Rd.
817-677-3290

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

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West of FM 920 in Poolville
817-594-4182

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

SPRINGTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST
Just west of Hwy. 51 North
817-523-4419

TRI-COUNTY CHURCH OF CHRIST
525 Hwy. 199 W., Springtown
817-980-8156

CHURCH OF GOD
ABUNDANT LIFE CHURCH OF GOD
4800 East Hwy. 199, Suite 7 Springtown, 817-677-3208

LAKESIDE CHURCH OF GOD THE WORD@LAKESIDE
9396 Confederate Park Rd. (FM 1886)
817-237-5500

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AZLE CHRISTIAN
117 Church St., Azle
817-444-3527

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1602 S. Main St., Weatherford
817-594-3043

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4th & Main, Paradise

EPISCOPAL
ST. ANNE'S ANGLICAN EPISCOPAL
6055 Azle Ave., Fort Worth
817-237-1888

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405 Bowie Dr., Weatherford
817-596-7476

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5910 Black Oak Lane, River Oaks
817-739-0504

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817-221-HOPE

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200 Church St., Azle
817-444-3323

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7200 Robertson Rd., Fort Worth
817-237-2758

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2200 Church Rd., Azle
817-444-1382

FIRST UNITED METHODIST
Hwy. 51 N & 3rd Street, Springtown
817-523-7874

POOLVILLE UNITED METHODIST
1 block W. of FM 920 (behind Poolville Post Office)
817-599-3601

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GRACE CHAPEL UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH
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817-237-4844

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GRACE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
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817-594-2744

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5315 Boat Club Road, Fort Worth
817-989-9800

ORTHODOX
ARCHANGEL GABRIEL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH
1157 S. E. Parkway (Jacksboro Highway), Azle
817-752-8255

ALIENTO DE DIOS
2233 E. Hwy 199, Springtown
817-521-4694

THE CHURCH IN PEASTER
www.thechurchinpeaster.org
817-596-8805

CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH
2233 Hwy 199 East, Springtown
817-221-LIFE (5433)

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9 miles S. of Springtown on Hwy. 51
817-599-7655

GRACE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH
2964 W. Hwy 114, Paradise
940-969-2427

HILLTOP FAMILY CHURCH
1227 Old Cottondale Road, Springtown, 817-220-7177

THE HOUSE OF PRAYER
1356 Reno Rd., Springtown
817-221-2551

POWERHOUSE OF PRAISE CHURCH
1649 S.E. Parkway, Azle
817-319-7364

BRANDED CROSS COWBOY CHURCH
3282 FM 2048, Boyd 76023
817-755-7021

SECRET PLACE MINISTRIES
112 Optimist Rd., Springtown
682-229-1433

GOSPEL GATHERING FELLOWSHIP
7315 Silver Creek Rd at Flatrock Rd, Azle
832-289-8720

LIGHTHOUSE CHURCH
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
817-444-3323

PRECIOUS FAITH TEMPLE CHURCH
8601 Hwy. 199 @ Vance Godbey's
1356 Reno Rd., Springtown
817-221-2551

THE RANCH CHRISTIAN COWBOY CHURCH
7955 Reed Rd., Azle
682-327-7082

REAL FAMILY FELLOWSHIP
202 Pearson Lane, Azle
817-677-5963

GRACE & FAITH CENTER
11701 Jacksboro Hwy., Azle
817-210-6295

WESTERN HARVEST FELLOWSHIP CENTER
6577 Old Springtown Rd., Weatherford
817-523-2855 or 817-995-9087

SHEPHERD'S HEART CHURCH
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817-444-7777

WESTERN STAR COWBOY CHURCH
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Ad Classifications

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

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006 Asphalt Paving

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019 Cement Work

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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.

039 Help Wanted

Adult male needs Attendant Care Worker, Full-time, Part-time or Backup work. Great Work Environment. Serious Inquiries Only. Goto azlecareworker.com for more information 682-429-9067 Text or Leave Message.

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 DRIVEWAYS • SIDEWALKS • PATIOS
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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.

Need a maintenance / handy man at Rv park in Azle. Taking care of the property, mowing etc. Plumbing experience needed. Opening / Closing of laundry and shower rooms. Available for emergencies and must live on property. For information call Donna 817-688-9316

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 Dirt & Concrete Work
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 Kiley Chesney, Owner
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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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 • **Loader Operator**
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020 Demolition

MCNEELY'S DEMOLITION & CLEAN UP SERVICE
We Create Vacancy
 • Tear Down • Barns
 • Removal • Houses
 • Haul Off • Bobcat
 • Mobile Service
 Homes • Dirt/Gravel
 • Garages Spreading

035 Garden/Mowing Service

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

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

FREE ESTIMATES
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 253 Eagles Way, Springtown

TONY'S TREE SERVICE
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 Expert take downs
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 Residential/Commercial
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024 Electrician

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 All types of electrical services and MH hook-ups.
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 www.bulldawgelectric.com.
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 \$95 Service Call

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

029 Fencing

BOBBY'S FENCE. All types, Free Estimates, Over 26 years experience. 817-444-3213.
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 All Types Fences - Tractor Work
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OUTDOOR SCENE
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CHILDREN'S MINISTER. Ash Creek Baptist Church in Azle, TX is hiring a part-time children's minister. For more information on the job duties and requirements please contact Larry Lormand at larry.lormand@gmail.com.

LEON'S FENCING
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 Barbed Wire
817-371-8597

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 1 or 100 - We can do it.
 \$85 minimum within 5 mi.
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 In Texas
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 View an online replica of the paper without receiving a printed copy

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 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 County _____ Daytime ph. _____

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TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

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Correctional Officers
Assistant Foodservice Manager
Asst. Maintenance Supervisor - Electrician
 PLEASE CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR JOB QUALIFICATIONS.
 A New Correctional Officer Pay Increase will be as follows - Starting pay will be \$18.00 dollars per hour. After Six months' there will be a pay increase to \$19.00 per hour and at one year there will be another pay increase to \$20.00 per hour. Must have HS Diploma or equivalent, be able to pass a drug screen, have a clean background, and valid driver's license to be considered for a Correctional Officer.
Apply online at www.mtctrains.com or call 940-567-2272 and ask for the HR Department.
 Management & Training Corporation is an Equal Opportunity Employer: Minority/Female/Veteran/Disabled

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

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ONLY \$29⁹⁵
 The Tri-County Reporter
 Call for more info. 817-270-3340

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

Deadline:
1:00 PM FRIDAY

Classifieds

<p>039</p>  <p>KLEMENT</p> <p>Service Technician</p> <p>Up to \$8000 bonus on certified Chrysler Jeep Ram technicians! Seeking to hire ALL levels of Automotive Service Technicians to join our team! Compensation based on experience and certifications. Must be dependable and responsible with a good work ethic.</p> <p>To apply, please send resume via Indeed ad or come by our office located at 605 N. Business 287, Suite 102 in Decatur.</p>	<p>Help Wanted</p> <p>KLEMENT DISTRIBUTION, INC. (Hershey Ice Cream Distributor)</p> <p>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>We offer <i>promote from within advancement</i> along with great benefits and opportunities for additional commission/bonus! Plus, paid training/vacation/flex-schedule. M-F workweek</p>	<p>068 Storage</p> <p>INNERSPACE STORAGE. Hwy 199, Springtown. Now renting all unit sizes, 24-hour access. 682-842-1414.</p> <p>STORAGE SPECIAL 10X10 \$60/MONTH-NO DEPOSIT 1350 LIBERTY SCHOOL RD, AZLE 5X10 \$45/MONTH \$20/DEPOSIT 817-246-4646</p>	<p>079 Welding</p> <p><i>Our Business is Metal Buildings - And We're Good!</i></p> <p>DESIGN FABRICATION ERECTION</p> <p>Cozart METAL BUILDING SYSTEMS</p> <p>Fabrication and erection of quality metal buildings at reasonable prices, any size - any design</p> <p>Office 817-237-2282 Fax 817-237-0904 Mark Cozart Jeremy Cozart 817-233-6668 817-237-2028</p>
<p>KARL KLEMENT No Positions Available at This Time</p>	<p>Karl Klement Properties, Inc. No Positions Available at This Time</p>	<p>Ash Creek Storage <i>Convenient Location</i> Corner of Main St. & Locust • Azle 817-444-3292</p>	
<p>Apply in person at: 605 N. Business 287, Ste 102, Decatur, Texas or call Human Resources 940-627-6362 hr.info@klementford.com Jodi Pettis, Executive Director</p> <p>All full-time positions offer growth opportunities & a full benefits package including Medical, Dental, Vision, Life, 401(k) & more. EEOC</p>			

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3-2 Duplex, quiet location, nice & clean, newly refurbished, no pets. \$1450.00/mo. 817-444-3636.

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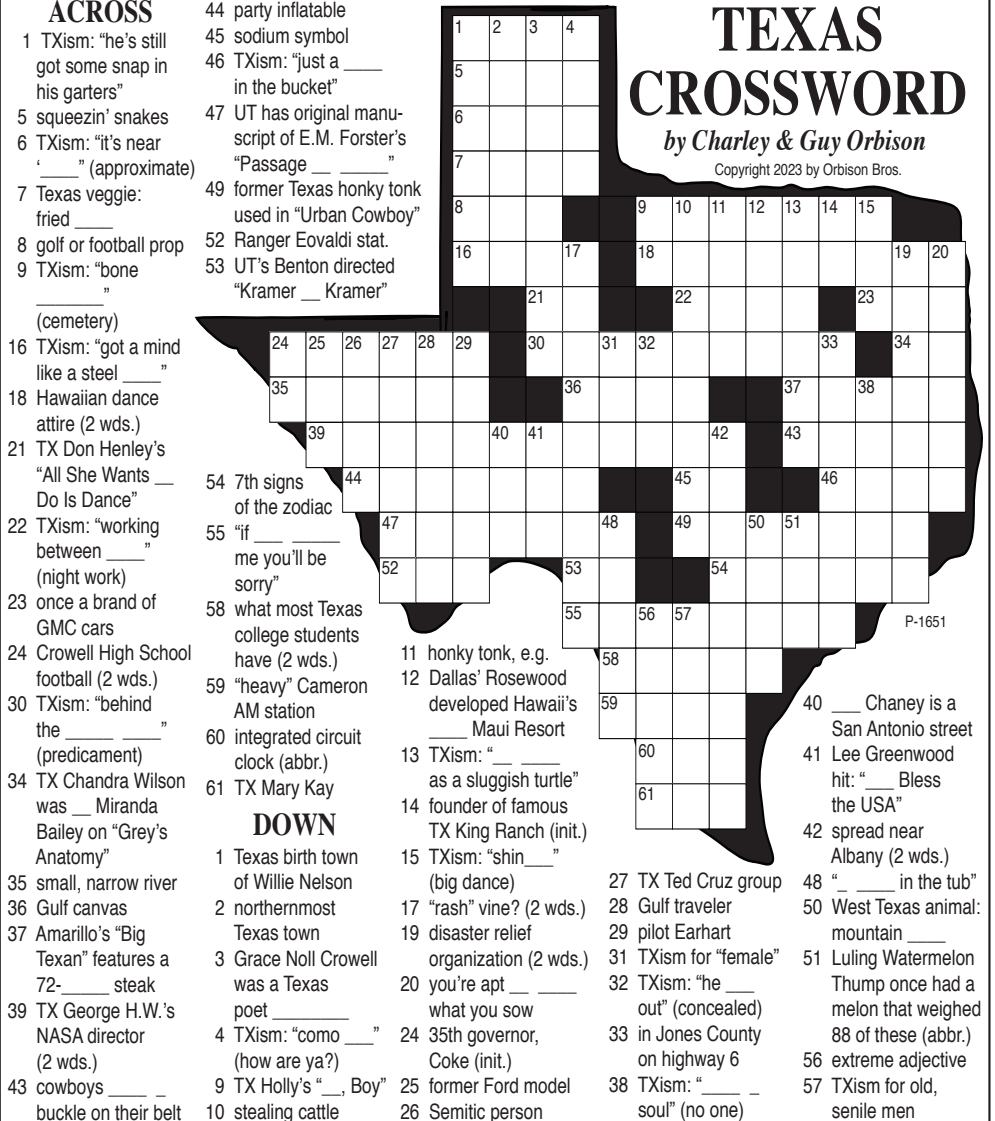
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TRI-COUNTY REPORTER
817-270-3340
Hometown Paper

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

- TXism: "he's still got some snap in his garters"
- squeezin' snakes
- TXism: "it's near _____" (approximate)
- Texas veggie: fried _____
- golf or football prop
- TXism: "bone _____" (cemetery)
- TXism: "got a mind like a steel _____"
- Hawaiian dance attire (2 wds.)
- TX Don Henley's "All She Wants _____ Do Is Dance"
- TXism: "working between _____" (night work)
- once a brand of GMC cars
- Crowell High School football (2 wds.)
- TXism: "behind the _____" (predicament)
- TX Chandra Wilson was _____ Miranda Bailey on "Grey's Anatomy"
- small, narrow river
- Gulf canvas
- Amarillo's "Big Texan" features a 72-_____ steak
- TX George H.W.'s NASA director
- cowboys _____ buckle on their belt
- party inflatable
- sodium symbol
- TXism: "just a _____ in the bucket"
- UT has original manuscript of E.M. Forster's "Passage _____"
- former Texas honky tonk used in "Urban Cowboy"
- Ranger Eovaldi stat.
- UT's Benton directed "Kramer _____ Kramer"
- 7th signs of the zodiac
- "if _____ me you'll be sorry"
- what most Texas college students have (2 wds.)
- "heavy" Cameron AM station
- integrated circuit clock (abbr.)
- TX Mary Kay
- Texas birth town of Willie Nelson
- northernmost Texas town
- Grace Noll Crowell was a Texas poet _____
- TXism: "como _____" (how are ya?)
- TX Holly's "____, Boy"
- stealing cattle
- honky tonk, e.g. (big dance)
- Dallas' Rosewood developed Hawaii's _____ Maui Resort
- TXism: "_____ as a sluggish turtle"
- founder of famous TX King Ranch (init.)
- TXism: "shin _____"
- TX Ted Cruz group (big dance)
- Gulf traveler
- pilot Earhart
- TXism for "female"
- TXism: "he _____ out" (concealed)
- in Jones County on highway 6
- TXism: "_____ soul" (no one)
- _____ Chaney is a San Antonio street
- Lee Greenwood hit: "_____ Bless the USA"
- spread near Albany (2 wds.)
- _____ in the tub"
- West Texas animal: mountain _____
- Luling Watermelon Thump once had a melon that weighed 88 of these (abbr.)
- extreme adjective
- TXism for old, senile men

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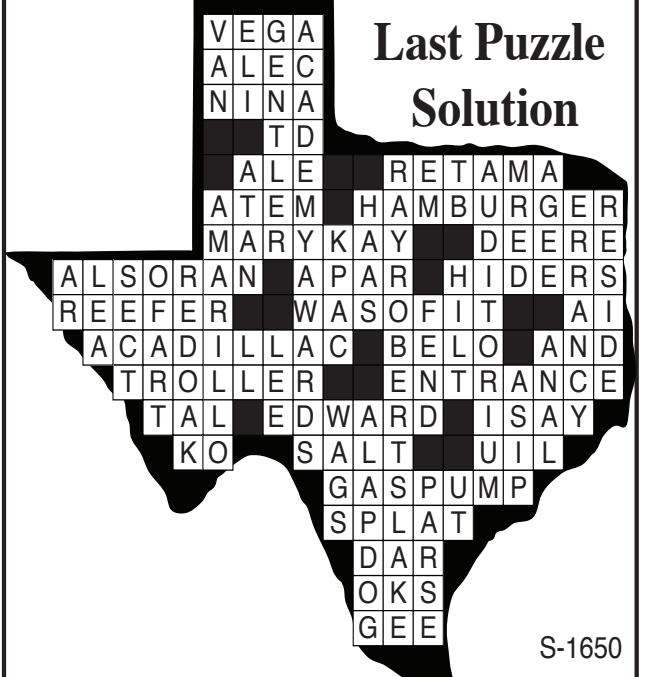


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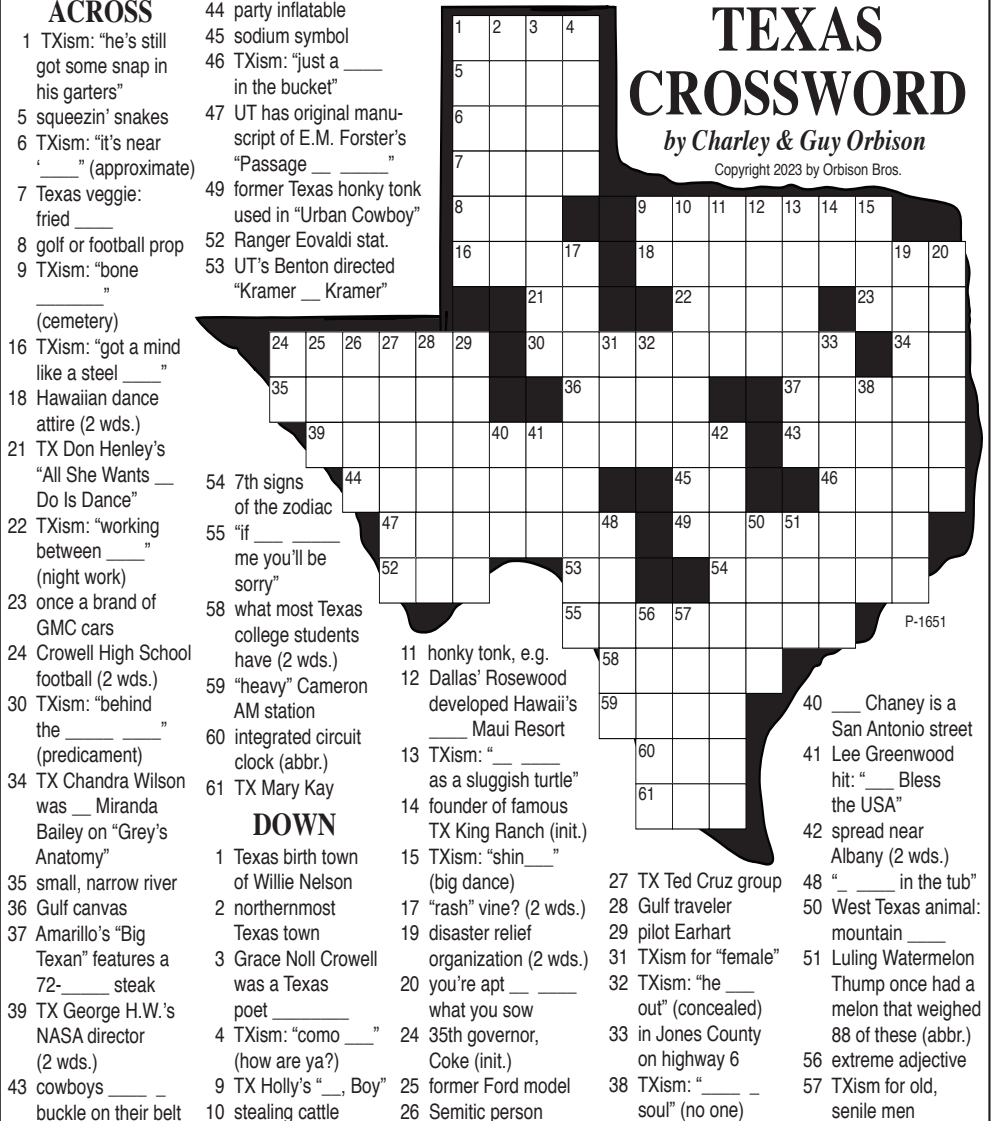
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- TXism: "got a mind like a steel _____"
- Hawaiian dance attire (2 wds.)
- TX Don Henley's "All She Wants _____ Do Is Dance"
- TXism: "working between _____" (night work)
- once a brand of GMC cars
- Crowell High School football (2 wds.)
- TXism: "behind the _____" (predicament)
- TX Chandra Wilson was _____ Miranda Bailey on "Grey's Anatomy"
- small, narrow river
- Gulf canvas
- Amarillo's "Big Texan" features a 72-_____ steak
- TX George H.W.'s NASA director
- cowboys _____ buckle on their belt
- party inflatable
- sodium symbol
- TXism: "just a _____ in the bucket"
- UT has original manuscript of E.M. Forster's "Passage _____"
- former Texas honky tonk used in "Urban Cowboy"
- Ranger Eovaldi stat.
- UT's Benton directed "Kramer _____ Kramer"
- 7th signs of the zodiac
- "if _____ me you'll be sorry"
- what most Texas college students have (2 wds.)
- "heavy" Cameron AM station
- integrated circuit clock (abbr.)
- TX Mary Kay
- Texas birth town of Willie Nelson
- northernmost Texas town
- Grace Noll Crowell was a Texas poet _____
- TXism: "como _____" (how are ya?)
- TX Holly's "____, Boy"
- stealing cattle
- honky tonk, e.g. (big dance)
- Dallas' Rosewood developed Hawaii's _____ Maui Resort
- TXism: "_____ as a sluggish turtle"
- founder of famous TX King Ranch (init.)
- TXism: "shin _____"
- TX Ted Cruz group (big dance)
- Gulf traveler
- pilot Earhart
- TXism for "female"
- TXism: "he _____ out" (concealed)
- in Jones County on highway 6
- TXism: "_____ soul" (no one)
- _____ Chaney is a San Antonio street
- Lee Greenwood hit: "_____ Bless the USA"
- spread near Albany (2 wds.)
- _____ in the tub"
- West Texas animal: mountain _____
- Luling Watermelon Thump once had a melon that weighed 88 of these (abbr.)
- extreme adjective
- TXism for old, senile men

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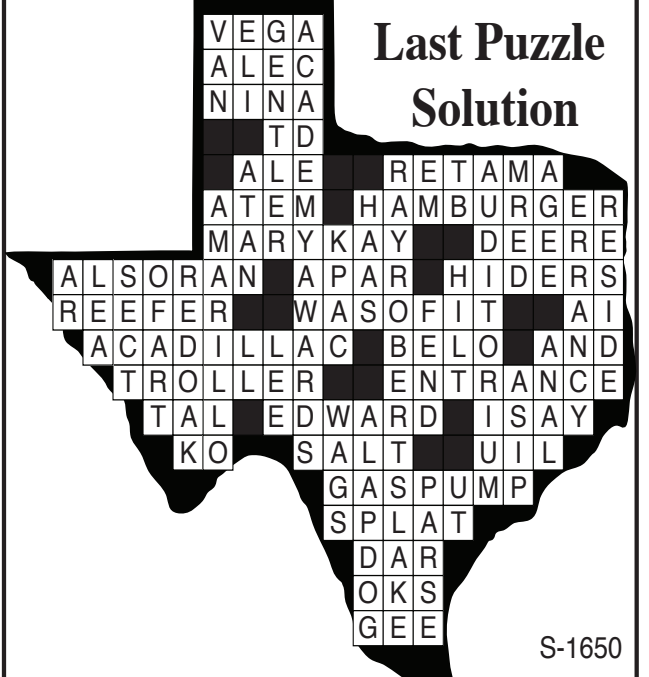


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