

THE TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

THE NEWS OF AZLE, SPRINGTOWN, AND SURROUNDING AREAS

THURSDAY, September 21, 2023 • \$1.00

A rootin' tootin' good time



JIM STEVENS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

The Heroes of the Old West put on a spectacular show this year at the 2023 Wild West Festival in Springtown.

MORE PHOTOS

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Dry times for Community Water

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

AZLE — Since the weekend of July 7, Community Water Supply Corporation (CWSC) customers have been asked to restrict their water usage after an intake filter broke, causing one of their filtration systems to break.

Community Water Supply urges conservation as levels reach dangerous lows, hopeful that rains end two month shortage

“Due to algae in the lake hindering the intake flow, continuing repairs to the broken unit and the tremen-

dous amount of water used, we MUST use as little as possible to avoid running out of water,” an alert on the com-

pany’s website stated. “We are at Dangerous Levels. NO OUTSIDE WATERING.” Initially, the water company

believed they would receive a repair part within two or three weeks. It has been more than two months and water levels in its storage tanks have dropped to dangerously low levels. A notice given to customers who attended a recent meeting described the situation as it currently stands.

The co-op now knows one of two filter systems that process water directly from the lake failed after the grids that filter raw water became loaded with zebra mussels, the notice claims. It was previously assumed the part had failed due to stress. The

PLEASE SEE WATER | A5



MADELYN EDWARDS | THE TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Chelsea Sadler works on an oil painting at the Hope and Grace Foundation in Springtown, which offers skills classes, a food pantry and a trading post.

‘A doorway of hope’

Hope and Grace Foundation provides food pantry, trading post, skills classes

MADELYN EDWARDS

springtownreporter@tricountyreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — After years of not practicing her

artwork, Springtown mother Chelsea Sadler realized she was breaking a promise she made to herself.

Sadler has been involved in

art her whole life but hadn’t painted or drawn in years since starting her family, fall-

PLEASE SEE HOPE | A2

Bringing the female perspective

Longtime Reno resident joins P&Z

MADELYN EDWARDS

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RENO — The city of Reno swore in its only female Planning and Zoning Commission member last week.

Diane Blair, who has lived in the city for 38 years, is one of the new members on P&Z.

Last month, P&Z members — Kevin Vandenberg, Justin Williams, Charles Hale and Steve Streiffert — were sworn in for new terms in their respective places. Blair was absent during that meeting, and thus had to take the oath of office at the P&Z’s next regular meeting on Sept. 11. She joins Streiffert as a new member of the P&Z.

Blair is still learning about her new role on P&Z. At first, she was nervous to be the only woman on the commission, but ultimately, she just wants to help.

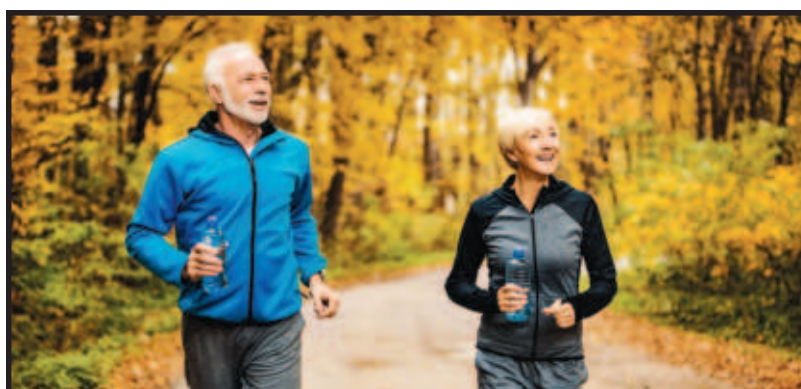
“I think a female perspec-

PLEASE SEE FEMALE | A4



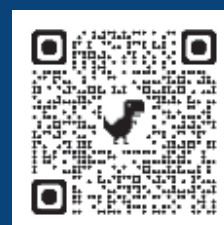
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New Reno Planning and Zoning Commission member Diane Blair takes her oath of office at the P&Z meeting on Sept. 11.



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HOPE

FROM PAGE A1

ing into a similar habit that her mother had before her. Sadler recalled discovering her mother's paintings when she was young and finding out that her mom stopped doing artwork after having children.

"I remember thinking that's never going to happen to me; I'm always going to draw and paint," Sadler said. "I kind of made that promise to myself as a young child that I would always draw and paint, and so when I realized that I hadn't done it for so long, I'm like, 'Uh oh, this is happening to me.'"

Sadler decided she needed to take care of herself by finding a way back to art. That's how she discovered Springtown's Hope and Grace Foundation.

Hope and Grace Foundation is a food pantry and a trading post for those in need, but unlike similar organizations, the foundation offers classes like painting and sewing. One of its founders, Stephanie King, called the foundation an "extension of God's love to others."

After attending a funeral for a fellow church member in 2020, King felt called by God to do something she had never done before — start a charity foundation.

"I am completely out of my element in this," King said. "I've got some background in some various areas, but to take off with something like this to this magnitude, I've never done it, and to be perfectly honest, God took care of everything on that part of it. He provided us with all that we needed to start off

with."

The funeral King had attended was for Jim Harris, who led a life of service, King said.

"His very nature is a lot of what this place offers," she said. "He was the type of man that would give. He was blessed so he would bless others."

King considered naming the foundation after Harris but felt God was giving her a different name — Hope and Grace Foundation: A Doorway of Hope — which was inspired by Hosea 2:15 in the Bible, "where it is referring the trials and tribulations that happen in the world. He's going to provide a doorway to get you out of that."

With two other women — Janice Cherry and Wendy Neelands — King started the Hope and Grace Foundation in September 2020 in Briar.

After outgrowing two spaces in Briar, the foundation settled into its current space at 1240 E. State Highway 199 in Springtown, where King has seen an increase in people served.

"God puts us where He wants us to be when He wants us each year that we've been in existence," Neelands said. "We started out in a little bitty office space, and a year later, He gave us a bigger space, and the following year, He brought us out here, so He's definitely got us on a growth pattern, and He definitely puts us where we're supposed to be at the time."

Hope and Grace Foundation provides necessities like food, household items, clothing, shoes and appliances, when available to anyone in need and hosts a trading post for people to swap goods.



Stephanie King in the Hope and Grace Foundation food pantry. In 2020, King felt like she was being called on by God to start the foundation, which is currently located at 1240 E. State Highway 199 in Springtown.

MADELYN EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

"A lot of people might not have the cash flow, but they can trade something they no longer need, and they can benefit somebody else with that," King said.

Neelands said the foundation aims to stock the pantry with goods other than food — such as items for animals, personal hygiene and kids. "Those are the things that people put back when they have to give up something in a grocery line," she said.

The foundation's skills classes — such as resume building, budgeting, art and sewing — are meant to help

people find a way to employment, King said. Bible studies and a grief discussion group are also available at the foundation for people of all walks of life.

Neelands leads the faith-based grief discussion group and views this work as an opportunity to help others with a subject she's very familiar with.

"God has blessed me — and I look at it as a blessing — with virtually every form of grief you can have from children to spouses to parents," she said. "This is my calling. He's enabled me to be able to listen and help. That's where I am in this, and that's why I want to give back what I can because if I can get through it, anybody can get through it."

The skills classes may help people survive through hard times or be able to use the skills to start a business, but they also allow students to find gifts within themselves, King said.

"What we find is a lot of people don't realize that they have a talent," she said. "It's a God-given talent, and we just kind of help to bring it out."

Sadler has been going to the art classes at the Hope and Grace Foundation once a week since March. In the painting class, she chose to depict a portrait of herself with her twin sister, who has battled a blood disease called severe aplastic anemia. She plans to give her sister the painting for her birthday.

Being able to participate in the art classes has allowed Sadler to regain a piece of her identity.

"This is a part of myself that I felt like I've lost over

the past 10-plus years," Sadler said. "I love my children. I love my husband. I love my family, and it's been an amazing adventure, just having a family. And I feel like a lot of mothers feel this way. They kind of get lost in it, and they lose parts of themselves. And I've just really been able to find that part of myself that I love, that artistic part of myself again through going to this art class and exploring new techniques and really being able to express myself artistically again."

Going to the Hope and Grace Foundation feels like therapy of sorts for Sadler, and she said she's grateful to have found it and for her bond with art teacher Janice Cherry.

"Janice Cherry is an amazing teacher in more than just one way, more than just art," Sadler said. "She's taught me so much about animals and gardening. She's just an inspiration and a kind, beautiful person. They're just good-hearted, kind, compassionate people who want to make the world a better place, and I'm just happy I found them, or they found me."

Cherry said her sewing and art classes teach patience to students, including Sadler.

"She's already had a person tell her that she had a great teacher, but she's got the talent," Cherry said about Sadler. "God helped me bring it out in her."

King would like to see the skills classes expand to include technical trades, such as electric work and welding. People who are willing to share their skills in a class or lead a children's story

time are welcome to volunteer at the Hope and Grace Foundation.

"We want this to be an opportunity to be the hands and feet of God," she said. "That is the purpose of it, to actually put into action your faith and be what you are called to be."

The feedback King receives from people who visit the foundation is that they found a place where people care about them.

"That's what they acknowledge the most is the fact that they feel accepted and that their presence is noted; that they are seen and that they are loved, and they feel comfortable in coming in here," she said.

As a whole, King described the foundation as a "judgment-free zone" for all people, despite their religious beliefs.

"They are going to get to experience a little bit of God time because we're going to love on them the same way God loves on us, but we would never turn anyone away," she said. "That is not what this is about. This was designed to help people, and it is our firm belief that when we are told that God loves all, God loves all."

The Foundation is typically open 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays. People are welcome to donate good quality food items, clothes, appliances, household items and hygiene products, or volunteer. To contact Hope and Grace Foundation, people can text 682-774-1184 or 682-582-7582, by email at hopeandgracefoundation2020@gmail.com or find the foundation on Facebook.



MADELYN EDWARDS | THE TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Founders and volunteers at the Hope and Grace Foundation. Back row from left, Jeanette Knell, Jeanie Clay, Belinda Porch and Wendy Neelands. Front row from left, Stephanie King and Janice Cherry.

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The telephone plays an important part in life.

As a very young boy in the early ‘60s, I was instructed by my parents that the “telephone” was not a toy. It was a serious device intended to be used by adults and only for emergencies, business, or to speak with family. It was not something for a child to answer when it rang, and it was not something to play with. The phone sat purposefully on its stand in the living room, much like the phone in most everyone else’s house.

Though I did not understand how or why, I soon learned there were charges when using the phone and that somehow talking to someone “long distance” costs a significant amount of money. It was those charges that caused adults to scamper to the phone when they heard the cry, “It is the grandparents, and they are calling long-distance!”

I learned there were also variations in phone service. When visiting my grandparents at their rural farm



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.

home, I became aware they did not have a private phone line. Instead, they were participants in a party-line.

This meant there were three neighboring families sharing the same line. Each family had a distinctive ring so they would know if an incoming call was intended for them. My grandparents’ ring was “two longs and a short”, so an incoming call intended for them would sound like this: RINGGGGGGGGG, RINGGGGGGGGG, Ring!

A party line also meant that if you picked up the receiver and one of the other families was engaged in a call, you could hear their conversation. This led to a compilation of interesting memories of my grandmother excusing herself from her chores in the kitchen and easing into the

living room to pick up the receiver of the phone, listening to a conversation not intended for her ears. Some would call her actions eavesdropping. Grandma would call it “just checking.”

I can remember my first phone number, EV5-6282. Many young people may not know that at one time phone numbers had letters and numbers. This was because the letters were a “prefix” which would take the call to a telephone exchange hub where calls would be routed to the proper place. When I was in the fourth grade and my family moved to a different house, technology had improved, and the “prefix” was eliminated. My new phone number became 993-2493.

Long distance was still

a major concern for many years. Heaven only knows how much money I spent in college calling my high school sweetheart who was not located in my calling zone. A three-minute call would cost \$1.95, and this was in 1974 dollars! Not sure if we broke up because of problems with our relationship or the size of the phone bill.

Everyone had a phone directory for frequently called numbers. This was usually a small notebook-like item, which sat under the phone or in the drawer beneath. In it was a compilation of phone numbers one was likely to call at some time in the future. As a backup, there were these humongous books called the White pages and the Yellow pages. They contained the names and addresses of every person in your town who had a phone. It was the source you went to to find a phone number you did not have. Of course, most of us had significant numbers committed to memory, like the phone number of a

best friend, and “time and temperature.”

Now almost everyone has a cell phone, and we are free from the restraints of land lines. Does anyone remember a phone number anymore or do they simply have it stored in the database of their phone and hit speed dial when they want to make a call? Whenever I am filling out paperwork for the doctor, or for some other official reason, I am frequently asked for my wife’s phone number as she is my backup contact person. It is a little embarrassing to be forced to pull out my phone and look at the number in my contacts. I call my wife for one thing or the other, two or three times a day. You would think I would know the number, but I do not. There is no reason to remember it because I use speed dial. I feel certain that if I were hurt in an accident and my phone was lost or destroyed, I would have no idea of what to tell the emergency crew when they asked whom to call, or their number. I am

a prisoner of technology.

Maybe the good outweighs the worst things the technological improvements with phones have affected. It is certainly nice to be able to reach and speak to someone without being tied to a single land line phone attached to the kitchen wall or sitting in the front room. The elimination of long-distance fees is so much more economical, as is the freedom to speak as long as you want without incurring additional costs. On the other hand, there are fond memories of the phone ringing and knowing someone wanted to speak with you so badly they were willing to bear the cost of calling “long distance.” It made you feel special.

Thought for the day: Spoken during a eulogy; “He was such an honest man a fella could shoot dice with him over the telephone.”

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

Springtown to consider spending about \$2.6 million on automated meters, manhole repairs

MADELYN EDWARDS

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SPRINGTOWN — Springtown City Council is poised to decide on spending about \$2.6 million on automated water meters and manhole rehabilitation.

On Sept. 14, the council heard a presentation from Ameresco account executive Chad Nobles, who represented the company that would be hired to replace city meters with automated ones and repair more than 200 manholes. Council members are expected to vote on whether to approve this project at their regular meeting this month.

The city explored this project earlier this year when the council authorized the city administrator to carry out a project development agreement with Ameresco. The city currently uses some water meters that are radio-read with handheld devices, but those devices are becoming obsolete, City Administrator David Miller said in a previous council meeting in April.

Also, the current radio and manual-read meter inventory is inaccurate and has led to a loss of billable charges for water and sewer.

Nobles confirmed that sample testing showed that the meters are inaccurate and causing the city to lose revenue.

“On the low flow side, they were only reading about 75%,” Nobles said during the Sept. 14 workshop. “So, you were losing some revenue. When we do a weighted average, it ends up being about 95% because meters always tend to work pretty well with the high flow side. Contrary to what most folks think, meters typically never speed up, they always slow down, but you are losing some revenue. We project that just the revenue on the 2-inch and below is probably somewhere around \$33,000 a year.”

Meter accuracy is guaranteed, and if the new meters are not reading accurately, Ameresco will either pay the city for the difference or replace all the meters at no cost to the city, Nobles said. The

meters are warrantied for 20 years.

During the workshop, Public Works Director Joseph McCannless said the new automated meters being considered are the same ones used in the city of Azle.

“These meters are top of the line,” McCannless said. “They’re very good meters.”

Miller predicted the city may receive complaints from water customers about their bills being higher after the meter replacement project since the new automated meters will provide more accurate readings.

The difference will be based on how well their meters were reading before, and some customers may only see an increase of a few dollars, Nobles said.

“Most folks won’t notice it because you’re only talking about a small percentage,” Nobles said during the workshop.

In addition to accuracy, the new meters are expected to provide customers with data that will allow them to identify leaks easier, Nobles said.

Water customers will be able to access a portal to see their water usage data and make decisions about conservation and/or get leaks fixed.

“If you have an irrigation system, you’ll know exactly when it goes off, how much water is used and when it shuts back off, but you’ll also be able to identify if you have leaky toilets, and it’s continually running every day,” Nobles said.

Meanwhile, the city’s public works employees won’t have to dedicate so much time to meter reading after the system is automated and will be able to tackle other tasks, Miller said.

“They’ll be able to rededicate a large majority of their time to other issues in public works that need to be addressed, whether that’s park maintenance, pothole maintenance, those type of things, whereas now they spend a great deal of time just on manually reading a lot of meters,” he said.

Repair of the manholes and replacement of the meters is expected to occur simultane-

ously, Miller said in the workshop. The project is expected to be completed by July 2024.

“The advantage to that is twofold,” Miller said. “One, they don’t have to reassemble. They come in in one fell swoop. Each contractor does their thing the whole time. So, it lessens the timeframe of getting this done significantly. In addition to that, we’re able to manage both projects at one time. Ameresco is going to manage the project. We’re going to oversee the project and make sure that everything is being done right. It’s easier to do that all at one time as opposed to going away, then having to come back.”

During the project, residential customers can expect crews to knock on their door before the work has started. Water is usually turned off for 15 minutes on average during this project, Nobles said. If crews notice that water is running inside the home, but no one is answering the door, they will come back to complete the work at another time. Meter replace-

ment for commercial water customers is expected to be scheduled.

Both projects — replacing the meters and fixing the manholes — are expected to cost about \$1.3 million each, Miller said. As opposed to financing, the city plans to pay cash for this work using its capital improvement fund, capital asset fund, economic development fund and leftover American Rescue Plan Act funds. However, the city will have to work on rebuilding its savings funds because they will likely be depleted after the meters and manholes project is paid for.

There are some annual fees associated with the project, but those fees are expected to be less than what the city currently spends on meter reading, Nobles said.

Nobles and Miller said lead/copper piping inventory, which is required by the Environmental Protection Agency and would cost the city hundreds of thousands of dollars, is included in this project at no additional cost.

Letter to the Editor

Longtime reader shows appreciation for Azle reporter Zach Freeman

Dear Mrs. Ware:

I would like to take this opportunity to formally write a letter of recognition and appreciation to one of the fantastic and astute employees who works for your award-winning and prestigious newspaper company in Azle. More specifically, the employee is identified as Mr. Zach Freeman, Reporter. As a former Lodge officer, myself, and 43-year member with the Masonic Lodge # 601 in Azle, I think can speak for the lodge membership about Mr. Freeman’s excellent news reporting and media coverage of Azle Masonic events such as officer installations in July,

and most recently, the cornerstone-laying at the new Hilltop Elementary School on August 5. I can certainly speak with authority of the news article Mr. Freeman wrote in the Aug. 3 edition of the paper, about a ceremony at the VCA Animal Hospital in Lakeside for three ladies receiving the very prestigious Yellow Rose Award from Governor Abbott.

My observation is that Mr. Freeman is extremely well organized, has gained a strong local readership, reports accurate facts and writes in meaningful context, and genuinely has a love of words that qualifies him as a “wordsmith.”

Mr. Freeman possesses the touchstone qualities that set the high bar in standards for employment. He is emblematic of a picture post card in the images of Walter Cronkite and Ernie Pyle, and that other reporters should strive to emulate.

Mrs. Ware, to use a baseball metaphor, with young Zach on your team, he should be called upon to be your clean-up hitter, and will ultimately bring you a World Series Ring. Please pass on my enthusiastic remarks to Mr. Freeman and keep up the terrific journalism.

- TSGT. Joseph L. Bryan, U.S.A.F. Ret.

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CITATIONS 404

WARNINGS 332



25

CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY



31

CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS



39

CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY



32

ACCIDENTS

DWI RELATED: 1

DWI ARRESTS: 12



4,4851

CALLS TAKEN BY DISPATCH

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911 CALLS

70 ARRESTS



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Reno responds to lawsuit regarding public information request

MADELYN EDWARDS

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Man claims city owes him more records and attorney fees; city disagrees

RENO — Reno City Council approved spending \$5,000 for an attorney to represent the city in a lawsuit against a man seeking city council members' emails and text messages, among other records.

However, the city claims the open records request was fulfilled.

Keith Morlock, who owns property in Reno and hopes to move to the city in a few years, filed a lawsuit against the city of Reno in July demanding the city send him documents responding to the Texas Public Information Act request his attorney submitted in late September 2022 and pay more than \$8,000 for his attorney's fees.

Initially, the city did not respond to Morlock's lawsuit, resulting in default judgment. On Sept. 12, the city filed a motion for a new trial, or at least a modified judgment. The city's motion claims the city was not served correctly and that Morlock's attorney did not properly communicate with the city attorney through the court process.

On Sept. 5, Reno City Council approved hiring

George Hyde of the law firm Hyde Kelley to represent the city in the case against Morlock. Mayor Hector Bas, Jr. said Morlock's attorney decided to pursue litigation instead of settling.

"This is \$5,000 that can be spent elsewhere," Bas said. "I am hoping this gets resolved very quickly so we all can move forward. I feel as if my hands are tied and I can't do anything without a lawyer, due to the lawsuit. However, I am open to a resolution to end this misery of (money) just being thrown away."

Before the open records request was filed, Morlock's attorney, Michael Forman, sent a letter to Reno's former mayor, city council and city administrator that accused the council of not following the Texas Open Meetings Act by having conversations outside of public meetings.

Forman's letter also claimed "several" of those addressed made "inappropriate and derogatory statements" about Morlock. Specifically, Morlock said a council member was spreading false information about him, particular-

ly that he is a developer.

"It makes you stand out," Morlock said about the rumors. "It makes people not want you to live in the town."

In response to Forman's letter, Reno city attorney Dorothy Palumbo objected to both allegations by saying in a letter to Forman that the city's officials had not violated the Texas Open Meetings Act and defamatory or harassing behavior had not taken place.

Forman then filed a request under the Texas Public Information Act for 13 types of records, mainly from 2022. This included communication between Reno officials related to Morlock, the appointment and removal of Planning and Zoning Commission members, the installment of former council member Jody Works and other communication of public business or policy. Morlock's attorney also requested evidence that officials had been trained on the Public Information Act and Texas Open Meetings Act.

Morlock believes that certain city council members acted improperly by talking

about city business outside of public meetings. He said he received alleged proof of this from another resident and wanted to find more evidence.

"That's the reason I was requesting more information because this individual said, 'Hey, I requested this and this is the tip of the iceberg,'" Morlock said. "Part of it was, the council was trying to run off the P&Z members and the Water Task Force that I think are essential to making Reno a secure city for all residents, and I wanted the information showing that they were doing this above and beyond what this person gave me."

In addition, Morlock also confirmed that he was trying to find evidence of the council members spreading harmful or false information about him through the records request.

Instead of immediately releasing these documents, Palumbo sought the attorney general's opinion in October 2022 on whether to disclose the requested records. In January, the Texas Attorney General's Office ruled that the information should be

released, though some parts regarding confidential information should be redacted.

On Feb. 2, Palumbo's legal assistant wrote a letter to Forman saying that the cost of electronic copies of the requested documents would be just over \$1,000, which includes about 60 hours of labor to gather and prepare the documents as well as overhead charges. The letter also stated that a deposit of \$540 would be needed before the work to assemble the documents was started.

Furthermore, the city's motion for a new trial claimed that 7,834 e-mails with attachments aligned with the records request.

Morlock confirmed that he did pay the deposit and said it was a fair price.

"If it truly was going to take as long as they said and it was as much as they said, I was OK with that," he said. "In my mind, the \$1,000 was worth it on behalf of the city of Reno and the residents to root out the corruption, to root out why things haven't been fixed."

Then on March 17, Palumbo wrote to Forman and said the

information requested was being gathered.

"Given the amount of information, additional time is needed," Palumbo said in her letter.

Morlock filed his lawsuit after months of not receiving all the requested information.

"No one wants to spend their time or money doing this. We all have better things to do," he said. "You're not supposed to need lawsuits for these information requests."

Since then, Morlock said he's only gotten about 20% of the records he requested from the city. He said he has received a couple hundred pages of email chains, meeting agendas and minutes.

The city's motion claims that Morlock's attorney was sent the records responding to the Public Information Act request on July 26, shortly after the lawsuit was served.

Morlock said the next step is for his attorney to respond to the city's motion for a new trial that the ruling shouldn't be overturned.

FEMALE

FROM PAGE A1

tive is good," she said. "I was a little intimidated at the fact that I was the only girl, but then I thought I'm not afraid to speak, and I'm not afraid to give my opinion. And the worst thing that can happen is they don't want me to be here, and I'll step down. I'm

not trying to run the show."

Blair was able to get a taste of serving on P&Z before being sworn in when she sat in on the P&Z's tree preservation workshop at the end of August, a subject she has interest in. She remembered how many acres of land near Cardinal Road was cleared of its trees.

"There's big bulldozers coming out there taking

down oak trees that were huge, big, beautiful trees, and just clearing them like they were nothing," Blair said after the workshop. "So, whenever they asked me if I would be interested (in joining P&Z), I thought if for nothing else, if we can just save what we have. I don't see Reno — and I could be wrong — but I don't see Reno as the next booming little community. I hope

that it stays rural. But we're not going to be able to stay rural if we try to enforce rules like Keller, and so I thought maybe I can help."

One of Blair's goals on P&Z is to see neighborhoods get cleaned up. She described some areas of Reno as neglected with no fire hydrants, grass that hasn't been mowed and junk cars in the yard.

"We moved out here because we wanted our kids to grow up in the country," Blair said. "We wanted our son to be able to walk down to the creek and go fishing, and my kid to be able to play with the neighbors and they got that beautiful life, playing with so many children in that new neighborhood there, and it was totally unrestricted, which was great for

the first few years. And then when the original homeowners started renting or moved and sold or whatnot, they lost their goal."

Blair also said she would like to see a community in Reno where people care about each other.

"I want things to get better," she said. "I want things to go back to 'Little House on the Prairie.'"

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Reno P&Z discusses potential tree preservation rules in workshop

P&Z hopes to prevent clear cutting of trees for development

MADELYN EDWARDS
springtownreporter@tricityreporter.com

RENO — Reno Planning and Zoning Commission wants to impose rules regarding cutting down trees without limiting the freedoms of homeowners.

Reno City Council tasked the P&Z with considering an ordinance that is aimed at limiting developers from clear cutting large numbers of trees. The city currently doesn't have such an ordinance.

The P&Z tackled this topic at a workshop on Aug. 29

where members reviewed sections of a draft ordinance. Members questioned and discussed how a tree preservation ordinance would be enforced, who the ordinance would apply to and which trees would be protected.

"Let's say somebody buys a 60-acre lot. Before they figure out where they're going to build the places, they don't go land clearing," Interim City Secretary Rebekka Roberts said during the workshop. "I think that's what the main goal is here."

P&Z members questioned how an ordinance would affect homeowners who want

to build more houses on their land or use their land for agricultural purposes.

"As long as it's the developer's property and he is the one developing it, I think it'll be easier to enforce on the developer," P&Z Chairperson Kevin Vandenberg said after the workshop. "But once he builds the house and he sells the property, the new homeowner that comes in, that's now going to be their home- stead. So even based on the ordinance, the way they've got the draft ordinance, they would no longer be beholden to a tree ordinance because they would be exempt be-

cause that's part of the exceptions to the rule."

Vandenberg added that developers may still adopt deed restrictions for homeowners, but it's not the city's job to enforce those rules.

Toward the end of the workshop, P&Z member Charles Hale asked whether an ordinance is needed at all and suggested that tree preservation rules be communicated to developers who seek permits. Vandenberg added that perhaps these rules should be added to the developer's agreement.

"We're trying to stop development from stripping the

land," P&Z member Diane Blair said. "We're not trying to stop your neighbor from cutting down some trees for firewood."

After the workshop, Vandenberg said he was concerned that if an ordinance was adopted, current residents would misinterpret it as a rule against them, even though they would be exempt.

"We want the homeowners to maintain as many rights as possible," he said.

Vandenberg said another workshop on tree preservation would be scheduled.

"We're not done," he said.

"This is going to be a long road."

Overall, Vandenberg described the P&Z's first tree preservation workshop as a success.

"We work well together," he said of his fellow P&Z members. "You saw the differing opinions across the board, and that's always a good thing because you don't want everybody to agree on everything. I think we made good headway, and I think that we're going to be on a better path once we put it in a developer's agreement instead of putting it into a city ordinance."

WATER

FROM PAGE A1

needed replacement parts were not available from the original source in Dallas, so the part had to be ordered from the manufacturer in Salt Lake City, Utah. Water pressure was reduced to prevent blowing out another filter and the facility could only produce clean water at half the usual volume.

Zebra mussels are a common invasive freshwater mollusk that cost the U.S. economy as much as \$1.5 billion in damages and delays every year according to ecological studies funded by the Belmont Forum.

After delays in receiving the part and a lack of communication from the manufacturer, the estimated timeline for the parts to be installed was extended... and extended. CWSC has since received all the necessary parts, but other obstacles have continued to create delays. Because of low water levels, large amounts of algae blocking the screens and high turbidity, technicians have made the decision to not install the parts. The facility's water storage tanks do not currently hold enough water to supply customers if the plant was shut down to make the repairs, the notice claims.

During this shortage, the neighboring Walnut Creek

SUD has not been able to supply much additional water due to their own rationing.

CWSC has cited several causes for the extent that water has been depleted. Drought, co-op members not adhering to rationing rules and fiber optic companies causing water main breaks, are among the listed causes.

"The plant operators can tell when a break happens as the tank levels begin to drop," the notice stated.

Despite any worries of quality, water produced by the facility has passed all health and safety requirements and no boil water notice has been issued.

According to a Sept.

15 report from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Community Water Supply Corporation serves a population of 4,629 people. The same commission calculated the CWSC's boundaries to have a population of 4,092 people just two months prior. Rapid growth in Azle has been a constant factor for many years. Bordering areas where housing may be less expensive, like Briar, have also seen no shortage of new developments.

"If they're not doing anything about it, you call the national guard," customer and Briar resident Audrey Keeton said. "It's a lot of people.

Another thing is, if you have developers that are building in our area and they're using water, the municipality has to stop any kind of growth right now. If Community Water can't serve its current customers, then how can it serve new ones? The fact they have to manufacture the part, it's that old."

While the company cannot legally refuse service to anyone in CWSC territory, they have instead stipulated that any request for additional service on an existing meter or service on a new meter will be subject to a review by their engineer at the expense of the requester.

Due to these recent short-

ages, Azle ISD has not been able to access additional water supplies for landscaping the grounds of the recently opened Hilltop Elementary, Superintendent Todd Smith said in a recent school board meeting.

With rains picking up this last week, the corporation and its users hope this long summer of problems will finally come to an end. The D-FW area has received about 0.31 inches of rain in the several days that we've had rain in September, as of Friday. Comparatively, the same area only received about 1.25 inches of rain from June to August of 2023 according to local news sources.

Spotlight on BUSINESS

SEPTEMBER



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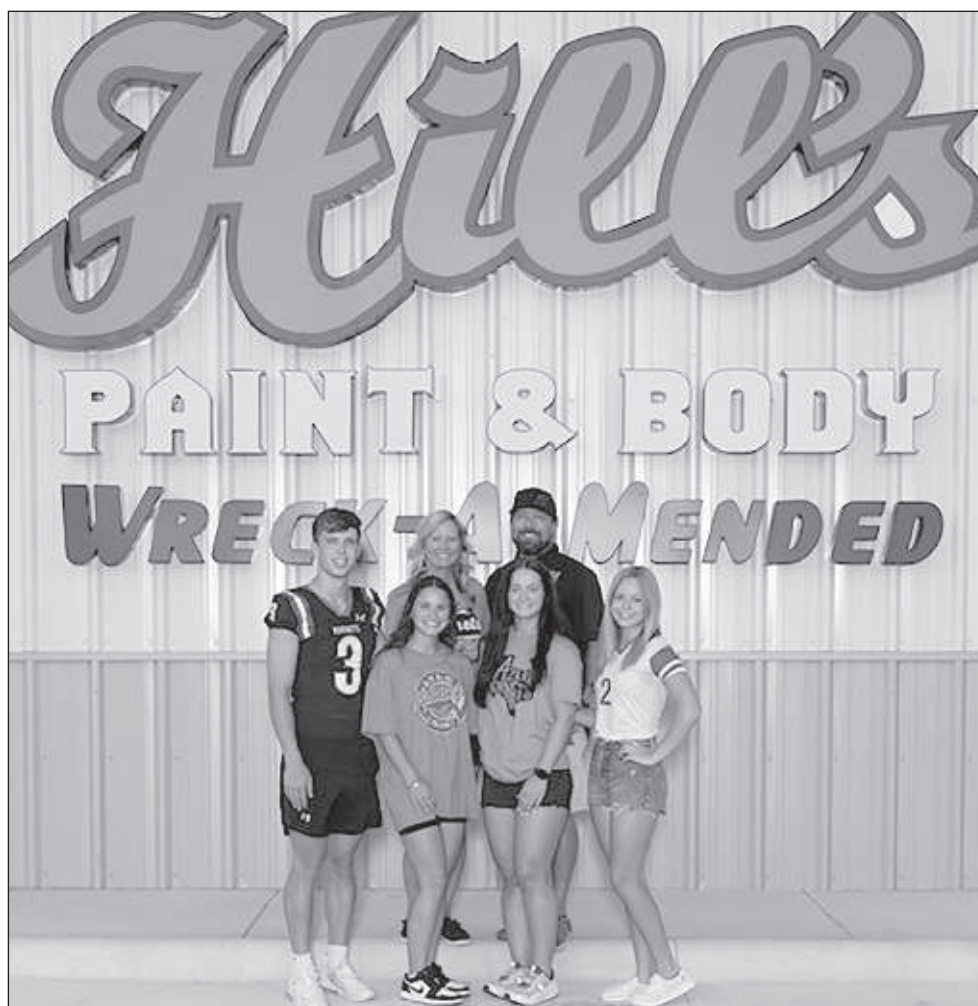
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OBITUARIES

CALENDAR

Sept 22-Oct 7

Delila McPherson 1934-2023

Thomas Rollins 1947-2023

Delila Mattox McPherson of Azle, Texas went to be with her Lord and Savior on Sept. 8, 2023 surrounded by her loving family.



Delila was a member of Ash Creek Baptist Church where she was active in her Sunday School class and faithfully participated on the prayer ministry team for many years.

Delila was a devoted daughter, wife, mother, Mimi and friend. She was cherished by those who knew her for her sense of humor, love of adventure, creative gifts and faithful love for family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Flora and Ellis Mattox; sisters Doris Willis, Linda Packer and Brenda Clunn; and her son-in-law Daryl Davis.

She is survived by her husband Ray McPherson Jr.; daughters Tami Davis and Donna McElroy and husband James; grandchildren Caleb McElroy and wife Lindsey, Lindsey Womack and husband Jed, Eric McElroy and wife Melody and Sydney Davis. She is also survived by nine great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday Sept 21, 2023

Thomas "Tommy" R. Rollins of Azle, Texas, peacefully left this world on Friday, August 5, 2023, in the early morning of his 76th birthday. He was greeted at the pearly gates by a host of discordant angels singing a rousing Rollins' rendition of "Happy Birthday to You."

A celebration of life will be held September 28, 2023, at 11 a.m. in Eagle Mountain Baptist Church, 8780 Eagle Mountain Cir., Fort Worth, Texas, 76135. Military funeral honors ceremony will be held September 29, 2023, at 11:15 a.m. in Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery, 2000 Mountain Creek Pkwy, Dallas, Texas, 75211.

Tommy is survived by his high school sweetheart and wife, Andra Rollins; two sons, Chad (Masha Barkalova) Rollins and Jeremy (Melissa Podwats) Rollins; grandchild-



dren, Isabella Rollins, Dmitry and Maksim Duniphin, and Lacey Podwats; brother James (Sharon) Rollins Jr.; Nieces, Terrie, Tammie, and Tonie, along with their families that lovingly called him "Uncle Tom"; and his beloved yorkie Bink.

The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday Sept 21, 2023

Christopher Zachary 1955-2023

Christopher "Chris" Austin Zachary, 68, of Springtown, Texas, passed away in his home Sept. 11, 2023.

There are no formal plans for a memorial at this time; however, friends and family are encouraged to celebrate the life and memory of Chris as they choose.

Chris was born to loving parents James and Betty Zachary on September 7, 1955.

He is survived by his wife Glenda; son Levi Zachary; daughter Skyelar Zachary; and stepsons Aaron, Clinton, and Cheston Carlisle; as well as many beloved siblings, nieces, nephews, and extended family.



Chris was a wonderful man, a great father, and good friend. He will be missed by many.

The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday Sept 21, 2023

TO SUBMIT CALENDAR ITEMS

The community calendar is a free listing in the Tri-County Reporter to inform readers of programs, special meetings, and nonprofit events. The event should be open to the public and free to attend. Information should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event for consideration.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

STORY AND CRAFT TIME at Springtown Public Library at 10:30 a.m. Join the librarians for stories and crafts every Friday.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

FALL BOOK SALE at Springtown Courthouse Annex from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Treat yourselves to an all-you-can-read book buffet. Bring your own bag and take advantage of the \$5 Fill a Bag sale.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

AZLE HOMECOMING PARADE starts at 6 p.m. on Main Street in Azle. Join the community in celebrating this year's Azle Hornets Homecoming celebration with floats, Marching Green Pride, and more.

PLASTIC BAG EXCHANGE at Azle Memorial Library from 1-3 p.m. in the lobby. Bring 10 or more plastic shopping bags to be recycled and receive a free reusable tote.

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

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

TODDLER TOON TIME at Springtown Public Library at 10:30 a.m. Join the librarians for songs, rhymes, play and more.

TEEN BOOK CLUB at Springtown Public Library at 6:30 p.m. Teens come together to discuss "Reimaginings of Old Fairy Tale Classics".

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

TODDLER STORYTIME at Azle Memorial Library at 10:30 a.m. Join the librarians for songs, rhymes, play and more.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

FALL BOOK PAGE BANNER for adults at Azle Memorial Library at 6 p.m. Create a beautiful banner for fall. All materials provided. Space is limited so registration is required.

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.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

STORY AND CRAFT TIME at Springtown Public Library at 10:30 a.m. Join the librarians for stories and crafts every Friday.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT at Azle Central Park from 6-8 p.m. Join Azle first responders for this free community event with family-friendly activities, food and drinks.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT at Reno City Hall. Join Reno PD and Briar-Reno Fire Department for family fun, food and drinks.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT at Springtown Park Newby Pavilion. Join Springtown PD for food, drinks and family fun.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5

CONSTELLATION CROSS-STITCH for teens and tweens 12-18 at Azle Memorial Library at 6 p.m. Learn about constellations while creating a piece of art. All materials provided.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7

STORY AND CRAFT TIME at Springtown Public Library at 10:30 a.m. Join the librarians for stories and crafts every Friday.

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

Royal Porcupines

SHS homecoming queen candidates, court announced



SHS's homecoming court also includes, from left, Sophomore Duchess Kallie Conway, Freshman Lady Kayden Spencer and Junior Princess Emma Moore.



COURTESY PHOTOS

During Friday's football game, Springtown High School will crown its 2023 homecoming queen. Pictured are the eight seniors who are candidates for the crown. In the front row from left are Chloe Kirk, Paige Winstead, Megan Ly and Kate Mitchell. In the second row from left is Allison Ford, Allison Kimball, Lanee McDonald and Lilly Siegel.

Azle celebrates National Senior Center Month

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricityreporter.com

AZLE — At an Azle City Council meeting on Sept. 5, Mayor Alan Brundrett presented Jackie "JJ" Joy, director of the Adult Activity Center, (formerly known as the Azle Senior Center before Meals on Wheels took over operations) with a proclamation celebrating the center's work.

Harvey Copass, treasurer of the Adult Activity Center Treasurer, appeared with Joy to accept the proclamation. Along with his wife, Kathy, Copass has been a volunteer with the center for several years. The couple worked to hand out groceries before the center closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and oversaw the distribution of meals during the pandemic.

Along with the National Council on Aging and Tarrant County, the City of Azle has recognized September as National Senior Center Month.

In the proclamation deliv-

The Azle City Council recognized representatives of the center in recent meeting

ered by Mayor Brundrett, the city council called on the citizens of Azle to recognize the outstanding work and benefit that the Adult Activity Center has provided for the community.

"(The Adult Activity Center and Meals on Wheels have) acted as a catalyst for vocalizing the creativity, energy, vitality and identity of the older residents of Azle," the proclamation stated.

As of July 21, Joy has been director of the Adult Activity Center for seven years. The center saw a decline in attendance post-COVID but has seen growing success recently.

"Our numbers are coming up slowly, but they are coming up," Joy said.

During the meeting, Joy emphasized that free boxes

of produce will be given to those who eat at the senior center four times prior to the day that meals are ordered. Joy also expressed interest in promoting a local project promoting Texas A&M's AgriLife Extension's Walk Across Texas event. Walk Across Texas is an eight-week walking challenge designed to help Texans be more active and establish the habit of regular physical activity.

"I appreciate the city council for their continued support for our center," Joy said. "Most people do not know Meals on Wheels is contracted with the city to operate the center. We have a long-standing partnership dating back to our 1986 inception. We are a vital part of the community serving the senior population."



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Azle Mayor Alan Brundrett presents a proclamation recognizing September as National Senior Center month to Jackie Joy and Harvey Copass.

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Azle City Council meeting Sept. 5

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

AZLE — A number of important issues were discussed during the Sept. 5 Azle City Council meeting.

PARKS BOARD CONTENT WITH IMPROVEMENTS AND QUALITY OF PARKS

The parks board made its annual presentation to the city council.

"On behalf of the parks board, I'd really like to thank you guys for upgrading our parks and recreation areas in our town," John Ward, Parks Board Place 2 said "There've been really good upgrades and I know it's been expensive. You guys have really made some big-time purchases and construction projects that are really nice. The splash pad obviously is a big hit."

Ward talked about adding umbrellas to the area, improving sidewalks in the future and how the resurfaced basketball and tennis courts are being well-utilized by the community.

"There's tons of kids out there all the time," Ward said. "Those things are really things that make our town pop. I really haven't seen (another city park) that compares."

BOARD MEMBER APPOINTED FOR ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS

Rick Simmons, a member of both the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Vision

Parks, dealing with dead deer, services for the elderly and more were discussed during this month's first city council meeting



Rick Simmons, after he was appointed to Place 6 in the Zoning Board of Adjustments.

Committee, was appointed to Place 6 as an alternate for the Zoning Board of Adjustment. Simmons explained that Mayor Pro Tem Randa Goode urged him to take up the seat in order to utilize his education and experience to help improve or maintain the current infrastructure and quality of life in Azle. Simmons has considerable experience and is a retired civil/structural engineer. While living in Tupelo, Mississippi, Simmons worked for the Community Development Foundation.

"I'd like to volunteer my services to the committee if the mayor and council would like me to," Simmons said.

"Just like the other committees I'm on, I'll utilize my knowledge and background to do the best I can for the city of Azle and make it a better place."

STATE LAW ON BUILDING INSPECTIONS

Despite changes from the Texas Legislature, the City of Azle is still committed to making sure its new developments are safe, stable and built with the community's best interests in mind, according to Public Services Director Rick White. White explained that a new law mandates that inspections for new developments must now be conducted by an engineer who is to be paid hourly. In the past, the city conducted inspections for a 4% fee. City officials suspect this change will be more expensive for developers. Regardless, the city wants to continue spot-checking to ensure things are done right.

"If there's an issue, we're going to look at it," White said. "We don't want to see them stranded, and also because after that two-year maintenance bond, we're the ones that have to deal with it. It's in our best interest to make sure it's built properly."

RIDES FOR ELDERLY CONTINUE

Since 2004, the City of Azle has participated in an interlocal agreement with Trinity Metro to provide transportation for qualifying elderly and persons with disabilities from anywhere inside the city limits to Tarrant County for \$2.50 one way. During a recent meeting, City Council members unanimously agreed to renew this agreement for the next year. Azle residents have guaranteed space on Mondays. Service on other days is based on availability. From October 2022 through July 2023, Azle had 667 riders.

"(In the past) the most riders we had was on average probably 200 in a year," said Susie Hiles, assistant to the city manager. "I'm pleased people are using it now. We don't pay a lot for this, but we do pay it every year. It did not get utilized like I feel that it could have been."

The service is available from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. excluding holidays and weekends. To schedule a ride, call 817-336-8714.

DECEASED DEER REMOVAL

Mayor Pro Tem Randa Goode made the council aware of a 70-year-old woman who lives at the cor-

ner of Kimbrough Road and Stone Eagle who had recently faced a recurring issue in the city. A deer was hit by a car, wandered onto the woman's property and died. The woman, not able to remove the animal herself, was surprised when Azle Animal Control officers said they were unable to assist. Goode requested that the removal of dead deer become the responsibility of Azle Animal Control.

Police Chief Ben Hall explained the refusal to remove such a carcass is an issue of worker safety. "I just don't know that we can expect animal control to tackle a 100-pound deer that has been brought in from different parts of different yards. When it comes to removing dead animals from private property it can be quite a task."

Currently, Azle Animal Control will only remove dead deer if they are brought to the side of a public road or right-of-way. Living or injured animals can be removed by animal control. Hall and Animal Control Supervisor Jessie Williams described a number of difficulties in handling this issue. In the recent past, dead deer brought to the Azle Animal Shelter's dumpsters have introduced

tick infestations at the kennel. Williams is one of three animal control officers employed by the city. Without mechanical assistance, which may be difficult to maneuver or cause damage to private property, Williams does not believe Azle Animal Control has the manpower or resources to remove large dead animals from residences.

Chief Hall mentioned that many companies offer waste disposal services for dead animals. Some council members expressed their thoughts that private citizens should not be financially responsible for wild deer that happen to die on their property.

"It's not that little old lady's responsibility to have to pay for the deer that happened to die in her yard," Mayor Brundrett said.

Texas Parks and Wildlife have a similar policy of not removing dead deer from private property. For more information, read "Dealing with deceased wildlife" from a July edition of the Tri-County Reporter.

The City of Azle is now considering the cost and viability of contracting the services of private entities to help residents remove the carcasses of deer from private property for future discussion.



Azle Optimists celebrate students

The Optimist Club of Azle recognized Azle High School senior Anna Preston as Young Tex-Anne of the month at its Sept. 15 meeting. Dakota Brewton was named the Young Texan for the month of September but was unable to attend. He will be recognized at a future meeting of the club.

Preston is ranked number two in the senior class. She is interested in pursuing a business and finance degree at Stephen F. Austin State University, but is also considering Texas A&M University,

University of Texas Austin, and Texas Tech University. Preston hopes to one day become a chief financial officer.

One of her greatest academic strengths is her ability to be autonomous, needing little direction from her parents to stay on top of her schoolwork, Preston says.

She has been a member of National Honor Society, Interact, Student Council, and the Environmental Club, and was chosen to participate in the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards camp.

JESSICA MCKINNEY | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Azle High School Principal Nate Driver, Anna Preston, and Optimist Club President Josh Reed.

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Worship in the park

Azle teens meet in Central Park to sing and pray on Saturday nights

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricityreporter.com

AZLE — Every third Saturday for the last two months, Alan Hard, an Azle High School senior and Homecoming Court member, had led a music-centered worship service in Azle's Central Park.

"Worship in the park was an idea I had about a year ago and through personal issues and lack of planning it just never came to light," Hard said. "But at the beginning of the school year one of my friends, Cienna Feldman, suggested I do it and so I did. My role in all of this is to pick songs and lead worship for those who show up by playing my guitar and singing the songs for that night."

Hard said the main goal for worship in the park is to create a welcoming environment for anyone who is looking for a relationship with God.

"We want anyone who wants to worship to come down and do it, we don't care about age or where you're

from, we just want the people who show up to feel comfortable to praise God," Hard said. "I feel great knowing I am helping lead others in praising our Father. It gives me joy to be able to see the impact I am making for the kingdom of God. What I have gained is a better understanding of how to lead worship and how to help the crowd feel the presence of God. It has also given me a better confidence in my musical ability."

About 45 people attended the first meeting, according to Hard. The second held about 80 and Hard hopes that after Sept. 23 at least 100 people will consistently show up for monthly worship.

The event consists of a welcome and introduction, then Hard leads a prayer before the first three songs. A 10-to-15-minute lesson is held between the first three songs and the last three and then Hard closes out with a prayer group.

"I think what may make this more attractive is that it



Hard in front of the others who showed up to worship at the most recent event.

COURTESY WORSHIP IN THE PARK

is mostly music, and for a lot of people that is the best part of church," Hard said. "We don't intend at all for this to replace church for anyone, but we do want people to attend so they can open their heart up to God and be more vulnerable to him."

More information can

be found on the group's Instagram page @worshipinthepark. Hard plans to post any updates about songs, changes of dates, lyrics, Bible verses, as well as reminders and memes from this profile. As of now, the plan set by the group is to meet every third Saturday of the

month, with the next worship service planned for Sept. 23 at 7:45p.m. Hard encourages those attending to invite others.

"EVERYONE is welcome, young and old. We do not care we just want people to worship," Hard said. "It may be intimidating for people

of other ages because this is mostly teenagers, but everyone is welcome... Don't be afraid to come just because there is no one you know there. If there is any environment to go where you know no one it's a place like this, and you are more than welcome to come."



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Azle School Menu Sept 25-29, 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 Mini Pancakes, Fresh Apples **Tues** Breakfast on a stick, Orange Craisins **Weds** Egg & Cheese Biscuit, Fresh Apples
Thurs Cinnamon Toast Crunch Cereal Bowl, w/ Graham Cracker, Oranges **Fri** Breakfast Pizza, Fresh Apples

LUNCH: Everyday - Variety of milk. Your choice of 1 entree & 1 fruit or juice
Mon Popcorn chicken w/ roll Mac n Cheese w/ garlic breadstick Green beans Peaches, Fresh Oranges **Tues** Chicken Quesadilla
 Breaded Chicken Sandwich Pinto Beans Salsa Pears & Fresh Apples **Weds** Chicken Nuggets w/ Roll Fish sticks w/ Roll Mashed
 Potatoes & Gravy Green beans Pineapples, Fresh Oranges **Thurs** Corndog Cheese nachos Steamed Carrots Applesauce & Fresh
 Bananas **Fri** Cheese OR Pepperoni Pizza Sun butter & Jelly Sandwich Crinkle Fries Pinto Beans Mixed Fruit, Fresh Apples

GRADES 5TH - 8TH

BREAKFAST: Everyday - Assorted Fruits and Cereal, Juice, White or Chocolate Milk, Yogurt w/Granola
Mon Egg & Cheese Taco, Pears **Tues** Dutch Waffle, Pineapple **Weds** Pancakes & Sausage Patty, Fresh Oranges
Thurs Biscuit & Gravy, Applesauce **Fri** Breakfast Pizza, Fresh Apples

LUNCH: Everyday: Variety of milk. Your choice of 1 entree & 1 fruit or juice, rolls, crackers • Salad bar offered daily
Mon Popcorn chicken w/ roll Mac n Cheese w/ garlic breadstick Green beans Peaches, Fresh Oranges **Tues** Chicken Quesadilla
 Breaded Chicken Sandwich Pinto Beans Salsa Pears & Fresh Apples **Weds** Chicken Nuggets w/ Roll Fish sticks w/ Roll Mashed
 Potatoes & Gravy Green beans Pineapples, Fresh Oranges **Thurs** Corndog Cheese nachos Steamed Carrots Applesauce & Fresh
 Bananas **Fri** Cheese OR Pepperoni Pizza Sun butter & Jelly Sandwich Crinkle Fries Pinto Beans Mixed Fruit, Fresh Apples

HIGH SCHOOL



BREAKFAST: Everyday - Assorted Fruits and Cereal, Juice, White or Chocolate Milk, Yogurt w/Granola
Mon Egg & Cheese Taco Pears **Tues** Dutch Waffles Pineapple **Weds** Pancakes Sausage Patties Fresh Oranges
Thurs Biscuit & Gravy Applesauce **Fri** Breakfast Pizza Fresh Apples

LUNCH: • Everyday: 1% unflavored or non fat chocolate milk & juice • Salad Bar
Mon Chicken Nuggets w/ Roll, Breaded Chicken Sandwich, Spicy Chicken Sandwich, Cheese Pizza OR Pepperoni Pizza, Chicken
 Quesadillas, Orange Chicken & Rice w/ Roll, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy **Tues** Max Sticks w/ marinara, Breaded Chicken Sandwich,
 Spicy Chicken Sandwich, Cheese Pizza OR Pepperoni Pizza, Nachos, Sweet & Sour Chicken w/ Noodles, Corn, Crinkle Fries
Weds Chicken & Waffles w/ syrup, Breaded Chicken Sandwich, Spicy Chicken Sandwich, Cheese Pizza OR Pepperoni Pizza,
 Chicken & Cheese Crispos, w/ cheese sauce, Chicken Fried Rice w/ Chicken Egg roll, Hash browns **Thurs** Chicken Alfredo w/
 garlic stick, Breaded Chicken Sandwich, Spicy Chicken Sandwich, Cheese Pizza OR Pepperoni Pizza, Nachos, Tso Chicken w/
 noodles **Fri** Fish Sticks w/ Roll, Breaded Chicken Sandwich, Spicy Chicken Sandwich, Cheese Pizza OR Pepperoni Pizza, Cheese
 Enchiladas, Chicken Fried Rice w/ Chicken Egg Roll, Mixed Vegetables, Refried Beans

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Texas Employment reached historic highs in August

STAFF REPORTS

After continued growth through the month of August, Texas has once again set new records for the number of jobs, number of people employed, and size of the civilian labor force.

"Texas continues to grow jobs at a faster rate than the nation thanks to our welcoming business climate, our hardworking entrepreneurs, and the strength of our young, skilled, diverse, and growing workforce," said Governor Greg Abbott. "In Texas, we want businesses to succeed. When businesses succeed, Texans succeed. We see the impact of that pro-growth model month after month. More Texans are working than ever before, and we continue to break all previous records for total

jobs and total labor force. The significant investments we are making today in education, innovation, infrastructure, and workforce development will build an even stronger Texas of tomorrow."

Total nonfarm employment increased by 16,700 positions over the month to reach a 23rd consecutive series-high level with 13,979,100 jobs and a 30th consecutive month of growth. Since August 2022, Lone Star State employment grew by 402,000 positions and continued to outpace the nation in the rate of annual employment growth.

The number of employed persons grew by another 24,300 people over the month, raising the new record high to 14,489,000. The Texas seasonally adjusted civilian

labor force grew over the month by another 33,500 people, raising the total to 15,111,900 and marking another record high for the state. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held at 4.1% in August, marking the fourth month at that rate.

"After 30 straight months of job growth, the number of employed Texans has reached more than 14.4 million," TWC Chairman Bryan Daniel said. "TWC supports the state's continued economic growth through programs like Jobs and Education for Texans and the Skills Development Fund, that help upskill the Texas workforce to meet employer demand."

Leisure and Hospitality saw significant growth over

the month with 9,100 jobs added. Another 5,000 jobs were added in Other Services, while Financial Activities gained 3,300 positions. Over the year, the job market grew faster in Texas than the U.S. in industries such as Mining and Logging and Financial Activities, which outpaced national growth rates by 3.9 and 3.0 percentage points, respectively. Other Services also grew 2.7 points faster in Texas than nationally over the year.

"Our world-class Texas workforce has grown by more than 400,000 jobs over the last year, thanks largely to the energizing job creation by our private-sector employers," said TWC Commissioner Aaron Demerson. "This continued growth highlights

TWC's unwavering commitment to fostering collaboration and building partnerships with Texas employers across the state."

The Midland Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) maintained the lowest unemployment rate among Texas MSAs with a not seasonally adjusted rate of 2.8% in August, followed by Amarillo at 3.6%, College Station-Bryan at 3.8%, and Odessa at 3.8%. Abilene, Austin-Round Rock, and Lubbock were each at 3.9% through August. The Midland MSA civilian labor force grew the fastest in the state at 5.5% in August. The civilian labor force in Dallas-Fort Worth grew by 4.6%, adding more than 195,000 people and representing 40% of all MSA growth over-the-year.

"We continue to strength-

en the Texas civilian labor force with career pathways through apprenticeship, internship and second chance hiring," said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Alberto Treviño III. "TWC empowers economic growth with services such as quality childcare and early learning, technical training, vocational rehabilitation, and job finding resources."

Employment estimates released by TWC are produced in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). *All estimates are subject to revision. To access this and more employment data, visit TexasLMI.com.

Healthy habits to help protect against flu

STAFF REPORTS

The single best way to reduce the risk of seasonal flu and its potentially serious complications is to get vaccinated each year, but good health habits like avoiding people who are sick, covering your cough and washing your hands often can help stop the spread of germs and prevent respiratory illnesses like flu. There also are flu antiviral drugs that can be used to treat and prevent flu.

The tips and resources below will help you learn about actions you can take to protect yourself and others from flu and help stop the spread of germs.

Avoid close contact.

Avoid close contact with people who are sick. When

you are sick, keep your distance from others to protect them from getting sick too.

Stay home when you are sick.

If possible, stay home from work, school, and errands when you are sick. This will help prevent spreading your illness to others.

Cover your mouth and nose.

Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. It may prevent those around you from getting sick. Flu viruses spread mainly by droplets made when people with flu cough, sneeze or talk.

Clean your hands.

Washing your hands often will help protect you from germs. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-

based hand rub.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.

Germs can be spread when a person touches something that is contaminated with germs and then touches his or her eyes, nose, or mouth.

Practice other good health habits.

Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at home, work or school, especially when someone is ill. Get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids, and eat nutritious food.

PREVENTING FLU AT WORK AND SCHOOL

At School
Find out about plans your

child's school, childcare program, and/or college has if an outbreak of flu or another illness occurs and whether flu vaccinations are offered on-site.

Make sure your child's school, childcare program, and/or college routinely cleans frequently touched objects and surfaces, and that they have a good supply of tissues, soap, paper towels, alcohol-based hand rubs, and disposable wipes on-site.

Ask how sick students and staff are separated from others and who will care for them until they can go home, and about the absentee policy for sick students and staff.

At Work

Find out about your employer's plans if an outbreak of flu or another illness occurs and whether flu vaccinations are offered on-site.

Routinely clean frequently touched objects and surfaces, including doorknobs, keyboards, and phones, to help remove germs.

Make sure your workplace has an adequate supply of tissues, soap, paper towels, alcohol-based hand rubs, and disposable wipes.

Train others in how to do your job so they can cover for you in case you or a family member gets sick and you have to stay home.

If you begin to feel sick while at work, go home as soon as possible.

UPCOMING ROAD CLOSURE IN AZLE

Tarrant County begins the process of reclaiming Wells Burnett Road in Azle starting on Sept. 18. The road will be closed between W. Columbia Dr. and Beverly Rd. from 6:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday. The estimated completion date is Oct. 5. Hanger Cut-Off is to be used as an alternate route. For any questions, contact the Azle Street Department at 817-444-4511.

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Clint Hall - Treasurer

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Plastic bag exchange set

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricityreporter.com

AZLE — On Sept. 25, the Azle Memorial Library, along with city of Azle's Storm Water Management Department, will host a plastic bag exchange in the library's foyer. Residents who turn in 10 or more plastic bags will receive a reusable tote bag made from recycled materials bought by the City of Azle.

Disposable plastic bags wash away with the rain and can clog gutters, culverts and storm drains. This can cause water and sewage to overflow, becoming a breeding ground for disease-causing germs, bacteria and insects — like mosquitoes — along with worsening bank erosion according to sources provided by the city's storm water manager, Jimmy Duvall.

In the environment, plastic bags can take hundreds

City asks residents to bring plastic bags to library Sept. 25

of years to degrade and, in the meantime, break down into toxic microplastics that contaminate the soil and waterways and enter the food chain when animals accidentally ingest them. Experts suspect that chemicals leached from microplastics can decrease fertility and block hormone production. Chemicals from plastic can also contribute to a number of cancers and other diseases, according to the same sources.

Future generations may look at microplastics the way we now look at leaded gasoline or asbestos.

"If residents in Azle bring at least 10 plastic bags, we'll give them bags that are reusable," Duvall said. "Most of the bags we give out are

made of recycled material and are purchased by the City of Azle, and starting this year, CWD is partnering with (Storm Water Management) and donating bags to give away. This is just an idea we borrowed from other cities up north that are doing the same thing and it has been very well received by residents in Azle. We typically receive a couple hundred plastic bags (at an exchange event)."

This year, the event is only planned for the library, but Duvall hopes to possibly expand out in the future. "Right now, we're only collecting them at the events we have at the library," Duvall said. "We are thinking about trying some different areas."

NOTICE OF DEFAULT AND FORECLOSURE SALE LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that a Notice of Default & Foreclosure Sale was recorded in the Tarrant County Recorder's office. WHEREAS, on October 27, 2005, a certain Deed of Trust was executed by Albertine Washington, as Trustor(s), in favor of as Trustee, Robert. K Fowler and Financial Freedom Senior Funding Corporation, a Subsidiary of IndyMac Bank, F.S.B., as Beneficiary, and was recorded on November 3, 2005, in Instrument Number D205331051 in the Office of the Recorder of Tarrant County, Texas; and

WHEREAS the Deed of Trust was insured by the United States Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (the Secretary) pursuant to the National Housing Act for the purpose of providing single family housing; and

WHEREAS, the Deed of Trust is now owned by the Secretary, pursuant to an assignment dated May 06, 2011, and recorded on May 18, 2011, under D209264535, in the Official Public Records of Tarrant County, TX; and

WHEREAS, the entire amount delinquent as of September 21, 2023 is \$133,448.38 and

WHEREAS, by virtue of this default, the Secretary has declared the entire amount of the indebtedness secured by the Deed of Trust to be immediately due and payable; and

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to powers vested in me by the Single Family Foreclosure Act of 1994, 12 U.S.C. 3751 et seq., by 24 CFR Part 27 subpart B, and by the Secretary's designation of me as Foreclosure Commissioner, recorded on July 12, 2021, in Instrument Number Document Number D221199284 notice is hereby given that, on October 3, 2023 at 10:00 am local time, all real and personal property at or used in connection with the following described premises ("Property"), will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder(s):

EXHIBIT "A" LEGAL DESCRIPTION

LOT 27 & 28, BLOCK 54, OF CHAMBERLINE ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, AN ADDITION TO THE CITY OF FORT WORTH, TARRANT COUNTY, TEXAS, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN VOLUME 63, PAGE 71 OF THE DEED RECORDS OF TARRANT COUNTY, TEXAS.

Commonly Known As: 5824 Geddes Ave, Fort Worth, TX 76107 Permanent Parcel Number: 6970 54 27 20

The sale will be in the west side of the of the 1895 Courthouse located at 100 W. Weatherford St, Fort Worth, TX; OR AS DESIGNATED BY THE COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE OR AS DESIGNATED BY THE COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE. October 3, 2023 at 10:00 am local time The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development will bid an amount to be determined.

There will be no proration of taxes, rents or other income or liabilities, except that the purchaser(s) will pay, at or before closing, his (their) pro-rata share of any real estate taxes that have been paid by the Secretary to the date of the foreclosure sale.

When making their bids, all bidders, except the Secretary, must submit a deposit totaling 10% of the purchase price in the form of a certified check or cashier's check made out to the United States Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. Each oral bid need not be accompanied by a deposit. If the successful bid is oral, a deposit of 10% of the purchase price must be presented before the bidding is closed. The deposit is nonrefundable. The remainder of the purchase price must be delivered within 30 days of the sale or at such other time as the Secretary may determine for good cause shown, time being of the essence. This amount, like the bid deposits, must be delivered in the form of a certified or cashier's check. If the Secretary is the high bidder, he need not pay the bid amount in cash. The successful bidder(s) will pay all conveyancing fees, all real estate and other taxes that are due on or after the date of closing and all other costs associated with the transfer of title. At the conclusion of the sale, the deposits of the unsuccessful bidder(s) will be returned to them.

The Secretary may grant an extension of time within which to deliver the remainder of the payment. All extensions will be for 15-day increments for a fee paid in advance. The extension fee shall be paid in the form of a certified or cashier's check made payable to the United States Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. If the high bidder(s) close(s) the sale prior to the expiration of any extension period, the unused portion of the extension fee shall be applied toward the amount due at closing.

If the high bidder(s) is/are unable to close the sale within the required period, or within any extensions of time granted by the Secretary, the high bidders' deposit will be forfeited, and the Commissioner may, at the direction of the HUD Field Office Representative, offer the Property to the second highest bidder for an amount equal to the highest price offered by that bidder.

There is no right of redemption, or right of possession based upon a right of redemption, in the trustor or others subsequent to a foreclosure completed pursuant to the Act. Therefore, the Foreclosure Commissioner will issue a Deed to the purchaser(s) upon receipt of the entire purchase price in accordance with the terms of the sale as provided herein. HUD does not guarantee that the property will be vacant.

The scheduled foreclosure sale shall be cancelled or adjourned if it is established, by documented written application of the trustor to the Foreclosure Commissioner not less than 3 days before the date of sale, or otherwise, that the default or defaults upon which the foreclosure is based did not exist at the time of service of this notice of default and foreclosure sale, or all amounts due under the Deed of Trust agreement are tendered to the Foreclosure Commissioner, in the form of a certified or cashier's check payable to the United States Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, before public auction of the property is completed.

In the case of a foreclosure involving a monetary default, the amount that must be paid if the Deed of Trust is to be reinstated prior to the scheduled sale is the entire amount of principal and interest which would be due if payments under the Deed of Trust had not been accelerated. In the case of a foreclosure involving a non-monetary default, the amount that must be paid if the Deed of Trust is to be reinstated prior to the scheduled sale is (i) all amounts due under the Deed of Trust agreement (excluding additional amounts which would have been due if Deed of Trust payments had been accelerated); (ii) all amounts of expenditures secured by the Deed of Trust; and (iii) all costs of foreclosure incurred for which payment from the proceeds of foreclosure is provided in 12 U.S.C. 3751, including advertising costs and postage expenses incurred in giving notice, mileage by the most reasonable road distance for posting notices and for the Foreclosure Commissioner's attendance at the sale, reasonable and customary costs incurred for title and lien record searches, the necessary out of pocket costs incurred by the Foreclosure Commissioner for recording documents, a commission for the Foreclosure Commissioner, and all other costs incurred in connection with the foreclosure prior to reinstatement.

Tender of payment by certified or cashier's check or application for cancellation of the foreclosure sale shall be submitted to the address of the Foreclosure Commissioner provided below.

Candace Sissac, Esq,
JAMES E. ALBERTELLI, P.A.
HUD Foreclosure Commissioner
2201 W. Royal Lane, Suite 155 Irving, TX 75063
Phone: 469-804-8457 • Fax: 469-804-8462
csissac@alaw.net
22-000410

VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE

The last day to register to vote in the Nov. 7 election is Oct. 10. Visit www.votetexas.gov to check your registration status and to learn how to register.

SPRINGTOWN SCHOOL MENU

Sept 25-28, 2023
PK through 12th Grade

*Menus are subject to change.



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EC-12th Reduced	\$0.30
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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 No school **Tues** Breakfast Stick Blueberries **Weds** Bacon Scramble Pizza Fresh Apples **Thurs** Cinnamon Rolls Fresh Apples **Fri** Strawberry & Vanilla Yogurt Fresh Bananas

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 No school **Tues** Chicken Nuggets, Lasagna w/ Garlic Roll, French Fries, Cucumber & Tomato, Carrots, Apples, Sliced Peaches. **Weds** Cheeseburger, Hamburger, French Fries, Cucumber Sticks, Apples, Sliced Peaches. **Thurs** Beef or Chicken Tostada, Corn, Refried Beans French Fries, Apples Sliced peaches **Fri** Cheese Pizza, Corn Dog, Bake Potato Roll, Glazed Carrots, Cucumber & Tomato

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 No school **Tues** Chicken Parma, Spaghetti w/ Twist, Mixed Vegetables, Garden Salad, Fresh Veggies (Fiesta Stick, Cucumber Tomato, Broccoli, Applesauce Grapes. **Weds** Chicken & Waffles, Hot & Spicy Waffles, Tator Tots, Fresh veggies (Cucumber tomato, Fiesta Sticks, Broccoli, Blueberries, Oranges **Thurs** Beef & Chicken Tostadas, Nachos, Beef & Chicken Tacos, Corn, Refried Beans. Apples Slices, Sliced peaches. **Fri** Baked Potato Basket, Cheese Pizza, Green beans. Fresh veggies (Cucumber Tomato, Fiesta Sticks, Broccoli). Sliced Pears, Banana Variety of Milk

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LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of DONALD RALPH SIMS SR, Deceased, were issued on September 13, 2023, in Cause No. 23P325, pending in the County Court of Parker County, Texas, to: Marjorie Sims Courtright Ross All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. c/o: Marjorie Sims Courtright Ross 649 Creekview Dr. Azle, Texas 76020 DATED the 15th day of September, 2023. Michele Audet Attorney for Applicant State Bar No.: 00792338 918 S. Main St. Weatherford, Texas 76086 Telephone: (817) 341-0088 Facsimile: (817) 341-0090 E-mail: micheleaudet@sbcglobal.net

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Lenora Marie Smethers, also known as Lenora Fulton Smethers, also known as Lenora Fulton, Deceased, were issued on September 13, 2023, in Cause No. 23P344, pending in the County Court of Parker County, Texas, to: Lannie Dean Fulton, Independent Executor. Claims may be mailed in care of the Estate as follows: Lannie Dean Fulton, Independent Executor c/o Wendi E. Andino, Attorney Law Office of Wendi E. Andino, PLLC 1005 Fort Worth Hwy. Weatherford, Texas 76086 All persons having claims against said Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated this 13th day of September, 2023. /s/ Wendi E. Andino Wendi E. Andino Law Office of Wendi E. Andino, PLLC 1005 Fort Worth Hwy. Weatherford, Texas 76086 Phone: 817-717-7505 wendi@andinolawfirm.com

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Judith Ann Anderson, also known as Judith Ann Hilliker, also known as Judith Ann Salado, also known as Judith Ann Petti, Deceased, were issued on September 13, 2023, in Cause No. 23P352, pending in the County Court of Parker County, Texas, to: Michael John Petti, Independent Executor. Claims may be mailed in care of the Estate as follows: Michael John Petti, Independent Executor c/o Wendi E. Andino, Attorney Law Office of Wendi E. Andino, PLLC 1005 Fort Worth Hwy. Weatherford, Texas 76086. All persons having claims against said Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated this 13th day of September, 2023. /s/ Wendi E. Andino Wendi E. Andino Law Office of Wendi E. Andino, PLLC 1005 Fort Worth Hwy. Weatherford, Texas 76086 Phone: 817-717-7505 wendi@andinolawfirm.com

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Paxton acquitted on all impeachment counts; TEA delays release of 2023 accountability ratings

PAXTON ACQUITTED ON ALL IMPEACHMENT COUNTS

Ken Paxton has been reinstated as Texas Attorney General after the Texas Senate on Saturday acquitted him of charges of bribery and misuse of office. Only two Republican senators joined the 12 Democrats in voting to convict him of some of the 16 charges heard by the Senate, with four other charges dismissed by the Senate, The Dallas Morning News reported.

"Today, the truth prevailed," Paxton said in a statement issued immediately after the verdict. "The truth could not be buried by mudslinging politicians or their powerful benefactors."

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, who presided over the impeachment trial, scolded the House for voting overwhelmingly for impeachment of the embattled attorney general in late May. House Speaker Dade Phelan responded that Patrick was "confessing his bias."

"The inescapable conclusion is that today's outcome appears to have been orchestrated from the start, cheating the people of Texas of justice," Phelan said.

Paxton is not out of legal hot water yet. He faces a trial



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.

in March on an eight-year-old indictment for securities fraud. He is also the focus of a federal probe into his relationship with developer Nate Paul that led to some of the impeachment charges.

OUT-OF-STATE FIREFIGHTERS HEAD TO TEXAS

As drought and high temperatures continue to contribute to wildfires in Texas, more than 1,400 firefighters from 38 states and territories have arrived this year to help with response, the Texas Tribune reported. The number of wildfires that the Texas A&M Forest Service responded to in July and August skyrocketed to 163 in July and 501 in August, far above the average since 2005 of 103 in July and 151 in August.

"Drought development and the number of consecutive 100-plus degree days has contributed to critically dry vegetation across much of

the state, which is supportive of wildfire activity," said Erin O'Connor, program specialist for the Texas A&M Forest Service. "With current conditions, we have wildfires that are more complex and show extreme fire behavior, hold heat longer and require more time and effort to suppress."

As of Sunday, the service reported six active wildfires, most of which are nearly contained. Recent rainfall has lowered the state fire level from 4 to 3.

There are currently 215 counties with burn bans in place. Luckily, widespread rainfall in the Hill Country, North and East Texas and much of the Rolling Plains is reducing the risk.

TEA DELAYS RELEASE OF 2023 ACCOUNTABILITY RATINGS

The Texas Education Agency is delaying the release of A-F district and campus accountability ratings for about

one month. The ratings were to be released on Sept. 28. The postponement allows for re-examination of "the baseline data used in the calculation of progress to ensure ratings reflect the most appropriate goals for students," the news release said.

The delay is a result of further study being made into the impact of the pandemic on student progress.

"Maintaining high expectations helps guide our efforts to improve student learning and support," said Texas Education Commissioner Mike Morath. "The A-F system is designed to properly reflect how well our schools are meeting those high expectations, and the adjustments we are making this year will ensure it continues to serve as a tool for parents and educators to help our students."

NEW COVID-19 BOOSTERS NOW AVAILABLE

A new vaccine booster for COVID-19 is now largely available, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is recommending all people over the age of six months get the new shots as the number of new COVID cases and hospitalizations increase across the state, the Austin American-Statesman

reported.

"There's a lot of thought that COVID is over, but ... we've seen over the last few weeks an increase in cases, hospitalizations and death," said Dr. Brian Metzger, medical director of infectious diseases at St. David's HealthCare in Austin. "While it's not nearly what we were seeing, ... there's still a significant burden of illness. We can't ignore it."

The CDC noted the immunity garnered from the original vaccination, like other seasonal illnesses such as the flu, wanes over time. After a year, the antibodies produced by the vaccine "have waned enough that you really aren't protected to where you were before," Metzger told the Statesman.

AUGUST WAS FOURTH HOTTEST AND DRIEST ON RECORD

This comes as no surprise to those of us living through it, but August in Texas was the hottest and driest in Texas since records began being kept in 1895, according to Andrew Weinberg, geoscientist with the Texas Water Development Board.

At the end of the month 76% of the state was in drought, up 27 percentage

points from the end of July. Storage in the state's water supply reservoirs is about 69% of capacity, more than 13 percentage points below normal for this time of year.

The hopeful news is that El Niño weather conditions should bring cooler and wetter weather to the state this fall and winter. That should ease drought conditions across the state before the end of the year.

LOST MAPLES RANKED AS HAVING BEST FALL FOLIAGE

The leaves will begin to change in coming weeks, and the Statesman reports a Central Texas natural area has been ranked as having the best fall foliage in the country. Lost Maples Natural Area in Vanderpool, about two hours northwest of San Antonio, garnered the top spot from New York Travel Guides, a digital travel publication.

Lost Maples boasts 2,000 acres filled with bigtooth maple trees, which display brilliant colors most autumns. It also features 10 miles of hiking and 30 campsites with water and electricity. Park officials recommend visitors reserve passes online to guarantee entry.

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**Town of Lakeside
Public Hearing
Fiscal Year 2023-2024
September 28, 2023 6:30 pm**

This budget will raise more revenue from property taxes than last year's budget by an amount of \$121,174, which is a 12.88 percent increase from last year's budget. The property tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year is \$1,858.

The members of the governing body voted on the budget as follows:

FOR:
AGAINST:
PRESENT and not voting:
ABSENT:

Property Tax Rate Comparison

	2023-2024	2022-2023
Property Tax Rate	\$0.493500/100	\$0.493500/100
No-New Revenue Tax Rate	\$0.435578/100	\$0.372061/100
No-New-Revenue Maintenance & Operations Tax Rate	\$0.437973/100	\$0.373102/100
Voter-Approval Tax Rate	\$0.494847/100	\$0.493526/100
Debt Rate:	\$0.055564/100	\$0.000000/100

Total debt obligation for Town of Lakeside secured by property taxes: \$182,175

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The Tri-County Reporter is seeking a part-time photographer to shoot sports and other school-based events. Applicant must have their own equipment and a working knowledge of photography. Salary is negotiable. Assignments will be three or four events per week. To apply email publisher@tricityreporter.com. No phone calls please.

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Flippin' Smart Art

Azle City Council contracts local artist to paint mural on Main Street Tacos' building

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

AZLE — The City of Azle is soon to add a little more color to Main Street. Acclaimed local artist, Sheri Johnson Lopez has been contracted to create a mural welcoming people to the city. The mural will consist of references, colors and landmarks emblematic of the area and Lopez expects to begin painting on Oct. 2. The mural will be located on the side of the Main Street Tacos building facing State Highway 199.

Most Azle residents are probably already familiar with Lopez' work, even if they don't know it. The Azle High School alumnus calls the large 50-by-35 foot Buzzy and "Home of the Azle Hornets" mural on the side of her alma mater one of her proudest works. Lopez also painted the Buzzy bursting through the wall of the Azle Fire Station and many other notable paintings throughout the area, like the red truck on the outside of Main Street's State Farm office.

The bubbly Azle artist also goes by the nickname Smiley and her company, That's Flippin' Smart Art pays homage to her past career remodeling houses, where her tagline was 'flipping ugly homes right side up.' When transitioning into a career in art, she decided to keep the

name because of the positive reactions she continued to get from others. With such a memorable name, she says Sherwin Williams sent her business after only coming in one time.

"They remembered my name, so I'm glad I stuck with it," Lopez said.

Lopez was living out of state when she became pregnant with her first son in her late thirties. When her son, Zaydon, was a toddler, she moved back to her hometown to be closer to her parents and a community that she can trust.

"I'm a sole parent," Lopez said. "His father chose abortion; I chose life and so that completely changed my life being an older parent. I kind of get why everyone is all about school district because I want him to go to the best schools... I love Azle, so I want my son to go from pre-K until he graduates."

While Lopez had found success remodeling houses in Oklahoma City, her passion had really been art and painting. Worried she'd be a starving artist if she pursued her dream, she prayed about it after returning to Azle. "Finally, it sank in that my son is my inspiration and if I'm going to raise him to be his best, with the most love and inspiration, then I need to show him personally. So, for me to empower him I



A sneak peek at the mural's design which is waiting on final approval from Azle City Council.

COURTESY SHERI JOHNSON LOPEZ

need to make sure I'm living my best life."

This year, Zaydon is starting fifth grade at Azle Elementary, just like his mother did years ago.

"I'm really excited because my son just started riding the bus this year," Lopez said. "I'll get to paint (the mural) and he (is driven by) right at that light, so when I'm painting it everybody on the school bus will see me and he'll be like 'that's my mom!' so I'm really excited about that location... It encourages him to reach for the stars, be anything he wants. He's my biggest fan; it used to be my mom, now it's him." Lopez expects the mural will only take a week or two to complete, weather permitting.

With a schedule full of projects and a six-figure income, Lopez considers herself lucky to be among the small num-

ber of artists that get to live their dreams.

"The message I tell kids is that I'm living my dream because I put in the work," Lopez said. "If there's a dream or passion that you have, don't give up and keep pushing through because there will be a lot of naysayers. You can do it, too. When you finally arrive, you'll realize it's the best decision that you made years before because you get to live your happy dream and inspire others."

Lopez jumped into creative pursuits early in life, as a singer in her family band and choir. In the seventh grade, she took her first art class with former Azle teacher, Ms. Gunn.

"She had us just draw still-life with jars and pencils and paintbrushes and I brought it home and my mom was like 'it looks like you can just grab

it.' That's when the passion started because my mom encouraged me."

She went on to be president of the art club in high school and receive almost a full scholarship to Texas Wesleyan University for art. She didn't realize it at the time, but her first experience painting murals would be doing backdrops and painting scenery for high school theater productions and musicals.

Lopez creates everything from the straightforward mural designed by Azle City Council to abstract Picasso-like paintings.

"It does go all across the board for me," Lopez said. "I don't go to any genre of art because everyone has a different style and I'm very ADHD, so I like the variety. My styles vary a lot, it gives me a good challenge and I

love that. It pushes me to be a better artist."

Lopez has painted murals at nine different Amazon facilities, Al Boenker Insurance, Texas Designer Flooring and is working on a pet portrait for the mother of NBA superstar, Trae Young.

Lopez hopes her mural will be a great photo opportunity for residents and visitors to Azle.

"I want them to be proud that I'm a local artist knowing that I represent Azle in a good way," Lopez said. "I want it to be fun and interactive. Even if they're not from Azle I want them to feel the warm hug of Azle."

More information and pictures of Lopez' murals can be found at www.thatsflippingsmartart.com or on Facebook, Instagram and TikTok under the name That's Flippin' Smart Art.

Springtown scouts in Pack, Troop 22 enjoy camping trip

Springtown Cub Scouts Pack 22 along with Scouts BSA Troops 22B and 22G camped out at Sid Richardson Scout Ranch on Sept. 8-10



Scout Whyatt Megel, the Senior Patrol Leader for Troop 22B, (left) helped keep the troops on task with cooking and cleaning chores, under the guidance of Scoutmaster Carlos Munoz.



PHOTO COURTESY CARLOS MUNOZ

The scouts played games like sack races, water trust fall and a scavenger hunt. The troops also taught specialty knot-tying and assisted in a hike.

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EXPLANATORY STATEMENTS FOR THE NOVEMBER 7, 2023 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ELECTION**Proposition Number 1
(HJR 126)**

HJR 126 proposes a constitutional amendment to protect a person's right to engage in generally accepted farm, ranch, timber production, horticulture, or wildlife management practices on real property that the person owns or leases. The proposed amendment would not affect the authority of the legislature to authorize the regulation of these practices by: (1) a state agency or political subdivision as necessary to protect the public health and safety from imminent danger; (2) a state agency to prevent a danger to animal health or crop production; or (3) a state agency or political subdivision to preserve or conserve the natural resources of the state under the Texas Constitution. Additionally, the proposed amendment would not affect the legislature's authority to authorize the use or acquisition of property for a public use, including the development of natural resources under the Texas Constitution.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment protecting the right to engage in farming, ranching, timber production, horticulture, and wildlife management."**

**Proposition Number 2
(SJR 64)**

SJR 64 proposes a constitutional amendment to allow the governing body of a county or municipality to exempt from property taxation all or part of the appraised value of real property used to operate a child-care facility. The proposed amendment would authorize the governing body to adopt the exemption as a percentage of the appraised value of the property, but that percentage could not be less than 50% of the appraised value of the property. The proposed amendment also would allow the legislature to define the term "child-care facility" and to establish additional eligibility requirements to receive the property tax exemption.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment authorizing a local option exemption from ad valorem taxation by a county or municipality of all or part of the appraised value of real property used to operate a child-care facility."**

**Proposition Number 3
(HJR 132)**

HJR 132 proposes a constitutional amendment to prohibit the legislature from imposing a tax based on the wealth or net worth of an individual or family. The proposed amendment also would prohibit the legislature from imposing a tax based on the difference between the assets and liabilities of an individual or family.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment prohibiting the imposition of an individual wealth or net worth tax, including a tax on the difference between the assets and liabilities of an individual or family."**

**Proposition Number 4
(HJR 2- Second Special Session)**

HJR 2 proposes a constitutional amendment to modify certain provisions of the Texas Constitution related to property taxes. The proposed amendment would authorize the legislature to temporarily limit the maximum appraised value of real property for property tax purposes in a tax year. The proposed amendment also would increase the mandatory homestead exemption for school district property taxation from \$40,000 to \$100,000. The proposed amendment would require the legislature to provide for a reduction in the amount of the limitation on school district property taxes imposed on the residence homestead of the elderly or disabled. Additionally, the amendment would exempt appropriations not dedicated by the Texas Constitution and used for property tax relief from being considered as appropriations when determining whether the rate of growth of appropriations in a biennium has exceeded the constitutional tax spending limit. The proposed amendment would further authorize the legislature to provide that members serving on an appraisal board in a county with a population of at least 75,000 serve terms not to exceed four years.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to establish a temporary limit on the maximum appraised value of real property other than a residence homestead for ad valorem tax purposes; to increase the amount of the exemption**

from ad valorem taxation by a school district applicable to residence homesteads from \$40,000 to \$100,000; to adjust the amount of the limitation on school district ad valorem taxes imposed on the residence homesteads of the elderly or disabled to reflect increases in certain exemption amounts; to except certain appropriations to pay for ad valorem tax relief from the constitutional limitation on the rate of growth of appropriations; and to authorize the legislature to provide for a four-year term of office for a member of the board of directors of certain appraisal districts."

**Proposition Number 5
(HJR 3)**

HJR 3 proposes a constitutional amendment to redesignate the national research university fund as the Texas University Fund (TUF), and to appropriate funds from the economic stabilization fund to the TUF. The proposed amendment would appropriate to the TUF an amount equal to the interest income, dividends, and investment earnings attributable to the economic stabilization fund for the preceding state fiscal year. The appropriation amount could not exceed \$100 million for the state fiscal year beginning September 1, 2023, or an amount adjusted for the increase in the general price index, not to exceed two percent, in subsequent state fiscal years. The proposed amendment also would prohibit any state university that is entitled to participate in dedicated funding provided by Article VII, Section 18 of the Texas Constitution from receiving money from the TUF.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment relating to the Texas University Fund, which provides funding to certain institutions of higher education to achieve national prominence as major research universities and drive the state economy."**

**Proposition Number 6
(SJR 75)**

SJR 75 proposes a constitutional amendment to create the Texas water fund. The Texas water fund would be a special fund in the state treasury outside the general revenue fund, administered by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) or its successor to assist in financing water projects in the state. The proposed amendment would direct the Texas water fund administrator to use the fund only to transfer money to other TWDB funds or accounts. The proposed amendment would authorize the legislature to appropriate money for deposit to the water fund to be available for permitted transfers. No further legislative appropriation would be required for the water fund administrator to transfer money from or restore money to the fund, including the transfer of money to or the restoration of money from certain designated TWDB funds and accounts. The water fund would consist of: (1) money transferred or deposited to the fund by general law; (2) other revenue that the legislature by statute dedicates for deposit to the fund; (3) investment earnings and interest earned on amounts credited to the fund; (4) money from gifts, grants, and donations to the fund; and (5) money returned from any authorized transfer. The proposed amendment would require the legislature, by general law, to provide for the manner in which money from the Texas water fund may be used. The proposed amendment also would require that at least 25% of the money initially appropriated to the Texas water fund be transferred to the New Water Supply for Texas Fund.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment creating the Texas water fund to assist in financing water projects in this state."**

**Proposition Number 7
(SJR 93)**

SJR 93 proposes a constitutional amendment to establish the Texas energy fund. The Texas energy fund would be a special fund in the state treasury outside the general revenue fund, administered by the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) or its successor. Money in the Texas energy fund could be used, without further appropriation, only by PUC or its successor to provide loans and grants to finance or incentivize the construction, maintenance, modernization, and operation of electric generating facilities necessary to ensure the reliability or adequacy of an electric power grid in the state. The proposed amendment

would require PUC to allocate money from the fund for loans and grants to eligible projects for electric generating facilities that serve as backup power sources and in each region of the state that is part of an electric power grid in proportion to that region's load share. The Texas energy fund would consist of: (1) money credited, appropriated, or transferred to the fund by or as authorized by the legislature; (2) revenue that the legislature dedicates for deposit to the fund; (3) the returns received from the investment of the money in the fund; and (4) gifts, grants, and donations contributed to the fund.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the Texas energy fund to support the construction, maintenance, modernization, and operation of electric generating facilities."**

**Proposition Number 8
(HJR 125)**

HJR 125 proposes a constitutional amendment to create the broadband infrastructure fund. The broadband infrastructure fund would be a special fund in the state treasury outside the general revenue fund, administered by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts (Comptroller). Money from the fund could be used, without further appropriation, only for the expansion of access to and adoption of broadband and telecommunications services. The broadband infrastructure fund would consist of: (1) money transferred or deposited to the fund by the Texas Constitution, general law, or the General Appropriations Act; (2) revenue that the legislature by general law dedicates for deposit to the fund; (3) investment earnings and interest earned on money in the fund; and (4) gifts, grants, and donations to the fund. The proposed amendment would authorize the Comptroller to transfer money from the broadband infrastructure fund to another fund as provided by general law, and the state agency that administers the fund to which any money is transferred could use the money without further appropriation only for the expansion of access to and adoption of broadband and telecommunications services. The broadband infrastructure fund would expire on September 1, 2035, unless extended by adoption of a joint resolution of the legislature. Immediately before the expiration of the fund, the Comptroller would be required to transfer any unexpended and unobligated balance remaining in the broadband infrastructure fund to the general revenue fund.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment creating the broadband infrastructure fund to expand high-speed broadband access and assist in the financing of connectivity projects."**

**Proposition Number 9
(HJR 2)**

HJR 2 proposes a constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to provide a cost-of-living adjustment to eligible annuitants of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS). The proposed amendment also would authorize the legislature to appropriate money from the general revenue fund to the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts to pay the cost-of-living adjustment.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment authorizing the 88th Legislature to provide a cost-of-living adjustment to certain annuitants of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas."**

**Proposition Number 10
(SJR 87)**

SJR 87 proposes a constitutional amendment to allow the legislature to exempt from property taxation tangible personal property held by a medical or biomedical manufacturer as a finished good or used in the manufacturing or processing of medical or biomedical products.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation equipment or inventory held by a manufacturer of medical or biomedical products to protect the Texas healthcare network and strengthen our medical supply chain."**

**Proposition Number 11
(SJR 32)**

SJR 32 proposes a constitutional amendment to expand the authority of the

legislature with regard to conservation and reclamation districts in El Paso County. The Texas Constitution permits conservation and reclamation districts in certain counties across the state to issue bonds to fund the development and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities but does not currently provide this authority to El Paso County. The proposed amendment would add conservation and reclamation districts in El Paso County to those districts currently allowed, if authorized by general law, to issue bonds supported by property taxes to fund the development and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities. The proposed amendment would not limit the powers of the legislature or of a conservation and reclamation district with respect to parks and recreational facilities as those powers currently exist.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to permit conservation and reclamation districts in El Paso County to issue bonds supported by ad valorem taxes to fund the development and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities."**

**Proposition Number 12
(HJR 134)**

HJR 134 proposes a constitutional amendment to abolish the office of County Treasurer in Galveston County. The amendment would authorize the Galveston County Commissioners Court to employ or contract with a qualified person or designate another county officer to perform any functions that would have been performed by the County Treasurer. The proposed amendment would take effect only if a majority of the voters of Galveston County voting on the proposition favor the amendment.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment providing for the abolition of the office of county treasurer in Galveston County."**

**Proposition Number 13
(HJR 107)**

HJR 107 proposes a constitutional amendment to increase the mandatory retirement age for state justices and judges. Currently, the Texas Constitution establishes that justices and judges of the appellate courts, district courts, and criminal district courts must retire on the expiration of the term during which they reach the age of 75 years or an earlier age, not less than 70 years, as the legislature may prescribe. The proposed amendment would change the mandatory retirement age for justices and judges of the appellate courts, district courts, and criminal district courts to 79 years or an earlier age, not less than 75 years, as the legislature may prescribe. The proposed amendment also would remove the provision stating that justices and judges may only serve until December 31 of their fourth year in office if they reach the age of 75 years in the first four years of a six-year term.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment to increase the mandatory age of retirement for state justices and judges."**

**Proposition Number 14
(SJR 74)**

SJR 74 proposes a constitutional amendment to establish the centennial parks conservation fund as a trust fund outside the state treasury. The fund could be used, in accordance with general law, only for the creation and improvement of state parks. The centennial parks conservation fund would consist of: (1) money appropriated, credited, or transferred to the fund by the legislature; (2) gifts, grants, and donations received by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) or its successor for a purpose for which money in the fund may be used; and (3) investment earnings and interest earned on amounts credited to the fund. The proposed amendment would authorize the legislature to appropriate money from the centennial parks conservation fund to TPWD or its successor for the creation and improvement of state parks.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the centennial parks conservation fund to be used for the creation and improvement of state parks."**

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Spotlighting Seasoned Adults

Adult Activity Center Director speaks on National Senior Center Month

JACKIE "JJ" JOY
jackie@mealsonwheels.org

AZLE — September is National Senior Center Month and Azle celebrated with karaoke and pizza. A crowd of about 40 people joined the fun on Wednesday, Sept. 13. The Mears family kicked the day off with karaoke. There was a variety of songs and singers to join the fun. Even if they did not all use a microphone, many people

lent their voices creating a choir effect. Thank you to Eagle Crest Villa for its sponsorship of the pizza. Assistant Administrator Ashley Sands not only delivered the pizza but stayed for some of the fun. Eagle Crest Villa has been a faithful partner with the Azle Adult Activity Center for several years. The third Thursday of each month is a special time as we celebrate the month's

birthdays and anniversaries. Care-n-Care Health Insurance comes each month and leads some exercises starting at 11 a.m. They also provide cake and ice cream to go with the meal. Lunch is then served at 11:30 a.m. and starting this month, the Blue Dog Band will play for us while we eat. But that is not all: bingo is played following lunch. There are other special events coming up that you



PHOTOS COURTESY JACKIE JOY

Director Joy and Volunteer Director Mike Talmont serving pizza.

will want to join us for. One is a MEGA BINGO sponsored by Meals on Wheels, Inc. of Tarrant County and is provided for active members of our centers. Reservations are being taken now as there is limited seating. The trip to Tarrant County College Trinity Campus will be on Tuesday, Oct. 24 and box lunches will be ordered. On Sept. 1 we had our first distribution of produce boxes for those who had eaten at least four times since the first of August. Our next distribution date is Sept. 29. For further information or to place a meal order, please contact us at 817-444-0070 or come see us at 601 Southeast Parkway in Ash Creek Park. Remember meals must be ordered by 9:30 a.m. on the morning before you plan to eat.



Center visitor Rafael Zavala enjoying a slice of pizza.



A crowd gathers for karaoke and pizza.

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Confessions of a proud save scummer

And other observations about gaming

I have more than 80 games in my Steam library. This is a ridiculous amount of games. Some of them I've played through, completed, and uninstalled. Some of them I keep installed, because I'm not done playing it (like Cities: Skylines.) And there are seven games in my library right now I haven't installed yet.



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.

So out of shame, I finally installed Styx: Master of Shadows, which I've had since 2014, and began playing it. What a great game! The rendering is fantastic, everything is skinned elaborately, the AI of the NPCs is very well done, and the mechanisms for solving puzzles are really innovative. Styx is a goblin creature that can hide very well, but isn't very good at fighting. He mostly jumps, rolls, hides, turns invisible, and has a clone he can create which crawls through gates and unlocks doors. He also swears a lot, and sneaks up on people and stabs them, so this is definitely a game for mature audiences.

I also have Bendy and the Ink Machine, Little Nightmares, We Happy Few, Ori and the Will of the Wisps, and Subnautica to look forward to if I need a break from Styx.

SAVE SCUMMING

But I'm not here to review Styx: Master of Shadows. This is an old, popular game, and I haven't played enough of it to evaluate it properly. I wanted

to talk about 'save scumming.' It's the practice of saving often so that you can explore different options to solve a puzzle, or because you don't want to lose your hard-earned progress in the game.

I'm not good at Styx, so every five seconds it seems I'm going down the wrong hallway, forgetting to crouch and knocking over a mop bucket, and alerting the guards, who then come and pound on me. Styx allows a save whenever I want, so after I crawl up the wall and walk across the beam to the next wall, you bet I'm going to save that point, because I don't want to have to do it again. I also end up saving an alternate, older point, because I'm trying not to paint myself in a corner.

I also save scum if I'm playing Potion Craft. The game requires some precise grinding and mixing of the various herbs and crystals in the cauldron, and one tiny jerk of the mouse can ruin a potion. So I'll save before I start the process, just in case.

There's many gamers who think of themselves as somehow virtuous for trying to

play the game without that safety net. I say, good for you if that gives you some satisfaction. Personally, I get very frustrated at having to do things over, and I enjoy the game more if I can save at convenient spots.

GAMEON CONCERT IN FORT WORTH

The Fort Worth Symphony is performing a GameON Concert (nothing to do with this column!) in Ft. Worth on Saturday, Oct. 7 at the Will Rogers Auditorium. They'll be playing music from Civilization 5, Ori and the Blind Forest, Portal 2, Destiny 2, World of Warcraft, Bioshock, Diablo, The Witcher, and more.

"Game On!" comes to the Fort Worth Symphony Sat., Oct. 7 for a mesmerizing performance of legendary symphonic game music! Be among the first in Texas to experience the excitement and adrenaline-fueled drama of this wonderful symphonic music, as the epic universes of The Witcher 3, World of Warcraft, The Elder Scrolls Skyrim, Assassin's Creed,

Guild Wars 2, Ori and the Blind Forest, and many others unfold before your eyes." Tickets start at \$41.80.

UNITY'S NEW RUNTIME UNITY FEE HAS INDIE GAME DEVELOPERS OUTRAGED

Apparently Unity, the gaming engine that many indie game developers rely on to build their games, has announced a new fee structure, and will start charging developers on a per-install basis after certain minimum income thresholds have been reached. A fee of \$0.20 per install will be charged after an individual game reaches \$200,000 in annual revenue and 200,000 lifetime installs. This will force the smaller game developers to pull their games entirely from distribution services, because they won't be able to afford the per-install fees. This is a drastic U-turn from Unity's previous pricing structure, which was royalty-free.

Users of Unity Pro and Enterprise tiers, which are paid subscriptions, will be a smaller per-install fee. But the real problem here is that Unity is applying the new fee structure to existing games, not just new ones. So developers that have successful games will owe Unity thousands of dollars starting January 2024.

The indie developers are abandoning the Unity Engine. Unity's fees will destroy these small game developers be-



SCREENSHOT COURTESY CYANIDE STUDIOS

Styx, our anti-hero in the game Styx and the Master of Shadows, is very good at sneaking around.

cause they can't afford for their game to be successful.

Even worse, this will probably kill game subscription services like Game Pass and Netflix. Developers would not be liable for fees from distribution through these services, but it will make indie games far less attractive to these major companies. Free demos of games will be a thing of the past.

At this point game developers are recommending that everybody should avoid Unity for any new projects, and if your game in development uses Unity, switch to something else, as the Unity Engine can't be trusted. Game developers will move to Unreal Engine, Source, Havok, or one of the other game engines as a more reliable platform.

Unity games on Steam include: Kerbal 2 Space Program, Outer Wilds, Ori and the Will of the Wisps, Gorogoa, Everything, Bendy and the Ink Machine, Return of the Obra Dinn, Two Point Hospital, Battletech, Hollow Knight, Cities Skylines, The Room series 1-4, Inside, Subnautica, Cuphead, and many, many more. At this point we don't know if Unity will change their minds, or if the companies that produced these games will withdraw them from distribution. So this may be your last chance to get Cult of the Lamb, Serious Sam 4, The Falconeer, and many other award-winning games. If you've got these games on your wish list, get them now!



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Food Truck Fridays

Legacy Oaks of Azle sees Cousins Maine Lobster as first guest in first of several September food truck experiences

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricityreporter.com

AZLE — Throughout the month of September, Legacy Oaks of Azle (LOOA) is hosting Food Truck Fridays. Each Friday, food trucks from around the Dallas-Ft. Worth area will serve delicious mobile food options to customers in the LOOA parking lot. To start, Cousins Maine Lobster offered up a menu full of shellfish, chowder, and other New England delicacies on Sept. 1.

On Sept. 8, the independent and assisted living facility hosted Sazon Mondragon and on Sept. 15, Mission Burgers made an appear-

ance. On Sept. 22, Zi Zi's Food Truck, which offers Cajun and soul food, will be on the premises. Visitors can enjoy Miss George's Grilled Cheese on Sep. 29.

"We wanted to set up this event to invite others in the community to come and see Legacy Oaks and offer something different each week," Nichol Wesson, LOOA Director said. "We are also offering free milkshakes with a purchase at the food truck. Visitors can also receive a free milkshake with purchase from the food truck inside the LOOA Bistro."

The food truck options and free milkshakes have made for a great outing for guests

visiting loved ones in the facility.

"I like the idea that you have this kind of stuff coming to them," said Lisa, who was visiting her parents, Art and Pat. "We all thought it was a little bit expensive, however, I like it and it smells really good. I really like that they offered the shakes to go along with it."

Other Azle residents have been scouring the internet for the variety and novelty served out of these trucks and for some, they even offer a reminder of home.

"I've been looking for this truck for weeks," Laurie Prouse said of the Cousins Maine Lobster truck. "Every



The line outside the Cousins Maine Lobster Truck.

ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER



Laurie and Richard with their cat, Monkey, alongside a cheerful Cousins Maine Lobster employee.

ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER



Lisa and Ken enjoying their milkshakes with her parents, Art and Pat.

ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

time we see where it's at, we can't make it cause we're doing something. So now today, it was like, 'we're not doing anything, let's go.'"

Laurie's husband, Richard, is originally from Hawaii and the Pacific Northwest and is always on the hunt for good seafood options.

"We like the fish truck, and we've been trying to catch the lobster one," Richard said. "Being from the Northwest, we like fresh seafood, we just

can't get it anywhere. In order to get good seafood, you've got to go to a seafood truck."

The couple, who brought their cat named Monkey along for a bit of adventure, plans to keep an eye out for future food truck opportunities in Azle.

"We love the food trucks," the Prouses said. "Food pods are great because the variety is just there. You don't have to go from place to place if everybody is a picky

eater. It's like, 'you go over there, and I'll go over here.'"

They expressed interest when told that Azle may soon begin holding its own food truck park events in a lot on Church Street.

"That sounds like it's going to be fun," they said. "That'd be great, we can totally understand that."

Plans for the park will continue to progress and be worked out at future city council meetings.

TCR Junior HELLO Autumn

Have you ever heard of the autumnal equinox? It's like a magical day when the sun gives a high-five to the Earth!

Imagine you have a special friend who lives up in the sky, and that's the sun. During the year, the sun moves around and some-

COLOR Time

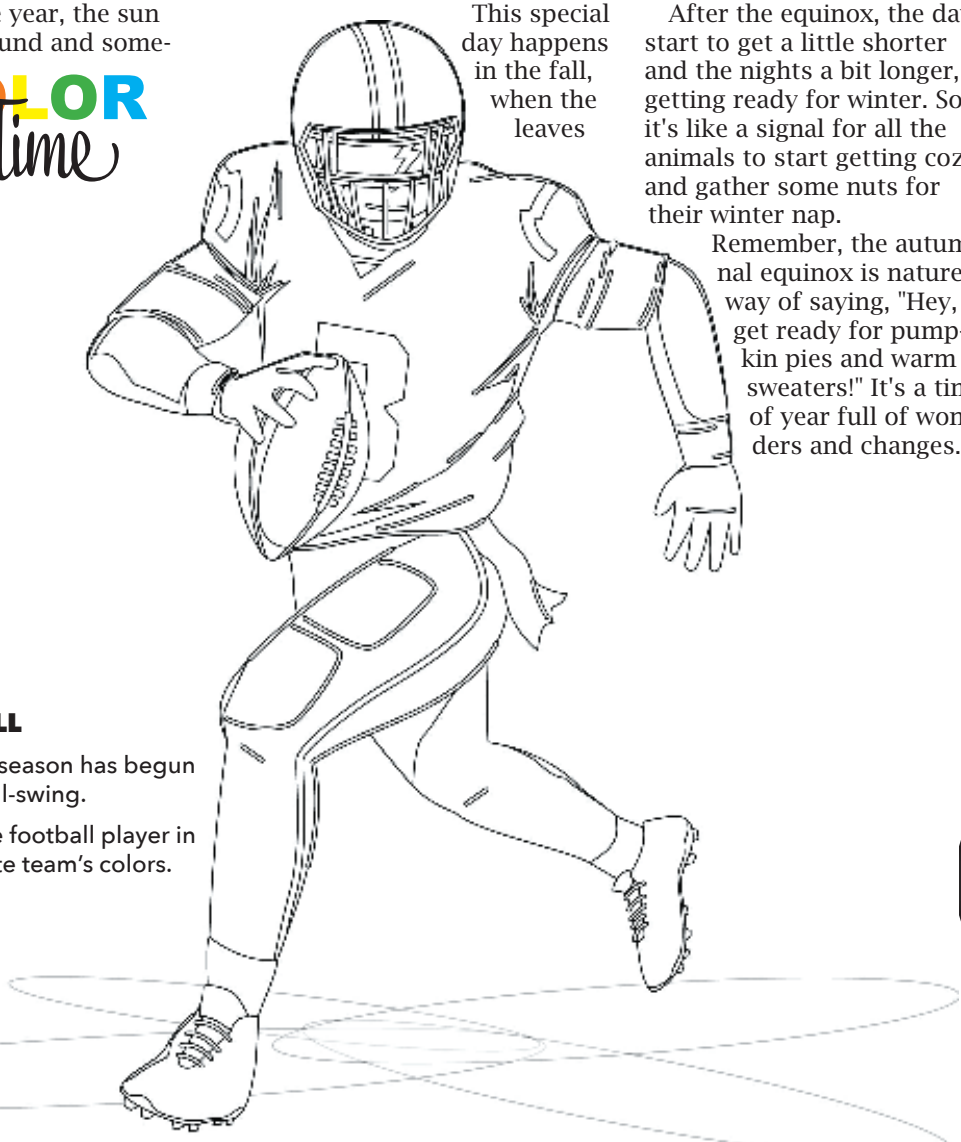
times it's closer to you, and sometimes it's farther away. But on the autumnal equinox, something super cool happens. The sun stands right in the middle, like a perfect balance!

This special day happens in the fall, when the leaves

on the trees turn all sorts of amazing colors. On the equinox, day and night are almost the same length. It's like a giant seesaw with day and night sharing equal time to play.

After the equinox, the days start to get a little shorter and the nights a bit longer, getting ready for winter. So, it's like a signal for all the animals to start getting cozy and gather some nuts for their winter nap.

Remember, the autumnal equinox is nature's way of saying, "Hey, get ready for pumpkin pies and warm sweaters!" It's a time of year full of wonders and changes.



FOOTBALL

Football season has begun and is in full-swing.

Color the football player in your favorite team's colors.

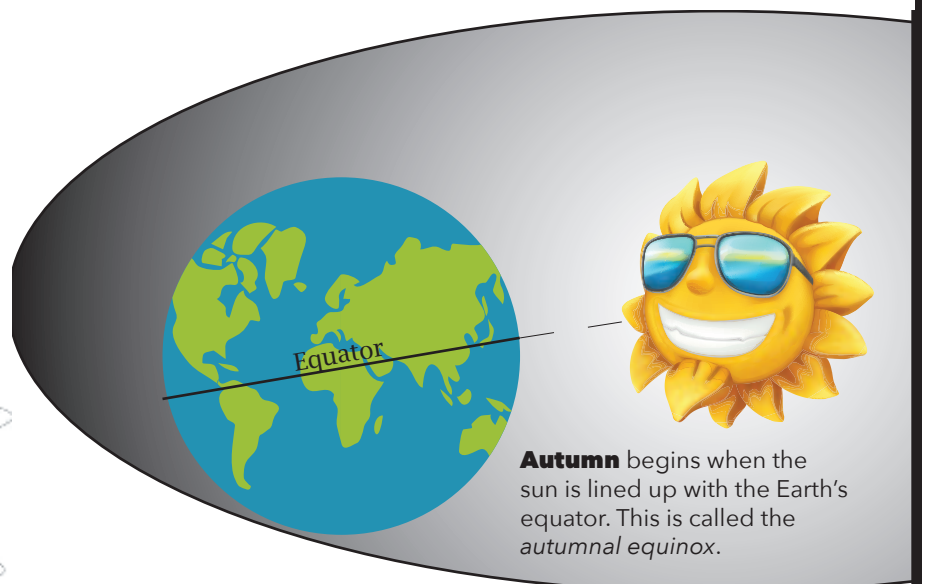
Autumn

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

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

Word Bank

- 1. cool 2. leaves 3. football 4. pumpkin
- 5. school 6. fall 7. colors 8. spice
- 9. halloween 10. basketball



Autumn begins when the sun is lined up with the Earth's equator. This is called the autumnal equinox.

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Wild West Festival 2023

JIM STEVENS | THE TRI-COUNTY REPORTER



Heroes Of The Old West performed multiple times at Springtown's Wild West Festival on Sept. 16.



Heroes Of The Old West presents historically accurate reenactments of Old West gunfights.



Gunfighting shows are a tradition at the Wild West Festival.



Wisper Cox was the first musical act to perform at the Wild West Festival on Saturday.



Matthew De La Torre sported a cowboy hat at the Wild West Festival on Sept. 16 in Springtown.



The Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce had a record number of vendors sign up for Wild West Festival this year.



Mr. and Ms. Springtown – Calvin Johnson and Shirley Fletcher – wave to the crowd during the Wild West Festival parade.



An alpaca made an appearance at the petting zoo in the children's area at Springtown's Wild West Festival on Sept. 16.

Wild West Festival 2023

JIM STEVENS | THE TRI-COUNTY REPORTER



Springtown 4-H families waved to the crowd from their float at the Wild West Festival parade.



Parker County Young Marines marched in the parade at the Wild West Festival.



Some parade participants rode on horseback at the Wild West Festival in Springtown on Sept. 16.



Springtown First United Methodist Church participated in the Wild West Festival parade on Saturday.



Servolution Network emphasized its Good Neighbors program – which aims to help people in need with household improvements – with its parade float during Springtown's Wild West Festival.



Tractors made an appearance during the Wild West Festival's parade, including this one pulling a trailer for The WORD @ Springtown church.



Springtown High School's Showstoppers wave their pom-poms during the Wild West Festival parade on Saturday.



The Sound of Springtown band performed during Saturday's Wild West Festival parade on Main Street.

THE TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

DIVERSIONS

B

THURSDAY, September 21, 2023



JEFF PRINCE | TRI COUNTY REPORTER

Keren Iya maintains a strong presence at the net.

Nice week

JEFF PRINCE
sports@tricityreporter.com

AZLE - The Lady Hornets started last week by traveling to Wichita Falls and sweeping Rider in their district opener.

Then, on Sept. 15, the girls played their district home opener against the Aledo Ladycats, electrifying the fans by putting up an impressive fight against one of the area's top teams.

Azle fell behind in the first game but made a slow comeback and tied the score at 18-18. When the Hornets scored two more points for a 20-18 lead, Aledo called a timeout,

Azle volleyball wins, loses, learns, impresses as season progresses

and the Azle fans erupted with cheers.

Aledo, a district rival, chipped away at the Hornets to regain the lead, win the game 26-24, and sweep Azle 3-0, but the Hornets made them work for every point and thrilled the crowd with long rallies and impressive shots. The game was still going at 7 p.m. when the football team began playing at Hornet Stadium against Aledo, but the volleyball

crowd stayed put to see how the Lady Hornets fared.

A couple of athletes posted career highs: Miley Massey made 37 assists, and Heather Lockridge logged 16 digs and an ace.

Brynn Lee recorded another double-double with 14 kills, 11 digs, and an ace.

Others with impressive exploits were Jacqui McClain with 22 kills, 8 digs, and an ace, and Kamryn Hill with 8 kills.



JEFF PRINCE | TRI COUNTY REPORTER

Jacqui McClain, a sophomore, made 22 kills, 8 digs, and an ace against Aledo.

Porcupine power

Springtown football to play Glen Rose at home

JEFF PRINCE
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SPRINGTOWN — The Porcupines have a chance to make it three victories in a row when they face Glen Rose on Friday, Sept. 22, at home.

After losing the first two games of the season, the Porcupines have won their last two. They beat Hirschi on Sept. 8. Then, they traveled to Carrollton on Sept. 14 to face Creekview for a Thursday night game and won 35-21.

Dallin Fabrizio, a senior left guard, predicted the Porcupines would be ready for war against Creekview.

"We're ready to attack this next game," he said a couple days before the game. "We're planning on destroying them. We came off a great win from Hirschi, and we're ready to go."

Highlights included an interception by Kamryn Cleveland, stout defense



JEFF PRINCE | TRI COUNTY REPORTER

PLEASE SEE POWER | B3 Brandon McDonald, Robert Lewis, and Alex Rivera give grit to the defense.



ACS royalty

Crusaders crown king, queen at homecoming game

JEFF PRINCE
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AZLE — The Azle Christian Crusaders know how to host a homecoming celebration.

On Sept 15, the football team played Greenville Christian at home in front of packed stands and dominated the game from start to finish.

The finish came quicker than usual.

The Crusaders led 51-0 at halftime, and the referees called the game due to the mercy rule. That left the rest of the evening for celebrating homecoming.

"It was a fantastic turnout by the Cru Nation," said head coach Clayton Sanders.

JEFF PRINCE | TRI COUNTY REPORTER
Christian Davila and Bayleigh Lynn are the new king and queen at ACS.

"We certainly appreciate the fans turning up and getting loud for us. It was a nice win for the team and the fans."

Running back and wide-out Brodie Clark enjoyed a monster night with 3 carries for 93 yards and 3 TDs and 4 receptions for 153 yards and 2 TDs.

Quarterback Andy Wisniewski went 4/5 for 143 yard and 2 TDs.

Linebacker Levi Morrow intercepted a pass and ran it back for a 20-yard TD.

Linebacker Jake Skartvedt led the defense with 7 tackles.

The Crusaders will play next at 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 22, at home against Perrin-Whitt High School.

CROWNING HEADS

Christian Davila was tired,

PLEASE SEE ROYALTY | B5

Brewer bound

JEFF PRINCE
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AZLE — The big, bad Aledo Bearcats came to Hornet Stadium on Sept. 15 and showed why sportswriters use adjectives like “big, bad” to describe them.

Final score: Aledo 50, Azle 7.

“They were ranked no. 1 in the state for a reason,” said Azle head coach Devon Dorris. “They were a really good football team. I was pleased with our kids’ effort and fight. Playing such a difficult schedule really shows you what you need to improve on, and I think the lessons we have learned in our first four games will help us the last six.”

On Friday, Sept. 22, the Hornets hope to transform their 1-3 season by traveling to Fort Worth and knocking off district rival Brewer to push their record to 2-3.

“It is a very big game for both teams,” Dorris said. “I look forward to playing an old school rival game.”

Dorris predicted the team will need to win five games this season to make the playoffs. That will require the Hornets to win four of their remaining six games.

Brewer would be a good place to start. The Bears are winless this season, losing to Frisco 24-6, Wakeland 34-27, and Northwest 45-7.

Azle (1-3) plays at 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 22, at Brewer (0-3).

CHEERY RIDER

On the day of the Aledo

Azle football team eager to notch victory after Aledo loss

game, local motorists might have noticed a young woman in a green-and-white cheerleader uniform making her way up Boyd Road toward Azle High School.

Kaitlyn Gulley, a senior, rides a 2006 Kawasaki Vulcan 500cc street-legal motorcycle to school every day. Most days, she wears pants and protective gear, but she was in a hurry on Sept. 15. Also, she was wearing a big white bow in her hair. So, she jumped on her bike in her cheer uniform and made the trip.

Riding a large motorcycle took a bit of work. At 4 feet 11 inches and 115 pounds, Gulley had to lower the shocks on her bike so it would sit lower and allow her to straddle it more easily.

“It’s pretty heavy, and I’m a short person,” she said.

She must keep her head on swivel while riding in this era of distracted motorists looking at their phones and mobile TV screens.

“You have to be on constant awareness,” she said. “The other day, I almost got into a wreck. I was riding in the rain, and someone pulled out in front of me. I had to slam on the brakes and my bike started sliding. It was very scary. On a bike, you have to be on 24-7 awareness. There is no being on your phone.”

Azle cheer coach Taylor Hodges recalled hearing someone refer to Gulley rid-

ing a bike and imagined the diminutive cheerleader on a pedal-bike.

“Then, I saw her gear up and hop on a motorcycle, and I was shocked — and I was terrified because it’s scary having a motorcycle,” Hodges said. “It’s scary watching one of my kids drive a motorcycle. She is really responsible, though.”

Hodges remembered how Gulley drove her motorcycle to a game earlier in the season and was caught in a rain-storm afterward.

“She only got a mile down the road, and she was smart enough to know, I’m not going to make it home, and I need to go back to the school and wait for my mom,” Hodges said. “She is really responsible. But it’s still scary.”

Gulley learned to ride on a dirt bike as a youngster.

“I’ve eaten dirt plenty of times and wrecked my fair share,” she said.

Her leg is scarred from a muffler burn mark, but she has avoided serious injuries.

At 15, she worked during the summer and saved money to buy the Kawasaki just as she was about to turn 16 and seek a driver’s license. Her parents are OK with her driving on the street. Her dad’s family owned a motorcycle shop.

“He grew up on it, so I grew up on it,” Gulley said. “They trust me with it pretty well.”

Her friends at school



SAVING MEMORIES PHOTOGRAPHY

Braden Forsythe, his powerful leg, and his Hornet teammates will take on Brewer next.

are fans of her mode of transportation.

“They definitely think it’s cool,” she said. “They call me a little baddie.”

After high school graduation, she plans to attend col-

lege and become a social media marketer. Most likely, she will be riding her motorcycle to college classes by this time next year.

“One of my favorite things about riding a bike is the

biker sign you give when you pass other bikers,” she said, referring to a hand sign that is like a peace sign but held down low. “It’s just saying, hey, fellow biker, I’m a friend. I’m part of the club.”



JEFF PRINCE | TRI COUNTY REPORTER

Fourth grader Kennedy Brown won the AHS varsity cheer raffle that allowed her to perform with the cheerleaders on the sidelines during Youth Night at Hornet Stadium before the Aledo game.



JEFF PRINCE | TRI COUNTY REPORTER

Kaitlyn Gulley rides her Kawasaki Vulcan 500 to school.



HOF Reception

Azle Athletic Hall of Fame to herald new members on Sept. 30

JEFF PRINCE
sports@tricityreporter.com

AZLE — A larger than usual number of people will be inducted into the Azle Athletic Hall of Fame this year.

The additions include the entire girls wrestling team that earned a 2013 state

title for the Hornets, a long-time track coach, and a high school wrestler who became a professional mixed martial arts specialist.

The 2013 girls wrestling team inductees will be Hannah McFarland, Paige Wolf, Montana Stewart, Jesse Grubbs, and Bernie Duhan.

Stewart will also be inducted individually under her married name. Montana Stewart De La Rosa is a successful UFC professional fighter.

Also slated for induction is former track coach Don Ostermann.

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

COURTESY PHOTO

Montana Stewart De La Rosa is among the upcoming inductees into the Azle Athletic Hall of Fame.

Love, Hornets

Azle tennis team keeps winning

JEFF PRINCE

sports@tricityreporter.com

AZLE — The Azle tennis team traveled to Justin to take on the Texans and came out on top again.

On Sept. 12, the Hornets

beat Northwest 11-8, giving them a 3-1 district record.

Azle opened district play on Aug. 22 by beating Brewer. The Hornets lost to undefeated Aledo in week 2 before toppling Saginaw in week 3. Next up, the Hornets will

play at 4 p.m. on Sept. 26 at Granbury High School in their final district match of the fall season. After a bye week on Oct. 3, the Hornets hope to be polishing their racquets for the playoffs.



The tennis team visits Buc-ee's to celebrate their win over Northwest.

COURTESY PHOTO



JEFF PRINCE | TRI COUNTY REPORTER

Nolan Garcia and the Azle tennis team will play their district closer on Sept. 26 at Granbury.

POWER

FROM PAGE B2

overall, and strong running by Drake Doggett, Hudson Hulett, Nathan Johnson, and Chase Thompson.

Senior tight end Kelby Castro likes how the team bounced back from adversity and didn't lose its cool. He expects better things to come.

"We are going to look pretty good this season," he said. "We've got a lot of guys maturing. We have a solid football team here. I feel like I'm getting a lot better, especially since last summer. It's a lot of guys working together."

Fabrizius toils away in the trenches alongside Castro and other big linemen, and that unit is bonding. The recent victories indicate the entire team is connecting.

"It was definitely nice to see us all come together and work as team," Fabrizio said. "We are ready to start working as one unit and win a lot more games."

DEFENDERS UNITE

Over on defense, two big seniors play defensive ends — Brady McDonald and Alex Rivera.

In between roams young sophomore Robert Lewis,

who played his way up from the freshman team last year and became a starting linebacker this season. Lewis is short at 5 feet 8 inches but stocky and strong.

"He came in his freshman year," Rivera recalled. "We were lacking a lot of leadership because there were about eight seniors maybe — not a big senior class last year. We had to pull some guys up and saw this little guy squatting about 400 pounds his freshman year."

Lewis played free safety as a freshman on varsity and made mistakes while learning on the job. He established a reputation for being tough and a hustler. This year, he found what appears to be his natural position — a hard-hitting linebacker thrusting his facemask into opponents chests to force collisions and fumbles.

"He improved and did a lot better this year," Rivera said. "He can only get better from here."

Teammates describe Lewis as one of the team's hardest hitters.

"It's pretty fun," he said. "You get to hit older kids and put your name out there."

Lewis will be establishing his name for years to come in Springtown. For now, he is



JEFF PRINCE | TRI COUNTY REPORTER

Zach Schlotter makes big plays on special teams.



JEFF PRINCE | TRI COUNTY REPORTER

Defender Darren Sweely is tough on opposing teams.



JEFF PRINCE | TRI COUNTY REPORTER

Kamryn Cleveland's interception against Creekview helps change momentum.

young and happy to follow the lead of older teammates while establishing his own role.

"Our senior players right now set a great example of what we're about in Springtown," he said. "Us younger kids will come up next year and keep that alive."

Winning the last two games, including the Thursday night contest after a short week, has put the Porcupines in a good place, McDonald said.

"It was pretty tough, but it showed how good we can be and showed how ready we are for the rest of the season,"

he said. "The first game was a heartbreaker. The second game, we did kind of lay an egg. We made sure we came back that third week and got a win. We are definitely progressing every week and making sure we focus a lot more in practice."

Rivera, who has played

football since seventh grade, predicts Springtown will go three or four rounds deep in the playoffs. A successful season, however, isn't marked solely by wins and losses.

"As long as we are improving, it's always going to be a good season," he said.

Heavy medal *Azle cross-country runners impress at Pilot Point*

STAFF REPORT
sports@tricityreporter.com

AZLE — Cross-country runners were scheduled to compete at the Mansfield Legacy Invitational on Friday, Sept. 15, but the meet was cancelled.

Azle wrangled a last-minute invitation to a make-shift meet in Pilot Point and brought home some hardware. The team thanked Pilot Point's cross-country for the invitation and appreciated the hospitality.

Azle's varsity girls and boys ran together in a 5k race. Parker Huffaker took 14th place.

Azle JV boys won the championship, and JV girls took third place.

JV BOYS:

- Jose Romero - 8th
- Connor Lawson - 9th
- Mason Schluter - 12th
- Paul Robinson - 14th
- Riley Roberts - 18th
- Zach Hopton - 20th

JV GIRLS -

- Azucena Neri - 6th
- Lily Hudman - 7th
- Anahi Colmenero - 14th
- Avery Smithers - 19th

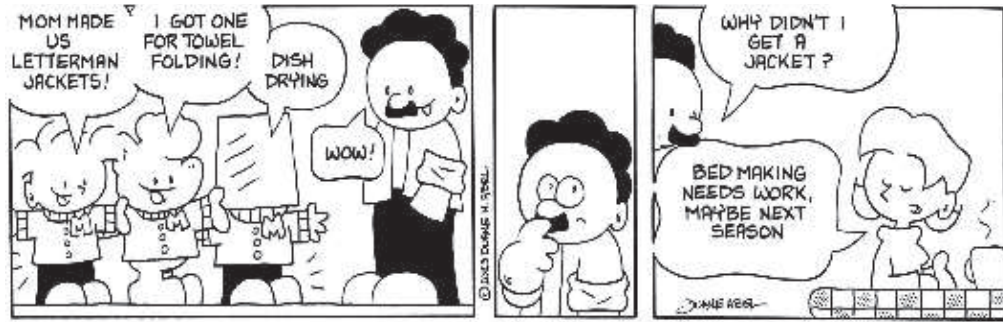


Cross-country runners fly at Pilot Point.

COURTESY PHOTO

ZED BY DUANE ABEL

WWW.CORKYCOMICS.COM



Sudoku

SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

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

Solution to last week's puzzle

SEPTEMBER 14, 2023

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to fashion.

H E S S O

□ □ □ □ □

Answer: Shoes

CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

- A. 9 20 9 19**
Clue: Young child
- B. 4 17 3 5 4**
Clue: Unexplainable crying
- C. 15 12 2 18 5 15 13**
Clue: Feeding infant
- D. 4 20 2 16**
Clue: Provisions for health



JEFF PRINCE | TRI COUNTY REPORTER

Xander Tice and the Porcupine cross-country team heads to Waxahachie this week.

Run, Wesley, run

Springtown cross-country team keeps legs churning

JEFF PRINCE

sports@tricityreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — Several Porcupines cross-country runners set their personal best times at the recent Pilot Point meet.

On Sept. 15, the Springtown runners traveled to Pilot Point, and Wesley Payne medaled after placing in the top 10. Payne and 11 other Springtown runners set personal records at the event.

Next up, the cross-country team will travel to the Waxahachie Sports Complex on Thursday, Sept. 21, to compete at the Waxahachie Life Mustang Stampede.



Wesley Payne earns a medal in Pilot Point.

ROYALTY

FROM PAGE B1

bruised, and sweaty after romping all over Greenville during the game. He made long runs and scored touchdowns on offense and made tackles on defense.

Hearing his name called over the loudspeaker as the new homecoming king perked him up, and he smiled as he made his way to the center of the football field while the crowd applauded.

How did he plan to celebrate?

"Probably go home," he said. "I'm tired."

Davila expected to win the game, but he was surprised by being picked for king. He grew up attending public schools and felt lost in the crowd much of the time. He enrolled at ACS as a sophomore three years ago and describes himself as a simple, friendly guy who gets along with others.

"I'm at a smaller school where most of the people know me," he said.

The focus on homecoming tends to fall mostly on the queen. Last year's queen Laney Geeslin showed up to put the crown on the head of the new queen, which just happened to be her best friend, Bayleigh Lynn.

Lynn liked how the crown felt but shunned personal credit.

"It feels really good, but all glory to God," she said. "I'm very happy that I influence my school that much that they would want to vote me for their queen. I really never thought that I was going to get it. There is a very big close tie between all of us. All of these (potential) queens are very involved in school and very likable people."

She planned to enjoy her moment awhile, mingle on the field with friends, and take photos to remember her evening.

"I have big shoes to fill because my best friend got it last year, but it feels really good," she said.

SENIOR KING NOMINEES

Christian Davila, escorted by Raymond and Norma Davila.

Tyler Reyes, escorted by Dallas and Shelly Reyes.

Jake Skartvedt, escorted by Jim and Danella Skartvedt.

Colton Vaughn, escorted by Brad and Amber Vaughn.

SENIOR QUEEN NOMINEES

Kylie Chambers, escorted by Taylor Guy, Brandon Chambers, and Crystal Eldridge.

Eliana Colson, escorted by Caleb and Julia Colson.

Bayleigh Lynn, escorted by Nick and Sharia McDowell.

Olivia Ramos, escorted by Hector and Meredith Ramos.



From left, Isaiah Simpson blocks for running back Christian Davila.

JEFF PRINCE | TRI COUNTY REPORTER



Christian Davila makes tackles when he isn't being crowned king.

JEFF PRINCE | TRI COUNTY REPORTER



Nehemiah Crowell congratulates Christian Davila after scoring a touchdown.

JEFF PRINCE | TRI COUNTY REPORTER

HOMECOMING COURT

Freshman prince: Aiden Largent, escorted by Jesse and Ashley Largent.

Freshman princess: Haylee Malewiski, escorted by Jason

and Krystal Malewiski.

Sophomore prince: Gage Anderson, escorted by Tim and Bethany Anderson.

Sophomore princess: Dari Skartvedt, escorted by Jim and Danelle Skartvedt.

Junior prince: Kelton Schott, escorted by Shaun and Amy Schott.

Junior princess: Vanessa Malewiski, escorted by Bruce Adams.



Last year's homecoming queen Laney Geeslin crowns new queen Bayleigh Lynn.

JEFF PRINCE | TRI COUNTY REPORTER

Dive in

Azle swimmers compete at first meet of season

JEFF PRINCE

sports@tricityreporter.com

AZLE — The swimmers at Azle High School began their season by hitting the road to compete at a dual meet against the Decatur Eagles.

The boys and girls teams competed on Sept. 13.

"This is the earliest in the season we have ever swum, but we were pleased with our performance and were able to identify areas of strength as well as areas of improvement," said head coach Amy Estes.

This year's roster includes eight swimmers "who are new to the sport and worked really hard to be ready for the first meet," she said.

Decatur won the dual, although points were not officially tallied.



Head coach Amy Estes and her swimmers have fun at Fit-N-Wise in a dual meet with Decatur.

PHOTO COURTESY AMY ESTES

Football Contest

WEEK 4

A few local prognosticators were in rare form this week. Guessing the winner of a high school football game can be tricky. Guess the winners of 24 games is nearly impossible. Five contestants this week came close, picking 20 or more winners correctly. Kyle Gathright was the top dog, predicting 22 of 24 outcomes. He won first place and \$20. David Shaffer earned second place and \$10 by picking 21 winners. Brett Horton, Margaret Swanzy and Eddy Swanzy tied for third place with 20 correct guesses, but Margaret was closest to the tiebreaker score and took the \$5 prize. The contest had a glitch. We failed to list the tiebreaker game in the print edition. We fixed the mistake on our website and made social media announcements with the correct tiebreaker information quickly, but some contestants missed the information. We apologize for the mistake.

Brewer vs Azle



AZLE HORNET FOOTBALL SCHEDULE 2023			
Date	Opponent	Location	
08/25	Frisco Reedy	Frisco Reedy	L 37-14
09/01	Grapevine	HOME	W 14-13
09/08	Denton Ryan	at DENTON RYAN	L 49-7
09/15	Aledo	Home	L 50-7
09/22	Brewer	Brewer	
09/29	Northwest	HOME	
10/06	open	open	
10/14	Saginaw	at SAGINAW	
10/20	The Colony	HOME	
10/26	South Hills	HOME	
11/03	Burl Centennial	at BURL CENTENNIAL	

Players Of The Week

OFFENSIVE

DEFENSIVE

SPECIAL TEAMS



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She's grand

Springtown volleyball libero Sterlyn Smith reaches career milestone

JEFF PRINCE
sports@tricityreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — The Lady Porcupines are relying on Sterlyn Smith's defensive abilities this season, just as they have since she first

made the varsity team as a sophomore.

On Sept. 12, Smith, now a senior, made 22 digs at the libero position to help Springtown sweep the Sanger Indians 3-0 in front of a hometown Porcupines crowd.

Afterward, the team celebrated Smith surpassing 1,000 digs for her career.

"For Sterlyn to have reached the 1,000-dig accomplishment is amazing," said head coach Leighann Strickland. "She has worked



Sterlyn Smith, a senior, surpasses 1,000 career digs.

JEFF PRINCE | TRI COUNTY REPORTER



Aubree Adams earns two blocks against Sanger.

JEFF PRINCE | TRI COUNTY REPORTER

hard for the last three years (on varsity), and it shows. All of those falls, bumps and bruises are all for this and this success she's had so far this season."

Against Sanger, Stoli Cox led Springtown in kill shots.

Kallie Conway was the top assister, followed by Bailey Walker.

Dawson Dogget led in aces.

Aubree Adams made a couple of nice blocks.

DISTRICT OPENER ON FRIDAY

The Porcupines will play Krum in their district opener at 5 p.m. Friday, Sept. 22, at Springtown High School.

Between Sept. 29-Oct. 24, the Lady Pines will embark on a stretch of nine district games to determine which

teams will make the playoffs.

Decatur has proven difficult to knock off in recent years. The Eagles have remained undefeated in district competition since 2021. The Porcupines will face the Eagles twice this season — on Oct. 3 at Decatur and on Oct. 20 at home.

SPRINGTOWN Game Faces

JEFF PRINCE | TRI COUNTY REPORTER



Traeshune Elam



Blade Adams, Bobby Finchum, Hendrix Harkcom, Roddy Myers



Quentin Gray and Aaron Street



A.J. Cosentino

FOOTBALL CONTEST • 2023 •

1st Place

2nd Place

3rd Place

\$20⁰⁰

\$10⁰⁰

\$5⁰⁰

Winners can pick up their checks at the Tri-County Reporter office after Thursday.

• OFFICIAL RULES •

There are 20 games listed in advertisements on this page. To enter, pick the winner and write the name of that team in the appropriate blank on the official entry form. Mail or deliver the form to the Tri-County Reporter at 321 W. Main St., Azle, Texas 76020, by 1:00 PM FRIDAY. (Limit one entry per person). Entries can also be dropped off at Highland Furniture on the Square in Springtown, 133 E. 1st St.

Entries will be tabulated weekly and the results published in that week's issue of the Tri-County Reporter. The first place winner each week will receive \$20, the second place winner \$10 and the third place winner \$5. The tie breaker will be used to determine placings. In case of a tie, the money will be divided equally. To pick the tie breaker, predict the total number of points in the selected game and enter in the appropriate space on the official entry form. All entries become the property of the Tri-County Reporter. Please write clearly and be sure to enter your pick in the correct blank. Second tiebreaker decided by whoever picks Azle and Springtown games correctly.

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\$20⁰⁰	\$10⁰⁰	\$5⁰⁰

Winners can pick up their checks at the Tri-County Reporter office after Thursday.

2023 OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

Deadline for entries 1 p.m. Friday! No photocopies please!

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| 14..... Campers/Trailers | 37..... Hay | 59..... Pool Service | 82..... RV's for Rent |
| 15..... Carports/Patios | 38..... Health/Fitness | 60..... Professional Services | 83..... Houses for Sale |
| 16..... Equipment Repair | 39..... Help Wanted | 61..... Personal | 84..... Mobile Homes for Rent |
| 17..... Carpet Service | 40 Home Improvement | 62..... Plumbing | 85..... Mobile Homes for Sale |
| 18 Catering | 41 House Leveling | 63..... Public Notice | 86..... Mobile Home/RV Lots |
| 19..... Cement Work | 42..... House Cleaning | 64..... Photography | 87..... Rent Furnished |
| 20..... Demolition | 43..... Hunting | 65..... Printing | 88..... Rent Unfurnished |
| 21..... Child Care | 44..... Janitorial Service | 66..... Roofing | 89 Wanted to Rent |
| 22..... Cosmetics | 45..... Job Wanted | 67..... Recycling | |
| 23..... Computers/Services | | 68..... Storage | |

RATES

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

Over 16 words, add 20 cents per word

Extras such as Bold, Center & Border are available for a small fee

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

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

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



Reach more than 8,000 households with advertising in THE TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Nobody does it better!

006 Asphalt Paving

BYRUM CONSTRUCTION
Asphalt and Concrete Paving
 Driveways • Parking Lots
 Asphalt Repairs & Sealcoating
 Asphalt Millings • Gravel
 Bruce Byrum, Azle, TX **817-690-2429**

032 For Sale



2017 Polaris RZR XP4 Turbo. Custom cage, doors, bumper, lights, spare tire & holder, big stereo w/sub. \$24,000.
817-789-2519.

035 Garden/Mowing Service

Chad's Tree Service
 Trimming • Removals • Stump Grinding
 Systemic Feeding • Brush Chipping • Cable Bracing
817-221-2201 • 817-246-5943
817-800-6059 CELL **FREE ESTIMATES**
Insured for your protection

039 Help Wanted

LINDSEY STATE JAIL CURRENT OPENINGS
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

019 Cement Work

Allen Chesney Concrete
All Types of Concrete Work
 Residential - Commercial
 Foundations, driveways, sand, gravel, demolition, haul-off, retaining walls
 817-271-4541

Concrete Services, Patios, Driveways, Sidewalks, Retaining Walls, Foundations, Stone Walls. Free Estimates. 817-371-8597.

Kiley Chesney Construction

Dirt & Concrete Work
 Driveways • House Slabs • Garages • Add-ons
 Small Land Clean-ups • Gravel Driveways
Kiley Chesney, Owner
 Springtown, TX • Mobile **817-846-6645**



5th Wheel 2008 Forest River 2-slide outs, new AC, clean, 29 Ft. \$11,000 (C) 817-734-5235 (H) 817-237-3803
Ric

YARD SERVICES
 SKID STEER
 SOD INSTALLATION
 FENCING
 STUMP GRINDING
817-371-8597

STUMP GRINDING
Don't dig it! Grind it!
 1 or 100 - We can do it.
 \$85 minimum within 5 mi.
817-237-5592

LEON'S TREE SERVICE
 Expert take downs
 Stump Grinding
 Residential/Commercial
 Licensed & Insured • Free Estimates
817-371-8597

039 Help Wanted

SILVER DOLLAR CUSTOMS HELP WANTED
 2 Mechanics needed and 2 Body Technicians Experience a must and tools a plus! Mechanics We work on all types of vehicles; we specialize in classics.
 From full restorations, modifications, rebuilds and upgrades, maintenance, and repairs but not limited to. Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm Occasional Saturday Body Shop Technicians Metal work, fabrications, welding, body working, sanding, grinding, and sand blasting. Hours: Monday - Friday 6:00am to 2:30pm Occasional Saturday Pay Negotiable Contact: Elizabeth @ 817-752-2165 or Come by: 408 Commerce St Azle, Tx 76020



Now Hiring GENERAL MAINTENANCE VAN DRIVER
 Mon-Fri 8am-3pm.
 Must have good driving record.
Apply in person: 113 Denver Trail, Azle.

Help Wanted in Aurora/Alvord Area

• **Mechanic - Diesel/ Heavy Equipment**
 • **Loader Operator**
 Competitive pay, some benefits. M-F day shift only. Overtime weekly.
For information call 214-802-5157

FREE ESTIMATES CLB CONCRETE metal buildings
817-991-3249 SPANISH 940-799-7394 ENGLISH
 DRIVEWAYS • SIDEWALKS • PATIOS
 FOUNDATION SLABS • METAL BUILDINGS

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

FREE ESTIMATES 817-996-7887
 253 Eagles Way, Springtown

024 Electrician

BULLDAWG ELECTRIC CO.
 All types of electrical services and MH hook-ups.
 Free Estimates. 817-675-4921
 www.bulldawgelectric.com.
 TECL#25253.

034 Garage & Estate Sales

Large estate and yard sale lots of dishes, house wares, furniture, home decorations and other stuff
 september 22-24th 7am -6pm
 5070 w hwy199 springtown 76082

Garage Sale
 September 22-24
 620 Kriston Dr, Azle
 Fri-Sat 8am-4pm, Sun. 8am-1pm

Large Garage Sale
 716 Sherry Dr, Azle. September 22-23 8am-2pm. Clothes, furniture, lots of crafts, big pictures, shoes, everything you need for the house.

Garage Sale
 1724 Gale Dr, Azle. Friday & Saturday 8am-4pm. Household, hunting, fishing & misc.

035 Garden/Mowing Service

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

Tony's Tree Service
 Removal, trimming & stump grinding. Senior & Veteran discounts. Fully insured. Call or text for free estimate 817-266-4603.

026 Excavating

REED EXCAVATING
 • SITE PREPARATION • GRAVEL ROADS
 • LOT CLEARING • PARKING LOTS
 • LEVELING • DEMOLITION
 • FINAL GRADE • STOCK TANKS
 • LAND EROSION
Dump Truck Hauling 817-919-3696

029 Fencing

BOBBY'S FENCE. All types, Free Estimates, Over 26 years experience. 817-444-3213.
KILEY CHESNEY CONSTRUCTION
 All Types Fences - Tractor Work
 817-846-6645

LEON'S FENCING
Cedar • Iron • Pipe Barbed Wire
817-371-8597

IRRIGATION REPAIR
 Residential/Commercial
 License# LI007825
 \$95 Service Call

OUTDOOR SCENE
682-553-1560

036 Hauling

DORADO TRANSPORT LLC
AZLE, TEXAS

We Haul: Auto, Power Sports, Equipment and Freight

817-789-2519
DoradoTransportLLC@Yahoo.com

039 Help Wanted

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

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

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

039 Help Wanted

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

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817-270-3340

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SUBSCRIPTION SPECIAL

13 Months for the Price of 12



Check one:
 \$50.00 IN-COUNTY Tarrant, Parker & Wise only
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 \$40.00 ONLINE ONLY View an online replica of the paper without receiving a printed copy

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

Cip and mail with check:

321 West Main Street, Azle, Texas 76020

TRI-COUNTY REPORTER



Find your Best Friend in the Classifieds!

TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

817-270-3340

Deadline:
1:00 PM FRIDAY

Classifieds

039 Help Wanted 066 Roofing



Service Technician
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.

To apply, please send resume via Indeed ad or come by our office located at 605 N. Business 287, Suite 102 in Decatur.

General Shop / Porter
Must be dependable and have a valid TXDL with good driver history.


Parts/Warehouse Associate
Seeking to hire a Parts Warehouse Associate for our Growing Company! Performs various duties throughout the Parts Department. Must be able to pass pre-employment background check and drug testing. Monday to Friday work week.

Please submit resume via Indeed ad or come by our office located at 605 N. Business 287, Suite 102 in Decatur.

Service Porter
Come join our Growing Team as a Service Porter! Duties included, but are not limited to cleaning vehicles, running errands and test-driving vehicles. Monday to Friday work week

Sales Manager
Seeking Top Talent to curate exceptional experiences for our customers. Previous sales & product knowledge required and previous management experience preferred. We offer you competitive pay; full time & flexible schedule; full benefits package including 401K; recognition for performance; and professional development.

Karl Klement Properties, Inc.
No Positions Available at This Time



KARL KLEMENT
Warehouse Associate
Assists in maintaining organization of warehouse and inventory. Some experience preferred, but willing to train the right candidate. Must be able to pass pre-employment background check and drug testing. We offer competitive wages, benefits, and room for growth.

Make-Ready Associate
Seeking to hire a Make-Ready Associate for our growing team! Duties include, but are not limited to cleaning vehicles, running errands, test driving vehicles, receiving, arranging, and maintaining the appearance of vehicles and ensuring the orderliness of the lot. Monday through Friday; No weekends!
Paid Holidays, Vacation, & Training

KLEMENT DISTRIBUTION, INC.
(Hershey Ice Cream Distributor)

Vending Route Driver
No CDL needed but must have valid TXDL with acceptable driving record. Must be dependable to meet requirements of early starting hours.

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

All full-time positions offer growth opportunities & a full benefits package including
Medical, Dental, Vision, Life, 401(k) & more. EEOC

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• Metal Roofing
• Carports
• Metal Buildings
• All General Contracting

Master Seal
BBB

Miles Roofing
• Insurance Claim Specialists;
• Free Estimates
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081 Business/Commercial
40x50 building For Rent, 3 miles west of Springtown. 817-713-7495.

Ash Creek Plaza is a beautiful building with great visibility on Jacksboro Highway now has one space available for lease. Contact 817-360-0261

For Lease: 800 sq. ft. Hwy 199 frontage, near hospital, \$850/mo. \$850 deposit. 817-220-2021 Bryant Real Estate.

068 Storage
INNERSPACE STORAGE. Hwy 199, Springtown. Now renting all unit sizes, 24-hour access. 682-842-1414.

STORAGE SPECIAL
10X10 \$60/MONTH-NO DEPOSIT
1350 LIBERTY SCHOOL RD, AZLE
5X10 \$45/MONTH \$20/DEPOSIT
817-246-4646

082 RV's for Rent
Nice 1BR RV in adult RV park. Great for older person on limited income. Starts at \$650/mo. All Bills Paid. Heritage RV Park 817-444-3760.

069 Sand/Gravel
HALL'S SAND, DIRT & GRAVEL
Quality Family Business Since 1938
CALL Cliff Hall
(817) 221-2681
We go the extra mile to ensure you get more for your \$. On House Pads, Driveways, Lot Clearing & Tractor Work, Etc.

084 Mobile Homes for Rent
3-2 mobile home for rent \$1150/mo \$1150/dep. 111 E. Bradshaw Road, Springtown. Proof of employment is a must. Call for more information 817-220-4095.

Nice 3-2 DW, fenced yard, Northwest ISD, Rhome TX \$1,700/mo. with approved application. 817-228-2414.

086 Mobile Home/RV Lots
Beautiful RV Spots available in nice, quiet area near Eagle Mountain Lake. \$450/mo. plus electric. Call for more information 817-228-2414.

079 Welding
owner Rodney Vick
817-220-3044
fax 817-523-7639
cell 817-253-1614

3 RV Lots for rent \$450/mo \$200/dep. All bolls payed. Briar area 817-996-0530.

R & E Construction
Metal Building Specialist
• Weld Ups/ Bolt Ups
• Pipe Fencing
• Concrete
• Horse Barns
• All Types Fencing
• Metal Roofs
Compare Pricing
NO JOB TOO SMALL

087 Rent Furnished
1 BDRM RV and 1 BDRM small house w/all bills payed. Each \$750/mo \$400/dep. Springtown area. 817-714-9855

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

2-1 House w/carport, close to Hwy/restaurants/shipping. Just renovated, no dogs. \$1400/mo 817-444-3636.

1 bedroom house in Springtown. \$800 water included, secluded. 940-255-7966, 940-229-1045.

1819 PELICAN OVAL
2-1-1 \$1,295.MO. \$800 DEP.
1513 CORAL CUT OFF
3-1-1 \$1,345.MO. \$1,000 DEP.
1572 REEF
3-2-1 \$1,395.MO. \$1,000 DEP.
Gene Thompson & Associates
817-246-4646 gtax.com

040 Home Improvement
BILL ROSSER PAINTING & REMODELING. Big Savings: \$100 off any job of \$1,000 or more. Painting, Carpentry, Porch Covers, Decks. FREE ESTIMATES. Call 817-304-9974; 866-374-3559.

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040 Home Improvement
Devin's Handyman Service
• Carpentry • Insulation
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• Rock • Roof & Gutters
• Granite • Powerwashing
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• Siding

SUMMER SPECIAL 20% OFF with this ad!

Call Devin at 817-629-9608

057 Pets/Livestock
Will pay top dollar for grazing and hay leases. Call 940-389-1936.

062 Plumbing
GRAHAM PLUMBING CO.
Commercial-Residential Serving Springtown, Azle, Boyd, Weatherford Area M#15899
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Chimney Cleaning Service
Keep your home safe. Call Parker/Wise County's oldest chimney sweeping company, Mr. Sweeps.
817-692-5624 ask for Doug
www.mrsweepschimneycleaning.com
Special: \$170 Chimney & Dryer Vent Cleaning

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Accepting Applications
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Need to sell your ATV? Call today and ask about our (\$29.95) 3-MONTH SPECIAL!
The Tri-County Reporter 817-270-3340

Rescue your Ballerina from the local Shelter and give her a Furever Home
Shelter animals have lots of unconditional love to share with their new best friends. Feel the Love - Adopt

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Deadline:
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Classifieds

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**Energy Efficient · Central Heat/Air
Off Street Parking · Water Paid
Fully Equipped Laundry**

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**Rent Based On Income
For Qualified Applicants**

62 years of age or older, handicap/disabled, regardless of age

 *This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer* 

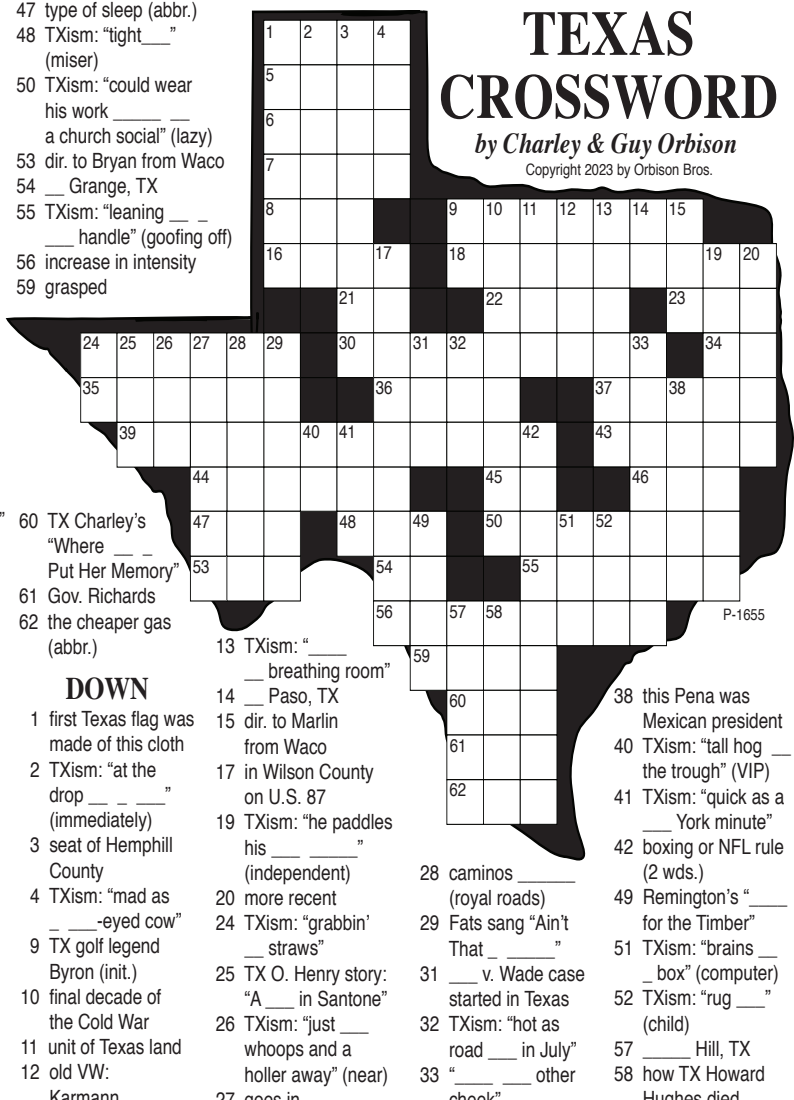
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TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orison
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ACROSS

- Cola
- TXism: "piece" (distant)
- Don Henley sang "Life in the Fast"
- TX Trini's "If A Hammer"
- not a gentleman
- LBJ's dogs
- Nixon played outfield for the Rangers in 1995
- actor Jack of TX-filmed "Terms of Endearment"
- TXism: "chompin' the bit"
- Glen Campbell is a Texan in "True"
- female sheep
- TXism: "attacked like grandma chicken snake"
- direction to Austin from San Antonio
- dir. to Dallas from Palestine (abbr.)
- Texas fiddler, Choates
- winter garment
- Amarillo's "Big Texan" offers a 72- steak
- TXism: "for" (crave)
- Tuck
- joyful
- Sieck State Forest
- Robb started as a Ranger and ended as a Giant
- type of sleep (abbr.)
- TXism: "tight" (miser)
- TXism: "could wear his work a church social" (lazy)
- dir. to Bryan from Waco
- Grange, TX
- TXism: "leaning handle" (gooing off)
- increase in intensity
- grasped
- TX Charley's "Where Put Her Memory"
- Gov. Richards
- the cheaper gas (abbr.)
- TXism: "breathing room"
- Paso, TX
- dir. to Marlin from Waco
- in Wilson County on U.S. 87
- TXism: "he paddles his" (independent)
- more recent
- TXism: "grabbin' straws"
- TX O. Henry story: "A in Santone"
- TXism: "just whoops and a holler away" (near)
- goes in
- TXism: "tall hog the trough" (VIP)
- TXism: "quick as a York minute"
- boxing or NFL rule (2 wds.)
- Remington's "for the Timber"
- TXism: "brains box" (computer)
- TXism: "rug" (child)
- Hill, TX
- how TX Howard Hughes died

TEXAS STATEWIDE CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING NETWORK

TexSCAN

TexSCAN Week of
Sept. 17-23, 2023

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LAND FOR SALE. Hunting, recreational, retirement. Hill Country, Trans Pecos regions in South Texas. 30-year fixed rate, owner financing, 5% down. www.ranchenterprisesltd.com. 800-876-9720.

LOG HOMES
Estate Sale Log Homes - Log Home kits selling for balance owed, free delivery. Model #101 Carolina, bal. \$17,000; Model #203 Georgia, bal. \$19,950; Model #305 Biloxi, bal. \$14,500; Model #403 Augusta, bal. \$16,500. View plans at www.americanloghomesandcabins.com. 704-368-4528.

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We buy oil, gas & mineral rights. Both non-producing and producing including Non-Participating Royalty Interest (NPRI). Provide us your desired price for an offer evaluation. Call today: 806-620-1422. Lobo Minerals, LLC, PO Box 1800, Lubbock, TX 79408-1800. LoboMinerals.LLC@gmail.com.

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Need Extra Cash - I Buy RVs & Mobile Homes -Travel Trailers, 5th Wheels, Goosenecks, Bumper Pulls. In Any Area, Any Condition - Old/New, Dirty or Clean! I PAY CASH. No Title - No Problem, we can apply for one. We go anywhere in Texas. ANR Enterprises, 956-466-7001.

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Camper or the same section.
RV in the Call 817-270-3340
Classifieds for more info on our **Only \$29.95**

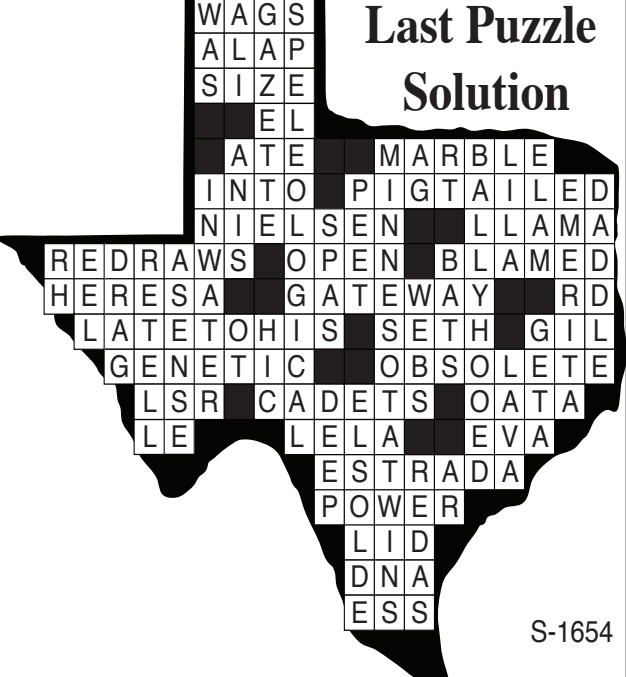
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Save a Shelter
Animal.
Find your
forever friend



Last Puzzle Solution



S-1654



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13 Months for the price of 12

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Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

County _____ Daytime ph. _____

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