

THE TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

THE NEWS OF AZLE, SPRINGTOWN, AND SURROUNDING AREAS

THURSDAY, September 28, 2023 • \$1.00



Blazing glory

JEFF PRINCE | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER
Logan Murrell lights up the letters at the climax of the homecoming parade.

MORE PHOTOS
PAGE A16

SISD joins lawsuit against TEA

STAFF REPORTS

SPRINGTOWN — Springtown Independent School District Board of Trustees unanimously approved the district administration's recommendation to join several Texas school districts in a lawsuit against the Texas Education Agency

SISD cites unfair practices in A-F accountability system

on Sept. 19. A resolution approved by the SISD board claims TEA Commissioner Mike Morath failed to provide school districts with "a document in a simple, accessible format

that explains the accountability performance measures, methods, and procedures that will be applied" for the 2022-23 and 2023-24 school years. The lawsuit, initially filed by Kingsville ISD, seeks

an injunction to prevent Morath from issuing new ratings using retroactively applied, yet-to-be-finalized measures.

The resolution also claims Morath plans to impose a

new accountability system for the 2022-23 school year, which would affect students who have already graduated, but hasn't been confirmed yet. These ratings are expected to be released at the end of October.

According to a TEA press release from Sept. 12, post-

poning the ratings will allow for more re-examination of the baseline data used in calculating the "progress" part of the system, which measures how much students have gained academically in a year. The press release

PLEASE SEE **TEA** | A3

Tri-County Reporter celebrates name change with ribbon cutting



The newspaper office serving Tarrant, Parker and Wise County held large gathering with catered breakfast, refreshments and words from leadership

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

AZLE — On Friday, Sept. 22 the Tri-County Reporter hosted a ribbon-cutting and reception ceremony to officially celebrate the merger

JEFF PRINCE | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER
The Tri-County Reporter news team with Houston and others during the ribbon cutting.

between the Azle News and The Springtown Epigraph. Since June 5, the newly-combined newspaper has been operating under the name Tri-County Reporter. Several weeks ago, the business installed a new Tri-County Reporter sign on the façade that once read "Azle News". The rebranding occurred not only to increase the economic efficiency of the business, but also to build connections

between closely-neighboring communities that may not always hear enough about one another.

"As the communities are growing, and I'm so involved in both communities, I've seen them getting closer and closer and closer together," Publisher Kim Ware said. "They may be separate cities, separate school districts,

PLEASE SEE **CUTTING** | A15

Reno to bring community together with National Night Out event

MADelyn EDWARDS

springtownreporter@tricountyreporter.com

RENO — Reno Events Committee is hosting what Chairperson Courtney Trevino described as a "block

party for the country" next week.

Most people may know this event better by another name — National Night Out — which aims to bring law enforcement and the community together. Reno hasn't

National Night Out is Oct. 3

hosted a National Night Out event in recent years, and this is the first one Trevino has been aware of. Reno Police Department officers and

Briar-Reno Fire Department firefighters will be recognized at the event.

"They serve us, they're keeping us safe, and they're

doing things that we didn't sign up to do," Trevino said. "I think it's nice to kind of give back to them and be able to show appreciation in the ways that we can as a community, which might be simple like hot dogs and chili,

but just to know we can show our support for them."

Reno's National Night Out will take place from 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 3 at city hall on West Reno Road. The event

PLEASE SEE **NNO** | A8



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VOLUME 1, NUMBER 17
Local, zone(s) 2 sections, 28 pages

INSIDE
News - A1 - A16 | Obituaries - A6 | Diversions B1 - B9 | Classifieds B10 - B12

Let's Talk Azle

Local civic, school, business and church leaders announce pilot program to promote community resiliency

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

AZLE — “Blessed are the peacemakers” Dr. Wesley Shotwell, pastor at Ash Creek Baptist Church said. “Being a peacemaker means you take action in order to make peace in the world.”

During the Sept. 12 meeting of the Azle Area Ministerial Alliance (AAMA), local leaders from all walks gathered to learn about a new community resilience initiative dubbed “Let’s Talk Azle.”

More than a year ago, John Thielepape, former director of missions for the Parker Baptist Association and now director of projects at GlocalNet, an affiliate of Northwood Church in Keller, met with Dr. Shotwell and others to discuss the beginnings of such a project. Over time, a steering committee composed of Todd

Smith, Azle ISD superintendent; Kristie Cooper, director of the Community Caring Center; Azle Mayor Pro Tem Randa Goode; Alton Davis, president of the AAMA and pastor at Community Bible Fellowship; David Shaffer, director of Son Shine Ministries; Jose Villalobos, youth pastor at Primera Iglesia Bautista de Azle; Jamie Westbrook, social worker at Azle ISD; and Shotwell was formed to spearhead discussion about what our community can do to reduce division in increasingly hostile times.

The individuals gathered to discuss and plan out Let’s Talk Azle represent a variety of backgrounds and sectors within the community. The initiative is endorsed by the City of Azle, the Azle Independent School District, the Azle Area Chamber of Commerce and the Azle Area Ministerial Alliance.

“We began to talk about what it would take to create a culture of community resilience in which we would have an opportunity to help people think through things and talk about things and still have a community where we’re able to love one another and find resilience in a society that’s pulling apart,” Shotwell said. “I believe Azle is the perfect place to do that.”

By communicating its message through churches, schools, workplaces and public spaces, Let’s Talk Azle hopes to bring the community together and stop violence before it has the chance to start.

“It is a great initiative,” Smith said. “After learning more about the focus of the program, I knew it was a much-needed initiative, especially when some of the anger or extreme behavior this program hopes to head



Shotwell during the first presentation on Let’s Talk Azle.

ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

off often affects our schools. Our involvement is not only to support the concept behind the program, it includes a commitment of sharing the strategies for improving communication skills with both students and staff. We look forward to this program supporting the great things we have going on in the Azle community. The Azle community has a stellar reputation for helping others in times of need. The key components we as a committee identified as focus areas will only help improve this.”

Similar efforts are being taken to create groups in Keller and South Fort Worth, but Let’s Talk Azle is leading the charge, Shotwell said. For many people, the problems Shotwell described are not difficult to see.

“I’ve become aware of many families who can’t even talk to each other anymore,” Shotwell said. “It seems like over the last 10 years or so, we might have disagreed on things before, now disagreement has not just become violent almost. In fact, every now and then violence breaks out. Every now and then, we

see someone who has taken things so far that they walk into a Walmart or whatever or other kinds of violence breaks out.”

POSITIVE RESPONSE

A booth for Let’s Talk Azle was present on Sept. 9 for the annual Sting Fling celebration and Shotwell said the overwhelming response from residents who were curious about the project was positive. To start off, the organization has produced sample packets describing what people can do to foster more positive interactions in their spaces. The packet covers such subjects as how to talk about tough topics, being good neighbors, peacefully talking with one another, social media, conspiracy theories, hate and news consumption, describing common practices, offering helpful habits, conversation starters and exercises.

LET’S KEEP TALKING

As Azle continues to grow and diversify, Shotwell sees the need for the initiative to grow as well.

“We’re having lots and lots of new people coming to

town,” Shotwell said. “The upshot of that is we are no longer going to be an upper middle class white conservative community. People are coming to our town. Can’t we be good neighbors and remind ourselves to love our neighbor like Jesus said.”

Let’s Talk Azle and Vamos Hablar Azle signs have been placed all over town by participating organizations. Shotwell also hopes to spread the message on the road and cancel out the increasing number of negative car decals with Let’s Talk Azle window clings.

Shotwell hopes the campaign can guarantee they remain a community where people can be friends with one another, regardless of any disagreements politically, religiously or otherwise.

If you’d like a Let’s Talk Azle window cling for your vehicle or business, more information, or just to keep up with the progress of the initiative, go to <https://www.facebook.com/LetsTalkAzle> and click the “Like” button. A steering committee member will be happy to respond. You may also contact steering committee members directly.



A Let’s Talk Azle sign on display in front of the Azle Administration Building.

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Include name of veteran, branch of service, and years served. If you submitted a photo for last year’s veterans section we will include it in this year’s special section.



TRI★COUNTY REPORTER

Judge Deen: Transportation bond projects to make roads safer

MADELYN EDWARDS
springtownreporter@tricountyreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — Parker County Judge Pat Deen can't tell people to vote for the county's transportation bond proposal in November, but he did say the projects in the proposal would improve safety and potentially save lives.

Deen and Precinct 1 Commissioner George Conley came to Springtown on Sept. 14 to discuss the county's \$130 million transportation bond proposal.

According to Texas Department of Transportation's website, at least one person has died daily on Texas roads since Nov. 7, 2000. Deen called this statistic "unacceptable."

"What we've done, what Mr. Conley and the other commissioners have done, is taken a proactive approach," he said about the bond proposal. "Let's not wait for a death" to happen before fixing the roads.

Deen also said, "The roads you're driving on now aren't the same roads you were driving on five years ago because those roads are not as safe because of the density of the traffic that's on those roads."

Deen handed out information to attendees that denotes the county's population growth of about 34%

Deen, Conley give presentation in Springtown on county's transportation bond proposal

from 2010-2022 and a 4.8% current growth rate per year. Parker County is ranked No. 6 nationally for growth, and it is estimated that 22 people move to the county daily.

"Precinct 1, which is y'all, just surpassed Precinct 4, which is the Aledo area, from a density standpoint and the number of subdivisions you've got going in," Deen said. "The growth you have right now, it's going to just continue."

The growth puts a strain on the roadways, especially since 60% of Parker County workers travel east every day, Deen said.

Hence, the county is seeking local transportation funding through a bond election to support the growth and expedite safety projects. Local funds could then be leveraged with state and federal partners so the county could afford even more transportation improvements. The county also hopes to collaborate with the North Central Texas Council of Governments, cities and school districts in the bond proposal.

"We'd like for y'all to help us with this bond, be a partner of anything you can," Conley said during the meeting, addressing Springtown city officials. "We're not asking for half. We're not asking for a quarter. We're just asking for some help on this road bond if y'all can do it."

The 32 total bond projects include safety improvements, new road extensions, widening roads and working on frontage roads and ramps in the county, in cities and on TxDOT roads. County projects would cost \$88 million while partnership ones would cost \$27 million. With added discretionary funding, the total cost of the transportation improvement program is \$130 million.

Deen pointed out that if the bond passes, the county could receive additional millions of dollars in federal funding. If the bond doesn't pass, projects will be delayed, and the price to fix the roads in the future will likely be inflated.

Homeowners whose property value is about \$333,000 can expect to pay about an

extra \$7 in taxes per month or about \$83 more per year. However, Deen said it is possible that the county's growth could absorb the economic impact, which has happened for the last two bond elections.

PROPOSED PRECINCT 1 PROJECTS

The projects in and around Precinct 1, which includes Springtown and Reno, include:

- Extending Hutcheson Road from Farm-to-Market Road 51 to State Highway 199, thus connecting Hutcheson Road with Williams-Ward Road; Hutcheson is also expected to be expanded slightly.
- Extending Church Road to cross FM 730 to connect with Newsom Mound Road and adding a four-way traffic signal.
- Reconstructing Midway Road.
- Reconstructing W.N. Woody Road near Briar from FM 730 to County Road 4863.
- Reconstructing Thomas Road from Hill Road to FM 51 and smoothing the road's 90-degree turn.
- Realigning Veal Station Road and its intersection with FM 51.
- Improving safety at the intersection of SH 199 and Old Agnes Road.



MADELYN EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Chris Bosco of the engineering, planning and consulting firm Freese and Nichols explains various projects that are part of Parker County's transportation improvement program at the public meeting in Springtown's court annex building.



Parker County Judge Pat Deen emphasizes that the projects in the county's bond proposal will improve roadway safety during a public meeting on Sept. 14 in Springtown's court annex building.



Parker County Precinct 1 Commissioner George Conley tells attendees of a public meeting in Springtown the county hopes to partner with Springtown in the county's transportation bond projects.

- Extending Pojo Road from Goshen Road to FM 51, providing an alternate path to Springtown High School.
- Adding turn lanes to SH 199 at Poolville Cut Off Road intersection.

Aside from the bond proposal, Conley said TxDOT is planning to expand FM 51 to four lanes from Springtown to Weatherford.

"It's a dangerous highway, as everybody knows, so we're going to stay on (TxDOT) to get that done," Conley said.

Springtown City Administrator David Miller added that TxDOT is also planning on adding a traffic signal to the intersection of FM 51 and J.E. Woody Road.

The intersection of South Stewart Street and FM 730 is also expected to be signalized, Conley said.

Teresa Yosten attended the public meeting in Springtown to inquire about New Hope Road and was delighted to hear Conley say that New Hope Road will be reconstructed next spring.

"When you go to our house, you're going down the road

before you turn into our driveway, you have to pull over if someone's oncoming to let them over off the road," Yosten said. "It's so chewed up on the roads, so yeah, that was great news to hear."

Yosten was also supportive of the county's plan to work on Thomas Road by FM 51, which she described as "dangerous."

Conley said if the county's transportation bond election passes, that will allow for more resources to be used on other projects in Precinct 1.

"We'll have hired people to do these other roads, and then I can do more roads than we normally do," he said.

"This just helps us, Precinct 1, get many more roads done, or it would take me forever to get to New Hope."

Parker County voters can cast their ballots on Election Day on Nov. 7 or during early voting from Oct. 23 to Nov. 3. The voter registration deadline is Oct. 10.

For more information about Parker County's bond proposal, visit parkercounty-bond.com online.

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<p>AZLE AREA MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE UNITED IN CHRIST Christian Leaders partnering together with one voice to impact our culture for Christ. We celebrate unity amidst diversity as we pastor our community. Luncheon meetings 11:45 a.m. - 1 p.m. 2nd Tues of each month; location varies. See www.azlema.com or email director@azlema.com for additional information. 817-200-4611</p>	<p>SERVOLUTION NETWORK LET'S START A COMMUNITY WIDE REVOLUTION THROUGH SERVING. Love God. Love People. Love Your City. Dream Center open 9-3 M-F 11698 FM730 S. Azle FOR QUESTIONS CALL: 833-4WE-SERV servolutionnetwork.com</p>	<p>Azle Boy Scout Troop 243 Meets Mondays 7 PM Azle First Assembly of God 1020 Southeast Parkway troop243azle.org</p>	<p>Optimist Club of Azle Meets every FRIDAY at 6:45 AM Moe's Country Kitchen 316 W. Main, Azle</p>	<p>Azle Lodge No. 601 Floor School or Work 7:30 PM THURSDAY NIGHT Kenny Patrick- Worshipful Master Chris Akers - Secretary Clint Hall - Treasurer</p>	<p>PREGNANCY HELP CENTER 10328 Jacksboro Hwy Fort Worth TX 76135 817-237-1819 www.emphc.org Mon 12-6 pm Thurs 12-6 pm SE HABLA ESPAÑOL</p>

Another special session slated for October; Paxton hints at run against Cornyn in 2026

ANOTHER SPECIAL SESSION SLATED FOR OCTOBER

Gov. Greg Abbott has called a third special session, this time about school choice, for next month. He is promising retribution for lawmakers who oppose his move to enact school vouchers in Texas, the Texas Tribune reported.

"There's an easy way to get it done, and there's a hard way," Abbott said on a tele-town hall about the issue. "We will take it either way — in a special session or after an election." Abbott essentially threatened to find primary opponents for legislators who oppose his initiative, which failed to gain traction during the regular session as a coalition of Democrats and Republicans representing rural districts opposed it.

His proposal would give parents taxpayer dollars to send their children to private schools. Opponents say this would harm public school systems, particularly in rural areas where choices for private schools are limited.

PAXTON HINTS AT RUN AGAINST CORNYN IN 2026

Just days after being acquitted on impeachment



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.

charges by the Texas Senate, reinstated Attorney General Ken Paxton hit the airwaves of several conservative media outlets and hinted of a possible run against incumbent U.S. Sen. John Cornyn in 2026.

The Houston Chronicle reported on a Paxton interview with Tucker Carlson on X, formerly known as Twitter. Paxton said that "somebody needs to step up and run against this guy that will do the job."

"To me, he's been in Washington too long. He's been there, what, for 14 years or so? And I can't think of a single thing he's accomplished for our state or even for the country," Paxton said.

In a separate interview, Paxton said he will be "on the campaign trail" to back GOP primary opponents of three House members who were key to his impeachment:

House Speaker Dade Phelan and Reps. Andrew Murr of Junction and Jeff Leach of Plano.

"I'm highly motivated," the Austin American-Statesman quoted Paxton as saying.

Paxton still faces state security fraud charges filed in 2015. He is due to go to trial next March and is also under federal investigation.

DEADLINE NEARS FOR REGISTERING TO VOTE ON NOV. 7

Texasans will decide the fate of 14 proposed constitutional amendments on Nov. 7. The deadline to register to vote in that election is Oct. 10 for those who are not already registered. The proposed amendments include measures to increase the homestead exemption from \$40,000 to \$100,000, with homeowners 65 and older getting an additional \$40,000

exemption. Other proposals would cap increased in appraised value and expand exemptions for small businesses from the franchise tax.

Abbott and other backers of the bills passed in a summer special session called these measures the largest property tax cut in Texas history.

Early voting begins on Oct. 23 and ends Nov. 3, according to the Texas Secretary of State's office.

TEXAS CALLED 'HOTBED OF HATE' IN RECENT REPORT

A report issued last week by the Anti-Defamation League labels Texas a hotbed for extremism and antisemitism, with a heavy presence of white supremacist and anti-LGBTQ+ groups, according to the Texas Tribune. The report examines three years of "alarming levels of extremist ideology and activity" in the state. Antisemitic incidents in the state rose by 89% and six "terrorist plots" were discovered, along with 28 "extremist events" such as training and rallies, according to the report.

The ADL suggested some nonpartisan policies to stem growing extremism, such as creating a commission to

study domestic violent extremism and providing clear statistics on hate crimes.

"Elected officials in Texas have an opportunity to confront this issue to significantly curtail the negative impact that extremism has on the people they represent," Oren Segal, vice president of the ADL's Center on Extremism, said in a statement.

FINANCIAL LOSSES FROM OPIOID CRISIS ARE STAGGERING

In a monthlong series of stories about the fentanyl crisis, The Dallas Morning News determined through an analysis by The Perryman Group that the economic toll of the opioid crisis in Texas includes \$50.1 billion in economic output each year and more than a half-million jobs.

"As large as these numbers are, they likely understate the true impact," economist Ray Perryman said. "It's widely acknowledged that drug addiction is underreported."

His group pulled data from the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and prevention and other health agencies for its analysis.

A new law requires all emergency medical respond-

ers to report drug overdoses to health authorities in an effort to map overdoses and hopefully identify overdose hotspots. All Texas law enforcement officers are being given NARCAN, which quickly reverses opioid overdoses, according to Abbott's office.

COWTOWN NAMED CITY WITH THE WORST WEATHER

A newsroom meteorologist with the San Antonio Express-News is not likely to win the keys to the city of Fort Worth after completing a study to determine which major city in Texas has the worst weather. The "winner" was Fort Worth, according to Anthony Franze.

Franze looked at hail, tornado, flash flood and wind data since 2000 for the five most populous counties.

"Based on all the different categories we looked at, the major city with the most consistent destructive severe weather is Fort Worth," Franze wrote. "Since 2000, Tarrant County has had the most hail reports and it's in an area most prone to destructive tornadoes. Tarrant County has also had 121 destructive wind reports during that time, the most of any major Texas city."

Spotlight on BUSINESS

SEPTEMBER



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For appointments, call 571-232-8718. All of Stu Lankford's consultations and planning sessions are free. But if you mention this ad when you contact him for an appointment, he will treat you to a conversation over breakfast or lunch!

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Stu Lankford Financial Services, New York Life and NYLife Securities provides holistic financial planning and solutions for individuals, families and small businesses, including retirement planning and long-term care, small business solutions for insurance, disability, and retirement, life insurance and annuities, investing solutions, college savings, and individual disability insurance.

"My business is about building relationships and being a resource," said Lankford. "My father's entire career was in the financial industry, and he didn't believe in having clients, but rather long-term friends. I believe the same thing. Honest financial planning and assistance takes trust, a genuine care for each relationship, and a deep understanding of your needs and desires before we can chart a path with holistic, unique solutions you believe in."

Stu Lankford is a retired Marine with a BBA in Finance from Baylor University,

and a Master's of Military Science and Planning. His family recently moved back to Texas from North Carolina and have been set up in the Azle/Fort Worth area for almost a year.

Stu Lankford's downtown office is located at 777 Main St., Ste. 3800 in Fort Worth, and his home office is located in Bonita Oaks Estates near SH 199. He is available 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Individual evening appointments are on a case-by-case basis.

"A career in the Marines honed my problem-solving skills and opened my eyes to the blessings of service," Lankford said. "I truly find joy in putting folks on a better path to success. If you need services I don't provide, I will find someone who can."

For appointments, call 571-232-8718. All of Stu Lankford's consultations and planning sessions are free. But if you mention this ad when you contact him for an appointment, he will treat you to a conversation over breakfast or lunch!



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OBITUARIES

Beverly Pierce 1950-2023

Beverly June Pierce, 73, passed away Wednesday, Sept. 20, 2023, after a long battle with Alzheimer's Disease.

A celebration of life took place at Azle Deer Cove Wednesday, Sept. 27.

Beverly was born in Fort Worth on March 25, 1950, to Daisy and Roy McCarey. She graduated from Polytechnic Senior High School in 1968. She retired from Lockheed Martin in 2012.

Beverly lived a wonderful life with her devoted husband Doyle Pierce in Azle. She was always ready to sit on the front porch with a beverage and chat the evening away anytime her friends or family came around, and that was often; she always had a smile and was willing to listen to anyone. Beverly loved to travel, and among many destinations, made the trip to Italy several times. She was a loyal friend, a wonderful mother, a caring wife, and an extraordinary grandmother. She will be missed by everyone who was fortunate enough to see



her smile.

She was preceded in death by her mother and father, Daisy Mae McCarey and Robert Roy McCarey and her beloved cousin Carolyn Marshall.

She is survived by her cousins, Jo Benoy and Robbie Ramos; her husband Doyle Pierce; her daughter and her husband, Robyn and Jordan Davis; her son and his wife, Reese and Wendi Pierce and their daughter Phoenix Pierce.

The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday Sept 28, 2023

Joy Owens 1935-2023

Joy Lynn (Juvinal) Owens, 87, went home to be with the Lord Thursday, Sept. 21, 2023 at home, surrounded by those that love her.

A funeral service was held Monday, Sept. 25, at Eagle Mountain International Church. Interment followed at Annis Chapel Cemetery in Springtown.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her name to the American Cancer Society or the Dementia Friendly Fort Worth Organization.

Joy was born Oct. 9, 1935, in Illinois to Wilbur and Oda Mae Juvinal.

She was preceded in death by her parents, along with several brothers and sisters.

She is survived by her loving and devoted husband, Floyd "Rusty" Owens; sons, Floyd Owens, III and wife, Toni, Daniel Owens, Alan Smith, Rick Smith and William Lewis Owens; daughter, Debby Burke; sisters, Linda and Helen; grandchildren Heather, Jessica, Josh, Blake, Hannah and Cheyenne; great-grandchildren Victoria, Elden, Timothy, Evan, Seth, Ireland, Marlee and Lucy; and great-great-grandchildren Rory, Casey, Kora, Aubrie and Jude; extended family and friends.



The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday Sept 28, 2023

CALENDAR

Sept 28-October 29

TO SUBMIT CALENDAR ITEMS

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

THURSDAY, SEPT. 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. To reserve a spot, call 817-752-2682, or stop by the library's information desk.

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

FRIDAY, SEPT. 29

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

SATURDAY, SEPT. 30

AZLE HIGH SCHOOL HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CEREMONY at 2 p.m. inside the AHS Competition Gym. Join in the celebration recognizing the 2013 AHS Girls Wrestling Team, Coach Don Ostermann and Montana De La Rosa. A reception will follow the ceremony.

TUESDAY, OCT. 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 from 6-8 p.m. 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.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT at Lakeside Town Hall, 9830 Confederate Park Rd., from 6-8 p.m. Join Lakeside PD for food and sno-cones.

THURSDAY, OCT. 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. Space is limited so registration is required. To reserve a spot, call 817-752-2682, or stop by the library's information desk.

FRIDAY, OCT. 7

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

FALL FESTIVAL at Sunset Church of Springtown, 247 Sunset Dr. from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Come out for food, vendors, crafts, live music and a car show. All proceeds benefit the Children's Ministry.

TUESDAY, OCT. 10

AZLE AREA MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE'S October luncheon is from 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Azle ISD administration building. This month's meal is provided by the Azle ISD, and district staff will present the program, as well. Call 817-200-4611 for additional information.

SATURDAY, OCT. 14

SPRINGTOWN HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1963 60TH REUNION will be held at noon at Fireside BBQ & Grill (formerly Shinola's), 301 Martin Ave., Springtown. Order from the menu. RSVP by Oct. 1 by calling Connie at 817-675-0008, Earlene at 817-235-2001, or Nelda at 817-680-0879.

FALL FESTIVAL at The Edge Church, 1313 Southeast Pkwy. in Azle from 4-6 p.m. Join the community for games, food and fun.

FRIDAY, OCT. 20

SPRINGTOWN HIGH SCHOOL WALL OF HONOR introductions during the SHS Varsity Football game celebrating outstanding athletes. Nominations are open until Oct. 6.

SUNDAY, OCT. 29

CITY OF PELICAN BAY COMMUNITY HALLOWEEN EVENT 4-6 p.m. at Pelican Bay City Hall, 1300 Pelican Cir. Grab your costumes and join the community at this family-friendly event with a fun Trunk-or-Treat, candy, games, popcorn and prizes, and more.

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

If you like Diablo, you'll love Path of Exile

The whole reason I joined the Steam platform back in 2014 was because I wanted to play Path of Exile. I really missed playing "Diablo," and PoE was a nearly identical gameplay experience, but better.



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.

Like Diablo, Path of Exile is an online action role-playing game. You play as your choice of Templar, Shadow, Marauder, Scion, Ranger, Duelist, or Witch. Even though the gameplay resembles Diablo, the game engine was created entirely in-house by Grinding Gear Games and has a unique currency system and skill gem system.

Just like in any other sword and sorcery game, the stats of your character depend on the class you've picked. Strength, intelligence, and dexterity attributes can be boosted manually or automatically as experience points accumulate.

Your character has been exiled to Wraeclast. You're earning power "that will help you get revenge against those who have wronged you." That's what the description says, but so far, I've gotten no revenge. I've killed several monsters, demons, a couple of demigods, and lots and lots of zombies,

though. There are weird monsters in this game, like animated blobs of water, electrified steampunk bird cages and flying ribbons of death. There's a lot of really imaginative monster design, and some spectacular spell effects.

What makes Path of Exile stand out is its insanely complicated passive skill tree. Each character starts at a certain point on the tree that gives them access to the characteristics they're best at. The character can get better at what they already do well, pretty standard with an adventure game. Or they can use the experience points to travel across the tree and find weirder skills for the character, like making a Marauder with magic abilities. It's all about how you choose to use the experience points.

Path of Exile did two things

better than Diablo — the money management currency system, and the death in-game of the character.

In the original Diablo, when your character died, they left everything on the battlefield, including what they were wearing and the items they picked up. I always made sure to have a back up suit of armor so I could go and rescue the regular outfit. Even in Diablo 3, when the character dies, they get a little bit of damage to all the items they're equipped with.

In Path of Exile, when your character dies, they are resurrected either at the last checkpoint, or at the portal in the last camp/town you reached in the narrative, with all their inventory intact and undamaged. In fact, if you don't want to cast a town portal spell to get them back to town, you can just quit. Very refreshing.



PHOTO COURTESY GRINDING GEAR GAMES

A marauder is one of the character classes in Path of Exile.

Instead of picking up gold pieces, you pick up skill gems, scrolls, and orbs. Skill gems give you various spells, which improve with experience points. Weapons and wearable items have color sockets, and your character has a wide range of combinations of gems that can be inserted into these sockets. Gems, orbs and scrolls can be traded up or down for whatever your character needs.

One thing I always admired about the Path of Exile creative team was that they never charged for the game. "The game is completely free and will never be 'pay to win.'" If you want to give the developing team money, you can purchase character looks from their online shop. They

also have pets, and spell effects that change the look of spells you cast.

If you're cheap like me and just rely on items you pick up, after a while you'll have a collection of what they call unique (extremely rare) items. Many of the items you pick up have an attribute generator with a naming system (also very complex, and kind of boring unless you're into that kind of thing.) Unique items have specific pieces of art that are rendered for that object alone and have better attributes.

After you've finished the story, there are side quests, ascendancy paths, spy missions, and even an arena where you can battle really difficult monsters for prizes.

It's a huge game.

Now, after seven years, they've come out with Path of Exile 2!

It's set 20 years after the original story, and promises updated visuals, items, mechanics, and a new storyline. It will be available alongside the original story, rather than replacing it. It will also be free to play. Expected release date will be in 2024, but no firm release date has been set. The release of trailers coincides with ExileCon, an annual convention for fans of Path of Exile.

Path of Exile, free to play on SteamOS. It can be played solo, cooperative or PvP. I have played 487 hours of this game, and I'm nowhere near done playing it.

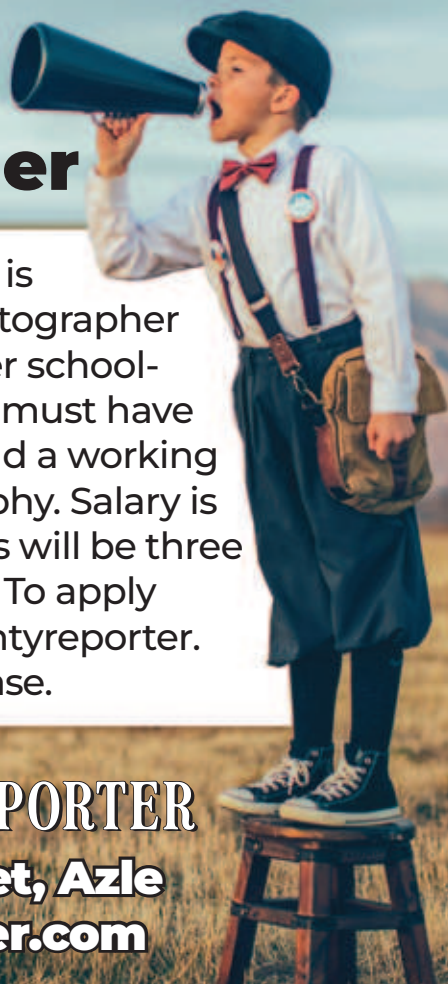


PHOTO COURTESY GRINDING GEAR GAMES

A screenshot from Path of Exile 2, coming in 2024.

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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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Young racer wins 'prestigious' trophy

Lane Swift also earns spot in NHRA Fall Nationals

MADelyn EDWARDS
springtownreporter@tricountyreporter.com

ARDMORE, Okla. — Eight-year-old dragster racer Lane Swift of Paradise recently added another trophy to his collection, but this one likely stands out from the rest.

Lane won a Wally Trophy, which is described by the National Hot Rod Association

as "drag racing's most prestigious trophy," according to the NHRA website. The award is called "Wally" in honor of the late NHRA founder Wally Parks, and it is coveted among racers.

This accomplishment occurred during Lane's final race of the season at Ardmore Dragway in Oklahoma on Aug. 19-20.

"When we arrived at the track, he was third in overall points for his age group (6-9)," Lane's mother Courtney Swift said. "He was running neck and neck with one other young man; Lane went to the finals and won the Saturday race moving him from third to first place. When Sunday morning came along, Lane and the young man had a

runoff for the points championship, in which Lane came out on top, winning the overall points for the Ardmore Dragway Junior Dragster Team."

Because the race was part of the NHRA.tv Challenge, Lane won his Wally trophy.

"He said his Papaw Billy who passed away in June was smiling down on him and helped him to win," Courtney Swift said, who added that Lane's achievement was "spectacular" and "hard-fought."

In addition, Lane ranked seventh in the top 10 junior dragster racers nationally on Dragchamp.com for the week of Aug. 23, and he placed second in points for the end of the season at the final points race on Aug. 27 at Texas Motorplex in Ennis. These triumphs have won Lane a spot to make an exhibition pass at the NHRA Fall Nationals at Texas Motorplex in October.

"He is extremely excited for this as some of the biggest names in drag racing (his idols) will be there," Courtney Swift said. "This is a big deal to get an invitation especially as a junior racer."



COURTESY PHOTO

Lane Swift, 8, smiles big while holding his Wally Trophy, which is described by the National Hot Rod Association as "drag racing's most prestigious trophy."



Lane Swift and his parents - Courtney and Casey Swift - pose for a picture with Lane's racecar and winnings at the Ardmore Dragway in Oklahoma.

NNO FROM PAGE A1

will feature free hot dogs, chili and children's activities. Musically-inclined attendees are encouraged to bring an instrument for an impromptu jam session. Trevino said the children's activities include coloring, Play-Doh modeling

and lawn toys.

"We were even toying around with (having) a good old-fashioned three-legged race," she said with a laugh.

Bringing Reno residents together is one of Trevino's goals for this gathering.

"We're going to just try to entertain the community again and bring everybody together," she said.

Reno Events Committee

is also trying to build community with its game nights and other social gatherings that typically occur on the second and fourth Thursdays at city hall. Trevino also said a fall festival in collaboration with Reno Elementary is in the works and will potentially take place just after Halloween.

Trevino said she is planning National Night Out with

Lynda Stokes and Jody Bas. The group is asking local churches if they can contribute to the event, and more volunteers are welcome to help the committee.

"I love being with all the ladies and even gentlemen that have something to say, and it seems like we have a good group of individuals with wonderful ideas," Trevino said. "We need execution, so

when life slows down and we can get more volunteers, that'll be great."

To donate to or contact the Reno Events Committee, email reno.events@renotx.gov.

Other local National Night Out events include:

- Springtown's annual National Night Out event will take place at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 3 at the Newby

Pavilion in Springtown Park. For more information, visit facebook.com/events/1295453831343940?ref=newsfeed online.

- Azle's annual National Night Out will occur 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 3 at the Azle Memorial Library/Central Park. For more information, visit facebook.com/events/1535469370612828 online.



Family fitness is not just about grown-ups jogging or lifting weights; it's about having fun and being healthy together as a family. Here's why it's so awesome:

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Stronger Bodies: When we exercise, our muscles get stronger, and our bones grow healthier. That means we can run faster, jump higher, and have more fun playing your favorite games.

HAPPY HEARTS

Exercise is like a secret superhero for your heart. It keeps it strong and healthy, so you can run and play without getting tired too quickly.

SUPER BRAIN

Did you know that moving around

can help your brain too? It makes you smarter, helps you concentrate better in school, and boosts your memory.

BE HAPPY AND LESS STRESS

When we exercise, our bodies release happy chemicals called endorphins. They make us feel awesome and help us handle stress, like when you have a tough day at school.

HEALTHY HABITS FOR LIFE

When your family exercises together, it teaches you to love being active. You'll

grow up with healthy habits that will keep you feeling great your whole life.

LOTS OF FUN

You can try all sorts of activities like swimming, hiking, dancing, or playing sports. It's like having your own adventure team.

So, remember, family fitness isn't about being the strongest or fastest; it's about having fun, staying healthy, and spending awesome time with your loved ones. Ask your parents to plan some fun activities, and you'll see just how amazing family fitness can be!

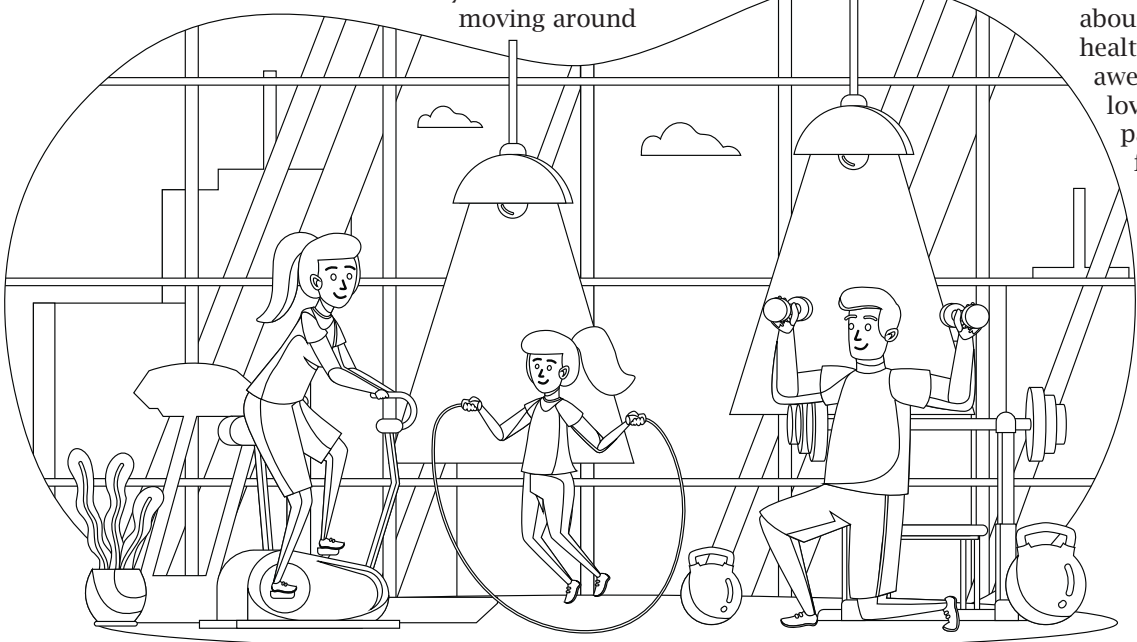
Family Fitness

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

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

Word Bank

- 1. stretch 2. gym 3. play 4. swimming
- 5. run 6. bicycling 7. move 8. exercise
- 9. jog 10. weights



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Beware of dogs

MADELYN EDWARDS
springtownreporter@tricityreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — Dogs are known to be the enemy of letter carriers, but apparently, they aren't fans of water meter readers either.

Canines were brought up twice during Walnut Creek Special Utility District's board of directors meeting on Sept. 18. First, general manager James Blackwood told the board how one of the district's employees encountered a dog that ripped his pants, but luckily, the dog's bite did not break through

the man's skin. The dog was later picked up by animal control, and its owner received a citation.

Later in the meeting, office manager Denise Taylor mentioned that dogs have been a problem for meter readers by preventing them from being able to capture readings from manual-read meters. Taylor said she's been told there are some areas where there are packs of dogs running loose.

"They chase them back to the truck," she said during the meeting. "We've called some of (the residents) if the address is where the guys are

at when it happens, and they go, 'My dog is in a kennel. Those aren't my dogs.' Well, we're also going to be in contact with the sheriff or animal control or something. But the neighbors have told us they called and called and called, and nobody ever comes out to do anything."

The consequences of hindering readers' access to meters — whether the cause be dogs or locked gates — will start with letters from the SUD to the customers explaining the issue. If the issue persists, especially with no response from the customer,

Walnut Creek SUD discusses impact of dogs on meter reading

water service will be discontinued, Taylor said during the meeting. Customers can also work with the SUD to report their readings, such as through sending in a picture of their meter.

Though dogs received a spotlight at last week's meeting, Blackwood said these encounters are not a new problem. Walnut Creek employees get chased by dogs frequently, and earlier this year, an employee was bitten by a dog on his calf and had to go to the hospital.

"They're everywhere," he said of dogs. "It's an ongoing

issue. It's nothing new. It's an issue with reading in a rural area."

As for actual dog bites, that has only happened twice this year, Blackwood said.

"It's still two times too many as far as I'm concerned with my men because that's a safety issue," he said.

Meter readers are particularly vulnerable to dog attacks because that job requires bending down over a meter box, and dogs can sneak up on readers without being noticed, Blackwood said.

"A lot of times the dog is on

top of you before you realize, 'Hey, I've got to get back in that truck,'" he said.

It's difficult to tell whether the dogs who harass meter readers are owned or are strays, Blackwood said. He asks that dog owners keep their dogs restrained.

As for meter readers, especially new hires, the general manager said the main way to deal with dogs is to watch out.

"We send them in pairs," he said. "We try to have two people together so one can help watch and one can read."

Springtown Public Library receives 2024 Texas Library System Accreditation

STAFF REPORTS

SPRINGTOWN — For the 33rd year, Springtown Public Library has been accredited as a member of the Texas Library System through the Texas State Library and Archives Commission.

The library was notified of this achievement on Sept. 18.

The Texas State Library and Archives Commission has been authorized to accredit libraries since 1971, and the Springtown Public Library has been accredited for more than 33 years. Accredited libraries have access to any program through the agency

that is made possible through federal funding. This includes statewide interlibrary loan, E rate, funding opportunities through competitive and non competitive grant programs and the TexShare Card and TexShare Database programs.

In a press release, the city of Springtown praised the hard work and dedication of Library Director Andie D'Avignon and her staff throughout the accreditation process as well as for maintaining the standards required to receive accreditation. As part of the accredi-

tation process, the library's serviced population was identified as 12,827, which far exceeds the city's 2023 population of 3,750.

According to the press release, "The city takes pride in being able to offer library services to such a wide array of residents that extend far beyond our corporate limits."

For more information about the programs and services offered by the Springtown Public Library, please visit springtownlibrary.com, or find them on Facebook and Instagram.



MADELYN EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Springtown Mayor Greg Hood recognized National Library Week earlier this year by presenting a proclamation to Springtown Public Library Director Andie D'Avignon. Springtown Public Library has recently been accredited as a member of the Texas Library System through the Texas State Library and Archives Commission.

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FCCLA holding craft fair fundraiser

FCCLA's Azle chapter to raise money for organization during Oct. 21 fundraiser

**KRISTINA BIRKELAND
GABBY CURRID**

AZLE — Azle High School's chapter of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) will host a craft fair fundraiser Saturday, Oct. 21, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at various location on the school campus.

Events will take place in the indoor athletic facility, the fine arts gym, the mall and common areas and the cafeteria. The majority of vendors will be in the indoor athletic facility. Food trucks will be outside with cafeteria seating inside so people can eat comfortably. FCCLA members will be onsite to help with any directions.

Families in the community are invited to an indoor trunk-or-treat at the craft vendor booths inside and to purchase food from the food trucks outside. It could be a fun day for the whole family!

All are invited to dress up in costumes and explore



COURTESY NATASHA DERAMEE

A banner for the upcoming event.

unique artworks and crafts created by local artists from around the DFW area. From intricate jewelry to mouth-watering food trucks to the indoor trunk-or-treat, there's something for everyone in the family to enjoy. Don't miss this amazing opportunity to support your community and find one-of-a-kind gifts!

FCCLA is a national, state and local Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO). As

a student-led organization, FCCLA aims to address the community's needs and promote personal growth through leadership development.

FCCLA is a way that Azle Hornets can get involved at our school as well as in our community, compete with opportunities to win scholarships, develop as leaders and connect with families.

We hope you and your family come out to enjoy our craft fair!

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

LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICES

INVITATION TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the City of Azle, Texas (OWNER) will receive sealed proposals at Azle City Hall until 10:00 a.m. local time on Thursday, October 19, 2023 for Mowing Services for City facilities. Sealed proposals will be opened and read aloud publicly following the close of the period. Bidders may receive a copy of Request for Proposals from the City's website at <http://www.cityofazle.org>. For additional information, please contact: Joanna Ash/ Purchasing Agent at 817-444-7003 or by email at jash@cityofazle.org

ORDINANCE No. 2023-17

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF AZLE, TEXAS, ADDING ARTICLE 6.09 "REGULATION AND PERMITTING PROCESS OF DONATION BINS" TO CHAPTER SIX, HEALTH AND SANITATION, OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, CITY OF AZLE, TEXAS, AND ADDING ARTICLE A4.002 "DONATION BIN FEES" TO APPENDIX A "FEE SCHEDULE" OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, CITY OF AZLE, AS AMENDED, CREATING REQUIREMENTS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR PERMITS ALLOWING THE PLACEMENT OF DONATION BINS ON APPROVED OPEN SPACES ON PRIVATE PROPERTY; CREATING A PERMIT FEE; PROVIDING FOR A FINE OF UP TO \$500.00 FOR EACH VIOLATION; PROVIDING THIS ORDINANCE BE CUMULATIVE; AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, PUBLICATION, AND AN EFFECTIVE ALL ORDINANCES ARE AVAILABLE TO BE READ IN FULL AT THE CITY OF AZLE, 505 W. MAIN ST. AZLE, TEXAS 76020, AND ON THE CITY'S WEBSITE. YAEL FORGEY, CITY SECRETARY CITY OF AZLE.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The City Council of the City of Azle will conduct a public hearing at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 17, 2023 in the City Council Chambers at City Hall, located at 505 West Main Street to consider a zoning change request from Single-Family Four (SF-4) District (Legacy District) to Heavy Commercial (HC) District for approximately 3.78 acres of land, being described as Lot 3, Hunters Addition, an addition to the City of Azle, Parker County, Texas. The property is generally located on the west side of FM 730 N approximately five hundred feet (500') north of Commerce Street.

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Outstanding individuals and district updates presented at school board meeting

A Sept. 18 Azle ISD Board of Trustees meeting recognized speakers presenting a wide range of issues

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricityreporter.com

AZLE — Wrapping up their first six weeks, students from the newly-opened Hilltop Elementary led the Pledge of Allegiance to kick off the Sept. 18 meeting of the Azle ISD board of trustees. Principal Amy Rollmann thanked the district and her staff at Hilltop for having made the beginning of a new year at a new school go as smoothly as it could. Singling out Amy Yelle, assistant principal, and Alisa Johnson, student counselor, Rollmann said, "I couldn't do it without

them."

Jessica McKinney, operations manager for the Tri-County Reporter, was presented a certificate naming her to the 2023 Media Honor Roll, a program sponsored by the Texas Association of School Boards and Azle ISD. The Media Honor Roll recognizes media representatives statewide for fair and balanced reporting of news about public schools, according to a release from the event. Media of all kinds have been recognized across the state for Media Honor Roll. The criteria for the selection includes getting to know

the superintendent, board president, the district's mission and goals, and reporting school news in a fair, accurate and balanced manner.

Assistant Superintendent Matt Adams was recognized for earning Certified Administrator of School Finance and Operations status from the Association for School Business Officials International. "SFO certification demonstrates a commitment to high standards and ethical practice in school business management," a document provided by the board reads. School business officials who earn this

credential commit to ongoing professional development and undergo recertification every three years.

Hannah Beck, vice president of records for Family, Career and Community Leaders of America's Region II also spoke at the meeting about past and upcoming projects and accomplishments. Beck described how FCCLA attended Sting Fling to pass out water and offer face-painting to attendees. The organization seeks to volunteer at Hope's Bazaar and the Community Caring Center later in the year. Beck also talked about organiz-

ing a suicide prevention campaign within Azle High School. FCCLA is a school-based career and technical education program focused on building skills and leadership in students participating in the organization.

Jerry Moore, a Texas Strategic Leadership coach presented a grant overview during the meeting. Texas Strategic Leadership is an organization that helps coach and plan with ISD leadership to achieve their goals and better student outcomes month-by-month and year-by-year. Azle is one of about 30 schools participating in

this program and is leading Region 11.

Jordan Them presented an update on the Texas Education Agency's A-F school ranking system. TEA has decided to delay posting its most recent rankings and reassess under new methodology after results were found to be more anomalous than expected following a return to in-person teaching. Many districts are protesting the recent changes, anticipating they will further hurt their rankings. Nine out of Azle's 12 schools were found to have dropped in their scores from the previous year. Twenty-eight percent of campuses are expected to see a drop in rankings based on the new methodology, according to a presentation at the school board meeting.

Lastly, Jessica Hanson, AISD's coordinator of recruitment, retention, and compensation, presented information about a residency program in which Azle schools are collaborating with Tarleton and Stephen F. Austin Universities. Through this program, about seven university students are teaching alongside other Azle staff, substituting and running classes when required. The program is intended to introduce prospective teachers to the district and allow them to build the skills required for their future careers as educators.



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Jessica McKinney accepts her recognition of Media Honor Roll status from Superintendent Todd Smith.

ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Hannah Beck, a high school junior, shakes hands with board members.

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Kim Ware, publisher. Date: 09/28/23

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Springtown Cub Scouts Pack 22, Troop 22 welcome new, returning members

MADelyn EDWARDS
springtownreporter@tricityreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — Reno Elementary School student Duke Rostamo, 7, hadn't met 9-year-old Benjamin Monaco before Cub Scouts Pack 22's recruitment rally, but about midway through the event, Duke swore they were best friends.

"We just met a minute ago, and now we're friends," Duke said.

Duke and Benjamin were decorating bird houses together at the joint Springtown Cub Scouts and Scouts BSA event on Sept. 13. Duke came to the rally as a potential new scout, but Benjamin had joined the pack in August.

"I love it," Benjamin said about Cub Scouts.

Duke's dad, Tim Rostamo, said they hadn't joined Scouting before and would

look into what all it would take to sign up.

"He wanted to meet some other kids, have some fun with other kids and get into other activities and fish and camp," Rostamo said about why his son was interested in Cub Scouts.

Meeting new friends and learning skills is what Benjamin is getting out of Cub Scouts as well, according to his parents Brian and Chelsea Monaco. In fact, Brian Monaco was an Eagle Scout and wanted to see his son get involved with scouts.

Being in scouting has also helped the Monacos find connection after living in Europe for six years while Brian Monaco has been serving in the Navy.

"They don't really have this kind of thing over there," Chelsea Monaco said. "There's a good sense of community, too, that we needed."

Building and decorating little bird houses was only one of the activity stations available at the Scouting rally. There was also a knot-tying table, manned by BSA Scout Whyatt Megel, 14, and his dad Assistant Cubmaster Ryan Megel.

Whyatt has been involved in Scouting for years but just recently joined Troop 22B for boys. He is a Life-ranked scout, which is just under the prestigious Eagle scout rank. He doesn't quite know what he wants to do for his Eagle service project yet, but he does want to plan "something big."

Being in Scouts BSA has taught Whyatt a variety of skills, including how to be a leader and survive on his own.

"It's also helped me figure out which jobs I do and do not want to do," he said. "For example, I have no interest



PHOTO COURTESY OF PATRICK VALDEZ

Scout leaders, kids and their parents roasted marshmallows for smores during Cub Scouts Pack 22 and Scouts BSA Troop 22B and 22G's rally on Sept. 13.



MADelyn EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

BSA scout Whyatt Megel, 14, teaches Aiden Kime, 5, about knot-tying at the event for Cub Scouts Pack 22 and Scouts BSA Troop 22B and 22G in Springtown.



MADelyn EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Cub Scout Jon Richardson helps leader Ashley Gross demonstrate wound care at the scouting recruitment event on Sept. 13.



MADelyn EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Duke Rostamo, 7, and Benjamin Monaco, 9, hold up the bird houses they worked on at Springtown Cub Scouts Pack 22's recruitment rally on Sept. 13.

in being a basket weaver. However, I have great interest in being a baker."

Whyatt explained how the different stations at the rally last week represent skills scouts learn, such as tent building, how to start a fire and fire safety, learning the Scout Oath and Law and administering first aid.

At one point during the rally, a Cub Scout ran up to Whyatt to announce that he discovered a spider.

"Don't lick it," Whyatt said to the excited scout. "Stay away from it."

BSA Scouts in both the boys' and girls' troops were leading activities at some of the stations during the event last week and tend to be involved as leaders in other Cub Scouts activities as well. Whyatt said he sees himself as a mentor to most of the Cub Scouts.

Having the BSA Scouts lead the younger Cub Scouts is an intentional choice, Cubmaster Shane Gross said.

"We're incorporating the troop, because both troops are kind of small, to where they mentor the younger ones a lot," Gross said. "Not that we're trying to be lazy, but we're trying to step back and let them guide, and we kind of guide them as they need help."

Cub Scouts Pack 22 has started its second year of existence after being created last year. Gross said establishing the pack was challenging, and he has learned to "expect some unexpected."

"I think we've got a good group now," Gross said. "We've got more people that are more interested in coming in and being leaders and that always is a sign you've done something right."

Chartered Organization Representative Patrick Valdez said he is proud of how the scouts have grown over the past year, including his granddaughter scout who was teaching first aid.

"She would cry if she got a little boo-boo, and someone would have to put a Band-Aid on her," Valdez said. "Now she knows how to do it."

The main goal in Scouts BSA is to advance scouts to the First-Class rank, Valdez said, which means they can cook, administer first aid, camp and swim. He pointed out that most of the astronauts who travelled to the Moon on the Apollo were scouts, though it's OK if the scouts in Troop 22 don't get that far.

"Are we trying to make astronauts? No, we're trying to make good citizens," he said.

Overall, Gross said last week's recruitment rally was a success.

"All the kids seem to be happy," he said. "They enjoyed what they saw and learned, and I think that we have some kids here that enjoy teaching."

Multiple events are coming up for the Cub Scouts Pack 22, including the Rain Gutter Regatta and a fall festival. In addition to scouts making achievements in their respective ranks, Gross hopes leaders will teach Cub Scouts "in a way that they have fun and that they learned but maybe didn't know they learned."

To find a Scouting organization, visit beascout.scouting.org online. More information about Springtown Cub Scouts Pack 22 can be found on Facebook at [facebook.com/SpringtownPack22](https://www.facebook.com/SpringtownPack22).

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Experts say sensory-friendly hours beneficial for some Azle area residents

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

AZLE — For some Azle residents with unique needs, something as simple as a trip to the grocery store may present additional stressors and overwhelming stimuli. During back-to-school season, arguably one of the most chaotic times of the year for grocery runs, companies like Walmart began implementing sensory-friendly hours in the mornings to offer a more calming experience for some shoppers.

"During the back-to-school season, Walmart offered sensory-friendly shopping hours to take steps toward creating a calmer shopping environment that's more enjoyable for customers who live with sensory differences," Walmart Associate Account Executive Mallorie Mata said.

BlueSprig therapist describes the benefits of sensory-friendly hours on neurodivergent residents

"To create a more inclusive back-to-school shopping experience for its customers, Walmart created designated hours that included static images instead of moving pictures on TVs and select stores lowered overhead lights and turned off radios to create a quieter and less stimulating shopping trip. 'Sensory-Friendly Hours' occurred Saturdays from 8-10 a.m. local time, starting July 8 and ran through Aug. 26 in most stores."

Sensory issues can include sensitivity to loud or unexpected noises, fear and anxiety over crowds, and/or a desire to not be touched, among other things. These sensitivities are often most prevalent in, though not limited to, those on the autism spectrum.

Sara Gaines is a clinical director at the Weatherford clinic BlueSprig and is a Texas licensed and board-certified behavior analyst. "Every individual with autism is a new individual with autism," Gaines said. "Everybody's different and responds to the environment in different ways."

Gaines believes these kinds of hours at business help people on the spectrum more easily participate in activities that might have presented some struggle or difficulty for them.

"I think sometimes our clients take advantage of some of those hours, whether it be at somewhere like Walmart

or whether it be somewhere like Urban Air," Gaines said. "I hear our (clients') families talk about (these resources) pretty frequently. I think they offer ways to be inclusive and so they can attend certain activities, contribute and be included."

BlueSprig has been in Weatherford for a little more than two years and focuses on services for individuals with autism. BlueSprig uses applied behavioral therapy to attempt to teach life skills, promote communication, and offer strategies for people on the autism spectrum to cope. These often include frequent parent training in the hopes that parents can continue to individualize their approach and continue working on

these strategies at home. By formulating plans based on frequently purchased items or utilizing the Walmart app to find the aisles where desired items are located in the store, BlueSprig therapists hope to create strategies and frameworks that people on the autism spectrum can use to assist in everything from grocery store visits to doctors' appointments.

"We teach ways to cope, we problem-solve potential options for families, sometimes we're breaking down the grocery store trip into really small achievable pieces," Gaines said.

Gaines believes neurodivergent people would benefit if more business would make these resources available more often and is glad to see how much traction they've gained. "It makes me feel excited," Gaines said. "I think the level of awareness here

is super nice. I think offering more inclusive settings in the community is a really important thing, so they're not always excluded from things. I think it's a great step toward inclusion. As a company, BlueSprig has a mission to change the world for children with autism and I think it's super important that we truly live by that as a company."

Walmart isn't the only entity in the Azle area that works to ensure the unique needs of individuals are met. The Azle Independent School District serves about 1,089 special needs students — about 15.4% of the district-wide student body — according to information from a June school board meeting. With a teacher-to-student ratio of 1-to-12 and 1-to-5.5 for staff for special needs students, Azle ISD betters the state's averages of 1-to-15 and 1-to-7 respectively.

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CUTTING

FROM PAGE A1

separate people but we're really all connected in one way or another."

Ware hopes by combining into a larger entity, the paper can serve a larger audience and serve more communities along the Jacksboro Highway.

"As a business, that's what we want, we want to all be able to continue to grow our businesses," Ware said. "That's our goal, to be here to represent you, to represent the school district, to talk to the community about how amazing Azle and Springtown school districts are, how amazing the cities are. This is the most amazing area to work and live in."

The modest newsroom was packed with a list of "who's who" from both the Azle and Springtown areas for the celebration. The mayor, city council members, local religious leaders and business leaders all gathered to mingle, eat and listen to Ware and Sam Houston, chief operating officer of Hyde Media Group, which owns the Tri-County Reporter, speak on the oc-

casion. David Schaffer led the room in prayer and Kip Kruger, Azle Chamber chair, introduced the two.

Ware began by describing the resources and benefits the newspaper has received since it was purchased by Hyde Media Group in 2021.

"I'm not just thankful for me and the employees that work here, but I'm thankful for the communities because I know the stability's here and we're going to continue to be here for many, many years to come and that's exciting for our communities," Ware said.

COO Houston went on to describe the vision of the paper going forward.

"It's very important for us to do two things in today's world: be factual and be objective," Houston said. "We want our readers to draw their own conclusions, but for us to provide them with the facts where they can make informed decisions rather than listening to rhetoric from one side or the other. A newspaper can make or break a town. We can elevate people, or we can tear them apart. We feel very strongly our role is to elevate our community."



Kim Ware speaking alongside Kip Kruger and Sam Houston.

ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER



Sam Houston speaking alongside Kip Kruger and Kim Ware.

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Kimmy Dorado with husband next to Superintendent Todd Smith shooting off confetti and Springtown Chamber Director Terri Toone.

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Springtown homecoming parade draws hundreds, ends in blazing glory

Boys and girls from various sports teams and organizations across Springtown wore their jerseys and uniforms, rode floats, and waved to a large crowd of people who lined Pojo Drive for the annual homecoming parade on Sept. 18. After the parade finished, everyone gathered near Porcupines Stadium for the lighting of the S-H-S letters.

JEFF PRINCE | TRI COUNTY REPORTER



THE TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

DIVERSIONS

B

THURSDAY, September 28, 2023



JEFF PRINCE | TRI COUNTY REPORTER

Nathan Jones breaks this run for a TD.

Queen Kate

Springtown football dominates Glen Rose while celebrating homecoming

JEFF PRINCE

sports@tricityreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — Not a bad night.

On Sept. 22, the Springtown Porcupines football team played in front of a packed stadium and a rowdy hometown crowd, dominated the Glen Rose Tigers 51-27, crowned a new queen, and

moved into first place.

The victory pushed the Porcupines' record to 3-2 in District 4-4A, good enough for a first-place tie with Mineral Wells.

Springtown began the game by driving into the red zone and putting itself in first-and-goal position at the Glen Rose 5-yard line. Three running plays went nowhere, and the

Porcupines kicked a field goal for a 3-0 lead.

Springtown's defense smothered the Glen Rose offense early in the game, giving the Porcupine offensive players plenty of opportunities to light up the scoreboard.

And they did. Running back Nathan Johnson made several long runs, and quarterback Hudson Hulett was precise in spotting and targeting receivers.

Glen Rose threatened to score a touchdown near the end of the first quarter, until Springtown defensive back Jace Crawford forced a turnover that killed the drive. Glen Rose managed to score 10 points in the second quarter and 10 more in the third, but Springtown's offense kept responding with its own barrage of points. The Pines built a 37-20 lead in the third quarter and slammed the door shut on Glen Rose in the fourth quarter by scoring two more TDs.

Jones averaged 20 yards a carry for the night and scored 3 TDs. Fellow running back Drake Doggett rushed 13 times for 188 yards and a TD, and quarterback Hudson



JEFF PRINCE | TRI COUNTY REPORTER

Nathaniel Jones escorts homecoming queen Kate Mitchell.

PLEASE SEE QUEEN | B5

1K kapows

Stoli Cox hits major milestone; Lady Porcupines to play Friday at home

JEFF PRINCE

sports@tricityreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — Tears and sniffing noses were prevalent during Stoli Cox's recent celebration for hitting 1,000 career kill shots.

The tears were bittersweet. Cox's heroics came during the district opener on Sept. 22 against Krum. The game turned out to be an up-and-down affair for the Lady Porcupines.

Springtown demolished Krum 25-7 in the first game before losing the next three in heartbreaking fashion: 25-22,

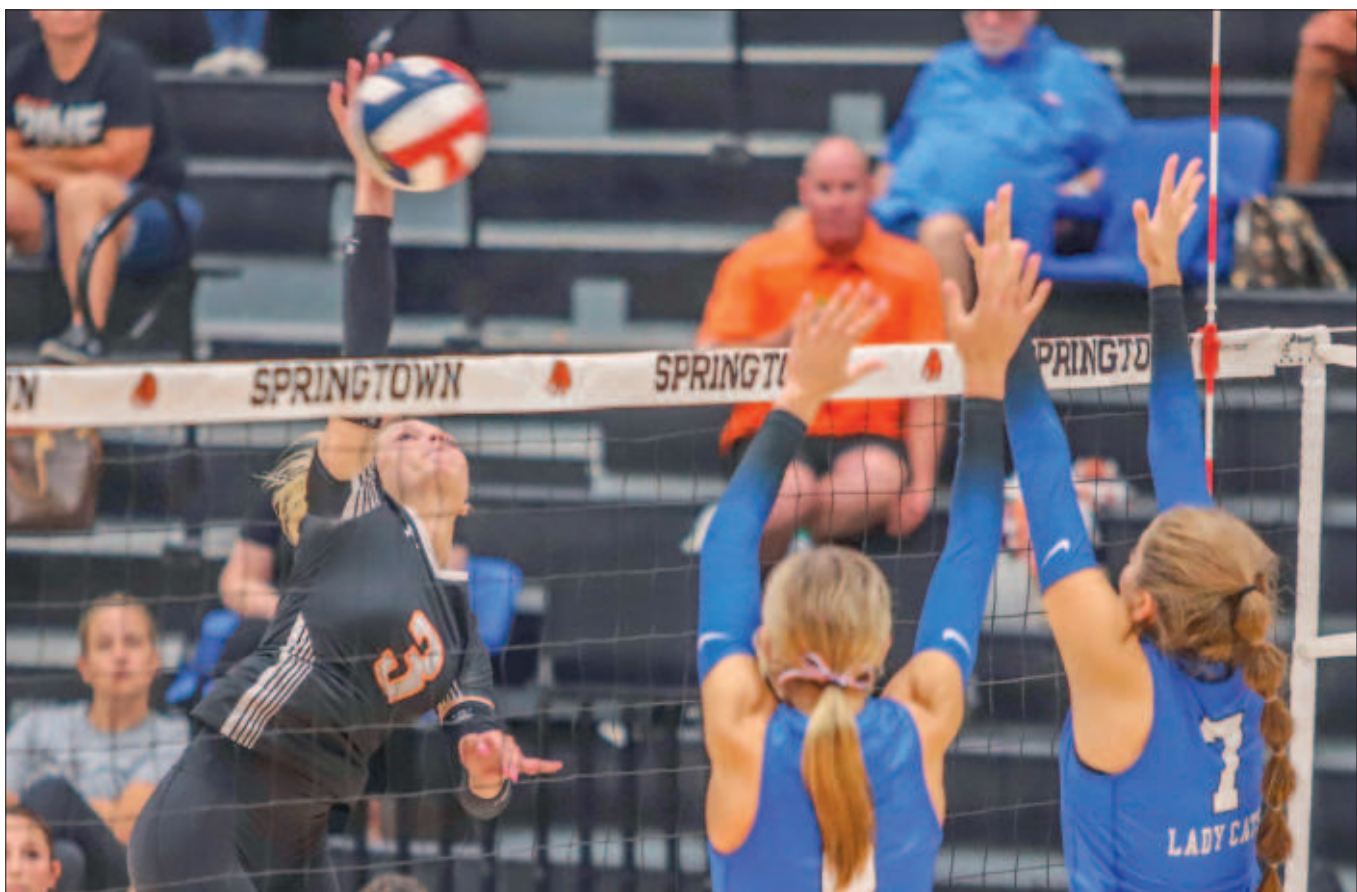
27-25, and 25-23.

"Losing is hard, and I take it to the heart," Cox said after teammates presented her with balloons and flowers. "Just because this is a career achievement doesn't outshine the fact that we lost."

Those tears will dry, and the hard work will resume. "We are going to learn from that, persevere, and be back at it," she said.

Cox and Co. were unstoppable in the initial game. Brooklynn Quintanilla went on a long run while serving

PLEASE SEE KAPOW | B5



JEFF PRINCE | TRI COUNTY REPORTER

Stoli Cox makes a kill shot — one of 17 for the night — against Krum.



From left, Emma Lolli and Mariska van der Woude show off their new uniforms.

JEFF PRINCE | TRI COUNTY REPORTER

Dazzled in U.S.A.

Azle dance troupe welcomes travelers from afar

JEFF PRINCE

sports@tricityreporter.com

AZLE — The temperature in Berlin, Germany, was mid-70s when Mariska van der Woude boarded an airplane headed for the United States in early August.

When her plane touched down at Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport, van der Woude stepped into a 100-degree Texas scorcher.

The heat blast made her woozy for a moment.

"My body had to get used to the temperature," she said.

Acclimation didn't take

long. She has embraced many new things since arriving as a foreign exchange student at Azle High School. She settled in with a host family, signed up for classes, and joined the Emerald Dazzlers dance troupe that performs during football games at Hornet Stadium.

"I could have ended up in any state in the U.S., but my host family lives here in Azle, and I really like it here," she said. "I like the school spirit and the whole new school system. I really like

PLEASE SEE DAZZLED | B6



Braden Forsythe kicks a 42-yard field goal and earns Special Teams Player of the Week against Brewer. **COURTESY PHOTO | CHAPA PHOTOGRAPHY**

Hornet homecoming

Azle ready to celebrate under Friday night lights

JEFF PRINCE
sports@tricityreporter.com

AZLE — If the past reflects the future, expect the Marching Green Pride to play music that will make you want to stand up and dance. Flags will wave. Pom poms will shake. Dancers will swirl. Old friends will hug. And someone's head will be crowned as the new queen.

Amid all the hoopla, the Azle Hornets football team will challenge a formidable foe in front of a packed stadium on homecoming night with the playoffs at stake. Sounds like a party. The Hornets need to win four more games most likely to qualify for the playoffs. Five games remain on the schedule. That makes

this week's game against Northwest pressure-packed if not must-win, and winning won't come easy.

On Sept. 15, the Northwest Texans beat the Brewer Bears 45-7. A week later, on Sept. 22, Brewer beat Azle 30-13. Azle ran more plays, logged more yardage, and made more first downs than the Bears but struggled on the scoreboard. Turnovers and a 33% success rate on third downs diminished the Hornets' chances.

"Overall, we made too many mistakes to win the football game," said head coach Devon Dorris. "The effort is good. We just need to have better focus and attention to detail for the whole game."

Quarterback Austin May

was 9-24 for 83 passing yards and rushed 13 times for 79 yards and a TD. Cash Moore caught a 40-yard pass.

On defense, Cale Cohen, Tyler Ulrich, Conner Merrill, and Josh Montelongo led the team in tackles. Garrin Graves added a sack.

The Hornets hope to bounce back, continue to concentrate amid the hoopla, whip the Texans of Justin, and turn around their season.

"Homecoming is always an exciting game no matter who we play," Dorris said. "We will need to eliminate the distractions and focus on the task ahead of us."

Azle (1-4) will play Northwest (3-1) at 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 29, at Hornet Stadium.

Award-winning performance



PHOTO COURTESY MATTHEW JACKSON

Azle Marching Green Pride competed against other area marching bands in the Golden Triangle Classic on Sept. 23. After the preliminaries, MGP was named Best in Class for the AAA Division. They placed second in the finals and earned awards for Outstanding Visual Performance and Outstanding General Music Effect. They will next compete in the HEB Marching Contest on Sept. 30 at Pennington Field in Bedford, with their performance time scheduled at 11:30.

Brynn's win

Lady Hornets celebrate teachers, victories, senior leader

JEFF PRINCE
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AZLE — Before a recent game against Saginaw, the volleyball Lady Hornets celebrated Teacher Night.

One by one, players accompanied their favorite teacher on a trip across the court to warm applause. Afterward, the athletes hit the court for action, and the teachers beamed.

"It's a lot of fun," said Tenille Roberts, a communications teacher and yearbook instructor who was selected as Kamryn Hill's favorite instructor. "It just makes you feel special that they recognize you for what you do at the same time you recognize them for how hard they work and what good students they are."

What's Roberts' secret to popularity among the



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At center, **Brynn Lee** appreciates her teammates for helping her reach 500 kills and digs.



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Gabby Briseno accompanies favorite teacher **Matt Holt** and receives kudos for raising \$400 for a nonprofit.

students?

"You always try to be positive," she said. "No matter the situation, find the positive in everything and just be open and listen to the kids. It really does make a difference for them and for you. Everybody wants to be happy where they spend a lot of their time."

Shree Patel selected girls' golf coach and U.S. history teacher Eddy Prather as her fave. The coach appreciated the sentiment.

"I had Shree last year in class, and she's a great kid," Prather said. "I love her to death, and she chose me, so I'm happy to be here."

Peyton Hill, a junior, selected Jared Ewing.

"I had her last year for world history class," Ewing said. "She always worked really hard, and I helped her every time she had questions. She came to me to help her

with her NHS (National Honor Society) induction essay. We worked hard together. She's a great kid, and I hope she does well."

His approach to relating with kids is simple but effective.

"I try to level with them," he said. "Be as approachable as I can. Try to make things as relatable to them as possible."

WHAT A NIGHT

After the teachers were properly celebrated, the athletes and fans paid homage to the officials for their hard work. Then, the Lady Hornets noted one of their own.

Head coach Kenley Buckholt encourages her players to become involved in the local community, and her girls have been visiting youngsters at schools. Gabby Briseno, a junior, took things a step further. She orga-

nized a bake sale prior to the Saginaw game, set up tables covered with confections in the gymnasium lobby, and raised hundreds of dollars for the No Kid Hungry nonprofit group.

"She took the initiative and made it happen," Buckholt said. "Gabby has a servant's heart and truly cares about people and making a difference. I couldn't be prouder of her."

The 17 athletes on the Lady Hornet roster make their coach proud on and off the court on a regular basis.

"I really do have some amazing young women on my team," Buckholt said.

Once the pre-game celebrating was done, those same young women played tough against Saginaw, notched a 3-1 victory over a district rival, and pushed the Hornets' district record to 2-1.

Afterward, one last celebration was held.

Brynn Lee, a senior, was lauded for achieving two career milestones that night. She logged the 500th dig and 500th kill shot of her varsity career.

Lee is a captain who hardly ever leaves the court during games this season.

"She is responsible for helping make a lot of things happen on our side of the net," Buckholt said. "Currently, she is our go-to hitter in serve receive to side out. She is doing a great job of leading as a captain, and it's showing in her stats every week. I am not surprised at all that she's reached such a great milestone, and I'm really proud of her."

Next up, the Lady Hornets will play at 5 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 29, at home against Northwest.



Tyler Reyes kicks an extra point at the homecoming game.

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From left, Tyler Reyes and Logan Malewiski work together to solidify Reyes' kicking game.

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Leg work

Azle Christian graduate returns to guide new kicker through football season

JEFF PRINCE

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AZLE — The Azle Christian School Crusaders began the football season with a rookie kicker, which can be tricky at crunch time.

The best kickers possess nerves of steel in addition to good aims, and that takes time to develop. Tyler Reyes, a senior, has played soccer but is new to the game of football. He is ACS's place-kicker and extra point kicker this year and played well despite his inexperience.

One of the reasons Reyes is developing skills is his tutorial relationship with Logan Malewiski, who graduated in 2021 as the most prolific kicker in school history. While at ACS, Malewiski kicked an astounding 62-yard field goal.

"I definitely left a kicking personality here," he said.

After he graduated high school, Malewiski attended the University of North Texas for a year before returning to Azle. Currently, he works as a plumber. Since he had moved back home, Malewiski decided to share his knowledge of kicking with Reyes at practices and games.

"I just wanted to make sure that the kickers here know what they're doing and help them make sure they're staying on the right track," Malewiski said. "I opened a lot of people's eyes that

kickers are really needed in football, especially in six-man. Kicking an extra point is worth 2 points. Once you get that down, it's game over."

In his junior year at ACS, Malewiski made 53 of 55 extra point attempts.

Reyes is happy to be on the receiving end of Malewiski's advice.

"Logan is very helpful," Reyes said. "Since summer workouts, he has been helping me with my form and my kicking sense and everything. When I come off the sidelines, he helps by telling me what I did wrong and how to get better."

Reyes has struggled with consistency, as many young kickers do before they discover their motion. Reyes is smart and hard-working, and his coaches have put their faith in him.

"Tyler is a great kid," said head coach Clayton Sanders. "He is either going to be first or second in his class. He just started kicking this summer, so it's still a work in progress."

Reyes recalled watching Malewiski kick at ACS in 2021. Back then, Reyes was sitting in the stands and had never imagined wearing a football helmet.

"Kicking hadn't crossed my mind at that point," he said. "God called me to play football this year. He is using me right now to be there for my team and for my friends."

Batter up

Freshman prepares for softball early, often

JEFF PRINCE

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SPRINGTOWN — Residents lined up alongside Pojo Drive in anticipation of the homecoming day parade on Sept. 18, and the crowd grew larger with every passing moment.

Kids ran around and played. Adults sat in lawn chairs and held umbrellas for shade. People chatted and drank bottled water to kill time while waiting for the first parade float to appear.

From the distance, however, a familiar sound could be heard. It was the popping sound created by an aluminum bat smacking a ball.

Way across a large parking lot and over by the baseball field, Makinze Nation was hitting softballs in a batting cage, oblivious to the growing crowd nearby. She is a freshman at Springtown High School this year and plans to try out for the softball team,

so she was taking private batting lessons.

"She wanted to get her swing better and just get ready for high school softball," said her mom, Kandis Nation, who watched her daughter from outside the cage.

Makinze began playing T-ball as a kid and has evolved into a talented infielder on a select softball team. Recently, she noticed an unwanted pattern to her swing and decided to sign up for batting lessons to hone in on the problem.

"She was hitting to the same spot every time," her mom said. "We knew she wasn't using the power in her hips."

Kids sometimes prefer to hear critiques from someone other than the person who also tells them to brush their teeth and clean their room.

"She wasn't going to listen to us," Kandis said with a

laugh.

Instead, they hired a private instructor, and Makinze is "putting in the work," the proud mom said.

After her lesson ended, Makinze, 14, described what she was after.

"Hopefully to hit further and get some more power," she said. "Where to hit the ball, and how to hit it."

After four lessons, her hitting has "definitely gotten way better," she said.

Makinze plans to do her best at tryouts and earn a spot on the roster.

"I hope to make the team better, be a team player, and just make the program better," she said.

She plays shortstop and second base.

Entering high school this year made her nervous. The building is immense, and the large number of older, bigger kids was intimidating at first. "High school was actually



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Makinze Nation, a freshman, will try out for the softball team this season.



scary at the beginning, but I've gotten used to it now," she said.

Settled in and happy, she is ready for her two favorite sports to begin. She plans to try out for basketball this fall. She takes private lessons for that sport, as well. Then, she will transition to softball.

"I'm trying to be better," she said. "Trying to get to college at that level."

Not far away, sitting on a curb and waiting for the parade to begin, were three veteran members of the Springtown softball team. Student manager Hannah Gaught and outfielders Madison Terrell and Nevaeh Vasquez, all seniors, were impressed when they heard Nation was in the batting cage putting in extra work.

"I'm excited for this up-

coming group and to play with them and to teach them all the good things about Springtown softball," Terrell said.

She, too, has taken private lessons off and on since she began playing softball years ago.

"It will really help the team in the long run," she said. "It's good to put in the extra work outside of school."

Until the softball season begins, she and her teammates have been grinding through offseason to stay sharp.

"We lift three times a week, and then, we have skill days two times a week, and then, we have fall ball on Wednesdays," she said. "I'm really excited to see all the competition this year and to play one last year with all my girls."

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Current softball roster members Hannah Gaught, Madison Terrell, and Nevaeh Vasquez root for young players such as Makinze Nation to do well.

Azle tennis honors seniors

STAFF REPORTS

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AZLE — The Azle tennis team honored the seven

seniors on its roster after a recent meet.

On Sept. 19, the team competed against Rider and, afterward, celebrated its

upperclassmen.

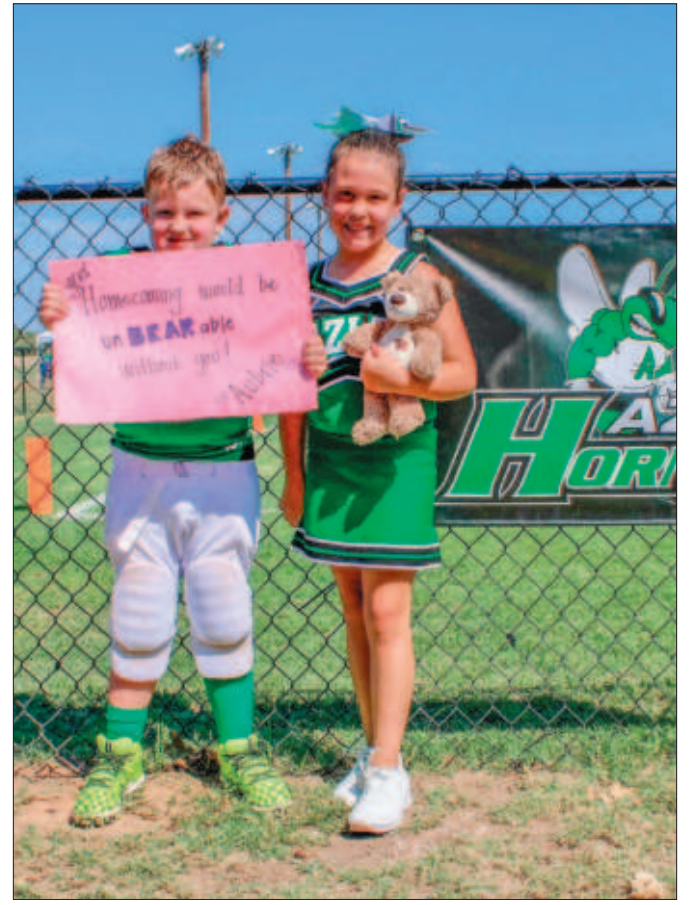
“These athletes have represented Azle tennis in the best way possible as players and, more importantly, as

leaders,” said head coach Connor Mason. “We are so proud of all of them.”



From left, head coach Connor Mason praises the seniors on his team for their hard work and leadership.

COURTESY PHOTO



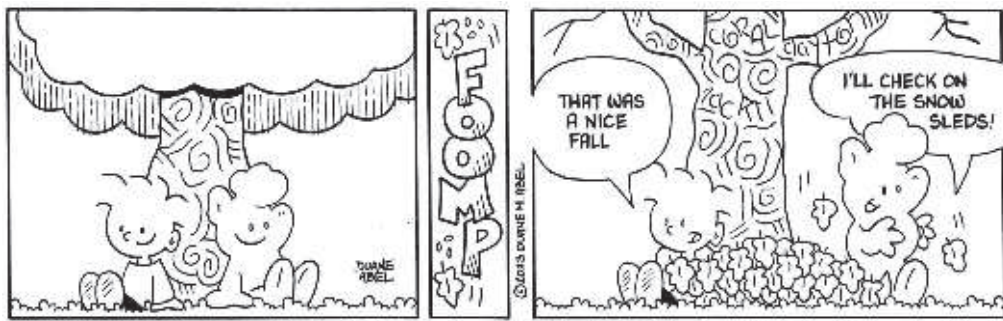
Homecoming invitation

COURTESY JERRIE HASKIN

First-grader Ryker McGinnis surprised his friend Aubrie Haskin with a creative invitation to Homecoming after an Azle Youth Sports football game.

ZED BY DUANE ABEL

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SPORTS Roundup

Sudoku

SEPTEMBER 28, 2023

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

Solution to last week's puzzle

SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to summer.

R S F U R E

□ □ □ □ □ □

Answer: Surfer

CRYPTO FUN
Determine the code to reveal the answer!

- Solve the code to discover words related to antiquing. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 18 = I)
- A. 1 21 13 18 23 12 2
Clue: Older item
 - B. 25 4 20 17
Clue: Browse to purchase
 - C. 16 2 14 18 21 18 25 4
Clue: Restore
 - D. 8 1 16 15 1 18 21
Clue: Good buy

AZLE HIGH SCHOOL

The Azle cross-country team competed and ran well in the 5K race on Saturday, Sept. 23, at the Lubbock Invitational at Mae Simmons Park.

The girls team earned third place, and the boys team finished in sixth place among the 17 schools competing.

For the 5A boys, Parker Huffaker finished in 13th place while racing against more than 100 runners from Cleburne, Abilene, Amarillo, Plainview, and various other high schools around Lubbock and El Paso.

Huffaker's time was 18:06.70. Teammate Jose Neri clocked in at 18:24.50 and finished in 21st place. Other Azle competitors included: Pablo Neri, 28th place, 18:41.20; Juan Rios, 48th place, 19:32.50; Ryner Boenisch, 64th place, 20:09.10; and Joaquin Solorzano, 85th place, 21:07.20.

For the 5A girls, Berkley Huffaker earned 14th place with a run of 21:59.90. Yasmeen Tejeda was not far behind in 19th place, logging a time of 22:12.60. Other Azle racers included Noah Kovach, 28th place, 22:43.90; Audrina Montova, 34th place, 23:32.20; Brooke Maples, 37th place 23:45.70; Reese Jeter, 52nd place, 24:37.40; and Eviana Quillin, 53rd place, 24:43.90.

On Sept. 21, the JV Green football team looked tough against Brewer, winning 31-0. The Hornet offense scored 31 points, and the defense shut down the Bears completely. “We are extremely proud of the effort each and every athlete showed,” said coach Tanner Street. “Looking forward to the Northwest game next week.”

The Azle JV White Team played Celina at home but didn't nail down a victory. “The kids worked hard coming into the game but came up short in the end,” said coach Tristan Bradshaw. “We are excited to get back to work this coming week and get back on track at Northwest.” Azle JV White's current record is 3-2.

AZLE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

The Crusaders football team thrilled its hometown crowd by whipping Perrin-Whitt 61-15 on Friday, Sept. 22. The victory put the Crusaders at 4-1 for the season and locked in a three-way tie for first place with Prestonwood and Nazarene.

There won't be a tie for long — on Friday, Sept. 29, Azle Christian will travel to Nazarene to see which team remains in first, and which one drops to second place.

FORTE JUNIOR HIGH

On Sept. 21, four volleyball teams from Forte took on Wilkie teams, and the Hornets prevailed in three of four contests.

Seventh grade volleyball A Team won 25-5, 25-9 and continued its winning streak. Forte's standouts from the front row included Kylee Covington, Gracyn Goodwin, Braylee Searcy, and Tatum Bozeman with solid hits. Allison Amyett, Berklyn Reed, and Jordyn Johnston sent over several tough serves in a row.

Seventh grade volleyball B Team won 25-8, 25-20 and played another outstanding game. Kamryn Paschal and Shaelynn Marsh provided huge support on the back row and kept Wilkie from gaining momentum. Strong serving led by Leilani Bravo, Madisyn Hicks, Nicole Roberson, and Lexi Underwood powered the Hornets to another win.

Eighth grade A Team lost 14-25, 18-25 despite a hard fight. Mckynlee Walden led Forte with 4 aces. Kaylee Creacy and Paige Harvey provided strong defense on the net.

After a rough outing during the previous week, eighth grade B Team rebounded in a big way by winning 25-20, 25-16 against Wilkie. Max McDonough's performance energized her teammates and contributed to the victory.

On Sept. 19, the eighth grade Forte football team played Creekview Middle School and made big strides despite losing the game. Adley Daniels made an interception, and the eighth grade defense created other turnovers, as well.

The seventh grade teams hosted Creekview. The A Team pulled off its third straight win with a 38-6 victory. The B Team tied 6-6.

“All the boys played hard, and we look forward to playing Ed Wilkie Middle School next,” said boys athletic coordinator Terrell Hawkins.

The football teams played Marine Creek at Chisholm Trail High School on Sept. 12 and won two of three games.

The seventh grade A Team won 38-8 to improve its record to 2-0. Two touchdowns by special teams players helped fuel the victory.

The seventh grade B Team won 19-6 on the strength of a stingy defense and a red-hot rushing game. The Hornets scored 3 TDs on the ground while allowing just one score.

The eighth grade A Team played hard and kept the tough Marine Creek offensive machine scoreless during the first half but lost the game 25-0.

AZLE JUNIOR HIGH

Football teams at Azle Junior High have been winning games with amazing regularity during the first few weeks of the season. Check out these scores:

- Seventh grade Green Team: Azle 24, Prairie Vista 0
- Azle 16, Creekview 6
- Azle 28, Marine Creek 14
- Seventh grade White Team: Azle 27, Prairie Vista 14
- Azle 18, Creekview 0
- Azle 18, Marine Creek 8
- Eighth grade Green Team: Azle 52, Prairie Vista 6
- Azle 30, Creekview 22
- Azle 46, Marine Creek 6
- Eighth grade White Team: Azle 22, Prairie Vista 8
- Azle 15, Creekview 22
- Azle 34, Marine Creek 0

“Great start to the season for us,” said coach Casey Jones.

On Sept. 21, the AJH volleyball teams played Chisholm Trail Middle School teams.

The seventh grade volleyball teams — A Team and B Team — both lost, but not for lack of effort. The A Team girls played their best game of the season. They made serves, moved their feet, called the ball, transitioned to offense and defense, and much more. Camila Montes was impressive, making pinpoint passes and serving well. The B Team also made one of its best efforts, coming back from a first game loss to win the second. Kenzie Harrison and Arrayah Aguilar used excellent serves to notch the victory. In game 3, the Lady Hornets only had a few mistakes, but they proved costly. Chisholm Trail won the third game and the set.

The eighth grade volleyball teams won their games. The A Team won 25-17, 25-11, and the B Team won 25-22, 25-21. Bailey Seward dominated in serving for the A Team, and Kim Licerio and Finley Hard kept the back row on lockdown with great defensive plays. Offensively, Abbie Yochum and Tori Moore made attacks that the Bulldogs couldn't handle.



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Boys and girls from various sports teams and organizations across Springtown wore their jerseys and uniforms, rode floats, and waved to a large crowd of people who lined Pojo Drive for the annual homecoming parade on Sept. 18.

QUEEN

FROM PAGE B1

Hulett ran for a couple of TDs.

D'aishune Elam led the defense in tackles and added an interception. Darren Sweely and Chase Thompson earned

a sack apiece.

Next up, Springtown will play at 7 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 29, at Connally. The Cadets started their season with three consecutive wins before losing their last two games to China Spring and Brownwood.



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The student section enjoys the homecoming game.



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D'aishune Elam's interception early in the game gives Springtown an edge.

SMART, HEAVY IS THE HEAD

Kate Mitchell makes things look easy, even when they're not.

Fact: Being organized, dedicated, and talented enough to be named captain of the Showstoppers dance troupe isn't easy.

Fact: Being named head drum major of Sound of Springtown for two years in a row is extremely difficult.

Fact: Securing a spot at the top of the class in academics is way-way super hard.

Mitchell has done all these things and more, and usually with a smile on her face.

Making things look easy doesn't mean they are.

"I get extremely burnt out, but I'm just, like, I have to do it anyway," she said. "So, I do it anyway."

Mitchell didn't expect to be named homecoming queen but was happy to be nominated.

"There were several people who were hopeful for me, but I didn't want to get my hopes up," she said. "I was just thinking, it's a win to be out here. It was exciting to be one of the top 10, much less the top 8, and getting to go out on the field and be in a very

fancy dress, that's the fun part of it."

After high school, Mitchell plans to study music education and performance. But that's months and years ahead. On Sept. 22, Mitchell was happy to be standing in the moment, with a crown on her head, a white rose in her hands, and wearing a sleek and sparkling dress.

"I feel very fortunate," she said. "I thought this would be really fun, and I was right, it is extremely fun, and it's very exciting."

PLAYERS OF WEEK AGAINST CREEKVIEW

In the previous week's game against Creekview, the following athletes were recognized as players of the week:

Offense - Breyden Kearby, 1 pancake block.

Offense - Dallin Fabrizius, 2 knockdowns, 3 pancakes.

Defense - Yair Hernandez, 4 tackles, 6 assists, 1 sack, and 3 tackles for loss.

Defense - Ty Parrott, 2 tackles, 3 assists.

Special teams - Drake Doggett.

KAPOW

FROM PAGE B1

and ended the night with 4 aces. The Lady Pines hustled, called for balls, set up shots, and made impressive saves and volleys.

"We were very, very excited for each other in the first set," Cox said. "Once the second set came, it was night and day. Our energy just was not there. We looked scared as to what's coming next."

The pressure to win was magnified since it was the



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From left, boyfriend Braylon Easter helps Stoli Cox celebrate 1,000 career kill shots.



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Bailey Walker sets up a shot for a teammate.

district opener. Win, and you're undefeated and sitting in first place. Lose, and you're winless and in last place. At least, until the next game.

"That wasn't our best," Cox said. "It's hard to lose, and it really gets in your head. We just hope to come out next

week and do much better than we did today."

Cox finished the set against Krum with 17 kills, followed by Libby Tedder with 11.

Quintanilla added 16 digs, 3 assists, and a kill shot to her busy night.

Kallie Conway and Bailey

Walker provided the bulk of the assists.

Sterlyn Smith led in digs with 25, and Conway added 14.

After the game and celebration were done, Cox reflected on the lows and the highs. Appreciating the milestone

of 1,000 kills while enduring the misery of losing a district opener are both useful in their ways.

"This adds to who I am as a person," she said.

Springtown will play next at 5 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 29, at home against Lake Worth.



Denali Rubio leads the Emerald Dazzlers as captain.

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DAZZLED
FROM PAGE B1

being on the Dazzlers team. Everyone's nice." She is one of three foreign exchange students who made the roster. The others are Emma Lolli from Italy and Rawan Lashin from Egypt. "I love it here," Lolli said. "I love school. I love the subjects, the teachers, and the people. They are so nice and sweet. And I love my host family. I'm having a great time." She arrived on Aug. 5, and her new surroundings weren't so different from her home in Italy. "I knew Azle was a small town, and I live in small town" near Bologna, she said. The visitors plan to stay for almost a year, and they appreciate the homey feel of Azle and its proximity to interesting places nearby. "I like that it's near a big city — Fort Worth," van der

Woude said. "I was excited because I knew there was a lake nearby and some nature, too." The exchange students are adding their talents to a youthful Dazzlers roster embarking on a stage of growth and learning. The dancers are "constantly working hard to improve dance skills and performance qualities," said director Crystal Martinez. Leading the team is captain Denali Rubio, a junior. "Denali Rubio is doing a phenomenal job as captain, performer, and leader, especially with only being a junior," Martinez said. "She and her fellow officers do a great job of leading the team." Rubio auditioned for captain after serving as a lieutenant during her sophomore season. "I like being a role model for others," Rubio said. "It makes me happy." Putting on choreographed shows to impress spectators for a few minutes requires

many hours of grinding away in obscurity. The team practices three times a week, two hours at a time, in a mirror-walled rehearsal room. The girls practice on their own at home. "The team is doing really good," Rubio said. "We've improved a lot since this summer." Teammates such as lieutenant Ryllon Farmer help instruct dancers and lead by example — arriving at practices on time, eager to learn and unafraid to sweat. Farmer takes her position seriously. "I'm here to push the team harder, help with things that people may need work on, be a leader of the group, and strive for others to do their best every day," she said. "I really enjoy everyone being one big family. I enjoy everyone wanting to strive to do their best and coming together to do something that we all love and perform together as one." It takes a be-sparkled village to raise a dance troupe,



From left, Londyn Beaver and Grace Moran perform at a recent halftime show.

and a vital cog in the troupe is Alyssa Harris. The sophomore is one of three managers. During a recent practice, she sat on the floor at the rehearsal hall helping the foreign exchange students fill out paperwork. "They don't have everything," Harris said. "We need to order them more stuff, things like backpacks, jersey

bags, poms, anything like that. This is their first-time experience for drill team." Harris does her part by showing up for practices, taking notes, retrieving supplies, and assisting Martinez and the girls. "I help the director with anything she needs," Harris said. "I really like the team. I love the veterans because

I know them from last year. Also, the new people coming in and learning everything, I love seeing them grow from the beginning of the year." The Emerald Dazzlers will perform at a homefield halftime show during the next Azle Hornets football game at 7 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 29, at Hornet Stadium.



Alyssa Harris orders supplies for exchange students.



Crystal Martinez, director of the Dazzlers, instructs the team on form.



From left, Aideen Leclair, Andrea Aguilar, Serenity Young, Mariska van der Woude, Emma Lolli, and Kaylyn Sellers wait to step onto the field.



Ryllon Farmer serves as a lieutenant.

Springtown cross country team earns medals, PR's, respect

STAFF REPORT

sports@tricityreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN - The Springtown High School cross-country runners competed at the Waxahachie Life Mustang Stampede and stirred up plenty of dust on their own. The meet was held Sept. 21 at the Waxahachie Sports Complex, and the race turned out to be a big one for Wesley Payne. He won second place and set a personal record of 16:47.99. It was his first time to run the 5k in less than 17

minutes. He has been chasing this PR for more than a year. Five of Springtown's six medalists placed in the top five. For the JV boys, Brayden Levario won second place, Jessy Rigstad took third place, and Jace Rutledge earned fourth. Chloe Kirk won fourth place for the JV girls. The JV boys won second place as a team, and the JV girls took third place. Alyson Barco earned 15th place for the varsity girls.



COURTESY PHOTO
Wesley Payne keeps on winning medals, and so do his teammates.

Football Contest

WEEK 5

David Shaffer and Eddy and Margaret Swanzy were on fire in week 5, with each of them guessing 22 of 24 winners of local high school football games. That made a three-way tie, and the tiebreaker game between Grand Prairie and Arlington was used to determine the contest winners. The tiebreaker game generated 59 points. Margaret Swanzy was closest with 55 points to win first place and \$20. Eddy Swanzy guessed 65 points, which put him in second place with \$10. And third place went to Schaffer, who guessed 52 points. He won third place and \$5. Congratulations to the winners and good luck in this week's contest.

FOOTBALL **CONTEST** | B8-B9

Northwest 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	L 30-13
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

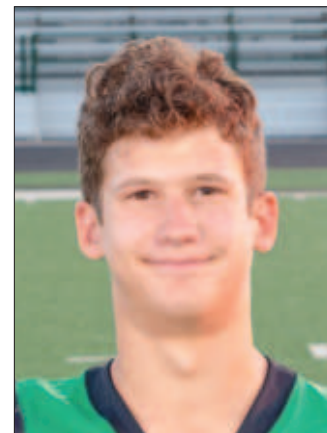
SPECIAL TEAMS



AUSTIN MAY



CONNER MERRILL



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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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2. Springtown at Connally

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6. Lamar at Martin

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REPAIRS FOR ALL CARS & LIGHT TRUCKS**

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5. Aledo at The Colony

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7. Marcus at Flower Mound

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8. Lake Belton at Cleburne
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1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
\$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!

1. _____	15. _____
2. _____	16. _____
3. _____	17. _____
4. _____	18. _____
5. _____	19. _____
6. _____	20. _____
7. _____	21. _____
8. _____	22. _____
9. _____	23. _____
10. _____	24. _____
11. _____	Tie Breaker: 24 Score _____
12. _____	
13. _____	
14. _____	

Name: _____ City: _____
 Address: _____ Phone: _____

Talk or tech. Your choice.
 13. Bowie at Grand Prairie
 Call, click or stop by today



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 813 E Hwy 199,
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22. Peaster at Brock
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Pinnacle Bank
 24. Pine Tree at Nacogdoches



AZLE 316 N.W. PARKWAY
 817.444.2504
 SPRINGTOWN 726 HWY. 199 E.
 817.220.5504

MEMBER FDIC pinnbanktx.com

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El Gordo Burrito \$6.99
 Chicken or Beef, Rice, Cheese, Sour Cream & Sauteed Onions, Pico de Gallo

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Fish Taco Plate \$8.99
 Plate Comes w/Rice, Beans & 24 oz. Drink
 17. Hirschi at Decatur

12555 FM 730 S. • 817-270-5430
 11652 FM 730 N. • 817-444-3947
 432 TX-199 817-523-4422
 529 N Main St. 817-523-2888
 Mon - Sat Breakfast: 5:30am - 10:00am Lunch & Dinner: 10:00am - 7:30pm
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18. Windthorst vs Bremond

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Ad Classifications

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| 1... Air Condition/Heating | 24..... Electrician | 46..... Looking to Buy | 69..... Sand/Gravel |
| 2..... Antiques | 25..... Equipment & Tool Rental | 47..... Lost & Found | 70..... Septic Tanks |
| 3..... Appliances | 26..... Excavating | 48... Maintenance/Repairs | 71..... Sewing/Alterations |
| 4..... Appliance Repair | 27..... Exterminating | 49... Masonry/Stonework | 72..... Sewer Service |
| 5..... Arts/Crafts | 28..... Farm Equipment | 50... Mobile Home Service | 73..... TV/Radio |
| 6..... Asphalt Paving | 29..... Fencing | 51..... Motorcycles | 74..... Tractor Service |
| 7..... Auctions | 30..... Firewood | 52..... Movers | 75..... Upholstery |
| 8..... Autos, Trucks | 31..... Free | 53... Musical Instruments | 76..... Vacuum Cleaners |
| 9..... Auto Repair Service | 32..... For Sale | 54..... Music Lessons | 77..... Wanted |
| 10..... Backhoe Service | 33..... Furniture | 55..... Miscellaneous | 78..... Well Drilling |
| 11..... Boats, Motors | 34..... Garage & Estate Sales | 56 Party Planning/Events | 79..... Welding |
| 12..... Bookkeeping | 35 ... Garden/Mowing Svc | 57..... Pets/Livestock | 80..... Lots/Acreage |
| 13..... Business | 36..... Hauling | 58..... Piano Service | 81..... Business & Commercial Property |
| 14..... Campers/Trailers | 37..... Hay | 59..... Pool Service | 82..... RV's for Rent |
| 15..... Carports/Patios | 38..... Health/Fitness | 60..... Professional Services | 83..... Houses for Sale |
| 16..... Equipment Repair | 39..... Help Wanted | 61..... Personal | 84..... Mobile Homes for Rent |
| 17..... Carpet Service | 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 | |

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Huge Garage Sale
October 6-7 8am-5pm. 408 Skipper Ln. Furniture, crafts, wreaths, Avon and etc.

5 Family Fall Garage Sale
September 30, 8am-4:30pm. 116 Carnes Court, Springtown. Plants, fashion clothes for the whole family, household items, motorcycle, helmets, and a little bit of everything.

Multi-Family Garage Sale
Friday & Saturday 8am-2pm. 7376 Comer Ln, 730 S to Veal Station, R on Veal Station to Comer Ln. House at end before culdisac.

035 Garden/Mowing Service

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

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

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The Tri-County Reporter
Hometown Paper!

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All Types of Concrete Work
Residential - Commercial
Foundations, driveways, sand, gravel, demolition, haul-off, retaining walls
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Kiley Chesney Construction
Dirt & Concrete Work
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Kiley Chesney, Owner
Springtown, TX • Mobile 817-846-6645

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CLB CONCRETE
metal buildings
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940-799-7394 ENGLISH
DRIVEWAYS • SIDEWALKS • PATIOS
FOUNDATION SLABS • METAL BUILDINGS



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We Create Vacancy

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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.
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Address _____
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County _____ Daytime ph. _____

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TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

817-270-3340

Deadline:
1:00 PM FRIDAY

Classifieds

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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.


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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

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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.

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

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Jodi Pettis, Executive Director

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- Carports
- Metal Buildings
- All General Contracting

MasterFile BBB

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Tired of always replacing your roof?
Call us for a metal roof quote.

We'll be here after the storm.

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Metal Building Erectors

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- Arenas/Hangars
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40 Years Experience



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October 6th, 2023
Tack Sale Begins at 6:00 PM
Horses Follow
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Troy 254-967-1950 • Barn 254-968-4844

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Residential & New Homes.
50 years experience.

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Call Parker/Wise County's oldest chimney sweeping company, Mr. Sweeps.

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ask for Doug
www.mrsweepschimneycleaning.com

Special: \$170
Chimney & Dryer Vent Cleaning



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The Tri-County Reporter
817-220-7217

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AZLE, TX
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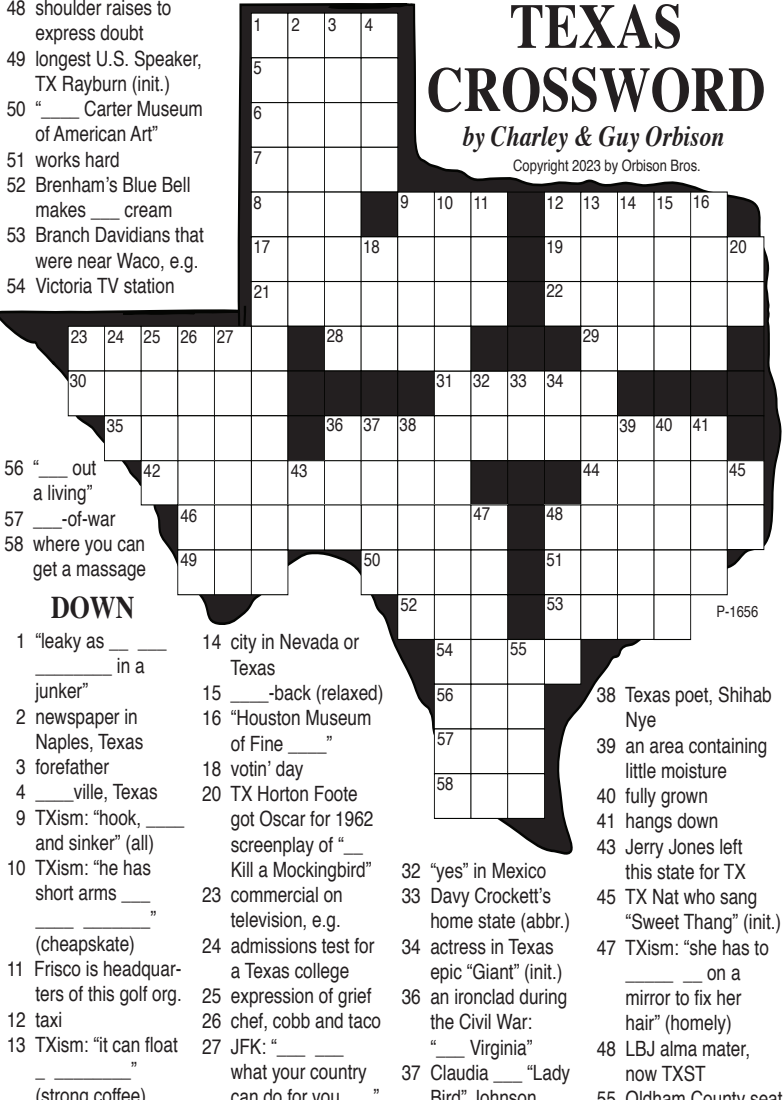
ACROSS

- TXism: "he's ___ not to mess with" (mean)
- not any
- ___ a Texan, always a Texan
- TXism: "spun a yarn"
- evangelical seminary in Dallas (abbr.)
- TXism: "in the ___ of luxury" (rich)
- 1961 hurricane that was the most destructive in Texas
- decomposing
- TXism: "she's got ___ as big as Texas" (kind)
- TXism: "scarce as grass ___ hog trough"
- "pretty" in Mexico
- TXism: "as pitiful ___ child"
- this outlaw Jim married Belle Starr in Texas in 1866
- fishin' poles
- currency of Gambia
- Texas golfer Bob who won 1994 Texas Open
- TXism: "she can ___ blue streak"
- TX Gene Watson sang "Raisin" ___
- TXism: "happy as a kid on ___"
- family car that's not a SUV
- they keep doors away from walls

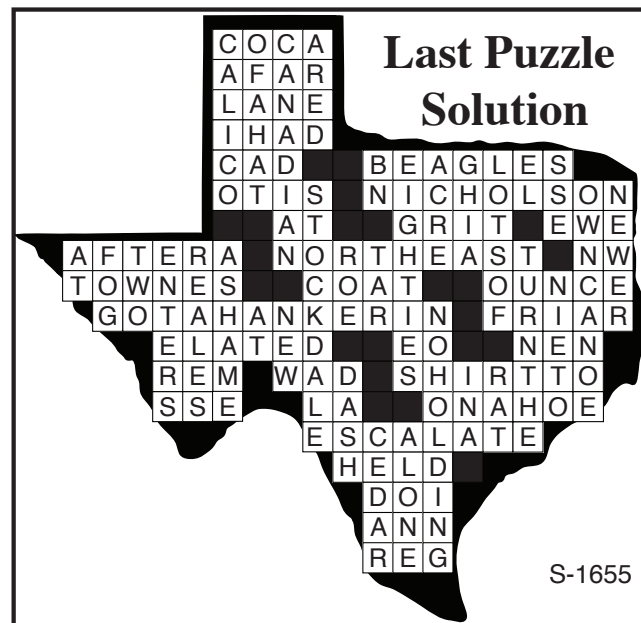
DOWN

- "leaky as ___ in a junker"
- newspaper in Naples, Texas
- forefather
- ___ville, Texas
- TXism: "hook, ___ and sinker" (all)
- TXism: "he has short arms ___" (cheapskate)
- Frisco is headquarters of this golf org.
- taxi
- TXism: "it can float ___" (strong coffee)
- city in Nevada or Texas
- ___back (relaxed)
- "Houston Museum of Fine ___"
- votin' day
- TX Horton Foote got Oscar for 1962 screenplay of "___ Kill a Mockingbird"
- commercial on television, e.g.
- admissions test for a Texas college
- expression of grief
- chef, cobb and taco
- JFK: "___ what your country can do for you ..."
- TX poet, Shihab Nye
- an area containing little moisture
- fully grown
- hangs down
- Jerry Jones left this state for TX
- TX Nat who sang "Sweet Thang" (init.)
- TXism: "she has to ___ on a ___ mirror to fix her hair" (homely)
- LBJ alma mater, now TXST
- Oldham County seat

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by Charley & Guy Orbison
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S-1655

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