

THE TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

THE NEWS OF AZLE, SPRINGTOWN, AND SURROUNDING AREAS

THURSDAY, October 5, 2023 • \$1.00



Coming Home

JEFF PRINCE | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER
Azle came out with pride to celebrate Azle High School Homecoming on Sept. 25.
MORE PHOTOS PAGE A17-18

\$7k raised for firefighter's cancer battle; businesses challenged to donate \$1k

Azle FD driver engineer Billy Johnson receives outpouring of community support ahead of surgery

ZACH FREEMAN

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AZLE — On Aug. 30, Billy Johnson, a 23-year veteran with the Azle Fire Department, was diagnosed with renal cell carcinoma. The 53-year-old firefighter has spent most of his life in Azle after moving here in the late 1970s. His children are Azle High School graduates, and his son is now a Fort Worth Police Officer. He has five grandkids ranging from 15 years old to 19 months. He enjoys spending his free time with his family, off-roading and relaxing.

In the very short time since he announced his diagnosis, a GoFundMe campaign has raised over \$7,200 for Johnson's cancer battle.

"I am beyond blessed. I just don't really have words to describe how appreciative my wife and I are of everybody and their prayers," Johnson said. "I have to say I owe it all to God and the fact that he touched their hearts and allowed them to do what they've done. It has been a tremendous blessing to us."

Johnson is scheduled to have his left kidney, and the



COURTESY JOHNSON'S GOFUNDME

A picture of Johnson used for the campaign.

attached grapefruit sized mass, removed on Oct. 13. He will then spend six weeks off duty to recover before returning to the fire department. Since he announced his diagnosis, Johnson says he has received immeasurable support from his church family, friends, loved ones and even strangers.

"Everyone from the chief all the way down has been super supportive," Johnson said. "Officers with the PD, the whole city in general, they've just been super supportive. They've all put the prayers out there and are checking to see if I need anything or my wife needs anything. It's all been a blessing

to see the outpouring of support and everybody's love and concern."

Above all else, Johnson relies on his faith to keep his spirits high and have hope for the future.

"I know we serve a mighty God," Johnson said. "It's all in his hands. So, I'm putting my faith in Him to do what work needs to be done and I'll start living life again."

While Johnson admits that "cancer sucks" he knows recovery is possible after seeing his father finally win his own two-year battle with lung cancer

Johnson is looking for-

PLEASE SEE **CANCER** | A6



MADELYN EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Desiree Garvin, 4, plays with a gooey combination of corn starch and water during the Parker County Family Resource Center's Spectacular Science activity on Sept. 20.

Socializing with science

Activities at Family Resource Center in Springtown make impact on kids, parents

MADELYN EDWARDS
springtownreporter@tricityreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — According to Maci Summers, there's not

much for her 2-and-a-half-year-old daughter Sadie Mae to do in their hometown of Boyd.

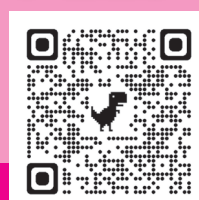
That's why coming to ac-

tivities at the Parker County Family Resource Center in Springtown has been so

PLEASE SEE **SCIENCE** | A5



JOIN US FOR ANOTHER Pink Out Walkathon



Tuesday, Oct. 10 8:30 - 9:30 am
in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month!
Each lap will raise funds for the National Breast Cancer Foundation.

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Pastor Lee Sipe celebrates 25 years at First Baptist Church Azle

ZACH FREEMAN

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AZLE — On Sept. 24, Pastor Lee Sipe celebrated 25 years as pastor at First Baptist Church in Azle.

"When I was 17, I began to feel that God was calling me to the pastoral ministry," Sipe said.

Born and raised in Graham, Sipe studied Bible theology at Hardin Simmons University in Abilene. Sipe then received his Master of Divinity degree in 1987 at Fort Worth's Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Sipe married his wife, Cherry, later in life by some standards — he was 34. Sipe interviewed at First Baptist Church Azle right after his honeymoon in 1998. He got the job and has been there ever since.

"Our life and my ministry has been here in Azle for the last quarter century," Sipe

Pastor Lee talks church history, growth, and the impact he hopes to have in Azle

said. "It's not often that a pastor gets to stay at a church that long. One of the primary reasons I've been able to be here for a quarter of a century is because of the congregation, the people of Azle. Azle has proved to be a wonderful town. There's good people here."

During those 25 years, Sipe's congregation has grown from about 70 when he started to now more than 500. The Sipes' children were raised and attended school in Azle.

"It's our home," Sipe said. "God has blessed us. It really is the grace of God that has brought us to this place,

and I believe people are designed by God to need Him. The people of Azle need a relationship with God and

I want to provide a place where they can have that relationship."

One lesson Sipe has learned in his career is that everything comes down to relationships.

"When I preach funeral services, money never comes up. Their position in a company, home, their cars, none of that matters at all," Sipe said. "It's all about relationships. Everything that's important in life is about relationships. As a church, my hope and desire is that we draw people to God and as we do that we draw them to one another."

The current motto of First Baptist Church Azle is Transforming Lives. "I believe that's what God does, transforms lives through relationships," Sipe said.

First Baptist Church Azle was founded in 1904 on Peden Road as West Fork Baptist Church. In 1956, the church purchased a World War II military depot between the current sites of Azle High School and the old Walnut Creek Elementary. The church's sanctuary was built on this property in 1961. By the time Sipe came along in 1998, the building was very well-used.

"I knew it was not meeting our needs," Sipe said. "It was just too small, and the property was too small for us to build on and expand. After I had been here for a year, I stood up before the congregation and said there's 12 acres across the street and I think God wants us to buy that lot."

At the time, the \$390,000 needed to buy the property was substantial, but not outside the realm of possibility. "God was good, the timing was right," Sipe said. By 2001, the church had saved up enough money to buy the lot. By 2008, its current building was constructed, and a ribbon-cutting was held to commemorate the occasion.

When transitioning from a modestly-sized church to a larger one, Sipe said he had to learn a lot along the way. "There's no training for that, there's no school," Sipe said. "It's funny, seminary taught me to preach and study scripture, but it didn't teach you how to pastor a large church. You learn that through the school of hard knocks."

Under Sipe, church staff grew from one to about seven. Sipe described how, prior



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Pastor Lee Sipe in his office.

to his arrival, the church was declining in membership.

Sipe credits the turn-around largely to the mission work he started soon after he began his ministry. Sipe's wife, Cherry, suggested a mission trip to her home country of the Philippines and within a year or two, the church had organized a team. First Baptist Church Azle donated clothing, food, and materials for school along with its missionaries and soon garnered positive attention from the community.

"You don't have to be a huge church to make a difference," Sipe said. "When you're doing something that really matters, people are drawn to that."

Sipe says Azle's growth has provided opportunities for the church to meet the needs of more people and describes the location as an attractive destination for people all around the country. To celebrate his 25th anniversary at the church, Sipe wanted a simple potluck dinner, reminiscent of dinners held in his early days of the ministry. During the celebration, the church played testimonials from staff and church members to illustrate the impact

that Lee and Cherry had had on the community.

"Brother Lee has always made sure we share Jesus in Azle and around the world," congregant Joann Tanner said in a testimonial posted to Facebook. "I believe that is why God is still blessing this church. Lee, Cherry, I love you guys. Thank you, Lee for being my pastor."

Roger and Jan Jones, who have been members of First Baptist Church Azle since the 1980s, described how much growth and how much more active the church became after the Sipes took the reins.

Sipe hopes to remain in his ministry as long as possible and looks forward to many more fantastic years in the community.

"My hope and my prayer is that God allows my family to remain here," Sipe said. "We're committed to minister to the people of Azle for the rest of our lives. I have a lot of gratitude to the people of Azle. They've been very good to us. This is our home. We as a church love Azle, we love the people of Azle. They're important to God, so they're important to us, so we want to minister to them. There's a place for them here."



The front of First Baptist Church Azle.

Making it official

New Springtown police officers participate in badge pinning ceremony



Springtown police officer Michael Leierer waits patiently as his wife Dana Lovejoy-Leierer pins his badge to his uniform during the pinning ceremony on Sept. 27. Leierer joined the Springtown Police Department on Sept. 7.



Shanna Dinkins smiles at her husband Springtown police officer Bret Dinkins after she successfully pinned his badge to his uniform during the pinning ceremony at Springtown City Council's meeting on Sept. 27. Dinkins started working at the Springtown Police Department on Sept. 13.

MADELYN EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER



Azle's 23rd Annual

GREAT CANDY ROUNDUP

Weds, Nov 1st • 3pm - 6pm • Sponsored by Azle Dental Care

Kids wear your costumes one more time & get dough back for your Halloween candy.* Plus, Dr. Porter will donate an additional dollar to the Azle Community Caring Center.

*For each pound of Halloween candy you bring into Azle Dental Care, you will receive one dollar.

DROP YOUR CANDY OFF AT

Azle Dental Care 912 Boyd Rd, across from Subway

Call 817-444-1763 for more details.

REGISTER TO WIN A

\$100 GIFT CARD



Need not be present to win. Drawing held 11-01-23 at 6:15 pm. Winner notified by phone 11-02-23. *Cash back is for kids only. Limit of up to ten pounds for each child. Collected candy will be donated to Azle Community Caring Center.

A Teacher's "Burning" Lesson set a Career Path

Recently I was told a tale by a good friend regarding his elementary school days in Abilene.

It would seem my friend was a typical west Texas boy of the late '50s. He rode stick horses, played ball, and had a group of friends with whom he was joined at the hip. They played at the vacant lot in the neighborhood when school was out, spent the night at one another's houses, and sat close to each other in their classroom. They ate their lunch together, played at recess, and fussed and fought with each other over the usual boyhood issues. Boys being boys, they would sometimes be ornery.

One day one of the boys brought a small package of Diamond wooden matches to school with him. Since this was a time when many people smoked cigarettes, matches were plentiful and found almost everywhere. Jimmy Jack took this box from the kitchen, where his mother used them to light the kitchen stove when she was ready to cook. The box was small



FROM MY FRONT PORCH

By Sam Houston

Sam Houston is a syndicated columnist and newspaper executive. He is also an author, actor, playwright and entertainment producer/promoter.

but full of wooden matches and was easily concealed in Jimmy Jack's back pocket as he bounded out the door to school.

Jimmy Jack did not really have a plan for what to do with the matches, and he fully understood he was not supposed to have them in his possession. His mother had warned the 8-year-old of the dangers of matches and forbade him from playing with them lest he start a fire or burn himself. The boy was not a bad boy, and though he knew he was disobeying his mother, he weighed the possible anger of his mother with the admiration of the other boys for bringing matches to school, and the choice was made.

While standing as a group

on the playground before the school day started, Jimmy Jack could not wait to tell the other boys what he had done. When they saw what Jimmy Jack pulled out of his back pocket, there was an audible, collective "wow" of admiration and disbelief. Naturally, the urge to use one of the matches was overwhelming so the boys went around the corner of the gym where their actions would be less visible. Jimmy Jack struck one of the matches and lit a small pile of dried leaves on fire.

Just as the leaves caught fire, Miss Etta Mae Ewing, the school secretary, was walking up the sidewalk and smelled the smoke. She investigated and as she came around the corner, the boys saw her and attempted to stomp out the

evidence of their "crime". Unfortunately, Miss Ewing knew something was up and told the boys to go to the principal's office.

All five of the boys walked the slow walk of death to the office, knowing they were in serious trouble. Mr. Hunsucker, the principal, was a big man and while friendly, intimidated the students with his stature and authority. When he asked who had brought the matches, none of the boys spoke up. Jimmy Jack was silent because he wanted to avoid the consequences of his actions, and the other four, because they could not stand the idea of being a "squealer" on their buddy. Whatever punishment would be dealt out, they would rather suffer the consequences than turn on their friend.

After making several inquiries as to who was responsible and getting nothing in response but blank stares from the culprits, Mr. Hunsucker announced since no one would come forward,

all the boys would get a "lick." He ordered the boys to line up, facing the wall, had them bend over, and proceeded to go down the line and give each boy a swat on the backside with his paddle. Two licks had been delivered as Mr. Hunsucker worked down the line to Jimmy Jack. When he delivered his blow on the offender, the paddle landed exactly where the box of matches was hidden. The box ignited, creating flames and smoke coming from the backside of Jimmy Jack's britches. Seeing the smoke and feeling the heat of the incineration, the boy dropped on his backside and dragged himself on the hallway floor like a wormy dog, hoping to get away from the heat. The shocked principal scampered to put out the fire and protect Jimmy Jack from injury. The other boys screamed and shouted, unsure what had happened. It was quite a scene.

The fire was soon extinguished, and while Jimmy Jack had a small burn on his

backside, no more "licks" were delivered that day. Each of the boys had to spend a day after school writing "I will not play with matches" 200 times and could not go outside to recess for a week.

My friend claims the incident was a great educational moment. He maintains a sense of pride as all the boys protected their friend with their silence, even if it meant putting themselves in jeopardy.

Another lesson was also learned. None of the boys ever brought matches to school again, and curiously, Jimmy Jack may have been inspired to his future professional calling, as years later he became a fireman!

Educators never know what impact they will have on their students.

Thought for the day: The best teachers are the ones that tell you where to look, but not what to see.

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

Homecoming

I hope everyone enjoyed the Homecoming activities that make Azle ISD such a special place. The parade was one of the largest, prompting me to resonate on the growth in our district. Reflecting on homecoming, a tradition of welcoming back former students and staff to celebrate our successes and reflect on the past, it is the perfect opportunity to remind everyone we have a bond referendum on the November election ballot.

Recent columns have covered many aspects of the bond proposition. I have shared information about the long-range facilities planning committee process, district tax rate, and school funding.



AZLE ISD

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

Mr. Smith started his career in education in July of 1994 right here in Azle ISD. He taught agricultural science at Azle High School, served as a high school assistant principal, principal of Walnut Creek Elementary, director of district operations, assistant superintendent, and interim superintendent from March 7, 2020, until becoming Superintendent in June of 2020. He is thankful for the passion and dedication exhibited by Azle ISD faculty and staff and is extremely proud of the work Azle ISD has accomplished and the impact they will continue to make on the lives of our students.

Other columns have been more specific about some of the proposed projects and grade-level reconfiguration.

This month, I focus on safety and security and the anticipated tax impact, if passed.

Safety and security of our students and staff always remain a top priority. The

bond includes a new Azle Junior High campus, providing a safer, more secure learning environment. The current campus opened in 1953. Today, it consists of six buildings with 25 exterior doors. The new AJH keeps all students under one roof, has fewer exterior doors,

eliminates travel between buildings, improved ADA, compliance, and improved educational spaces. Both the new AJH and additions/renovations at Forte Junior High include a storm shelter for all students and staff.

Ensuring our students and staff continue to have safe learning environments, a crucial component of the safety and security of Azle ISD is the Police Department, currently made up of 13 officers. Our district is growing, with 1,000 more students expected over the next five years, and we expect our police force to increase alongside student enrollment. The bond includes upgrades to our police headquarters and a new mainte-

nance warehouse.

I previously shared about school taxes as a component of your total property tax bill, and aspects of how public school funding works in Texas. A top priority of our district is to be good stewards of your tax dollars through sound financial management and decisions. Since 2018, Azle ISD has lowered its portion of your property tax bill by 19 cents. The Azle ISD tax rate has historically been, and continues to be, one of the lowest in the area. Our Board of Trustees remain committed to continuing that tradition. While the legislature often presents challenges to our funding, the recent passage of HB 1, along with

our property values; ensures funding for all bond projects, with a total tax rate of \$1.13. That is eight cents LOWER than last year. The average Azle ISD home is valued at \$266,000 and taxes would decrease by \$213 a year. On a \$300,000 home, taxes would decrease by \$240 a year compared to last year.

I also draw attention to Proposition 9, a constitutional amendment providing a cost-of-living raise to retired teachers. Informing and engaging our valued community is important to our Azle ISD team. Visit our website for more bond election information, including two upcoming community events.

We Are Azle! - Todd Smith

Reno Council lowers tax rate, balances budget

MADelyn EDWARDS

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RENO — After many workshops and meetings, Reno City Council finally approved its budget for the new fiscal year last week.

"We made it through," Mayor Hector Bas Jr. said after the Sept. 25 meeting.

Council members have spoken multiple times within the last few months about the state of the city's budget and pointed out cuts would need to be made to balance the budget. On Sept. 25, the council adopted the budget for the fiscal year 2023-24 as well as the new tax rate of \$0.366173 per \$100 valuation, which is about a 10-cent decrease from the previous tax rate of \$0.468166.

After the meeting, Bas asked that Reno residents bear with city officials as they manage the finances.

"We just want to make sure that everything's done right," Bas said. "We've got to watch our spending here with this next year, so we just need to watch everything that we do, don't overspend because it's not hard for somebody to go and overspend."

To avoid a deficit in the city's 2024 budget, council members opted to cut out all animal control expenses

Council cuts animal control, allocates \$50,000 to fire department

except for the animal control officer's wages, Bas said.

Council members discussed cutting animal control during the budget workshops. Some were particularly amenable to the idea since the animal control officer doesn't have a reliable shelter to take captured animals in the city and can't always find a place in other cities' facilities.

"I'm in no way saying we get rid of the employee because we need employees, but we don't have the funds to put on a show for the animal control when we don't have a place to take them," council member Joy Jenkins said during the Sept. 19 budget workshop. "It's a lot of money."

During that workshop, Police Chief Scott Elsner cautioned the council against cutting the entire animal control budget, saying the city will be billed if the county has to send its animal control officer to Reno. Elsner said contractual services cost \$135,000 per year on

average, and he suggested decreasing the animal control budget but not eliminating it.

"That's about the only real solution I have to a problem that's a growing problem within the city, is stray animals, but we also don't need to incur the costs from having other random patrol agencies come in here and take care of our stuff because we will get billed," Elsner said.

It is unclear how animal control will be dealt with in the city limits moving forward. Bas said he is looking into partnerships with other cities to see what options Reno has.

Reno council members prioritized allocating additional funding to the Briar-Reno Fire Department, but they had to compromise on how much they could give. Fire Chief Moses Druyman addressed the council at least twice during the budget season to stress the urgency of the city's water infrastructure issues. Because of low water pressure, fire hydrants cannot solely be relied upon to

extinguish fires. Originally, Druyman suggested that the council allocate an additional \$159,000 to the fire department to add one more person per shift to drive the engine/tanker and supply water to fires.

In the adopted budget, the council approved giving \$50,000 more to the fire department, more than \$100,000 less than Druyman asked for. Public Works Director Chris Albright said the water fund and the streets budget were used to supplement the extra funding to the fire department.

"The compromise between the city of Reno and the Briar-Reno Fire Department is an attempt at providing a temporary solution," Druyman said after the new budget was adopted. "We are going to work toward hiring a few additional part-time persons which includes adding one part-time person per shift to meet our three per shift minimum to allow for a tanker driver. I am optimistic, but unfortunately with the

changing job market of the fire service, I'm uncertain. I shared with council that all we can do is try and in tough times we must agree to work together to find a long-term solution. The city of Reno is in a hard place right now and they are going to continue to be faced with some extremely difficult decisions that require teamwork."

Bas said it was difficult to budget that \$50,000 for the fire department, and he was pleased by the outcome.

"Moses really stepped up to the plate and really helped us out by finding other avenues to get the rest of his money," Bas said. "He really helped the city out."

For the water department, the city's new budget allocated \$110,000 for well site maintenance and pump repairs, and about \$75,000-\$80,000 for water system improvements to cover water line upgrades or water main breaks, Albright said.

"I'm hoping this year if we can get my wells back up to par, then next year we could put more money on water system maintenance and be able to upgrade more lines and everything," the public works director said. "We've got to take it one year at a time. This system is so far behind."

Well maintenance was originally budgeted at \$70,000, but that line item was increased after Albright's proposal to lease four new trucks was knocked down. In a previous Tri-County Reporter article, he described the current fleet of trucks as old and worn, and he said the city had never acquired new vehicles but always used ones. In lieu of getting new trucks, Albright said he would get some of the used ones overhauled.

"They should last us another year," he said.

However, Albright did receive funding in the budget for other requests, including a hydro excavation trailer that will allow workers to dig around water mains more efficiently, sand/salt spreader to use on roads during icy conditions and a skid steer attachment to help put down asphalt during street repairs.

The new budget also includes 5% raises for city staffers, which Bas described as a must-have expense to retain employees. He said some staff members threatened to quit if they didn't get a raise, and it's been a challenge to keep workers. To the mayor's understanding, employees didn't get a raise last year.

"It's tough keeping good help with low pay," he said.

Fun fall festivities at Azle Memorial Library

ZACH FREEMAN

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AZLE — On Thursday, Sept. 28, the Azle Memorial Library hosted an event where visitors could make their own fall-themed banners to display around the house. Visitors to the library were provided with stencils of letters to spell out the words “Fall” and “Boo!” along with stencils of leaves, pumpkins and other fall-related imagery. Guests traced and cut designs out of construction paper and fixed them onto book pages they attached together to hang as a decorative seasonal banner.

“I wanted to do a cheap and simple fall craft for adults, so I found a good example of a book page banner craft and adapted it for our library,” Adult Activities Director Rebecca Buchanan said. “Those who attended had great fun choosing different fall scrapbook paper to trace

Azle Memorial Library hosts fall classes and events for patrons

my homemade stencils on. Some adults even did both designs, one on each side of the book pages supplied.”

That same week, the library also hosted a Plastic Bag Exchange in collaboration with Azle’s Stormwater Management department. Residents who brought in 10 or more plastic bags on Monday, Sept. 25 received a reusable tote bag made from recycled materials. Located in the library’s entrance, members of the city’s Stormwater Division also gave out educational materials that describe how to prevent contamination of the environment through local water sources.

The library is excited to announce it purchased two Nintendo Switch consoles along with some family-friendly multiplayer games.

The library plans to host teen gaming nights later this fall. A wide range of other events and classes will be featured at the library in the coming months.

UPCOMING LIBRARY EVENTS

- Constellation Cross-Stitch for ages 12 to 18, Oct. 5 at 6 p.m.
- Cooking Well with Diabetes (presented by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension), Oct. 26, Nov. 2, and Nov. 9.
- Thanksgiving Pie Banner Craft, Nov. 6, 4-6 p.m.
- Quick Breads class, Nov. 13 at 4:30 p.m.
- Teen Gaming Night, Nov. 14, 6-7:30 p.m. For ages 13 to 17 only.
- Retirement Planning workshop presented by the Association of Financial Educators, Nov. 16 at 6:30 p.m.



COURTESY AZLE MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Library patrons craft their fall banners.



COURTESY AZLE MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Members of Azle’s Stormwater Management Department.



A “Boo!” banner displayed in the home of a patron.

HELP FEED OUR HUNGRY NEIGHBORS

Are you feeling the strain of rising costs of the most basic expenses – fuel, utilities, and food? As our operating costs continue to increase, so are the number of families needing our assistance. CCC is now serving over 1,300 families each month and the numbers are continuing to grow. This is a 30% increase in the number of families served in 2022.

Our annual budget is being stretched to keep food on our shelves! Here’s a look at how your donation will help:

Keeping our pantry shelves fully stocked is challenging. Our partnership with Tarrant Area Food Bank, gives CCC the ability to purchase large quantities of food for as little as \$0.15 per pound, so your dollar goes a long way. \$25 feeds a family of two for one week!

At the beginning of 2022, CCC added a Hygiene Corner to our Free Shop. Our Hygiene Corner budget and donated items are still not enough to keep up with the needs from our clients. Help us to supply our families with shampoo, body wash, tooth paste, feminine hygiene products, and laundry detergent. \$25 will supply a month’s worth of hygiene products for one household!

In 2022, we provided 863 holiday meals to families in need through our Annual Christmas Boxes. As CCC has grown, so has this program. Based on the higher demand for food this year, we anticipate needing 1,000 boxes. \$25 will provide one Christmas Box, including meat, for one household!

CCC supports Azle ISD students by funding the Weekend Backpack Program, giving students who are chronically hungry, ready-to-eat meals and snacks each Friday. During the 2022-23 school year, we provided over 4,500 backpacks. \$25 will purchase six backpacks to ease the food insecurity of 6 students!

\$100 will help secure our inventory in all four categories!

For your convenience, there are multiple ways to donate online at www.communitycaringcenter.com or mail a check to the Community Caring Center 317 Commerce Street, Azle TX 76020.

If you have additional questions about the services we provide or would like to tour our facilities, please feel free to contact our Executive Director, Kristie Cooper at (817) 270-2962. With your help we can continue to make a difference for so many in our community. Please donate today!



Community Caring Center Uniting to Serve

317 Commerce Street, Azle TX 76020

www.communitycaringcenter.com

Kristie Cooper (817) 270-2962

With your help we can continue to make a difference for so many in our community. Please donate today!

Thank You!

To all who helped make our 60th Annual Lord’s Acre Festival & Car Show held Saturday September 16, 2023 a great success!

Thank you to all the area & local businesses for your donations.

And a special Thank You to:

- Old Plantation Meats
- Doy Cooper & Hacienda del Secreto
- Bobby Slate
- Ted & Sherry Crow
- Tommy Deeds
- Azle Animal Control Volunteers
- Texas Bounce House
- Flag Raising Ceremony by the Tarrant County Young Marines

Car Show Sponsors:

- Marsha Hardin Real Estate
- Garcia Tire & Automotive
- Marine Movers

And to all the hardworking members of Silver Creek Methodist Church who volunteered tirelessly to make it all come together on that day.



Winner of the Hustler Turf FasTrak FT691, 48” Mower with Trailer Drawing
Wayne Mosley
from Forestburg, Texas

Silver Creek Methodist Church
2200 Church Rd. Azle TX 76020
www.silvercreekmc.org

SCIENCE

FROM PAGE A1

meaningful to Summers. “We try to tell everybody about it,” Summers said. Summers said she has been bringing Sadie Mae to the FRC since she was 8 months old. This was before she could walk, and Sadie Mae actually started walking at a Kindermusik class, which allows young children to explore new sounds, sensations, objects and movements. “This is her favorite, favorite place,” Summers said. “Now, she’s been asking for Miss Mieke (Brock)” who coordinates activities at the FRC. Summers said the FRC activities have helped Sadie Mae socialize with other children and not be as shy as she used to be. Summers also likes that the activities are interactive

for kids. “They’re never sitting there doing nothing,” she said. Summers brought Sadie Mae to the Spectacular Science activity on Sept. 20 where the kids performed an experiment on ice cubes, created homemade butter and played with a goo made of cornstarch and water. Nathaly Sharp also attended the science activity with her 5-year-old daughter Kelsey. Kelsey attended classes at the FRC for months to prepare to start kindergarten this year. However, Kelsey hadn’t been back to the FRC in a while and was eager to return. “She’s been asking, ‘When are we going to go to Ms. Mieke’s class?’” Sharp said. “And yesterday I saw that Ms. Mieke posted that they have a class at 3:30, so I’m like, (Kelsey) gets off at 3:15; we can get there. She was so excited to come today.” Summers also said she tells people about the FRC because the services and activities are free, and supplies like diapers and wipes are available there to families in need. As a young mother herself, Summers is wary of judgement, but the people at the FRC don’t have a disdainful attitude toward her. “They’re very welcoming,” she said. “It’s like a family here, and I really like it. I never feel uncomfortable here.” Brock reiterated that everyone is welcome at the FRC. “It’s not based on income,” she said. “It’s for families to have fun, get away from maybe the social media a little bit and interact with each other face-to-face.” The FRC opened at 314 E. Fifth Terrace, by Springtown Independent School District’s offices, in March 2022. Even though the center is based

in Springtown, it has impacted large parts of Parker, Wise and Palo Pinto counties as well as smaller areas of Tarrant, Jack and other nearby counties since opening. The FRC has had the biggest effect in the places around Springtown, Agnes, Weatherford, Willow Park, Western Lake, Horseshoe Bend and Mineral Wells. Community Alignment Coordinator Jeanne Stevens, who provided maps showing the FRC’s effect to The Tri-County Reporter, said impact is defined by people’s use of the center’s family navigation services or those who attend the FRC’s groups. During the summer — which tends to be a slow time of year — Stevens said the FRC has provided one-time navigation services to families on 58 occasions, three families received basic supplies, like diapers and

other hygiene products, and 28 families enrolled with the FRC for longer-term free services. Notably, the FRC’s biggest numbers have come from its activities. Stevens said 136 families attended one or more of the center’s activities during June, July and August. In total, the center has reached 205 families through at least one of the events during the 2023 fiscal year. Moving forward, Stevens hopes the data showing the FRC’s impact leads to the center having more than one navigator on site as well as another activities coordinator. A new FRC location is expected to open in Ennis, but she would like to see a center establish in Palo Pinto County, too. “I want to see the growth continue,” Stevens said. “It feels so good to us just to have a family leaving here

feeling better than they did when they walked in the door. So, if we can continue to provide that support, whether it’s just ‘come in and hang with us and let the kids play for a minute,’ or serious concrete support through navigation, whatever the case may be. If we can make an impact and have them feeling better when they leave than when they came in, that’s all we care about. We want the families to feel that support.” The FRC has activities for children available every day of the week in October, including Spectacular Spooky Science at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesdays and a game night at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 19. For more information about the FRC and its events, visit its Facebook page at facebook.com/FamilyRC1 or on Instagram at instagram.com/familyresourcecenter-pc/ online.



MADelyn EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER
Sadie Mae, who is 2-and-a-half years old, tests ice cubes to see if they melt faster with salt water or regular water at the Family Resource Center in Springtown last month.



MADelyn EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER
The Garvin siblings Eli, 8, and Desiree, 4, shake up ingredients to create homemade butter during the Spectacular Science activity at the Parker County Family Resource Center in Springtown.

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Heat death victim honored with posthumous award, tree planting

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

AZLE — Heat exhaustion can be deadly, and a local victim's loved ones are left struggling as they remember and honor his short life.

Based on the most recent report from Tarrant County's Medical Examiner, at least 14 area individuals have died from excessive heat from May 1 to Sept. 1. While most of the victims were in their 60s and 70s, the youngest, an Azle and Springtown resident, was only 26 years old. Caleb Brown had been working a landscaping job in Keller on the morning of June 28 when he passed out and was rushed to the hospital. Brown died in the hospital not long after.

Brown is remembered by his loved ones for his encyclopedic knowledge, off-the-wall humor and unending kindness to others. Prior to his passing, Brown had also been working on remodeling a 1967 Plymouth Barracuda owned by local collector David Sloane.

"That car was his life and that's what he was living for at that moment, to get that thing to Sting Fling," Brown's father, Clint Holmes said. "There's no telling how many hours he put into it. He would come over and show us pictures and see what all he's done. When Caleb passed everybody in the shop wouldn't touch it because they said it was Caleb's. (Sloane) asked me if I'd take it to Sting Fling in honor of Caleb."

Sloane described how the car had sat in his shop, untouched, but near completion as a sort-of shrine to Brown. Weeks before the event, Sloane had the idea of finishing the job so Caleb's family could drive the Barracuda to Sting Fling and receive an award in his honor.

Loved ones remember the life of Caleb Brown

"I had no idea they were giving Caleb that," Holmes said. "To drive that thing, it was awesome. That was Caleb's love right there. That's the day Caleb was living for. It's so much of an honor. I wish Caleb would have been there to get it. I didn't feel worthy of getting that (award) when he had done all the work and put forth the effort to get that thing back on the road. It just kind of kicks you in the gut."

Brown, who had learned about working with cars at Winstead Paint and Body in Springtown, was also a naturally gifted electrician and tinkerer.

"I know he loved working with his hands, being able to fix something or create something with his hands, take an old rust bucket and make it look beautiful," Holmes said. "He liked to figure stuff out. Take something that didn't work and make it work otherwise. He was a little brainiac."

Others, like Caleb's long-time roommate Nancy Wanser, described how Brown would know what was wrong with a car just by listening to it.

Brown met Wanser through her husband, his coworker, at REI Electric Inc. Unbeknownst to either party, Brown's offer of his truck to help the Wansers move would culminate in him living with them and the start of a six-year friendship. After learning that Brown intended to sleep in his truck that wintry night, the couple invited him to sleep inside instead.

"It must have been cold," Wanser said. "I told him he could sleep on the couch, and he really never left, which

was fine by me."

After that, Brown quickly became an important part of the Wanser family. One day, while playing with Legos together, Wanser's son asked Brown a question that would go on to define their entire relationship. "Will you be my brother? Caleb did not miss a beat and was like, 'absolutely, I will be,'" Wanser said. "That is how we ended up with Caleb. He was very protective over them. Anything that happened at the schools he was like, 'I'm there.' My oldest is in honor choir and he made sure he was at every performance. He was very involved from them from that moment."

Like Brown's father, Wanser was quickly amazed by Brown's ability to constantly seek out facts and retain information.

"He learned by just reading a book," Wanser said. "He could read something, and it was stored in his head, it was phenomenal. His favorite words were 'did you know' and it was followed by some strange off-the-wall fact. So now because of him I know a lot of things I didn't know before and I'm not real sure I wanted to know. That is honestly one of the things I miss the most."

Despite many difficulties throughout his life, Wanser described Brown as always happy, smiling and cracking jokes.

"Even though life gave him every lemon that lemon tree had to offer that was the most sour, the boy never stopped smiling," Wanser said.

She recounted Brown's unique silliness with an example of his habit of creating songs in the voice of Kermit the Frog.

"At the time it was happening it would be 6 o'clock in the morning and he'd be going down my hallway singing like Kermit, and I was just like 'I'm going to kill you, but he thought it was the funniest thing in the world,'" Wanser said.

Even after moving out of Wanser's house, he stayed just up the street and visited frequently.

The day before Brown went to the hospital, he had thrown up and passed out after work.

"I told him that's signs of heat exhaustion leading up to heat stroke and I told him he needed to stay home the next day, drink clear fluids and stay in the AC at least a day," Wanser said.

Caleb insisted on working despite Wanser's plead-



COURTESY LOVED ONES OF CALEB BROWN

Clint Holmes and his wife, Kim, after receiving Caleb's surprise posthumous award. "Caleb was the best person you could ever meet as far as giving and loving and living life," Holmes said. "It hurts. He was just a lover of life and a giver. He just loved everyone. You'd never hear him say anything bad about anyone or anything negative ever."

ing, worried about the cost of bills, an upcoming move, and other expenses.

"Caleb, it does not matter," Wanser said. "It is money. Money can be found anywhere. He said, 'I can't do that to (his boss) Ricky.'"

Even after insisting and telling him Ricky would agree with her, Brown sneaked out of the house early the next morning.

"Come 7:45, he had fallen out, I got that phone call almost instantly and he was at the hospital with 109 degree core temperature," Wanser said.

While doctors were able to quickly lower his temperature, the damage done to Caleb's internal organs was already too severe and he passed away, surrounded by loved ones, within just a few days.

"The friends he had made really spoke to me about Caleb," his father said. "How loyal he was, how he would do anything for anyone and how much of a giving person he was. It was just amazing."

Through the years, Brown made a major impact on those he met through not only his outgoing personality, but also his unending kindness.

"He'd give the shirt off of his back if it was his last shirt, which I've seen him do, oddly enough," Wanser said. "(Brown) had ended up homeless and he ran into somebody, and I don't even know if he became a part of Caleb's life. The guy didn't have any shirt, he didn't have any pants or anything. He had a pair of basketball shorts, a wife-beater and one sock, just the one. (Brown) gave him a pair of shoes, a pair of socks, gave him his last clean shirt and a pair of pants. The guy was happy, and Caleb gave him some money for food, as well."

Holmes and Wanser described the extent to which Brown cared for others in his last words to his boss.

"I'm sorry, Ricky," Brown told the man before collapsing.

"Caleb was so eager to help anybody that his last words were 'I'm sorry,'" Wanser said. "Those were his last words — he was apologizing for dying and that really messes with me."



Caleb Brown

While Caleb's life was lost too soon, his loved ones hope to preserve his legacy in a number of ways. When Wanser heard Caleb's ashes had been given an award in his name at Sting Fling, she says she cried tears of joy knowing others would now know Caleb's name and story.

Holmes and the Wansers both bring Brown's ashes on many of their journeys. While on a fishing trip, Holmes has even been able to spread some of the ashes as far as Alaska. Brown had expressed his wish to be cremated and passed down by his family generation after generation after a conversation with Wanser following the death of her nephew. Brown's loved ones also recently planted a tree with some of his ashes on Sloane's property.

Holmes often works outside doing manual labor in La Junta and he urges people to be cautious and take preventative measures in high temperature situations. "Be careful and listen to your body," Holmes said. "This Texas heat isn't any joke. Listen to your body and hydrate."

Wanser agrees with Holmes' advice, saying that because Brown was hard-

working to a fault, her house and life feel emptier without him.

According to Texas Department of State Health Services data, at least 279 Texans died due to heat in 2022; the death toll for 2023 may be even higher.

While working in the heat, the National Weather Service advises individuals to stay hydrated, seek shade during the hottest hours of the day and cease working if symptoms of heat exhaustion begin to appear. Heavy sweating, tiredness, clammy or pale skin; a fast, weak pulse, muscle cramps, dizziness, nausea or vomiting, headache, and fainting are all signs of heat exhaustion setting in.

Individuals experiencing these symptoms should immediately seek shelter in a cool, air-conditioned space, apply a cool wet cloth to the skin or take a cool bath and get plenty of water and rest. If symptoms persist for more than one hour, experts advise seeking medical attention.

Hyperthermia can kill or debilitate anyone, at any age, and any level of health before they're fully aware of the problem.



This tree was planted in Brown's honor, along with the award posthumously presented to him for his work on the 1967 Barracuda.



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TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

THE NEWS OF AZLE, SPRINGTOWN, AND SURROUNDING AREAS

Reno development process moves forward despite water concerns

MADELYN EDWARDS
springtownreporter@tricityreporter.com

RENO — Despite the fire chief's presentation in August about the dangers of low water pressure in Reno, the development process is continuing in the city.

Briar-Reno Fire Chief Moses Druxman previously outlined a few different problems with the city's water infrastructure, including well site maintenance, low pressure at fire hydrants and the ability for the well sites to keep up with the city's population. Druxman described the fire hydrant issue as particularly dire because that problem could result in the death of residents or firefighters try-

ing to extinguish house fires.

At one point, Druxman was considering a recommendation to stop building in the city until the water infrastructure issues could be improved. Since then, the council approved giving the fire department more money so additional staffers can be hired to drive an engine or tanker and supply water at fire sites. Funds were allocated to well site maintenance in the new budget as well.

Two weeks after Druxman's presentation, Reno Planning and Zoning Commission recommended approval to the city council of two plats where new homes are expected to be built. The plats being considered were Lydia Ranch

Estates, which would include six lots on North Cardinal Road between Knob Hill Road and Scenic Wood Drive, and Santos Estates, which is five lots on Harris Road north of Nelson Road. The city council approved Santos Estates last month but sent Lydia Ranch Estates back to P&Z for further adjustments.

Reno residents gathered at the P&Z meeting last month to ask multiple questions, including how new developments would get water.

"You know, we all know there is no water in Reno," resident Meredith Hull said to the P&Z. "What is he going to use to build with? What is he going to use to put a fire out? What is he going to use

if one of his guys passes out on the job?"

After the city council meeting on Sept. 18, Yessenia Elizondo — whose family owns Santos Estates — said she expects to see at least one home built within a year. Her family already has homes built on two of the lots and hopes to build homes on the additional lots to sell.

As for water infrastructure, Elizondo said she wasn't too concerned about that.

"I think we're good in the area that we're at with the water," she said.

However, Druxman said he does have concerns about Santos Estates.

"We already have low water pressure over there," he said

after the council meeting.

On the other hand, Lydia Ranch Estates is in the area where booster pumps were installed, Druxman said, so he is less concerned about that development.

P&Z Chairperson Kevin Vandenberg previously told residents the P&Z is just supposed to make sure the plats comply with ordinances so the land can be subdivided.

"He is only here to ask if he can cut this property up into separate pieces," Vandenberg said during last month's P&Z meeting. "He's not here asking for a building permit. That's something he would have to address with the city, and they would have to make that call at that point. But

he's just asking to split his property up."

Mayor Hector Bas, Jr. confirmed this and added that the city opens itself up to lawsuits if certain plats aren't approved. The permitting process is when the city would address water infrastructure.

Reno resident AJ Gerbers expressed concern with the fact the process is moving forward even with shaky infrastructure.

"There's a point to where you got to draw a line in the sand. There is an issue with the infrastructure of this city," Gerbers said. "You can't sit here and say yes to everything when we don't have the infrastructure right."

CANCER

FROM PAGE A1

ward to quickly returning to his job as a driver engineer and putting the whole situation in the past. Johnson hopes his health will allow him to spend another seven to 10 years at the Azle Fire Department.

"It's been a journey, it's been nice to see the changes within the city and see how far it's come," Johnson said.

"I'm looking forward to seeing the day we get a second fire station."

Hart HVAC, a business that has contracts with the Azle Fire Department, has challenged Azle area businesses to donate \$1,000 toward Johnson's cause. The company backs that challenge with a pledge to match every \$1,000 donation — up to a total of \$6,000 — made by other local businesses.

"Thank you to (Hart HVAC). Those folks were awesome.

I certainly appreciate them," Johnson said. "I just don't have the words to describe how touched we are. As my wife put it, the support from everyone is just a testament to how much everybody loves me and appreciates what I do. It's been awesome. I'm just truly blessed."

David Hart, owner of Hart HVAC and a former firefighter himself, heard the news of Johnson's diagnosis from Reno Fire Department Chief Moses Druxman. "First

responders are actually at the core of our mission," Hart said. "The sacrifices one makes to do these things truly inspire me to give back and do more. These are the people that take care of us on a day-to-day basis. They're selfless in what they do, they're brave in what they do. Growing up here my whole life, it's just a way to pay back the community and pay back that service member who's laid his life on the line for us."

Hart urges other local busi-

nesses to step up and make a donation to Johnson's GoFundMe at www.gofundme.com/f/our-hero-azle-firefighters-cancer-fundraiser.

"Whatever they feel compelled in their heart to give would make a world of difference and to be honest with you, even if I don't have a business that steps up and does the \$6,000, I'm still going to do it anyway. I'd still like to put that challenge there to solidify it to see what we can do for this guy."



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Owners Patrick and Sandra Palavicini

on marketing for the family business.

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Springtown Council approves school resource officer agreement

MADELYN EDWARDS

springtownreporter@tricountyreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — Springtown City Council approved an agreement between the city and the school district for school resource officers on Sept. 27.

The state's new school safety law, House Bill 3, requires school boards to decide the appropriate number of armed security officers for each campus and to make sure at least one commissioned peace officer is present during regular school hours at each campus, according to information from the Texas Association of School Boards. This officer can be from a school district's police department, a school resource officer from another law enforcement agency (like a city police department), or a security guard who is also a peace officer.

In years past, Springtown Independent School District and the city have made agreements for school resource officers to provide security. To comply with the new law, this agreement has been modified in terms of the number of police officers the city can provide and how the services are billed. Instead of requiring three school resource officers, the new agreement allows for up to six, and billing will depend on the hours worked instead of a percentage split between SISD and the city.

While he acknowledged that HB 3 may put a burden on school districts, City Administrator David Miller said the city is looking forward to working with SISD to comply with the new law.

"We're excited that we're able to partner with the school district to help this to happen because not only does it allow us to provide a school resource officer in every campus they have, but it also allows us to utilize those officers in the off-school times for extra coverage, extra DWI enforcements, investigations, things of that nature," Miller said.

Contract modified to comply with state's new school safety law

After the Sept. 27 council meeting, Springtown Police Deputy Chief Jamie Oliver said the department is looking to hire two more school resource officers so there will be six total. The interview process for candidates is currently underway.

Oliver is pleased with the new legislation that will result in more school resource officers and is confident that the SROs in his department are fit for the job.

"They all have to go through special training for schools and separate simulation training, all that stuff just for active shooter situations," he said.

Miller, who also serves as the city's public safety director and has law enforcement experience, reiterated that Springtown's school resource officers are prepared to handle any threat to schools. Overall, he supports the new legislation.

"I think any move the legislature or any school district makes to protect our students to the best of their ability is a good move," Miller said.

The contract states school resource officers will be assigned to campuses during the school year and will not regularly have other police duties during that time, except in case of an emergency. SROs will generally work Mondays through Fridays during the 161-day school year.

City Secretary Christina Derr said school resource officers will only work patrol during holidays and summers when they are not dedicated to campuses. In fact, SROs will undergo extensive school security-related training during the summers.

"The city continues to enjoy a great relationship with SISD and will do whatever it can to support it as it aims to comply with the requirements of HB 3," Derr said. "The biggest

challenge is recruiting the needed officers to fill these positions. We are in competition with every independent school district and municipal police department, sheriff's office, and any other agency who provides school security for certified and experienced SROs. However, providing the utmost security for our community's schools remains a top priority, and we will go to great lengths to recruit the additional officers as soon as possible."

A school resource officer's job, as outlined by the contract, is to:

- Be present and visible to deter crime on school property;
- Provide campus security;
- Conduct police activities, investigations, crime reduction and safety programs within the schools
- Protect school staff, students and property;
- Be the liaison between the school district, the police department, the sheriff's office and other arms of the justice system;
- Complete weekly reports and send those to the designated SISD official.

School resource officers can teach, lead discussions or give information about topics that officers have special competence on, but they are not substitute teachers. Officers won't be present during disciplinary actions, student counseling or parent conferences unless asked by SISD personnel. If involved in the disciplinary process, SROs will act in a supporting role, except in life safety emergencies.

The contract is for one-year terms and will be renewed automatically each year unless the city or SISD says otherwise.

Derr expects the contract will need to receive final approval from the school board before going into effect.

CALENDAR

Oct. 5 - 29, 2023

TO SUBMIT CALENDAR ITEMS

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

THURSDAY, 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 church's 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.

SATURDAY, OCT. 21

PUMPKIN PALOOZA from 3-7 p.m. at Springtown Garden Center, 236 W. Hwy 199. Come out for pumpkin painting and carving, food trucks, live music, vendors, raffles, alpacas and photos at this first-annual fall event. Free entry, low-priced activities. Come ready to eat, shop and play.

FRIDAY, OCT. 27

MAIN STREET MINGLE from 6-9 p.m. on Main Street in Azle. Dress in costume and come out for some food and drinks, shopping and fun with local businesses and vendors along Main Street.

SATURDAY, OCT. 28

TRUNK OR TREAT hosted by Azle Police Department in the Azle Memorial Library parking lot. Kids and families can join the fun from 4-6 p.m.

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.

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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Pursuant to Chapter 59, Texas Property Code, ASH CREEK SELF STORAGE which is located at 117 Locust St, Azle, Texas 76020 will hold a public auction of property being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale will be held from 10:00 AM 10/14/23 until 10:00 AM 10/25/23 online at www.storageauctions.com Property will be sold to highest bidder for cash or debit/credit. A cash deposit for removal and cleanup may be temporarily required. Seller reserves the right to not accept any bid and to withdraw property from sale. Property in each space may be sold item-by-item, in batches, or by the space. Property being sold includes contents in spaces of the following tenants, with brief description of contents in each space. Angel Scallion - Snap On/Husky tool boxes, tools, air compressor, chairs. James Taylor - Car ramps, vacuum cleaner, tools, chainsaw, jig saw, mattresses. Bob Davis - bicycle, drill press, office chair, desk, household/garage items, vacuum cleaner. Yvonne Grider - furniture, books, crafts, household items, shoes. Kelsey Walker - bicycles, furniture, decorations, household items.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice is hereby given that the following will be sold to the highest bidder with bidding to take place at lockerfox.com on Monday the 23rd day of October, 2023 at 11:00 AM to satisfy a landlord's lien, pursuant to Chapter 59, Texas Property Code. Payment to seller via credit/debit card and pickup at the facility. Self-Storage unit contents of the following customers containing household and other goods will be sold. 10 Federal Self Storage, 2920 Avenue F, Arlington, TX, 76011 Misty Jones Akinyemi Adegbayi. Jason Minor. Wanda Walter. Akinyemi Adegbayi. Rod Rawlins. Lauren Harrison. MICHAEL WINDER. Nicole Viganego. Keila Flagg. Valeria Padilla. Chuvon Mccary. Johnny Kenney. Kim Ridges. Nancy Greer. Waleed Wilks. Tiffany LoveSmith. Patrick Milam

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Pursuant to Chapter 59, Texas Property Code, KENNY'S MINI WAREHOUSE, which is located at 10201 JACKSBORO HWY, FORT WORTH, TX 76135, will hold a public auction of property being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale will be at 10:00 am, End At 1:00 pm on October 14, 2023 at 10201 JACKSBORO HWY, FORT WORTH, TX, 76135. For more information call Charlene 817-238-8309. Property will be sold to highest bidder for cash. Seller reserves the right to not accept any bid and to withdraw property from sale. Property in each space will be sold by the space. Property being sold includes contents in spaces of following tenants: TENANT'S NAME EDWARD GRAY A-5, JOSEPH STORY B-36, MEREDITH CHERRY B-64, JOHN ANDERSON C-126 & G-238, MARIE PATINO C-138, JUAN SANCHEZ D-165, GARY HANEY D-176, DON BURNS E-201 & I-317, MARK CARRINGTON E-222, CARRIE HUNT E-225, JIMMY BAGWELL I-336, Household items. VOID IF LIEN IS SATISFIED IN FULL BEFORE SALE. All payments and notices should be mailed to 10201 Jacksboro Hwy, Fort Worth, TX, 76135.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of TIRESIA A. McLAIN RUMBAUGH were issued on September 13, 2023, in Docket No. 23P316, pending in the County Court of Parker County, Texas, to RHONDA CLEVENGER. All persons having claims against the estate, which is presently being administered, are required to submit them, within the time and manner prescribed by law, and before the estate is closed, addressed as follows: c/o Kenneth N. Price P. O. Box 699 Azle, TX 76098 Dated October 2, 2023. Kenneth N. Price Attorney for Executor of the Estate of TIRESIA A. McLAIN RUMBAUGH.

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Eagle Crest Villa hosts breast cancer walkathon

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricityreporter.com

AZLE — On Oct. 10, Eagle Crest Villa Senior Living will host a walkathon for the National Breast Cancer Foundation. The event will go from 8:30-9:30 a.m. and each lap will raise money to support free mammograms, patient navigation, support services, outreach, and more. Staff and attendees will wear pink from head to toe in support of the cause.

“Any time Eagle Crest has a chance to support our community near and far, we take it,” Assistant Director Ashley Sands said. “We hope our community will come together to show support for the survivors, their families, a wonderful organization, and to share their stories. So many families have felt the effects of having a loved one receive that unfortunate diagnosis and were there by their side in their fight.”

Every October, countless organizations recognize Breast Cancer Awareness Month by raising money for research and promoting awareness of the disease. Each year, nearly 250,000 Americans are diagnosed

On Oct. 10, assisted living facility staff will walk to raise funds for National Breast Cancer Foundation, donate toys to childhood cancer patients

with breast cancer and 43,000 die from the disease, according to the Centers for Disease Control. As many as one in eight women will develop breast cancer at some point in their lives. Excluding skin cancer, breast cancer is the most common cancer among women worldwide.

Eagle Crest staff and administration are no stranger to cancer, with Activities Director Diane Stoff being a breast cancer survivor herself.

“I am a 20-year survivor and ongoing patient at Texas Oncology-Fort Worth Cancer Center,” Stoff said. “I received my diagnosis 20 years ago, but it seems like only yesterday when you heard those words: ‘you have breast cancer.’ After that the doctor proceeds to explain the plan of action but you hear nothing else that next few minutes. After that, you realize the only word you will carry with you is ‘fight’ and keep living your best life. After a while it becomes

just what you do every three weeks, it becomes just part of your life, and you live it to the fullest.

“My advice is never let cancer define you,” Stoff said. “You are so much more than a diagnosis and you learn to smell the roses of life. So, in an odd way the diagnosis can become a blessing.”

Stoff is grateful for the National Breast Cancer Foundation who reached out to her early in her journey to offer assistance.

In light of Childhood Cancer Awareness Month which occurred in September, Eagle Crest has also been collecting stuffed animals they plan to donate to Cook Children’s Medical Center in Fort Worth, in addition to bracelets made by residents and a monetary donation. Eagle Crest Director Heather Simpson is the mother of a childhood cancer survivor and considers Cook Children’s their saving grace.

“We have had a number of cancer survivors over the

years who have worked for us and have lived here at Eagle Crest throughout the last 25 years,” Simpson said. “We

think it is such an important cause and we want to support those who have fought so bravely and are continuing to

fight. We would like to invite the community out to come help us support all who have so bravely fought this battle!”



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER
The toys and bracelets that Eagle Crest Villa staff will soon be donating to young patients at Cook Children’s Medical Center.

OBITUARIES

Kenneth Chadwell 1939-2023

Kenneth Earl Chadwell, 84, of Springtown, passed away Sept. 23, 2023, after a short illness, surrounded by his loving family.

A funeral service was held Friday, Sept. 29, at Cornerstone Community Church in Springtown followed by burial in the Springtown Cemetery.

Born the only child of Odell and Maudy Lee Eddleman Chadwell in Fort Worth on Sept 2, 1939, Kenneth and his family moved to Springtown when he was 12 yrs old. He graduated Springtown High School in 1957 and attended Baylor University shortly after. Kenneth was a smart young businessman and in October 1959, started the propane business Chadwell & Son Gas which is still Chadwell family-owned and operated to this day, and in its 64th year of business. He soon joined the military as a Naval pilot leaving the business to his parents to run in

his absence; from then on flying was a favorite part of his life.

Kenneth owned and operated Chadwell Ambulance Service in Springtown for 13 years. He also owned and operated Northgate Homes and built several homes and businesses in the surrounding Parker County area, including the Springtown Post Office and Senior Citizens building.

Kenneth married Vernell Hampton on June 19, 1970, and together they ran multiple other businesses along with Chadwell & Son and raised a large family.

Kenneth was preceded in death by his parents, Odell and Maudy Lee Chadwell; and daughter Cathy Chadwell.

He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Vernell; son, Kerry Chadwell and wife Paula; granddaughters, Alexis Chadwell and fiancé Robert Casteel, Isabel Chadwell and fiancé Vincent Senato; daughter-in-law, Karen



Watson-Hale; granddaughter, Krystal Archibeque and husband Rodney; great-grandson, Ridge Archibeque; grandson, Kasey Chadwell and wife Shawnte; sons, Keith and Kevin Chadwell; granddaughter Kaymie deCento and husband Chase; great-grandson Kason deCento and many more family, friends and loved ones.

The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday October 5, 2023

Walnut Creek SUD approves mass notification system

MADELYN EDWARDS

springtownreporter@tricityreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — Walnut Creek Special Utility District Board of Directors approved hiring the company Everbridge to set up a mass notification system on Sept. 25.

Currently, customers can sign up for notifications on Walnut Creek SUD’s website and receive emails or texts about water main repairs, boil water notices and other alerts. At a meeting earlier this year, some customers said the district needed a better notification system.

The SUD’s mass notification system was put out for bids, and the cheapest bid received came from Everbridge, which will charge the district \$8,109 per year plus \$648 for installation, office manager

Denise Taylor said to the board. The system is expected to be installed in a couple of weeks.

At a previous meeting on Sept. 18, Taylor and the board members remarked on how expensive the other bids were compared to Everbridge, which was suggested by a customer at one of the board’s meetings. Taylor said if the district hadn’t found out about Everbridge, then staff probably wouldn’t have moved forward with a new mass notification system.

“The cost of the other two (bids) was just too much,” she said.

The Everbridge notification system will allow the district to narrow alerts to impacted neighborhoods. The system can utilize multiple communication modes, but Taylor said the district will likely

stick to notifications via phone, text and email.

“Everbridge, they have geofencing,” Taylor said at the meeting on Sept. 18. “It’s the neatest thing. You click on whether you want a square or a circle, and you click on that and the area you want it to be in and then it just notifies those people inside that box.”

General manager James Blackwood added, “We can break it down to one address.”

The current system notifies all who sign up regardless of whether the alert affects them, Taylor said, which leads to phone calls from customers to the district asking if the notification impacts them.

Taylor imagines that all customers will be set up on the alert system, but they can choose to opt out of the service.

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Jamie Westbrook - president
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UNITED IN CHRIST

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Luncheon meetings
11:45 a.m. - 1 p.m. 2nd Tues of each month; location varies.
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Meets every **FRIDAY at 6:45 AM**
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Azle Lodge No. 601

Floor School or Work 7:30 PM THURSDAY NIGHT
Kenny Patrick- Worshipful Master
Chris Akers - Secretary
Clint Hall - Treasurer

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OBITUARIES

Lawrence Admire 1937-2023

Lawrence Edward Admire, affectionately known as Larry, was born on Jan. 15, 1937, in Lubbock, Texas, to proud parents Oscar Admire and Zula Blalock. He peacefully entered eternal rest on Sept. 25, 2023, surrounded by the love of his family.



Visitation was Tuesday, Oct. 3, at Azle & Lake Worth Funeral Home. Interment followed at Ash Creek Cemetery.

Larry's life was one characterized by selfless service and unwavering commitment. He proudly served his country as a member of the United States Marine Corps for two dedicated years, embodying the values of honor, courage and commitment.

A devoted father of four, Larry's love knew no bounds. He found immense joy in coaching his children in Little League baseball and Pee Wee football, instilling in them not only a love for sports but also the values of teamwork and determination. His active and protective nature earned him the affectionate nickname, "Super Dad," a title he wore with pride.

Throughout his life, Larry embraced the camaraderie of brotherhood as a member of Local 146 for an impressive 50 years. His dedication to his trade was a testament to his hard work and loyalty.

Larry was a hands-on individual who relished tinkering in his home and yard. His passion for home improvement projects brought both beauty and functionality to his surroundings, a reflection of his meticulous and caring nature.

A true-blue Dallas Cowboys fan, Larry's Sundays were

dedicated to cheering on his beloved team, and he shared this passion with friends and family. In his later years, he found solace in watching old Westerns, where the rugged landscapes and tales of honor resonated deeply with him.

Lawrence Edward Admire leaves behind a legacy of service, love, and dedication. He will be remembered as a devoted father and husband, a dedicated Marine, a skilled tradesman, and a passionate sports enthusiast. His memory will forever live on in the hearts of his loved ones.

He has been reunited with his parents; children, Debra Admire, Daniel Admire, and Larry Admire; and step-son, Billy Dobbs, Jr., in God's Eternal Kingdom.

Larry will be deeply and lovingly missed by his wife, Jarvis Admire; son, Phillip Admire and wife, Terrie; step-daughters, Cynthia Thrasher and Sherry Starkey and husband, Fred; sister, Donna Sims; brother, Leslie Arnold; numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and a host of extended family and friends.

The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday October 5, 2023

Carol Adley 1942-2023

Carol Ann (Williams) Adley, 81, passed away Friday, Sept. 8, 2023, in Azle.

Visitation was Wednesday, Sept. 13, at 1 p.m. in Alexander's Midway Funeral Home Chapel. Interment followed at Ash Creek Cemetery.

Carol was born June 11, 1942, to Robert Edward and Daisy Mae (Jones) Williams in Sulphur Springs. Carol grew up in River Oaks where she attended Castleberry High School. Later she worked in the mortgage business for many years.

Carol was a longtime member of The Word @ Lakeside Church of God in Lakeside. She had many interests, including shopping, watching soap operas, crafting, dancing and going to casinos. Carol most enjoyed spending time with her family and loving on her grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, and daughters, Melissa Cook and Cheryl Gilley.

She is survived by her husband of 20 years, Randal Adley; son, Clifton Cook and his wife Leann; daugh-



ters, Carol Nicole Hill, Michelle Tennon and her husband Rick Winter, and Patty Kinney; brother, Fred Williams and his wife Joella; grandchildren, Logan, Landon, Wyatt, Candice, Casey, Tierney, Ricky Terry, John, Carsyn, Carlie, Aurora; several great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and extended family and friends.

Carol was a loving wife, sister, mother, grandmother and our Little Princess. She will be dearly missed by all who knew her.

The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday October 5, 2023

Christopher Michael Craven 1950-2023

Christopher Michael Craven, 72, passed away on Aug. 19, 2023 in his home with his family.

Funeral service was at 11 a.m., Thursday, Aug. 24, at Cornerstone Community Church in Springtown.

Christopher was born Sept. 29, 1950 in Charleston, South Carolina to Frank Edward Craven, Jr. and Merlene Ruth Johnson.

He joined the U.S. Navy in 1970 and was stationed on the Island of Diego Garcia, located in the Indian Ocean. He worked at the Charleston Naval Shipyard until it closed down and transferred to Carswell Navy Base in Fort Worth, retiring in 2005.

Christopher married Catherine Goetz in 1974 and they had four children.

His hobbies included anything and everything pertaining to the Civil War and World Wars, and the weapons, airplanes and submarines, etc. used during those wars. He loved to travel and took the family on many road trips to visit all the major national parks in the United States. Because he loved to drive, he purposely took all the scenic routes wherever he went.

Christopher respected family heritage/history and he was a wealth of information about the Craven family tree.



He was a member of Cornerstone Community Church in Springtown.

Christopher was preceded in death by his parents; his brother, Greg Craven; and his sister, Mary Ruth Craven.

Christopher is survived by his wife, Catherine; sons, Johnathan Craven, Jason Craven and wife Teresa, and Patrick Craven; daughter, Danielle Craven Pruitt and husband Jason; brother, Frank E. Craven, III; grandchildren, Trent, Logan, Lilly, and Alice.

Above all, he absolutely loved being a devoted husband, father, "Pawpaw" and friend. His grandchildren were the second-best fulfillment of his life. He loved them all so much!!

The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday October 5, 2023

Cathy Keil 1946-2023

Cathy Louise Schell Keil passed away peacefully in her home at 77 years of age surrounded by family after a battle with a long-term illness.

Her wishes were to be cremated and a celebration of life to be held at a later date.

Cathy was born in Fort Worth to Casimir Schell and Agnes Odena Crites on Sept. 1, 1946.

Cathy worked and lived in Azle for many years before retiring and moving to Weatherford. She was a librarian and aide in Azle ISD for the elementary schools for 21 years. She loved to cook, read, make people laugh, plant flowers, and spend time with family and friends.

Cathy was preceded in death by both parents; her brother Jerry Schell; her husband Royce Keil, Jr.; and her son Michael Tate.



Cathy is survived by her daughter Julie Tate-Whitley and husband James of Weatherford; Julie's children Sarah Keil, Casey Howard, and Michael Howard, Jr.; daughter-in-law Lori Tate and her children, Hali and Kadi; numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday October 5, 2023

Tenny Jones 1955-2023

Tenny Lee Jones, 68, of Azle, Texas sadly left us on Sept. 27, 2023, following a short illness.

A funeral was at 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 30, at White's Azle Chapel. Visitation was from 10-11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 30, at White's Azle Chapel. Interment was at 1 p.m. Monday, Oct. 2, at Prairie Point Cemetery in Bazette.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Jerry and Polly (Marshall) Jones; and a brother, Bobby Bruce Jones.

Tenny is survived by his wife, Becky Turner Jones of the home; son, Bobby Brent Jones and wife, Forenn of Haslet; stepson, Timothy King and wife, Sarah, of Leander; step-daughter, Meagan King of Argyle; sisters, Ki Edwards of Dallas, Lynn Cabeen and husband, Tim, of Red Oak,



Faye Sanders and husband, Craig, of Las Vegas, Nevada; grandchildren, Cora Jones, Ethan Hussain, Hayden King, Parker King, Ashner Hussain and Rori Hussain; as well as a host of loving family and friends.

The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday October 5, 2023

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<p>THE ABBEY CHURCH Pastor: Paul Brownback 10400 Jacksboro Hwy 817-238-1404 www.TheAbbeyChurch.com</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>Sunday School..... 10:00 AM Morning Worship..... 11:00 AM</p> <p>CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH 2233 Hwy 199 E., Springtown 817-221-LIFE (5433)</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>"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</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>Sunday School..... 9:45 AM Morning Worship..... 10:50 AM Evening Worship..... 6:00 PM Wed. Prayer Service..... 7:00 PM</p>	<p>THE WORD@LAKESIDE CHURCH OF GOD 9396 FM 1886 Fort Worth, TX 76135 817-237-5500 thewordatlakeside.com</p> <p>Pastors: Brandon and Kelly Bohannon Worship Pastor: Christen Moody Family Life and Young Adult Pastors: Jodie and Mark James, Kids Pastor: Katie Pearson, Student Pastors: Taylor and Sheridan Tomlin, Creative Directors: Logan and Carrie Edwards, Connections Coordinators: Preston and Ashley Larrew</p> <p>Equip Sunday School at the WORD..... 9:30 AM Empower Worship at the WORD..... 10:45 AM Kids at the WORD..... 10:45 AM PreK at the WORD..... 10:45 AM Emanate at the WORD (Special Needs Ministry)..... 10:45 AM Nursery at the WORD..... 10:45 AM Young Adults at the WORD..... 6:00 PM Wednesdays Adult Bible Class..... 7:00 PM The WORD Students (6th-12th grades)..... 6:30 PM Awana Kids at the WORD..... 6:30 PM Life at the WORD Life Groups Various Times</p>
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Springtown's Eureka Masonic Lodge donates \$2,000 to Snack Pack Ministries

First United Methodist Church's Snack Pack provides food to kids in need

MADelyn EDWARDS
springtownreporter@tricityreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — To do some good, Steve Cumbie asked his fellow members of Springtown's Eureka Masonic Lodge No. 371 to donate \$1,000 to Springtown First United Methodist Church's Snack Pack Ministry, which gives food to local children in need.

The Eureka Masonic Lodge not only granted his request, but they also doubled it.

"We were sitting there talking about helping people out, and I stood up and made a motion that we donate \$1,000," said Cumbie, who is a past master of the Masonic Lodge. "And it was going

through to be seconded. Next thing I know is someone says, 'I'd like to amend this motion to make it \$2,000.'"

Cumbie, who has been a Snack Pack volunteer since 2017, said this is the lodge's first donation to the Snack Pack Ministry, and "it probably won't be the last either."

The Snack Pack Ministry started in 2013 and provides food for kids to eat on the weekends when they're not receiving school meals. The items in the packs — which can include Vienna sausages, dry ramen noodles, cups of fruit and apple sauce, among other foods — are meant to be snacks that children can prepare by themselves if needed.

Snack Pack volunteers on

Sept. 21 prepared bags of food items for just over 80 children who attend local elementary schools. These kids are identified by school counselors and are anonymous to the Snack Pack Ministry.

The ministry used to serve more than 100 children, but they've had to cut back because of available funding — which is supplied by donations, mainly from the United Methodist Church's congregation. First United Methodist Church lay leader and Snack Pack volunteer Lou Bernardino said the church's membership has declined, and people in this economy don't have as much money to donate as they used to have.

Cumbie said the Snack Pack



Steve Cumbie and other Snack Pack Ministry volunteers fill plastic bags with ramen noodles, oatmeal, apple sauce, cereal and other food items on Sept. 21. The bags are given to local elementary school students in need of food on the weekends.

Ministry used to receive aid from another church as well, but that church had to drop out because of its own funding issues.

"We are on the shoestring right now," Cumbie said about the Snack Pack's budget.

Bernardino said the Eureka Lodge's donation was "over and above" any expectations, and he was shocked at the amount on the check. He thanked Cumbie and the lodge for their support.

"Obviously, you could see the funding was diminishing," Bernardino said. "What we could do, it was tightening up. So, we needed some outside help, and Steve jumped in and didn't blink an eye and made it happen."

The weekly cost of the snack packs is about \$5 per child, retired pastor and

Snack Pack volunteer Larry Van Zile said. People in the community can sponsor a child's snack packs for about \$20 per month or \$180 for a school year.

Snack Pack volunteers meet at the church on Thursday mornings to prepare the food bags. On a Wednesday evening, Van Zile was unloading supplies for the packs when a few boys came over to help him. Van Zile said he asked one of the boys if he knew what the supplies were for, and the boy replied that he did know because he used to receive the snack packs. Van Zile said the boy told him, "I don't know what we would have done without them."

"I thought for the boy to say that was really inspiring to me," Van Zile said. "The kids don't know where it comes from. The church's

name is not on one thing. We don't even know who gets them because the counselors at school just tell us how many."

Bernardino described the snack packs as a "gesture of love" and said being a part of the Snack Pack Ministry is uplifting to volunteers as well.

"We want to help, to have a servant's heart, to be the last image of Christ that someone else may see," he said. "Just to give and serve lifts us up. It's a joy."

Donations to the Snack Pack Ministry can be sent to P.O. Box 266, Springtown, TX 76082 or online at springtownumc.com/giving/. The Snack Pack Ministry welcomes new volunteers to serve with them at 9 a.m. on Thursdays at Springtown's First United Methodist Church.



MADelyn EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Eureka Masonic Lodge No. 371 past master Steve Cumbie presents a check to Springtown First United Methodist Church lay leader Lou Bernardino for the Snack Pack Ministry.

Springtown recognizes Domestic Violence Awareness Month

MADelyn EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER
Springtown Mayor Greg Hood shakes hands with Parker County Freedom House lead domestic violence advocate Carol Sutton and family violence program manager Debbie Buckman. Hood proclaimed October 2023 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Springtown at the city council meeting on Sept. 27. Domestic Violence Awareness Month started nationwide in October 1987 to connect individuals and organizations working on domestic violence issues while raising awareness.



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42nd Annual Azle Lake Run slated Nov. 4

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricityreporter.com

AZLE — Since 1981, runners from near and far have flocked to Azle to participate the Azle Lake Run each November because of its unique courses and fun vibe. The race is on track to be another banner year for the popular event, which takes place Saturday, Nov. 4, in Ash Creek Park.

Presented by the Azle Area Ministerial Alliance, the Azle Lake Run was created by a local avid runner, the late Lynda McCreary. The run was shepherded by McCreary and others, namely Jack Watson, before the AAMA took the reins in the 2010s.

The Azle Lake Run includes a half-marathon beginning at 7:30 a.m., a 10K starting at 8

Organizers prepare for another race for a good cause

a.m., a 5K at 8:15 a.m. and a 1-Mile Fun Run that begins at 8:17 a.m. The cut-off for race timing will end at 11:15 a.m. Awards will be announced beginning at 9:15 a.m. All races start and finish at Ash Creek Park.

Pets are permitted on the course and animals who run the half-marathon will receive their own finisher's medal. Pets should be current with their vaccinations and be kept on a leash. Water will be provided on the courses for human racers and their furry friends.

Race day registration will be available beginning at 6:45 a.m. but runners are

encouraged to register early. Registration prices from Oct. 2 through Nov. 3 are \$70 for the half-marathon, \$40 for the 10K, \$30 for the 5K and \$25 for the Fun Run. Race day registration is \$85, \$45, \$40 and \$30 for the corresponding events. To guarantee that you receive an Azle Lake Run shirt, registration must be completed by Thursday, Oct. 26 at 11:59 p.m.

Packet pickup is from 12-6 p.m. on the day before the event, Friday, Nov. 3, at Anytime Fitness at 248 Park Place in Azle.

The half-marathon offers cash prizes to both male and female top finishers. First-

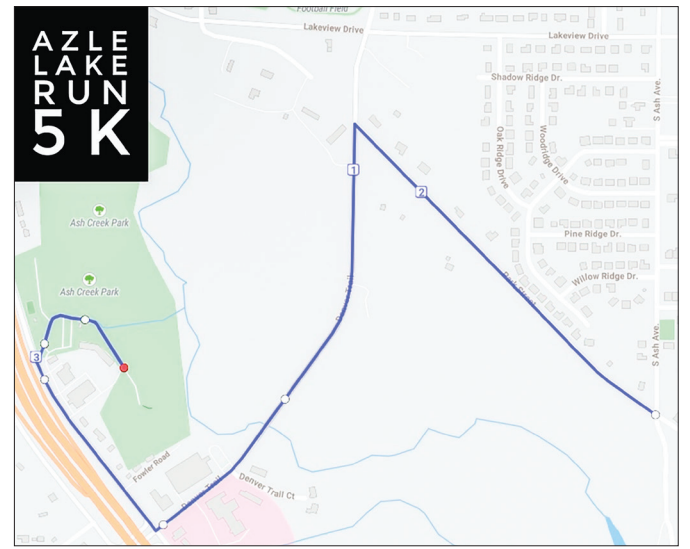
place finishers will win \$250, \$150 for second and \$100 for third. Finisher medals are awarded for the half-marathon, 10K, and 5K distances.

Proceeds from the event often go toward nonprofit organizations such as the Community Caring Center, the Eagle Mountain Pregnancy Help Center, the Azle High School Marching Green Pride and other initiatives of the AAMA.

MIX OF OLD AND NEW

Since 2019, Mendi Carlson and Jessica Brace have been race co-directors.

"We are very excited to be putting on the 42nd Annual Azle Lake Run," Carlson said. "Jessica and I both grew up in Azle and the Lake Run was a part of our childhoods. We both love our community and love fitness, so it has been a



COURTESY AZLE LAKE RUN

The 5K route.

joy to take this local tradition and help foster it."

One of the few events to host an in-person race in 2020, Carlson said the Azle Lake Run had a great turnout that year because everyone was ready to get back out and stop doing all things virtual.

A few changes are coming to this year's Azle Lake Run, including incorporating elements from color run-style events previously held at Sting Fling.

"We've been working on perfecting our half-marathon route, so this year will have a few fun changes including running through Shady Grove Park," Carlson said. "Also, in previous years, Azle has had a color run hosted by the Chamber of Commerce during Sting Fling but that has recently been discontinued. We really wanted to provide a fun environment for the Azle area children while encouraging elementary school students and their families to be more active."

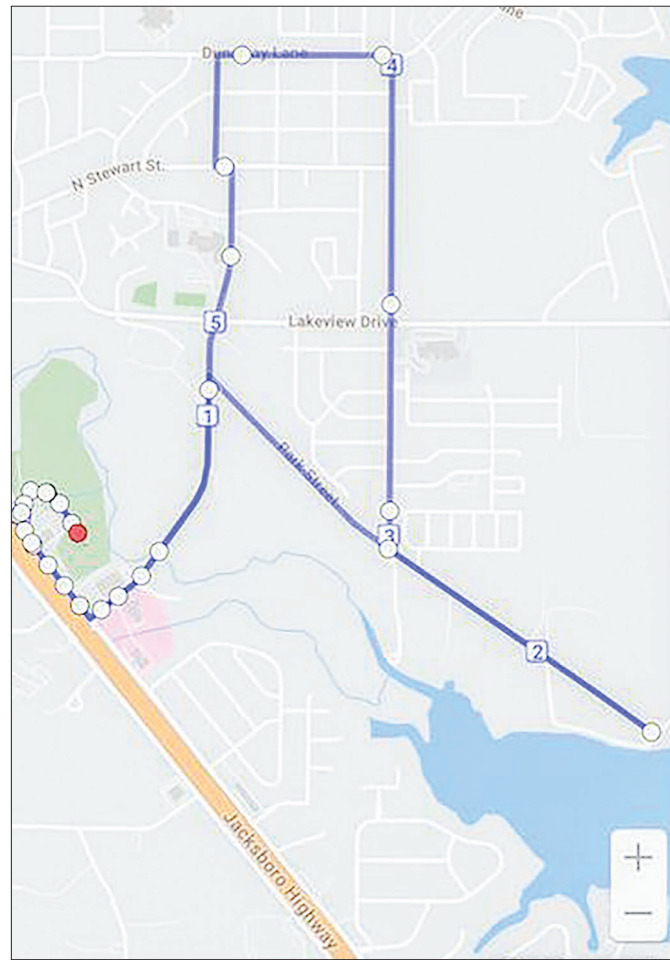
This year the Fun Run course will be one mile situated in Ash Creek Park; volunteers will throw nontoxic colored powder bombs at the participants in their plain white t-shirts, and by the end of the race, they will look tie-dyed, Carlson explained.

"Azle Manor is sponsoring the color run specifically and our race day festivities will feature Kip Kruger as our in-house DJ making sure there's tons of fun to be had by both runners and spectators."

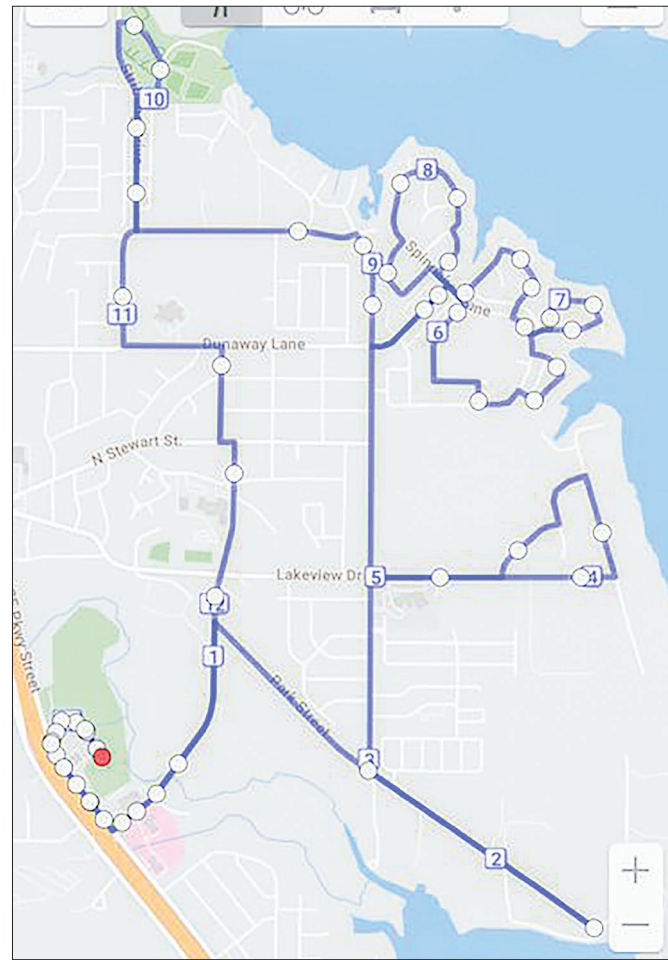
A wide range of vendors from nonprofits to food trucks will be present during the event. Organizers expect cool temperatures between 46F and 68F and are excited for members of the Azle High School Marching Green Pride to provide musical entertainment to runners throughout the length of the course.

"We will have (band) students out on the course guiding and cheering on runners during the Lake Run. Part of the proceeds are donated to the band each year, and we are extremely grateful for the generosity," Band Director Aaron Martin said. "Our students love to get out there and support community events such as this one, and it gives them an opportunity to play their instruments in a setting that is a little bit more stress-free than the competitive performances we usually do. I love that we are able to be a part of the event, and I look forward to it every year!"

For more information, you can visit www.runazle.org.



The 10K route.



The half-marathon route.

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

Students may prepay for their meals.

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

Mon No School **Tues** Breakfast Stick Blueberries **Weds** Bacon Scramble Pizza Apple **Thurs** Cinnamon Roll Strawberry Applesauce **Fri** Strawberry or Vanilla Yogurt Banana

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

Mon No school **Tues** Corn Dog or Spaghetti, Garlic roll, Green beans, Fresh Veggies, Applesauce or Orange **Weds** Cheeseburger or Hamburger French Fries Fresh Veggies, Apples or Sliced Peaches **Thurs** Beef or Chicken Tacos Refried Beans, Corn Apple Slices or, Watermelon Craisins. **Fri** Cheese Pizza, Chicken Nuggets, or Baked Potato w/ ham, Roll, Mixed Veggies, Banana or Blueberries.

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

Mon No school **Tues** Lasagna or Chicken Sandwich, Garlic Roll, Glazed Carrots, Fresh Veggies (Cucumber & Tomatoes, Fiesta Sticks, Broccoli, Applesauce or Grapes **Weds** Chicken & Waffles (Reg or Spicy), Tator Tots. Fresh Veggies (Cucumber & Tomatoes, Fiesta Sticks, Broccoli). Orange or Blueberries **Thurs** Tacos or Nachos (Beef or Chicken), Corn, Refried Beans, Apple Slices Sliced Peaches **Fri** Cheese Pizza, Corn Dog, or Baked Potato Basket, Mixed Vegetables. Fresh Veggies (Cucumber & Tomatoes, Fiesta Sticks. Broccoli). Banana or Sliced Apples.

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Azle School Menu Oct 9-13, 2023

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

PreK - 4th

BREAKFAST: Everyday - Assorted Fruits and Cereal, Juice, White or Chocolate Milk, Graham Crackers, Toast

Mon No School **Tues** FrootLoops cereal bowl w/ Graham Crackers, Orange Craisins **Weds** Mini Waffles, Fresh Apples **Thurs** Sausage Egg & Cheese Taco, Strawberry Craisins **Fri** Breakfast Pizza, Bananas

LUNCH: Everyday - Variety of milk. Your choice of 1 entree & 1 fruit or juice

Mon No School **Tues** Popcorn chicken w/ Roll, Ham & Cheese Sandwich, Mixed Veggies, Pears, Fresh Apples **Weds** Breaded Chicken Sandwich Grilled Cheese Steamed Carrots Steamed Peas Pineapple, Fresh Oranges **Thurs** Cheese Enchiladas Popcorn Chicken Wrap Refried Beans Steamed Corn Applesauce, Fresh Banana **Fri** Cheese OR Pepperoni Pizza Turkey & Cheese Wrap Steamed Broccoli Mixed Fruit, Fresh Apples

GRADES 5TH - 8TH

BREAKFAST: Everyday - Assorted Fruits and Cereal, Juice, White or Chocolate Milk, Yogurt w/Granola

Mon No School **Tues** Breakfast on a stick, Pineapples **Weds** Cinnamon Roll, Fresh Oranges **Thurs** Breakfast Pizza, Fresh Apples **Fri** Sausage Egg & Cheese Taco, Bananas

LUNCH: Everyday: Variety of milk. Your choice of 1 entree & 1 fruit or juice, rolls, crackers • Salad bar offered daily

Mon No School **Tues** Popcorn Chicken w/ Roll Ham & Cheese Sandwich Mixed Veggies Pears, Fresh Apples **Weds** Breaded Chicken Sandwich Grilled Cheese Steamed Carrots Steamed Peas Pineapple, Fresh Oranges **Thurs** Cheese Enchiladas Popcorn Chicken Wrap Refried Beans Steamed Corn Applesauce, Fresh Banana **Fri** Cheese OR Pepperoni Pizza Turkey & Cheese Wrap Steamed Broccoli Mixed Fruit, Fresh Apples

HIGH SCHOOL

BREAKFAST: Everyday - Assorted Fruits and Cereal, Juice, White or Chocolate Milk, Yogurt w/Granola

Mon No School **Tues** Breakfast on a stick Pineapples **Weds** Cinnamon Roll Fresh Oranges **Thurs** Breakfast Pizza Fresh Apples **Fri** Sausage Egg & Cheese Taco Bananas

LUNCH: • Everyday: 1% unflavored or non fat chocolate milk & juice • Salad Bar

Mon No School **Tues** Meat sauce Spaghetti w/ garlic stick Hamburger Spicy Chicken Sandwich Cheese/Pepperoni/Hamburger Pizza Beef OR Cheese Nachos Sweet & Sour Chicken w/ noodles Sun butter & Jelly w/ Cheese sticks Popcorn Chicken Wrap Steamed Broccoli, Pears and Fresh Apples **Weds** Chili Cheese Dog Cheeseburger Breaded Chicken Sandwich Cheese/Pepperoni/Veggie Pizza Chicken & Cheese Crispy w/ cheese sauce Chicken Fried Rice w/ Chicken Egg roll Baked Potato Crinkle Cut Fries, Pineapples, Fresh Oranges **Thurs** Grilled Cheese w/ tomato soup Hamburger Spicy Chicken Sandwich Cheese/Pepperoni/Sausage Pizza Beef OR Cheese Nachos TSO Chicken w/ noodle Ham Wrap Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Green beans, Pears, Fresh Apples **Fri** Sloppy Joe Cheeseburger Breaded Chicken Sandwich Cheese/Pepperoni/Supreme Pizza Cheese Enchiladas Chicken Teriyaki w/ rice Potato wedges, Steamed Carrots Mixed Fruit, Fresh Apples

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Rural Gas Supply Company receives Texas Treasure Business Award

Owners at Main Street's oldest business reflect on company's history in Azle

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

AZLE — For as long as most Azle residents have lived here, there has always been a Rural Gas Supply Company on Main Street. Started in 1946 by Jim Dalton, the oldest existing business on Main Street continues to be

faithfully run by his daughter, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

In September, the business received its official Texas Treasure Business Award from the Texas Historical Commission after having been recognized by the organization earlier in the year. Rural Gas Supply Company

began in a building across the street from its current location as a seller of butane and appliances. According to Peggy Carpenter, Dalton's 80-year-old daughter, her father started the first gas business in Azle. Dalton studied business at Texas A&M University for one year and later graduated from Texas



Jim Dalton's famous hat and his portrait are on display on the wall of Rural Gas Supply Company.



The business's Texas Treasure Award hung alongside other local awards to the company.



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

From left to right, Colton Carpenter, John Carpenter (back), Peggy Carpenter, Christy Ross, Spencer Norris, Kenny Ray Davidson.

Tech University.

"When he went to Texas Tech there were 500 students there and a dirt road," Carpenter said.

Dalton was described as community-minded, having served on the Azle ISD Board of Trustees and been a founding member of the Azle State Bank (now PNC). According to Carpenter, Dalton even convinced some of his customers to connect to natural gas to ensure the newly-constructed Walnut Creek Elementary could be connected. Dalton was known for always wearing his signature hat, which has become part of the company logo designed by his granddaughter.

"Daddy was a quiet person, but he ran his business like he wanted to run his business," Carpenter said. "When he sold appliances and everything somebody would come in and say, 'I can get that cheaper if I go somewhere else' and he'd say 'okay, go get it' and then they'd turned around and buy from him. He was a good businessman. I think he'd be happy with it (the business today). He liked the boys working here. We're proud of our company and we take pride in our service."

In its earlier days, many of Azle's farmers, ranchers and other community members relied on Rural Gas Supply Company to meet their needs. Today, owners say they have kept some of the same regular customers, and their families, since its founding. Linda Scott is one such customer. Her father began buying from Rural Gas Supply in the 1940s, often socializing, chatting, and drinking coffee in the store's lobby. His daughter, affectionally referred to as Scotty, became lifelong friends with Peggy Carpenter and to this day can be found carrying on her father's tradition of drinking coffee and chatting at Rural Gas Supply Company's office at 140 W Main Street.

"The connections made here are forever," Carpenter said.

In addition to Peggy Carpenter, her daughter Christy Ross, sons John and Jim Carpenter and grandson Colton Carpenter also work at the company.

With four generations of the family having worked under one roof, a play area has even been set up in the store for the fifth generation.

Having withstood the introduction of credit cards, new technologies and regulations in the gas industry, nearly a century of history has happened around the business. John Carpenter, who's been "dragging hoses" since he was five or six years old, can remember hearing the stories of World War II veterans who often visited to drink coffee.

Kenny Ray Davidson is another longtime visitor to the store who recently began working at the business. He remembers Dalton as a forward-thinker who saw the gas business as the future.

Peggy Carpenter credits her daughter for having found the proper documentation and filling out the forms to be recognized by the Texas Historical Commission.

"Christy worked real hard on that and we're real proud of it," Carpenter said.

Ross remembers her grandfather as a businessman, an active community member, and all-around good person and thanked their customers for the company's success. "It's a good community to be in," Ross said. "We'll just keep on working. I think (Jim Dalton) would be pleased with our work. It has really

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Special session to begin on Oct. 9

SPECIAL SESSION TO BEGIN ON OCT. 9

Gov. Greg Abbott issued a letter to legislative leaders indicating a special session will begin on Oct. 9 dealing with what he has called "school choice" but is more widely known as vouchers.

The Austin American-Statesman reported Abbott has threatened another special session if lawmakers can't come to an agreement this month, and then will take the issue to voters by finding candidates to run against those opposing vouchers.

During the regular session, a coalition of Democrats and many rural House Republicans blocked legislation concerning vouchers that had easily passed the Senate. Abbott has spent much of this year traveling the state encouraging parents and pastors to advocate for school choice.

"I will keep fighting every step of the way until we have school choice in the state of Texas," Abbott said.

Opponents of vouchers say



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.

they would divert taxpayer money from public schools. Many public school district leaders say they already struggle to balance their budgets and retain teachers.

DELAYED FARM BILL PASSAGE WORRIES AG PRODUCERS

One of the key bills delayed by the wrangling in Congress is the massive farm bill, which is renewed every five years. The Texas Tribune reports a temporary extension of the current bill is expected to pass, however. The farm bill is key to a host of programs, from crop insurance to food access for low-income families through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP.

"In a perfect world, we get a farm bill this year. If we don't,

though, let's extend it. And let's not pass a farm bill just to say we passed a farm bill," Laramie Adams, national legislative director for the Texas Farm Bureau, said. "We want to make sure that the farm bill is meaningful."

Since the last farm bill was passed in 2018, farmers have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, Russia's invasion of Ukraine cutting world grain shipments, and rising costs for equipment and fuel. Meanwhile, market prices for most agricultural products remain stagnant.

"As you look at that and inflation and adjusting for inflation, from our perspective, we need to look at strengthening crop insurance," Adams said. "And that is not an easy task."

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Azle Homecoming Parade

JEFF PRINCE | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Azle came out with pride to celebrate Azle High School Homecoming on Sept. 25. Azle's Marching Green Pride rallied the crowd with pep songs at the head of the parade as students of all ages, along with parents, coaches and teachers, cruised down Main Street on floats decorated to this year's theme, "Classic Video Games." Members of the Homecoming Court were cheered on from spectators along the parade route.



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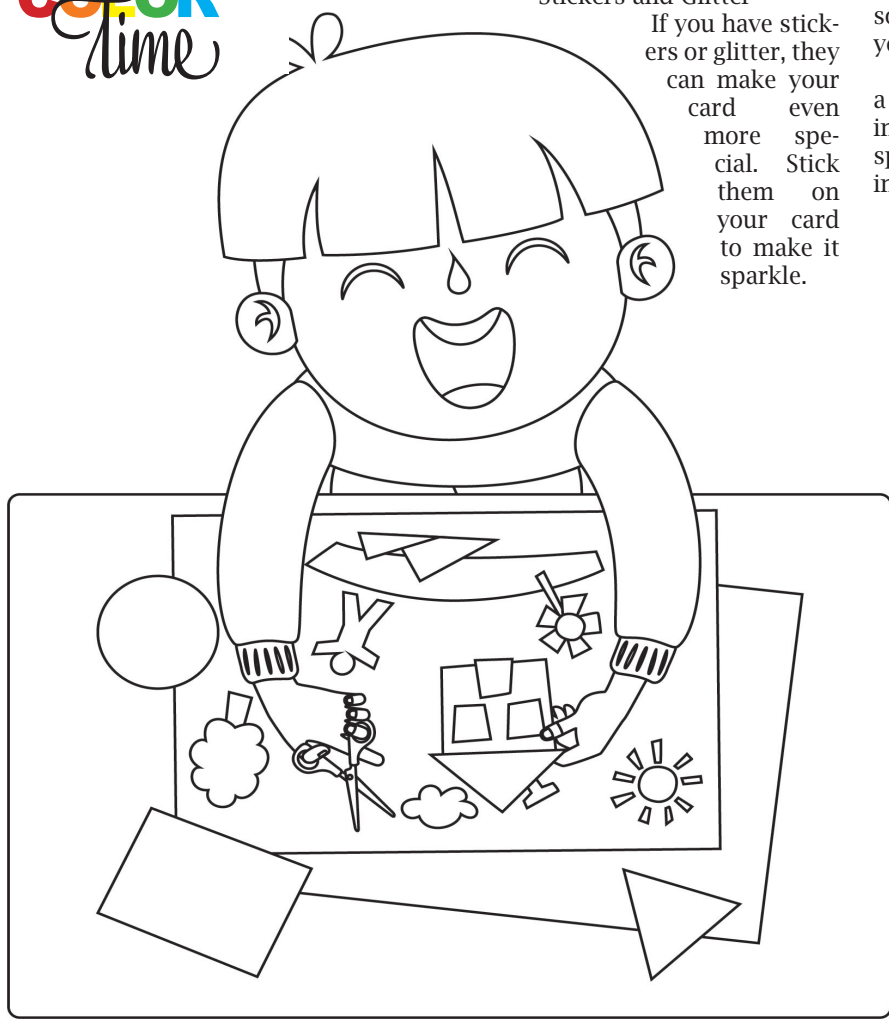
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- Word Bank**
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 - 8. birthday
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 - 10. greeting

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INSIDE MESSAGE
 Open the card and write a sweet message to the person you're giving it to. Tell them how much they mean to you.

ENVELOPE
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DELIVERY
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THE TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

DIVERSIONS

B

THURSDAY, October 5, 2023

King, queen crowned

Azle football homecoming game fills stadium with sights, sounds, old friends, new faces

JEFF PRINCE

sports@tricityreporter.com

AZLE — The homecoming football game on Sept. 29 at Hornet Stadium provided most everything that makes this annual classic such a grand time.

The lopsided 63-7 loss to Northwest wasn't ideal, but the Hornets played hard, and the evening was event-filled. The Marching Green Pride put on a show. So did Northwest's band. The Rowdies lived

up to their name, and the student section was loud as ever. The cheerleaders, color guard, and Emerald Dazzlers brought the bling.

Standing on the sidelines before gametime and wearing a long, glittering gown was Daytona Gravlin, a dancer with the Dazzlers and one of four homecoming queen nominees. She had enjoyed a whirlwind week, attending classes and Dazzler practices, collecting food items for charity, riding in a luxury

convertible during the homecoming parade, and receiving countless hugs and support from friends and relatives.

Finally, the big night had arrived.

Waiting to hear which nominee would be named queen was nerve-wracking, even though Gravlin was rooting for all of them.

"I'm really close with all the girls personally, so I'm happy for all of us," she said. "I feel

PLEASE SEE **CROWNED** | B6



JEFF PRINCE | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Jacob Johnson and Melani Rushing are Azle High School's new king and queen.

Come from behind



PHOTO COURTESY SMARTER PHOTOGRAPHY

The Springtown Porcupines will take a bye week before resuming play on Friday, Oct. 13, on the road against Mineral Wells.

JEFF PRINCE

sports@tricityreporter.com

The Springtown Porcupines are feeling formidable heading into this Friday's open week.

The team will have a week off to rest while still savoring a come-from-behind victory against Connally on Sept. 29 in Waco.

Springtown gridiron guys fight back to beat Connally in second half

Springtown's offense was shut out in the first quarter against the Cadets, and the Porcupines trailed 19-7 at halftime. Then, as they tend to do after intermission, the Porcupines stormed out of the locker room ready

to annihilate the enemy. They scored 15 points in the second half while holding Connally scoreless.

Quarterback Hudson Hulett was 10 of 24 passing with 163 yards and 2 TDs. Drake Doggett rushed

for 112 yards. Kelby Castro and Brayden Fox caught TD passes. Leading the team in tackles were Darren Sweely, Chase Thompson, Yair Hernandez, Riley Jackson, and Kamryn Cleveland.

After taking this week off, Springtown (4-2) will play at 7 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 13, at Mineral Wells (3-3).

The players of the week for

the Sept. 22 victory over Glen Rose include:

Offense — Nate Johnson and Camryn Holbrooks. Johnson, a running back, logged 142 yards and 3 TDs. Holbrooks, a lineman, made 2 knockdowns and 2 pancake blocks and was part of an offensive line squad that busted open big holes for the running backs.

Defense — Alex Rivera and Ridge Westendorf. Rivera, a defensive end, recovered and fumble and scored a TD. Westendorf, a lineman, made life hard in general for Glen Rose with his passionate play.

Special teams — Yair Hernandez, Riley Jackson, and Tye Parrott stood out on kicks and punts.



JEFF PRINCE | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

From left, grandkids Bailey, Landri, and Jax Seward hang out with grandparents Gene and Leigh Ann Phillips at the homecoming parade.

Proud grandparents

Former Azle residents return for homecoming parade

JEFF PRINCE

sports@tricityreporter.com

AZLE — The guy who once oversaw sports at Azle Independent School District was back in town for the homecoming parade on

Sept. 25, looking for a cool, shady spot for him and his wife, Leigh Ann Phillips.

They found the perfect place to set their lawn chairs, which wasn't hard, seeing as how they'd arrived on Main Street an hour-and-

a-half before the parade was set to begin. A prime spot was crucial. The Phillipses wanted a good view of their granddaughter, Landri Seward, who would be pass-

PLEASE SEE **PROUD** | B8

W column

Springtown volleyball knocks off Bridgeport, Lake Worth

JEFF PRINCE

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The Lady Porcupines bounced back from their Sept. 26 loss to Krum in the district opener and knocked off the next two teams they faced.

On Sept. 29, Springtown faced Lake Worth at home and swept the Lady Bullfrogs in three sets. Libby Tedder led in kill shots with 18, followed by Stoli Cox with 11. Kallie Conway and Ryleigh Strickland led in assists with 18 each. Tedder and Aerial Jackson logged a couple of aces apiece. Harlee Jackson had 1.5 blocks. Jackson led the way in digs with 26, followed by Sterlyn Smith with 23 and Tedder with 21.

On Sept. 26, the Lady Porcupines swept Bridgeport in three games: 25-9, 25-8, and 25-20. Tedder, Cox, and Dawson Doggett led the team in kill shots, with Conway and Bailey Walker providing assists.

Ten of the team's 17 players logged digs for the evening, with Brooklynn



JEFF PRINCE | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Aerial Jackson nails six aces against Bridgeport.

Quintanilla, Smith, and Walker at the head of the pack. Jackson thrived at the serving line, nailing 6 aces. Conway and Doggett logged 3 aces apiece. Doggett, Aubree

Adams, Jackson, and Corinne Hall added blocks.

Springtown will play Castleberry at 5 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 6, at home in a district clash.

New Hall of Famers inducted at Azle ISD banquet



Don Osterman, Montana De La Rosa, and the 2013 Girls Wrestling Team were honored at this year's ceremony.

Hallowed ground

Azle inducts former athletes into Hall of Fame

JEFF PRINCE

sports@tricityreporter.com

The former coach at Azle High School did something he'd never done during all those years spent leading young Hornets into battle.

On Friday, Sept. 29, just prior to kickoff at the homecoming football game at Hornet Stadium, Don Ostermann strolled out to midfield and flipped the coin.

"That was fun," he said. "They don't let coaches flip the coins."

The next afternoon, on Saturday, Sept. 30, he was inducted into the Azle Athletic Hall of Fame.

"I'm very excited about it and very humble," said Ostermann, who has lived in Azle for 40 years.

His humility showed as he spread praise to the kids he

coached.

"If it wasn't for my athletes, I wouldn't be here," he said. "They did all the work."

Not all of it. Ostermann was there early in the mornings until late in the evenings coaching cross-country and track from 1980-2013 and football from 1980-1992. His teams qualified for the regional meet 30 of 33 years. His boys track teams won the regional championship from 1980-1983. Five of his cross-country teams qualified for the state meet.

Ostermann and his wife, Cathy Ostermann, still live in Azle. The former coach enjoys running into his former athletes and chatting with them about their families and lives.

Ostermann was inducted alongside Montana De La Rosa from the class of 2013

and the entire girls wrestling team from that same year, which included De La Rosa (then named Montana Stewart), Hannah McFarland, Paige Wolf, Jesse Grubbs, and Bernie Duhan.

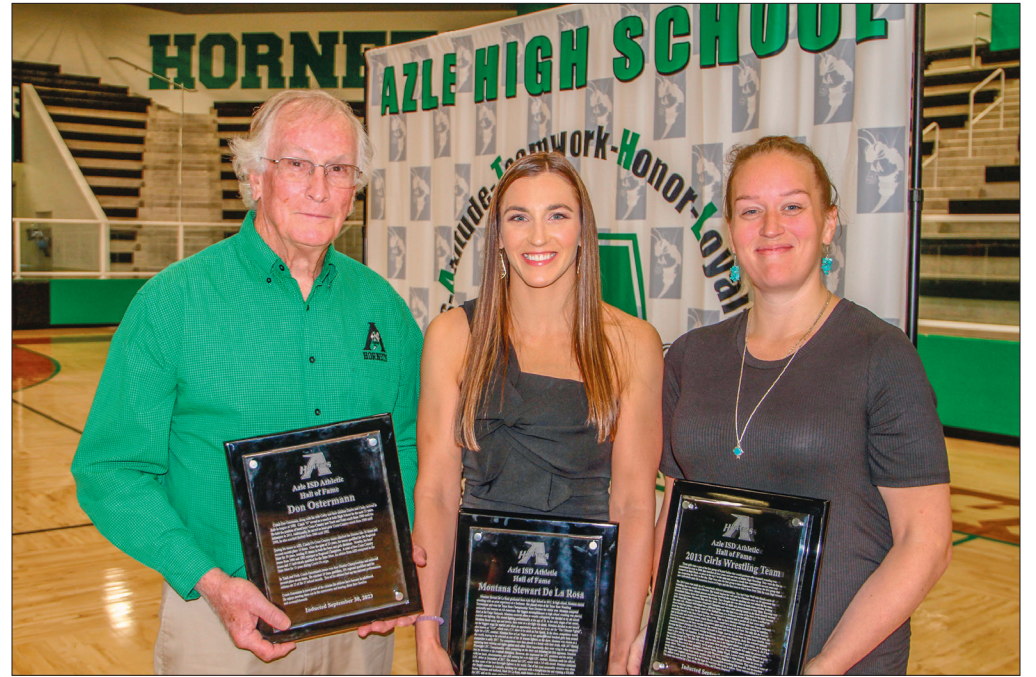
"It's awesome," McFarland said. "We are appreciative to be able to be inducted into the Hall of Fame."

Of the five wrestlers, only De La Rosa and McFarland were able to attend the induction ceremony.

"I know the girls that couldn't make it wish they would have been here, but they are definitely missed, and we can't wait to celebrate our accomplishment together," McFarland said.

She plans for the entire team to connect during the holiday season and celebrate their honor.

The wrestling team earned



JEFF PRINCE | TRI COUNTY REPORTER

From left, Don Ostermann, Montana De La Rosa, and Hannah McFarland receive plaques at the Hall of Fame induction.

a state championship in 2013, and the girls have retained fond memories and gratitude toward their wrestling coaches, Chris Allen, Monica Allen, and Duston

Shepherd. The Lady Hornets were the first non-Panhandle school to win the state title in 14 years, and they ended Caprock's string of nine consecutive titles.

Grubbs became a two-time state champ and went on to wrestle in college.

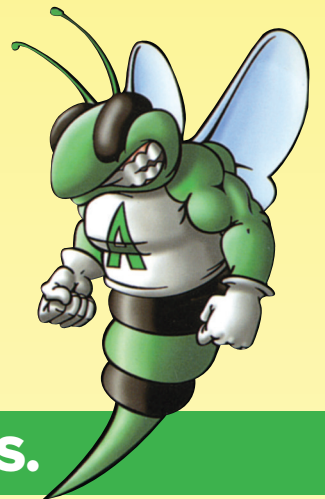
De La Rosa, a teenaged

PLEASE SEE FAME | B4



Congratulations

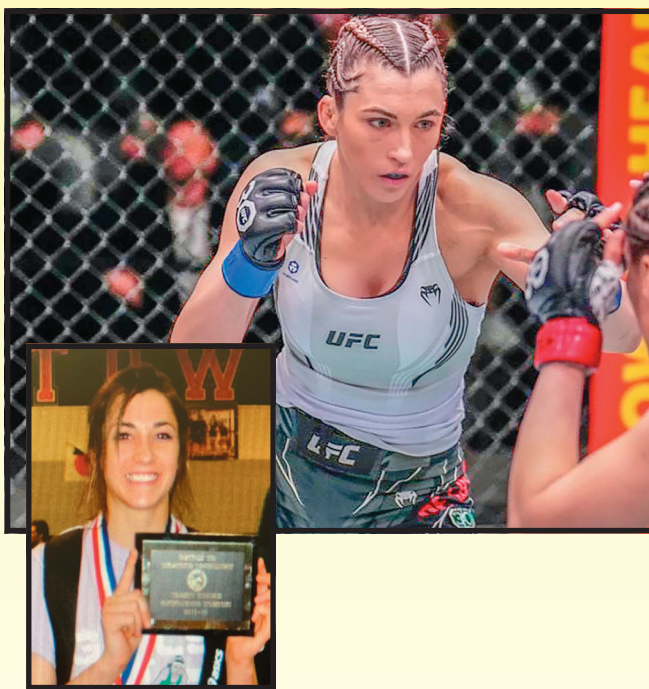
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Don Ostermann

Montana De La Rosa 2013 Girls Wrestling



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PHOTO COURTESY AZLE ISD

Coach "O" held the position of head boys' cross country and track and field coach from 1980 until his retirement in 2013.



PHOTO COURTESY AZLE ISD

Ostermann with Brice Wells, the Boys' Cross Country MVP for 2009-10.



AZLE ISD ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME Don Ostermann

Coach Don Ostermann, along with his wife Cathy and their children Dustin and Cindy, arrived in Azle

in August 1980. Coach "O" served as a coach at Azle High School for the next 33 years. He held the position of

head boys' cross country and track and field coach from 1980 until his retirement in 2013. Additionally, he served

as head girls' cross country coach from 1980 until 1998; he also coached football from 1980 until 1992.

During his tenure at AHS, Coach O's cross country teams clinched the district title 16 times and secured second place 13 times. Over the span of 33 years, his teams qualified for the regional meet for 30 years, totaling 41 teams in both the boys and girls divisions. Notably, his

boys teams from 1980 and 1983 emerged as regional champions. A total of five cross country teams and 17 individuals qualified for the state meet. At least one athlete from AHS competed in the state meet for 15 years during Coach O's reign.

In track and field, Coach Ostermann's teams won four district championships and achieved second place seven times. He coached 19 state

qualifiers, 191 regional qualifiers and his athletes set 13 of the 17 school records. Two of his athletes had top ten national performances.

Coach Ostermann is most proud of the citizens his athletes have become in adulthood. He enjoys meeting them out in the community and hearing about their families and accomplishments.

Inducted September 30, 2023.

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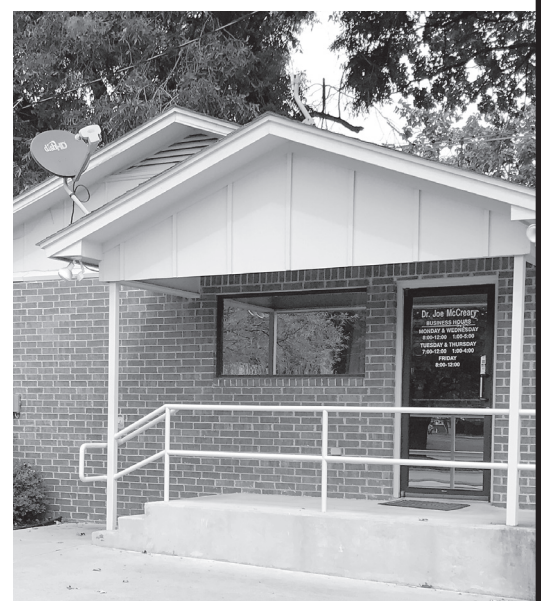
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Varsity cross country members front row left to right: Darrin Knight, Tee Loughran and Ashley Jones. Back Row: Coach Osterman, Donny Cox, Kyle Gathright, Tim Hutchins and Joe McCreary.

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AZLE ISD ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME 2013 Girls Wrestling Team

These girls were a part of the first group of four-year babies who would graduate from Azle High School after women's wrestling was established in Azle in 2008 and who wrestled all four years after one year of junior high wrestling. They were the first to compete in State Duals, and first to place in the top five in the state. They started a streak that continued for several years, and are competing for titles to this day. They were also the first group to be regional champions; the first group to see individuals earn All-American honors at Fargo, and the first team to win a team state title for AHS.

The 2013 team was made up of five completely different personalities. Paige Wolf found a style of wrestling that was simple but effective. She imposed her will and her Fireman's carry on 39 opponents that season. Always there, always present and

always involved, Paige would do anything she was asked for her team.

Bernadette Duhan threw her opponents for a loop. They thought she was there to teach them calculus, looking very inconspicuous. However, little did they know she had the skills and determination to bury them. Knowing very little when she began, she became a regional champion; her state-placing match in the finals secured the team title.

Hannah McFarland was a different image, one that had even some of the boys on the team worried about being her partner. Already a part of the football team as a freshman, her ability to drive a softball far over the fence set the tone for her wrestling. She continued to improve and to perfect all four years while ascending herself to the State Finals her senior year.

Montana Stewart was

clumsy, awkward and so flexible and double-jointed, coach Monica Allen had to look away at times during her matches. However, no one could ever doubt her competitive spirit and her drive to be the best. Not only did she lead her team by becoming an All-State wrestler but she wanted more, becoming Azle's first woman wrestler to earn All-American honors by placing at USA Freestyle Nationals in Fargo.

Jesse Grubbs became the first-ever Azle women's wrestler to become a two-time state champion, Body Bar women's national placer, and College All-American. That sounds intimidating, but it gets worse. After Jesse beat you in the biggest match you've ever been in, she gave you the biggest hug!

But with every great team there are pieces of the puzzle that make the picture clear. No wrestler, de-

spite their talent or ability can be great on their own. Every wrestler needs practice partners to push them and help them reach their potential. Candance Fuller, Bobby Wright, Lauren Fowler, Tabitha Draack and many others filled those roles. This team became the pioneers for Azle women's wrestling in what would become the norm for many years to come, taking home many trophies from UIL State, Regional and District competitions. They wrestled at some of the biggest and toughest tournaments in the country. To accomplish everything this team did, and its members did, makes it truly special. They set the bar high for everyone else to try to follow. These women willed it to happen.

The team was coached by: Chris Allen, Monica Allen, and Duston Shepherd.

Inducted September 30, 2023.



PHOTO COURTESY AZLE ISD
Paige Wolf, Bernadette Duhan, Hannah McFarland, Montana Stewart, and Jesse Grubbs in 2013.

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FAME FROM PAGE B2

mother, transitioned into mixed martial arts after high school, becoming a professional fighter at 19. A stint on the Fox Sports reality show Ultimate Fighter earned her a six-fight contract with the UFC.

Her UFC debut was in December 2017, and she won her first three matches. She and her husband, Mark De La Rosa, became the first married couple to fight in the UFC.

On Saturday, Oct. 7, Montana De La Rosa will fight J.J. Aldrich on UFC Fight Night, part of the undercard of the Grant Dawson-Bobby

Green battle that will be streamed on ESPN pay-per-view TV.

"I'm still making a career out of that," she said. "It's fun. I love it."

De La Rosa appeared to be in tip-top condition while accepting her two plaques — one individually, and one as a team member.

"I train every day, and I'm ready for any opportunity," she said.

She and her family live in Azle, and daughter Zaylyn attends middle school and wrestles.

Earning a spot in the Hall of Fame makes the De La Rosas proud, she said.

"It feels pretty fantastic," she said. "I've always supported Azle, and I'm just happy to be inducted."

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Athletic director Becky Spurlock hands double hardware to Montana De La Rosa, the first Hall of Famer inducted individually and as part of a team.

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AZLE ISD ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME Montana Stewart De La Rosa

Montana Stewart De La Rosa graduated from Azle High School in 2013. In high school, Montana started wrestling as a freshman with no prior experience. She placed twice at the Texas State Wrestling Tournament and won the Texas State Championship Team Division her senior year. Montana competed nationally and became an All-American. Her biggest accomplishment in high school wrestling was placing third at the Fargo Nationals.

Montana received offers to wrestle collegiately but decided to try out mixed martial arts fighting. She started

fighting professionally at the age of 19. In the early stages of her career, Montana faced many ups and downs, then went on a six-fight win streak. Montana decided to test herself on the biggest stage for martial arts when an opportunity arose for her to try out for "The Ultimate Fighter," also known as "TUF", which was a TV show to be aired on Fox Sports. In the show, competitors would fight for a UFC contract. Montana flew to Las Vegas to try out against several hundred girls from around the world, hoping to be selected as one of the 16 women fighters on the show. Montana was chosen as a

competitor in early 2017. The competitors were then placed in a house with their rivals, with 24/7 filming capturing their training and fights against each other. Most importantly, they were vying for the inaugural Flyweight UFC Championship. After competing on the show and defeating her first opponent, Montana lost by decision to the eventual champion. However, she impressed the UFC president and the nation with her heart, determination, and skill earning her a six-fight UFC contract.

Montana made her official UFC debut in December 2017. She started her UFC career

with a 3-0 record. Montana continues to face some of the best flyweight fighters in the world. One of her most memorable victories was when she fought overseas in Australia, finishing her opponent with a triangle/arm bar and winning a \$50,000 bonus. Montana and her husband, Mark De La Rosa, made history as the first-ever married couple to fight in the UFC and on the same card back in early 2020. Montana's next fight is scheduled for October 2023, and she will continue to compete at the highest level of martial arts.

Inducted September 30, 2023



PHOTO COURTESY AZLE ISD

Montana Stewart De La Rosa won the Texas State Championship Team Division her senior year.

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CROWNED

FROM PAGE B1

so honored."

NEW STUNT

Also on the sidelines was sophomore Wakely Autry, who was practicing flips while warming up with the cheer squad. The first-year varsity cheerleader had a new trick up her sleeve she was keen on debuting for the homecoming crowd.

"I'm excited because I just got a new skill at tumbling this week, and I get to throw it at tonight's game," she said.

Making the varsity cheer team as a sophomore proved to herself that hard work can make dreams come true, she said.

"I just like to come out here and do what I do in front of everybody," she said. "It makes me feel really good about myself at the end of the day."

A SHOW OF HANDS

Just before kickoff, about two dozen students adept at sign language stood on the field to interpret the national anthem as it played over the loudspeaker.

Afterward, senior Braden Crews explained why the moment was so special to him. As a freshman, he had debated which language course to take.

"I didn't want to take German," he said. "I didn't want to take French. So, I was, like, hmmm, American sign language sounds fun. Then, I met the ASL teacher, and she was really sweet."

Crews has attended sign language classes for three years at Azle High School.

Signing the national anthem is a different experience than singing, especially when performing on the field at a packed stadium.

"It's really fun," Crews said. "Normally, you just say the words, but performing with your hands is really interesting. It's different."

He uses sign language often these days and assists with deaf communities when needed, he said.

"It's really nice to be able to use that to help people communicate when they can't

talk to others," he said.

KICKOFF!

Azle received the kickoff to start the game, and both teams' defenses came ready for war. Azle's offense went three and out. Northwest's offense did the same. Then, Azle again. Back to Northwest.

The defensive battle began to fracture late in the first quarter. Northwest scored a TD on a long pass, but the play was called back on a penalty. The Texans settled for a field goal, but their offense smelled blood.

The first quarter ended with the score 3-0. The Hornets were playing with pride and toughness against a solid playoff contender in the fiercely competitive District 3-5A. The hometown crowd appreciated its team's effort.

Azle's offense with Austin May at quarterback churned up yardage on its next possession and appeared to be headed toward the red zone until a fumble killed the drive. Northwest responded by scoring a TD, and the hits kept coming. The Texans scored 26 points in the third quarter and added 27 more in the third. The Hornets scored a TD late in the game but couldn't match the Texans' firepower.

The Hornets ended the game with 280 total yards, but their five turnovers explained their lack of points.

Hagen Hughes scored on a 25-yard run in the third quarter and finished with 91 rushing yards. Adan Sandoval led the defense in tackles with 7, followed by Cale Cohen, Jacob Martin, Conner Merrill, Tyler Ulrich, Josh Montelongo, Preston Johnson, Garrin Graves, River Cassel, and Carstyn Syrus.

After the game, head coach Devon Dorris said his team played hard and "did some good things early," and homecoming provided a "great night and crowd."

NEW KING, QUEEN

Hearing her name announced over the loudspeaker during halftime was a thrill for senior Melani Rushing. (The cheer captain pronounces her first name Muh-lahn-ee.)



Queen nominee Daytona Gravlin hugs winner Melani Rushing.

JEFF PRINCE | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Her crowning as homecoming queen was the culmination of a busy week.

"I was just really excited to be a part of the whole experience of the whole homecoming week," she said.

She had collected 200 boxes of macaroni for a food bank, fitted her dress, attended classes and cheer practice, and waved to a crowd of hundreds from atop a convertible in the homecoming parade. "Seeing all the little kids waving was really sweet," she said.

Rushing wanted to be on the homecoming court ever since her freshman year but kept her mouth shut. Same with her sophomore and junior years.

This year, however, she became proactive, telling friends she wanted to be nominated.

"They're, like, OK, sure," she said. "Then, here we are. Thank you to everyone that

helped me and believed in me."

Jacob Johnson, a member of the Marching Green Pride, wore the king's crown.

"It feels crazy," he said. "All the support from friends, family, and teachers. I would really like to thank them for that. It feels like a dream, but it's not a dream. I'm very blessed for everybody that voted for me and cared."

REST BEFORE FINAL LEG

The Hornets will enjoy a bye week to rest their weary bones after a difficult start to the season that has seen them struggle to win games.

"We are going to take some time to look at ourselves and what we need to improve on without preparing for a specific opponent," Dorris said. "This week comes at a good time for us. We have some kids beat up and sore. We look forward to getting some injured kids back in the com-



Braden Crews uses sign language on the field during the national anthem.

JEFF PRINCE | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER



From left, Emma Ortega, Kyler Betz, Wakely Autry, and Leila Powers cheered on the home team, and Autry debuted a new tumbling skill.

JEFF PRINCE | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER



Hagen Hughes scores the Hornets' only TD in the third quarter.

JEFF PRINCE | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Kids night

Volleyballers to celebrate Azle Youth Sports before Friday game

JEFF PRINCE

sports@tricityreporter.com

AZLE — The Azle volleyball squad will celebrate Azle Youth Sports and give local kiddos a chance to stand on the big girls' court in front of a large crowd.

AYS Night will be held before the game at 6 p.m. Friday, Oct. 6, at the Hornet gymnasium. Azle will take on Wichita Falls Rider in a district dustup.

The Lady Hornets should be well-rested. The team enjoyed a bye earlier this week and will have had seven days between games.

The last game the girls played was on Sept. 29 against Northwest. The Hornets started the game in amazing fashion, winning the first set against one of the

toughest teams around.

"We definitely started off strong," said senior Brynn Lee. "It didn't go in our favor in the end, but we haven't taken a set from Northwest in probably 10 years, so I'm pretty proud of the way we played."

She described the season so far as a roller coaster. The team is 14-23 and contending for a playoff spot.

"We've been up and down," she said. "We've done really well against the good teams and done really poorly against the not-so-good teams."

Things are moving in the team's favor, and Lee predicted an improved final leg of the season.

"We've been working really hard at practice, coming in early in the morning," she



Melanie Harder returns a serve against Northwest on homecoming night.

JEFF PRINCE | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

said.

Last year's team fought its way into the playoffs but lost

in the first round. The Lady Hornets are determined to go deeper into the postseason.



Destiny Brune and the Lady Hornets will celebrate Azle Youth Sports on Friday, Oct. 6.

JEFF PRINCE | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER



Front row from left, Austin May, Bradyn Rager, Bryan Rager, Adam May. Middle row, Dalton and Dylan Dorris. Back row, Case and Cash Moore.

JEFF PRINCE | TRI COUNTY REPORTER

Quadruple doubles

JEFF PRINCE

sports@tricityreporter.com

AZLE — When quarterback Austin May drops back into the pocket for a passing play, he relies on offensive linemen to keep opponents out of his face.

May knows his linemen well and can almost read their minds, one guy in particular — twin brother Adam May.

"I can tell usually what's going through his mind and how he's feeling at times just by his body language," Austin May said.

Azle football squad includes four sets of twins

Plenty of mind reading occurs these days at Hornet Stadium. Azle's football team has four sets of twins on the roster.

"I'm cool that we have so many twins on the team," Austin May said. "It feels like the bond on this team is better."

The twins include Dalton and Dylan Dorris, Case and Cash Moore, Bryan and

Bradyn Rager, and the Mays.

Head coach Devon Dorris has noticed the close relationship among all the twins.

"Being brothers, you have good relationships, but being twins, it's a different type of relationship," he said. "To have four of them on the same team is pretty unique."

In the 1990s, Devon Dorris played football at Azle High School with younger brother,

Derek Dorris, who is also on the AHS coaching staff. Dalton and Dylan Dorris are Derek's sons. The twins resemble one another facially but wear their hair different lengths, which sets them apart. A little. Their classmates still become confused.

"You'd be surprised," Dalton said. "I get questions all the time."

Dalton didn't grow his hair to stand apart from his brother, although he likes maintaining a different look.

"That is a very small part of it," Dalton said. "I like

long hair. It's easier for me to maintain than short hair. Growing up, me having long hair helped people differentiate between us, but I still get questioned all the time if I'm him or if he's me."

The question can become tiresome. Still, that's a trifle. The young men all agree that having a twin is a blessing.

"It's like a built-in best friend," said Cash Moore.

Dalton Dorris mentioned another perk — an expanded wardrobe.

"I can steal his stuff whenever I don't have mine," he

said of brother Dylan's wardrobe. "All of our clothes, we share. We have our own set styles, but we pretty much share everything."

Sometimes, a twin can provide cover. Once, Cash Moore forgot his school ID and borrowed twin brother Case's ID to avoid serving lunch detention. Normally, though, they don't try to trick anyone with their likeness. They're just glad to have a twin to go through life with.

"You're always going to have someone there with you," Cash Moore said.

Big boys

Springtown football's running game relies on offensive linemen

JEFF PRINCE

sports@tricityreporter.com

The big guys in the trenches on the offense line are cracking heads, shoving opposing players out of the way, and opening holes for Porcupine running backs to sail through.

This season, Springtown quarterback Hudson Hulett has been running the ball frequently or feeding the rock to Drake Doggett, Nate Johnson, and other running backs. The backs have responded by racking up mega yardage and numerous TDs.

The athletes being named offensive players of the week, however, are just as likely to be linemen as runners.

On Sept. 14 against Creekview, the POWs were linemen Dallin Fabrizius (2 knockdowns, 3 pancakes) and Breyden Kearby (1 pancake). On Sept. 22, Johnson earned a POW award for scoring 3 TDs and running for 142 yards, but right there alongside him with a POW award was lineman Cambryn Holbrooks with 2 knockdowns and 2 pancakes.

Head coach Brian Hulett considers the offensive line working in unison as crucial to the team's success. This year's has been consistent and hard-working, he said.

"We have missed some things and have room for improvement, but for a unit that I honestly was a little

worried about coming into the year, they have played very well as a whole," he said. "The two things I would point to that they do well week-to-week are that they play hard and are physical. You can cover up a lot of deficiencies if you are willing to do that, and our guys have."

Holbrooks, a senior, describes his job in simple terms. First, he gets into his stance on the line and faces an adversary. Then, he pancakes the stiff.

What's a pancake? "You hit 'em as hard as you can, and they fall over," he said. "You ride 'em into the ground. Lay on them, too. They fall straight on their back, and you hit them, like a pancake."

The running back sprints into the end zone and celebrates to loud applause while linemen typically climb back to their feet with little fanfare.

"We don't really need the spotlight," Holbrooks said. "As long as we go and hit someone and eventually score, that's all that matters to us."

Playing next to him at right tackle is senior Zane Sudduth, who began cracking heads on varsity as a sophomore.

"It's a hard job to do," Sudduth said. "It's a lot of hitting. Then, line back up and hit again. It's difficult, but you just remember that you've got to keep go-



From left, Zane Sudduth, Cambryn Holbrooks, Breyden Kearby, Dallin Fabrizius, and Levi Etheridge make up the interior offensive line.

JEFF PRINCE | TRI COUNTY REPORTER

ing, because if we don't get movement, then we can't run the ball. If we don't protect Hudson (Hulett) back there, he can't throw it, and we'll never be able to go anywhere."

Sudduth and Holbrooks grew up in Springtown and have played football since elementary school. They realize they are likely in their final season of football before moving on to the next stage of their lives.

Holbrooks doesn't plan to play football beyond high school. He wants to train as an EMT and become a firefighter.

"I'm going to miss the sport," he said. "I'm going to miss my team, too."

He won't miss school much.

He is taking dual credit courses this year to earn his associate degree.

"It's been pretty tough," he said. "A lot of work."

He doesn't need an associate degree to be a firefighter but wants it to increase his employment options.

"It's a fall-back just in case something goes wrong," he said.

Sudduth will be sad to see his senior season end. He loves his teammates and the lessons he's learned since he first put on a helmet in first grade.

"I'm glad I played it through the whole time," he said.

Back in 2021, when he was a sophomore, he struggled for a period. He never seri-

ously considered quitting, but his spirits were low, and he toyed with the thought. He'd been called up to varsity to replace someone who was injured, and Sudduth was overwhelmed at first, playing against opponents who were two years older and 50 pounds heavier.

"There was a time where I really had to think if football meant that much to me or not," he said. "I went from being a backup on the freshman team the year before to the starting right tackle on every play. It was a big switch for me. I felt like I kept messing up everything."

When thoughts of quitting entered his head, he analyzed them. "I thought about what I would do without football,

not going to practice every day and how different life would be," he said. "I didn't see a good reason to quit. I stuck in there because I felt like I needed football and it would be bad for me to leave them when they needed me."

Two years later, he's thankful. After high school graduation, he plans to attend Texas Tech University and earn a mechanical engineering degree.

"I'm so glad I made that decision and stayed" in football, he said. "It taught me how to keep working every day. Even when it gets hard, keep grinding, get up early and get at it. Coach Hulett teaches us every day how football is more than just a game, how it's a life lesson."

SPORTS Roundup

AZLE HIGH SCHOOL

On Sept. 22, the rodeo team competed at the North Texas High School Rodeo Association Arena, and several Azle contestants earned points. Hevenli Scribner won first place in poles. Laurel Allred earned fourth place. River Cassell took second

place in chute dogging, Wyatt Allison was seventh, and Braxton Preston was 10th. Andrea Allred won third place in walk-up goat tying. Laurel Allred finished in sixth, and Josalyn Langeberg was eighth. Laurel Allred won third place in ride-up goats, and Andrea Allred was close be-

hind at fifth. In team roping, Xavier Reyes and Kasen Scarlato earned third place in team roping. Sean Bunero took sixth place in ribbon roping. Scribner won eighth place in barrel racing.

SPRINGTOWN HIGH SCHOOL

On Sept. 30, the Springtown cross-country team competed at the Decatur Reunion Run and brought home several medals.

Wesley Payne competed against the 5A-6A runners and earned sixth place for the varsity boys.

Izzy Parker earned 19th place for the varsity girls. For the JV girls, Lore Bissot took 14th place.

And Brayden Levario won fourth place for the JV boys, followed by Jace Rutledge (7th) and Peton Bening (20th).

AZLE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

The Azle Christian School football team traveled to Nazarene Christian Academy and lost 56-6 in a district game. The loss dropped the Crusaders to 4-2 for the season.

Azle Christian is on bye this week and will play next at 7 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 13, at home against Bethesda Christian.

FORTE JUNIOR HIGH

On Sept. 28, the Forte volleyball teams traveled to



COURTESY PHOTO

At center, Wesley Payne races his way to sixth place against 5A-6A teams at the Decatur Reunion Run.

Springtown and played exciting games. The seventh grade A Team won an incredible set 25-20 and 25-13 against Springtown. The Hornets worked together to play a beautiful game with impressive digs from Jordyn, great passes from Riley, fantastic sets from Allison, and tough hits from the front row: Kylee, Berklyn, Tatum, and Samantha.

The seventh grade B Team lost a hard-fought nailbiter of a game. Leilani Bravo and Baylee Gann had a good night on the serving line, and Kamryn Paschal was player of the game with an absolutely amazing game all the way around. Forte lost 25-22, 22-25, and 11-15.

Both eighth grade teams had a tough time against Springtown, and both were swept in two games. The Lady Hornets, despite playing hard, could not get on track. One of the bright spots was Riley Caballero, whose serving uplifted her team.

On Sept. 26, the football teams played their counterparts at Wilkie Junior High School and won two of three games. The seventh grade A Team blew out Wilkie 36-0. Forte quarterback Korbyn Braswell continues to click with his brother Kolton, a receiver, and they combined for three TDs. Rendon Stephens also made a big impact on the field. The seventh grade B Team followed up the pre-

vious week's tie by nailing down a 13-6 victory against Wilkie. The eighth grade A Team lost 0-18 but took big strides forward during the game. The offense sustained multiple drives, and the O-line opened holes for Aaron Stapleton and Cooper Johnson to run through.

AZLE JUNIOR HIGH

The seventh grade Combined Green/White Team played Chisholm Trail Middle school and won 34-13. The seventh grade White Team's overall record is 3-0. The Green Team's record is 4-0.

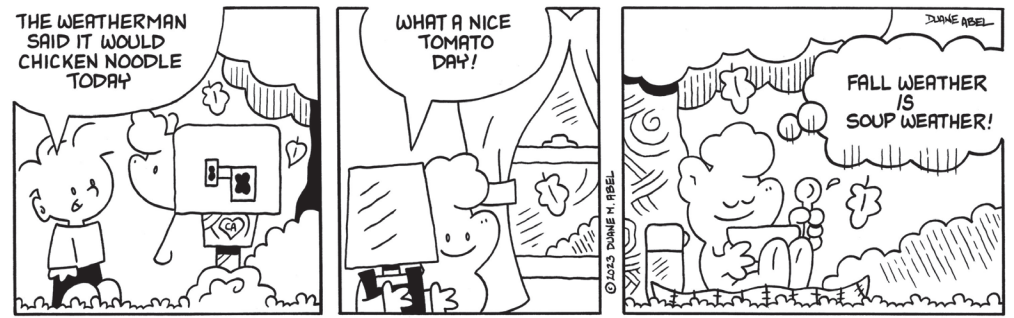
The eighth grade White Team (3-1) beat Chisholm Trail 16-0. The eighth grade Green Team (4-0) won 44-0.



COURTESY PHOTO

Hevenli Scribner and the Azle rodeo team are back in action.

ZED BY DUANE ABEL



WWW.CORKYCOMICS.COM

Saddle up

Springtown rodeo team off to fast start

JEFF PRINCE

sports@tricityreporter.com

After the first two rodeos of the season, the Springtown team found itself sitting in fourth place with 434 points in the North Texas High School Rodeo Association.

"We have a great group of kids, from ropers to bull riders and everything in between," said team sponsor Staci Harris.

About a dozen members of last year's team returned this season and are ready to rely on their experience to earn points in their events. The team also includes about eight new members.

"The team has gotten off to a good start due to offseason practice and putting in work," Harris said.

Her goals for the team are to remain in the top 5 in points all season and to have more Springtown kids qualify for the finals this season than last.

At the Sept. 22 rodeo, Cade Walker won the chute dogging event and earned 70 points.

Colton Phillips took second place in bull riding and



PHOTO COURTESY OF GATEMAN PHOTOGRAPHY

Delaney Harris is helping the Springtown rodeo team earn points this season.

logged 63 points.

Marshall Doudy earned 35 points in team roping.

Delaney Harris nabbed 21 points in ride-up goat tying. In walkup goats, Shaye

Winford took fifth place and 42 points, and Harris earned 10th place and 7 points.

Paige Bunero earned 21 points by taking eighth place in ribbon roping.

Sudoku

OCTOBER 5, 2023

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

Solution to last week's puzzle

SEPTEMBER 28, 2023

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to skin care.

GIAGN

□ □ □ □ □

Answer: Aging

CRYPTO FUN

- Solve the code to discover words related to fashion. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 4 = I)
- A. 8 21 20 1 14 10
Clue: Create from an idea
 - B. 6 24 4
Clue: Shape or design
 - C. 20 4 2 13 21
Clue: Distinctive appearance
 - D. 6 13 18 4 3 1 10 14
Clue: Covers the body

The Azle tennis team is all smiles after knocking off Granbury in the final meet of the regular season.

Azle tennis team earns trip to playoffs

STAFF REPORT

sports@tricityreporter.com

AZLE — On Sept. 26, the Azle tennis team played its final regular season district

game, defeating Granbury 15-4 and earning a spot in the playoffs. The Hornets will play a non-district match in Burseson this week in preparation for its post-

season run. "The determination of this team is impeccable, and we are so impressed, and we said head coach Connor Mason.



COURTESY PHOTO

PROUD
FROM PAGE B1

ing by in a Corvette as one of the homecoming queen nominees.

"We just want to see her," Gene Phillips said. "We're retired, so we have plenty of time to get here and get a good spot."

From 1996-2006, Phillips was athletic director at Azle Independent School District before moving to San Antonio to serve as athletic director at Alamo Heights High School for the last 10 years of his career. He retired in 2016 and settled in Fort Worth.

Now, he and Leigh Ann commute to Azle frequently to watch their three grandkids — Landri, Bailey, and Jax Seward — play various sports and activities.

"We've seen a lot of games," he said. "That's what we do now."

Jax is a third grader who plays soccer and baseball. Bailey, an eighth grader, plays volleyball. Landri is a member of PALS and the Rowdies, works on the school yearbook, and plays basketball.

She missed her junior year due to a knee injury but is expected to be back on the court this season for her senior year.

In the 1990s, Phillips coached brothers Devon and Derek Dorris, now the head coach and assistant for the Hornets football team.

"That makes you feel old when the kids that you coached are now in those kinds of positions," Phillips said.

Being old, though, has its perks, such as free time.

"I enjoy it," Phillips said. "I get time off to be with the grandkids. Between grandkids and doctor appointments, it takes a pretty full day."

On this day, he was focused on Landri and her quest to become queen and return to the basketball court.

"She missed her whole junior year," he said. "Now, she's been released to play, so she's hoping to get back and play a lot of basketball and do a lot of things her senior year. It's a special year for her. It's a busy time in her life, and we're just happy to be a part of it."



JEFF PRINCE | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Landri Seward spent her junior year recovering from a knee injury but expects to return to the basketball court this year as a senior.

Football Contest

WEEK 6

Kyle Gathright and David Shaffer tied for first place in the football contest, with each of them picking 19 of 24 games correctly. That meant the tiebreaker game determined the winner. The tiebreaker game - Pine Tree at Nacogdoches - generated 43 points. Shaffer was closest with 52 points, and he won first place and \$20. Gathright picked 53 points and finished in second place with \$10. Three contestants - Bobby Boyd, Eddy Swanzy, and Margaret Swanzy — tied for third place by picking 17 of 24 games correctly. The closest to the tiebreaker score was Margaret with 45 points, and she won third place and \$5.

BYE WEEK



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	L 63-7
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	

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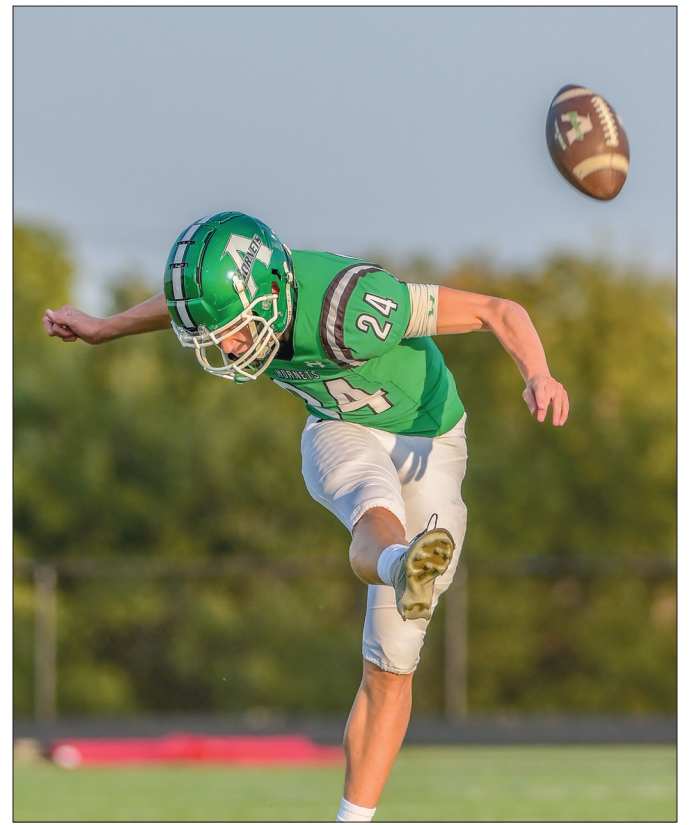
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1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
\$20⁰⁰	\$10⁰⁰	\$5⁰⁰

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

• OFFICIAL RULES •

There are 24 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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 email: springtownseptic@gmail.com

You only live once. That's worth protecting.



A conversation about life insurance now can make a big impact on your family (and even your retirement) later. **LET'S TALK TODAY.**

Lindsay Bender Ellis
 106 Eureka Street, Suite A
 Weatherford, TX 76086
 817-594-0252
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13. Arlington at Bowie

State Farm

State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company
 State Farm Fire and Casualty Company
 TX-2385678 Bloomington, IL

Local Delivery • Metro Delivery • UPS



119 Industrial Ave.
 Next to Dollar General
817-444-2222

Digital & Gloss Full Color Business Cards
 Gloss Full • Color Post Cards
 Yard Signs • Copy Paper
 Full Color Banners

23. Lorena at McGregor

250 Digital Business Cards ONLY \$29⁹⁹

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Breakfast Served All Day
 Daily Lunch Specials

Delicious Cinnamon Rolls

Open M-F 6 am - 3 pm,
 Sat & Sun 6 am - 4 pm

Daily Lunch Specials
 Call-Ins Welcome

21. Bonham at Pottsboro

6312 Jacksboro Hwy, Lake Worth
817-237-2114

Subscribe Online

19. Castleberry at Diamond Hill-Jarvis

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\$40 FOR ONE YEAR

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817-270-3340
 tricityreporter.com



TRINITY GROUP REALTY
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Helping you live your Dream

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

RATES

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

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

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

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

CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINE: 1:00 PM FRIDAY

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



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

Nobody does it better!

006 Asphalt Paving

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

032 For Sale

Delta drum sander 31-255x 18"X36" good condition \$450 817-454-7651.



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

032 For Sale



2018 Outback Travel Trailer Model 332 FK. 3 slide outs, 37 Ft. \$38,000 817-688-6029 or 817-221-2403.

035 Garden/Mowing Service

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

039 Help Wanted

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

019 Cement Work

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

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

Kiley Chesney Construction

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

FREE ESTIMATES

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



4X4 blynd on 10 Ft tower. 2 sets of windows, carpet, chair and heater available. \$900 call Rich 817-584-8567.

020 Demolition

MCNEELY'S DEMOLITION & CLEAN UP SERVICE
We Create Vacancy

- Tear Down
- Removal
- Haul Off
- Mobile Homes
- Garages
- Barns
- Houses
- Bobcat Service
- Dirt/Gravel Spreading

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



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

024 Electrician

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



Summer sale, 1970 18 Ft Ski Boat 135 Mercury engine, new interior. \$5,000 682-717-6181.

026 Excavating

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



Piano with bench & music. \$600 817-454-3798

029 Fencing

BOBBY'S FENCE. All types, Free Estimates, Over 26 years experience. 817-444-3213.

KILEY CHESNEY CONSTRUCTION
 All Types Fences - Tractor Work
 817-846-6645

LEON'S FENCING

Cedar • Iron • Pipe Barbed Wire
817-371-8597

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

034 Garage & Estate Sales

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

Garage Sale
 256 Fossil Rock Dr, Azle. October 7th, 7:30am-1:30pm. Clothing, household, small appliances, etc.

Garage Sale
 Wise County, 1550 CR 4698, Boyd. Something for everyone, everything is negotiable. Starts October 5th-everything is gone.

Craft/Garage Sale
 Thurs. Oct. 5 thru Sat. Oct. 7. 1973 Reynolds Drive Azle, Texas. 9am-2pm.

YARD SALE!
 Friday, Saturday & Sunday @ 8:00 a.m. 1317 CLIFF MANOR STREET LOT B AZLE, TX 76020
 Clothes, Toys, Household Items, Tools & More!

035 Garden/Mowing Service

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

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

IRRIGATION REPAIR

Residential/Commercial License# LI007825 \$95 Service Call

OUTDOOR SCENE

682-553-1560

LEON'S TREE SERVICE

Expert take downs Stump Grinding Residential/Commercial Licensed & Insured • Free Estimates 817-371-8597

Chad's Tree Service

Trimming • Removals • Stump Grinding Systemic Feeding • Brush Chipping • Cable Bracing
817-221-2201 • 817-246-5943
817-800-6059 CELL
Insured for your protection

036 Hauling

DORADO TRANSPORT LLC
AZLE, TEXAS
We Haul: Auto, Power Sports, Equipment and Freight
817-789-2519
DoradoTransportLLC@Yahoo.com

039 Help Wanted

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

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

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



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

039 Help Wanted

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



Now Hiring FT PCA
 10p-6a Shift. Benefits: Health, Dental, Life, 401k and PTO
Apply in person: 113 Denver Trail, Azle.

Help Wanted in Aurora/Alvord Area

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



Don't Break The Poor Little Piggy!
Find the money you need in our Classified Section today!
16 words for \$10

817-270-3340

Deadline:
1:00 PM FRIDAY

Classifieds

<p>039</p> <p>KLEMENT RAM CHRYSLER DODGE Jeep</p> <p>General Shop / Porter Must be dependable and have a valid TXDL with good driver history.</p> <p>Parts/Warehouse Associate Seeking to hire a Parts Warehouse Associate for our Growing Company! Performs various duties throughout the Parts Department. Must be able to pass pre-employment background check and drug testing. Monday to Friday work week.</p> <p>Please submit resume via Indeed ad or come by our office located at 605 N. Business 287, Suite 102 in Decatur.</p> <p>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</p> <p>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.</p> <p>KLEMENT DISTRIBUTION, INC. (Hershey Ice Cream Distributor)</p> <p>Vending Route Driver No CDL needed but must have valid TXDL with acceptable driving record. Must be dependable to meet requirements of early starting hours.</p>	<p>Help Wanted</p> <p>KARL KLEMENT Ford</p> <p>Warehouse Associate Assists in maintaining organization of warehouse and inventory. Some experience preferred, but willing to train the right candidate. Must be able to pass pre-employment background check and drug testing. We offer competitive wages, benefits, and room for growth.</p> <p>Make-Ready Associate Seeking to hire a Make-Ready Associate for our growing team! Duties include, but are not limited to cleaning vehicles, running errands, test driving vehicles, receiving, arranging, and maintaining the appearance of vehicles and ensuring the orderliness of the lot. Monday through Friday; No weekends! Paid Holidays, Vacation, & Training</p> <p>Karl Klement Properties, Inc. No Positions Available at This Time</p> <p>Apply in person at: 605 N. Business 287, Ste 102, Decatur, Texas or call Human Resources 940-627-6362 hr.info@klementford.com Jodi Pettis, Executive Director</p> <p>All full-time positions offer growth opportunities & a full benefits package including Medical, Dental, Vision, Life, 401(k) & more. EEOC</p>	<p>068 Storage</p> <p>STORAGE SPECIAL 10X10 \$60/MONTH-NO DEPOSIT 1350 LIBERTY SCHOOL RD, AZLE 5X10 \$45/MONTH \$20/DEPOSIT 817-246-4646</p> <p>069 Sand/Gravel</p> <p>HALL'S SAND, DIRT & GRAVEL Quality Family Business Since 1938 CALL Cliff Hall (817) 221-2681 We go the extra mile to ensure you get more for your \$. On House Pads, Driveways, Lot Clearing & Tractor Work, Etc.</p> <p>079 Welding</p> <p>WDC WELD-DONE CONSTRUCTION LTD. Metal Building Erectors • Pre-engineered Weld-up • Barns/Shops • Arenas/Hangars • Fencing 1220 E. Hwy. 199 • Springtown 817-220-2150 www.weld-done.net</p> <p>081 Business/Commercial 40x50 building For Rent, 3 miles west of Springtown. 817-713-7495. For Lease: Hwy 199 frontage, near hospital, 800 Sq Ft \$850/mo. 2000 Sq Ft \$1500/mo. 817-220-2021 Bryant Real Estate.</p> <p>082 RV's for Rent Nice 1BR RV in adult RV park. Great for older person on limited income. Starts at \$650/mo. All Bills Paid. Heritage RV Park 817-444-3760.</p> <p>084 Mobile Homes for Rent 3-2 mobile home for Rent \$1150/mo \$1150/dep. 111 E. Bradshaw Road, Springtown. Proof of employment is a must. Call for more information 817-220-4095. Nice 3-2 DW, fenced yard, Northwest ISD, Rhome TX \$1,700/mo. with approved application. 817-228-2414.</p>
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040 Home Improvement

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

BOBBY MCWILLIAMS PAINTING 817-821-6377.
Interior/Exterior Painting Residential & New Homes. 50 years experience.

040 Home Improvement

Devin's Handyman Service

- Carpentry
- Cement
- Rock
- Granite
- Tile
- Painting
- Siding
- Insulation
- Kitchen/Bath
- Seamless Gutters
- Powerwashing
- Decks

FALL SPECIAL 20% OFF with this ad!

Call Devin at 817-629-9608

066 Roofing

AT HOME ROOFING & METAL BUILDINGS

817-304-4224

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

We'll be here after the storm.

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

R & E Construction
Metal Building Specialist

- Weld Ups/ Bolt Ups
- Pipe Fencing
- Concrete
- Horse Barns
- All Types Fencing
- Metal Roofs

Compare Pricing
NO JOB TOO SMALL

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE
All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD tollfree at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



Kevin's Handyman Services
40 Years Experience

- Carpentry
- Drywall & Painting
- Tile & Laminate Floors
- Doors & Windows
- Decks & Stairs
- Cabinets & Countertops
- No Job Too Small

Springtown and Surrounding Areas
231-445-1221

BILL BLANKENSHIP CONTRACTING INC.

HOME IMPROVEMENT
Residential/Commercial
Kitchens • Baths • Add-Ons
Showers • Custom Cabinets

TILE WORK
Tubs • Showers • Floors
Backsplashes • Etc.

DRAIN CLEANING
Sewers • Sinks • Grease Traps
Camera Locating

A+ BBB Rated
Se Habla Espanol • M849
817-831-4000
ContractingBlankenship@outlook.com

057 Pets/Livestock

Will pay top dollar for grazing and hay leases. Call 940-389-1936.

3 month old kittens. 2 Black 1 Back with Yellow specks. Also have a beautiful long haired Calico Female has been spayed-2 yrs old. All are Free to good home. Diane 817-692-5346

HORSE SALE
October 6th, 2023
Tack Sale Begins at 6:00 PM
Horses Follow
Stephenville Cattle Co.
Highway 281 North • Stephenville, TX
Troy 254-967-1950 • Barn 254-968-4844

Miles Roofing
• Insurance Claim Specialists;
• Free Estimates
817-797-3420

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

DIAMOND ROOFING & CONSTRUCTION

817-523-4137
Here Before The Storm. Here Long After.

Commercial & Residential
• Roofing
• Metal Roofing
• Carports
• Metal Buildings
• All General Contracting

417 N. MAIN ST • SPRINGTOWN

Mr. Sweeps
Chimney Cleaning Service

Keep your home safe. Call Parker/Wise County's oldest chimney sweeping company, Mr. Sweeps.

817-692-5624
ask for Doug
www.mrsweepschimneycleaning.com

Special: \$170
Chimney & Dryer Vent Cleaning

049 Masonry/Stonework

Silva Masonry, L.L.C.
CONCRETE
COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL
Landscape Designs, Outdoor Kitchens
Patios, Retaining Walls, Mailboxes
All Types Stone & Brick Work Free
New Construction • Remodels Estimates
817-308-6512
email alvaragsilva@verizon.net

062 Plumbing

GRAHAM PLUMBING CO.

Commercial-Residential
Serving Springtown,
Azle, Boyd,
Weatherford Area
M#15899
817-220-2469
grahamplumbingco.com

068 Storage

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

Advertising Works!

Ash Creek Storage
Convenient Location
Corner of Main St. & Locust • Azle
817-444-3292

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

SELL IT IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!

052 Movers

U.S. Army Retired-but not tired!
Careful moving-Cheap.
Call Big Jim @ 817-237-5151.

LANDERS Plumbing Co.
940-233-2862
M-10078

817-270-3340

Deadline:
1:00 PM FRIDAY

Classifieds

085 Mobile Homes For Sale

REPOS

K&P HOMES

Financing Available
817-677-3446



*Find Your
New
Best Friend
in the
Classifieds!*

086 Mobile Home/RV Lots

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

TEXAS STATEWIDE CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING NETWORK

TexSCAN

LOG HOMES

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

Oct. 1-7, 2023

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

ENERGY
Prepare for power outages today with a GENERAC home standby generator. \$0 Money Down + Low Monthly Payment Options. Request a FREE Quote. Call now before the next power outage: 1-855-704-8579.

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

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
Applying for Social Security Disability or Appealing a Denied Claim? Call Bill Gordon & Assoc. Our case managers simplify the process & work hard to help with your case. Call 1-844-494-0689 FREE Consultation. Local Attorneys Nationwide Mail: 2420 N St NW, Washington DC. Office: Broward Co. FL (TX/NM Bar.)

088 Rent Unfurnished

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

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

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

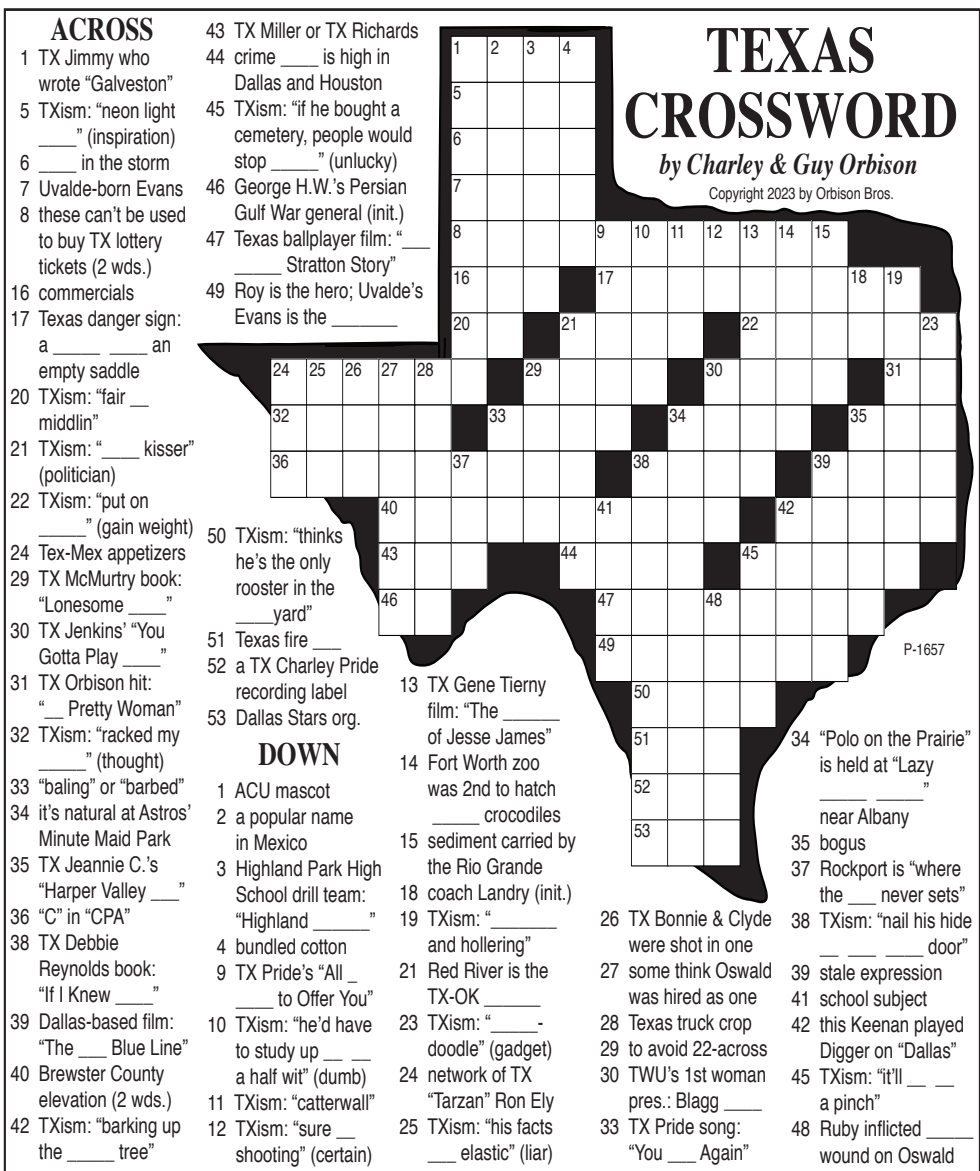
MEDICAL
Portable Oxygen Concentrator May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 866-747-9983.

DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 350 plus procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-855-901-0467 www.dental50plus.com/xpress #6258

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

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
Copyright 2023 by Orbison Bros.



ACROSS

1 TX Jimmy who wrote "Galveston"
5 TXism: "neon light ____" (inspiration)
6 ____ in the storm
7 Uvalde-born Evans these can't be used to buy TX lottery tickets (2 wds.)
16 commercials
17 Texas danger sign: a ____ an empty saddle
20 TXism: "fair ____ midlin"
21 TXism: "____ kisser" (politician)
22 TXism: "put on ____" (gain weight)
24 Tex-Mex appetizers
29 TX McMurry book: "Lonesome ____"
30 TX Jenkins "You Gotta Play ____"
31 TX Orbison hit: "____ Pretty Woman"
32 TXism: "racked my ____" (thought)
33 "baling" or "barbed"
34 it's natural at Astros' Minute Maid Park
35 TX Jeannie C.'s "Harper Valley ____"
36 "C" in "CPA"
38 TX Debbie Reynolds book: "If I Knew ____"
39 Dallas-based film: "The ____ Blue Line"
40 Brewster County elevation (2 wds.)
42 TXism: "barking up the ____ tree"

DOWN

1 ACU mascot
2 a popular name in Mexico
3 Highland Park High School drill team: "Highland ____"
4 bundled cotton
9 TX Pride's "All ____ to Offer You"
10 TXism: "he'd have to study up ____ a half wit" (dumb)
11 TXism: "catterwall"
12 TXism: "sure ____ shooting" (certain)
13 TX Gene Tierny film: "The ____ of Jesse James"
14 Fort Worth zoo was 2nd to hatch ____ crocodiles
15 sediment carried by the Rio Grande
18 coach Landry (init.)
19 TXism: "____ and hollering"
21 Red River is the TX-OK ____
23 TXism: "____ doodle" (gadget)
24 network of TX "Tarzan" Ron Ely
25 TXism: "his facts ____ elastic" (liar)

34 "Polo on the Prairie" is held at "Lazy ____" near Albany
35 bogus
37 Rockport is "where the ____ never sets"
38 TXism: "nail his hide ____ door"
39 stale expression
41 school subject
42 this Keenan played Digger on "Dallas"
45 TXism: "it'll ____ a pinch"
48 Ruby inflicted ____ wound on Oswald

AZLE OAKS APARTMENT
700 JARVIS • AZLE
817-444-1712

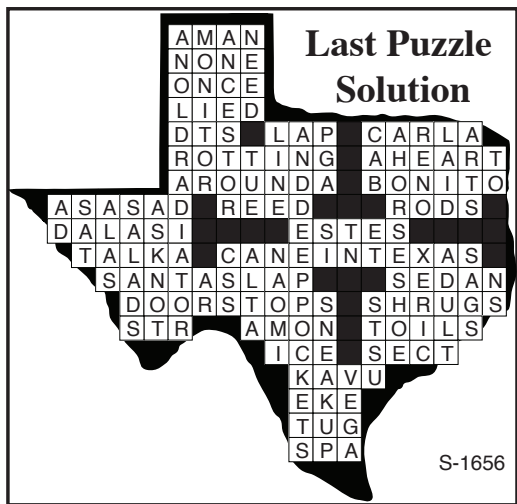
1 & 2 Bedroom Unfurnished
Accepting Applications
Rent based on income

TDD: 800-735-2989

Texas Press Statewide Classified Network
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Last Puzzle Solution



S-1656

GENE THOMPSON & ASSOCIATES HOMES AND MOBILE HOMES FOR RENT
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