

# More trees, please

**ZACH FREEMAN**  
azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

AZLE — For two years in a row, the City of Azle has celebrated Texas Arbor Day by giving away hundreds of free trees to its citizens. This year, all 160 of the city’s trees were reserved eight days before the Nov. 4 deadline. Live oaks, bur oaks, red oaks, cedar elms, tonto crepe myrtles, Natchez crepe myrtles and Chinese pistache from Texas Tree Farms were given out by city employees for this event.

“The inspiration really evolved from working to get that tree preservation ordinance in place and becoming a Tree City USA,” councilmember Stacy Peek said. “That was really one of the initiatives I had when I first started the tree preservation ordinance because essentially, I think it marks your town as really as caring about your environment and the community. To me it’s a label that says we care, and we want to preserve what’s remaining. We’re doing everything we can within the laws that al-

## City of Azle holds successful second annual Texas Arbor Day tree giveaway

low us to do it. This to me is in a way trying to reestablish what we lost, because we lost a lot.”

Azle’s City Council adopted a tree preservation and public tree care ordinance and established a tree board in late 2021 after hearing public backlash to the clear-cutting of trees by property developers. The ordinance prohibited clear-cutting and required developers to submit a tree survey and tree mitigation plan with their construction plans. On March 13, 2022, the City of Azle announced its recognition as a Tree City by the Arbor Day Foundation for the year. As part of gaining tree city recognition, the city also gave away 150 trees for Texas Arbor Day 2022.

Director of Planning and Development David Hawkins is glad to have received relatively mature, larger trees in

three gallon buckets this year and was happy to see some familiar faces in the tree pickup line.

“People can actually see the trees and the leaves and visualize it better,” Hawkins said. “I was very happy to hear there were some people who were repeaters in this program, their trees from last year did survive even though we had that tremendous drought. They were in high demand this year. Last year we were still pushing it out on the last day, and we still had some leftover. Who knows, maybe next year we’ll push for more trees than we did for this year.”

Hawkins and other city officials hope events like this will help secure Azle’s Tree City USA recognition for 2023. The public response to the



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PLEASE SEE **TREES** | A4    **Andrew Solorio with his new bur oak.**

# Parker County transportation bond proposal passes at polls

*Judge Deen:*  
*‘It’s a great day for Parker County’*

**MADELYN EDWARDS**  
springtownreporter@tricountyreporter.com

PARKER COUNTY, Texas — Parker County residents, including those in Precinct

1, can expect better roads in the future after the \$130 million transportation bond proposal passed during the Nov. 7 elections. Voters approved Parker

County’s Proposition A with 13,758 votes, or 58.84%, for the bond and 9,625 votes, or 41.16%, against it, according to the official results. County officials sought

local transportation funding through a bond election to support growth and expedite safety projects throughout the county. The 32 total bond projects

include safety improvements, new road extensions, widening roads and working on frontage roads and

PLEASE SEE **PARKER** | A7



# Springtown celebrates Veterans Day

*Springtown honored the community’s veterans with a parade and tokens of appreciation*

MADELYN EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Courtney Miller hands out tokens of appreciation to veterans Joe A. Wyatt, John Vernon and Joe Wyatt during the Veterans Day ceremony in Springtown in the Tabernacle.

SEE MORE **PHOTOS** | A15

# Voters approve AISD bond proposition

**ZACH FREEMAN**  
azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

AZLE — Proposition A, which allocates \$151 million in funds to numerous Azle Independent School District projects, passed by just over

## Plan addresses growth, more while maintaining lower tax rate than previous years

five percentage points during the Nov. 7 election. Property value growth and

recent legislation make it possible for the district to fund all proposed bond proj-

ects and still see a total tax rate 8 cents lower than last year’s. With major growth

in the community in recent years, some schools have struggled to keep up with increased class sizes and the needs of a larger student body. Azle ISD is projected to add 1,000 more students in the next five years, bringing

its total number of students to over 8,000.

Funding from the proposition will be used to build a new campus for Azle Junior High School. The new and

PLEASE SEE **AISD** | A6



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# Leaving a legacy

Springtown Chamber Director Amy Walker retires, passes torch to new leader Terri Toone

MADELYN EDWARDS  
springtownreporter@tricountyreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — After being involved with the Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce for years, Amy Walker officially joined the chamber as a member but exited as its leader.

Walker, one of Springtown's most recognizable residents, has stepped down from her position as the chamber's executive director and handed the baton to Terri Toone, who started working at the chamber in March.

The motivating factor of Walker's retirement from the chamber is she wants to be with her two young grandchildren and her husband.

"I just felt like it was time to focus on the family," she said.

Despite stepping down from the director role, Walker plans to stay involved with the chamber and help Toone as much as possible. Toone described Walker as not only her mentor but also her sister.

"She's just a very loving and caring person, and she has taken me under her wing, even though I'm the oldest," Toone said with a laugh. "I just really appreciate her, and I know she wants me to succeed from the bottom of her heart."

Walker has lived in Springtown for more than 30 years and has raised her three sons there. She loved the community so much she decided to get involved through the PTA at all Springtown campuses, the school board and of course, the chamber of commerce. She was volunteering at the chamber when Judy Smerud

— who has an annual chamber award named after her — was the director. During the morning when Smerud died in 2005, Walker remembered coming in to cover the chamber office "while we all dealt with losing her."

"We worked together on many different projects over the years," Walker said. "She was just a wonderful lady who loved the community, and that's why you do these jobs because they don't pay."

Walker eventually became chamber director as her kids grew older.

"It was time for me to get more involved in something that I had passion and love for, and that was the community, and this was a great way to be able to do it," she said.

In retrospect, Walker described the chamber's events, the growth of the Wild West Festival and maintaining relationships with the city and Parker County as successes, though she wouldn't claim those as personal achievements.

"It takes a village," she said about the accomplishments. "It takes everybody."

Walker stressed the importance of connecting with other chambers of commerce in the county.

"I have great relations with the director at the Weatherford chamber and East Parker County, and to work with those ladies as part of Parker County, that makes me feel like we put Springtown on the map," she said.

After her first Wild West Festival as director, Walker said something special happened — she was embraced by Mary Harms, the chamber's current second vice president who helped create

the festival.

"I got a hug from Mary Harms, and she said, 'You did a good job,'" Walker said. "And that was it. Mary, she doesn't elaborate a lot, but that meant the world to me."

Walker praised the Springtown Chamber's board of directors for its support, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Walker said she struggled during that time with figuring out how to proceed without the in-person events that make up the chamber's budget.

"My board encouraged me every single month when I couldn't have the front doors open that, 'It's OK. We're going to make it through this.' And we did," she said.

Through the COVID-19 pandemic, Walker said she and former administrative assistant Marcia Garcia made sure to support local businesses as much as they could, such as by ordering food from restaurants.

"Supporting all of the local businesses in one way or the other as a director, I think, is huge," Walker said.

The chamber has more than 250 members, which Walker pointed out is quite a lot for a community the size of Springtown. One of the challenges Walker has had to face is retaining members and keeping in touch with them as the city grows.

"The bigger you get, it's harder to maintain that personal relationship with all the businesses," she said. "I think we've been very instrumental in a lot of our local businesses being successful by just word of mouth, just in the eblist flyers and stuff. I think we have made an impact on getting their name out in the community."



MADELYN EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce's new Executive Director Terri Toone leads the monthly chamber luncheon in October 2023.

During her involvement with the chamber and the school district, Walker has enjoyed witnessing Springtown graduates stay in town and start businesses.

"I got excited to see our kids graduating and moving on to the next level," she said. "What hit me the most was the kids that graduated from high school and stayed here and started businesses that to this day are so successful, and that always resonated with me to see that success. Our kids, they go off in different directions, but to see the kids that have built businesses in their community, successful businesses and still thriving, that's pretty exciting."

The chamber of commerce is a prominent supporter of Springtown Independent School District. The chamber awards scholarships to graduates, welcomes new teachers and recognizes career and technical students at luncheons. Kids in the performing arts often perform at chamber functions as well.

When asked about the news of a new chamber director, SISD Superintendent Shane Strickland wished Walker well and is looking forward to working with Toone.

"I am excited for Amy to be able to step away and have time to spend with her growing family and her friends," Strickland said. "She will be greatly missed in her role with the chamber. I and the other chamber board members look forward to working with Ms. Toone and the direction she will help lead the chamber in."

**TOONE FINDS HER PLACE**

Walker recalled instantly connecting with Toone as soon as they met. Toone met Walker when she joined the chamber's membership while she was working at RnR Event Center, and eventually, she was hired as an assistant at the chamber, though Walker thought she was better suited for the director role.

"I even went home and told my husband; I was like, I think she'd be great," Walker said about Toone. "She's got the personality. She loves people. We're so much alike in so many ways."

Likewise, Toone also felt at home at the chamber as soon as she walked in. Before moving to Springtown, she had never set foot into a chamber of commerce before. Dene Berry, who is on the chamber's board of directors, encouraged her to get involved.

"I love event planning, and I love working with people," Toone said. "I feel like I'm a people person. I don't know why; I'm just drawn to everybody. And also meetings and conventions, I like doing stuff like that. Anything that will build our community and put us together, I'm for it."

Toone came to Springtown four years ago. After moving from San Antonio to West Palm Beach, Florida, to be with her pregnant daughter, she found herself craving a place with friendly people and a hometown feel. Her realtor introduced her and her husband to a home in Springtown, and she was immediately sold on it.

"We had made three week-

end trips, and as soon as I saw that house, I said this is it," she said. "The neighbors were waving. I knew it."

Toone's hiring at the Springtown chamber falls in line with a tradition at Parker County chambers of commerce — all are staffed by women.

"I think it's a great job for women because it gives us flexibility to not just have a career but also have the flexibility with our families when we need it," Walker said. "We're just movers and shakers, quite honestly. We get things done. We know how to make it happen."

Toone didn't plan on taking on a new career after retirement. She prayed about the chamber executive director job, and in the end, she felt like God put her in the right spot.

"This is where I'm supposed to be," Toone said. "I really believe it in my heart."

Walker pointed out that Toone wants to make improvements to the chamber but also respects the chamber's history and why things are done a certain way.

"I have no doubt that she's going to implement some changes that are going to be great for the community," Walker said.

Moving forward, Toone wants to see the chamber grow, get younger folks to participate and show the business community what the chamber has to offer.

"We want to increase our membership, and not only increase the membership, but we need to get our members more involved," she said. "I want a packed, full house during the luncheons, standing room only. I would like to see our ambassadors get more involved."


Toone experienced the Wild West Festival for the first time this year and made a goal to visit every vendor booth and introduce herself, which she accomplished. She describes herself as nonjudgmental and approachable, and she wants what's best for the community.

"I want to leave a legacy like Ms. Amy," Toone said.



MADELYN EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce staff take a picture in the chamber office. From left is outgoing Executive Director Amy Walker, new Executive Director Terri Toone and Marketing and Account Manager Monica Beall.








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# How do you steal a truck by accident?

Those who know me understand I may be a little ADHD. It is hard for me to sit still and even harder to keep my mind focused on a single thing. When I get in bed at night my mind races through the limitless lists of things to do and jumps back and forth from thinking about a topic for a column, remembering to take my shirts to the cleaners, meeting with a customer or sitting down with an employee. My staff knows at any given time I may have three or four “to do lists” on my desk, and it is not the least bit unusual for me to be in the middle of talking to someone and stop to write down a thought which happened to pop into my brain.

I enjoy driving because it is a time when I am free of in-



**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.

terruptions and my mind can race from item to item without distractions. Some years ago, there was an occasion where letting my mind race almost got me into trouble.

I was in the ranching business. On this day I was delivering a mare to another ranch, but wanting to multitask, I thought I would drop my shirts off at the cleaners as I passed through town. It was the middle of our busy season and as I left the ranch in my white Ford dually, my

mind was thinking about what I needed to do after I got the mare delivered. I needed more feed for the grain bin, had to get back and move mares and babies from one pasture to another, medicate some sick animals, and instruct interns on some odd jobs I wanted done. All these thoughts were racing through my mind as I pulled into the cleaners.

I parked my truck like always, leaving the keys in the ignition. Upon grabbing up

my shirts out of the back seat, I bounded into the dry cleaner's. The woman who worked there was a friendly, outgoing lady and she suggested that while I was in the store, I pick up shirts I had left the week prior.

Waiting for the clerk to get my clean shirts off the rack, the door chime rang, and a middle-aged woman walked through the door. I tipped my hat and said hello, and she fell in line behind me. The clerk brought me the laundered shirts, I paid her, and then shot out the door. I walked up to “my truck” swung open the back door, and hung my shirts before jumping into the driver's seat. I turned the key in the ignition and started to drive away.

I had not driven more than

a couple of hundred feet, and I noticed a woman's purse in the driver's seat. My first thought was, which one of the interns had left their purse in my truck? Then I noticed the radio was on a station I did not listen to. Oh My! I had jumped into a white dually parked in front of the cleaners, but it was not mine!

I immediately stopped and backed up, pulled into a spot next to where my truck was parked, and sheepishly walked back into the cleaners. The two ladies were looking at me as I walked through the door, and they had huge smiles on their faces. The clerk shouted, “We were just getting ready to call the Sheriff!” and then giggled. The owner of the truck looked at me and said, “You

know if you borrow a truck you are supposed to return it full of fuel?”

Both women cracked up as I tried to explain my misdeed which I chalked up to having too many things on my mind. Thankfully, the rightful owner of the truck was a gracious, big-hearted woman and accepted my apologies with good humor and understanding. Though a little embarrassed, there was no harm and no foul.

The best part is I still have a clean criminal record with no mention of auto theft.

Thought for the day: Doing nothing is very hard to do. How the heck do you know when you are finished?

Until next time...I will keep ridin' the storm out

sam@hcnews.com

# Good for Business! Good for the Community!

About two years ago, the Azle area was approached with the possibility of working on the development of a community resilience initiative. Our touch point was Dr. Wesley Shotwell, pastor of Ash Creek Baptist Church in Azle, who knows Dr. John Thielepape, the representative of the government grant that would fully fund the project.

Focus groups met in the Azle area, and research was discussed that identified a behavioral pathway that begins with thoughts and activities that initially seem benign but increasingly lead toward targeted violence, something no community wants.

A planning committee began meeting, which led



**LET'S TALK AZLE**  
By David Shaffer

Dr. David Shaffer and his wife, Daniele, are Azle-area residents. David is the director of Son Shine Ministries (equipfamilies.org) and serves on the Azle Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and is a Chamber Ambassador (azlechamber.com). david@equipfamilies.org | 817-444-3777

to a large gathering of local leaders where the idea of the initiative was shared. Within the context of support from the entire group, a steering committee was formed, which includes leaders from key sectors (city, schools, businesses and the faith community).

The goal of the initiative is to provide off-ramps helping people exit the destructive pathway. As the steer-

ing committee regularly met, we decided on providing an early off-ramp with a focus on intentional, improved communication.

Popular author and public speaker Brian Tracy makes the point that “communication is a skill that you can learn. . . If you're willing to work at it, you can rapidly improve the quality of every part of your life.” Let's Talk Azle is not only the name of

the initiative but its mission.

The City of Azle, the Azle Independent School District, the Azle Area Chamber of Commerce and the Azle Area Ministerial Alliance have endorsed Let's Talk Azle.

Jennifer Herrington, executive director of the Azle Chamber, shared that “as a chamber, it is important for our members to grow and strengthen their relationships. We wholeheartedly back this initiative as something that can improve our members' connections to the community, to other businesses and within their own businesses.”

This past November 7, Let's Talk Azle took center stage at the monthly Azle Chamber luncheon presenta-

tion. Chamber members were invited to take part in the initiative which is designed to include group conversations over important topics. The initiative provides seven conversation cards as starters, with the hope that people will truly share with and listen to each other.

Haley Carter, agent/owner of Haley Carter State Farm Insurance, commented, “As a business owner, I'm excited to learn more about the Let's Talk Azle initiative. I was intrigued by their mission to achieve improved communication starting as early as school-age children. Learning to listen to others and letting people and their opinions/feelings be heard are crucial to the success of any relation-

ship. I can see when implemented in my business, it will not only help with team building but also understanding our customers' needs. Azle has always been a wonderful community in which to live and work. I'm thrilled to see such intentional steps being taken to see that we stay a place where people and businesses can thrive.”

Please check us out on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/LetsTalkAzle>. If you have not signed up to participate, please do so by sending a message to us on Facebook, or, if you prefer, by sending a note to my email address. We will equip you with the gear needed for your business or organization. Let's Talk Azle!

# Thanksgiving reflections

## The role of gratitude in physical and emotional health

**BY MICKY SHEARON**  
*Special to the TriCountyReporter*

In a world that has weathered the harrowing storms of a global pandemic, the concept of gratitude takes on a newfound significance. The COVID-19 crisis has illuminated the fragility of life, teaching us not to take the simplest joys for granted. As Thanksgiving approaches, it's an opportune time to explore the many benefits of living a life steeped in gratitude, both for our physical and emotional well-being.

**PHYSICAL BENEFITS OF GRATITUDE**

It's becoming increasingly clear how closely our mental states are intertwined with our physical health. Practicing gratitude can have a wide array of beneficial impacts on your body. For starters, people who maintain a grateful outlook tend to experience better sleep quality. Focusing on positive aspects of your life before bed can reduce the time it takes to fall asleep and improve sleep duration.

Additionally, gratitude is linked with lower levels of stress hormones like cortisol. When cortisol levels are

high, it can negatively affect everything from digestion to immunity. Engaging in acts of thankfulness can lower these stress markers, fostering a healthier physiological profile.

But the benefits don't stop there. Studies suggest that people who are consistently grateful have lower blood pressure and are less likely to suffer from chronic diseases. There is even evidence that gratitude can bolster immune function, making us more resistant to illness.

**EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING**

On the emotional front, the benefits of gratitude are equally compelling and far-

reaching. When you practice gratitude, you're essentially engaging in mental strength training. This can be especially beneficial for reducing symptoms of depression and anxiety, as focusing on positive aspects of life can counterbalance negative thoughts and feelings.

In addition, practicing gratitude enhances your capacity for empathy and reduces feelings of anger or resentment. By recognizing the good in your life, you become more attuned to the struggles and successes of others. This leads to a more compassionate worldview and a heightened ability to form meaningful connections.

Focusing on the positive elements in life also generates higher levels of happiness. Gratitude shifts our focus away from what we lack or wish were different, creating a mental space where contentment can flourish. This shift is significant in times of crisis or uncertainty, such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

**THE COVID-19 PERSPECTIVE**

The pandemic served as a global pause button, forcing us to reconsider our priorities. Suddenly, simple things like health, family and even the ability to walk freely outside became treasures. It underscored the importance of not taking things for granted

and elevated the role of gratitude in our lives. When the world outside is unstable, turning inward and counting our blessings can provide a much-needed anchor.

The lessons learned during the COVID-19 crisis have the power to catalyze a life-long practice of gratitude. This Thanksgiving, as we gather (safely) around our tables, let's commit to making gratitude more than just a seasonal practice. Let's make it a cornerstone of a life well-lived, knowing that this focus brings benefits far beyond the holiday season.

# Azle ISD has a lot to be thankful for

As we approach the Thanksgiving Holiday, Azle ISD has a lot to be thankful for, especially with the approval of the recent bond proposition. This is a tremendous accomplishment for Azle ISD and our community. A big thank you to everyone who took part in the election process. We truly appreciate everyone's effort in sharing factual information, showing up at the polls and helping get other voters to the polls. The big winners are our students and generations of future Hornets!

We know we have approached our community with several bond propositions over the past several years. Because of your sup-



**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.

port, the approved bond packages have created capacity for our PK-8th grade campuses past the demographer's 10-year projected student enrollment. This allows Azle ISD to focus on Azle High School for future projects. The high school renovations and addition approved

in November 2021 are in the final stages of completion. Once completed, the high school will have a capacity of 2,400 students. Our current AHS enrollment is 2,150 students.

For the bond projects just approved, we will start the design process soon to help

ensure everything will be ready for the start of the 2026-2027 school year. There will be no changes in our current grade level configuration until ALL projects have been completed. Throughout the process, we will stay committed to being strong financial stewards of your tax dollars, and delivering the projects within budget and on time.

Regarding Azle ISD financial transparency, once again this year, our business department's best practices helped Azle ISD earn a Superior rating, the highest rating from the state's school Financial Integrity Rating System. We are proud to have received a Superior rating consecutively for the last sev-

eral years.

On the state level, the 88th Legislative Session is now into its fourth called special session. The Governor's focus remains on public education. However, his priority is not about providing adequate funding or support for public education, but to deconstruct public education in Texas through implementing school vouchers/education savings accounts. No matter what is called, any form of vouchers will divert public school funds to subsidize private and home schools. We respect the fact that every parent should choose the type of education that is best for their children. However, the responsibil-

ity of paying for non-public school alternatives has rested on the parents, not the state and taxpayers. School choice and public education funding should be two separate issues, not leveraged against each other. Public funds should stay in public schools. I urge you to contact your elected officials.

Happy Thanksgiving to you and your family. We are thankful for you entrusting us with your children and allowing us the opportunity to partner with you in educating the future of our community.

*We Are Azle*  
Todd Smith,  
Superintendent of Schools



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Publisher  
**KIM WARE**  
publisher@tricityreporter.com

Managing Editor  
**CLAUDIA PEREZ RIVAS**  
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# Flip-flop debate closed

**MADELYN EDWARDS**  
springtownreporter@tricountyreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — After having a heated debate over flip-flops in September, the Springtown City Council passed an amendment to the council's dress code without much further discussion. In September, the council considered four amend-

## Springtown Council approves amended dress code

ments to the city's Elected and Appointed Officials Procedures and Protocol Policy, including one related to the dress code for council members attending outdoor events while representing the city. In the dress code, flip-flops were singled out,

among other kinds of attire, for being inappropriate at any meeting or event, except for emergency meetings. The council was split on this topic. Council members Michele Chandler Kelley and Richelle Pruitt argued to take the ban on flip-flops

out of the policy, describing it as nitpicky, while Mayor Pro Tem Walter Roberson and council member Scott Richardson said flip-flops shouldn't be allowed. With Mayor Greg Hood acting as the tiebreaker, the motion to pass the amendments

as presented failed. City Administrator David Miller said the dress code amendment would be tabled and rewritten. On Oct. 26, the dress code amendment came back to council with any reference to flip-flops removed. The policy instructs council members to wear professional and business casual attire for

events, and it doesn't mention specific kinds of clothes, except for recommending the use of city logo shirts. The council approved the amendment unanimously. "I think this fits a lot better," Chandler Kelley said before the dress code amendment was voted on.

# SISD bond to accommodate growth fails again



**MADELYN EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER**  
SISD Superintendent Shane Strickland talks to an audience about the school district's bond proposal at a town hall meeting on Oct. 19.

**MADELYN EDWARDS**  
springtownreporter@tricountyreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — For the fourth time in a row, the Springtown Independent School District's bond proposal failed at the polls. In Parker County's official results, voters rejected SISD's Proposition A on Nov. 7 with 1,980 votes, or 56.62%, against it and 1,517 votes, or 43.38% for the bond. In Wise County, this margin was even greater with 60.48%, or 300 votes, against the bond and 39.52%, or 196 votes, for the proposition, according to official results. The SISD school board called for the \$120.78 million bond election in August to build a new middle school while buying additional land for that project, convert the

intermediate school into a fourth elementary campus for grades pre-kindergarten through fifth grade and turn the current middle school into a ninth-grade center. All these tactics would have allowed the school district to add seats for more than 1,400 additional students. TEA reports that SISD is growing faster than 90% of all other Texas school districts, and SISD leaders have spoken at length about how campuses are overcrowded. "The result of this election does not change our top priority of providing the best education for our current and future students," Superintendent Shane Strickland said in a statement after results were released. "While these results are disappointing, they will moti-

vate us to continue to work hand-in-hand with our community to develop solutions to address student growth." This loss occurred despite the changes SISD officials made after the May 2023 bond election. SISD found new financial and bond planning advisers who made suggestions for reducing the tax impact of a bond proposal, and in August, the school board adopted a tax rate of \$0.9578 per \$100 valuation. If the bond had passed, the tax rate would have increased to \$1.1278, which is 1 cent less than last year's tax rate. Homeowners aged 65 years and older who have filed a homestead exemption would not have had a tax impact from the bond. Before the election, Strickland said the biggest

consequence of another failed bond proposal would be the rising construction inflation costs. "Each year, construction costs rise 6-9% due to escalation and inflation," Strickland said in a previous Tri-County Reporter article. "Parts are harder to come by, and labor shortages mean the cost of labor is increasing as well. Meanwhile, new families will continue to move in, and our student population will continue to grow." People in the SISD community can learn more about plans for the growing school district on SISD's website ([www.springtownisd.net](http://www.springtownisd.net)), on the district's social media pages or by going to school board meetings and district presentations.

## TREES

FROM PAGE A1

program was positive, with cars already lined up at city

hall by the time employees got there. "It's a nice tree. I do construction so I've already planted a few other trees, but you can never have too many if it's permitting," Andrew

Solorio said of his new bur oak. "I think the issue is that with so many new constructions in the area they're knocking down so many of the old trees, the old growth trees, so it's nice that they're



**ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER**  
"I just love that the city does this and improves air quality, planting more trees," Christin and Cameron Alapai said after receiving their cedar elm and Chinese pistache. "It's good for the environment."




**ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER**  
City Manager Tom Muir, community marketing specialist Kristen Pegues, councilmember Stacy Peek and Director of Planning and Development David Hawkins.


offering some free trees for us to replant and hopefully make green again." Other residents said the tree giveaway provided the perfect opportunity for them to improve the beauty of their property on a budget. "It looked pretty from all the pictures I looked up,"


Dylan Schneider said of his new Natchez crepe myrtle. "It sprouts a bunch of pretty flowers so hopefully that'll go down in the front yard for everybody to look at. It's perfect, a lot of people, including myself, can't really afford the trees, it's not at the top of my budget list, but we do want to

make our yard and our house look beautiful. This allows us to do that pretty much cost free." The city encourages residents who picked up a tree to share their planting pictures with them for future advertising by emailing them to [kpegues@cityofazle.org](mailto:kpegues@cityofazle.org).


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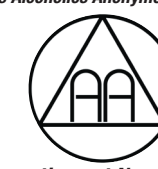
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# Eagle Heights recognizes heroes

## Elementary school honors vets with patriotic musical performance for Veterans Day

**ZACH FREEMAN**  
azlereporter@tricityreporter.com

AZLE — Third graders at Eagle Heights Elementary honored Azle veterans in a pre-Veterans Day musical performance on Friday, Nov. 10.

The students, donned in red, white and blue, led an audience in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by such patriotic songs as “You’re a Grand Old Flag,” “The Star-Spangled Banner,” “Fifty Nifty United States (with a Texas twist),” “My Country ‘Tis of Thee,” “Yankee Doodle” and “America the Beautiful.” The students finished the performance by singing each respective military branch song and asking veterans in the audience to stand and be recognized. Eagle Heights Elementary was the first of many Azle schools to hold an event or performance in celebration of Veterans Day for the week.

“They were very involved in

knowing what a veteran did and they were very respectful and very involved in making sure they did an amazing job for them,” Julie Hall, a third-grade bilingual teacher said. “We love the support from parents. Parent involvement is always very important. Their enthusiasm is just bumped up a notch anytime they see their parents here. They worked very hard, and we heard them sing beautifully every day from the hallway and they did amazing memorizing their lyrics.”

Eagle Heights is fairly unusual among Azle ISD schools in that nearly one-third of the students are emergent bilinguals or speak English as a second language. Hall says this often gives students and their parents a unique perspective.

“It’s hard to even describe how much they value the opportunity to be here and serve the community,” Hall said. “They want the best for

their children, so they give it their best. Attendance is in really high numbers in a bilingual classroom because parents value that opportunity.”

Bryan Weaver, the music teacher who led and taught the students these songs, thanked parents, veterans, Mrs. Ross for decorating, and other teachers, staff and administrators for their contributions at the conclusion of the musical.

“The kids did great,” Weaver said. “They’ve been working really hard for weeks and weeks to put it all together and I’m very proud of them.”

Principal Shelley Newton was also present and proud of her students, while ushering parents to the auditorium for the event.

“The third graders did a great job,” Newton said. “We’re very proud of them and all of our veterans and how they served our country.”



**ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER**  
Bryan Weaver, music teacher, taught the third graders and led them in each performance, also providing musical accompaniment.



**ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER**  
Several army veterans stand during the singing of “The Army Goes Rolling Along” by Eagle Heights third graders.



**ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER**  
Eagle Heights students gave a special Texas tribute to Fifty Nifty United States. “North, South, East, West in our own objective opinion Texas is the best of the fifty nifty United States,” the students sang.

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# OBITUARIES

## Debbie Barton 1960-2023

Debbie Sue Barton passed away unexpectedly on Nov. 5, 2023, in her home in Fort Worth.

A memorial service was held at 2 p.m., Friday, Nov. 10, in Biggers Funeral Chapel, 6100 Azle Avenue, Lake Worth, TX 76135.

Debbie was born at Harris Hospital in Fort Worth on Jan. 18, 1960, to parents Sue Carol Gantt and Kenneth Leon Short. She attended Azle High School and earned her Certified Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certification through the Texas Department of State Health Services.

Debbie dedicated her professional life to healthcare, serving for many years as an emergency room technician, emergency medical technician, and volunteer firefighter. She was shaped and supported by her JPS family, whom she loved dearly for over 25 years. Her warmth and nurturing spirit extended beyond the hospital walls to the blessed many that knew her. She was Momma, Mimi, Mama Bear, Nana and Mean Debbie. Every stranger was a friend, and every friend was family. She showed unwavering devotion and dedication to the support and care for her many loved ones, so often putting the well-being of others before her own. She could always be counted on for help and had a special place in her heart for animals. She was quick to pet sit for friends, helped care for the many animals on her sister's farm, and even rescued baby skunks, but she was especially proud of her two cats Calie Sue and Darcy Sue.

Debbie lived her life to the fullest; she was a fun-loving free spirit with a great sense



of humor and perfectly manicured feet. A self-described “gypsy,” Debbie was always ready for adventure. Whether it was game night at the Wahoo board or the bingo hall with a cold Dr. Pepper, a quick trip to Natalie's Snow Cone Stand, or a lush tropical cruise, you could always depend on her to be an enthusiastic partner in crime. She loved traveling and was especially fond of snowy Christmases in Utah, warm sandy beaches, and luxe boutique shopping. While she will be missed dearly, we celebrate a life well-lived — a life filled with love, laughter and friendship.

She was preceded in death by her husband, John Raymond Barton; her partner, Richard Michael Tyler; her mother, Sue Carol Gantt; and her stepmother, Helen Conwell Short.

Debbie is survived by her children, Kimberly Ann Johnson and Timothy Dwight Barton; her father, Kenneth Leon Short; her sisters, Terri Lynn Bullard and Celia Nan Crist (Larry); her brother, Kenneth Leon Short III; four grandchildren and one great-grandson.

*The Tri-County Reporter,*  
*Thursday Nov 16, 2023*

## Donnie Morris 1965-2023

Donnie Eugene Morris, 58, of Springtown, passed away Friday Oct. 27, 2023, in Fort Worth.

He was born on Feb. 28, 1965, in Fort Worth.

Donnie was a loving husband to his wife Lisa and a proud father to his three sons Justin McDonald, David McDonald and wife Taylor, Joseph McDonald and wife Jessica. He was also a proud and loving grandfather to his grandchildren Jessie, Harley, Kaydena, Waylon, and Whitley.

Donnie loved the outdoors, particularly fishing and hunting.

Donnie is survived by his father David Morris, and sisters Kim and April Morris.



The loss of Donnie leaves a void in the lives of those who knew and loved him. His memory will be cherished.

*The Tri-County Reporter,*  
*Thursday Nov 16, 2023*

## Charles Hamilton 1948-2023

Charles Terry Hamilton, son of the late Charles Hamilton and Beatrice McGaugh Hamilton, was born on Aug. 11, 1948, in El Paso, and departed this life on Nov. 5, 2023, at his residence in Dexter, Missouri, at 75 years of age.

Mr. Hamilton was raised in DeRidder, Louisiana and graduated from DeRidder High School in 1966. In 1968 he moved to Fort Worth to attend Fort Worth Christian College.

On Aug. 29, 1992, in Kaufman, he was united in marriage to Elizabeth (Libby) Ellen Edwards. He and Libby lived in Lakeside for 27 years. In May 2020, they moved to Libby's hometown of Dexter, Missouri.

Charles was very active in the Jaycees at the local and state level in Texas. He was the owner of Freedom Vans and Trucks that made custom conversions for vans and pickup trucks. Later he owned a transport company, moving company and personal vehicles all over the United States.

Other than by his parents, he was preceded in death by his son, Charles William Hamilton; by his brother, Tom Hamilton, and by his



grandson, Tristen.

He is survived by his wife of 31 years, Libby Hamilton of Dexter, Missouri; by three daughters, Coy Hamilton of Dadeville, Missouri, Christi Hamilton of Texas, and Misti Ashmall and husband Don of Oklahoma; by two sons, Jake Hamilton and wife Hannah and Quentin Hamilton and wife Grace of Fort Worth; by his sister, Dede Willis; by four brothers, Donnie Hamilton and wife Diane, Jimmy Hamilton and wife Lupe, Mike Hamilton and Craig Hamilton; by nine grandchildren, Alex, Michael, Dakota, Amber, Ryan, Tatum, CJ, Zowie, and Lucky; and two great-grandchildren.

*The Tri-County Reporter,*  
*Thursday Nov 16, 2023*

## Frances “Naomi” Fleming 1939-2023

Frances Naomi (Ellis) Fleming, age 84, passed away on Thursday, Nov. 2, 2023.

Service is at noon on Thursday, Nov. 16, in Biggers Funeral Chapel, 6100 Azle Avenue, Fort Worth, TX 76135. Graveside service is at 2:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 16, at Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery, 2000 Mountain Creek Pkwy., Dallas, TX, 75211.

Visitation was Wed., Nov. 15, at Biggers Funeral Home.

Naomi was born July 11, 1939, in Blooming Grove to Ida Ruth Fredrick and Thomas Allen Ellis.

She married Willard P. Fleming and they had three children. She loved being with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Naomi's door was always open for the neighborhood children. She was a loving mother and mother-in-love. Anyone who knows her will miss her dearly.

At a young age, her family moved to Euless and raised her family there. With all the children grown, in 1979, they moved to Kingston, Oklahoma to live on Lake Texoma. In 1993, they moved to Azle. Naomi was a



Christian and accepted Jesus Christ as her Savior.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Ida and Thomas Ellis; her husband, Willard; two children, Daniel Fleming and Darla Fleming; and her sister, Billye Waldrip.

Naomi is survived by her daughter, Debra Beard and her husband, Roy; her grandchildren, Amy and Jon Hunt, Jessie and Jeff Tripp and Danielle and Matt Stinson; her great-grandchildren, Hunter Hunt, Ashlyn Tripp, Addie Tripp, Austyn Tripp, Nataleigh Eubank and Maddi Stinson; and her sister, Janie Doshier.

*The Tri-County Reporter,*  
*Thursday Nov 16, 2023*

## AISD FROM PAGE A1

improved campus will accommodate the growing sixth- through eighth-grade student population with new, modern amenities and facilities. After the completion of all bond projects, fifth and sixth grade campuses will be reconfigured into elementary schools, with fifth grade students attending the same schools as K through fourth graders and sixth graders joining seventh and eighth graders at the junior highs. The earliest this is projected to happen is the start of the 2026-2027 school year. The school's historic, 1950s era gym, a second gym added in about 1998 and the athletic field will be preserved and incorporated into the new campus' design.

“A big thank you to the Azle ISD community,” Superintendent Todd Smith said in a statement to the Tri-County Reporter. “A special thank you to everyone who took part in the election process, every vote matters. I truly appreciate everyone's

effort in getting to the polls and helping get voters to the polls. This is a tremendous accomplishment for Azle ISD and our community. The big winners are our students and future Hornets!”

Additional classrooms will be added to Forte Junior High School along with upgraded science labs, career and technical education, special education, physical education and health classrooms.

Funds will also be used to upgrade police headquarters for Azle ISD officers, construct a new maintenance warehouse off Sandy Beach Road and improve access for advanced academics at the junior high level.

Overall, the bond seeks to improve the quality of Azle campuses and resources, minimize student transitions between campuses, and better align curriculum to state standards.

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<b>THE ABBEY CHURCH</b> Pastor: Paul Brownback 10400 Jacksboro Hwy <b>817-238-1404</b> <b>www.TheAbbeyChurch.com</b> Morning Worship.....10:30 AM Community Groups.....Various Times	<b>AZLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH</b> <b>DISCIPLES OF CHRIST</b> Interim Minister Rev. Russell Clark, Family Life Minister Emerson Braun 117 Church St. • <b>817-444-3527</b> Sunday School.....10:00 AM Morning Worship.....11:00 AM	<b>GRACEPOINTE CHURCH</b> 4110 E. Hwy 199, Springtown Pastor: Timothy McKeown <b>817-221-5683 gracepointesbc.org</b> Sunday School.....9:45 am Sunday Service.....11:00 AM Wednesday Bible Study.....6:00 PM	<b>LEGACY CHURCH</b> Assembly of God Church Pastor: Gary D. Veazey Hwy. 199 & Jaybird Lane <b>817-221-2983</b> 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	<b>THE WORD@LAKESIDE CHURCH OF GOD</b> 9396 FM 1886 Fort Worth, TX 76135 <b>817-237-5500</b> thewordatlakeside.com Pastors: Brandon and Kelly Bohannon Worship Pastor: Christen Moody Family Life and Young Adult Pastors: Jodie and Mark James, Kids Pastor: Katie Pearson, Student Pastors: Taylor and Sheridan Tomlin, Creative Directors: Logan and Carrie Edwards, Connections Coordinators: Preston and Ashley Larrew
<b>ASH CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH</b> Pastor: Dr. G. Wesley Shotwell 300 South Stewart St. <b>817-444-3219</b> <b>www.ashcreekbc.org</b> 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	<b>CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH</b> 2233 Hwy 199 E., Springtown <b>817-221-LIFE (5433)</b> Sunday Worship Service.....10:00 AM Wednesday.....7:00 PM	<b>HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> 800 Highcrest Dr. - Azle <b>817-444-3063</b> 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	<b>THE RANCH CHRISTIAN COWBOY CHURCH</b> Pastor: Greg Slankard 7955 Reed Rd., Azle <b>682-327-7082</b> <b>www.TheRanchCCC.org</b> Sunday School 9:30 am • Worship 10:00 AM Weds 7:00 pm • Thurs Potluck 6:30 pm	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
<b>COMMUNITY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH</b> Pastor - Alton Davis 817-521-4510 1405 Reynolds Rd., Azle <b>817-444-7117</b> Directions: 730 N. to 1542 .5 mi. right on Cardinal, left on Reynolds Sunday School.....9:45 AM Morning Worship.....11:00 AM Sunday Evening.....6:00 PM Wednesday Evening.....7:00 PM	<b>CROSSROADS BAPTIST CHURCH</b> Pastor - Jon Baker Corner FM 730S & FM 1886 <b>817-755-0279</b> Transportation Available Worship Service.....10:30 AM Wed. Prayer Service.....7:00 PM	<b>HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA</b> 4795 E. Hwy 199 - Reno <b>817-221-HOPE</b> Follow us on Facebook for streaming services Sunday School.....9:00 AM Traditional Service.....10:00 AM	<b>SILVER CREEK METHODIST CHURCH</b> Pastor: Bill Killough 2200 Church Rd., Azle <b>817-444-1382</b> <b>www.silvercreekmc.org</b> Sunday School 9:30 am • Worship 10:30 am	
<b>THE EDGE CHURCH - AZLE</b> 1313 S.E. Pkwy, Azle <b>817-237-4822</b> Missouri Synod “Love God - Serve Others - Share Jesus” Traditional Worship.....9:30 AM Contemporary Worship.....11:00 AM	<b>FIRST METHODIST CHURCH OF AZLE</b> Pastor: Rev. Raymond Gilman 200 Church St., Azle <b>817-444-3323</b> Morn. Worship.....8:30, 9:45 & 11 AM Sunday School.....9:45 & 11 AM Youth (UMYF).....5:00 PM Sun & 6:30 PM Wed	<b>SOLID ROCK BIBLE CHURCH</b> 591 S. Reno Rd., Springtown, Texas 76082 Pastor - Bill Gay - <b>817-304-7443</b> 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	<b>SILVER CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH</b> Pastor: Jay Ditty Minister of Music: David Musick Corner FM 730 S. & Veal Station Rd. Church <b>817-444-2325</b> <b>www.silvercreekbc.org</b> Sunday School.....9:45 AM Morning Worship.....10:50 AM Evening Worship.....7:00 PM Wed. Prayer Service.....6:00 PM	

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







# SHS students train to be EMTs in new program

MADELYN EDWARDS  
springtownreporter@tricountyreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — In addition to playing football and being in band, Springtown High School seniors Zachary Schlotter and Collin Walker found something else to add to their school schedules — training to become emergency medical technicians.

“It’s a lot of work, but I feel it’s going to be worth it for sure,” Schlotter said.

Before this school year, EMT training wasn’t available to SHS students. Springtown, along with other local school districts, partnered with Parker County Hospital District to provide high school seniors with this training starting in the fall. Parker County Hospital District Emergency Medical Services Director Jim Backus said leaders of career and technical education programs at schools contacted him to find practicum experience for their students. Backus decided to move forward with the training program after seeing how interested students were in becoming EMTs.

“The state currently is in a pretty critical situation where there’s not a lot of EMTs and paramedics out there anymore,” Backus said. “There’s a great need for them. I thought the best thing to do is on a grassroots level, let’s get some of the CTE kids into the EMT program their senior year, and then they can graduate with an EMT certification.”

To be a part of the program, SHS students have to be seniors on the law and public service pathway. At the end of the

school year, students can take the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians test.

After passing that test, graduates can work as EMTs at hospitals, in various industries where EMTs are needed or in fire departments. They can also further their education by enrolling in paramedic school, Backus said.

“It’s a great gateway to do a lot of things in emergency management, emergency response,” Backus said. “It’s just good to have.”

Walker is determined to become a firefighter after graduating from SHS, which is why he chose to enroll in the new EMT program and get a head start on his career. He was inspired by his grandfather who worked in fire service.

“I wanted to live up to his legacy,” Walker said.

Schlotter’s dream is to be an astronaut. While becoming an EMT or paramedic is technically his backup career, he thinks the skills he learns in EMT training will help him shoot for the stars, literally.

“I really like helping people and to be able to save someone’s life, seeing them at their worst, (is) really just something that fuels me to this career path,” Schlotter said.

Students in the EMT program travel to the hospital district’s educational annex in Weatherford, where they can practice on the hospital district’s equipment, go on ride-outs in the ambulances and complete rotations at the nearby hospital, Backus said.

EMT students learn about how the human body functions, how to treat medical and traumatic emergencies,

processes in working with police and fire departments and how to administer certain medicines.

“It’s not the easiest class in the world,” Schlotter said. “You do have to buy into it and commit to it.”

Students also get to practice certain techniques, like applying oxygen devices, in a cadaver lab.

“It’s so important to actually have hands on human tissue to see how those devices are applied without having to worry about harming someone,” Backus said.

SHS law enforcement teacher Larynn Bolyer pointed out that experiencing the cadaver lab allows students to find out if they can handle the more morbid parts of an EMT’s job sooner rather than later.

Walker enjoyed his time in the cadaver lab and noticed the differences between working with a plastic dummy versus human skin.

“It was a fun experience,” he said. “It really gave me some practice on the airway skills that we just learned that week.”

So far, the new program has been going well, and the students seem to be happy to be a part of it, Backus said.

“It’s exciting to see that enthusiasm,” he said. “To see some people who are excited about it makes us excited.”

Schlotter and Walker said the most beneficial abilities they’ve learned are time management, organization, leadership and teamwork. They have also valued their time working with students from other school districts and being able to collaborate with multiple kinds of



MADELYN EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER  
Springtown High School seniors Zachary Schlotter and Collin Walker are training to become emergency medical technicians.

personalities.

“There’s a bunch of brilliant human beings in there,” Walker said. “All of them in there are really skilled, talented workers. A lot of them I feel like could go take the National Registry exam and ace it right now.”

SHS students who are in the EMT program have to check in with Bolyer and let her know if they need anything, though Bolyer said the students have been independent and not needed much from her.

“The hardest thing right now is time management,” Bolyer said. “Both of mine from Springtown are in football, band and the program, so time management is extremely important for them. But so far, they have not come to me with any major concerns and seem to be really enjoying it.”

Walker’s time management strategy is to prioritize certain tasks.

“School and work always comes first and then extra-curriculars,” he said. “I would

get homework done and schoolwork done at this time before I go to anything else.”

Backus said he would have loved to be able to join an EMT program when he was in high school. His advice to students is to develop a love for their community.

“That’s the best thing about our job is that at the end of the day, it’s like I just helped somebody out,” he said. “I made a difference in their life, and to my best ability, I made some positive changes.”

## LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICES

### 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](http://lockerfox.com) on Monday the 27th day of November, 2023 at 11:00 AM to satisfy a landlords lien, pursuant to Chapter 59, Texas Property Code. Payment to seller via credit/debit card and pickup at the facility. Self-Storage unit contents of the following customers containing household and other goods will be sold. 10 Federal Self Storage, 2920 Avenue F, Arlington, TX, 76011 Ronica Phillips. Alexus Paxton. Maria Borja. Darryon Jones. Danny Cowger. Marissa Rincon. Tina Marie Alonzo. Kenneth Clark. Robert Davidson. Adriana CASTRO. Gabriel Garza. Sade Wesley. Crystal Butterfield. Kim Ridges. Jonathan M Averill. Nancy Greer. Letty Bolton. Bria Goodman. Alicia Barron. Giselle Roussell. Joni Willis. Barbara Rowell. Andrea Young. Janine Jackson-Collins

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Pursuant to Chapter 59, Texas Property Code, TMS STORAGE, LLC which is located at 9910 Hwy 199 W., Poolville, Texas 76487 will hold a public auction of property being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale will be at 10:00 a.m. on November 21, 2023 at 9910 Hwy 199 W., Poolville, Texas 76487. Property being sold includes contents in space of following tenant, TENANT'S COMPLETE NAME as shown on rental agreement: April Erskine-Dery Unit F65: misc. household and Sheila Helms Units F64 and F67: misc. household.

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Edward Wayne Kirkpatrick, Deceased, were issued on September 27, 2023, in Cause No. 23P243, pending in the Probate Court of Parker County, Texas, to: Alice Michelle Anfin. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. c/o: Alice Michelle Anfin 1412 McDavid Drive Aledo, Texas 76008 DATED the 7 day of November, 2023. /s/ Deborah M. Cascino Deborah M. Cascino Attorney for Alice Michelle Anfin State Bar No.: 24043598 107 North Alamo Weatherford, TX 76086 Telephone: (817) 599-8485 Facsimile: (817) 599-8483 E-mail: [deb@debascinolaw.com](mailto:deb@debascinolaw.com)

### Request for Invitation to Bid

Notice is hereby given that the City of Azle, Texas, will receive sealed Bids at Azle City Hall, 505 W Main St, Azle, TX, until 10:00am local time on Tuesday, December 5th, 2023 for the purchase of a Restroom Trailer #2024-002. Bids will be opened and read aloud publicly following the close of the Bid period. Bidders may receive a copy of the invitation to Bid from the City's website at [www.cityofazle.org](http://www.cityofazle.org). For additional information, please contact Jennifer Walls/Purchasing Agent at 817.444.7003 or by email at [jwalls@cityofazle.org](mailto:jwalls@cityofazle.org).

### NOTICE TO VENDORS AND PROSPECTIVE VENDORS OF AZLE ISD REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS -

#23-12.08 General Merchandise, Groceries, Supplies, Equipment and Services

Azle Independent School District (AISD) is soliciting proposals to establish a vendor list for commodities which are used mainly in the schools and departments on an as needed basis and to establish vendors for the 2023-2024 school year. This would include Products and Services needed for Instructional, Career & Tech Program (CTE), Fine Arts, Maintenance, and Transportation. Responses will be accepted electronically through our eBidding system beginning November 16, 2023 at 8AM (CST). Closing date for this request is December 8, 2023 at 10AM (CST). The Request for Proposal package may be obtained electronically via <https://azleisd.ionwave.net/>. Information will be posted on our website: [www.azleisd.net/Departments/BusinessOffice/Purchasing/Bids and Proposals](http://www.azleisd.net/Departments/BusinessOffice/Purchasing/BidsandProposals), or you may call the Purchasing Office at 817-444-0805 for assistance. Vendors must be registered in the AISD Purchasing online vendor registration system to view and provide a response.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

TEXAS HEALTH HARRIS METHODIST HOSPITAL AZLE  
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF HILL BURTON UNCOMPENSATED SERVICES

Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Azle, Azle, Texas will provide from January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024 at least \$100,000 of Hill Burton uncompensated services. Inpatient services of the facility will be available on a first request, first served basis to eligible persons who are unable to pay for hospital services until this hospital's annual compliance level is met. Eligibility for uncompensated services will be limited to persons whose family income is not more than (Category A) of the current poverty income guidelines established by the Department of Health and Human Services. A person whose family income is above, but less than double the poverty guidelines (Category B) will be eligible for a 50% reduction from the usual Inpatient hospital services. This notice is in accordance with 42 CFR 124.504 Notice of Availability of Uncompensated Services. We invite interested parties to comment on the allocation plan; 108 Denver Trail, Azle, Texas 76020. 817-444-8600.

## 2023 Adopt A Senior Citizen

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## Now Hiring Part-time Photographer



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

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Eagle Crest Vets

Senior living center awards plaques to resident veterans, hosts presentation by Vietnam veteran for Veterans Day



Jim Mitchell, Vietnam veteran, recounted stories and mused to audience members and fellow veterans who were recognized at the ceremony.

ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

SISD board approves new mission, vision, core values

**MADELYN EDWARDS**  
springtownreporter@tricityreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — Springtown Independent School District's board of trustees updated the district's mission, vision and core values.

SISD's new mission is "cultivating a better future by growing and serving (the district's) students, staff and community," and its vision is to "be a leader in education, where every student is inspired to pursue their passions, reach their unique potential and become successful and responsible citizens."

SISD Communications and Marketing Director Kendra Hutchison described the mission as focusing on the present and SISD's purpose, while the vision statement is what SISD aspires to be.

Hutchison gave a presentation about the process to establish SISD's mission, vision and core values in August. This topic was brought before the board again during a special meeting on Oct. 2 before being approved on Oct. 23.

Decisions made by the school board regarding policy and procedures are supposed to be in line with the district's mission and vision, and the board is tasked with communicating the vision to the community, Hutchison said during the August meeting.

The new core values, which were the same as what Hutchison presented in August and based on how staff members should be treated and what SISD owes to its stakeholders, are:

- Communication — to create better relationships, manage conflicts more easily, accomplish goals and have effective expression.
- Community — being thankful for and supporting people in community and

"understanding that our collective success depends on each member's success."

- Growth — being determined to continue improving.
- Service — listening to and anticipating the needs of stakeholders and creating value that surpasses expectations.
- Success — accomplishing goals.

In August, it was pointed out that the mission, vision and values hadn't been updated since 2009.

"There have been significant changes in the leadership of SISD," Hutchison said.

"With these changes, we recognized the need to reevaluate our mission and vision to better align them with the aspirations of the district and where we aim to head in the future."

The process to determine the mission, vision and core values had several stages and included a needs assessment, community surveys, identifying priorities and formulating strategies to achieve goals. Then, the school board worked on making sure the mission and vision lined up with the core values and district goals. The original vision presented in August was revised to remain focused on student outcomes.

"The culmination of these efforts resulted in our new mission, vision and core values, which we are excited to embrace," Hutchison said.

"Moving forward, we will proceed to the implementation and monitoring phase of our strategic plan and evaluate its impact on our stakeholders and the district."

She added, "We are committed to ensuring that our mission, vision and core values reflect our district's commitment to excellence and the best interests of our students, staff and community."

Scholarships offered for cybersecurity training

Gov. Abbott encourages Texas students to participate in cybersecurity training with an online talent search and \$20 million in scholarships

**FROM STAFF REPORTS**

AUSTIN — Gov. Greg Abbott encourages Texas high school and college students to participate in CyberStart America (CSA) and Cyber FastTrack (CFT), innovative, online cybersecurity talent search and competition programs sponsored by the National Cyber Scholarship Foundation that awards more than \$20 million in scholarships to high-performing students.

"As Texas' technology industry continues to grow, it is more important now than ever for Texas to strengthen its cybersecurity workforce and talent development," said Gov. Abbott. "These immersive, online cybersecurity programs will help ensure high school and college students have the opportunity to develop crucial skills for high-demand jobs in this critical industry. CyberStart and Cyber FastTrack are engaging ways to jumpstart a career in cybersecurity, and I encourage Texas students to take advantage of this opportunity to become leaders in this important field. Together, we will continue to build a more secure Texas."

Registration for both CSA and CFT is now open, with student play ending on March 15, 2024.

Open to all students in grades 9-12, CSA provides students with access to more than 200 unique security challenges they can solve as cybersecurity agents investigating criminal gangs. As students play, they develop cybersecurity skills and receive cybersecurity credentials for subjects that include coding, penetration testing and digital forensics.

CFT aims to simplify and accelerate college students' path to a cybersecurity career by helping them develop advanced training and skills needed for the profession. Currently, there are more than 58,000 cybersecurity-related job openings in Texas and more than 660,000 open cyber-related jobs in the United States.

In 2022, the Texas Department of Information Resources created the CyberStart America Texas task force to increase awareness and participation in both CSA and CFT among Texas students. The task force is working to include Texas curriculum standards in CSA challenges to support educators who want to bring the program into their school. In the 2022-2023 school year, more than 5,000 Texas high school students participated in CSA.

In 2020, Gov. Abbott announced a partnership with CyberStart America to help promote the cybersecurity field for Texas high school students.

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# Frostpunk

Survive an ice age with steampunk technology

From the SteamOS page — “Frostpunk is the first society survival game. As the ruler of the last city on Earth, it is your duty to manage both its citizens and infrastructure. What decisions will you make to ensure your society’s survival? What will you do when pushed to the breaking point? Who will you become in the process?”

This game came out in 2018. I purchased it during the cold snap/pandemic in 2021. But the game made me viscerally angry. It was just too depressing. It was so promising, too! Great graph-



GAME ON  
By Jennifer Harrison

My opinions on computer gaming and some of my favorite games. I’ve been playing games on the home computer since the days of the Trash 80. I love indie, open-world, unique, puzzle, and resource games. The cake is a lie.

ics, beautiful wintry landscapes, and steampunk-styled technology. In retrospect, this was the wrong kind of game to be playing during a cold snap/pandemic. I rage-quit the game, uninstalled it, and wrote an angry review on Steam talking about how I

hated the moral choices I was forced into. So the other day I decided to reinstall it and give it another try.

The premise of the game is that you’re in a world that is getting increasingly colder, and you have to keep your citizens alive by any means possible. Everything you know and vaguely tolerate in a society simulation is here. With simulation games, it’s always a careful balance between keeping your people fed and safe, and exploring new technologies that will make their lives better. In this case, you’re doing what they actually need to survive, which doesn’t always allow for their comfort and happiness.

There are two scenarios with the base game — A New Home, which is the origin story, and Endless, which is just keeping your citizens alive while the temperature drops.

The structure of this game resembles Civilization. Instead of enemies to fight, there’re the ever-present cold and limited resources.



SCREENSHOT COURTESY 11 BIT STUDIOS

A view of the city, with the Generator in the middle.

Every few days the temperature drops from -22 degrees Fahrenheit to -44 degrees Fahrenheit. Resource gathering is limited to four things: coal, wood, steel and raw food. It looks like there are some elements you’ll mine later, but that’s not available at the beginning of the game. You can build around the inner ring within the radius of the Generator, and eventually get the technology to heat individual buildings. You’ll be researching many of your builds, so, like Civilization, it’s a careful choice of which technologies to research first. There’s also exploration, which will bring more citizens, technology and supplies to your city.

Your goal is to make sure your citizens survive the coming cold. It’s not easy to do that without resort-

ing to inhumane tactics. The game is chock full of moral dilemmas. Do you have your citizens work double shifts? Do you force the children to work? Do you add sawdust to the food? I’ve been trying to play this game in easy mode without giving the citizens double shifts and without child labor, and I keep running out of food/coal/wood at day 16. This is what made me mad at the game in the first place.

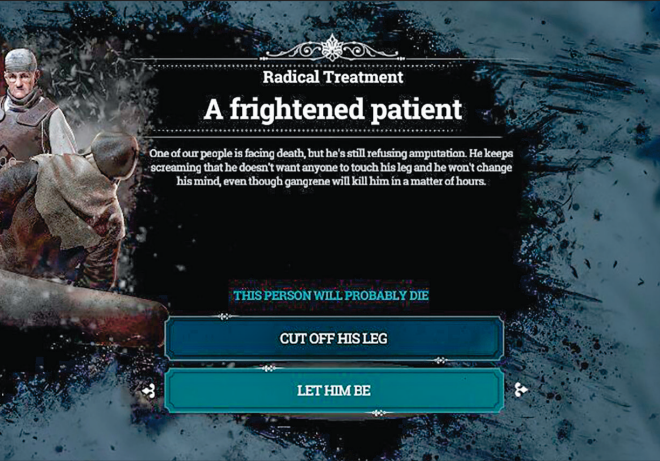
The game charts your progress and vulnerabilities based upon the mix of Despair and Hope at the bottom of the screen. As long as your Hope levels are above your Despair levels, the citizens will do what you want. If you have 0% Hope, you lose the game.

One absolutely useless but beautiful feature of the game is that you can customize

your view, so there are more ice crystals and soot on the lens you’re seeing the game through. All the menus and splash screens are well-done visualizations, and the graphics are superb. This game looks wonderfully grunged and lived-in.

Do I recommend this game? If you like harsh environmental sims where you have to keep your citizens alive against overwhelming odds, this is the game for you. I found it very difficult to play, partly because I have empathy for fictional video-game characters. And I really hate being cold. I started over several times, trying to find the right balance between keeping the citizens happy and researching new technology.

Available on SteamOS (2019) for Macintosh and PC from 11 bit studios.



SCREENSHOT COURTESY 11 BIT STUDIOS

This sort of thing is what aggravates me most about this game. It’s asking me to make a moral choice between giving this person bodily autonomy and forcing them to undergo a medical procedure to keep them from dying. I chose to amputate, which meant I had to sign the Prosthetics Law to give amputees a chance to work again.




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## Springtown Cub Scouts hold US flag retirement ceremony



# Shop Main Street Azle

A colorful illustration of four shops on Main Street Azle. From left to right: a pink boutique with a striped awning and a window display of three dresses; a red fashion store with a solid awning and a window display of a dress and shoes; a yellow boutique with a dark awning and a window display of shoes; and a teal boutique with a solid awning and a window display of shoes. A green tree is on the far left. The background is a light yellow with white diagonal lines.

A black and white advertisement for Rural Gas Supply. At the top, the text "RURAL GAS SUPPLY" is in a large, bold, sans-serif font. Below it, in a smaller font, is "Family owned & operated since 1946". The main headline "PROPANE & TANKS" is in a very large, bold, sans-serif font. To the left of the headline is a circular logo with "HISTORIC BUSINESS" at the top, "TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION" at the bottom, and "TEXAS TREASURE" around the sides. In the center of the logo is a silhouette of the state of Texas with an exclamation mark above it. To the right of the logo is a white propane delivery truck. The tank of the truck has "RURAL GAS SUPPLY CO." and "AZLE 444-4613 TEXAS" written on it. Below the truck is a small propane tank. At the bottom, the text "REFILLS AVAILABLE AT OUR LOCATION" is in a bold, sans-serif font. The address "140 W. Main St. • Azle" and the phone number "817-444-4613" are at the very bottom in a large, bold, sans-serif font.

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# Bloody Murder comes to Azle

Azle Arts Association presents murder-mystery spoof directed by Carol Braden

**ZACH FREEMAN**  
azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

AZLE — For 25 years, Azle's Popcorn Players have graced the stage, making generations of audiences laugh and cry.

Director Carol Braden, one of five founding members still with the theater, is looking forward to the night of her second-ever time directing "Bloody Murder." The play is a new spin on the classic murder mystery novel. The colorful characters and setting of Lady Somerset's mid-twentieth century English estate may appear a little too familiar, though all is not what it seems. A story full of twists and turns, "Bloody Murder" gives "Death of the Author" a whole new meaning.

"I'm amazed it's gone on as long as it has," Braden said. "I'm not real fond of directing, but in a community theater when you've been involved in it as long as I have, it becomes a responsibility to have to direct... The real part I enjoy about directing

is... I get to pick the play and it's something that I read and that I see in my mind very creatively. I want to transform that onto the stage and share that vision with others."

A lifelong passion, Braden studied theater in college and has taught students for University Interscholastic League (UIL) contests at the sixth, seventh and eighth grade levels, primarily at Azle Junior High. Braden has been an Azle ISD art and social studies teacher for 21 years.

Braden has worn a lot of hats, on-stage and off. To execute her vision, she controls the lighting and sound design to a T. With sets being finalized and the number of rehearsals ramping up during "Hell Week," the production's cast is excited to be so close to completion after many nights spent practicing.

"It's fun working with all these people and our best director is directing the show, so it's been outstanding," Jerry Hall, who plays Devon Tremaine, said.

Scott Nurmela, board presi-

dent and another founding member of the Players, said the time spent with his cast-mates is the best part of the whole experience.

"The rehearsals and hanging out with everybody is why we do all this," Nurmela said. "The shows are the icing on that cake. The cake is good, too. We're all friends. Even if people come in and maybe do a show and never do another one, once a Popcorn Player, always a Popcorn Player."

As well as playing four characters, Nurmela also built the set, which he says acts as a creative outlet and keeps him out of trouble. Braden looks forward to not only a revamped show with a new cast, like Nurmela, she also treasures the contributions and chemistry that makes it all happen.

"If I'm sitting there in rehearsal and they're making me laugh then that's a good thing because it's kind of hard to find the humor when you've seen it over and over and over again," Braden said. "But when they bring it and I laugh, I'm like 'yes, got it!' It's



**ZACH FREEMAN** | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER  
Holden, Gena Grauman as Lady Somerset, Ron Counts as the "pompous and full-of-himself" Major, and Rozanne Gann as the maid, Jane.



**ZACH FREEMAN** | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER  
Lady Somerset takes aim at the Major.



**ZACH FREEMAN** | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER  
Joshua Holden as Charles Pomeroy, Jerry Hall as Devon Tremaine, Cynthia Hall as The Countess, and Emily Ball as Emma Reese.

going to be fun... It's going to be a great show. It's just hilarious. A big farce."

While as fun as a barrel of blue monkeys, the play's actors say it can also be a lot of work. Gena Grauman plays Lady Somerset, a key figure in the plot who has nearly 500 lines.

"I thank my husband for helping me with my lines," Grauman said. "It can be very difficult to learn a lot of lines... You pray a lot."

Braden urges Azle to come out the weekend of Nov. 10 and Nov. 17 to support the arts.

"It's hard and since we are a community theater, we don't make any money," Braden said. "It's put back into the shows (because) sometimes it gets a little tough to sustain a theater. We do it because we love it, and we want to entertain the people and the community."

Popcorn Players Theater is located at 1012 Southeast

Parkway in Azle and tickets are available in-person, online at [www.azlearts.org](http://www.azlearts.org), or by phone at 817-238-PLAY. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors and students and \$10 for the Sunday matinee.

**Showtimes**

- Friday, Nov. 10 at 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, Nov. 11 at 7:30 p.m.
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- Friday, Nov. 17 at 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, Nov. 18 at 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday, Nov. 19 at 2:30 p.m.

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# Playing it safe

## Azle ISD and Tarrant 9-1-1 promote healthy living and emergency preparedness for Red Ribbon Week

**ZACH FREEMAN**  
azlereporter@tricityreporter.com

AZLE — Schools all around the Azle Independent School District celebrated Red Ribbon Week and Healthy Choices Week from Oct. 23 to Oct. 27.

Red Ribbon Week was started by the nonprofit National Family Partnership in response to the murder of Drug Enforcement Agent Enrique Camarena in 1985. Parents and youth wore red ribbons in remembrance of Camarena and as a symbol of their commitment against the destruction caused by drugs in America. Red Ribbon Week has since evolved to educate and advocate for healthy drug-free living through a number of different activities and themed events.

The overall theme for this year's Red Ribbon Week was "be kind to your mind." On Monday, Azle students wore all red. Tuesday was crazy sock day. Wednesday was camo day. Thursday was pajama day and Friday was storybook character day.

Eagle Heights Elementary was visited by Tarrant 9-1-1 for a special Red Ribbon Week Safety Smart Rally. Hilltop Elementary held a similar rally the following week on Nov. 2.

Safety Smart was a program started by Abbey Dudek, communication coordinator at Tarrant County 9-1-1 District, six years ago for school districts in their service area. Safety Smart utilizes fun and exciting ways for kids between second and fourth grade to learn about

handling emergencies.

"I developed this because I remember when I was a kid it was more fun to learn about things if you could be interactive and it's a game show setting," Dudek said. "I took all that and thought let's make some 9-1-1 education and safety education in a game show style. I paired up with 92.1 Hank FM, sister station to The Ranch, so I could have help with the crew part of it and the equipment part of it and everything."

During the rally, Cell Phone Sally, the program's mascot, and her friends hosted a five-round gameshow including trivia, word scramble and other games with teacher and audience participation.

"We encourage the children to cheer on their team, holler out the answers and just have a really good time. It's great because they're all learning at the same time, while they're having fun and winning prizes and things like that."

Fire safety, how and when to make a 9-1-1 call, and stranger danger are just a few of the topics covered during the rallies. Dudek keeps a close eye on popular media and ongoing issues to incorporate topical and relevant lesson plans within a fun format. The rallies are a free resource for schools and Dudek hopes that by teaching this vital information in a fun and memorable way, students will not only know what to do in emergencies but can teach other children and become public educators themselves. In her six years teaching the program, Dudek has encountered much older children

and teens who still remember the lessons taught by Cell Phone Sally in their elementary years.

Azle ISD regularly utilizes Safety Smart and Dudek says the schools have been a joy to work with.

"I love the community," Dudek said. "Azle ISD has been really great. Liberty Elementary is actually the school that featured on our YouTube channel for the actual promotional video for the safety smart rally. So I just really appreciate their ISD. (Eagle Heights Elementary) was so well behaved. They had fun when they were having fun, but when it was time to be quiet and listen to questions you could hear a pin drop. I was very impressed and there's 20 school districts in Tarrant County so you can imagine how many schools I go to. I definitely have to give major kudos and props to not only that school but a lot of the elementary schools in Azle ISD."

Dudek can be reached for requests by email at [PublicEd@tc911.org](mailto:PublicEd@tc911.org) or [adudek@tc911.org](mailto:adudek@tc911.org). Along with the Safety Smart rallies, Dudek has also appeared at career days, resource fairs and has spoken with individual classes on safety.

"It's just a lot of fun," Dudek said of the rallies. "I love my job; I love the community. You never know which one student may actually save a life because of the information at the Safety Smart rally."



Crazy Sock Day at Cross Timbers Elementary.



Pajama Day with Mrs. Bethany Hiegel's class at Cross Timbers Elementary.



Cell Phone Sally, her friends from Tarrant 9-1-1 and Hank FM came together to present a memorable and educational message to the kids of Eagle Heights Elementary.



Hoover students dressed in red for the first day of Red Ribbon Week.



Crazy Sock Day at Hoover Elementary with Ms. Funderburk's class.

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# Azle Junior High hosts first fall festival

Event featured vendors, games and fun ahead of critical bond election

**ZACH FREEMAN**  
azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

AZLE — Just days before Election Day, Azle Junior High School celebrated its 70th anniversary by hosting its first-ever fall festival on Nov. 4. The big event featured live music courtesy of the AJH jazz band, over 50 vendors, a slew of food trucks and a variety of fun activities for crowds of students and their families. School leaders hope the festival is the first of many to come in the future.

The festival was held on the planned site of a future new AJHS, tucked between its two historic gyms. Because voters approved the Azle Independent School District's \$151.5 million bond proposal on Nov. 7, plans will move forward to replace the 1950s era junior high's main building with a larger, modern facility to house sixth through eighth grade students by 2026 and tackle other district-wide issues. During the festival, school staff and administration re-



The school district's mascot, Buzzy, in front of the junior high's jazz band and its director, Kevin Chapman.

ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER



AJHS teacher Stephanie Jordan Levy and Principal Brian Roberts at the school's first annual fall festival.

ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

minded parents to vote ahead of the election. "We have never had a fall festival before, and Lindsay Thomas and Lindsay Smith, secretary and librarian, put all this together and have done an amazing job," Principal Brian Roberts said. "There's been great vendor turnout, food trucks, looks like everybody is having a great time.

I couldn't have asked for a better experience. This will be our first annual and I use the word annual because I'm sure we'll do it again. The jazz band, they sound excellent. Mr. Chapman has said this is one of his best bands ever so I'm glad they could be out here to help entertain the community. It's a great community event, fantastic."

Stephanie Jordan Levy is an English teacher, cheer coach, National Junior Honor Society advisor, student council sponsor and department lead in her 15th year at AJHS. Levy took an active role in assisting Thomas and Smith to ensure the festival ran smoothly, and was overjoyed with the day's turnout. "It's been a great first fes-

tival and it's nice to see all the people out here enjoying what we're doing," Levy said. "Hopefully, they're supporting our vendors so it can be a success and we can do it again some other year. It's been great weather — we're very lucky. It's been a great turnout. It's nice to see all the people out here supporting our school."



Pumpkin Patch Plinko, cornhole, a bounce house and hair painting were just a few of the fun activities lined up for attendees.



Volunteers like Shannon and Maddie Smith, wife and granddaughter of AISD Superintendent Todd Smith, manned booths and oversaw many of the games and activities available at the festival.

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The Town of Lakeside Public Works Department hereby gives notice of the Town's intent to revise the flood hazard information, generally located between Lake Worth Dam and north of SH 199. Specifically, the flood hazard information shall be revised along the West Fork Trinity River within Lake Worth just upstream of the Lake Worth Dam to a point approximately 6,600 feet upstream of SH 199.

As a result of the revision, the 1% annual chance water-surface elevations shall not change, and the 1% annual chance floodplain shall widen and narrow within the area of revision.

Maps and detailed analysis of the revision can be reviewed at the Town of Lakeside Public Works office at 9834 Confederate Park Road, Lakeside TX 76108. Interested persons may call James McDonald at 817-230-4571 for additional information from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM on weekdays.

TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

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Texas Great Pyrenees Rescue made an appearance at the Veterans Day parade in Springtown on Nov. 11. Al and Becky Petrusky and their granddaughter AnnaBeth rode in their car along with dogs Sirius and Solstice.

# Springtown celebrates Veterans Day with parade, ceremony



Army veteran Justin Kitchen waves to the crowd as he rides in Springtown's Veterans Day parade on Nov. 11.



Logan Beck and Nikki Rebel of Rebel's Flying Feathers ride Anna and Annabelle during Springtown's Veterans Day parade last weekend.



Cub Scouts Jon Richardson Jr. and Thomas Gross attend the Veterans Day ceremony on Nov. 11 in Springtown in patriotic fashion.

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# Lake Run fun

**ZACH FREEMAN**  
azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

AZLE — On Saturday, Nov. 4, athletes and amateurs alike gathered by the dozens to run a half-marathon before most people even had breakfast. For 42 years, the Azle Lake Run has been a mainstay in raising funds for local community organizations, promoting fitness and just letting people get out and have fun. Runners from under 8 to over 80 enjoyed the day's multiple races, vendors and performances from the Azle High School percussion band section starting before 7:30 a.m.

It was 43-year-old Alberto Castro's first time at the Azle Lake Run and while he saw the hilly terrain as a challenge, he still came in second place overall in the half-marathon.

"It's a good race," Castro said. "It has a lot of hills, but it's a nice, good course."

Erika Mason, 32-years-old, was the overall winner for the half-marathon at 1 hour, 19 minutes and 20.66 seconds. Mason was able to average a 6-minute mile for over 13 miles. Mason, from North Fort Worth, is used to traveling wide and far for races but sees the Lake Run as conveniently located yet surprisingly testing. With the race just a short drive from her home, she was thankful not to have to deal with the extra stresses of traveling or staying in a motel.

"It's a great course, it's very challenging," Mason said. "It was unexpected. I didn't think I was going to win it. I thought I'd maybe be the first girl, but not first overall. I'm just using it as a training run for an upcoming race in December. I'm trying to requalify for the Olympic trials. So, we'll see how that

## 42nd annual Azle Lake Run held at Ash Creek Park

goes. Today was a little tougher than I thought it was going to be, but I like how tough the course was."

2023 Olympic marathon trials will take place Feb. 3 in Orlando, Florida. Mason has been trying to requalify for the Olympic trials for two years, after she qualified and ran a 2 hour and 42-minute marathon in the 2020 marathon team trials in Atlanta, Georgia.

"I had my son a couple years ago and I've just been struggling trying to race a marathon, but it's getting better over time," Mason said. "It was nice to kind of come and do a local race. The coolest thing about this race is that when we first started,

we saw about 30 deer. It was beautiful."

This year, the race saw record participation in the 5K with 218 runners. There were 428 registrants in total, 68 of which were half-marathoners, 60 were in the 10K, and 82 ran in the one-mile color fun run. While the Azle Lake Run saw quite a few new racers, there was also no shortage of familiar faces present. Married couple Melody Chapa, 32, and Robert Chapa, 35, have placed in at least the top five for the 5K for the last three years and have hovered near the front of the pack since 2018. This year the Chapas placed third and fifth, with Melody being the first female racer to cross the

finish line in her category.

Jessica Brace Payne and Mendi Carlson, who have organized the race on behalf of the Azle Area Ministerial Alliance since 2019, were thrilled with the turnout and the day's mild weather.

"It's been really great. Every year, it gets bigger and better," Carlson said. "We love the support and we're thankful for our sponsors and that we can help the community."

Proceeds from the Azle Lake Run benefit the Eagle Mountain Pregnancy Help Center, the Community Caring Center, Azle High School's Marching Green Pride, and other initiatives of the Azle Area Ministerial Alliance.



**ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER**  
Overall half-marathon winner Erika Mason after the race.



**ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER**  
Alberto Castro, second overall half-marathon participant and first place male runner nears the finish line.



**ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER**  
Springtown resident Mary Vogle was the race's oldest runner at 86.



**ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER**  
Eight-year-old twins Quinn and Brooks Hart and Sophie Green got 11th, 12th and 13th place in the Azle Manor Color Fun Run.



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JEFF PRINCE | TRI COUNTY REPORTER  
Diesel Fields reaches for a rebound.

## Fast start

*Azle basketball routes Trimble Tech in home opener*

JEFF PRINCE  
sports@tricityreporter.com

AZLE — A new batch of boys is dominating varsity basketball at Azle High School this year. “Our team is looking really good,” said Diesel Fields, a junior who plays forward and center. “We’ve got a lot of team chemistry going on.” Last year’s starting unit included senior standouts Jackson Davis, Gavin Dean and Jayden Rollins. All graduated. Other players moved. “We’ve got to find a way to persevere without them,” said junior Britt Haas, a cen-

ter. “That’s what we’ve been doing.” Haas played a bit of varsity ball last season, but Gunner Crow is the primary hold-over from last year’s team. Most everyone else is fresh-faced and trying to adapt to the varsity level. “It’s definitely a different game,” Haas said. “It’s a lot of fun.” On Nov. 10, the Hornets played their first contest of the season, a nondistrict clash against Fort Worth Trimble Tech. The Hornets prevailed 62-27.

PLEASE SEE **FAST** | B7

## Bidistrict champs

*Springtown football to battle for area title*

JEFF PRINCE  
sports@tricityreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — The Porcupines would like to add an area championship to the

bidistrict title they earned on Nov. 10 after defeating Hereford 42-7. Putting that area championship trophy on the mantel will require traveling five

hours to Midland and playing on Thursday, Nov. 16, rather than under Friday night lights. Springtown will

PLEASE SEE **CHAMPS** | B5



PHOTO COURTESY SMARTER PHOTOGRAPHY  
Dallin Fabrizio and the offensive line will be relied upon to open holes for Drake Doggett and Nathan Johnson against Riverside.



JEFF PRINCE | TRI COUNTY REPORTER

Jacqui McClain earns Newcomer of the Year.

## Lady Hornet love

*Azle volleyball girls earn all-district fanfare; Jacqui McClain Newcomer of the Year*

JEFF PRINCE  
sports@tricityreporter.com

AZLE — After playing on the JV squad as a freshman, Jacqui McClain moved up to

varsity volleyball in her second year at Azle High School. She was more than ready to seize her opportunity. McClain earned a starting spot as an outside hitter

and broke the school record in kill shots with 540. The previous record of 535 was held by Meagan Ledbetter,

PLEASE SEE **LOVE** | B5

## Heavy hardware

*Springtown volleyball athletes monopolize district awards after strong season*

JEFF PRINCE  
sports@tricityreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — The Lady Porcupines keep on winning. In addition to bidistrict and area championship titles, the volleyball girls are collecting numerous awards for their performance in UIL District 8-4A competition this season. Stoli Cox, senior, was the district’s unanimous choice for Most Valuable Player, first team all-district, and academic all-district. Libby Tedder, freshman,

was the unanimous choice for Most Valuable Newcomer, first team all-district, and academic all-district. Aerial Jackson, junior, received Most Valuable Server and first team all-district recognition. Head coach Leighann Strickland was thrilled for the three girls and said they earned their spotlight. “The superlatives are always a hard fight because of all the talent that is in our district.

PLEASE SEE **HEAVY** | B3



JEFF PRINCE | TRI COUNTY REPORTER  
Libby Tedder is named Newcomer of the Year.



# Cheering Vanessa

JEFF PRINCE

sports@tricountyreporter.com

AZLE — At a recent Azle High School football game, the varsity cheerleaders were at their usual spot on the sidelines, performing cheers and stunts.

There among them, being lifted high into the air, was Vanessa Webb, a 5-year-old Azle Youth Sports cheerleader who was serving as a guest member with the varsity squad. Usually, Webb is at a smaller field, standing with shorter cheerleaders, doing chants and stunts for wee football players. The AYS season ended recently, and Webb can't wait to start again in 2024. Until then, she jumped at the chance to work with the older girls under Friday night lights.

Last year, Webb joined an AYS cheer squad at age 4 and developed the bug.

"I thought it was the best thing to do," she said. "I get to see all my friends, and we get to do all these things we never did before. My favorite

*Azle mini cheerleaders finish season, look ahead to more*

part is learning about stunts and cheers."

Sometimes, she serves as a flyer, being hoisted high in the air. Other times, she is a holder.

"I like to do flying," she said. "I feel confident, and I don't feel scared at all."

In August, she participated at an AYS cheer camp and earned an All-American Hornet Bow, awarded to the girl on each team that worked the hardest to learn cheers, chants and attitude. Later that month, she participated in a cheer clinic with Azle High school cheerleaders and won the dynamic dancer award among all of the pre-K, kindergarten and first graders that participated.

Webb plans to cheer at The University of Oklahoma when she grows older.

"I'm a big fan of them, and I really think it's a good op-

tion," she said.

How long does she plan to cheer?

"Probably forever," she said.

Since Webb is always cheering for everyone else, who cheers for her?

"My mom," she said.

In addition to loving cheer, Webb is a big fan of the city of Azle. Three years ago, her family moved here from a larger city in the D-FW metroplex. She was 2 at the time.

"We just thought it was the greatest place to be in to cheer for it, so we picked Azle," she said.

Webb's mom, Tracie Edwards, is pleased that the relocation turned out so well.

"When we were looking for a town to raise our daughter in, we kept coming back to this area," she said. "We love the community and the hometown feel and love that



JEFF PRINCE | TRI COUNTY REPORTER

Vanessa Webb shows confidence and attitude when cheering.

Vanessa will grow up here and have her roots in Azle."

Edwards played high school sports while growing up in Oklahoma, and she is a longtime fan of OU. Her husband, Don Webb, hails from Georgia and is a staunch Bulldogs fan. They root hard for their favorite teams, with Vanessa cheering for both.

"She's been jumping and cheering and yelling since she was probably 1," Edwards said.

Webb enrolled in gymnastics at 18 months after she showed a natural affinity for somersaults and jumps.

"When we moved to Azle in 2020, COVID was all around, and she kept asking to go to dance class," Edwards recalled. "She loved it, but for cheer, she really wanted to cheer for football. We are avid college football fans, and she has been immersed and fascinated by the cheer team from an early age."

Webb benefits from working with good coaches and meeting new friends.

"They've definitely given her a spark for cheerleading," Edwards said. "She's learning social skills, athletics, sports-

manship, and being able to root for other people. It's giving her a lot of good qualities that she'll need later in life."



COURTESY PHOTOS

Over the summer, Vanessa Webb won an All-American Hornet Bow for working hard at cheer camp.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Vanessa Webb practices with the varsity squad at a summer camp.

# Treating shyness

*Springtown student trainer helps herself while helping others*

JEFF PRINCE

sports@tricountyreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — Shyness is something Kinzie Hooper has dealt with for years, and the high school freshman is taking steps to loosen up.

Working as a student trainer with the Porcupines football team means keeping water bottles filled and handing them to thirsty players during practices and games. It also means conversing with athletes, coaches and other trainers and, perhaps, coming out of her shell a bit.

"A big one for me is learning how to talk to people," she said. "I can't talk to anyone."

Why not?

"I don't know," she said. "I just can't talk to anyone."

People sometimes approach her at school to talk, and she freezes. She smiles. She doesn't speak much and

tends to cover her mouth when she does. She suspects she fears being judged by people for something she might say.

It took some cajoling for her to agree to be interviewed for a newspaper story — her first interview. As she spoke, she covered her mouth.

"I just do it when I get nervous," she said.

After a few moments, she relaxed a little and described how she wanted to pursue a career in the medical field one day and hoped her experience as a student trainer would help. She dreams of being a pediatric nurse or a surgeon.

For now, she's mainly serving up water for football players and learning the trade. She enjoys being a trainer despite her close proximity to sweaty and sometimes "stinky" players. She marvels at how hard they work at



JEFF PRINCE | TRI COUNTY REPORTER

At right, Kinzie Hooper takes water to thirsty players at football practice.

practice and at games.

"They are really athletic, and they do more than I thought," she said.

She has gained respect for the football players and enjoys hanging out with ev-

eryone, whether she speaks much or not. She plans to continue working as a student trainer for four years at SHS.

"It's helping me get ready for what I want to do when I

get older," she said.

For athletics, she plays softball, runs the 100-meter dash and pole vaults in track and field.

So.

Did the interview help with

her shyness?

"A little bit but not really," she said.

Surely it wasn't as bad as she feared.

"Yes, it was," she said, covering her mouth.



# All-Tournament

Paige Winstead earns distinctive basketball honor

JEFF PRINCE

sports@tricityreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — On Nov. 9-11, the Lady Porcupines headed to Fort Worth to play in a tournament at Paschal and stood up well to bigger teams.

The 4A Springtown finished in third place despite

facing several 5A and 6A opponents and taking down 4A Alvarado, a team ranked no. 23 in the state. Springtown beat Alvarado 66-51.

Paige Winstead, a senior, was named to the All-Tournament team after raining down 3 pointers all weekend and helping to shut down Alvarado's top scorer.

The Lady Porcupines are off to a hot start in basketball and putting on exciting shows. They play next on Saturday, Nov. 18, at Wichita Falls Hirschi. The Porcupines' next home game is on Monday, Nov. 20, at home against Azle.



Paige Winstead and the Lady Porcupines are off to a good start in the basketball season.

JEFF PRINCE | TRI COUNTY REPORTER

# Quick thoughts

JEFF PRINCE

sports@tricityreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — Springtown High School senior Wesley Payne can outrun most anyone around when it comes to cross-country.

His brain cells move as fast as his feet.

The Texas High School

Springtown runner earns academic All-State

Coaches Association has listed Payne among its academic All-State honorees.

Payne, the district champion in cross-country this season, was the only member of

the Springtown High School team to qualify to compete at the state meet on Nov. 4. He finished in 74th place among the top 150 runners in the state.



Wesley Payne earns academic All-State.

JEFF PRINCE | TRICOUNTY REPORTER



JEFF PRINCE | TRI COUNTY REPORTER

Stoli Cox earns district MVP.

## HEAVY

FROM PAGE B1

trict," she said. "Thankfully, this year, our girls' stats spoke for themselves."

Two of the superlatives — for Cox and Tedder — were issued by unanimous decision among voters.

Seniors Aubree Adams, Harlee Jackson and Kelbie Druxman earned district Honorable Mention and academic all-district.

Senior Sterlyn Smith and sophomores Brooklynn Quintanilla and Dawson Doggett earned first team all-district honors and academic all-district.

Sophomore Kallie Conway and freshman Ryleigh Strickland received second team all-district and academic all-district.

Other players earning academic all-district honors included senior Shaye Winford, juniors Gracie Carter, Corinne Hall and Gracyn Lea, and sophomore Bailey Walker.

"Academic all-district is something we pride ourselves on," Strickland said.

"These athletes were able to maintain an average in all classes of 90, all while waking up for early morning practices and late game nights. Some also have jobs and are studying on top of everything going on. This is a grand accomplishment."

The awards come on the heels of Springtown's stellar season. The Porcupines finished with an 8-3 district record, won 24 games overall, and advanced to the regional quarterfinal before losing to Stephenville.

"I am proud of our growth throughout this season," Strickland said. "We had a solid group of seniors to help guide and lead this team through all of it. We played some tough teams during preseason, and that helped how we handled district play and playoffs. Thankfully we have a great group of athletes that will return and bring their experience to our play."

Next year's team is expected to include two sophomores, four juniors, and five seniors who are experienced on the court.

"That's going to be tre-

mendous for us," Strickland said. "Our depth of talent is huge, and it will continue to be that way next year, too. We have several kids in our program working year-round to continue to grow and get better."

The team will try to fight its way back to the playoffs and, perhaps, land another shot at Stephenville. The Honeybees are consistently one of the state's top-ranked teams and have knocked Springtown out of the playoffs for four consecutive years.

"They're a phenomenal team this season and have been for years prior," Strickland said. "This hurdle will soon be back in front of us, possibly next year depending on where we end up after realignment, and we will take it full force. We will need to prepare, like we always do, for a long run into the playoffs all season long. It's not just about beating one team, it's about being the best we can be as a whole and reaching our goals along the way. I'm sure getting past this round will be our goal again next year."



JEFF PRINCE | TRI COUNTY REPORTER

Aerial Jackson is Most Valuable Server.



# Alumna heroics

Former Azle volleyballer earns Player of Year recognition at Weatherford College

JEFF PRINCE

sports@tricountyreporter.com

AZLE — The name Meagan Ledbetter ought to ring a bell — she was setting Azle High School records on the volleyball court a couple of years

ago.

More recently, she received a top award from coaches in the North Texas Junior College Athletic Conference, which has announced its 2023 All-Conference team.

Ledbetter, a sophomore at

Weatherford College, was the co-winner of the Player of the Year Award. She shared the honor with Shae Pruiett of North Central Texas College.

Part of the reason Ledbetter earned the recognition was her ability to serve aces. She logged 61 service aces this season, making her 12th in the nation.

Ledbetter was part of the inaugural volleyball season at Weatherford College. In 2022, she made 245 kill shots and 273 digs as a freshman at Weatherford. This season, she upped her totals to 275 kills and 395 digs.

While playing at AHS in 2021, Ledbetter broke the school record for most kill shots in a season with 535. Her record was broken by sophomore Jacqui McClain this year.

Ledbetter was named first team All-District and won DFW Player of the Week recognition in her final season at Azle.



JEFF PRINCE | TRI COUNTY REPORTER

Former Lady Hornet Meagan Ledbetter wins volleyball award at Weatherford College.

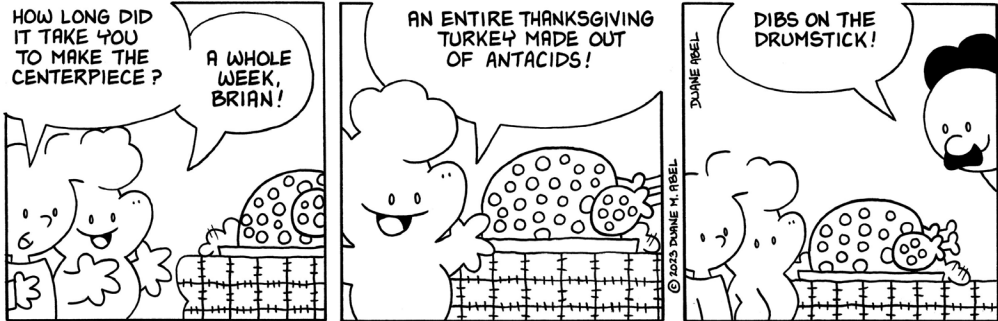


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Meagan Ledbetter broke a school record for kill shots at Azle High School in 2021.

ZED BY DUANE ABEL

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## Sudoku

NOVEMBER 16, 2023

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

## Solution to last week's puzzle

NOVEMBER 9, 2023

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

## WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to traffic.

DYESLA



Answer: Delays



Solve the code to discover words related to fishing. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 5 = r)

A. 13 22 15 8 19 5

Clue: One who fishes

B. 5 25 21

Clue: Fishing tool

C. 5 10 7 19 5

Clue: Moving water

D. 8 16 5 19

Clue: Bait

Answers: A. angler B. reel C. river D. lure



JEFF PRINCE | TRI COUNTY REPORTER

Cheryl Grubbs and the Lady Hornets are grinding away on the basketball court in preparation for district competition.

# Paying dues

Azle Lady Hornets put basketball skills to test in preseason

JEFF PRINCE

sports@tricountyreporter.com

AZLE — Preseason in November is a time to compete against various teams of all shapes and sizes to become battle-tested and ready for district competition in December.

The Lady Hornets are doing their preseason thing, winning some, losing some and learning along the way. So far, they've lost more games than they've won, but who's counting? The wins-losses come into play when district rolls around, and the Lady Hornets plan to be

ready.

The girls are bonding, building chemistry, getting into shape and honing their skills.

Azle will play Springtown in their annual friendly rivalry at 11:15 a.m. on Monday, Nov. 20, at Springtown.



# Buckin' up

## Springtown rodeo flies higher in team standings

**JEFF PRINCE**  
*sports@tricityreporter.com*

SPRINGTOWN — The rodeo on Nov. 3-4 began with Springtown in fourth place in team standings in the North Texas High School Rodeo Association.

After the dust cleared, Springtown's 2,380 points after eight rodeos moved them past Burkburnett to claim third place. Burkburnett is nipping at Springtown's hooves with 2,359 points.

More than 60 teams compete in the association rodeos.

At the Nov. 3-4 rodeo, the top finishers earned double points, making every strong performance extra special. With double points, first place winners that typically earn 70 points can earn 140.

"It's huge if you're sitting on the bubble of qualifying

for the FWSSR scholarship rodeo in February or finals in May," team sponsor Staci Harris said.

A couple of Springtown athletes earned first place finishes — Delaney Harris in walk-up goat tying, and Cade Walker in steer wrestling.

Delaney Harris was "laser focused" and in her element in the outdoor arena, said Staci Harris.

"Her mare loves the outdoor pens," the sponsor said.

Walker "always puts in amazing effort and never gives up," she said.

Tanner Piller took fourth place in calf roping and also earned points in team roping at 14th.

Shaye Winford won fifth place in walk-up goats.

Paige Bunero lassoed sixth place in breakaway roping.

Delaney Harris won sixth place in ride-up goats, and Winford was close behind in

eighth place.

Other competitors in the mix included Makayla Ballard, Brylee Bailey, James Beckworth, Kaylee Buchanan, Jet Braswell, Marshall Doudy, Kallie Gray, Addyson Norris, Colton Phillips, Henley Sears, Faith Styles and Taylor Warman.

Moving into third place is a sign of how hard the team has been working, Staci Harris said.

"Next is to keep up the good work and get points on the board," she said.

Passing the powerhouse Azle in points is a mathematical impossibility, but Harris will be proud if the team finishes in the top 5.

"We've had a couple kids go down with injuries, and horses have gotten injured, but all in all, the team is handling setbacks as good as can be expected," she said.



PHOTO COURTESY GATEMAN PHOTOGRAPHY

Brylee Bailey and the Springtown rodeo team move up into third place in team standings.



PHOTO COURTESY GATEMAN PHOTOGRAPHY

Paige Bunero wins sixth place and double points.

## Football Contest

### WEEK 11

The final week of the football contest was a wild one, with several upsets during the college and NFL games. Amy Collins and David Shaffer each guessed the winners of 16 of 24 games to tie for first place. The tiebreaker game of Dallas Cowboys vs. New York Giants generated 66 points, making Collins the winner for first place and \$20. Shaffer finished in second place and earned \$10. Four contestants — Eddy and Margaret Swanzy, Keith Rose and Kyle Gathright — guessed the winners of 15 games correctly. Eddy Swanzy was closest to the tiebreaker score, and he earned third place and \$5. Thanks for playing the football contest this year, and we will do it again in 2024.



JEFF PRINCE | TRI COUNTY REPORTER

Destiny Brune is second team All-District.

## LOVE

FROM PAGE B1

who graduated two years ago and is now starring on the Weatherford College volleyball team.

Azle won a bidistrict title and made it to the area championship game.

McClain was named Newcomer of the Year for District 5-5A. In a way, she predicted as much. In September, as the season was beginning, McClain claimed she would do her best to help the team while also setting team, individual and career records.

"We're going after everything," McClain said at the time. "Go big or go home."

She's off to a great start.

Her teammates were also honored for their on-court exploits.

Senior Brynn Lee and sophomore Miley Massey earned first team All-District honors.

Earning second team All-District recognition were Kamryn Hill, Heather Lockridge and Destiny Brune.



JEFF PRINCE | TRI COUNTY REPORTER

Brynn Lee earns first team All-District recognition in her final season at Azle.

Honorable mention went to Melanie Harder, Addi Dorris and Arely Licerio.

Academic All-District honors went to every varsity member.

"I'm extremely proud of all the Azle girls represented throughout the all-district awards," said head coach Kenley Buckholt. "Each one of them played a key part in our success this season. Jacqui's votes for Newcomer

were unanimous. Finishing fourth in district guaranteed us spots on first team and second team, so I was really excited to get multiple girls on those teams."

The coach characterized the 2023 season as one of growth, and she looks to the future with promise.

"Even though we didn't win every game, we started playing some of our very best volleyball toward the end of the season," she said.

"It was a glimpse of what's to come, and the future is very bright."

The team's underclassmen, especially, appear hungry to keep pushing new limits.

"Our program now has a winning playoff experience under their belts, which is something we haven't had since I've been here," she said. "Each year, we will just continue to rise, and I'm really looking forward to it."



JEFF PRINCE | TRI COUNTY REPORTER

Miley Massey earns first team All-District as a sophomore.



# CHAMPS

FROM PAGE B1

face the El Paso Riverside Rangers, champions of District 1-4A.

“Riverside is the class of El Paso, and they have been for several years,” said Brian Hulett, Springtown head coach. “We played them a few years ago, and they are always tough.”

The teams met previously on Nov. 27, 2021, in the regional title game, which Springtown won 40-14.

This season, Riverside went undefeated in district play and was 9-2 overall. One of those losses was by one point. The other came against a team ranked higher than Springtown.

“They have good kids, athletes, and their schemes are solid,” Hulett said of the Rangers. “We will have to practice really well, and then, handle a short week and long trip to get another victory.”

Earning a trip to Midland wouldn’t have been possible if not for Springtown’s strong performance in the bidistrict battle against the Hereford Whitefaces. Fourteen points in the first quarter and another 14 in the second put Springtown up 28-0 at half-time. Hereford scored its lone TD in the third quarter, but Springtown added two more TDs in the fourth to slam the door shut.

Hulett felt happy for everyone who gave so much time and effort for the cause.

“It’s a very good win for our coaches, kids, program, school and town,” Hulett said. “Getting to the playoffs is hard, and of course, it’s at the end of a long year. So, to be there and in position to win, well, that’s something that is special.”

The defense was near impenetrable against Hereford, and Ty Parrott stood out for his play. Others with strong performances on defense were Riley Jackson, Yair Hernandez, Darren Sweely and Ridge Westendorf.

On offense, James Snyder and Dallin Fabrizio played well on the front line, opening holes for running backs to chew up yardage, and protecting quarterback Hudson Hulett to make passes. Brayden Fox led the way in receiving yardage.

Bryce Smith and Rhyann Miller made big plays on special teams.

Hudson Hulett finished the game 11 of 19 for 186 yards and 2 TDs. Fox caught one



Ty Parrott and the defense will be relied upon as always.

PHOTO COURTESY SMARTER PHOTOGRAPHY

TD, and Dylan Crutchfield grabbed the other.

Drake Doggett ran for 119 yards and 2 TDs, and Nathan Johnson added 65 yards and

a score.

Johnson feels good about the running and passing games as Springtown plows deeper into the playoffs.

“We’re all coming together as a team,” he said.

Johnson, a senior, has witnessed ups and down during his four years. As a freshman

and sophomore, he was on a team flying high and going deep into the playoffs. During his junior season, the team went 3-7 and was one-

and-done in postseason.

This year, his last, he wants to push farther into the playoffs than ever before.

“Let’s win state,” he said.



James Snyder is a leader on the front line.

PHOTO COURTESY SMARTER PHOTOGRAPHY





JEFF PRINCE | TRI COUNTY REPORTER

Azle basketball wins its home opener in convincing fashion.

**FAST**  
FROM PAGE B1

Fields attributed the victory to chemistry and defense. “We’re really solid out there on defense, working hard, getting our boards,” he said.

The game plan against Trimble Tech was well-conceived, he said.

“On offense, if we run a play, it works out great,” he

said.

The team played five scrimmages to prepare for the start of the season. The players have bought into head coach James Crafton’s insistence on prioritizing defense. The bigger guys, such as Fields, are lifting weights and working out to make themselves better rebounders.

“You work out a lot,” he said. “Get strong so you can get in there and push every-one around and get those

boards. Work out the legs, so you can jump up there and get the boards. Also, your arms, so you can push every-one out the way.”

It also helps by “being a little rough,” he added.

Haas is another big guy ready to rough it up.

“You’ve got to be physical,” he said. “You can’t be afraid of contact or you’re not going to get a board. You’ve got to fight your way in there. Use your legs most-ly. Sometimes, step on their

feet. You’ve got to do what-ever it takes.”

Another proponent of staunch defense is Nazir Stevens. He is shorter than Haas and Fields and not under the net as much, but he still focuses on guarding and disrupting opponents.

“I love the whole game, but I love defense,” he said. “Defense wins games.”

Stevens played basketball at two other high schools in North Texas as a fresh-man and sophomore before

moving to Azle as a junior. He played on JV last season and is starting on varsity currently.

“This team is way better than the other high school basketball teams I’ve played for,” he said. “The basket-ball programs weren’t as serious is this one. The boys and coaches in this program are really serious about this game. That’s what I love.”

He appreciates the empha-sis on discipline enforced by his Azle coaches and said his

previous teams were lax by comparison.

Stevens hasn’t set per-sonal basketball goals for himself, although he would surely smile if he heard his name announced as defen-sive player of the year at the annual Azle basketball ban-quet. He thinks more about the team, however, than per-sonal goals.

“I just want to win games,” he said. “This is my last year. I just want to have a good last year, a good run.”



JEFF PRINCE | TRI COUNTY REPORTER

Nazir Stevens preaches defense.



JEFF PRINCE | TRI COUNTY REPORTER

Gunner Crow is one of the few familiar faces on varsity.



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# Springtown volleyball shines

The Lady Porcupines finished the volleyball season with an 8-3 district record, won 24 games overall, earned an area championship, and advanced to the regional quarterfinal. District coaches took notice, bestowing superlative awards on Stoli Cox (MVP), Libby Tedder (Most Valuable Newcomer) and Aerial Jackson (Most Valuable Server). Many of the roster members were named All-District, and most maintained A-averages in the classroom to earn academic All-District. Great season!

JEFF PRINCE | TRI COUNTY REPORTER



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**GRACE BAPTIST**

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

**GRACE POINTE CHURCH**

4110 E. Hwy. 199, Springtown  
 817-221-5683

**HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH**

3577 FM 51 N., Weatherford  
 817-564-3946

**IGLESIA BAUTISTA**

Nueva Jerusalem  
 6640 Midway Rd., Springtown  
 817-694-0444

**INDIAN OAKS PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH**

3229 Shawnee Trail, Lake Worth  
 817-237-8441

**LAKE WORTH BAPTIST**

4445 Hodgkins, Lake Worth  
 817-237-4163

**METROPOLITAN BAPTIST**

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

**NEW HOPE BAPTIST**

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

**NORTHWEST BAPTIST**

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

**SILVER CREEK BAPTIST**

730 S. & Veal Station Rd., Azle  
 817-444-2325

**NEW BEGINNINGS BAPTIST CHURCH**

3605 Jacksboro Hwy., Azle  
 817-707-2741

**PLEASANT GROVE BAPTIST**

FM 2048 and CR 4677, Boyd  
 940-433-5477

**PRIMERA IGLESIA BAUTISTA**

300 S. Stewart, Azle  
 817-500-3641

**SPRINGTOWN BAPTIST TEMPLE**

201 J. E. Woody Rd., Springtown  
 817-523-0376

**UNION BAPTIST CHURCH**

3451 Sarra Lane, Springtown  
 682-333-1645

**WALNUT CREEK BAPTIST**

220 W. Reno Rd. in Reno  
 817-221-2110

**BIBLE****COMMUNITY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP**

1405 Reynolds Rd., Reno  
 817-521-4510

**NORTHWEST BIBLE CHURCH**

5025 Jacksboro Hwy., Fort Worth  
 817-624-2111

**SOLID ROCK BIBLE CHURCH**

591 S. Reno Rd., Springtown  
 817-304-7443

**CATHOLIC****HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC**

800 High Crest Dr., Azle  
 817-444-3063

**CHRISTIAN****THE CHURCH AT AZLE**

1801 S. Stewart, Azle  
 817-444-9973

**AZLE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**

35 West Forty Estates., Azle  
 817-688-3339

**GREATER VISION FELLOWSHIP**

1801 S. Stewart St., Azle  
 817-825-0485

**THE ABBEY CHURCH**

10400 Jacksboro Hwy., Azle  
 817-238-1404

**CROSSING FELLOWSHIP**

120 E. Main St., Azle  
 817-406-4577

**CHURCH OF CHRIST****AZLE CHURCH of CHRIST**

336 NW Parkway  
 817-444-3268

**BRIAR CHURCH of CHRIST**

109 W.N. Woody Rd.  
 (½ block west of FM 730 N. in Briar)  
 817-444-7102

**HILLTOP FAMILY CHURCH**

1227 Old Cottondale • 817-220-7177

“Caring about what Jesus cares about... You!”

**MIDWAY CHURCH of CHRIST**

6400 Midway Rd.  
 817-221-2107

**NEWSOME MOUND ROAD CHURCH of CHRIST**

1460 Newsome Mound Rd.  
 817-677-3290

**NORTHWEST CHURCH of CHRIST**

6059 Azle Ave., Fort Worth  
 817-237-1205

**POOLVILLE CHURCH of CHRIST**

West of FM 920 in Poolville  
 817-594-4182

**SOUTHSIDE CHURCH of CHRIST**

130 W. Bradshaw Lane, Springtown  
 817-221-2799

**SPRINGTOWN CHURCH of CHRIST**

Just west of Hwy. 51 North  
 817-523-4419

**TRI-COUNTY CHURCH of CHRIST**

525 Hwy. 199 W., Springtown  
 817-980-8156

**CHURCH of GOD****ABUNDANT LIFE CHURCH of GOD**

4800 East Hwy. 199, Suite 7  
 Springtown, 817-677-3208

**LAKESIDE CHURCH of GOD**

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

**DISCIPLES of CHRIST****AZLE CHRISTIAN**

117 Church St., Azle  
 817-444-3527

**CENTRAL CHRISTIAN**

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

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

4th & Main, Paradise  
 817-237-1888

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6055 Azle Ave., Fort Worth  
 817-237-1888

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 817-596-7476

**ST. ELISABETH EPISCOPAL**

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 817-739-0504

**GOSPEL****CENTRAL FULL GOSPEL FELLOWSHIP**

3009 Delaware Tr., Lake Worth  
 817-237-7919

**JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES****KINGDOM HALL OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES**

212 Pearson Lane, Azle  
 817-221-2242

**LUTHERAN****THE EDGE CHURCH - AZLE**

1313 SE Parkway, Azle  
 817-237-4822

**HOPE LUTHERAN (ELCA)**

4795 Hwy. 199, Reno  
 817-221-HOPE

**METHODIST****BOYD UNITED METHODIST**

FM 730 North in Boyd  
 940-433-5334

**FIRST METHODIST CHURCH of AZLE**

200 Church St., Azle  
 817-444-3323

**LIGHTHOUSE FELLOWSHIP**

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

**SILVER CREEK METHODIST CHURCH**

2200 Church Rd., Azle  
 817-444-1382

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST**

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

**POOLVILLE UNITED METHODIST**

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

**THE CHURCH of JESUS CHRIST of LATTER-DAY SAINTS (THE MORMONS)****THE CHURCH of JESUS CHRIST of LATTER-DAY SAINTS**

1010 Timberoaks, Azle  
 817-237-5075

**PENTECOSTAL****GRACE CHAPEL UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH**

3508 Shawnee Trail, Lake Worth  
 817-237-4844

**PRESBYTERIAN****GRACE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN**

606 Mockingbird Lane, Weatherford  
 817-594-2744

**ORTHODOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of FORT WORTH**

Meeting at Northwest YMCA  
 5315 Boat Club Road, Fort Worth  
 817-989-9800

**ORTHODOX****ARCHANGEL GABRIEL**

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

**OTHER****ALIENTO DE DIOS**

2233 E. Hwy 199, Springtown  
 817-521-4694

**THE CHURCH in PEASTER**

**www.thechurchinpeaster.org**

**CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH**



**classified@tricountyreporter.com**  
**817-270-3340 or 817-220-7217**

**Ad Classifications**

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

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**Only \$10.00 per week!**

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

**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.

**FREE ESTIMATES**  
**CLB CONCRETE**  
metal buildings  
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DRIVEWAYS • SIDEWALKS • PATIOS  
FOUNDATION SLABS • METAL BUILDINGS

**Kiley Chesney Construction**  
Dirt & Concrete Work  
Driveways • House Slabs • Garages • Add-ons  
Small Land Clean-ups • Gravel Driveways  
Kiley Chesney, Owner  
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BOBBY'S FENCE. All types,  
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experience. 817-444-3213.  
KILEY CHESNEY  
CONSTRUCTION  
All Types Fences - Tractor Work  
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**LEON'S FENCING**

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

**032 For Sale**

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

**032 For Sale**

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



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



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

**034 Garage & Estate Sales**

Yard Sale  
Clemmer Ct, Knob Hill area.  
November 16-18, 8am-?

Garage Sale  
797 Feather Edge Dr,  
Springtown. Located in the new  
addition behind the football  
stadium. Friday-Saturday. Baby  
toys, girls clothing up to 12 mo.  
Lots of misc.

Yard Sale  
350 Horseshoe Dr., Springtown.  
Thursday-Saturday November  
16-18, 9am-4pm. New custom  
Christmas Floral's. Everything  
from antique beds to tools,  
motor jack, new jeans, Christmas  
decorations and much more.

**035 Garden/Mowing Service**

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/Commerical  
Licensed & Insured • Free Estimates  
**817-371-8597**

**035 Garden/Mowing Service**

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

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

**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](http://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

**036 Hauling**

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

**037 Hay**

Coastal Round Bail \$130. one  
bail min. sold year-round. Flat  
Rock Rd, Azle. 817-683-4793.

**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;  
[ouralphahhealthcare@yahoo.com](mailto:ouralphahhealthcare@yahoo.com).

**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

Tri-County Pool Service needs  
Pool Cleaners Mon-Fri. Start  
ASAP. If interested, call Keith  
or Jolie Thomas 817-237-1301;  
817-565-4238.

**Jose's Concrete**  

- Concrete Slabs
- Retaining Walls
- Basements
- Barns • Driveways
- Free Estimates

**940-393-3381**

**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

**024 Electrician**

BULLDAWG ELECTRIC CO.  
All types of electrical services  
and MH hook-ups.  
Free Estimates. 817-675-4921  
[www.bulldawgelectric.com](http://www.bulldawgelectric.com).  
TECL#25253.

**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**

**032 For Sale**

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



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

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Fabricator and  
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Pay based on experience,  
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for more info**

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All real estate advertising  
in this newspaper is subject  
to the Fair Housing Act  
which makes it illegal to ad-  
vertise "any preference, lim-  
itation or discrimination  
based on race, color, reli-  
gion, sex, handicap, familial  
status or national origin, or  
an intention, to make any  
such preference, limitation  
or discrimination." Famil-  
ial status includes children  
under the age of 18 living  
with parents or legal custo-  
dians, pregnant women and  
people securing custody of  
children under 18.

This newspaper will not  
knowingly accept any ad-  
vertising for real estate  
which is in violation of the  
law. Our readers are hereby  
informed that all dwellings  
advertised in this news-  
paper 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.









817-270-3340

Deadline:  
1:00 PM FRIDAY

Classifieds

TEXAS STATEWIDE CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING NETWORK

TexSCAN Week of  
Nov. 12-18, 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.ranchenterprisesld.com. 800-876-9720.

AUCTIONS

Simulcast Auction November 18th at 10 a.m. Trinity, Texas. Equipment, attachments, containers, metal art, 54' Semi-Trailers, portable office containers, temp fence panels and more. 936-222-7588, www.walleeau.com

Ranch Dispersal Auction, Dec. 7, Mount Pleasant, TX. Full dispersal auction of McKellar Ranch: 430 acres w/2 homes in 11 parcels of 5 to 53+ acres each ideal for homesites or development; 75+ lots including tractors, trailers, implements, UTV's, gates, pens and more. 918-550-8118, CJ-AUCTIONS.COM.

42nd Annual Oklahoma Select Bull Sale, Sat. Dec. 2nd - 1 p.m., 800 East B Street, Atoka, OK. Just East of Hwy 69-75. 806-790-2535, www.lawrencefamilylimousin.com.

BASEBALL

BOB'S BASEBALL TOURS - August 2-12, 2024. See MLB games in Cincinnati, Detroit, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Toronto, Boston & NY Yankees. Visit Baseball, Hockey, Basketball, Pro Football and Rock & Roll Halls of Fame, guided Tour of Manhattan. \$3,500/person based on double hotel occupancy. Quality motor coach, hotels & game tickets. Call/text 507-217-1326. Also offering Arizona/Grand Canyon Spring Training Tour & New York/New England Fall Foliage Tour in '24!

CELL PHONE SERVICE

Switch and save up to \$250/year on your talk, text and data. No contract and no hidden fees. Unlimited talk and text with flexible data plans. Premium nationwide coverage. 100% U.S. based customer service. For more information, call 1-855-493-3803.

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.

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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.)

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

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/bxpress #6258

WATER DAMAGE

WATER DAMAGE CLEANUP & RESTORATION: A small amount of water can lead to major damage and mold in your home. If you have water damage to your home, call for a free estimate for complete repairs to protect your family and your home's value! Call 24/7: 1-877-727-3027.



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Piggy!

Find the  
money  
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LAMARR  
ROBB  
ROUNDED  
ELTON  
ITS  
SEE  
HRS

S-1662

Save a Shelter  
Animal.  
Find your  
forever Friend

ACROSS

1 Lone \_\_\_\_ State  
5 TXism: "it it ain't  
\_\_\_\_, there ain't a  
cow in Texas"  
6 go by horse  
7 TXism: "he's \_\_\_\_  
hombre" (mean)  
8 agcy. that regulates  
Texas utilities  
9 TX Trini sang "\_\_\_\_  
Had a Hammer"  
12 TXism: "old \_\_\_\_"  
17 some say an  
\_\_\_\_ your socks will  
cure the flu  
19 it was Letterman's  
nightly list (2 wds.)  
21 Fox \_\_\_\_ carries  
NFL football games  
22 TXism: "he's \_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ walk the river  
with" (reliable)  
23 "the die \_\_\_\_"  
(no turning back)  
28 hankering  
29 TX Vikki Carr album:  
"\_\_\_\_ Hombres"  
30 this 1967 hurricane  
hit Texas hard  
31 horny \_\_\_\_  
(lizards)  
35 \_\_\_\_ of cotton  
36 museum Institution  
in Washington, D.C.  
42 the Alamo was origi-  
nally "Mission San  
\_\_\_\_ Valero"  
44 TX Charley Pride's  
"Kiss an \_\_\_\_  
Good Mornin"  
46 Seur \_\_\_\_  
led first French  
expedition in Texas

48 liquid absorber  
49 first 2 init. of president  
born in Denison, Texas  
50 high school student, e.g.  
51 Spanish for "little girl"  
52 driver's license agcy.  
53 it's used to catch shrimp  
in the Gulf (2 wds.)  
54 "\_\_\_\_ Day" (Wednesday)  
56 \_\_\_\_ City, Texas in  
Upshur County  
57 "Surf the \_\_\_\_" (online)

58 TX Ross  
Perot founded  
this co.

DOWN

1 TXism: "\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ feedbag"  
(eat a meal)  
2 Quanah \_\_\_\_-  
Chief newspaper  
3 impudence  
4 this Donna was in  
"Apache Trail" with  
TX Chill Wills  
9 "\_\_\_\_ the plan"  
(privy to)  
10 Galveston had the  
\_\_\_\_  
exchange in Texas  
11 TXism: "\_\_\_\_ slinger"  
(writer)  
12 TX Tanya Tucker  
sang "One Love  
\_\_\_\_ Time"  
13 TXism: "he's still  
got \_\_\_\_ in  
his garters" (able)  
14 health resorts  
15 TXism: "pay  
\_\_\_\_ never mind"  
(disregard)  
16 they hang on  
basketball rims  
18 in debt  
20 TXism: "he's \_\_\_\_  
spring chicken" (old)  
23 this Berlin wrote  
songs for TX Ginger  
1936 film "Follow  
the Fleet" (init.)  
24 "\_\_\_\_ Rim State  
Park" on the Gulf  
25 Havana's country

13 TXism: "he's still  
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Park" on the Gulf  
25 Havana's country

36 bro's sib  
37 water ditch around  
a castle  
38 wasted time  
39 "hole \_\_\_\_"  
40 TXism: "he could  
shoot the eye out  
of \_\_\_\_"  
41 saying "no" (abbr.)  
43 symbol for sodium  
45 noted black golfer,  
TX Elder (init.)  
47 guaranteed  
48 Crackle and Pop's  
amigo  
55 New York's NL  
team in MLB

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# TRI★COUNTY REPORTER

THE NEWS OF AZLE, SPRINGTOWN, AND SURROUNDING AREAS

A SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION  
THURSDAY, Nov. 16, 2023

# *Holiday* GIFT GUIDE



## INSIDE

Azle's Parade of Lights.....	PAGE 2
Elf on the Shelf Ideas.....	PAGE 3
Toy Buying Tips when shopping for kids.....	PAGE 3
Great gifts for the family foodie.....	PAGE 4
Christmas stocking decorating tips and tricks.....	PAGE 4
Simple ways to involve kids in holiday decorating.....	PAGE 4
How to celebrate the holidays away from home.....	PAGE 5
Festival films for a perfect family movie night.....	PAGE 5
Pet proof your home while decking the halls.....	PAGE 6
Holiday Coloring Contest.....	PAGE 6
Springtown's Old Fashioned Christmas Lighted Parade.....	PAGE 7
Last minute holiday shopping tips.....	PAGE 8
Sports experiences make great gifts.....	PAGE 8







# Azle Area Chamber of Commerce Parade of Lights

The Azle Area Chamber of Commerce Parade of Lights is at 6:30 p.m. on Dec. 2. The parade will begin with the simultaneous lighting of the Christmas tree in front of the Azle Historical Museum, 124 W. Main St., and the Christmas tree in front of Azle City Hall, 505 W. Main St., at 6:30 p.m.

This year's parade theme is "Candyland Christmas."

Entries for the parade competition are open now through 4:30 pm on Dec. 2. Parade entries will be accepted the night of the parade but placement will not be guaranteed.

Register at [www.azlechristmasonmain.com](http://www.azlechristmasonmain.com)

Parade Entry Check-In @ 4:30 p.m. Judging happens BEFORE the parade so don't be late so your entry can be judged.

END

## PARADE STAGING AREA FOR PARTICIPANTS

### PARADE ROUTE

- The parade will begin at Church Street, traveling west on Main Street, turning right on Industrial Avenue, right on Central Dr.

### PARADE RULES

- Staging is located in the FRONT of the Azle ISD Admin Building (300 Roe Street).
- Parade staging starts at 4:30 p.m. Make sure to arrive early enough for your entry to be judged.
- All judging takes place BEFORE the parade.
- Vehicle drivers must hold a valid driver's license and

- liability insurance and be at least 21 years old.
- Azle PD will be checking these documents during check-in.
- Participants must be 18 years or older to ride an ATV, go-cart, or any other recreational motorized vehicle.
- Vehicles must be large enough for all riders to remain seated, with all body parts inside the perimeter of the vehicle.
- Walking parade participants will be allowed to hand out candy or toys during the parade.
- Absolutely no candy or toys shall be thrown from

- parade vehicles. Violators will not be able to participate in next year's parade.
- All horse entries must provide Coggins Test papers, waste bags, or a way to pick up any animal waste.
- NO SANTA OR MRS. CLAUS entries, float riders, etc. We already have a Santa!
- Late arrivals will be placed at the end of the parade. No Exceptions.
- Vehicles are not permitted to stop during the parade route.
- ALL entries must have Christmas lights. This parade is at night and we want all to be seen.
- No off-loading of parade participants will be permitted along the parade route.
- The Azle Area Chamber of Commerce reserves the right to refuse any entry for any reason.



Parade begins with tree lighting, and ends with Santa's arrival

December 2, 6:30 - 7:00 p.m.



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# Easy and Quick Elf on the Shelf Ideas

STAFF REPORTS

Whether this is your first Christmas introducing the Elf on the Shelf to your kids or the tenth, it can be a lot of work coming up with some fun mischief for your elf to get into. Here are some easy and quick ideas of what to do with your Elf on a Shelf when he or she arrives for the holidays:

- Spell out “I’m Back!” on the counter with candies like M&Ms or Hershey Kisses as a fun way to welcome your elf
- Grab some Christmas coloring books and a box of crayons and have your elf “color” the first page and let the kids do the rest; or have your kids alternate coloring pages with the elf each day
- If you don’t mind a little mess, have the elf make a snow angel in some flour on the table along with a message written in the “snow”
- Have your elf challenge

the kids to a LEGO building contest

- Tape your elf to the wall with some blue painters’ tape – you can even have Barbie or some other friends taped up there with him
- Stick the elf in a roll of toilet paper that he has managed to unravel across the floor or down the stairs
- Have your elf build a toilet paper snowman, or stack up some snowballs for a fight with the other toys
- Trap the elf under a glass with a note that says “Uh-oh, I’ve been caught!”
- If you have a front load washing machine, tape him up inside the door like he’s been trapped in a load of laundry
- Let the elf go fishing for Goldfish crackers or Swedish Fish
- Hide 12 candy canes around the house and have the elf hold a sign telling them to find them all to get a special treat.

I brought you a snowman from the North Pole!

Materials:

- Clear jar
- Baby carrot
- Two rocks
- Water
- Optional: glycerin, buttons

Instructions:

Your Scout Elf will begin by filling a jar with water (Pro tip: Add glycerin to make snowman features float).

Then they will add the baby carrot, rocks and possibly some buttons to the jar.

Next, they will set it out for kids to find and get a good giggle!



# Toy buying tips when shopping for kids



Toys that are loud, shoot objects into the air or contain small pieces pose a threat to children.

STAFF REPORTS

Shopping for gifts for kids makes many shoppers nostalgic for their own childhoods. Few adults can forget the joy of finding the perfect gift under the tree on Christmas morning. Recreating that magic for a youngster can be as joyous for gift givers as it is for kids. That’s especially so when shoppers make it a point to give safe, age-appropriate gifts.

Whether shopping for their own children or their grandkids, nieces or nephews, shoppers can keep these tips in mind to ensure they give toys that are as safe as they are fun.

- Speak to Mom and Dad first. When buying for a grandchild, niece or nephew, shoppers should first ask Mom or Dad for suggestions. Parents will know which types of toys their children

like, and they’ll also know the child’s level of maturity. Some kids may not be mature enough to play with otherwise age-appropriate toys, while others may be mature beyond their years and enjoy more complex toys than their age would suggest. Parents will know what makes a good toy and what doesn’t.

- Learn what to look for on labels. Toy labels are great sources of information, but shoppers must know what to look for. The American Academy of Pediatrics notes that toy labels include information about age-appropriateness (i.e., ‘Ages 3 & Up’) as well as directions regarding how to use the toy. If the instructions seem a bit complex for the child the item will be for, look for something else. Children’s toy labels also include additional information that consumers may not be fa-

miliar with. For example, toys labeled ‘ASTM F963’ meet the latest safety standards from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. An ‘ASTM D4236’ label indicates the materials associated with the art toy have been reviewed and deemed safe by a toxicologist. More information about toy label requirements can be found at cpsc.gov. The AAP advises that electric toys should only be given to kids if they include the UL label. That means the toy has been certified by the global safety certification company UL, LLC.

- Avoid certain features. The AAP notes that toys that are loud, shoot objects into the air or contain small pieces pose a threat to children. Especially loud toys can damage children’s hearing, while projectiles can increase the risk of eye injuries or choking. Toys with small pieces

also pose a choking risk to young children who may try to put the pieces into their mouths.

- Err on the side of caution. Consumers who are uncertain about the safety of a given toy, even after reading its label, should err on the side of caution and only give toys they’re confident won’t pose a safety risk. Even toys that may seem safe could be dangerous to kids who might otherwise seem old enough. For example, the AAP advises against giving kids under 12 hobby kits and chemistry sets. That’s because such kits may contain dangerous chemicals that even pre-adolescents are not old enough to handle safely.

Shoppers must consider a host of factors when looking for safe toys for kids this holiday season.

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# Great gifts for the family foodie

STAFF REPORTS

Food features prominently throughout the holiday season. Family meals around the holiday dinner table are a cherished tradition in millions of households, and food also plays a central role during seasonal gatherings with friends and colleagues. Food also can feature prominently throughout Chanukah and on Christmas Day, particularly if a loved one qualifies as a full-fledged foodie.

Many families feature at least one foodie. Foodies always know the best place in town to grab a bite or when a trendy new restaurant will open its doors. But such individuals also enjoy making meals at home, and the following gift ideas can make this holiday season more flavorful for the family foodie.

- **Tabletop firepit:** Shoppers who want to impress their food-loving loved one with something truly unique can give a tabletop firepit. Safe for indoor

use, tabletop firepits enable s'mores-loving foodies to indulge in a traditionally summertime favorite all-year-round. Tabletop firepits are small enough to be stored on a kitchen countertop or in a cabinet. When in use, the s'mores-friendly accessory is smokeless, removing perhaps the lone disadvantage to making this beloved treat.

- **Club subscription:** Monthly subscriptions are a gift that can keep on giving all the way until next holiday season. Sweets lovers will undoubtedly appreciate receiving a box of fresh chocolates each month, while those with more unique tastes may anxiously await the day their monthly shipment of pickles arrives at their doorstep. The options are endless, ensuring there's a monthly subscription out there to tickle every foodie's fancy.
- **Sauce sampler:** Amateur sauciers may find inspiration in a sauce sampler set. Sampler set options abound,

so shoppers can find something for foodies who love a spicy sauce, something more sweet or even in between. Of course, sampler sets also provide a range of sauces, making them ideal for foodies who want something spicy tonight before pivoting to a sweeter dish tomorrow. Flavored olive oil sampler sets also can be a great gift for cooks who love to experiment with new flavors.

- **Charcuterie board and knife set:** Foodies who love to host their fellow food fanatics will no doubt fall in love with a new charcuterie board and knife set. A 2023 report from Kroger revealed that the supermarket chain expected charcuterie boards to remain popular over the course of the year. That popularity makes sense, as anything from meat to cheese to fruit to crackers has a home on a charcuterie board, making the item especially appealing to foodies who routinely share their homes and love of



Foodies who love to host their fellow food fanatics will no doubt fall in love with a new charcuterie board and knife set.

food with friends and family.

- **Espresso maker:** Of course, foodies aren't just about food. Beverages also figure prominently in many foodies' lives. A high-end espresso maker can ground fresh beans and brew multiple cups in no time at all, making it an ideal addition to any foodie's culinary arsenal.

Food is a vital component of the holiday season and can even be incorporated into holiday shopping.

# Christmas stocking decorating tips and tricks



STAFF REPORTS

Hanging Christmas stockings is just one of the many traditions that fill the days leading up to Christmas. One theory regarding the origins of stockings says the tradition began when a poor widower who had three daughters worried over having enough money for their wedding dowries to help secure the daughters' futures. The women, who had hung their stockings by the fireplace to dry, woke up to find solid gold spheres inside. This legend suggests kindly St. Nicholas visited the home in the night and left the presents, helping ensure the daughters could marry well, after all.

Christmas stockings were

the first places where gifts were stowed, before under the boughs of Christmas trees became the primary spot for placing gifts. Then stockings were secondary vessels reserved for small trinkets. Today stockings are largely Christmas decorations rather than places to place gifts. Still, they're a key component of holiday magic.

When including stockings in holiday festivities, follow these tips for whimsy and more.

- **Utilize stocking holders.** Stocking holders are either metal or wooden devices that are placed on mantels. Hooks on the holders suspend the stockings. Just be sure the holders are sturdy enough to handle the weight of a stuffed

stocking if you plan on filling it with goodies.

- **Determine your style.** There are Christmas stockings that coordinate to just about any interior design style. From farmhouse to modern to traditional, choose one that fits with your aesthetic. That isn't to say you can't mix and match stockings if you prefer a more eclectic, homespun feel.
- **Enhance your stocking look.** If stockings are strictly decorative, enhance their look with a few tricks. First, use tissue paper or balled up shopping bags to stuff the stockings and give them shape. Fill a small baggie with sand or florist glass and place in the heel of the stocking to balance it out and prevent

the stocking from blowing around in the breeze.

- **No fireplace; no problem.** Stockings are traditionally hung from the fireplace mantel, but if you don't have a fireplace there is no need to fret. Simply use ribbons to hang them from the banister of a staircase, or hang stockings right on walls with removable hooks, or from sturdy shelves. You also can think creatively and hang larger stockings on a door like you might a wreath.

Whether they're decorative or functional, stockings can be an integral component of holiday decor in a home.

# Simple ways to involve kids in holiday decorating

Millions of people across the globe feel that the holiday season is a magical time of year. Though those people come from all walks of life, it's likely that no group is as taken by the unique spirit of the holiday season as much as children.

Whether they're looking forward to Santa's arrival or preparing for a school holiday pageant, kids have much to be excited about come December. Parents can channel that enthusiasm by involving kids when decorating around the house this holiday season.

- **Make homemade ornaments.** The options are limitless when making holiday ornaments with children. From

simple ornaments made from pine cones picked up outside to more complex projects designed for children nearing adolescence, parents can look to the internet to find design ideas and directions for hundreds of ornaments.

- **Let kids lead the way** when decorating the tree. Families that celebrate Christmas can let kids lead the way when decorating their Christmas tree. Kids are likely to spend the weeks leading up to Santa's arrival gazing in awe at the tree, and knowing they decided where to place the various ornaments on it might make the season even more special for youngsters.
- **Take kids along when**

choosing lawn ornaments. It's not safe to involve children when installing lighting displays, but kids will get a kick out of choosing inflatable lawn decorations and other items to place around the yard. Take kids along when buying new items and then seek their input when placing Frosty, Santa and his reindeer friends around the yard.

- **Include kids in culinary decor.** Many celebrants cannot imagine a holiday season without gingerbread houses and cookies. These traditions provide another great opportunity to involve children in holiday decorating. Set aside some time to make homemade gingerbread houses, which can be used as decora-



tions before they're ultimately eaten. Cookies may not have the shelf life of a typical gingerbread house, but kids can pitch in and decorate

cookies prior to a holiday party or family meal.

The spirit of the holiday season can be seen on the faces of children each

December. Inviting kids to pitch in when decorating for the holidays can make the season even more special for its youngest celebrants.

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# How to celebrate the holidays away from home

A popular Christmas song attests 'there's no place like home for the holidays.' For many people, a truer statement couldn't be uttered. But sometimes life gets in the way of an old-fashioned holiday spent at home.

There are a number of reasons why individuals may not be able to spend the holidays at home. Active military service people may not be able to leave their posts to travel home. Some students studying abroad or even far away domestically may find getting back to their homes can be time- and cost-prohibitive. Some people may not be home for the holidays because work obligations keep them out of town, or because they have planned vacations to serve as nontraditional holiday celebrations.

Being away from some familiar sights and sounds of the holidays doesn't mean celebrations should be any less special. Here are tips for celebrating away from home.

- Find people in similar situations. Chances are you will not be the only person away from home, particularly if you are a student or someone on a business venture. Connect with others who are away from their families and do something together for the holidays.
- Partake of local traditional activities. You may be used to baking sugar cookies for the holidays, but in a foreign country, the locals may make another type of dessert. Figure out how the locals celebrate the holidays and then

take part in any way you can.

- Volunteer your time. If you will be away or alone for the holidays, volunteer your time to help the less fortunate. Deliver meals to those who are not able to leave home, like seniors, or volunteer at a soup kitchen. Visit a children's hospital and deliver small gifts.
- Engage in virtual fun. Connect with people at home through the power of digital technology. Video conferencing services connect people who can't be together in person. Utilize these apps and services to remote into a holiday dinner or when loved ones open gifts.
- Cook up your favorites. Evoke traditional holiday celebrations by cooking the foods you would normally

enjoy at home. Those tastes and smells can transport you back to grandma's kitchen or dad's living room.

- Stay off of social media. Being away from home during the holidays can be challenging, and that challenge can be even greater if you see photo after photo on social media of people you know spending time with their friends and loved ones. Tune out of your social feeds for a few days.
- Invite others to you. Maybe you don't have the means of getting home, but you can bring those at home to you. Find out if anyone can plan a road trip, train ride or flight to where you are and then enjoy the holidays together.

Being away from home



during the holidays may not be ideal. However, there are plenty of ways to maintain your holiday spirit when celebrating in unfamiliar surroundings.

## Festive films that make for a perfect family movie night this season

### STAFF REPORTS

A family movie night makes for a great way for families to bond and enjoy some relaxing time together.

Such nights are a tradition in households across the globe, and they can even become a fun way for extended families to celebrate the holiday

days together. When hosting overnight guests this holiday season, hosts can plan a family movie night and line up any of these family-friendly

holiday movies.

- 'A Christmas Story' (1983): This beloved classic based on the writings of author Jean Shepherd focuses on young Ralphie Parker and his humorous family. That family includes his father, played to much laughs by legendary actor Darren McGavin. All Ralphie wants for Christmas is a coveted Red Ryder air rifle, and generations of fans have enjoyed watching this film to see if Ralphie's dream comes true.
- 'Home Alone' (1990): Not unlike 'A Christmas Story,' this instant classic devotes much of its story to a young boy. Eight-year-old Kevin McAllister (Macaulay Culkin) awakens to an empty house after his parents forgetfully leave him behind as they depart on a holiday trip to Paris with their extended family. That proves to be bad news for bungling burglars Harry

(Joe Pesci) and Marv (Daniel Stern), who are outwitted by Kevin at every turn.

- Elf (2003): Middle-aged Buddy (Will Ferrell) grew up in the North Pole believing he is an elf, despite being significantly larger than the kind-hearted elves who raised him. Upon learning he is not an actual elf, Buddy is determined to reunite with the father (James Caan) he's never known. Hilarity ensues as the innocent Buddy ends up in the big city in search of his father.
- 'It's a Wonderful Life' (1946): Among the most beloved holiday movies ever made, this classic stars Jimmy Stewart as George Bailey, a devoted family man who set aside his own big-city dreams to save the family business and, ultimately, his small hometown of Bedford Falls. Lamenting some bad luck that leaves him on the

crisp of financial ruin, George wishes he'd never been born, only to be shown by an especially kind and patient angel-in-training (Henry Travers) how much worse off Bedford Falls and its residents might have been had George Bailey never existed.

- 'Jingle All the Way' (1996): Featuring a future Governor of California in the lead role, this hijinks-filled holiday classic follows the efforts of Howard Langston (Arnold Schwarzenegger) as he tries to secure the must-have gift of the season for his son, Jamie (Jake Lloyd). Howard soon finds himself competing against a father (Sinbad) who's equally devoted to find the coveted Turbo-Man action figure.

A holiday movie night makes for a fun, family-friendly evening when hosting overnight guests during this special time of year.



Plan a family movie night and line up any of these family-friendly holiday movies.

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# How to pet proof your home when decking the halls



Various pet-proofing strategies can ensure holiday decorations and displays aren't compromised by four-legged friends this season.

**STAFF REPORTS**

The holiday season is a special time of year. Many factors combine to make the holiday season so unique and festive, and that includes all the effort people put into decorating their homes.

Much thought is giving to holiday lighting arrangements and which tree to buy, but it's equally important to consider pets when decorating. Many common household pets are naturally curious, and that curiosity can make it difficult to decorate safely come the holiday season. But various pet-proofing strategies can ensure holiday decorations and displays aren't compromised by four-legged friends this season.

- Secure the Christmas tree. Much like other residents of the home, pets may be mesmerized by a glowing Christmas tree. Pets may sniff

- around the tree or investigate it closely, which can increase the chances that it tips over. That poses a significant safety hazard and underscores the importance of using a sturdy stand. Fastening the tree to a wall, much like one might do with a television that isn't mounted, adds a further layer of protection from tip-overs.
- Block off the base of a live tree. Live trees need water to stay green and keep their needles throughout the season. That water could prove enticing to thirsty pets. Drinking water from a tree stand could increase the risk of the tree tipping over and the water could upset the stomach of pets if the tree was treated with pesticides prior to being brought home. When decorating with a live tree, make sure the base of the tree where the water will be is blocked off. A

- small fence around the tree could keep curious pets away. The room where the tree is located should be locked or inaccessible when pets are home alone.
- Inspect and conceal light wires. Wires can become frayed over time, and that could pique pets' curiosity. Lighting wires should always be inspected prior to decorating and frayed or damaged wires should be thrown away, even if it means replacing lights. If wires are still sturdy, conceal them along the base of the wall using a cable concealer, which prevents pets from chewing on them.
- Avoid lighting candles. Candles should not be lit in homes with pets. Even candles on shelves that are seemingly beyond pets' reach can be hazardous, as pets, especially cats, have a way of accessing spaces they seem-

- ingly shouldn't be able to reach. Use electric candles in lieu of traditional ones.
- Speak to a vet about seasonal plants and flowers before bringing them into the home. Pet owners can speak with their veterinarians before bringing poinsettias, holly and other seasonal plants and flowers into their homes. Some pets could suffer allergic reactions if they eat certain seasonal plants, so it's best to err on the side of caution and speak to a vet before including live plants and flowers in decorative displays.

Decorating is part of the holiday season. Pet owners must exercise an extra bit of caution to keep their pets and homes safe when decorating during this special time of year.

## TRI★COUNTY REPORTER

# Holiday Coloring Contest

Hey kids! Submit your coloring page to the contest and you could win ice-skating tickets!



Win 2 tickets to the Stockyards Rodeo Rink!

**CONTEST RULES**

1. Contest open to children ages 2-11.
2. Prizes will be awarded for three age groups: 2-4 yrs., 5-7 yrs., and 8-11 yrs.
3. Only newspaper coloring sheet will be eligible for judging. No copies.
4. All entries must be postmarked or delivered by noon to Tri-County Reporter, 321 W. Main St., Azle, TX 76020
6. Entries will be judged on use of color, creativity and overall appearance.

2-4 yrs. • 5-7 yrs. • 8-11 yrs.

Entries must be received by Friday, Dec. 15, 2023

Parents! Don't forget to fill this out!

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

GRADE: \_\_\_\_\_ AGE: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

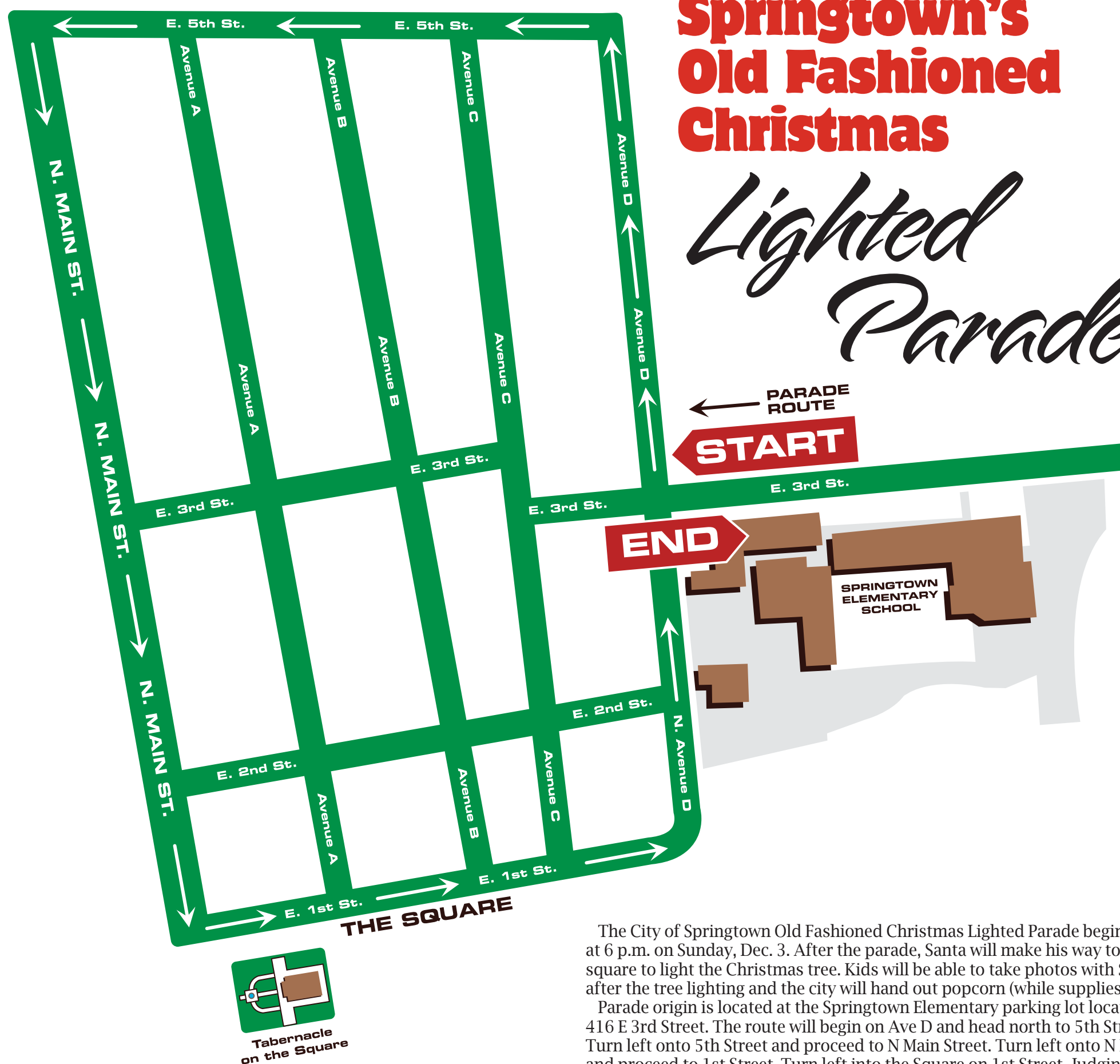


Tickets good thru Jan 7, 2024



# Springtown's Old Fashioned Christmas

*Lighted  
Parade*



The City of Springtown Old Fashioned Christmas Lighted Parade begins at 6 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 3. After the parade, Santa will make his way to the square to light the Christmas tree. Kids will be able to take photos with Santa after the tree lighting and the city will hand out popcorn (while supplies last).

Parade origin is located at the Springtown Elementary parking lot located at 416 E 3rd Street. The route will begin on Ave D and head north to 5th Street. Turn left onto 5th Street and proceed to N Main Street. Turn left onto N Main and proceed to 1st Street. Turn left into the Square on 1st Street. Judging will occur here so go slow. Continue on 1st Street then Ave D and turn back into SES parking lot to off load participants.



**The Grinch and Cindy Lou Who** kicked off the showing of last year's parade entries on Nov. 27.

Entries for the parade competition are open now through 4 p.m. Nov. 26.

**PARADE RULES:**

- No parade entry is allowed to stop their vehicle during the parade route. If your vehicle begins to overheat, please pull out of the parade line as safely as possible.
  - No 18 wheelers OR trailers over 16' will be allowed because of tight turns.
  - All horse entries must have Coggins Test papers available.
  - Parade participants MAY NOT throw any kind of candy/ souvenirs from a float, vehicle, or horseback.
- ADULT WALKERS** may

walk alongside of street to distribute candy and other materials.

- All entries must be lit. NO EXCEPTIONS.
- NO Santas allowed on any float.
- Absolutely NO political entries will be allowed in the parade.
- Parade position will be based on category and numbers will be assigned.
- Parade staging will begin at 4:15 p.m. If you are not checked in by 5:15 p.m., you will not be allowed to participate. NO EXCEPTIONS.
- Parade begins at 6:00 p.m.

- NO OFF LOADING of float rider will be permitted anywhere along the parade route for safety reasons.
- All floats will off load riders at SES parking lot.

## PARADE STAGING ENTRY

- Cars, Tractors, Walkers & Floats: ENTER ONLY ON 3RD STREET and proceed to your designated float location.
- Horses & Wagons: Stage at same ENTRANCE ON 3rd STREET and proceed to designated truck/trailer parking area. Manure must be cleaned up before leaving school parking lot.

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# Last-minute holiday shopping tips

STAFF REPORTS

Though devotees of early holiday shopping do not hesitate to point out how convenient it can be to get all their gifts long before the arrival of Chanukah and Christmas, scores of shoppers still wait until the last minute to begin checking names off their lists. It might be beneficial to shop early, but it's easy to procrastinate.

Last-minute holiday shopping might not be as enjoyable a custom as family dinners or office parties, but scrambling to find the right gift in the waning days of the holiday season is a familiar situation for millions of shoppers. Shoppers who find themselves with some last-minute shopping on their to-do list can utilize these tips to make the frantic search for the right gift go smoothly.

- Work with store personnel. If a shopping list is lengthy but the time before the holiday arrives is dwindling, speak directly with

- store personnel, who may offer suggestions but can also help shoppers find what they need. In-person shoppers can speak with a store clerk immediately upon entering a store, while online shoppers can utilize chat functions on retailers' websites for help finding something that's in stock and deliverable before the big day.
- Expect competition. Though online shopping would seemingly make last-minute shoppers relics of a bygone era, that was not really the case in 2022. A survey of more than 1,000 shoppers conducted by the retail industry publisher Best Black Friday found that just about 16 percent of consumers estimated they would finish their shopping during the week of Christmas. Last-minute shoppers who want to avoid crowds should consider shopping during off-peak hours, such as on weekday mornings and afternoons when most people are working.

- Shop local. Last-minute shoppers may be flocking to malls and busy downtown shopping districts as they hurry to get gifts for friends and family members with different interests. Shopping at small, local businesses can help last-minute shoppers avoid such crowds. And with less on their shelves and smaller storage rooms, small business owners and their staff also tend to know their inventories inside and out. That can ensure a shopping trip is not spent wandering numerous aisles in search of the right gift.
- Bag it, don't wrap it. Shoppers who wait until the very last minute likely won't have time to wrap all the gifts they pick up for loved ones. Gift bags conceal gifts just as well as wrapping paper, but it takes a fraction of the time to place a gift in a bag as it does to wrap it in paper. Quality gifts bags also are reusable, which can appeal to anyone looking to create less waste this holiday season.
- Don't forget food. If it's truly impossible to find something late in the season and a gift card feels too impersonal, give the gift of food. Adult recipients also can be gifted a bottle of wine or another spirit that can be enjoyed during a holiday meal. Shoppers skilled in the kitchen can whip up a homemade treat, while those without such talents can give a store-bought delicacy or even a subscription to a monthly food club or service.

Last-minute shopping may look different than it used to, but scores of shoppers still wait to buy gifts for their loved ones. A handful of strategies can simplify last-minute shopping.



Shopping at small, local businesses can help last-minute shoppers avoid such crowds.



Many professional sports teams now welcome fans to tour their stadiums both in-season and during the offseason.

# Sports experiences make great gifts this holiday season

STAFF REPORTS

The thrill of sports has inspired billions of loyal fans and athletes across the globe. Professional, collegiate, scholastic, and even recreational sports entertain people all year long. That popularity is something shoppers can keep in mind as they look for the perfect gift for the family sports fan this holiday season.

Many adults undoubtedly recall receiving sports equipment as a holiday gift when they were children. Whether it's a baseball mitt or a field hockey stick or a new ball, these gifts tend to light up kids' eyes come Christmas morning. Adult sports fans may not need such equipment, but they might be just as excited to receive these unique sports experiences this holiday season.

- Tickets: For diehard sports fans, nothing is better than going to the big game.

Perhaps in acknowledgment of the growing popularity of following a favorite team on the road, many professional sports leagues now release team schedules months in advance of the first game of the season. For example, the National Football League released its 2022 schedule in mid-May, despite the fact that the season does not begin until September. Shoppers can peruse schedules and circle a must-see home game or lay the foundation for a memorable trip by giving tickets to a road game.

- Stadium tour: Stadium tours are another great experience the family sports fan will undoubtedly appreciate. Many professional sports teams now welcome fans to tour their stadiums both in-season and during the offseason. These tours offer a behind-the-scenes look at stadiums, arenas and ballparks. Teams may even host tours on game days, making this a

great stocking stuffer to pair with tickets to a game.

- Fan fest: Fan fest tickets make an ideal gift for individuals who can be accurately described as 'diehards' for their favorite teams. These family-friendly gatherings tend to happen in the weeks leading up to the start of a new season. A handful of current and former players typically attend fan fests, which are hosted by the team and typically include activities for adults and children alike.
- Lessons: Holiday shoppers may have a sports fan on their list who still enjoys lacing up their cleats. For example, pro golf fans may still enjoy hitting the links themselves. In such instances, lessons from a nearby golf pro can be just the thing to make sports fans smile this holiday season.

Sports experiences make an ideal gift for individuals whose passion for a favorite team is a big part of their life.

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**Carols & Candles**

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Instrumental Evening Service, December 10th at 6 PM  
Sunday Morning Service, December 31st at 10:50 AM

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