

THE TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

THE NEWS OF AZLE, SPRINGTOWN, AND SURROUNDING AREAS

THURSDAY, January 4, 2024 • \$1.00



Adding some sparkle to the new year

Azle families ring in 2024

ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Fireworks, like some purchased from Heather's Fireworks next to Turkey Mountain Feed on Silver Creek Road, lit up Azle through the night of Dec. 31 going into the new year.



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

A strange seven-vehicle wreck occurred at Albertsons in Azle in October.

Sayonara, 2023!

MADELYN EDWARDS
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A year-end review of tri-county news

There's never a slow news day in Azle, Springtown or Reno, and the year 2023 was no exception.

This tri-county area our newspaper reports on was jam-packed with activity. Students competed at high-level contests and broke records. New leaders stepped up while others stepped down. Our elected officials continued to make decisions,

and voters showed up at the polls to make decisions for themselves. And, sadly, we've had to say goodbye to some of our favorite people.

The Tri-County Reporter itself has had a tremendous year. This newspaper printed its first edition in June to bring stories from Azle, Springtown and Reno together in one weekly paper. Leaving behind the

Azle News and Springtown Epigraph was not easy, but we are boldly moving forward and will continue to produce a quality newspaper for Azle, Springtown and Reno residents.

Year-end reviews are a tradition for this publication. The reporter working on this article reviewed all 30

PLEASE SEE TOP TEN | A8

December city council re-cap

Azle Council announces contest winners, comes out against Silver Creek recycling plant

ZACH FREEMAN
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LAWRENCE BRYANT DAY

AZLE — Assistant City Manager Lawrence Bryant was recognized for 20 years of service to the city. Bryant started with the city as a college intern on Oct. 5, 2003, and has made it his sole career. Bryant has been an administrative service manager, director of administration and finance and was promoted to assistant city manager on July 17, 2011. "Lawrence is always trying to do whatever he can do that's best for the city," Mayor Alan Brundrett said "He's one of our best employees here."

With the reading of a proclamation, Brundrett declared Dec. 5, 2023 Lawrence Bryant

Day in Azle.

MUNICIPAL COURT COLORING CONTEST

The city also declared the winners and runners-up of the third annual Municipal Court Week Coloring Contest. There were 78 entries in the contest in which elementary-aged children submitted a completed coloring book page distributed at local elementary schools and day-cares. Runners-up were Adley Sutherland, Sophia Rivas, Josephine Brester, McCoy Gentry, Micah Corban and Hank Loveless, aged between 2 and 10. Third place was Warren Geary, age 7, second place was Lauren Quick, age 11 and first place was Juliette Curtis, age 9, who missed the

PLEASE SEE COUNCIL | A11



Sports reporter Jeff Prince retiring

PHOTO COURTESY SMARTER PHOTOGRAPHY

Prince leaves behind a legacy of in-depth, caring stories about young students striving for excellence. Everybody was important, and no story was too small. Here he interviews the Springtown homecoming queen for 2023.

SEE STORY PAGE B1



NO COMMUNITY FEES



Happy New Year!

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JESSICA MCKINNEY | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Kyler Akers and Emory Hann alongside Optimist Club leaders.

Exceptional Azle students

ZACH FREEMAN
azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

Two AHS seniors recognized at Dec. 14 Optimist Club meeting

AZLE — Two Azle High School seniors were selected by Azle's Optimist Club in December for the Young Texans of the Month award. Kyler Akers and Emory Hann were recognized for their accomplishments by the organization in this longstanding Azle tradition.

Kyler Akers is the son of Damon and Amber Akers. Akers is ranked 29th in his class. He has been accepted to LeTourneau University with an endowment from the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program and an Air Force ROTC scholarship. He is also open to attending Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University to major in aerospace engineering and has a special interest in unmanned flight. Akers is proud that he's in the process of getting his Part 107 Remote Pilot's License and for making it to the championship for the Bell Advanced Vertical Robotics Competition with

the AHS drone team. Akers is proud of his work as a lead drone pilot. The team placed fourth in the Bell Championship in Hurst. Two of Akers' favorite teachers are Tyler Harrison and Rachel Bevan. During the 2019-20 school year, Akers was also the lead sound technician for the school's play. He is proud of having completed college classes while in high school and he volunteers at the Community Caring Center every Thursday, delivering food to families' cars or stocking shelves. He is a current employee of HTeaO in Lake Worth.

Emory Hann is the daughter of Lee and Melissa Hann. She is ranked 20th in her class and has been accepted to Tarleton State University where she hopes to major in kinesiology and become an occupational therapist.

She is proud of being in her class's top 10%, maintaining straight As and being accepted into the National Honor Society. Some of her favorite teachers are Coach John Epps and Mrs. Lou Ann Burnham. She is on the Azle High School swim team and in the 2022-23 school year she was part of a relay team that made it to the regional finals in the 400 Free Relay event, where her team broke a school record. She is heavily involved in Ash Creek Baptist Church and has participated in many youth camps and mission trips. She has also volunteered at Vacation Bible Schools and fine arts camps since the seventh grade. She dog sits and babysits for family, friends and members of her church. She enjoys reading and cooking and is proud of her active listening and critical thinking skills.

Springtown ISD

SHANE STRICKLAND
Superintendent of Schools, Springtown ISD

Celebrating achievements and navigating challenges

As we say goodbye to the holiday season and welcome the new year, I extend warm wishes to our Porcupine Family. I hope your Christmas was filled with joy, and your New Year is off to a promising start. As we dive into 2024, I wanted take a moment to celebrate our achievements and look ahead at what's in store for Springtown Independent School District (SISD) in 2024.

Our fall semester saw impressive performances from our athletes, with SHS football and volleyball teams making exciting playoff runs. Wesley Payne represented Springtown at the state cross-country competition, setting the bar high for athletic excellence. Our basketball programs are also off to a great start!

In the arts, the Sound of Springtown advanced to

area competition, while the fine arts program wowed the community with "The Little Mermaid." Behind the scenes, our Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs excelled. From fun "weld offs" to FFA earning 5th place in Area IV agricultural advocacy, our students are thriving. Culinary students are gaining real-world experience through internships, and business practicum students launched POJO's Helping Hand — a discreet "store" providing essentials to students in need.

Amidst these triumphs, we must also address the challenges. Unfortunately, the proposed bond to build a new middle school did not pass in November. SISD is actively working with demographers and conducting a utilization analysis to explore the poten-

tial of rezoning. Our goal is to alleviate overcrowding in elementary schools and ensure the efficient use of every square inch in our district to help with the overcrowding we are experiencing at our secondary campuses. Seeking advice from experts, we are committed to finding effective solutions that prioritize for the well-being of our students, staff and stakeholders.

As we navigate challenges, our commitment to our Porcupine Family remains strong. Your support is our backbone, and we feel confident we can come up with solutions that will continue the success we are experiencing in our district.

Thanks for your continued support. Here's to a year filled with growth, resilience and shared success.

- Shane Strickland



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Walking up a hill to the future

In some of my past columns I have mentioned Miss Jayne. She is 92 years old and my dear friend and substitute Mother, now that mine has passed. She was born and grew up in Durant, Oklahoma where she attended grade school, high school and college. Miss Jayne's dad was a telegrapher with the railroad. He was a smart and industrious man who realized way back in the '40s there were no dormitories at the growing Southeast Oklahoma State University and very few apartments in Durant. He purchased a city lot located just two blocks from the college, which already had a house built upon it. He then proceeded to take the roof off the house and built a series of boarding rooms on newly-created second and third floors. Miss Jayne's family lived on the first floor, while the second and third floors were rented to female college students. Many of the



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.

renters made the house their home for their entire four-year collegiate careers.

Because of age and failing health Miss Jayne had not been back to Durant for quite a few years. I decided it might be a good idea to take her to see the "old home place" one more time before her health failed to the point where she could not travel.

I could tell Miss Jayne was excited to make the trip. She could not recall the last time she had been to see the place where she grew up, but the thought of seeing her childhood home and reliving her family memories was nearly more than she could bear. As we drove, we talked about

her folks, her brother and the times they shared. We talked about her deceased husband Marcus and how she had met him at Durant when she was in college. Clearly it was important to her to share with me, her close friend, those intimate memories, and the reality that she was the only one left to tell the stories after all these years.

When we got to Durant, we drove to her childhood address and was surprised that while the old house was vacant, it was still standing and in good shape. The yard was mowed and obviously cared for. Miss Jayne began describing how as many as 16 girls had lived upstairs at her fam-

ily home and detailed the adventures which occurred. She smiled, giggled and regaled me in tales. She told me of the time she and her brother were playing with their pony, and it fell into a ditch dug by the city to install a new water line. The pony landed upside-down in the trench and could not get itself out. Miss Jayne was sure it was going to die until some college students got shovels and managed to free the animal. She showed me the street corner where her three childhood friends would meet to join her to walk up the hill to grade school. The same girls would meet and walk up the hill to high school, and then to college. "I don't know how many steps I took over the years but everything I ever learned in school was on that hill, and I had to take that sidewalk to get there, from kindergarten through a master's degree," Jayne told me, "And I even met my husband and fell in

love up on that hill."

We drove around Durant and Miss Jayne remarked on the changes. She told stories about old stores and businesses as she marveled at the evolution of the college campus. Even pointing out to me the music hall she and Marcus would visit to "make out" when they were dating.

As we drove back home, we talked about life and those things which are important to value. She told me that at her age, memories are all she has left. She was so pleased she got to see one more time the place which held so many memories for her. She also let me know how important it was to her to share those stories, so I might better understand exactly who she was and where she had come from.

As I drove back to my home, I thought about the hill Miss Jayne climbed when she started school. I tried to picture my 92-year-old friend as

a 5-year-old going to kindergarten with her three childhood friends; giggling as they walked, carefree and unaware of what travails life had in store for them in the years ahead. Little did she know where the sidewalk would lead her or what her life would become. She had no idea she and I would become friends so many years later.

We all have climbed our "hills" and one day will look back and recollect and smile at the past. My hope is when you do, you have someone close to share those memories with. They will enjoy hearing your memories as much as you will enjoy reliving them.

Thought for the day: Old memories are like coffee with cream and sugar: when stirred both can become mel-low and sweet!

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

Winter birds in Texas offer viewing and fishing help

Just the other day near Squaw Creek, I saw a bald eagle. I have seen them before, but not many in our immediate area. This prompted me to discuss the many birds that visit our area throughout the year.

Winter is no different, but for an angler, many of these different species of birds may lead to finding active fish. These birds are amazing to watch and many folks do so as a hobby. These folks are commonly called "Birders." There is some "Birder" in all of us as I know I like viewing these creatures when I am on the water (at least most of the species).

Even though the discussion today is on the winter species here in our area, there are many birds sought for viewing in the spring and other seasons in Texas. Some of these species include blue jays, mockingbirds, a variety of hummingbirds, osprey, hawks, and scissortail flycatchers just to name a few. The coastal areas of Texas also have many areas dedicated to many different species of birds. One of the most popular is the Sandhill crane. Consult the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) site for more information on bird viewing in Texas at www.tpwd.state.tx.us.

Some of the most abundant birds to come to our freshwater lakes in winter are the gulls. Everybody sees these birds on the water and almost everywhere, including the Walmart parking lot. These gulls are pests to many; however they are friends to the anglers as they can point out active feeding fish. We also



ON FISHING

By Michael Acosta

As a licensed professional fishing guide, Michael Acosta shows you how to find them. The Granbury resident of 30 years has been fishing all of his life, and has been a licensed guide since 1998. michael.acosta@att.net

have terns in the winter and these are commonly misidentified as gulls. The tern is smaller than a gull and has a forked tail of sorts. Many of these terns stay with us year around.

We are also in the central flyway and we have an abundance of Canadian geese, ducks, coots, etc. that visit our area. Some resident geese and ducks stay with us year around. Duck and goose hunting are popular in Texas and many hunters set up right here on the Brazos.

One popular draw to "Birders" in the winter in our area is the bald eagle. There are numerous nesting sites around our area and you will at times see these huge birds with wingspans to 7 feet soaring over Lake Granbury. Lake Whitney has several nesting sites as well. The best-known area for viewing bald eagles in North Texas is the Lake Texoma area. Thousands of these eagles migrate south each winter and many take up residence in Texas near open water where there is an ample food supply. The bald eagles will roost together in the winter at night in trees, on cliffs and such near the water. They tend to use the same roosting areas year to year. This species came back from near extinction with some human intervention and is now off the endangered species list.

Another common bird found on our waters in the winter is the double-crested cormorant. This bird is not a favorite of most anglers as these birds in numbers can hurt a fishery, especially in a small impoundment. These birds are related to the pelican and dive to catch fish. Cormorants used to be protected, but now you can hunt these birds. Consult the TPWD for rules on hunting cormorants. Many catfish anglers use the cormorant nesting sites as a good place to fish. The cormorants' droppings are essentially pure fish which will, over time, draw in the catfish. I have also on occasion located hybrid stripers in deep water under feeding cormorants, though this is an exception. Usually if the cormorants are feeding, the fish will vacate as these birds don't discriminate on species. In my opinion, in deep enough water, the bigger fish like stripers and hybrids wait below the feeding cormorants waiting for wounded baitfish to fall their way. Cormorants are spooked easily and will usually leave long before you get close. Cormorants look similar to loons and many times they are difficult to tell apart. One way I know for sure is that the loon is not as spooky as the cormorant, and they will get in on the action when fish are feeding on the surface.

The loon also has a distinctive "warble" sound as I call it that certifies the identification of one.

Many North Texas lakes will have loons in the winter. Loons are normally associated with life in the northern states and Canada. I am told that seeing a loon is rare, but I see some each winter especially on Lake Whitney. They are not easily spooked, and they can be seen diving right next to your boat. The only species of loon reported in the Brazos Valley is called a common loon. Other parts of Texas have occasional reports in winter of Pacific and red-throated

loons and even yellow-billed loons a few times and I am sure I couldn't tell the difference. Apparently, breeding plumage loons are fairly easy to identify, but wintering birds are a challenge. Listening to the loons' call is most impressing to me as it is something you do not hear normally in Texas.

Another huge bird that frequents our area in the winter is the white pelican. I am not sure of the species, but they tell me the species we get around here is the American white pelican (there could be other species). You will see numbers of these big birds at times and other times you

won't see many. I am sure they move with the food or they may be passing through. Lake Proctor, which has an abundance of bait, is a location where I have always seen pelicans in the winter. Granbury usually has pelicans as well. I have seen a few on the upper ends this year.

There are also many other water birds here in the winter that you see year-round like the crane species (blue heron) for example.

Fishing may be the primary reason for getting on the water, however there are numerous other reasons to be outdoors. Viewing other wildlife is part of the experience.

FISHING REPORT

Water temperatures rebounded some and then started to fall again. The lake is close to full level. I measured temperatures in the middle 50s in most areas on Granbury. Granbury striped bass are located on the lower ends and midlake and are fair to good on jerkbaits and swimbaits. Sand bass action on the upper ends is reported as good on slabs and small bass assassins fished on a quarter-ounce jig head. Granbury black bass are reported to be good to 6 pounds on the upper ends working rocks and timber on those warmer afternoons using watermelon and blue fleck Texas-rigged soft plastics. On the main lake, look for dropoffs near main lake creek channels and deeper docks for largemouths. Big yellow and blue catfish are good on cut bait fished on shallow flats on the upper ends near Hunter Park. Crappie action is good with numbers being caught on small jigs fishing submerged timber from Water's Edge to Mallard Pointe.

Comanche Creek (formerly called Squaw Creek) continues to draw in the winter crowds on this power plant lake. Numbers of largemouth bass with an occasional bigger fish to 8 pounds are possible on soft plastics, either Texas-rigged or dropshot-type rigs. Eater channel catfish limits are common on prepared baits fished on baited holes.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,
Dec. 18, 2023 - The Azle ISD Board of Trustees would like to express its heartfelt gratitude to all who tirelessly work to support our school district and those who spent their volunteer time to plan and promote the 2023 Azle ISD Bond.

First and foremost, on behalf of the entire school community, we would like to express our deepest gratitude to the public for passing the 2023 school bond. Your commitment to investing in our children's education will undoubtedly shape the lives of countless students, empowering them to reach their full potential. We are humbled by your trust and will strive to make the most of this oppor-

tunity to provide an exceptional education experience.

Many thanks go to Superintendent Todd Smith and Assistant Superintendent Matt Adams, all Azle ISD administrators and employees, the Long Range Facilities Planning Committee, and the 2023 Bond Political Action Committee (PAC) for their invaluable support in the successful passing of Azle ISD's 2023 bond. The dedication and efforts of these organizations and the citizens of Azle have made a significant impact on our community, ensuring a brighter future for our children and our local education system.

Superintendent Smith and Assistant Superintendent Adams have an unwavering

commitment to our schools. Their tireless efforts in informing our community about the bond proposal deserve recognition. They presented to over 65 community organizations in a little over a month. Their leadership and vision have been instrumental in garnering support and rallying the community behind this crucial growth and safety plan. Their dedication to providing quality education and ensuring the best possible learning environment for our children is truly commendable.

We would also like to express gratitude to the Azle Education Foundation, not only for its support of the bond, but for ensuring our teachers have innovative

teaching grants to reach above and beyond the norm in their classrooms. The AEF's generous contributions and active involvement in raising awareness about the importance of investing in our schools have been instrumental in the success of our teachers and students. Its commitment to the betterment of our community is truly inspiring and its efforts have undoubtedly made a lasting impact on the future of our educational institutions and children.

Thank you to the Long Range Facilities Planning Committee and the PAC for their strategic planning and advocacy. The Long Range Facilities Planning Committee members' dedication to careful planning for the future of

Azle ISD has been a years-long exercise. The PAC's advocacy and mobilization efforts promoting this bond, along with its ability to engage with the community and elected officials, have been crucial in ensuring its success. The commitment of the community volunteers on these two committees to improving our schools and investing in the education of our children is truly commendable.

The passage of this school growth bond when other bonds in neighboring communities did not pass is a testament to the power of collaboration and community engagement. It is heartening to witness the collective efforts of these individuals

and organizations, who have come together to prioritize the future of our children and the quality of public education they receive. This achievement will undoubtedly have a lasting positive impact on our community, fostering an environment where our children can thrive and reach their full potential.

Again, we would like to express our deepest gratitude to all and thank the community of Azle for its support. We are truly fortunate to have such passionate and committed individuals, organizations and our community working toward the betterment of our education system.

Gratefully, Sarah Bennett
Board Secretary, Azle ISD
Board of Trustees Place 2

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REPORTER

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OUR MISSION: The Tri-County Reporter shall provide news and insights to our readers through the independent and impartial presentation of information that educates, enriches and entertains. We are proud to be a community newspaper committed to the people we serve.

Azle's Christmas wish list

Tri-County Reporter unveils list of most popular items from Santa letters, compared with 1983

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

AZLE — Santa's elves at The Tri-County Reporter have painstakingly compiled a list of some of the most-requested items in this year's Santa letters in order to find out what was hot this Christmas — other than the weather.

The letters come from about 510 second grade students at seven Azle elementary schools: Walnut Creek, Silver Creek, Hilltop, Cross Timbers, Eagle Heights, Liberty, and Azle Christian School. The school with the most letters was Liberty at 101 and the one with the least was ACS at 14.

The elves then went back into their records to find Azle's 1983 Santa letters to compare and contrast 40 years of Christmas wishes in Azle. About 154 Azle kids, grade and school not specified, made up the 1983 Santa letters. The number of Santa Letters submitted for Azle alone was more than triple in 2023 than in 1983. Azle's population has also almost tripled from 5,822 in 1980 according to the Texas Almanac to nearly 14,000 today. A second grader in '83 would be about 48 years old now, more than old enough to be parents to the kids who wrote this year's Santa letters.

NO. 1:

By a wide margin, dolls were the most requested Christmas gifts for Azle kids in 1983 at about 45 requests. Cabbage Patch Kids were the most-requested type at 13 requests, followed by Barbie, Strawberry Shortcake and Baby Alive. About 29% of letter writers asked for some kind of doll in 1983.

In 2023, books were the most asked for item at about 78 requests. The Dog Man book series was the most popular book. Magic Tree House and other Scholastic classics made a noteworthy showing alongside informational books about animals. This stands in contrast with the number of books asked for in 1983, which was three. About 15% of 2023 Santa letters asked for books.

Interestingly, Americans seem to be buying, or asking Santa for, more books than ever, but are simultaneously reading less than in past decades. American publishers sold 825.7 million print

books in 2021, up 8.9% from the previous year, according to Publishers Weekly. This trend had persisted for at least several years prior, but a 2021 Gallup poll showed Americans read an average of 12.6 books that year, down from 15.6 five years earlier, and its peak of 18.5 in 1999. A Pew study also found that daily reading for fun among 9-year-olds was 42% in 2020, down from 53% in 1984. The proportion of this age group who say they hardly or never read for fun is 16%, up from 9% in 1984.

Why buy books other than to read them? Are print books becoming more of a symbol of status, virtue or intelligence? Do parents need more books to display in the background for Zoom meetings?

Experts aren't settled on a single theory. After a near 15-year continuous rise, the per capita rate of in-person visits to libraries plummeted 24% from 2009 to 2018. So, it may also be that readers are buying more because they are not borrowing.

NO. 2:

Bicycles were the second most requested item with 26 asks in 1983, while phones were the second most-requested item in 2023 at 73. iPhones were by far the most popular brand. There was only one request for a phone in the 1983 Santa letters.

The effects of too much screen time may be leaving a lasting mark on younger generations. About 42% of Americans are near-sighted, many requiring glasses. That's up from 25% in 1971, according to the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey.

Ophthalmologists theorize not enough time spent outside and excessive time spent looking at close objects could be contributing to this trend.

Also, nearly 20% of children suffer from obesity today according to the Center for Disease Control. That's more than tripled from 6.7% in 1980. Studies have found that at least 60 minutes of moderate physical activity per day can help prevent childhood obesity.

NO. 3:

Apparently, style never goes out of fashion. Clothes were the third most requested item in both 1983 and

2023, at 20 and 63 respectively. The older letters saw more of a trend toward coats and jeans while today shoes and socks seem to be in demand. While some 1980s fashion has made a comeback recently, with crop tops, miniskirts, and neon pink blasting back from the past, big hair and stripes seem to be staying behind.

NO. 4:

The verdict is out: dogs rule, cats drool. Whether now or then, pets were the fourth most popular item on Azle's wish list. Nine kids in 1983 asked for dogs, while three asked for cats, bringing the number of Santa requests for pets to 12 or about 16 if you count birds and horses.

Generation Alpha made similar requests to Saint Nick, asking for dogs 34 times and cats 19. A few lizards, hamsters, Guinea pigs and other animals, even an octopus, made a showing as well. Cats have improved their position over time. Making up about 19% of pet requests in 1983, they are at more than half this year. There has also been a noticeable increase in the number of kids asking for toys for their pets. This secures pets the highly contested fourth-place spot in both 1983 and in 2023.

NO. 5:

Video games miraculously both landed on the fifth-place spot for 1983 and 2023, with a third example showing that kids are more aligned than you might think, regardless of when.

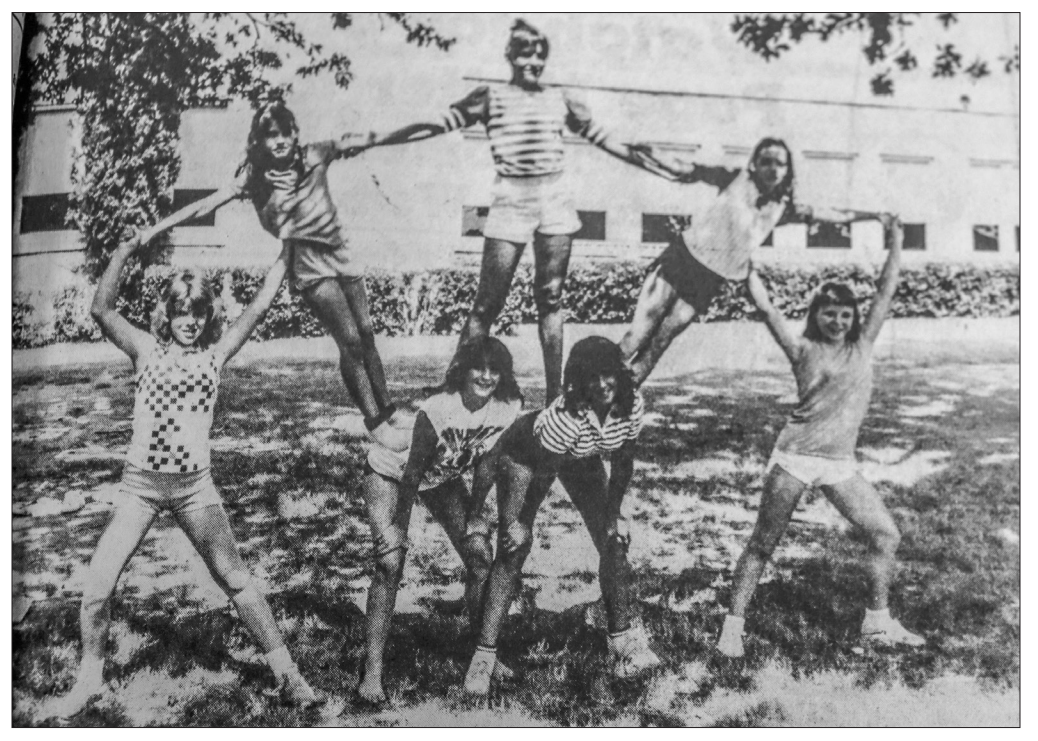
The 1983 count was 15 with Q-Bert, Pacman and the Atari console being some of the most asked for.

This year's Santa letters saw 53 students ask for video games with 33 PlayStation consoles, games or accessories requested, mostly the PS5, and 20 Nintendo consoles, games and accessories requested, mostly Nintendo Switches with Mario-related items being particularly popular also.

NO. 6:

Care Bears were the sixth most popular item for Azle's Gen Xers, while dolls were the number six pick for 2023's second graders, at 10 and 29 respectively.

LOL (Lil Outrageous Littles) Surprise! Dolls were the most popular type of doll in this year's Santa letters, proving



Photos from the 1983 editions of the Azle News Advertiser show off some popular fashion from Azle students and Sears models at Ridgmar Mall.

that, along with the Cabbage Patch Kids, ugly dolls have been popular across generations.

NO. 7:

Toy vehicles, many remote controlled, including cars, trucks, planes and boats made it into nine kid's wish list in 1983.

Stuffed animals grabbed the number seven spot this year with 28 requests, Squishmallows being the most popular type.

NO. 8:

Skates and watches tied for

eighth place with eight requests each among the older cohort.

Today's kids instead opted for tablets, at least 27 of them, with most preferring the iPad brand.

NO. 9:

The number nine spot was crowded. Balls of several kinds, Star Wars (toys and memorabilia), He-Man (toys and memorabilia), dollhouses and accessories, Hot Wheels and racetracks, Poochie (toys and memorabilia), and guns (BB and otherwise) all tied

for ninth place in 1983 with seven Christmas appeals.

Virtual reality or VR headsets, bicycles, and Pokémon (cards, plushies, games, and memorabilia) all tied for ninth place in the 2023 Santa letters with 23.

HONORABLE MENTION:

From here on out, the list becomes overcrowded with ties, but among the 10th place winners, G.I. Joe (toys and memorabilia), Dukes of Hazard (toys and memorabilia) had six kids in 1983 that were crazy about them.

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Reno Council to review, vote on amended one-acre ordinance

MADELYN EDWARDS
springtownreporter@tricityreporter.com

RENO — Yet again, Reno City Council took a step toward solidifying its one-home-per-acre ordinance following a contentious debate at the Dec. 18 council meeting.

Over a year ago, then-council member Shelli Swift (now, mayor pro tem) said at a city council meeting that any loopholes or contradictions to the one-home-per-acre ordinance should be resolved, but that pursuit did not come to fruition. At the council meeting Nov. 13, 2023, Swift reiterated a similar argument and proposed a solution to make all incoming residential zoning be platted on lots of one acre or more, though she

Ordinance to include all new subdivisions in city

mentioned some exceptions like special use permits. Swift specifically referred to a zoning ordinance that may allow for multiple homes per acre as a contradiction to the one-home-per-acre rule.

The meeting in November ended with the council agreeing to meet for a workshop on this topic, which occurred prior to the council meeting Dec. 18. When the topic came up during the council meeting, Swift asked how the council was feeling about the one-acre ordinance after discussing it in the workshop.

"I haven't changed my mind at all," council mem-

ber Hernando Herrera said in response.

Herrera said he supports the one-acre rule because that's what the residents he represents want.

"Until my constituents call me and tell me that the majority of them have changed their mind, I can't change mine," he said. "We'll find out again in May when elections come back around. Individuals that still want one home per acre are going to vote me into office again. If they don't, then they won't."

Council member Joy Jenkins also spoke in favor of solidifying the one-acre

rule for not only residential properties but also commercial ones.

"Right now, we don't have infrastructure for a dense population," Jenkins said. "Our water is sketchy, and we do not have a sewer system. So, I think until we get that addressed, we have to go with the one acre."

Because Reno does not have city sewer services, residents must utilize septic systems. These systems need to be on one acre if the property receives city water and on two acres if the property has a well, Parker County Permitting Department Director Rusty Brawner said in a previous Tri-County Reporter article.

Some residents at the council meeting argued that lim-

iting lots to one acre was at best redundant to the county's septic rule and at worst destructive to Reno's budget.

"To me, you are just killing your city finances by sticking your head in the sand and saying never ever," Kim White said to council.

In contrast, Reno resident Ted Lyon said during the meeting that one-acre lots can make Reno unique.

Echoing Jenkins' statement, Swift said without city sewer services, deviation from the one-acre lot is not feasible.

"We have no sewer system, and with no sewer system, when you bring in all the five units per acre, what are you going to do with all the pot-ty?" she said

Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Jennifer Vogle advocated for

the city to create an updated master plan with options that would support the city's budget, but she understood why lots less than an acre are currently not possible.

"We do have to consider these things that limit the budget, but for tonight, we don't have the sewer," Vogle said. "Parker County requires one acre because of that."

The council voted to direct the city's attorney to amend the one-acre ordinance to require all new subdivisions in Reno to be platted on lots that are at least one acre. Vogle and council member Tod Siedell abstained from voting. The next step is for the council to review the amended ordinance and vote on it.

Springtown recognizes National Blood Donor Month in January

MADELYN EDWARDS
springtownreporter@tricityreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — For more than 50 years, National Blood Donor Month has been recognized in the U.S. to thank those who donate while encouraging more people to give blood.

At the last city council meeting, Springtown Mayor Greg Hood proclaimed January 2024 as National Blood Donor Month in the city.

"National Blood Donor Month serves as an important reminder to maintain a sufficient blood supply through volunteer donors," Hood said in the proclamation.

In 1969, Congress passed Senate Joint Resolution 154 asking then President Richard Nixon to proclaim

January 1970 as National Blood Donor Month.

"Genuine concern for his fellowman has always distinguished the American citizen," read Nixon's proclamation. "That concern finds daily expression in countless acts of voluntary service to the less fortunate, the sick and the injured. No manifestation of this generosity of spirit is more expressive, and no gift more priceless in time of personal crisis, than the donation of one's blood. The voluntary blood donor truly gives life itself."

January is an ideal time to promote donating blood because, according to the Association for the Advancement of Blood and Biotherapies, people generally don't donate as much during winter. Holidays, weather

as well as cold and flu season can lead to lower donations and a higher chance of blood shortages.

"National Blood Donor Month celebrates blood donors during this critical time and reminds people of the importance of donating blood," the association's website states.

Donated blood benefits a variety of medical patients, such as those experiencing trauma, diagnosed with cancer or giving birth. According to the U.S. Blood Donation Statistics and Public Messaging Guide from May 2022, blood transfusions take place every two seconds, and donations can save or impact more than one life.

Yet, only about 3% of the U.S. population gives blood annually, according to the

guide. About 7 million people gave blood in 2019.

The number of U.S. donors has been declining, according to a news release in honor of National Blood Donor Month on the American Red Cross' website, and new or returning donors are needed.

"We are grateful to those who generously roll up a sleeve for patients in need," American Red Cross Biomedical Services President Chris Hrouda said in the news release. "Even as we see the donor base decline, the American Red Cross recognizes and celebrates our dedicated blood and platelet donors who are giving more often today than past decades. This National Blood Donor Month, please join us in our mission that truly helps save lives."

To sweeten the deal, those who donate blood with the American Red Cross in January 2024 will be entered to win tickets and accommodations for Super Bowl LVIII in Las Vegas. To donate blood, visit <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?order=DATE&range=10&zipSponsor=76082>.

People can also donate to Carter BloodCare, which has mobile drives as well: <https://www2.greatpartners.org/donor/schedules/zip>.



MADELYN EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER
Mayor Greg Hood presents his proclamation declaring January 2024 as National Blood Donor Month in Springtown to Carter BloodCare representative Colleen Horan.

Spotlight on BUSINESS

JANUARY



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ers. You can get a free quote and discuss financing options over the phone.

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OBITUARIES

William Boehm, Sr. 1941-2023

William M. Boehm, Sr. passed away peacefully Monday, Dec. 11, 2023. He was born in Hollywood, Florida Feb. 14, 1941, to James Alfred Boehm and Mary June (Michel) Boehm. William served as a cook in the Air Force from 1958 to 1965 and married the love of his life, his wife, Jeanie LaDell Robinson, June 1, 1960; they were married for 63 years at the time of his passing. He was president of the Fort Worth Gun Club and one of his favorite hobbies was sewing. He is preceded in death by his father, James A. (Doc) Boehm Jr.; mother, Mary June Boehm; brother John Boehm; and sister, Nancy Boehm. William is survived by his wife, Jeanie LaDell Boehm; brother, Jim Boehm; son, William M. Boehm Jr.; son, Al Boehm; daughter, Betsy Urbanek and her husband Todd; daughter, Lauren Lynch and her husband Tim; grandchildren, Jennifer and



husband Josh, TJ and his wife Meagan, Michel and his wife Jasmin, Alexandra and her husband Andrew, James and his wife Kylie, Ashley and her husband Paul, Leslee and her husband Nick, and Megan; great-grandkids, Luc, Roland, Rex, Bradleigh, Cannon, Knox, William, Wyatt, Raylon and Annelise, Alivia, Emily, and Sophia; and great-great-grandchild, Posie.

The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday Jan 4, 2024

Thomas Fife 1953-2023

Thomas Fife, age 70, passed away peacefully Dec. 20, 2023. He is survived by his wife of 30 years, Sue; his daughters Michelle Forcina (Steve), Cori Fife and fiancé Ramsey, and Lindsey Fife. He had 10 wonderful grandchildren. He will be deeply missed.



The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday Jan 4, 2024

Mary Graham 1943-2023

Mary Nell Graham, 80, passed away with family by her side, Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2023, in Springtown. A graveside service was held at 2 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 2, in Jaybird Cemetery, Springtown. Interment is at Jaybird Cemetery, Springtown. Mary was born Nov. 12, 1943, in Springtown, to Orland Wesley Williams and Audrey Dodd Williams. Mary attended Springtown schools and worked for the city of Floydada and Kent Cadillac. She attended the

Mercy Culture Church, where, over the years, Mary touched many lives, and she will be missed by all who knew her. She was preceded in death by her parents and her sister, Sandra Browning. Mary is survived by her children, Julie Lynn Duke and Randy Leon of Floydada; Samuel Keith Brawley and Jacquelin of Lake Worth; and Michael Chuck Clay and Trisha of Shallowater.

The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday Jan 4, 2024

Dee Dean 1964-2023

Dee Wayne Dean, 59, passed away and went to be with the Lord on Dec. 19, 2023, with his wife, Mary, by his side. Visitation was from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 28, at Biggers Funeral Home. Service followed at 1 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 28, in Biggers Funeral Chapel. Interment is at Ash Creek Cemetery, 310 South Stewart Street, Azle. Dee was first and foremost a born-again follower of Christ Jesus. His natural life began when he was born March 9, 1964 to Odis and Patricia Dean in Fort Worth. He was married to Mary (Margaret) Dean Dec. 11, 1999, and they shared 24 years of marriage together. Dee worked for the Fort Worth City Street Department. When he was not working, he spent his time in fruitful ministry by feeding the homeless and sharing the Gospel message of Christ. His devotion to Christ was the defining characteristic of his personality. Outside work and ministry, Dee enjoyed making others laugh and spending quality time with his wife and six children. He was preceded in death



by his parents, Odis and Patricia Dean; and his granddaughter, Leah Dean. He is survived by his wife, Mary; son, Matthew Dean and wife, Kaley; son, Dalton Dean and wife, Sierrah; son, Chandler Dean; daughter, Carlisle Dean; daughter, Carson Dean; son, Clay Dean; grandsons, John Dean, Nathan Dean and Kutter Dean; granddaughters, Abigail Dean, Shiloh Dean, and Dawsyn Dean; brother, Jack Dean; and sister, Attavia (Dean) Cross. He was very loved and will be missed by all who loved him.

The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday Jan 4, 2024

Mary Jackson 1941-2023

Mary Frances (Hale) Jackson, 82, went home to be with the Lord Thursday, Dec. 21, 2023 in Springtown. Graveside service was at noon Thursday, Dec. 28, at Wilson Prairie Cemetery in Paradise. She was born July 14, 1941 in Decatur to Wiley Ward and Nannie Lou (Lewis) Hale. Mary was very creative and loved to paint. Her parents preceded her in death along with her love, Jerry Jackson; son, Randall Brooks; brothers, Eddie Raymond Hale, Charles Hale and James (Jabo) Hale; and sister, Hazel Sherwood. She is survived by her children, Ricky Jackson, Rhonda Horner and Reda Henry and husband, Tony; sisters, Ann Miles and husband, K.C., Betty Bently and husband, Davis, Nancy Withers and husband, Travis and brother Dale Hale and wife, Hattie; grandchildren, Cody Watts and wife, Amanda, Kyle Brooks, Emily Kate Brooks, Chasity Ramsey, Tony Henry



Jr. and wife, Sophie, Casey Henry and partner, Jeff Curtis, Randiann Cowden and husband Chase, Jeff Horner and wife Monica, Shae Schmidtkofer and husband Derek; great-grandchildren, Caydence, Cambree, Rylon, Ruben, Jackson, Jacey, Scarlett, Serenity, Kaspin, Blakely, Kennedy, Rori, Easton, and Brody; extended family and friends, all of whom will miss her dearly.

The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday Jan 4, 2024

Evelyn Teal 1939-2023

Evelyn Louise Teal, beloved mother and grandmother, peacefully passed away Friday, Dec. 29, 2023. A graveside service was held at 11 a.m., Thursday, Jan. 4, at Aurora Cemetery in Aurora. Evelyn was born Jan. 5, 1939, to Samuel and Daphne Schooler in Fort Worth, and was a long-time resident of Springtown. She is preceded in death by her husband of 57 years, J.L. (Red) Teal Jr., her son Sammy and daughter-in-law Donna, son Richard, son-in-law Eddie, and grandchildren Freddie and Katrina. She is survived by her daughters Ann Eustace (Fred) and Lisa White, and daughter-in-law, Dana, all of Fort Worth; 12 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; and four great-great-grandchildren.



ter-in-law, Dana, all of Fort Worth; 12 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; and four great-great-grandchildren.

The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday Jan 4, 2024

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Morning Worship..... 10:30 AM Community Groups..... Various Times	Sunday School..... 10:00 AM Morning Worship..... 11:00 AM	Sunday School..... 9:45 am Sunday Service..... 11:00 AM Wednesday Bible Study..... 6:00 PM	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	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
ASH CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH Pastor: Dr. G. Wesley Shotwell 300 South Stewart St. 817-444-3219 www.ashcreekbc.org	CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH 2233 Hwy 199 E., Springtown 817-221-LIFE (5433)	HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH 800 Highcrest Dr. - Azle 817-444-3063	THE RANCH CHRISTIAN COWBOY CHURCH Pastor: Greg Slankard 7955 Reed Rd., Azle 682-327-7082 www.TheRanchCCC.org	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
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	Sunday Worship Service..... 10:00 AM Wednesday..... 7:00 PM	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	SILVER CREEK METHODIST CHURCH Pastor: Bill Killough 2200 Church Rd., Azle 817-444-1382 www.silvercreekmc.org	
AZLE FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD Rev. Joshua Lowrance 1020 S.E. Parkway, Azle 817-237-4903	CROSSROADS BAPTIST CHURCH Pastor - Jon Baker Corner FM 730S & FM 1886 817-755-0279 Transportation Available	HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA 4795 E. Hwy 199 - Reno 817-221-HOPE Follow us on Facebook for streaming services	Sunday School 9:30 AM • Worship 10:00 AM Weds 7:00 pm • Thurs Potluck 6:30 pm	
Sunday School..... 9:30 AM Morning Worship..... 10:30 AM Wednesday Evening..... 7:00 PM	Worship Service..... 10:30 AM Wed. Prayer Service..... 7:00 PM	SOLID ROCK BIBLE CHURCH 591 S. Reno Rd., Springtown, Texas 76082 Pastor - Bill Gay - 817-304-7443	SILVER CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH Pastor: Jay Ditty Minister of Music: David Musick Corner FM 730 S. & Veal Station Rd. Church 817-444-2325 www.silvercreekbc.org	
COMMUNITY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH Pastor - Alton Davis 817-521-4510 1405 Reynolds Rd., Azle 817-444-7117 Directions: 730 N. to 1542 .5 mi. right on Cardinal, left on Reynolds	THE EDGE CHURCH - AZLE 1313 S.E. Pkwy, Azle 817-237-4822 Missouri Synod	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	Sunday School..... 9:45 AM Morning Worship..... 10:50 AM Evening Worship..... 7:00 PM Wed. Prayer Service..... 6:00 PM	
Sunday School..... 9:45 AM Morning Worship..... 11:00 AM Sunday Evening..... 6:00 PM Wednesday Evening..... 7:00 PM	"Love God - Serve Others - Share Jesus" Traditional Worship..... 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship..... 11:00 AM			
	FIRST METHODIST CHURCH OF AZLE Pastor: Rev. Raymond Gilman 200 Church St., Azle 817-444-3323			

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OBITUARIES

Lucita Brannon 1953-2023

Lucita Deann (Lemaster) Brannon, 70, went home to be with the Lord Thursday, Dec. 28, 2023, at home, surrounded by those that love her.

Funeral service will be held at New Hope Church Friday, Jan. 5 at 2 p.m. with interment to follow at New Hope Cemetery.

Lucita was born Feb. 15, 1953, in Osage, Iowa to Darrell D. and Mary L. (Goodwin) Lemaster. They both preceded her in death, along with one brother, Brian Lemaster.

At the age of 5, her family moved to Texas. She attended Haltom High School and graduated in 1971. She then attended Harris Hospital Vocational Nursing School in 1972 and Tarrant County College.

She worked for Dr. John Mackenzie, MD in the OB-GYN office from 1973 to 1983.

On May 5, 1983, she married Ronald Brannon.

Later, she was the Director of Lighthouse Christian Academy, formerly Lake Worth Methodist Pre-School, for six years, an office manager/nurse for JPS Hospital Lifespan Clinic for six years, a nurse for Educate, caring for ICF home clients, mentally and physically challenged for seven years, and was active in going to Austin to petition for Medicaid for patients.

She had love for children and was a foster parent for eight years and fostered 30 children.

Lucita was involved in the Camp Fire Boys and Girls



Club where she was awarded the WAKEN Blue Bird Award during the involvement of her sons when they were young. She shared leadership with many true friends/moms in the largest groups in the system, which was possible by every mom involved and who traveled to Austin for a Resolution for their group presented by Sue Palmer, State House Representative. She was an Azle Elite for 40 years.

Lucita is survived by her loving and devoted husband, Ronald Brannon; children, Russell Brannon and wife, Staci, Katherine Brannon and husband Gage, Charles Brannon and wife, Christine, Alicia Brannon and Michael McKenzie; brothers, Donald Lemaster and wife, Andree and Tom Lemaster and wife, Dianna; grandchildren, Kaleb, Kade, Korbin, Knox, Emma and Kasey; extended family and many friends.

The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday Jan 4, 2024

Protect your family from carbon monoxide poisoning

STAFF REPORTS

Carbon monoxide is an invisible, odorless gas that can be fatal. It forms when fuels like gasoline, natural gas, propane, wood, charcoal and kerosene do not burn completely. Breathing carbon monoxide can deprive the body of oxygen, and may lead to illness, unconsciousness and death.

How do I know?

Carbon monoxide alarms are the only way to know if the deadly gas is present in your home. It is recommended that all residents with fuel-burning appliances or indoor equipment install carbon monoxide alarms near all sleeping areas in their home to alert them of the presence of carbon monoxide. Install a carbon monoxide alarm on each floor of your home and outside of each bedroom. Install new batteries as per manufacturer's instructions and replace alarms every five years, as the sensors degrade.

HOW CAN I STAY SAFE?

Never use portable generators, charcoal or gas grills, gas or propane powered pressure washers, saws or other fuel-powered equipment inside your home,

garage, carport, basement or other enclosed spaces. Opening windows and doors and operating fans is not enough to prevent buildup of carbon monoxide in a home.

- Install a carbon monoxide alarm on each floor of your home and outside of each bedroom.
- Make sure the exhaust pipe on your standby generator is pointing away from the house.
- Place portable generators at least 20 feet from the house.
- Make sure gas dryer vents and automobile tail pipes are not plugged up with snow.
- Have your heating systems, chimney flues, gas appliances, wood stoves and generators checked every year, and cleaned and serviced as needed by qualified heating/appliance contractors.

SAFETY TIPS

- Have your home heating systems (including chimneys and vents) inspected and serviced annually by a trained service technician.
- Never bring a charcoal grill into the house for heating or cooking. Do not

barbecue in the garage.

- Never use a gas range or oven for heating.
- Open the fireplace damper before lighting a fire and keep it open until the ashes are cool. An open damper may help prevent build-up of poisonous gases inside the home.
- Install battery-operated carbon monoxide alarms or carbon monoxide alarms with battery backup on every level of the home and outside sleeping areas. Interconnected carbon monoxide alarms are best; when one sounds, they all sound.

Know the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning: headache, dizziness, weakness, nausea, vomiting, sleepiness and confusion. If you suspect carbon monoxide poisoning, get outside to fresh air immediately, and then call 911.

Because carbon monoxide is odorless, colorless and otherwise undetectable to the human senses, people may not know they are being exposed. The initial symptoms of low to moderate carbon monoxide poisoning are similar to the flu (but without the fever). They include:

- Headache
- Fatigue
- Shortness of breath
- Nausea
- Dizziness
- High level carbon monoxide poisoning results in progressively more severe symptoms, including:
- Mental confusion
- Vomiting
- Loss of muscular coordination
- Loss of consciousness
- Ultimate death

Symptom severity is related to both the carbon monoxide level and the duration of exposure. For slowly developing residential carbon monoxide problems, occupants and/or physicians can mistake mild to moderate carbon monoxide poisoning symptoms for the flu, which sometimes results in tragic deaths.

For rapidly developing, high level carbon monoxide exposures (e.g., associated with use of generators in residential spaces), victims can rapidly become mentally confused, and can lose muscle control without having first experienced milder symptoms; they will likely die if not rescued.

Older Adult Safety

SUBMITTED ITEM

It is important for older consumers to understand and take precautions against the risks associated with consumer products and activities performed during their daily lives. Hundreds of thousands of seniors aged 65 and older are treated in hospital emergency rooms each year due to injuries associated with consumer products. Falls

are the leading cause of both deaths and injuries in this age group. Fires are another top cause of deaths among seniors.

Although many injuries to seniors result from hazards that are easy to overlook, there is an easy fix. By spotting hazards and taking simple steps to correct them, you can prevent injuries to yourself or visitors to your home.

TO PREVENT FALLS:

- Make sure stairs and other areas in the home are well-lit.
- Install handrails and remove tripping hazards like area rugs.

TO ADDRESS THE RISK OF FIRES:

- Use carbon monoxide and smoke alarms.
- Install a smoke alarm in every bedroom, outside every sleeping area, and on every floor of the home.
- Install a carbon monoxide alarm outside of sleeping areas.
- Carefully use and maintain space heaters, fireplaces, and all fuel-burning appliances.

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Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine and Malt Beverage Retailers off-premise Permit (BQ) by FARMERS MINI MARKET LLC located at 402 S Ash St. Springtown TX 76082. Owner/Manager of LLC is Catherine R Diaz.

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NOTICE OF DEADLINE TO FILE APPLICATIONS FOR PLACE ON THE BALLOT (AVISO DE FECHA LIMITE PARA PRESENTAR SOLICITUDES PARA UN LUGAR EN LA BOLETA)
Notice is hereby given that applications for a place on the City of Sanctuary Regular Election ballot for May 4, 2024 may be filed during the following time (Se da aviso por la presente que las solicitudes para un lugar en la boleta de la Eleccion Regular de City of Sanctuary se pueden presentar durante el siguiente horario):
Mayor Mark Sommers - 2 Year Term
Alderman Place 2 - Gil Valdez - 2 Year Term
Alderman Place 4 - Nancy Cozad - 2 Year Term
Filing Dates (Fechas y Horario para Entregar Solicitudes):
Start Date: January 17, 2024
End Date: February 16, 2024, 5 p.m.
Those wishing to place their names on the ballot must contact the City Secretary at 817-221-6016 for a Candidates Application (CityOfSanctuaryTX@yahoo.com.) The first day to file for a place on the ballot is **January 17, 2024**, and the last day to file for a place on the ballot is **February 16, 2024, 5 p.m.** Address to mail applications for a place on the ballot (Direccion a domed enviar las solicitudes para un lugar an la bolenta en caso de presentar por corer):
City of Sanctuary, P. O. Box 125, Azle, TX 76098-0125

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@tricityreporter.com. No phone calls please.
TRI-COUNTY REPORTER
321 W. Main Street, Azle
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TOP TEN

FROM PAGE A1

editions of The Tri-County Reporter as well as the 44 combined issues of the Azle News and Springtown Epigraph that were released in 2023. As a result, this reporter found no less than 85 newsworthy topics that could be included on a top 10 list.

With all the news that occurred in 2023, making a top 10 list of most impactful news stories is a daunting task, so it's a good thing our staff has never been afraid of hard work. As we step a toe into 2024, let's go down the 2023 memory lane.

HONORABLE MENTIONS

These are a few noteworthy happenings that didn't make the cut for our 2023 Top 10 news stories, but they are important enough to remember.

FREAK ACCIDENTS, WEIRD NEWS

No one probably had dead fish in Azle's Shady Grove Park on their 2023 bingo card, but that's exactly what was discovered Aug. 21. Reporter Zach Freeman wrote in his article that multiple kinds of dead fish, like drum, shad, perch, monster catfish, bass and carp, came to rest on the Eagle Mountain Lake shores and theorized that the incident was connected to low oxygen levels. Testing found the oxygen levels to be normal, but Tarrant Regional Water District officials said several factors can lead to sudden changes in oxygen levels.

Freeman also covered the strange seven-car wreck at Azle's Albertsons in October. He reported that the driver of a red Dodge Ram 2500 backed into a blue Mazda and then sped forward to crash into other parked vehicles. This caused a collision between the parked cars, and an older man was thrown into another vehicle. At the time, police determined that the incident was accidental, not intentional.

GIRL POWER

Springtown girls can do anything they set their minds to, including join Scouts BSA Troop 22G or get a leg up on their careers in business. In March at the Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce awards gala, author and speaker Carrie Wilkerson announced that a scholarship for female Springtown High School graduates pursuing business careers would be named after Chamber Board Second Vice President Mary Harms.

In June, Springtown's BSA troop for girls gained its first members — Arieyl Snyder and Elizabeth Stegman-Salinas — who transitioned from Cub Scouts Pack 22 to Troop 22G. Currently, the troop is the only one for girls in Springtown.

"It makes me feel like girls can do anything boys can,"

Arieyl said about being able to start a new troop for girls.

GIVING AZLE SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

In September, Azle community leaders launched an initiative to bring the community together and prevent violence and radicalism called "Let's Talk Azle." The program started off by giving people tips on having good interactions with others and talking peacefully about difficult topics.

"We're having lots and lots of new people coming to town," Ash Creek Baptist Church pastor Wesley Shotwell said about the reasoning for the initiative. "The upshot of that is we are no longer going to be an upper middle class, white conservative community. People are coming to our town. Can't we be good neighbors and remind ourselves to love our neighbor like Jesus said?"

SPRINGTOWN, EVENTS CITY

There were plenty of first-time events that took place in 2023 in both Azle and Springtown, but the city of Springtown's efforts to step up its events programming really stood out. Not only did city staff continue to host its Easter and Christmas activities, but they also added a 5K benefiting the animal shelter in the spring, a job fair in the summer and a Halloween event in the fall.

Springtown city staff also enhanced the Veterans Day event by adding a parade.

"While we respect those who gave the ultimate sacrifice, we must celebrate those who came back home and we must celebrate those who continue to serve and we must celebrate those who come back suffering from PTSD and other service-related injuries," City Administrator David Miller said during a city council meeting about Veterans Day. "They deserve a celebration. So, we will look at making that more of a celebratory service and event as opposed to the solemn service that we've done in the past."

TROUBLE AT TRI-COUNTY ELECTRIC

Tri-County Electric Cooperative began the search for a new CEO after executive Darryl Schriver was placed on administrative leave. According to Zach Freeman's late August article, the cooperative's member-owners complained about a lack of transparency and that Schriver cut off communication between the board of directors and member-owners. Freeman's article also documents other accusations against Schriver, such as poor relations with member-owners and employees as well as nepotism.

Schriver claimed he was wrongfully terminated and defamed by the board of directors. In August, he filed a petition for depositions of



COURTESY PHOTO

Educator and Springtown's Santa Claus William "Bill" Foster died in April at age 78 after dealing with heart issues.



FILE PHOTO

Longtime Azle Police Sgt. Bob Spohn died in January at 57 years old shortly after retiring from the department where he dedicated almost 35 years of service.

all the board members and denied an accusation that he had misused a company credit card or mishandled company finances. Schriver also accused the board of directors of misconduct in the legal filing. According to Parker County's website, the original lawsuit was disposed, but Schriver filed another one that has yet to be resolved against the cooperative, its board and its chief financial officer/vice president of finance.

NO. 10 — IN MEMORIAM OF AZLE POLICE SERGEANT, SPRINGTOWN SANTA

Every edition of The Tri-County Reporter usually includes obituaries for people in the Azle and Springtown area who have died. Our pages remember them all, but especially those who had a big impact on the community.

Longtime Azle Police Sgt. Bob Spohn died in January 2023 at 57 years old shortly after retiring from the department where he dedicated almost 35 years of service. Spohn was also an Air Force veteran.

"He loved this department with all his heart and gave us all he could," APD Chief Ben Hall said about Spohn's death in an Azle News article. "While he left to retire a few weeks ago, he was still well

connected and will forever be part of this PD and city family."

Before he died, Spohn expressed pride in being part of starting initiatives regarding counseling and domestic violence.

"The thing I always enjoyed about Azle was the fact that I actually got to know people in the community," he told the Azle News. "I made a lot of friends."

In April, Springtown lost its Santa Claus when William "Bill" Foster passed away. Foster died at age 78 after dealing with heart issues. Not only had he played Santa at city events since 1983, but Foster also worked in multiple areas of education, including as a special education teacher, administrator, bus driver and substitute teacher. He left behind his wife Kandy as well as multiple children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Springtown City Council memorialized Foster at a meeting in June, which was heavily attended to the point of space almost running out in the council room.

"I would say the largest part of this gathering here is to show the appreciation of how much we love and admire Bill and his service to our community," Mayor Greg Hood said during the meet-

ing. "Not just being Santa but everything that he's done in our community, and it gives me great pleasure to take this opportunity to present a plaque to the family at this time."

Foster's daughter Rachel Moreno had nothing but nice things to say about her late father and was proud of the impact he made on people in the community.

"He loved this town, and he served this city, and he would do it again a million times over with absolutely no recognition because that's just who he was," Moreno said.

NO. 9 — HOORAY FOR THE HOME TEAM

So many Azle Hornets and Springtown Porcupines played well and advanced far in 2023 that it's difficult to keep track of them all. For this list, the reporter narrowed it down to the teams or competitors that either topped a state contest and/or advanced to nationals. Here are some of the highlights of 2023 student competitions:

- In January, Azle Cheer and Hornet Muscle — both varsity and junior varsity — advanced and placed fourth at National Cheerleader Association Nationals at the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center in Dallas.

- Azle Lady Hornet wrestler Annabelle Davis won the state championship in her weight class in 2023. In addition, Davis' teammate Jacy Williams earned third place in her weight class at state.

- In March, the Lady Porcupines Powerlifting team won the state championship in Frisco after years of trying to reclaim it. Angela Chavez, Brianna Graham, Abigail Rodgers and Kylie Wear also won individual awards at state.

- In April, Azle High School's cybersecurity team placed first at the state competition and 10th at the national contest, the latter of which involved over 4,000 other schools.

- Also in April, Springtown High School's First Responders Club members Thomas Gillham, Adam Deleon, Bryson Spikes and Skyler Tyree took home first place in felony traffic stop at Texas Public Safety Association's state conference in Allen. Zachary Schlotter earned second place in foot pursuit; Hayley Knight placed third in law enforcement agility; and Dillon Wilson took home third place in 911 call taking.

- Azle rodeo member Hevenli Scribner won a rare achievement when she advanced to the National High School Rodeo Finals by placing fourth in pole bending at the Texas High School Rodeo Association state finals in Abilene in June.

- SHS student Raye Lynn Strange competed at the Future Educators national contest in Florida during the

summer.

- Young dragster racer Lane Swift of Paradise won a Wally Trophy, which is described by the National Hot Rod Association as "drag racing's most prestigious trophy." Lane also won a spot to make an exhibition pass at the NHRA Fall Nationals at Texas Motorplex in October.

- Springtown girl Dixie Mae Crain earned a spot in the 10th Annual Drive, Chip and Putt National Finals after taking home the top spot in her division at the regional qualifier in Houston. The tournament will take place in April 2024.

- In November, AHS' Hornet Drones team won third place in the Bell Advanced Vertical Robotics championship qualifier and ranked fifth in the nation and Canada. The team qualified for the championship contest in December and placed fourth.

NO. 8 — SPRINGTOWN BUSINESS BOOM

- Another corporate eatery will be descending on Springtown after getting approval from the city council in 2023.

- In a 3-2 vote in January, the council approved replating the property west of South Birch Street, south of State Highway 199 and north of Goshen Road with one lot being the Slappy's Express Car Wash that opened during the summer and the other being Taco Bell. Then in August, the council approved the site plan for Taco Bell in a 3-2 vote. During both votes, council members Richelle Pruitt and Michele Chandler Kelley were opposed and brought up concerns about traffic.

- Also in business news, Springtown residents had to say goodbye to Shinola's Texas Café in late 2022 and hello to the new restaurant Fireside BBQ & Grill that moved into Shinola's former building on Martin Avenue in early 2023. Harold Buffington, whose family opened the famed Howell's Western Café and who ran the food truck Buff's BBQ & Grill, started Fireside with Cassie Boyd in January.

- "I guess it's just in my blood," Buffington said about opening the restaurant. "I've always been around the restaurant business."

- Fireside was an instant hit as customers flooded the restaurant in its first month.

- "We have people lined up at the door before we open," Boyd said at the time. "I opened it one day, and a customer goes, 'It's like feeding time at the zoo' because they all just came in at once. They're like waiting out there for us to open most days."

- Stay tuned for the rest of our Top 10 list of most impactful stories from 2023 in the Jan. 11 edition of The Tri-County Reporter.

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Gris *Overcoming grief and loss through the power of color*

Gris (2018) from Spanish studio Nomada, with artwork by Conrad Roset, is a side-scrolling game that manages to break out of well-worn tropes with the use of stunning artwork, color and contrast. There is no dialogue or narration.



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.

From the Steam page for Gris, the game: "Gris is a hopeful young girl lost in her own world, dealing with a painful experience in her life. Her journey through sorrow is manifested in her dress, which grants new abilities to better navigate her faded reality. Players will explore a meticulously designed world brought to life with delicate art, detailed animation and an elegant original score. Through the game light puzzles, platforming sequences and optional skill-based challenges will reveal themselves as more of Gris' world becomes accessible."

The game loosely follows the five stages of grief, beginning with depression. Gris is the name of the protagonist, who has recently lost her mother. The game starts with her sitting in the palm of a crumbling statue of a woman. It breaks and she falls to the ground. As she walks forward, she finds structures powered by points of light. But it's still very empty, except for Gris, who travels through these landscapes. As she collects these lights, color

begins to return to her world.

The first color is red, which evokes desert landscapes and sunsets. Gris gets the ability to turn into a stone block so that she can resist the strong desert winds. Later she unlocks other colors, all of which give her new abilities to navigate her environment.

This is one of the nicest looking games I've ever played. It's really more like watching an animated movie, rather than playing a game. Subtle layers of color and translucency make some scenes look like a watercolor painting. As each color is unlocked, the story progresses and Gris gains new abilities.

If you're looking for a puzzle game that will challenge you, this is not it. This was created deliberately to not be too difficult. Puzzles are solved by finding and collecting the points of light. The game is meant to be an exploration of the story, rather than a challenge. There is no death, only discovery.

Game designers Adrian Cuevas and Roger Mendoza had previously worked on

games like Hitman, Far Cry, Rainbow Six and Assassin's Creed. They saw an opportunity to create a game with artist, illustrator and painter Conrad Roset that was less violent than their previous work. Visually compelling (story-rich) games like "Journey" and "Ori and the Blind Forest" were an inspiration for Gris. The game's biggest challenge was integrating Conrad Roset's artwork into a playable game. Visual and camera cues were used to indicate where the player should go next.

"We tell a big part of the story through the statues while relying heavily on the colors," Mendoza explains in an interview with The Verge. "The colors mark the progression of the story and the characters. That's why at the beginning we did a color script to see the general palette of each area to make sure it worked well with the story."

Gris (\$14.99) is available on SteamOS, Windows, MacOS, Nintendo Switch, Playstation, Android and Xbox.



SCREENSHOT COURTESY NOMADA

The world Gris inhabits at the beginning of the game.



SCREENSHOT COURTESY NOMADA

One of the later puzzles, after more colors have been unlocked.

LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO BE HELD BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL ON JANUARY 11, 2024 AT 6:30 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS LOCATED AT CITY HALL, 9830 CONFEDERATE PARK RD, LAKESIDE, TX 76108 NAME AND ADDRESS OF RECORD OWNER: 217 Aquilla Drive, Lakeside, TX 76108 THERESA D PARR (Deceased) and (Heirs) PARR STEVEN FRANCIS, ANTHONY EUGENE PARR, AMANDA ROSE SMITH NAME AND ADDRESS OF ALL LIENHOLDERS, MORTGAGEES OR OTHER PERSONS WITH INTEREST: THERESA D PARR (Deceased) and (Heirs)

PARR STEVEN FRANCIS, ANTHONY EUGENE PARR, AMANDA ROSE SMITH ACCORDING TO THE RECORDS OF TARANT COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT, YOU ARE THE OWNER, LIENHOLDER OR MORTGAGEE OF PROPERTY DESCRIBED AS: Property Address: 217 Aquilla Drive, Lakeside, TX 76108 Property ID: 03256669 (Residential) (TAD) Legal Description: VAN ZANDT PLACE ADDITION Block 20 Lot 18 Please be advised that on September 2, 2023 the Building Official of the City of LAKESIDE has found and determined that a building located on the above-described property is substandard and proceedings shall commence to cause the repair, vacation, relocation of occupants, removal, demolition or securing of the building. Attached please find a copy of the Substandard Building Inspection Report dated September 2, 2023, describing the conditions found to render the building substandard or dangerous pursuant to the minimum standards for continued use and occupancy set forth in § 150.51 of the Substandard Building Ordinance. A Public Hearing will be held on the date noted above before the City Council to determine whether the building/structure located at the above-described property complies with the standards set out in § 150.51 of the Substandard Building Ordinance. According to law, the owner, lienholder, or mortgagee will be required to submit at the hearing proof of the scope of any work that may be required to comply with the Code, and the time it will take to reasonably perform the work. If the building is found to be in violation of the standards set forth in § 150.51 of the Substandard Building Ordinance, the City Council may order that the building be repaired, vacated, removed or demolished, secured, or the occupants relocated, by the owner, mortgagee or lienholder within thirty days (30 days). If the Order given to the owner, mortgagee, or lienholder is not complied within the allowed time, the City may vacate, secure, remove or demolish the building or relocate the occupants of the building. The expenses incurred by the City shall be a personal obligation of the property owner in addition to a priority lien being placed upon the property to secure payment. If you should have any questions regarding this notice, or you are not the owner, mortgagee, or lienholder please call the office of the Building Official or the Code Enforcement Officer at (817) 227-1234 x301, (817) 238-9187

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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Owner: Walnut Creek Special Utility District Separate sealed bids for Water System Improvements, F.M. 51 Booster Pump Station will be received by the Walnut Creek Special Utility District at the District Office, 1155 Highway 199 West, P.O. Box 657, Springtown, Texas 76082, until 11:00 o'clock A.M. Local Time, Thursday, January 11, 2024, and then publicly opened and read aloud at 1:30 o'clock P.M. on Thursday, January 11, 2024. The Information for Bidders, Form of Bid, Form of Contract, Plans, Specifications and Form of Bid Bond, Performance and Payment Bonds and other contract documents may be examined at the following: E.S. & C.M., Inc. 8241 Mid-Cities Blvd., Ste. 100 North Richland Hills, Texas 76182 Office Telephone (817) 268-0408 Copies may be obtained at the office of E.S. & C.M., Inc., 8241 Mid-Cities Blvd., Suite 100, North Richland Hills, Texas 76182 upon payment of \$150.00 for each set. This payment is nonrefundable. The Owner reserves the right to waive any informality or to reject any or all bids. Each bidder must deposit with his bid, security in the amount, form and subject to the conditions provided in the Information for Bidders. No bidder may withdraw his bid within 60 (sixty) days after the actual date of opening thereof.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice is hereby given that the following will be sold to the highest bidder with bidding to take place at lockerfox.com on Monday the 22nd day of January, 2024 at 10:00 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 Cindy Hernandez. Rachel Rosa. Gina Rodriguez. Byron Wesson. Ronnie Duncan. Wanda Walter. Chase Dorow. Robert Davidson. Chase Dorow. Johnny Kenney. Kim Ridges. Jonathan M Averill. Ubald Zounlome. Bradley Willis. Bria Goodman. Giselle Roussell. Joni Willis. Kimmsha Lee. Traci James. Ryan Atkins. Barbara Rowell. Andrea Young. Charlotte Brown Hodges. Shawniece Arkansas

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Pursuant to Chapter 59, Texas Property Code, Trinity Self Storage which is located at 200 Walnut Creek Drive Azle, TX 76020 will hold a public auction of property being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale will be at 11 o'clock a.m. on January 25th, 2024 at 200 Walnut Creek Drive Azle, TX 76020. Property will be sold to highest bidder for cash. Deposit for removal and cleanup may be temporarily required. Seller reserves the right to not accept any bid and to withdraw property from sale. Property in each space may be sold item-by-item, in batches, or by the space. Property being sold includes contents in space(s) of the tenant listed below, with brief description of contents in the space(s). TENANT'S COMPLETE NAME as shown on rental agreement: Karen Rawlins. General description of property: Misc.

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- Eagle Heights Elementary
- TXO Partners
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- Azle High School Student Council



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ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

AZLE — It takes a leap of faith to move your family 1,600 miles, but that's exactly what First Methodist Church of Azle pastor, Reverend Raymond Gilman, did just a few months ago. On Aug. 18, Gilman became the church's first full-time pastor since it disaffiliated from the United Methodist Church in January. After another May 7 vote, the First Methodists overwhelmingly decided to join the Global Methodist denomination, which launched in May 2022.

Gilman, who is scheduled to be ordained in the Global Methodist Church (GMC) this February, did not always know he wanted to be a pastor. In his undergrad years, he received a fine arts degree, specializing in oil painting and creative writing. For most of his adult life, he would work in advertising, marketing and photography, but everything changed when he went on a mission trip to Uganda in 2008.

"God dragged me on mission," Rev. Gilman said. "I say dragged because the Lord definitely pulls you into his service sometimes when you're not sure where you want to go. He took me to Uganda in 2008 and that's where he told me it's time not to sell furniture anymore, it's time to do his work. It's been a long journey from that point on but I've been a full-time clergyman since 2012. I got a master's in theology and was on the edge of being ordained when realized I was being called to something else."

Gilman was born in the area around Syracuse, New York and spent his nearly 12 years as a United Methodist pastor in central New York towns like Liverpool. This year, Gilman decided to leave it all behind, surrender his UMC credentials, load his three teen daughters, wife, two cats and dog in a van and come to Azle, Texas.

"Our journey here is not one that we chose, it's a calling," Gilman said. "I recog-

Pastor Ray Gilman of FMC Azle discusses first three months in Texas and birth of new denomination

nized the need to change, and we really got led to Texas. When I recognized it was time to make a change based on what I was feeling God was telling me to do, I opened it up in terms of talking to people and where to go. Texas just drew us in and some of the clergy members in fact grabbed a hold of me and said you're coming here."

Just a year ago Gilman had never heard of Azle, but in an interview with some of its congregation leaders, the pastor said he clicked with the FMC and Azle.

"I liked the people right off and they seemed to be appreciative of who we were," Rev. Gilman said. "I'm still in a little bit of shock by how easy the transition has been so far. This is a great church; these people are very missionally focused. It's been a rough couple of years with everything that's happening nationally and denominationally with pastors coming and going. But they've managed to keep their center in doing the work of the church in the midst of everything and that's encouraging for me."

AN INTERNATIONAL RIFT

Though the Global Methodist Church has only recently emerged, Gilman sees it as a return and re-focusing of Methodism's original values. After several years' worth of debate on human sexuality among the UMC, church leaders developed the Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation in the summer of 2019. This gave churches the option to disaffiliate and retain their property in the case of a two-thirds majority vote. The option to disaffiliate under this protocol has only been granted to Dec. 31, 2023. Many disaffiliating churches have also voiced concerns with the UMC's structure and how its money is spent at the national level.

The GMC emerged as part

of the evangelical Confessing Movement, a largely congregation-led conservative reaction to the overall progressive clergies of mainline U.S. denominations. The GMC is composed of over 3,000 congregations, with a large deal of its support being overseas and in the U.S. South. The Evangelical Methodist Church in Croatia and many former United Methodist Churches in Africa have voted to disaffiliate and join the GMC. Some, like sociologist Ryan Burge, described the UMC's break-up as *the largest denominational schism in living memory*.

A FAMILY ARGUMENT

"The renewal here is really coming back to the gospel, coming back to the word, and trying to shed all the worldly things that have attached themselves to it, coming back to the root of what Christ was teaching and applying that directly, and that's challenging for anyone," Gilman said. "I like to characterize it as we remained methodists and some of our brothers and sisters — who we love dearly — some of them kind of strayed off into a lot of other things unrelated to the word and the primacy of what we're doing, like serving the people and caring for the elderly, meeting the needs of the widows and orphans. They're real basic tasks that Jesus calls us to and reminds himself in the book of Isaiah that's what we're supposed to be focused on. Everything else kind of becomes a distraction that creates dissension. But we're a new thing with new leadership and new people — but we're not really new."

The name First Methodist Church is a return to the name the church held from 1895 to 1968, prior to the creation of the United Methodist denomination. Gilman says part of what differentiates the Global Methodist Church is a rejection of "big tent" theology and the adherence

to a stricter set of Biblical interpretations laid out in the church's catechism, which he said is based on the Apostles' Creed.

"(Big tent theology) sounds friendly and fun, and it is, but there's no one to say 'This is really what's what,'" Gilman continued. "There's no deciding factor in 'This is what we believe.' But the first thing the Global Church did was to say, 'Here's what we believe.' (The catechism) establishes some key points and says 'This is what we believe as Christians.' If you look through it, you'll notice none of the social issues are called out because that's not the point. The point is faith in Christ through resurrection and hope for eternity and all that."

Gilman says, despite any difference in belief they may have, Methodists are still a family. The pastor said he sees relationships between members of his congregation and those of Revive

Methodist Church, a new church made up of Azle-area congregations who decided to remain in the United Methodist denomination, holding strong.

"You still love them. They're still your cousins, your sisters, your brother. You go through a period where you disagree on something, but I think, over time, relationships aren't going to break completely," Gilman said. "I have employees that are members of Revive, I have members here who attend either or. I know there's a few ladies on both sides who call others and try and get them to come to their church, so all of that is still kind of sifting out, but the friendships are there. The family is there."

Gilman likened the split to a "bad family argument" or a divorce on the clergy level but says he does not dwell on the feelings or accusations surrounding the split. He sees his purpose as remaining a Christ follower, whether that be as a United Methodist or Global Methodist. Referencing the Apostle Paul's advice in Ephesians 6:12, Gilman stressed that the church's actions are not

aimed at people and are not meant to harm others but are instead about standing up for its principles.

"We fight against spiritual beings; we don't fight against people," Rev. Gilman said. "And to cut through that and see their humanity even in the midst of disagreement — that's what we failed to do in the great family argument... I'm recognizing that anytime a new leader comes in that things are changing," Rev. Gilman said. "Even without trying, they're changing something. At the same time, (the FMC) are going through a rethinking of who they are based on the recent denominational thing and that's exciting — it's a little scary. They've managed to find their center in being a vibrant community that cares for one another and then tries to share that outwardly."

First Methodist Church of Azle is located at 200 Church Street and can be found on Facebook at First Methodist Church of Azle, Texas. The church's weekly contemporary, bridge and traditional services are normally held on Sundays at 8:30 a.m., 9:45 a.m. and 11 a.m. respectively.



Pastor Ray Gilman in his office at First Methodist Church.

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COUNCIL

FROM PAGE A1

meeting to be at Disneyland. Winners and runners up received prizes, coloring books and reading material on bus safety in bags donated by CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) as well as awards from the city. The idea originated with Court Administrator Felicity King and was sponsored by Relentless Home Services, the Azle Lions Club and Fidelity National Title.

"It was my decision just to kind of get awareness out to the community about what we do here and traffic safety," King said. "So, everybody doesn't just think we're the mean people that take everyone's money and throw them in jail. We really do want community action."

FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT

Azle Fire Department Chief Thomas "Will" Scott recapped the year with the department's annual presentation. He stated one of the Fire Department's goals is to get out the door in 90 seconds.

"We fell a little short of that, but we'll try to be better next time."

Scott reported that, on average, it costs the city \$848.10 every time the Fire Department received a call. This year there have been

4,179 calls for service, 4,149 fire responses, and 2,544 EMS responses. The fire department's average response time was 6.57 minutes, and the average EMS response time was 4.22 minutes. The department estimates its total dollar loss as \$1,149,193. With increasing demand for service, Scott informed the council a second fire station will eventually be needed with increased staff and a replacement of the current 2014 Quint 52 fire truck.

Scott informed the council that two of the three ambulances ordered this year should arrive within 24 months. There is no update on the third ambulance ordered in June, which has been untraceable since the United Auto Workers strike earlier this year, Scott said. Scott also described changes happening in the EMS industry that are making it harder to employ EMS personnel; many choose to work in emergency rooms where both the pay and working conditions are better than on a 911 ambulance.

"The employees that you do have are doing a fantastic job considering what the workload is," Scott said.

Scott said he would like to have 32 firefighters on staff, but the current budget only pays for 21. The Azle Fire Department currently has 18 full-time nonadministrative employees and three job openings.

LANDSCAPING BIDS

The city also reviewed and approved bids for mowing and landscaping services to be done throughout Azle. The contract will expire on Sept. 30, 2024, and will automatically renew on each anniversary date, unless either party gives a 60-day written notice of termination prior to the anniversary date. The funds are available in the general fund within the parks department budget. SRH Landscapes' bid of \$45,275.00 was approved by the parks department, purchasing staff and city council.

POLLY AVENUE WATERLINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Rick White, public services director, introduced this year's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) project. The CDBG is a federal grant process introduced in 1974 that addresses needs in low to moderate income areas. In 2024, the grant will be put toward replacing a two-inch water main with a new six-inch PVC line, adding a fire hydrant, and new service lines on Polly Avenue in Azle. This project will go out for bid during 2024-2025. The project is expected to cost \$197,212.50. The CDBG will fund \$175,000.00 of that amount with the city providing the balance, currently estimated at \$22,212.50. This will be the city's 50th year to receive this grant.

BIDS ON FOOD TRUCK PARK RESTROOM TRAILERS

Purchasing agent Jennifer Walls introduced much-awaited bids on a restroom trailer for a planned food truck park. The trailer will include one toilet, two urinals and sinks in the men's restroom and two toilet stalls and sinks for the women's restroom. The bid was awarded to Elk Creek Trailers out of Arizona for \$59,810, shipping costs included. The city heard three bids Dec. 7 and approved Elk Creek Trailer's bid at the Dec. 19 Azle City Council meeting. Comforts of Home Services, Inc. had the lowest bid, but did not meet the required minimum five-year limited warranty on the axles or the two-year limited warranty on the trailer as a whole. Therefore, staff chose to look at the next lowest bidder, Elk Creek Trailers, which met all the specifications. Elk Creek Trailers also had the shortest estimated delivery time.

MISCELLANEOUS

With the retirement of the city's previous finance director, Renita Bishop, Oct. 13, the city approved adding new finance director, Martin Avila, to the city's NextBank and EastWest Bank accounts and removing Bishop during the Dec. 5 meeting.

After much public backlash to the planning of a recycling facility on 3411 Silver Creek Road, the City of Azle official-

ly came out in opposition to the project.

"There's talk going around about the proposed Silver Creek dump that they're trying to do," Mayor Alan Brundrett said. "Just to let the council know, with the help of Susie (Hiles) we filed a letter in opposition of the proposed dump on Silver Creek Road. So, it's been filed with the TCEQ, and we gave a copy for them tonight for the public hearing. We officially have joined the others."

In order to improve traffic safety, council member Rouel Rothenberger requested the council consider adding left-facing traffic arrows on Main

Street in front of Azle City Hall. Feeling that may not fully address traffic issues in the area, City Manager Tom Muir and Public Services Director Rick White responded with information about a similar plan to re-stripe the first 100 feet of Industrial Avenue, Speer Street and a few others through a third-party contractor. The city is currently in the process of getting quotes for the project.

Muir said he plans to cancel the Jan. 2 city council meeting and will reschedule the next meeting to Tuesday, Jan. 23. Muir also mentioned Fire Marshal Kenny Wilson will retire from the city Jan. 2.



Assistant City Manager Lawrence Bryant, next to his wife, after receiving recognition and his proclamation from the city.



Karstin Courtney, court clerk, Hank Loveless, Adley Sutherland, McCoy Gentry, Warren Geary, Lauren Quick and court administrator Felicity King pose for parents with their winnings after the conclusion of the Municipal Court Week Coloring Contest.



Jim Stevens, a local photographer and substitute teacher, was appointed to Place 3 on the special events advisory board.

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World of pure imagination

Azle Memorial Library hosts Wonka-themed celebration, kicks off winter reading program

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

AZLE — “Invention, my dear friends, is 93% perspiration, 6% electricity, 4% evaporation, and 2% butterscotch ripple.” — Willy Wonka
Azle Memorial Library hosted a wonderful Wonka-themed event Dec. 21 as this year’s winter celebration. Oodles and oodles of Azle’s kids got their golden ticket to enjoy an evening of chocolate, sweets and fun. Kids aged 0 to 12 dressed the part in their pajamas and took a trip to Loompa Land to participate in golden egg races, a scavenger hunt and creative coloring activities.

“Every year we have a Christmas celebration,” Victor Gonzales, AML’s assistant director and resident Wonka said. “So, we have one big event during December to celebrate Christmas. A couple years ago we had reindeer come out, Santa Claus. With

the Wonka movie coming out we thought it would be a great idea to have a Wonka celebration. I think the community is responding very well to it. I think we’re all excited about it as well.”

On Dec. 15, Wonka, a 2023 remake of the Roald Dahl classic, came to theaters.

Along with its yearly winter celebration, the library is also getting ready to start its winter reading program. From Jan. 2 to Feb. 16 at 5:55p.m., the library will pass out gamecards for anyone of any age who wants to participate. There will be different gamecards separated by age groups: 0 to 3, 4 to 10, 11 to 17 and 18 and up. The card will consist of 25 spaces, each with a task or winter activity to complete. If players are able to fill out any five spaces, they can turn it in to the library for a prize. Not only will there be book and reading-related tasks listed on the gamecards, but also

other activities like try a new hobby, go for a walk, make a new dish and visit family.

“Besides keeping students and (people of) every age, engaged throughout the winter reading program with literature and literacy, it also creates moments for parents and adults, children, teens and all ages to come and interact with the library and create those moments where they can experience the library in a sense where it’s more than books,” Gonzales said. “That’s part of the reason why some of the activities on these gamecards are also not book-related — they are meant to be free for participants to share with their families, inside the library or outside.”

This iteration of the program was planned largely by Ava Bryant and Rebecca Buchanan, the children’s librarian and adult activities director, respectively. Their hope is to promote important



Kids and parents enjoying the Luminous Lollipop Craft supervised by Rebecca Buchanan.

ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

life skills, encourage growth and give families extra time to have fun together this holiday season.

“The activities are going to promote bonding with families; those early literacy skills and also those art activities like finger painting are very beneficial for the little ones,” Bryant said. “It basically centers around enjoying the winter, spending time with your friends and family, bonding,

and literacy for the younger kids, laying a foundation for a love of reading throughout your life.”

UPCOMING JANUARY LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

- Second Teen Gaming Night for ages 11 to 17, Jan. 9, 6-7:30 p.m.
- Smartphone 101 class, Jan. 9, 2-3:30 p.m.
- \$1 used book sale, Jan. 12 and 13, noon-4 p.m.

- Felt Cat Craft for teens and adults, Jan. 18, 6-7:30 p.m.
- Mini Art for Teens and Adults, Jan. 23, 6-7:30 p.m.
- Let’s Talk Azle communication class for adults, Jan. 25 at 6 p.m.
- Jigsaw Puzzle Exchange for Adults, Jan. 27, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- First Adult Gaming Night for ages 18 to 30, Jan. 30, 6:30-7:30 p.m.



Laura Lara and other library assistants treated kids to marshmallows, melted chocolate, sprinkles and other sugary snacks at the Wonka Celebration.



Kids filling their baskets in the blueberry drawing activity.

TGR Junior

NATIONAL APPLE TREE DAY JANUARY 6, 2024

Apple Tree Day, celebrated on January 6th, is a time to appreciate the significance of apple trees in our lives and ecosystems. This day symbolizes the connection between nature and

human well-being. Apple trees, with their blossoms and fruits, represent the cycle of life and the bounties of the Earth.

On this special day, people gather to plant new

apple trees, emphasizing the importance of sustainable practices and environmental stewardship. The act of planting a tree is a metaphor for nurturing the future, as apple trees take time to grow and bear fruit.

It’s a reminder that patience and care are essential elements in cultivating both nature and our own lives.

Apple Tree Day also serves as a platform for

education, promoting awareness about the role of apple trees in maintaining biodiversity and providing habitat for various species. Ultimately, this celebration encourages individuals to embrace a harmonious

coexistence with nature, recognizing the invaluable gifts that apple trees bestow upon us.

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SPANISH: Manzana

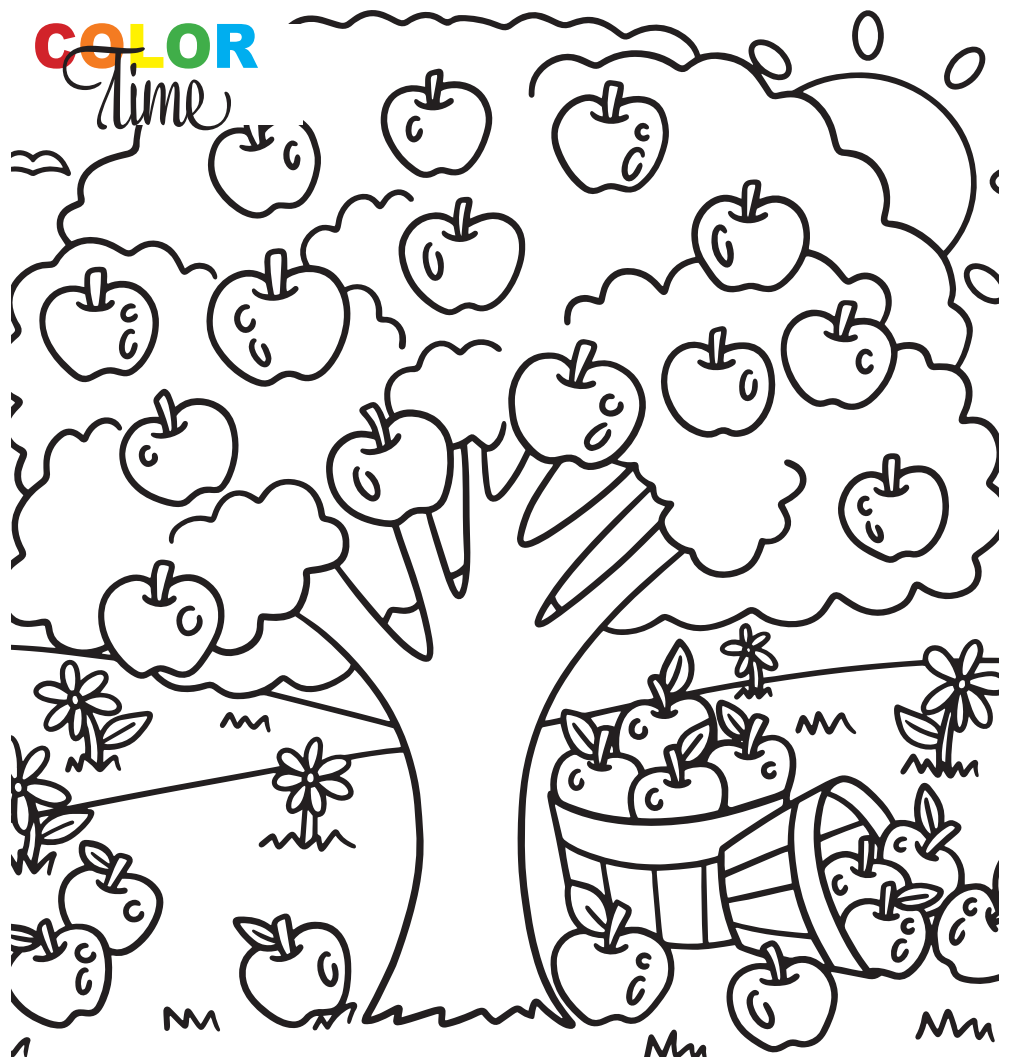
ITALIAN: Mela

FRENCH: Pomme

GERMAN: Apfel



A branch or branches of one apple tree can be joined to another to get different kinds of apples on one tree. This technique is known as grafting.



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THE TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

DIVERSIONS

B

THURSDAY, January 4, 2024

Soccer's back

Springtown boys beat Azle in first scrimmage of season

JEFF PRINCE

sports@tricityreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — Springtown began its soccer season in December by scrimmaging Azle at Porcupine Stadium.

Both teams played hard, worked to shake off early-season rust, and enjoyed themselves on the pitch in front of a large crowd. Springtown prevailed 2-0. Prior to the game, the schools' JV teams battled, with the Porcupines winning 3-0.

Springtown missed the playoffs last season but won more games than in recent

years and appears ready to continue the trend. The Pines won two district games and five games overall last year, posting their best record in about a decade. The last time the Porcupines won two district games was in 2015.

Several talented seniors graduated in 2023, but this year's squad retained numerous players who can impact the scoreboard.

A year ago, the Hornets beat the Porcupines 3-0 at Springtown Invitational Soccer Tournament and went on to earn the championship. Once district competition began, however, Azle

struggled to put away games. The Hornets tied their first two games 0-0 before losing a string of games, many of them by close margins. Azle missed the playoffs but won 5 games overall compared to just 1 game the previous year.

Azle soccer begins its season this year with numerous road games during January. The next home game is at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 9 versus Saginaw at Hornet Field.

Springtown will play several home games in January, including at 5:30 p.m. Jan. 8 against Dunbar at Porcupine Stadium.



JEFF PRINCE | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

The Springtown Porcupines and Azle Hornets scrimmaged in December to prepare for the soccer season. Soccer season continues through early March.



JEFF PRINCE | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

McKenzie Bratcher is co-captain.

Dance time

JEFF PRINCE

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SPRINGTOWN — The Showstoppers dance troupe is preparing for its first competition Feb. 24, the Danceline USA state competition at Weatherford High School.

Then, it's on to the next competition March 23-24, the ShowTime nationals at Moody Gardens convention center in Galveston.

The Springtown girls are ready for action. They performed regularly at halftime shows during the football season. Afterward, some of the dancers performed in the

Springtown Showstoppers prepare for upcoming contests

theater production of The Little Mermaid. Then, the troupe began practicing for contests.

This year's team was the largest in school history with 25 dancers. Most of the previous teams had fewer than 20 members.

Showstoppers director Jammie Horton decided to go with a bigger team this year because of the increasing number of girls wanting to participate.

"It has been a little challenging," Horton said. "Having 25 — well, actually 27; I have 2 managers — is a lot to deal with at times. But, overall, it has been a good decision. I am glad I took more dancers."

Each member, however, must pass a weekly audition to earn the right to dance in shows and competitions.

"We still have cuts, so those

PLEASE SEE **SHOW** | B2

Home team advantage

Springtown couple roots for beloved Porcupines

JEFF PRINCE

sports@tricityreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — The boys varsity basketball game between the Springtown Porcupines and Azle Hornets had paused for halftime, and Margaret Swanzy was visiting with several people sitting around her in the bleachers. She has difficulty walking and doesn't wander much at games.

Her longtime husband, Eddy Swanzy, is usually by her side, but he likes to stroll and chat during breaks some-

times. He had wandered off.

The Swanzy's are popular at events. They had watched the freshman basketball team and the JV squad earlier that day and were on their third game.

The couple enjoys watching kids compete, improve their skills, learn about teamwork and build character.

This year's varsity team had built a 30-point lead over Azle by halftime. Margaret was singing the team's praises and excited to see how far the boys will make it this year.

She observes games like a coach — "I love to watch no. 4 (Dylan Crutchfield) play. His arms are longer than a rope."

She also watches like a proud grandmother — "They all are good. They are awesome. I just love every one of them."

Margaret and Eddy grew up playing sports, and both became coaches.

Margaret was raised in Springtown as part of the Newby family that loved basketball. Margaret's father,

PLEASE SEE **SWANZYS** | B2



COURTESY PHOTO

From left, Margaret and Eddy Swanzy relax at the Dec. 3 Springtown volleyball banquet.



COURTESY PHOTO BY CHAPA PHOTOGRAPHY

Jeff Prince is a familiar presence at local sporting events. He will remember fondly his years spent on the sideline.

So long, friends

Sports reporter leaves Azle-Springtown to tackle new adventures

JEFF PRINCE

sports@tricityreporter.com

The past 3-1/2 years were a sweet aberration in the final leg of a long career.

In 1985, I began working as a news reporter. My beats included police, city hall, schools and general assignments. Somehow, 35 years blazed by.

Then, in March 2020, the pandemic forced my layoff. I hunkered down alone at my house near Azle, feeling anxious. Businesses closed. Friends and family quarantined. My dad battled cancer, but I couldn't visit him in the hospital because of COVID-19 restrictions.

For years, I had dreamed of spending days at home with idle time. My wish had come true, and I was uneasy. Will I work again? Is the economy collapsing? Will a bacteria kill millions of people? Why is daytime TV so bad?

Three months into unemployment, I saw an online job posting for a high

school sports reporter in Weatherford. The job sounded interesting, although the hours were long and included split shifts, late nights, early mornings, with little time off. The pay was low. I was earning far more in unemployment benefits and federal stimulus checks.

I took the job and immersed myself in distracted bliss. Covered 18 schools in two counties. Spent days and nights driving around, photographing games, talking to kids, coaches and parents, and cranking out stories in rapid and endless succession. Seasons ended. New ones began. Football, volleyball, basketball, baseball and soccer reigned supreme. I added the oft-overlooked wrestling, powerlifting, track, cross-country, cheerleading, tennis, fishing, color guard, summer camps and marching band. If somebody started a Tiddlywinks program, I'd cover it.

PLEASE SEE **SO LONG** | B3



COURTESY PHOTO BY CHAPA PHOTOGRAPHY

On Dec. 21, Youth Night drew kids to a dual tournament to cheer on the Hornets.

SWANZYS

FROM PAGE B1

Howard Newby, played in the 1920s on dirt ground near what is now Wells Fargo Bank. His kids gravitated to roundball, and Margaret's older brothers and sister played at Springtown High School in the 1940s and 1950s.

Margaret practiced at home by shooting balls at a rim attached to a tree, and she played in high school and at Weatherford College.

Eddy grew up in Rosebud and graduated high school in 1960 as a three-sport letterman in football, basketball and track. He excelled at the pole vault and set the Killeen Relays pole vault record by clearing 12 feet in high school. He went on to run track and pole vault at North Texas State University in Denton before a torn hamstring ended his college career.

Eddy and Margaret didn't meet until years later, after both were married, raised children and divorced. They met and marched down the wedding aisle together in 1983, living in the Dallas area and owning and operating a lighting store. They retired in 2003.

The couple returned to Margaret's hometown to make their forever home, and both have hit 80. Eddy competes at state and national senior pole vault events and coaches pole vaulters at the high school. Margaret deals with a bad knee and has difficulty walking but rarely misses events. She said she can hurt at games as easy as hurting at home.

"Sports are in our blood," she said.



Sweepin' mats

Azle wrestlers dominate teams at tourney

JEFF PRINCE

sports@tricountyreporter.com

AZLE – Azle wrestlers took on a couple of big schools — Arlington Lamar and Colleyville Heritage — and walked away with big victories.

On Dec. 21, the Azle boys hosted a dual tournament and defeated Colleyville Heritage 69-9 and Lamar 61-18. The Lady Hornets won 42-6 and 38-0.

In addition to the teams going 4-0, the wrestlers

went a combined 37-5 at the tourney.

The wrestling coaches thanked the team's 2022-23 sponsors, including Walmart Azle, Walmart Supercenter Fort Worth, The Howliday [cq] Inn at Canyon Creek, 4-D Construction and Flynn Group of Companies.

Azle boys wrestling will host the Varsity Nest Invitational Jan. 6 at the Hornet gymnasium and wrestle against Eaton Jan. 12 at home.

Azle girls will compete Jan. 5-6 at the Lady Hornet Invitational and battle Eaton Jan. 12 at home.

Regional and state championships will be held in February.

Defending state champion Annabelle Davis and her teammates made short work of teams at a recent dual meet.

SHOW

FROM PAGE B1

not at the expectation level for performance do not perform," she said.

On the weeks when everyone passed their auditions and performed during half-time shows, "it was definitely a good visual for the field," Horton said.

The team began with a lack of experience, but the younger girls have pushed themselves to catch up with the older girls on their routines.

"They work hard and have adapted well to our sometimes-grueling practice schedule," Horton said.

JEFF PRINCE | TRI COUNTY REPORTER

Right: Sarah Grazer and the Springtown Showstoppers are eager for competition season.



Saphira Drennan serves as vice president of Showstoppers when she isn't waving pom poms.



Lily Rogers brings enthusiasm to the dance troupe.

SO LONG

FROM PAGE B1

The kids liked the attention. I appreciated their gratitude. Leaving behind the grit of news reporting to write about fun and games felt right in my 60s.

In 2021, I switched to the Tri-County Reporter to focus on Azle and Springtown. Fewer schools meant better coverage. A renewed sense of purpose fueled my relentless pace.

Now, we've come to what's known as the "buried lead." I'm eight paragraphs deep and still haven't come to a

point. Here it is — I am leaving sports writing to pursue other challenges and opportunities, some in journalism, some not.

Since school began in May, I've noticed my energy waning. Not a lot, but enough. When energy goes, enthusiasm follows. Kids pick up on that stuff, and I don't want them to see burnout in me.

I've sold my Azle house and relocated to Benbrook. January 2024 seems perfect to embark on new adventures. I'm excited but also sorry to leave behind good people in Azle and Springtown, including co-workers.

I will miss the job.

Photographing athletes feels like creating little works of art. The thrill comes in capturing a perfect moment that happens in a millisecond and tells a universal story. Since 2020, I've taken hundreds of thousands of photos.

"More like millions," scream my sore shoulders and back that bear the brunt of heavy camera equipment.

Sports photography is hard. The failure rate is high. I nab one good photo per 100-200 snaps. Great photos are 1 in 1,000. That's like catching a 4-pound bass after spending an afternoon without a nibble.

The best part of the job is writing about the lives and

accomplishments of young people. Readers appreciate these glimpses. So do parents. Without fail, the kids were respectful. Most were open, positive and well spoken. None were rude. Our country's future is in good hands.

After games, they shared their perspectives. Happy. Angry. Tearful. Honest. I tried to capture their spirit as much as their words. Then, I'd drive to the office, sit in my cubicle, edit photos, and write stories. Sometimes I made myself laugh. Sometimes I cried. Both emotions were welcome. If I was laughing or crying, I figured readers might do the same.

Senior Nights touched me, with kids describing their loving parents and impactful teachers. I empathized with athletes dealing with injuries. I played football for 11 years and sustained just one real injury. It occurred during my senior year, cost me the season, and put me in a funk. Seeing other youngsters endure similar setbacks was difficult to watch.

A couple of years ago, Logan Malewiski, a multi-sport star at Azle Christian School, injured his knee and missed most of his senior season of football, basketball, baseball and track. Later that year, I asked how he was coping.

"I still do me — just without the sports," he said.

Then, with a hint of melancholy, he added, "Even though that was me."

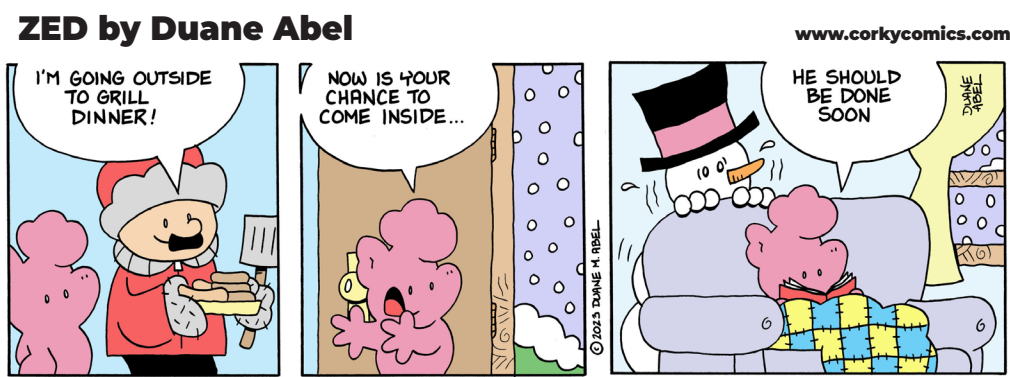
Little gems like that came from the mouths of local teenagers on a regular basis. I enjoyed scooping up the words, turning them into stories, and connecting with the community. I'm hoping my new projects provide the same satisfaction I feel when nabbing that 1 in 1,000 shot or writing something that makes me laugh or cry.

Go Porcupines, Hornets, and Crusaders!

1 in 1,000 Jeff's favorite photos since 2020

“Photographing athletes feels like creating little works of art. The thrill comes in capturing a perfect moment that happens in a millisecond and tells a universal story. Since 2020, I've taken hundreds of thousands of photos. Sports photography is hard. The failure rate is high. I nab one good photo per 100-200 snaps. Great photos are 1 in 1,000.”





Sudoku

JANUARY 4, 2024

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

Level: Advanced

Solution to last week's puzzle

DECEMBER 28, 2023

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to chiropractic care.

KCNE

--	--	--	--

Answer: Neck

CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to chiropractic care. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 25 = E)

- A. 16 11 6 10 17 9
Clue: Move or tweak
- B. 17 23 21 22 25
Clue: Keeps people upright
- C. 23 16 21 22
Clue: Hurting
- D. 5 25 14 21 25 24
Clue: Ease of pain

Answers: A: adjust B: flexion C: pain D: relief

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

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- | | | | |
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| 3..... Appliances | 26..... Excavating | 48... Maintenance/Repairs | 71..... Sewing/Alterations |
| 4..... Appliance Repair | 27..... Exterminating | 49..... Masonry/Stonework | 72..... Sewer Service |
| 5..... Arts/Crafts | 28..... Farm Equipment | 50... Mobile Home Service | 73..... TV/Radio |
| 6..... Asphalt Paving | 29..... Fencing | 51..... Motorcycles | 74..... Tractor Service |
| 7..... Auctions | 30..... Firewood | 52..... Movers | 75..... Upholstery |
| 8..... Autos, Trucks | 31..... Free | 53..... Musical Instruments | 76..... Vacuum Cleaners |
| 9..... Auto Repair Service | 32..... For Sale | 54..... Music Lessons | 77..... Wanted |
| 10..... Backhoe Service | 33..... Furniture | 55..... Miscellaneous | 78..... Well Drilling |
| 11..... Boats, Motors | 34..... Garage & Estate Sales | 56 Party Planning/Events | 79..... Welding |
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| 17..... Carpet Service | 40 Home Improvement | 62..... Plumbing | 85..... Mobile Homes for Sale |
| 18..... Catering | 41 House Leveling | 63..... Public Notice | 86..... Mobile Home/RV Lots |
| 19..... Cement Work | 42..... House Cleaning | 64..... Photography | 87..... Rent Furnished |
| 20..... Demolition | 43..... Hunting | 65..... Printing | 88..... Rent Unfurnished |
| 21..... Child Care | 44..... Janitorial Service | 66..... Roofing | 89..... Wanted to Rent |
| 22..... Cosmetics | 45..... Job Wanted | 67..... Recycling | |
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Deadline: 1:00 PM FRIDAY

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TexSCAN Week of Dec. 31, 2023-Jan. 6, 2024

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ALMANAC

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ACROSS

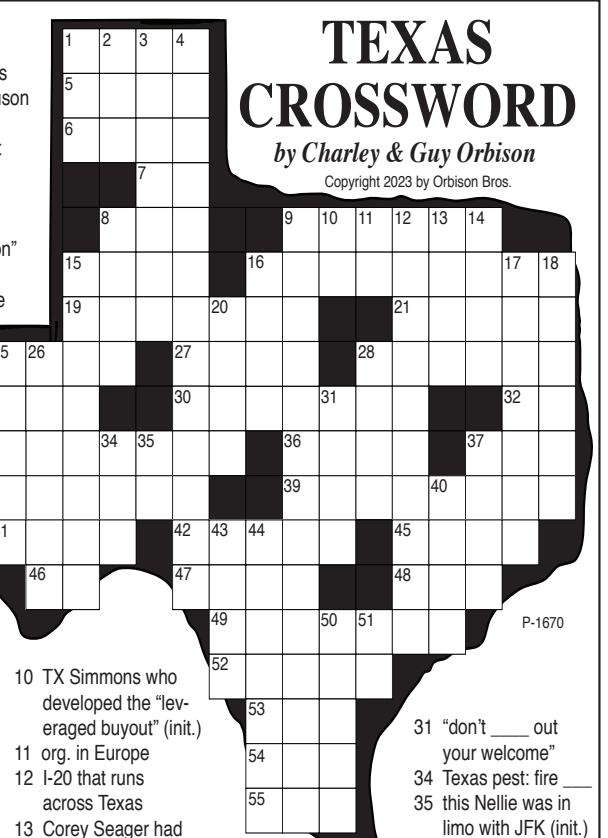
- 1 this Meharg was first female Texas Secretary of State
5 Mineola's county
6 Jackson County seat
7 TX Charley Pride tune: "Just Me"
8 money machine
9 TXism: "exciting as a fire at ___ office"
15 TXism: "phoo-___ water" (perfume)
16 TXism: "hot enough ___ a horny toad"
19 a blimp, e.g.
21 TX Jimmy Webb wrote "By the ___ Get to Phoenix"
22 in Anderson County on U.S. 287
27 ___ weevil came to U.S. thru Texas
28 TXism: "cut ___ slack"
29 married woman in Mexico
30 1960's protests
32 this Palmer won the Texas Open three times (init.)
33 TXism: "he ___ with the facts" (liar)
36 Gulf shrimp catchers
37 this conven. was in Houston in 1928
38 a ___ pizza is a small one
39 Fair Park is on the ___ of Dallas

- 41 "let the ___ settle"
42 Odessa's county
45 king toppers in cards
46 Cowboy Jake Ferguson position (abbr.)
47 needed in a drought
48 TXism: "just a ___" (small amount)
49 more intelligent
52 Cheryl of film "Wilson" with TX Harrelson
53 comfy room at home

- 54 voting yes
55 use a needle and thread

DOWN

- 1 female sheep
2 a car modification, e.g. (abbr.)
3 Wood County newspaper
4 TX Robert ___ was U.S. Secretary of Commerce (1989-92)
8 Corey Seager got this to end a no-hitter in game 5 of the 2023 World Series (2 wds.)
9 TXism: "plain as the ___ - ___ chart"



TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

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- 10 TX Simmons who developed the "leveraged buyout" (init.)
11 org. in Europe
12 I-20 that runs across Texas
13 Corey Seager had 6 of these in the 2023 World Series
14 Japanese wrestling
15 heaven
16 ___-A-Whirl rides are built in Plainview
17 returns a case to a lower court
18 UT has 1st photo ever taken, by this French inventor
20 sharpen, like skills
22 former Cowboy star, Emmitt (init.)
23 modern lights
24 "half hitch," e.g.
25 did 20-down
26 avid paintings collector? (2 wds.)
28 welcome rugs
31 "don't ___ out your welcome"
34 Texas pest: fire ___
35 this Nellie was in limo with JFK (init.)
37 passed away
40 wound reminder
43 TXism: "___ on the barrel head"
44 TXism: "___ a whipped pup"
50 Texans have to ___ car registration annually
51 TXism: "dot the i's and cross the ___"

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