

Azle area tax board directors elected, more to come in May

ZACH FREEMAN

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AZLE — In years past, the election of tax appraisal district board directors was solely the responsibility of “taxing entities,” but due to recent changes in legislation, counties will soon see an expansion in public participa-

Parker, Tarrant and Wise County announce winners of CAD board elections, expansion of boards

tion in these decisions and of the boards themselves.

Tax appraisal districts set the taxable value of homes and businesses across each of Texas’ counties. These

districts are often governed by a six-member board of directors. Some taxing entities like school boards and city councils each cast their share of pre-proportioned votes for

five of these members based on each entity’s tax rolls. The sixth member is a non-voting tax assessor-collector. In Tarrant, Parker and Wise County, the five voting board

members were all up for election in 2023.

The election for the Tarrant Appraisal District (TAD), Parker County Appraisal District (PCAD) and Wise County Appraisal District (Wise CAD) Boards of Directors began in November and lasted six weeks. The two prominent taxing enti-

ties in the Azle area are the Azle City Council and Azle ISD. Azle ISD participated in all three counties’ elections, while the city council only voted in the Parker and Tarrant elections.

Azle ISD’s Board of Trustees was allotted 325

PLEASE SEE BOARD | A8



Cozy up with a good book

ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Snow settles on available surfaces on Monday, Jan. 15, as temperatures dropped to 10° F throughout the tri-county area.

Politicians visit Azle Chamber luncheon, president and board elected

ZACH FREEMAN

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AZLE — The first Azle Area Chamber of Commerce luncheon of 2024 had some big updates and some big names in attendance from the tri-county area. State Representative District 99 Charlie Geren and State Representative District 60 Glenn Rogers were both in attendance along with other elected officials from Parker County and the City of Azle. George Conley, Parker

State Reps Charlie Geren and Glenn Rogers attend Azle luncheon

County Precinct 1 commissioner, led the room in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. and Texas flags. Geren, who sponsored the luncheon, briefly spoke to remind the audience of the upcoming March 5 primary election and to laud the chamber for being the best and most active chamber of commerce in his constituency.

Azle area native and local real estate agent Michael Wright took the reins as Marcy Pinkston ended her term as president of the Azle chamber.

“Azle is my hometown,” Wright said. “I love this community and I love all the positive energy we have in this

PLEASE SEE CHAMBER | A10



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Parker County officials, Ray Wright, Sheriff Russ Authier, George Conley, and retired Parker County Constable Larry Nix were recognized at the Azle Area Chamber of Commerce Luncheon.



Springtown native Laura Guerra’s recreational vehicle, off Summit Drive near Porcupine Stadium on her parents’ property, caught fire and burned down on New Year’s Eve.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LAURA GUERRA

Springtown rallies for resident who lost everything in RV fire

MADelyn EDWARDS

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SPRINGTOWN — Springtown native Laura Guerra’s 2024 did not start off well.

New Year’s Eve is traditionally a celebratory time of drinking champagne and sharing midnight kisses, but Guerra had to mourn a trage-

Parker County fire marshal, ESD 1 fire chief share tips to prevent RV fires

dy instead. She had been with a friend that evening, and when she arrived back home, she found her recreational vehicle, off Summit Drive near Porcupine Stadium on her parents’ property, was

on fire. She lost almost everything, including clothes, gifts she had received for Christmas, pictures, cards she had saved, the ashes of

PLEASE SEE FIRE | A11



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SISD honors trustees during School Board Recognition Month

STAFF REPORTS

SPRINGTOWN — January is School Board Recognition Month, and Springtown Independent School District is celebrating the members of its Board of Trustees for their “dedication and commitment to the district and its students,” according to an SISD news release.

“Our board members are vital,” SISD Superintendent Shane Strickland said in the news release. “Their dedication, vision and commitment shape the future of our schools and students.”

The theme of this year’s School Board Recognition Month is “Locally Elected, Community Connected” and is meant to showcase the connection between school trust-

ees and their communities. School board members are the largest group of locally elected officials in the state.

Texas Association of School Boards Executive Director Dan Troxell praised the efforts of volunteer trustees in providing leadership and good governance so school district staffs can focus on educating the 5.4 million public school students in their care.

“Texas school boards are so important because they bring a deep understanding of the needs and aspirations of their local communities to their role,” Troxell said in the news release. “Boards lead their districts by providing oversight, setting goals, overseeing the budget and

selecting and evaluating the superintendent. These volunteers serve for the betterment of their communities.”

SISD staff will recognize the school board members during the next regular board meeting at 6 p.m. Monday, Jan. 22. Board meetings take place at the district’s administration building at 301 E. Fifth St. Board of Trustees members include President Rick Beall, Vice President Chris Gilley, Secretary Jay Grubis, Damon Liles, Gary Veazey, Mark Bryant and Tootie Hall.

To learn more about school board service, visit the Texas Association of School Boards’ website tasb.org online.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SISD'S WEBSITE

Springtown Independent School District’s Board of Trustees members are, from left, Gary Veazey, Vice President Chris Gilley, President Rick Beall, Tootie Hall, Damon Liles, Secretary Jay Grubis and Mark Bryant.

Candidate filing period begins for local elections in May

STAFF REPORTS

Elections are coming — not just the primaries that will help determine county, state and national leaders, but also elections for local city council and school board members.

Local Election Day is Saturday, May 4, and early voting will take place April 22-30. Residents need to be registered by April 4 to vote in this election.

Before elections can take

City council, school board members up for reelection

place, qualified candidates need to file for a place on the ballot. Filing usually can take place at the office of a governmental entity — like a city hall or a school district’s administrative office — and questions can be answered by contacting these entities.

The filing period started Jan. 17 and ends Feb. 16. Likewise, the deadline to order an election on a measure, like a bond election, is also Friday, Feb. 16.

Multiple seats on governmental boards in Azle, Springtown and Reno will

be up for re-election in May, including:

- Azle City Council Places 1, 2 and 5, which are currently held by members Derrick Nelson, Amy Estes and Rouel Rothenberger Jr. respectively.
- Springtown City Council Places 1, 3 and 5; the incumbents are Ted Martinez, Mayor Pro Tem Walter Roberson and Scott Richardson.
- Reno City Council Places 1,

3 and 5, currently occupied by Hernando Herrera, Mayor Pro Tem Shelli Swift and Joy Jenkins. Jenkins was appointed to her position last year to fill an unexpired term left by former council member Jeff Davis.

- Azle Independent School District Board of Trustees Place 3, currently filled by Vice President Tim Brown, and Place 4, currently filled by Ray Lea.

· Springtown Independent School District Board of Trustees Places 6 and 7; Mark Bryant and Elizabeth “Tootie” Hall are the incumbents. · Walnut Creek Special Utility District Board of Directors members Frank Henderson, who was appointed to fill an unexpired term, and Vice President Al Garrett are up for reelection.

AZLE’S



People's Choice AWARDS BALLOT

The Azle Area Chamber of Commerce would like your vote for the following Nominees... ONLY CHECK **ONE** IN EACH CATEGORY

Favorite Insurance Agency

- Albracht Hardwood Insurance Agency
- Allstate-Mares Insurance
- Angela Harrison Agency - Farmers Insurance
- Angela Lamb Farmers Insurance
- Care N Care Insurance Agency
- Damon Liles Insurance Agency
- Haley Carter State Farm
- Hogle’s Insurance Group
- Kyrstin Daniel’s State Farm
- Lindsey Ellis State Farm
- Our Infinite Company
- Texas Classic Insurance
- Rachel West - Farmers Insurance
- MP Insurance
- Ussery Insurance Services - Farmers Insurance

Favorite Azle I.S.D. Employees

- Matt Adams - Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Operations
- Amanda House - Instructional Coach (Hilltop Elementary)
- Starla Petty - Coordinator of Health Services; School Nurse at Forte Junior High
- Chuck Weiss - Director of Transportation

Favorite City of Azle Employee

- Marco Gallardo - Police Department
- Brad Geary - Water Processing Plant
- Victor Gonzalez - Azle Memorial Library
- Jack Noah - Fire Department

Favorite Event Venue

- 404 Main Place
- A&M Gardens
- Azle Deer Cove
- Eagle Mountain Plaza
- The Orchard
- RnR Event Center

Favorite Caterer

- Bumble Bee Occasions
- Caitlyn’s Catering
- Corn Fed Catering & Fine Foods
- CRAVE
- Red’s Burger House
- Red’s Bar B Que
- 3-Ws Smoke Shack

Favorite Non-Profit Organizations

- CASA of Parker County
- Good N.E.W.S.
- Adult & Teen Challenge of Texas
- Future Hope and Healing

Entries must be on original newspaper ballots, no machine copies will be counted.

Return ballot to the Azle Area Chamber by February 1, 2024

Winners will be announced at the 62nd Annual Awards Banquet on February 15, 2024

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Don't Warranties Last Forever?

Perhaps it is the times we live in or maybe it is people in general, but folks seem to be more demanding than they once were. There is a time to make reasonable requests or to insist on getting what you paid for. It is not unfair to ask that your salad be delivered a reasonable time prior to the entrée, and not at the same time. One is entitled to ask the repairman to clean up the mess he created in performing the repair, but it is not reasonable to ask the same repairman to clean the whole house. It is not out of the question to anticipate the Amazon delivery driver will place your package near your front door, rather than driving by your address at a high rate of speed, throwing the package out the window and hoping you find it somewhere on the block where you reside. No one is saying sticking up for yourself is inappropriate.



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.

On the other hand, it is not always about "me."

Not long ago, I had the need to go to my neighborhood John Deere dealership and get an oil filter. The tractor needed to have the oil change, and I hoped to purchase the necessary item so I could get the task at hand accomplished.

When I arrived at the dealership, I walked up to the parts counter to find an older man in the line ahead of me. He was engaged in an animated conversation with the service manager so I backed up a little bit giving them some room, hoping calm would soon be restored.

As the conversation con-

tinued, I could hear the old man speak in a very agitated and loud manner: "If this is not covered by warranty your tractors are not worth a flip." He continued to rant: "I will never buy another tractor from you again. This is ridiculous. You are doing nothing but trying to cheat me!"

As I listened, I was very shocked by the old man's rant. John Deere products are noteworthy for their reliability, and I dealt with this dealership through the purchase of two different tractors, service issues and regular maintenance. My experiences had always been very positive, and I had endorsed the dealership to my friends and

neighbors. It was hard for me to imagine what the old man was saying could be true.

Finally, the old man exclaimed, "I am leaving, and you will never have my business again." He shouted something which is not appropriate to put into a public newspaper. As he left, I meekly approached the counter and the store employee. The man was red-faced and it was easy to determine he was agitated by his conversation with the mad customer. I hoped to inject some levity into the situation so I jokingly said, "Would now be a bad time to ask to borrow some money?" and then I smiled.

The man behind the counter let out a sheepish grin and said, "As good as any," and then giggled a little bit. I responded by saying, "That conversation did not seem to go well," and the service responded by saying, "You do not know half of it. I have

talked to that man on the phone twice, the store manager had talked to him once and we all told him the same thing, but he still will not accept that his tractor problem is not covered by the factory warranty."

I could not help but ask, "what was the problem with the tractor" to which the service man said, "He has got a problem with one of the pistons and the engine rings."

At first hearing this information I could not help but ask myself, "I wonder why the piston and rings would not be covered by the man's warranty." I guess the thought running through my head was written on my face, so the employee looked at me and exclaimed, "It is sort of easy to understand he bought his tractor 22 years ago!" It turns out the old man wanted John Deere to repair an engine which he had owned and used for 22 years and ex-

pected it to be covered by his original factory warranty!

I assured the clerk my experiences with the dealership had always been positive, and I was sorry the man had acted so out of line. He smiled and thanked me for my pleasantness, and I headed out the door to get home and change the oil. On the way home I started to giggle, thinking about the old man who made such a disruption. I wonder if he thinks the same way about everything he ever bought. Is there a "lifetime" warranty on cars, appliances and electronics? Heck, I am pretty sure there is not even a lifetime warranty on life!

Thought for the day: A warranty is a notice telling the buyer when the product they just purchased will no longer be functional.

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

Azle Education Foundation hosts 12th annual Red Solo Cup BBQ Bash

Event to raise funds for school district at The Orchard Event Venue Jan. 27

ZACH FREEMAN

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AZLE — Everyone knows a red solo cup is the best receptacle for barbecues, tailgates, fairs and festivals, and especially for the Azle Education Foundation's Red Solo Cup BBQ Bash. Coming up at 7 p.m.-11 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 27, the AEF will celebrate the 12th annual iteration of the event, once again raising money for teachers and students around the district. The bash will feature food, dancing, and a live auction for a variety of exciting items and opportunities, all in the beautiful setting of The Orchard Event Venue at 1421 Northwest Parkway in Azle. The AEF provides scholar-

ships, teacher grants, campus grants and new teacher gift cards totaling more than \$80,000 every year. AEF Event Chair Meg Arnold has been a part of the organization since 2017 and cannot wait for the fun and funding that comes with this year's event.

"My understanding is the AEF board wanted to have a relaxed, fun atmosphere and make it accessible for the teachers and other groups at AISD to attend," Arnold said. "I can't imagine that there's a student in Azle ISD who hasn't been touched in some way by one of the AEF programs. There are teacher grants at every campus each year, campus grants, scholarships, continuing education and other teacher supports.

I think the best example is when we do the annual grant giveaway. We travel to each campus to personally tell teachers their grant proposal has been funded, and the excitement is fun to see!"

Every year the table centerpieces are made by the AHS floral design classes, and the desserts are made by the AHS culinary students. Many of the auction items are unique to Azle ISD such as the football skybox or reserved parking, and this is your only chance to purchase them, Arnold said. Individual tickets to the bash may be purchased for \$50 each.

"Mark your calendars now for Jan. 27, 2024, and make your reservations early," the district urged in an article re-



JIM STEVENS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Photos from last year's Red Solo Cup BBQ Bash where the AEF raised more than \$90,000 from the hundreds of guests in attendance.

leased to their website. "This quickly becomes a 'SOLD OUT' event!"

For information on indi-

vidual tickets, table sponsorships and donations contact Meg Arnold at AzleRedSoloCup@gmail.com

or 682-478-9613. A sponsorship and ticket form can also be found at the bottom of www.azleisd.net/o/aisd/

Countses celebrate 40th wedding anniversary



Rondal and Aelanda (Daniel) Counts of Azle celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary Jan. 14. They were married Jan. 14, 1984 at Ash Creek Baptist Church in Azle. Mr. and Mrs. Counts have three children: Austin and Anna (Hunter) Counts, Brennen and Kayla (Schreiber) Counts, and Garrett and Jenna (Pickering) Counts. They are PaPa and Grandma to six grandchildren whom they adore.

They are both the children of lifelong marriages. Their parents are Helen Counts and the late Garry Counts of Azle, and the late William and Margaret Daniel of Weatherford.

Mr. and Mrs. Counts are lifelong residents of Azle. They attend Walnut Creek Baptist Church.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Cart chronicles: Finding meaning in everyday tasks

Dear Editor,

At the busy entrance of our local Brookshire's store in Springtown, where the clatter of shopping carts often goes unnoticed, an insignificant event took on new meaning for me.

As I finished loading groceries into my car, a young man approached to relieve me of the trip to walk the cart back to the corral. He carefully slid my cart in front of two others. While he completed this small task, he started a conversation — but not grocery store small talk — instead he revealed a surprising fascination with the art of cart collection.

He showed me how one

cart was slightly larger than the others, and one had a set of guide rails at the bottom. He told me there were four different models, and they had to be carefully stacked the correct way or they would get stuck together. The attention to detail he exhibited, ensuring the carts fit together seamlessly so they wouldn't later frustrate shoppers, reflected an admirable commitment to excellence.

In the mundane aspects of life, he found an opportunity to serve others through his work. It reminded me that our daily activities, no matter how ordinary, can be infused with purpose and sig-

nificance when approached with a heart dedicated to serving.

Colossians 3:23 reads, "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men."

As Christians, we are called to work diligently, recognizing that our efforts, even in seemingly insignificant tasks, are ultimately offerings to God. The young man's example serves as a reminder that our work can be a form of worship, and through our actions, we have the opportunity to reflect God's love and values to those around us.

— Susan Gabriel, Springtown

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Skywarn Spotter Training comes to Weatherford

STAFF REPORTS

The Fort Worth office of the National Weather Service has announced the location of an upcoming weather training program known as SKYWARN. The in-person training is set for Tuesday, Jan. 30 from 7-9 p.m. in the Mince Building at Weatherford College, 225 College Park Dr., Weatherford, TX 76086. The free program equips community members with essential information for all types of weather hazards. The main responsibility of a "SKYWARN spotter" is to identify and describe severe local storms.

In an average year, the United States experiences more than 10,000 severe thunderstorms, 5,000 floods and more than 1,000 tornadoes. The effects of severe weather are felt every year by many Americans. In most years, thunderstorms, tornadoes and lightning caused hundreds of injuries and deaths and billions in property and crop damage.

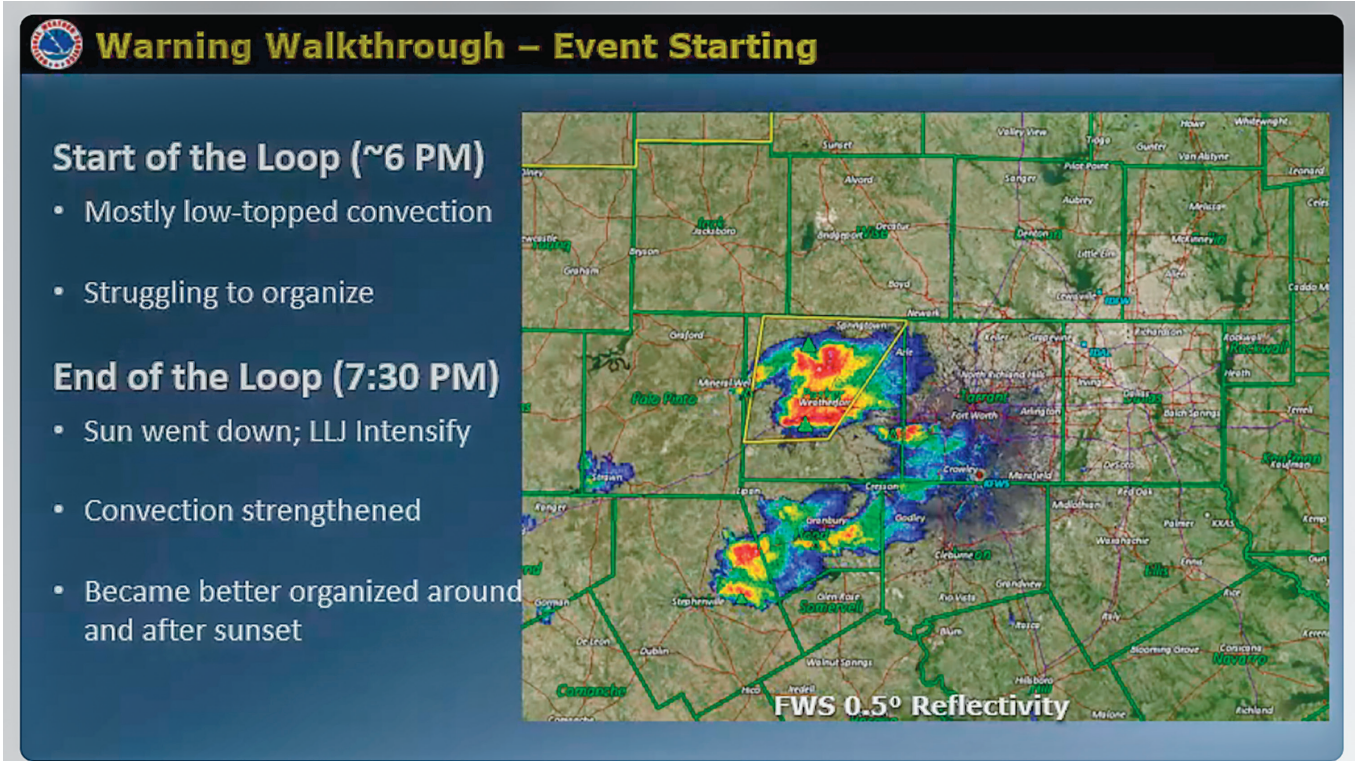
To obtain critical weather information, the National Weather Service (NWS) established SKYWARN with partner organizations. SKYWARN is a citizen volunteer program with between 350,000

and 400,000 trained severe weather spotters. SKYWARN® storm spotters are citizens who form the nation's first line of defense against severe weather. These volunteers help keep their local communities safe by providing timely and accurate reports.

Since the program started in the 1970s, the information provided by SKYWARN® spotters, coupled with Doppler radar technology, improved satellite and other data, has enabled NWS to issue more timely and accurate warnings for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms and flash floods. Storm spotters play a critical role because they can see things radar and other technological tools cannot, and this ground truth is critical in helping the NWS perform our primary mission: to save lives and property.

THE SKYWARN® PROGRAM AT NWS FORT WORTH

Many people ask how they can become a member of SKYWARN. In most cases, SKYWARN isn't really something you join, but instead is a concept based on having citizen volunteers help their community and the NWS by observing and reporting hazardous weather occurring



Screenshot from a Skywarn training video.

SCREENSHOT COURTESY SKYWARN

in their area. Anyone can be a storm spotter and submit reports directly to the NWS. If you are interested in becoming a member of an official local SKYWARN storm spotter network, you'll probably want to contact your city or county

emergency management office for information. Many communities have organized networks of storm spotters, often made up of amateur radio operators, fire departments, law enforcement or other volunteers. These local

networks may have very specific training and membership requirements, so check with your local officials to see how you might be able to get involved.

There is no pre-registration (except for virtual classes),

and you do not have to be a resident of a specific county to attend any of the NWS SKYWARN classes. For more information visit <https://www.weather.gov/fwd/skywarnmap>.

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Local doctor, two children killed in plane crash

MICAH MCCARTNEY

This article was originally posted by the Wise County Messenger Jan. 14.

POOLVILLE — A local doctor was one of three people reportedly killed in a plane crash Sunday afternoon in Parker County.

Dr. Heath Smith, a surgeon affiliated My Bariatric Solutions, and two children were pronounced dead at the scene on Lone Star Road and BJ Lane near Poolville. The crash occurred at about 1:15 p.m., according to Tony Molinaro with the Federal Aviation Administration's press office.

Texas Department of Public Safety spokesman Sgt. William Lockridge said a Cessna 310R fixed-wing multi-engine aircraft with tail number N252DL was piloted by Smith when it crashed into a pasture. The plane was registered to Plac Holdings LLC in Paradise.

Flight Aware shows the plane took off from the Dimmit County Airport at 10:58 a.m. and was scheduled to land at the Bridgeport Municipal Airport shortly after noon Sunday.

Two child passengers — a 6-year-old and an 8-year-old — also died in the crash. Lockridge declined to con-

firm the children were related to Smith due to the flight manifest not identifying relation.

"Right now, all we know is that two children were on board, but we don't know how they're related to [Smith]," Lockridge said. "But I can say that all on board have the same last name."

The three were transported from the scene to the Tarrant County medical examiner's office. Lockridge said the FAA is handling the crash investigation.

Smith was also serving his third term on the Paradise ISD School Board after running unopposed in 2023 and had filled the position of vice president since November 2020. Smith's brother, Landon Smith, currently serves as the Paradise ISD Place 4 trustee.

Smith is listed as a general and bariatric surgeon. He graduated from the Texas A&M University Medical School in 2009 and completed his residency at Virginia Tech University's Carilion Clinic in Roanoke, Virginia.

"Our hearts are devastated for the Smith family," Paradise superintendent Will Brewer said, in a statement emailed to the Messenger Sunday night. "Words cannot



COURTESY WISE COUNTY MESSENGER
Dr. Heath Smith.

fully express the grief that we feel for their loss. The tragedy that this family has endured is unimaginable. Dr. Smith was a vital part of our school district as an alumnus, parent and board member. He was passionate about his love for Paradise ISD and his impact on students and staff will be long lasting. Please keep the Smith family in your prayers."

The crash is being investigated by the FAA and the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB). A preliminary accident/incident report is expected to be released Monday.

LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Estate of Robert Micheal Griggs, Deceased.
Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of Robert Micheal Griggs, Deceased, were issued to Shawn Bradley Griggs, on December 12, 2023, in Cause No. 23P298, in the County Court, Parker County, Texas, to Shawn Bradley Griggs, Independent Administrator. All persons having claims against said Estate are required to present the same within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Claims should be sent to Ruelas Law Firm, 1020 Fort Worth Highway, Suite 500, Weatherford, Texas 76086, care of "Representative, Estate of Robert Micheal Griggs."

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
The City of Reno will be having public hearings for a Rezoning Application applied for property 4609 E Hwy 199, Springtown, TX 76082, to change from SF-1 zoning to Multifamily zoning. P&Z meeting will be January 29, 2024, at 7PM and City Council Meeting will be on February 6, 2024, at 7PM. Both meetings will be open to the public for comments.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
The City of Reno will be having public hearings for a Rezoning Application applied for property of 62 acres at 1491 S Reno Road, Springtown, TX 76082, (abst:1942 Situs: FM RD 1942) to change from Agricultural zoning to Commercial, C-2. P&Z meeting will be January 29, 2024, at 7PM and City Council Meeting will be on February 6, 2024, at 7PM. Both meetings will be open to the public for comments.

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LEGAL NOTICE

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine Only Package Store Permit by Gas N Grub 201 LLC (dba) GNG 201, to be located at 12555 S. FM 730, Azle, Parker County, TX 76020. Officer(s) of the said entity: Mudita Investments LLC – Manager; Aseem Khoja – Manager of Mudita Investments LLC; Evershine Holding Investments, LLC –Manager; Rahim Sewani –Manager of Evershine Holdings Investments LLC.

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MDD recaps construction and growth through 2023

ZACH FREEMAN

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AZLE — Everyone already knew, but Azle is growing. The city's Municipal Development District Board met Jan. 9 to recap the city's growth in 2023. To start the meeting and the year, the board re-elected Jack Stevens to the office of board president, Bill Jones to the office of vice president and Brian Connor to the office of secretary. City Manager Tom Muir announced the value of the city's investments had grown from \$3,291,938 at the end of 2022's financial year to \$3,895,594 in September 2023. Muir and Kristen Pegues, the city's community and marketing specialist, presented on the state of Azle businesses in 2023. Through the year, 28 new businesses opened in Azle, coincidentally the same number that opened in 2022. In 2023, the city raised \$488,500 more in sales tax than it did the previous

Azle's MDD reviews 2023, discusses construction projects

year. Throughout the year, the city broke its own sales tax records on multiple occasions. December saw a 5.43% increase in the general sales tax payment compared to the same month one year prior. Several notable construction projects either approved for permit or under review were discussed as well. A permit for a Dutch Bros. Coffee location has been approved by the city and is expected to break ground in February on the lot occupied for decades by Dairy Queen. The Community Caring Center's 3,800 square-foot expansion was approved in November and will allow for additional freezer space, a cooler and storage for a greater variety of foodstuffs. Work on the expansion's foundation is underway now. The site of the "old" Azle

post office at 133 E. Main St. is planned to be renovated into an urgent care facility. Azle is likely to welcome another carwash. The lot next to Racetrack, which was formerly a residential dwelling, is the planned site of Kodiak Car Wash. The owners are applying for an appeal to the city's tree ordinance after they were fined more than \$30,000 for improperly removing some of the lot's forest coverage. The new owners paid about \$10,000 in tickets and planted some new trees after an agreement was reached in court. The building that once housed the Stardust Skating Rink will be renovated into a spa and salon. Current permits with the city show the salon still using the Stardust name, though they may change it further along the

process. Crave, which currently rents space inside 404 Main Place, had previously applied for a permit to renovate an existing building into restaurant space next to the Tri-County Reporter office, but the project is now allegedly on hold because of financial issues. A 252-unit apartment complex, Stafford Place, has completed construction on at least three buildings and is now leasing out its first units. In keeping with often-requested greater walkability in recent surveys, the city completed a sidewalk path that extends to three schools and one city park, all without crossing a single major roadway. Hornet Academy, Walnut Creek Elementary, Azle Elementary and Shady Grove Park are all directly on the path. The sidewalk didn't fully connect until the MDD provided funding to fill two significant gaps in sidewalk coverage in 2023. The finished sidewalk now extends



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER
The recently cleared lot that is intended to hold Kodiak Car Wash.

more than three miles from Stribling Drive at Boyd Road to the eastern border of the new Lakeview Heights subdivision off Lakeview Drive. The total cost of this project was \$176,475. The city has recently finished constructing new streets on Sandy Beach Road for a housing addition going in next to Hoover Elementary School. A new water line was installed on both sides of Park Street and substantial work has been done in the residential areas of Azle Grove and Oak Harbor. During the meeting, Pegues said restrooms ordered for an upcoming food truck park should arrive in a little over a month and the park is expected to open in mid-March. A rustic stage and other amenities are currently in the works between contractors and the city. To keep up with other construction and future developments in Azle visit www.azleabsolutely.com/active-development-projects/ and follow City of Azle Economic Development on Facebook.

Reno to test upgraded water meter reading system

MADelyn EDWARDS

springtownreporter@tricityreporter.com

RENO — The city of Reno is exploring the possibility of upgrading to a more efficient system that will allow water meters to be read without meter readers manually assessing each meter. "Our meters are currently manually read so this upgrade would allow my

staff more time to focus on water leaks, streets, building maintenance, etc.," Reno Public Works Director Chris Albright said. Before committing to a new system, Albright said the city plans to participate in a pilot program to see how the automated meters work. He told the city council last month the city is working with a company called Evolv

to test out a couple dozen meter transmitters that will attach to the city's current meters over the course of a few months. "They're going to give us their software and allow us and the customers to see exactly how the system works and how much better it will be," he said during the council meeting. Albright said this system

records data in 30-minute increments and therefore allows for more information to be available regarding customers' water usage. "If there's a discrepancy with your bill, we can go back in time and pull up that day, hour by hour, to see exactly where that high water use is happening," he said during the meeting. Mayor Hector Bas Jr. added

that having access to this data would help customers identify leaks as well. Albright said when more water than usual is being used by a household, the system will send an alert to the customer and the city. During the December council meeting, resident Meredith Hull asked if the cost of the new system would be passed on to customers if the city decided to move forward with

the upgrade. Albright said during the meeting the devices themselves are expected to cost \$2 per connection, but afterward said the price to upgrade the whole system in Reno would roughly be about \$2,600 per month. "That's just something we'll figure out down the road," Albright said in response to Hull's question. "I want to see the system work first."

Spotlight on BUSINESS



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OBITUARIES

John Burnett 1942-2024

John Ross Burnett, born in Yale, Oklahoma to John Everitt Burnett and Lilly Ruth Burnett, passed away Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2024.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

He grew up in Muskogee, Oklahoma, and graduated from Muskogee Central High School. Ross honorably served his country in the United States Army. He was a retired machinist, who for many years was self-employed, owner of The Workshop.

Ross was an avid reader, enjoyed competitive shooting with the Aurora Blackpowder Club and trips to WinStar Casino.

John married the love of his life, Carolyn Lecroy in 1967. They have lived in Azle since 1970.

Survivors include wife, Carolyn Burnett; son, Wesley



Burnett and wife, Kim; daughter, Lillian Yarborough and husband, Timothy; granddaughters, Destiny Burnett and Jacquelyn Yarborough; many nieces and nephews and numerous friends.

Ross wants to remind everyone that it is only 12 months until Christmas.

The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday Jan 18, 2024

Daniel Chapman 1939-2023

Daniel Ernest Chapman, age 84, of Azle passed away Thursday, Dec. 28, 2023.

Funeral was at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 2, at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Azle. Burial was at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 2, at Lynn Creek Cemetery, Jack County.

Daniel was born Dec. 2, 1939, in Haverhill, Massachusetts, to Ernest F. and Beatrice (Dusseault). The second of four siblings, with an older brother, Robert, sister, Kathleen and brother, Paul. He graduated from Haverhill High School and Haverhill Trade School in 1957.

After graduation, Daniel enlisted in the United States Air Force. His military career spanned 30 years in medical administration. After retirement, he worked for the Harris Health organization. Upon leaving Harris, he joined the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department, working under Dee Anderson, and working for Chief Bob Knowles.

During his time in the United States Air Force, Daniel met his future wife, Mary Jo Starr, with whom he had two children, Dana and Jeffrey.

While serving with the Air Force, he was stationed at Lajes Field, Azores; San Antonio; Maryland; Incirlik, Turkey; Wichita Falls; Goldsboro, North Carolina; returning to San Antonio where he retired after 30 years of service as chief master sergeant, working with the surgeon general's office. During his military career Daniel made and maintained many life-long friendships.

Post-military life brought he and Mary to Azle where they joined other family members. Dan and Mary became members of Holy Trinity Catholic Church, where he was a member of the choir, and involved in many other activities.



Daniel enjoyed his weekly rounds of golf across the metroplex with his regular golf buddies. He was an extremely generous and compassionate man, who never met a stranger, and made it a point to put a smile on everyone's face. He was always in attendance at his grandchildren and great-grandchildren's school and extra-curricular activities. Dan also enjoyed researching recipes and cooking for his beloved wife and family members. The family would chuckle about being sure to return Dan's food storage bowls, or they might not get a return dish! Dan and Mary also enjoyed touring the local area restaurants and sharing their favorite hotspots with all. They always looked forward to their Sunday lunches with Ermon and Sherry Kilgo.

Daniel was preceded in death by his parents and sister.

He is survived by his loving wife of 63 years, Mary Jo; daughter, Dana Montgomery (Troy) and son, Jeffrey (Christie); six grandchildren, Crystal (Cory) Colley, Heather (Ryan) Collins, Jeffrey Chapman II, James Chapman, Nick Padgett, Sydney (Justin) Rutledge; four great-granddaughters, Celsea and Caitlyn Colley, Haylee and Raelyn Collins; brothers, Robert of Shrewsbury, Massachusetts and Paul of Hudson, New Hampshire.

The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday Jan 18, 2024

Junelynn DuPree 1955-2023

Junelynn Palmer DuPree, born Jan. 11, 1955, in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, left this world far too soon Dec. 25, in Boyd.

Service was at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 16, at White's Azle Chapel.

Lynn was a woman of boundless energy and passion. She graduated from Southwest High School in 1973 and went on to many career opportunities. She ended her working life at the Azle Walmart for 10-plus years, where she fell in love with her town. She married the love of her life, Bobby, in 1991, and together they embarked on a journey that would forever change their lives.

Some of Lynn's greatest joys were music, dancing, sunsets, dragons, her cats and family. She had a special love for each of her children and grandchildren. She was known for her infectious laughter and her ability to light up any room.

At the age of 68, Lynn had already experienced a lifetime's worth of adventures. To her, everyone was a friend, and she cherished every moment spent with loved ones.

She was incredibly proud of her children, Richard Allen Phillips II, Christina Nicole DuPree and Preston Benjamin DuPree; as well as her nine grandchildren.

Lynn was preceded in death by her husband, Bobby Lynn DuPree; mother, June Gifford Gilbert, father Bruce Gilbert; and her beloved sister, Leilani Drake Watkins.

Junelynn is survived by her children, Richard Allen Phillips II, Christina Nicole DuPree, Preston Benjamin Dupree; she is also remembered by her nine grandchildren, Brooklyn Jade



Phillips, Katelyn Briane Phillips, Colton Allen Phillips, Zayleigh Dawn Phillips, Tinsleigh Kayde Phillips, Benjamin James Lynn DuPree, Nolan Avery Collins, Bobby Christopher DuPree and Briane Joyce DuPree; along with numerous extended family members and friends who were touched by her vibrant spirit.

Junelynn Palmer DuPree lived her life to the fullest, leaving behind a legacy of love, laughter and unforgettable memories. She will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing her, and her spirit will live on in the hearts of those who loved her.

"Our legacy is really the lives we touch, the inspiration we give, altering someone's plan — if even for a moment — and getting them to think, cry, laugh, argue. More than anything, we are remembered for our smiles; the ones we share with our closest and dearest, and the ones we bestow on a total stranger, who needed it right then, and God put you there to deliver." — Carrie Hamilton

The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday Jan 18, 2024

Samuel Byrd 1938-2024

Samuel "Sammy" Thomas Byrd, 85, passed away Jan. 12, 2024, into the loving arms of Jesus.

Funeral service will be at 2 p.m., Friday, Jan. 19, at White's Funeral Home, 401 N. Main St., Springtown. Visitation is 1-2 p.m. Friday, Jan. 19, at White's Springtown Funeral Home.

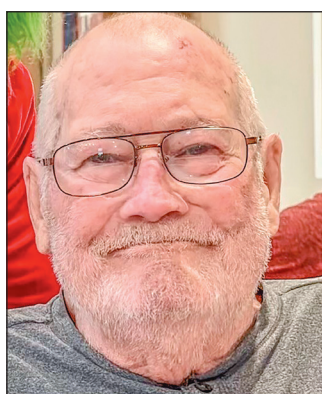
Sammy was born in Jackson, Mississippi to John and Modena Byrd. He met his bride and love of his life, Judy, in 1980. They were married in 1981 and went on to spend 43 wonderful years together.

Sammy retired from Merchants Fast Motor Trucking Line after 22 years of service. He went on to become an independent trucker where he was so proud of his trucking company, he named it Grandbaby "GB" Trucking to tie his love for his trucking and grandkids together.

He and Judy later moved to Springtown, where they purchased land. He learned to love tractors, farming, bailing hay, and most of all the country life. He had a devotion to his faith and congregation at First Baptist Church of Cottondale. He served with a love of Christ, catering to the widows, widowers and elderly, and supported his love of various ministries and Jews for Jesus.

He will be remembered as a loving father, grandfather, great-grandfather and friend. His laughter, pink Crocs, stories and wisdom of his company will be missed by all who knew him.

He is preceded in death by his parents, John and Modena Byrd; brothers, Richard Edgar Byrd, William Morris Byrd,



Marshall (Sugarman) Byrd, John Robert Byrd; two sisters, Barbara Josephine Byrd Bishop, Mildred Byrd Miller; daughter, Lori McKinney and grandson Kayden McKinney; and son-in-law, Ceasar Belsler.

Survivors include his loving wife of 43 years, Judy; children, John Mark Byrd and wife Vivian; Lisa Belsler Chasteen and husband Jack; 11 grandchildren, Lauren Walker and husband Dustin, Brittany Null, Chase Gardner, Christian McKinney, Brenden McKinney and wife Kaylee, Jennessa McKinney, Kaylee McKinney, Samantha Byrd, Katelyn Byrd, Cody Grammer and wife Morgan, and Justin Grammer; five great-grandchildren, Addyson Walker, Sylvia Walker, Harrison Newman, Amelia Grammer and Emilia Gardner; three sisters, Faye Mahaffey and husband Grady, Marilyn Parish and husband Jimmy, Cheryl Meadows and husband Edwin; sister-in-law; Linda Keel and husband Edsel; as well as many nieces, nephews and friends.

The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday Jan 18, 2024

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

Michael Gilley 1953-2024

Michael Keith Gilley, born Jan. 20, 1953, in Fort Worth, Texas, passed away Friday, Jan. 12, 2024, in Lubbock.

Service will be at White's Funeral Home, 105 Denver Trail, Azle, at 10 a.m. Monday, Jan. 22.

Michael was the first-born son of James Gilley and Nancy Seldon of Azle. He was raised in Azle with his three brothers, Terry Gilley, Lee Gilley and Richard Foster and graduated Azle High School in 1971.

His adventurous spirit led him to many places and he was always chasing new experiences. From tropical vacation destinations to his next grand career, he was not willing to stop exploring.

A Harley Davidson fanatic, he loved the open road. When he wasn't flying down the open road with the wind whipping, he preferred the peace of an open lake trying for that record-breaking fish.

Michael was preceded in death by his grandmother, Johnnie Lee Woodard; his father, James; and mother,



Nancy.

He is survived by his daughters, Leslie Butler and spouse Daniel of Lubbock, Jennifer Cobb and spouse Chris of Fort Worth, and Kelsey Ford and spouse Zach of Lubbock; he was grandfather to Victoria Fisher, Christopher Cobb, Micah Cobb, Peyton Cobb, Rylan Taylor, Avery Taylor, Raegan Butler and Bax Butler, and great-grandfather to Haygen, Hennessy, Leeland and Bella.

The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday June 8, 2023

Nina Vaughan 1935-2024

Nina Haugen Vaughan, 88, of Azle, our beloved Mom and Gramma Nina, passed away peacefully at home Jan. 8, 2024 surrounded by family, after being lovingly and devotedly cared for in her home by her two oldest daughters for the past three years while suffering from the progression of Parkinson's.

Visitation and service was Saturday, Jan. 13, at First Baptist Church of Lakeside under the direction of Biggers Funeral Home. Interment was at Azleland Memorial Park.

Nina was the oldest of six children, born in San Francisco, California on June 14, 1935, to Barney Sr. and Nina Belanger Haugen. After living at military bases in California, Tacoma, Washington, Alaska and Florida as a child in the 1930s and early 1940s, her family settled in Azle in 1946 during her father's long Air Force career. She attended Azle schools until she married her sweetheart, Sammy Vaughan, in 1951, and they started their huge, adventurous family.

After living in the Reno/Briar/Azle area, they settled in Lakeside in 1960, where they continued raising their family and made many happy memories for the next several decades with their eight kids, 22 grandkids, 39 great-grandkids, and now five great-great-grandkids.

She was a member of First Baptist Church of Lakeside since the 1960s. She was an oil painter, piano/fiddle player, avid deer hunter with her father and her five sons, enjoyed weekly dominoes with family and lifelong Azle school friends, weekend camping and waterskiing at Eagle Mountain Lake when their kids were growing up, and arrowhead hunting with her husband at lakes in Texas and Oklahoma. She attended most sporting and school events for all her kids and grandkids, and even went to the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro to watch granddaughter Shelbi compete. "Gramma Nina" was most famous for her solo-led annual "grandkids trips" for over 35 years beginning in 1980, with her trademark loud whistle around her neck.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Barney Sr. and Nina Haugen of Springtown; husband of 58 years, Sammy Vaughan (d.2009) of Azle; father-in-law and mother-



in-law Sam and Willie Lee Vaughan of Azle; siblings, Bette Haugen Hall, Barney Haugen Jr., brothers-in-law, Charles Vaughan, Robert Sorrels, John Hall, Jimmy Buchanan; sister-in-law, Carolyn Vaughan Fritts; nephews, Johnny Hall and Brad Haugen; and special nephew, Randy Horton. Those left to cherish her memory include eight children: Patty Vaughan, Sharon (Eddie) Shearer, Larry (Debbie) Vaughan, Kerry (Dottie) Vaughan, David (Kim) Vaughan, Scotty (Susanne) Vaughan, Kirk (Joyce) Vaughan, Kristi (Richard) Blair; 22 grandchildren: Chad Shearer, Ryan Shearer, Tricia Morelock, Leslie Morelock, Nolan Morelock, Nathan Vaughan, Natalie Vaughan Dornquist, Steven Creach, Shelly Vaughan, Cassie Vaughan, Stephanie Rubyor, Ben Good, Courtney Vaughan, Casey Vaughan, Jeremy Young, Jory King, Slayton Vaughan, Brandon Vaughan, Cody Vaughan, Shelbi Vaughan Walley, Colson Blair and Kassidy Blair; 39 great-grandchildren; five great-great-grandchildren; siblings: Dorothy (Forrest) Horton, Kathy Sorrels, Eddie (Susie) Haugen; sisters-in-law: Kathy Haugen and Helen Vaughan Buchanan; brothers-in-law: Mike Vaughan and Sam Fritts; son-in-law Sam Morelock; daughter-in-law Rhonda Walker; cousin, Bobbi Berg; many nieces, nephews, dear friends and relatives throughout the Azle/Springtown area, East Texas, South Houston; her Belanger cousins of California; her Haugen cousins in Sweden and her Daddy's home country of Norway, whom she finally got to meet for the first time in her life at age 81 when she took a trip of a lifetime to Norway in 2016 with her son, Larry, and his wife, Debbie Vaughan.

The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday Jan 18, 2024

Roy Permenter 1943-2024

Roy Dale Permenter, 80, passed away Sunday, Jan. 7, 2024, at home.

A graveside service was Thursday, Jan. 11, at Springtown Cemetery with arrangements by Alexander's Midway Funeral Home.

Roy was born Sept. 16, 1943, in Memphis, Tennessee to Roy Benjamin and Inez (Gwen) Permenter.

They both preceded him in death along with his daughter, Tammy Ginther, and sister, Patricia Barch.

Roy is survived by his wife, Diann (Hill) Permenter; daughters, Dayna Permenter and Elizabeth Bobbitt; son, Dale Permenter and wife,



Stephanie; eight grandchildren; and twelve great grandchildren.

The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday Jan 18, 2024

Carol Stephens 1955-2024

With humble acceptance of God's will, Carol Lee Stephens, 68, born on Feb. 11, 1955, passed away peacefully in her sleep on Jan. 7, 2024.

She leaves behind a dysfunctional family that she was very proud of. Carol was world-renowned for her lack of patience, not holding back her opinion, and a knack for telling it like it is. She was also very good at telling the truth, even if it wasn't what you wanted to hear.

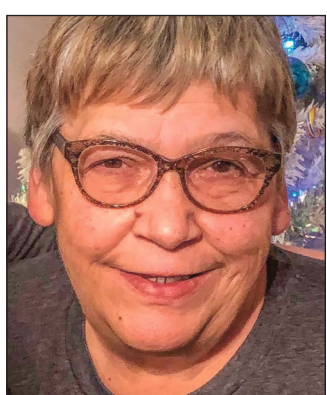
We were told many times how we needed to just "Suck it up." She was genuine to a fault, with a huge heart, but sugar-coated nothing. Her words of encouragement, wisdom, comfort and security of a home base kept us in line while teaching us the "school of hard knocks." These values we share proudly with our children. Everyone knew exactly where they stood with her, and she didn't mind sharing that information with you at any time.

Carol was determined! She attained her education while balancing her family, work and school goals to reach her greatest accomplishment of multiple college degrees. This led her to begin a second career as a teacher. She enjoyed her time at Springtown High school where she retired after 20 years. She shared the same values with all the children she taught at school. Believe me, she treated them just like family and loved each of them just as much.

She will be missed by so many people who loved her just the way she was.

She was preceded in death by her loving, stubborn mother Patricia Bertram, where she gets everything (honestly) from; her father, Donald Mantz; and her Rubik's cube master grandson, Jeremiah Ponce de Leon (aka Miah).

She is survived by her twin brothers, Peter Mantz and Paul Mantz; sister-in-law, Karoline Mantz; her first Genius daughter, Patricia Wilber (aka Marlene); her



calming daughter-in-law, Bonnie Wilber; her favorite daughter, Valerie Gauger (aka Nikki); and the best son-in-law Jean Gauger; her daughter from another mother Dawn Perrone (aka Dawn Dawn); her First favorite grandson and namesake Stephen Lee Ponce de Leon, who was born on her birthday; Second favorite granddaughter Makenzie Gauger (aka Bug) that was born to her favorite daughter Valerie; her smartest granddaughter Natalie Ponce de Leon (aka Boo) who was born to the genius daughter, Patricia and her last but not least, most special grandson, Everic Wilber. Oh, wait, and her special bonus grandchildren Warren Stehn (aka Lil Wa), and Katrina Riley (aka Trina). She also had a recent addition of a great-granddaughter Cynthia Caldero and TBD baby Ponce de Leon, ETA July 2024, that she was super excited about.

She has requested, and the family is honoring, not to have a memorial service so they can honor her final wish of sending her daughters alone together on a tropical vacation to scatter her ashes later. The family has requested that in lieu of flowers, please donate either to St Jude's Hospital, Shiner's Hospital or Donate Life Texas in Carol's name.

This is her life story.... IT IS WHAT IT IS!!! Love us.

The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday Jan 18, 2024

Earl Dwayne Mooney 1937-2024

Earl Dwayne Mooney, 86, passed away Jan. 4, 2024, surrounded by his family.

Visitation was Wednesday, Jan. 10, at Biggers Funeral Home in Lake Worth.

Service was at 11 a.m., Thursday, Jan. 11, at Ash Creek Baptist Church in Azle.

In lieu of flowers, the family respectfully requests donations can be made to Austin Smiles at www.austinsmiles.org.

Dwayne/Pete/Pop was born in 1937 to Earl Henry Mooney and Mary Mabel Baugh Mooney. He grew up in Decatur and graduated from Decatur High School in 1956. He worked at Bell Helicopter for 25 years and owned his own construction business until his retirement in 2005.

He was the husband of Karen Ann Tucker Mooney. They shared 61 years together.

He will be remembered as a God-fearing family man and a patriot of his country. He was a member of Ash Creek Baptist Church for more than 60 years. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, spending time with his kids and grandchildren, and talking to anyone about anything. He was a fierce domino player, which challenged all family members to know their math.

He is preceded in death by his mom and dad, Earl and Mary Mooney, his sister, Betty, and his brother, J.D.

He is survived by his



sweetheart and wife, Karen Mooney; his son, Kevin Mooney and wife, Tammy; his daughter, Kathren Karnes and husband, Rick; his daughter, Kerri Crawford and husband, Joe; and his son, Kenny Mooney and wife, Jimra. He is also survived by a wealth of grandchildren - Emily and David Hopkins, Mary and Carson Rouse, Jake and Myranda Crawford, Stephen and Danni Karnes, Kayla Karnes, Kolton and Brooke Mooney, Kollin Mooney, and Kenlee Mooney; three great grandchildren - Zach Karnes, Sophia Hopkins and James Crawford. In addition, he is survived by two sisters Mary Ann Hodges and Nelda Luster; sisters-in-law, Sandra Mooney, Laura Crone and Regina Donnell; brothers-in-law, Tom Donnell and Bob Tucker; and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday Jan 18, 2024

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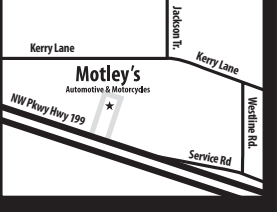
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OBITUARIES

William "Scott" Terrell 1963-2024

William "Scott" Terrell died Jan. 10, 2024, in Azle.

A memorial service will be held at Community Bible Fellowship Church at 1405 Reynolds Rd. in Reno at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 20.

Scott was preceded in death by his father, Robert F. Terrell; brother, Ross Terrell; and nephew, Gabriel Rupe.

In addition to his wife, Angie, Scott leaves behind his children: Quentin Terrell of Newcastle; Teela Bohannan of Rye, Colorado; and Cheyenne Mitchell of Weatherford; his mother, Norma Terrell; brothers Bryant and Aaron Terrell; sisters Sherry Rupe and Stephanie Davis; and



an extended family of 11 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday Jan 18, 2024

Rita Tyler 1948-2024

Rita Ann Tyler, 75, of Weatherford, passed away Friday, January 12, 2024, following a long battle with COPD.

Visitation is 9-10 a.m. Saturday, January 20, 2024, at White's Funeral Home. Service is at 10 a.m. Saturday, January 20, 2024, at White's Azle Chapel, Azle.

Rita was married 43 years to James W (Jim) Tyler. Rita was a housewife and worked in the service industry many years to help support her family. She loved to go camping and was an avid lover of her pet cats and dogs. Survivors include her husband, James (Jim) Tyler; sisters, Diana Mitchell and Carroll Wade; brother, John Wade; Rita's son, Jeff Nelson



and wife, Tina; grandchildren, Stephen Medellin, Mikki Niemeyer, Brian Niemeyer, Michael Judge, and she was also blessed with great-grandchildren.

The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday Jan 18, 2024

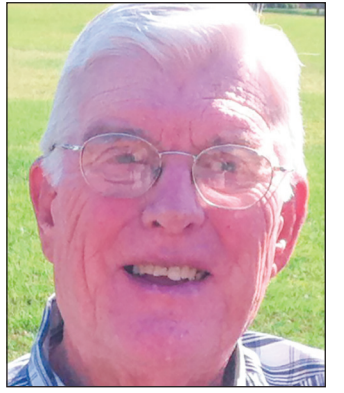
Al Kloven, Jr 1937-2024

Al Clarence Kloven Jr. passed away Friday, Jan. 12, 2024.

Memorial visitation is 1-3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 20, at White's Funeral Home, 130 Houston Ave., Weatherford.

Al was born on June 13, 1937, in Brownfield. He grew up in Big Spring and attended Howard Payne College. He was married for 66 years to the love of his life, Judy, and they had one son, Trace.

Survivors include his wife, Judy; son, Trace and wife Jenny; grandsons, Tyler and wife, Ashley, and Tanner and wife, Moriah; and six



great-grandchildren.

The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday June 8, 2023

BOARD FROM PAGE A1

votes in the PCAD election, which were split between Cody Lane and Jerry Durant. The board cast all its 22 votes for Roy Cook in the Wise CAD election. The board split its 25 votes apportioned for TAD between Gary Losada with 13 votes, and Vince Puente with 12 votes.

Azle City Council voted to give its six TAD votes to Richard DeOtte, and to divide its 30 PCAD votes equally

among the five candidates in the Parker County election.

Of seven candidates in Tarrant County, two incumbents and three newcomers were selected to serve join the board. Gloria Peña, Gary Losada and Alan Blaylock will join Rich DeOtte and Vince Puente as directors.

In Parker County, Richard Barret, Jerry Durant, John Hinton, Cody Lane and Sterling Naron were elected to the board. Incumbents Ray Cook Jr, Bill Lewis, Noel Ruddick and Karen Schluter were re-elected to the Wise

CAD board, while Mark Starnes of Boyd was also elected.

During the election, Pat Jacob, Lakeside mayor, presented at an Azle ISD Board of Trustees meeting to ask the board to vote for Gary Losada in the TAD election. Jacob has known Losada since 2001 and said he was one of the most conscientious, hardworking people he knew.

"He'll work hard for all of us," Jacob said, describing Losada as having an extensive background with the apprais-

al district.

TAD recently announced the appointment of Joe Don Bobbitt as its new executive director and chief appraiser, beginning in February. Additionally, Tarrant County Tax Assessor-Collector Wendy Burgess has announced she will seek another term in 2024.

In November, voters approved Proposition 4, a ballot measure that set a temporary maximum limit on appraised property values and increased the homestead exemption from \$40,000 to

\$100,000. Hidden further down in the bill's language was a proviso expanding the boards of directors in counties exceeding 75,000 in population to eight members. Furthermore, on May 4, instead of being selected by taxable entities, the three additional board members will be elected by popular vote for four-year terms.

"This county-wide election marks a pivotal moment for community involvement in shaping TAD's direction," the district said in a newsletter released on its site.

Tarrant and Parker Counties will see an expansion of their boards while Wise County will not. The proposition started its life as Senate Bill 2, authored by State Senator Paul Bettencourt. Bettencourt, who also owns Bettencourt Tax Advisors LLC, stated this new law is intended to provide more public input in the face of increasing property values throughout the state and increased scrutiny of tax appraisal districts.

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Rotary honors 6 AHS seniors

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricityreporter.com

AZLE — Azle's Rotary Club recognized six Azle High School seniors for their academic and extracurricular achievements during its Jan. 11 meeting. Landri Seward, Cheryl Grubbs, Melani Rushing, Madeleine Boivin, Josh Votion-Alameddine and Kristina Birkeland were lauded for their accomplishments in sports, school and volunteer organizations.

Standouts lauded for academic, extracurricular activities

LANDRI SEWARD

Seward is ranked 26th in her class with a 101.83 grade point average (GPA). Her parents are Kristi Phillips and Ryan Seward. She brought her mother and grandmother with her to accept written recognition and a commemorative coin from the Rotary Club of Azle. Seward is a captain on the varsity basket-

ball team, is editor-in-chief of the high school yearbook, is involved in PALS, NHS and was a Rowdy for the football team. Seward tore her ACL last year and her most proud accomplishment this year is being able to recover and return to the basketball team. "I know I'm blessed to be able to be here and play the sport I love."

Seward is appreciative of new head coach, Anthony Dickson. She is unsure if she would like to continue playing basketball in college but has been accepted to Hardin Simmons University in the fall to study physical therapy.

"After my injury, I had the best physical therapist in the world," Seward said. "I want to be able to help people the way she helped me in that very difficult time in my life and just being around that environment is what I want

to do."

Seward started yearbook as a staffer her sophomore year and became editor last year. She is now editor-in-chief where she oversees the yearbook's creation. She considers her yearbook and PALS advisor, Tenille Roberts, to be one of her most influential teachers, calling her a "great role model with the best advice."

Azle ISD Director of Athletics Becky Spurlock was in attendance during the meeting and spoke about Seward's trials throughout her athletic career in high school.

"I think you see the character in people when adversity hits in life," Spurlock said. "You had a lot of adversity when you had your knee (injury). I watched those games, and she was still part of the games, encouraging her teammates and that shows true character. We're very proud you're on the team this year."

through the NHS. She started powerlifting last year and made it to the regional competition where she placed fifth but did not participate this year. Grubbs hopes to pursue basketball in college and is speaking with coaches. She has played select basketball for the DFW Hawks and is soon going on a trip to Bethel College in Kansas, but is also open to attending Texas Tech, the University of Oklahoma or the University of Texas. She hopes to make a difference in the world by studying criminal justice. Grubbs is proud of maintaining good grades while continuing to achieve at a high level in athletics.

"The word I associate with you is just total energy," Spurlock said. "When you play on a basketball court, you're giving 110% all the time and it's fun to watch and you guys are a real, true team. You're like the energizer bunny, you never give up."

MELANI RUSHING

Rushing is ranked 30th in her class with a 101.06 GPA. She is the varsity cheer captain and student council president. She said both roles complement each other and inspire new ideas for each position.

"Being in cheer and student council really go hand-in-hand together because it's like spirit in school," Rushing

CHERYL GRUBBS

Grubbs is 25th in her class with a 101.97 GPA. She, too, is a varsity basketball captain. Both captains are convinced they will turn things around after a rough time at the district level. She brought her mom, Gina Grubbs, to the Rotary meeting. Grubbs has been in the NHS since her junior year. She said she is proud of being a community leader and helping people

PLEASE SEE **ROTARY** | A10



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

(Back, l-r): Azle High School Principal Nate Driver, Kirstina Birkeland, Cheryl Grubbs, Landri Seward, Josh Votion-Alameddine and Rotary President Bob Buckel; and (front, l-r): Madeleine Boivin and Melani Rushing

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CHAMBER

FROM PAGE A1

chamber. So that's what gives me the encouragement to stand here today."

Pinkston said her time as president had been an honor. She thanked chamber members and Chamber Director Jennifer Herrington as well as Herrington's assis-

tant, Hartley McCauley. Per tradition, Pinkston presided over the chamber's year-in-review where she announced the chamber hosted 58 events throughout the year. Pinkston said there were 250 vendors at 2023's Sting Fling celebration and Christmas on Main Street along with thousands of attendees. The chamber hosted 11 luncheons, with increasing attendance throughout the year.

This year the chamber welcomed 73 new members, increasing the number of members to 375. Pinkston stated there were 26 ribbon cuttings for new businesses and the chamber had an 89% member retention rate for 2023. Pinkston described providing scholarships for graduating seniors, donating goodie bags, and hosting yearly golf tournaments and clay shoots as some of the major events



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

State Representative District 99 Charlie Geren speaks at the Azle Area Chamber of Commerce Luncheon.



State Representative District 60 Glenn Rogers at the Azle Area Chamber of Commerce Luncheon.



New Chamber President Michael Wright speaking at the Azle Area Chamber of Commerce Luncheon.

and accomplishments of the year.

Incoming president Wright said the chamber will present more information about "much-needed" chamber office space at its March 5 luncheon. The chamber re-

cently purchased a lot on West Main Street for the eventual construction of an office building. Wright also announced this year's 62nd Annual Azle Area Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet will be Feb. 15 at the Orchard

Event Venue. Wright encouraged prospective attendees to reserve seating early. More information can be found at <https://business.azlechamber.com/events/details/2024-annual-awards-banquet-3058>.

ROTARY

FROM PAGE A9

said.

Azle High School's cheer team recently placed fifth in the state competition. Rushing is proud of the progress and hard work she said her team has made to get to that point.

"Once we got our scores back (in the qualifying competition) we figured out we scored 90.77 and at state we scored 95.77," Rushing said. "So just within the last two months we improved five points. For cheer that is very different. The team last year won it all with 92 score."

Rushing said she is excited for the National contest next month in Orlando, Florida.

Rushing has been a part of student council since fifth grade and was the first president of her junior student council in elementary school. She said she enjoys getting to know underclassmen, helping students and serving the community. She also likes to meet people from different schools at student council conferences and enjoys talking at school events. At

the beginning of the year, Rushing spoke to 200 staff members at an assembly.

"She definitely is a leader at our campus," AHS Principal Nate Driver said.

Rushing has been accepted to the University of North Texas in Denton. She hopes to major in marketing and minor in design and has her sights set on going into advertising. Rushing is proud she is able to balance her 12- to 14-hour days, babysitting, practicing cheer and being involved in student council as well as maintaining good grades. She brought her mom, Melissa Rushing with her to the Rotary luncheon.

JOSH VOTION-ALAMEDDINE

Votion-Alameddine is ranked 52nd in his class with a 98.8 GPA. He brought his parents, Marisela Votion-Alameddine, and Jay Alameddine to the meeting. He is proud he will have 60 college credit hours by the end of this school year. He started by taking college algebra in his sophomore year. He has taken both OnRamps and AP classes and received a score of five on his AP English test. AP tests are given a score of one to five, with

five being the highest score. Many school employees in attendance remarked on how uncommon and difficult it is to earn a five. He has been accepted to UNT for computer engineering.

"I'm chasing the money," Votion-Alameddine joked.

Votion-Alameddine was a varsity wrestler for two or three years until he received a big hit in an Arlington contest which herniated several disks in his rotator cuff. After the incident, he said he could not move his arm; it is still numb today.

"Wrestling is not a baby sport by any means," Spurlock said. "It's probably the most challenging sport we have. His freshman and sophomore year he competed for us in a very high standard."

MADELEINE BOIVIN

Madeleine Boivin is ranked 16th in her class with a 102.84 GPA. She is the head drum major this year head for the Marching Green Pride, plays a flute solo during its performance this year and is in the high school's jazz band. She is also involved in choir, NHS, Health Occupations Students of

Arlington to pursue nursing. Ultimately, she wishes to be an ophthalmologic nurse and received her nursing assistant certification license in December.

"You have to really take the reins and lead everyone," Boivin said of her role as drum major. "You have to be really organized and have to know a lot of stuff."

Boivin said she enjoyed being able to lead by example and was proud of leading a stellar program. Boivin said the MGP placed sixth out of 24 bands this year in an emotional last run. She said she is proud of the improvements made from last year, especially with the caliber of other competing bands — the process made her feel empowered.

"It was fun being able to be the leader but at the same time express some of my musicality and be able to play a beautiful solo," Boivin said of her performance.

She said the band director, Mr. Martin, was the most influential teacher she has had.

"He just empowered me to lead me in the right direction and really excel at what I do and really be a good person."

Boivin has been accepted to the University of Texas in

school's first environmental club since 2003. Along with Eagle Scout William Kissner, SAVE is turning the walking trail behind the high school into a native plant sanctuary. She is working with representatives from the Fort Worth Nature Center to address erosion problems in the area and select plant native plants for the sanctuary.

Driver said Birkeland takes charge and stays busy. Birkeland has been in FCCLA since her freshman year and competed in the sustainability challenge where she made it to the national contest in San Diego last year. She said her most influential teacher is Mr. Corbett who she described as a guiding light. She has been accepted to Oberland College outside of Cleveland, Ohio. She hopes to double major in political science and environmental studies with the dream of doing climate policy work at the United Nations.

KRISTINA BIRKELAND

Kristina Birkeland is ranked 28th in her class with a 101.39 GPA. She is the founder of Students Advocating for a Viable Environment (SAVE). She is the president of Azle High School's Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) chapter. She is the historian for AP ambassadors, an NHS member, part of the UIL journalism team and part of the American Sign Language Club. She is also an editor for the Sting Newspaper and has played tennis for five years as well.

Birkeland described her experience working with the new AP Environmental Science teacher, Mr. McDonald, to found the

club since 2003. Along with Eagle Scout William Kissner, SAVE is turning the walking trail behind the high school into a native plant sanctuary. She is working with representatives from the Fort Worth Nature Center to address erosion problems in the area and select plant native plants for the sanctuary.

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"I grew up outside," Birkeland said. "I grew up like eating dirt and running around so I've always had this really deep love for it."

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FIRE

FROM PAGE A1

her late boyfriend, the remaining belongings of her brother who died and worst of all, her dog Bella and 10 newborn puppies.

Guerra recalled getting back to her neighborhood to drop off her friend and seeing emergency vehicles fly past her on the road. She saw the fire from afar but couldn't tell where it was. Her mother had to break the news to her as she was turning onto her street. Upon arriving at the scene, Guerra said she wanted to try and rescue her animals in the RV but realized it was too late.

"I was going to try to go in there, but it was already gone," she said.

Guerra said she isn't sure what caused the fire. Her heaters weren't plugged in, and though her parents had been popping off fireworks, they didn't think that caused the fire.

"They (her parents) went inside, and then like 30 minutes later, they heard a big boom," Guerra said. "And then when they went out there, it was like already in flames."

Parker County Emergency Services District 1 Fire Chief Stephen Watson said the fire wasn't reported until it was well underway and visible. Firefighters were able to contain and control the fire in about 15 minutes.

Some things survived the fire, like Guerra's late brother's obituary, a picture of her and her father, a brass elephant her boyfriend had given her and her goats who were outside the RV. One of her neighbors freed the goats from their enclosed space. They ran off at first but eventually returned.

"Their little tails were scorched though from where

they barely made it out," Guerra said.

While unfortunate, Guerra's situation is not unique. ESD 1 firefighters responded to another fire in an occupied RV on New Year's Eve as well. Early that morning near North Cardinal Road and Knob Hill Road, an RV caught fire, and three people — one of whom was pregnant — were taken to the hospital for smoke inhalation treatment, Watson said.

Watson has noticed an uptick in people using RVs as permanent homes, and more RV parks are being established in Parker County Precinct 1.

"With how expensive everything has gotten, maybe it's kind of become an affordable housing solution," he said.

RVs can be more susceptible to fires because they're not built with the same types of materials as permanent homes and aren't subject to building codes, Watson said.

"What happens with RVs that we see a lot, especially the older ones, is they may be using some kind of auxiliary device to keep warm, or we've had some gas leaks and some where things just haven't been maintained like they need to be there," he said. "They're really not designed for full-time use, so things tend to break or happen that cause fires."

Spacing of homes in RV parks can also worsen conditions if there is a fire, Watson said.

"They're all so close together. When one burns, they tend to catch another one on fire by the time anybody figures out what's going on," he said.

The fire chief recommended full-time RV residents properly maintain their propane lines, avoid overloading their electrical system and install smoke detectors.

Parker County Fire Marshal Sean Hughes also pointed out the trend of RVs being used

like houses and said people can sometimes overload their electrical system.

"They live in an RV, and they bring in things that are meant for a larger electrical load a lot of times, use them in an RV, and the electrical service is not there, so it overloads," Hughes said. "Those really aren't designed for that kind of activity to be lived in 24/7, 365."

Hughes said RV dwellers shouldn't leave heaters on and should avoid using power strips or candles. He also reiterated Watson's advice to install smoke detectors. Problems can also be caused when heaters are knocked over by an animal or child.

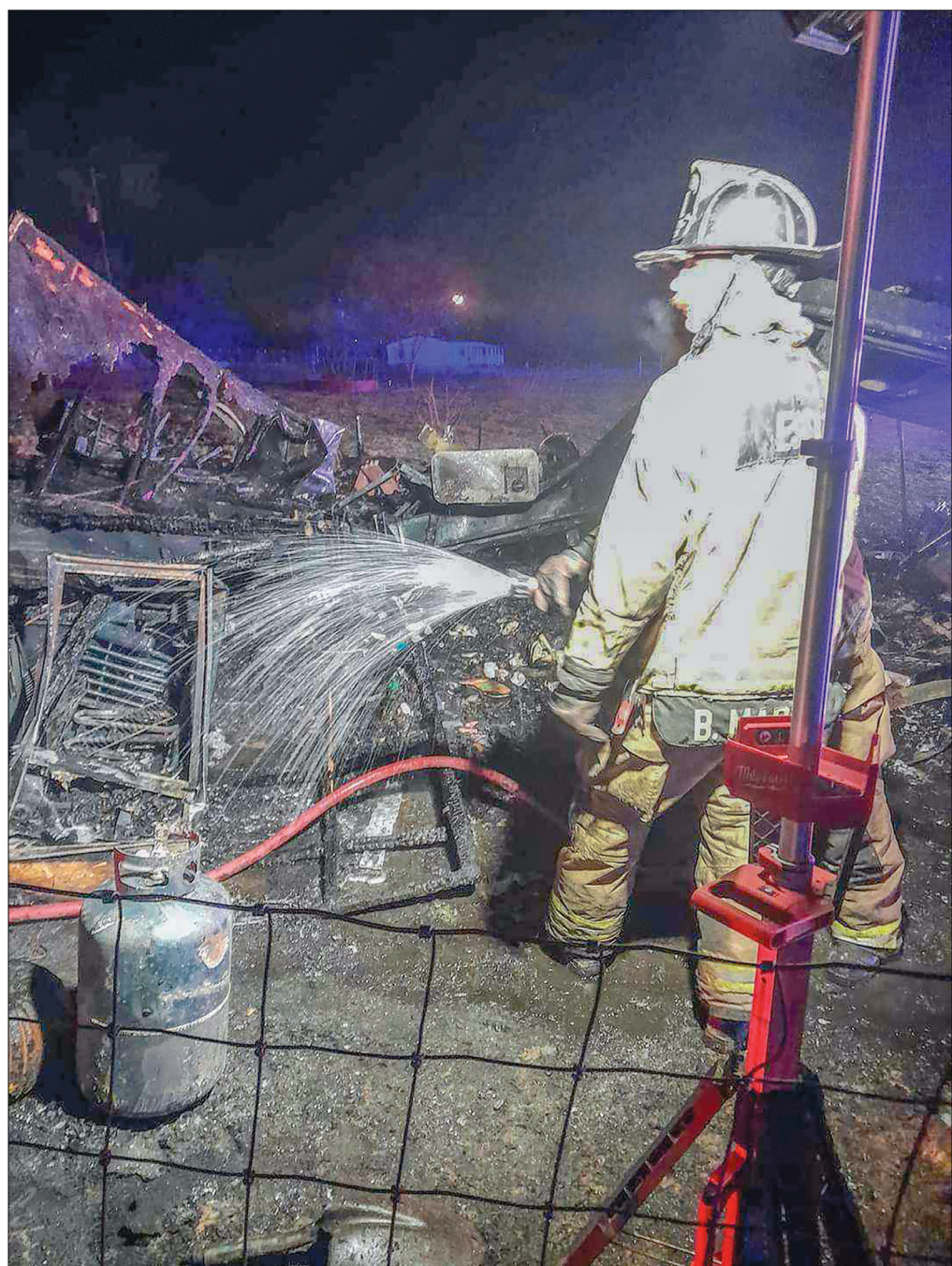
Fortunately, the Springtown community showed up to aid Guerra in her time of need. She received boxes of clothes that replenished her wardrobe within a day, and some people gave her money to help her get back on her feet. She said a Springtown feed store also supplied her with goat food. Guerra is grateful for the donations that will help her start over.

"Without them, I wouldn't be able to do it," she said.

Guerra added, "Springtown is a really good community. They always pull through for people that need help like that."

Guerra also thanked the firefighters, medics and police officers who responded to the fire.

"We hate it when we're not able to get there in time to save property or save pets or anything like that, but I'm just proud of all of our staff," Watson said. "They train hard. Most of them get at least 200 hours a year of training, and they're always vigilant and ready to serve. So, we're proud of our guys and girls and their commitment and dedication to the job and serving the community."



PHOTOS COURTESY OF LAURA GUERRA
Firefighters from Parker County Emergency Services District 1 responded to the fire at Laura Guerra's recreational vehicle on New Year's Eve and were able to get control of the fire quickly.

Guerra is currently living with her parents and plans to save up for a new RV or a shed. She's been dealing with a lot lately but is still staying positive.

"I'm just going to go day-by-day and see how it goes

and try to get back up on my feet again and get myself back into my own privacy," she said, adding that she's "moving past this and trying to see the good in the bad situation that I'm in right now and try to heal from losing all

my stuff ... and my boyfriend passing away."

To donate for Guerra to get a new home, visit her GoFundMe page at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/rv-goes-up-into-flames> online.

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No day like a snow day

Azle experiences first freeze of 2024

ZACH FREEMAN
TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Brothers Tate and Tucker Landers came out to a frozen Shady Grove Park shore with their mom to spend time with some of their favorite geese.

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THE TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

DIVERSIONS

B

THURSDAY, January 18, 2024



MADelyn EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Former Green Bay Packers football player Michael Wyche hopes to “break the cycle” and provide aid to those who are struggling through his coaching business.

‘We’re going to stick together’

Overdose awareness event attracts former NFL player, Narcan trainers, suicide awareness advocates

MADelyn EDWARDS
springtownreporter@tricityreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — Before the program started, Terra Shepherd wrote on a piece of poster board next to pictures of people who died of suicide, “If you see this, it’s your sign to not give up!”

“I just want to show people that there’s a better way,” Shepherd said. “It may be a bad day, but it’s not a bad life, and you can do this.”

Shepherd represented her organization Parker County Stand Up Against Suicide at an overdose awareness speaker event at the Tabernacle, hosted by Springtown’s We ARE Our Brother’s Keeper, Jan. 6.

Former Green Bay Packers football player Michael

Wyche shared his story of surviving trauma, and Dr. Scott Walters of University of North Texas Health Science Center in Fort Worth spoke about overdose response.

Walters spoke first, and after finishing his speech, he quipped that Wyche was the “main event” of the program. Wyche challenged that thought.

“My friend over there said I was the main event. That is very false. We all are the main event,” Wyche said. “All of us because it’s going to take all of us. I can’t do this by myself. None of you can do it by yourself.”

Wyche found out about We ARE Our Brother’s Keeper through a friend of his and wanted to be a part of the group’s mission. He came

from Virginia to be at the speaker event earlier this month.

“It’s just amazing what they’re doing,” Wyche said to The Tri-County Reporter about We ARE Our Brother’s Keeper. “I think everybody wants to be a part of something like that, especially when they find out about it.”

Wyche has known multiple people who have struggled with drugs, including his mother who abandoned him when he was young. Now, he wants to “break the cycle” and provide aid to those who are struggling through his coaching business.

“The solution is, first of all, getting help, and then after getting help, I believe, (is) dis-

PLEASE SEE **TOGETHER** | B4

Country and gospel star coming to Azle

ZACH FREEMAN
azlereporter@tricityreporter.com

AZLE — It’s not every day a two-time Grammy-nominated artist comes to Azle.

Barbara Fairchild, singer of “The Teddy Bear Song” will perform her country and gospel hits Feb. 27 at Eagle Mountain Plaza, 300 E. Main St. — the home of The Webster Brothers. The Websters are thrilled to have Fairchild as a musical guest for their live show, which will be broadcast from the studio to Facebook and YouTube. John and Don Webster first met Fairchild through a mutual friend in Branson, Missouri, where Fairchild resides and the Websters bring Azle seniors every year for a Christmas celebration.

Fairchild’s performance will be one stop on a several-months-long musical tour around the country with her husband, Roy Morris.

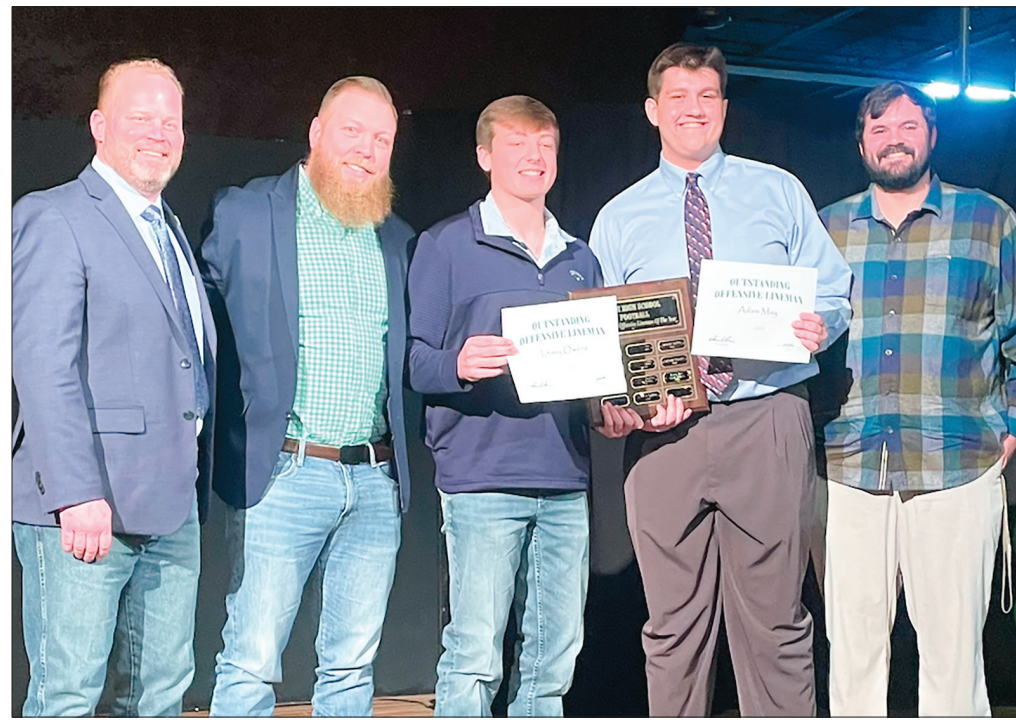
Fairchild plans to sing her

Barbara Fairchild, Roy Morris to perform at Eagle Mountain Plaza Jan. 27



COURTESY FAIRCHILD AND MORRIS

Barbara Fairchild will sing to an Azle crowd alongside her husband, Roy Morris, Jan. 27 at Eagle Mountain Plaza.



From l-r, Coach Devon Dorris, Coach Tanner Street, Outstanding Offensive Linemen Leavy Owens and Adam May, and Coach Logan Scott.

Azle High School Football Awards

The Hornet Football Booster Club hosted the annual Azle High School Football Banquet Saturday, Jan. 13 at 404 Main Place in Azle. The banquet recognized the outstanding achievements of the 2023 Azle Hornet football team and individual players.

Cale Cohen was named Most Valuable Player. Offensive Player of the

Year was awarded to Hagen Hughes and Defensive Player of the Year was Tyler Ulrich.

Outstanding Offensive Lineman went to Adam May and Leavy Owens, and Conner Merrill was named Outstanding Defensive Lineman.

Braden Forsythe was named Special Teams Player of the Year and was presented with the Academic Award.

Josh Montelongo received the Fighting Heart Award and Adan Sandoval received the Blue Collar Award.

The Jack Schwartz Servant Leadership Award was presented to Dylan Maines.

Jenny Ulrich was awarded the Dicky Glaze Award.

The Booster Club Award was given to Jacob Martin.

SEE MORE **PHOTOS** | B2

Unchartered

MADelyn EDWARDS
springtownreporter@tricityreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — Springtown Cub Scouts Pack 22 and Scouts BSA Troops 22B for boys and 22G for girls have closed, though it may be temporary.

“It’s a pause. It’s not an absolute stop,” the pack’s and the troops’ Chartered Organization Representative Patrick Valdez said. “I think that’s the way we should think about it. It’s a pause until conditions get better.”

The condition Valdez refers to is a lack of adequate adult leadership despite a growth in scouts. He discovered this shortage while going through the recharter process.

“We ran out of adult leaders, so it became unsustainable,” Valdez said. “We didn’t disband. We just chose not to recharter.”

Valdez added the pack

Cub Scouts Pack 22, Scouts BSA Troops 22B,G close because of adult leaders shortage

and troops could recharter if more adult leaders become available. For now, he said scouts can join another unit or become lone scouts, which he described as Scouting’s version of homeschooling. The kids will be rechartered and their time in Scouting will be paid for in 2024.

According to the BSA’s website, adult leaders have to complete a criminal background check and youth protection training, and they are screened for any previous violations of BSA’s rules. All Scouting activities require two registered leaders older than 21 years old per troop or unit, and there must be a female adult leader in units for

girls. A unit cannot submit a charter without the required number of leaders or by assigning multiple leader positions to a volunteer.

In addition to the adults meeting with the scouts, troops and packs also usually have at least three committee members that plan activities, BSA Longhorn Council Deputy Scout Executive Scot Fuller said. In Cub Scouts, each den of six to eight kids will also have a registered leader. In Scouts BSA troops, there may be multiple assistant scoutmasters to support a larger number of scouts, but that’s not a requirement.

PLEASE SEE **SHORTAGE** | B3



MADelyn EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Ariely Snyder became one of the first members of the Scouts BSA Troop 22G for girls in the Springtown area during a ceremony last year. However, the troop is currently not going to be rechartered because of a lack of sufficient adult leadership.

Azle High School Football Awards

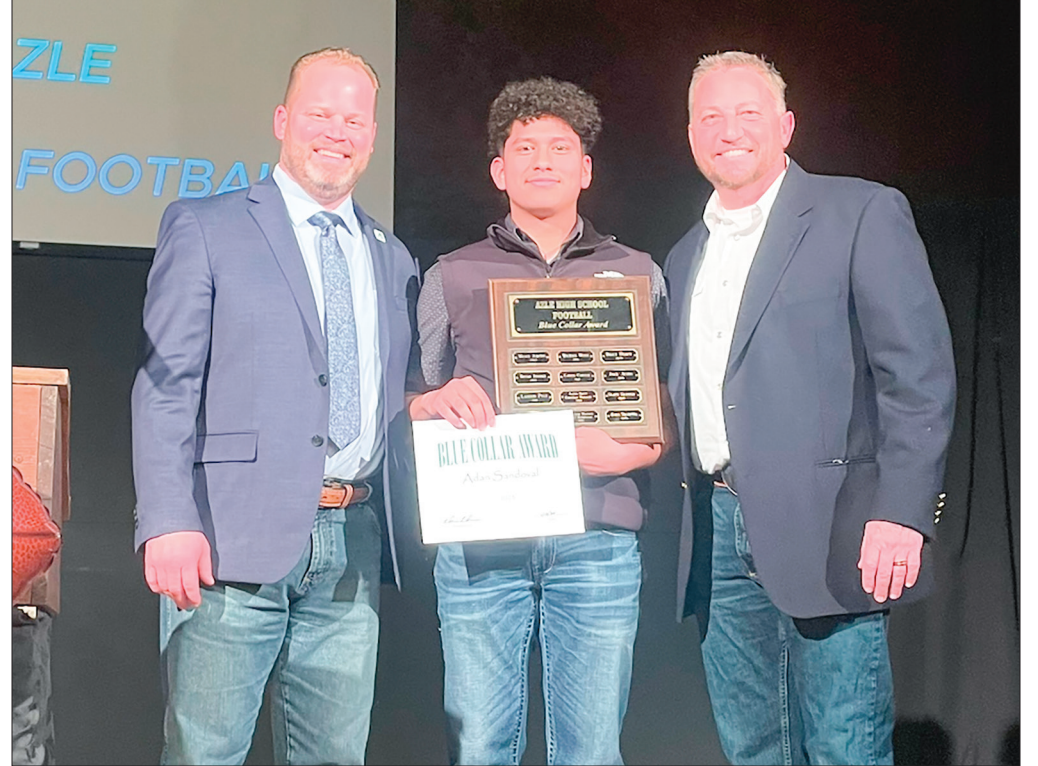
These football players were recognized by Azle ISD for their accomplishments during the 2023-24 season.



Azle's academic all-state team for 2023-24 from left to right: Tyler Ulrich, Bryan Rager, Brice Watson, Hayden Andres, Easton Hill, Braden Forsythe, Brayden Rager, Morgan Mask, and Ryder Loftin.



From l-r, Coach Devon Dorris, Booster Club award winner Jacob Martin, Coach Spencer Elliot, and Coach Dakota Bradshaw



From l-r, Coach Devon Dorris, Blue Collar Award winner Adan Sandoval, and Coach Matt Holly



From l-r, Jason Vines, Jack Schwantz Scholarship award winner Dylan Maines, and Coach Devon Dorris



From l-r, Coach Devon Dorris, Outstanding Defensive Lineman Conner Merrill, Coach William Morgan, and Coach Chris Tinner



From l-r, Coach Devon Dorris, Offensive Player of the Year Hagen Hughes, and Coach Chad Jones.



From l-r, Coach Devon Dorris, Defensive Player of the Year Tyler Ulrich, and Coach Bo Maines



Academic All State Elite winner Braden Forsythe



From l-r, Coach Devon Dorris, Special Teams Player of the Year Braden Forsythe, and Coach Christian Davidson



From l-r, Coach Devon Dorris, All-State Academic Award winner Braden Forsythe, and Coach Samuel Carter

SPORTS Roundup

Springtown's Smith named all-state VB

BY RICK MAUCH

Special to the Tri-County Reporter

On the heels of an outstanding senior season, Springtown's Sterlyn Smith was named honorable mention all-state in Class 4A by the Texas Sports Writers Association.

The libero led her team in defensive digs with 618 and service returns with 708. She was second on the team in service aces, delivering 28.

Smith helped the Lady Porcupines to a 24-20 overall record and a runner-up finish in District 8-4A. They advanced to the third round of the playoffs, sweeping Wichita Falls and Mineral Wells 3-0 before falling 3-0 to Stephenville.

ACADEMIC ALL-STATE

Several athletes from Springtown and Azle earned academic all-state honors from the Texas High School Coaches Association (THSCA) and the Texas Girls Coaches Association (TGCA). All the athletes are seniors.

Receiving volleyball accolades from the TGCA are Aubree Adams of Springtown in Class 4A, along with Azle's Melanie Harder, Kamryn Hill, Brynn Lee and Shree Patel in Class 5A.

The THSCA recognized Azle cross country runner Wesley Payne as a first-team selection, along with Springtown volleyball players Adams, Harlee Jackson and Stoli Fox as honorable mentions.

Football players lauded by the THSCA from Azle are Brayden Forsythe, elite team; second-team selections Easton Hill, Hayden Andres, Brice Watson, Bryan Rager, Bradyn Rager, Tyler Ulrich, Ryder Yoffin; and honorable

mention Morgan Mask.

The THSCA honored Springtown football player Zane Sudduth on the elite team. Brayden Fox, Hudson Hulett and Ryan Wojcik are on the first team. Second-teamers are Caiden Haidusek, Ridge Westendorf, Dallin Fabrizius and Yair Hernandez; and honorable mentions are Ty Parrott, Drake Doggett, Brady McDonald, Camryn Holbrooks and Kelby Castro.

AZLE GIRLS BASKETBALL

Lady Hornets are back-to-back Castleberry Tournament champions. The junior varsity was entered in the varsity tournament as well, and both varsity and JV played each other in the championship game with the varsity winning 35-28.

Abby Natusch was the tournament MVP. Cheryl Grubbs and Brooklyn Young were named to the All-Tournament Team.

Azle (11-14, 1-5 in District 5-5A) struggled, however, in a pair of league games, falling 53-35 at Aledo Jan. 9 and 67-35 at White Settlement Brewer, No. 14 in the state, Jan. 12.

Natusch scored 13 to lead against Aledo, while Myah Garcia and Grubbs each added 7.

Against Brewer, Landri Seward was top scorer with 10 points, while Vielka Gonzalez added 8 and Natusch scored 7.

In recent subvarsity action, Northwest defeated the JV 41-30 and the freshmen defeated Northwest 40-12. The Lady Hornets JV downed Saginaw 60-39.

The Lady Hornets are on the road at Wichita Falls Rider on Jan. 23 and host Northwest Jan. 26, each with

a 6:15 p.m. tipoff.

SPRINGTOWN GIRLS SOCCER

The Lady Pines soccer teams participated in the Bear Cave Classic Soccer Tournament this past weekend, hosted by White Settlement Brewer. The varsity won two and lost one, and the junior varsity was 3-0.

In varsity action, the Lady Pines (6-2) defeated Venus 2-1 and Fort Worth Dunbar 5-0, with a 2-0 loss to Birdville sandwiched in between. Kylie Weins scored two goals in the tourney, while Lily Duvall, Icis Lopez, Alea Stiles, Kaitlyn Shmalen and Emma Hauprich each scored one.

"Very good showing for Springtown soccer," coach Ryan Byerly said.

The Lady Porcupines host Wichita Falls Hirschi Jan. 23 at 5 p.m. and are home to host Fort Worth Dunbar Jan. 26 at 7:30 p.m.

AZLE BOYS SOCCER

The Hornets (4-3) won two of three contests in the Springtown Invitational, blanking Venus and Collegiate Academy Tarrant County College Northeast by scores of 1-0 and 2-0, respectively. They dropped a 2-0 match to Wichita Falls Hirschi. No statistics were available at press time.

The Hornets began the season by winning two of three in the Castleberry Kickoff Tournament Jan. 4-6. They defeated Ferris 1-0 and Lake Worth 4-0, while falling 1-0 to Castleberry.

Brayden Forsythe scored four goals in the Castleberry tourney, including a hat trick (3 goals) against Lake Worth, while Juan Pulido added one. Yair Macias had two assists with Forsythe and Darwin Castaneda having one each.



PHOTO COURTESY DAVID SHERTZER PHOTOGRAPHY

Cheryl Grubbs and Abby Natusch

The Hornets travel to face Wichita Falls Jan. 23 at 5 p.m. and travel to Granbury to open District 5-5A play Jan. 30 at 7:30 p.m.

AZLE CHRISTIAN BOYS BASKETBALL

The Fighting Crusaders (15-9) won their TAPPS District 2-1A opener against Weatherford Christian Jan. 9, 64-46 at home. Jake Skartvedt led the scoring with 19 points, followed by AJ Rollins and Andy Wisniewski with 14 each and Brody Fairman with 13 as ACS won for a fifth straight game.

That was followed by a 58-26 nondistrict home victory against Stephenville Faith Academy Jan. 12. Rollins paced the win with 13 points, followed by Wisniewski with 11, Skartvedt with 10 and Fairman with 8. All 11 Crusaders got playing time and nine scored.

"It's nice to get them all in a game. That doesn't happen often," ACS coach Ryan Rollins said.

The Crusaders travel to play Weatherford Victory Baptist again Jan. 23 at 7:30 p.m., followed by a trip to Granbury Cornerstone Christian Jan. 26 at 6 p.m.

SPRINGTOWN BOYS SOCCER

The Porcupines (1-4) had a heartbreaking time in their own Springtown Invitational. After dropping their tourney opener to Fort Worth Dunbar 2-1 — their second loss to the Panthers in four days

— they fell in shootouts to Burkburnett and Godley.

The Burkburnett game ended 2-2 in regulation before the Bulldogs outscored the Porcupines 6-5 in shootout goals. Godley and Springtown ended regulation tied at 1-1, with the Wildcats holding a 4-3 advantage in shootout goals.

Caden White and Josue Anaya each scored a pair of goals in the tournament for Springtown, while Bryce Smith, Brady Phifer and Yahir Delgadillo each had an assist.

The Porcupines will travel to Mineral Wells, the second of three straight road games, Jan. 23 at 5:30 p.m., followed by a trip to Wichita Falls Hirschi Jan. 26 at the same time.

SPRINGTOWN GIRLS BASKETBALL

The Lady Porcupines (16-13, 1-2 in District 8-4A) had a challenging week, dropping a pair of games at home to Decatur, 98-19, Jan. 9 and 60-30 at Krum Jan. 12.

Leaders against Decatur were Allison Ford with 7 points; Brooklyn Bazell, 7 rebounds; and Chloe Kirk, 3 steals. Against Krum, Esther Balado scored 12 points with 9 rebounds, Paige Winstead scored 9 points, Bazzell grabbed 9 rebounds with 3 steals and Ford had 5 rebounds a pair of blocks.

The Lady Porcupines host Lake Worth Tuesday, Jan. 23 and travel to Decatur Jan. 26,

both games at 6:15 p.m.

SPRINGTOWN BOYS BASKETBALL

The Porcupines (12-9, 0-1) dropped their District 8-4A opener 71-54 at home to Krum, who entered the game ranked No. 10 in the state in Class 4A. That was preceded by a 65-58 loss at No. 23 Burkburnett.

Dayne Thompson was the leading scorer in both games with 24 and 27 points. Braylon Easter added 10 against Burkburnett.

Springtown hosts Lake Worth Jan. 23 and plays at Decatur Jan. 26, both tip off at 7:30 p.m.

AZLE BOYS BASKETBALL

The Hornets (4-19, 0-5 in District 5-5A) suffered a 56-39 home loss to Brewer Jan. 12.

Azle was led by Cason Cook (11) and Gunner Crow (10), who combined for 21 points against Brewer.

Azle has games at Wichita Falls Rider and home against Northwest, each at 7:30 p.m., Jan. 23 and 26.

AZLE GIRLS SOCCER

In the Brewer Tournament, the Lady Hornets defeated Nolan Catholic 2-1 before falling 2-0 to Walnut Grove. No statistics were available at press time.

The Lady Hornets (3-2) host Wichita Falls Jan. 23 at 5 p.m., then travel to Granbury to open District 5-5A play at 5:30 p.m. Jan. 30.



PHOTO COURTESY LEIGHANN STRICKLAND

Sterlyn Smith



PHOTO COURTESY DAVID SHERTZER PHOTOGRAPHY

The Lady Hornets are on the road at Wichita Falls Rider on Jan. 23 and host Northwest Jan. 26, each with a 6:15 p.m. tipoff.

SHORTAGE

FROM PAGE B1

"This is kind of the time of year when packs or troops do kind of officially fall off of our books, and we are always looking to provide opportunities for families to continue their Scouting at other packs or troops in the area," Fuller said.

The decision not to recharter Pack 22 and Troops 22B and 22G also comes down to Valdez valuing quality over quantity in the program and wanting to make sure things are done right.

"When we started realizing the numbers weren't working, it was heartbreaking," he said. "We don't want to close the unit down and not recharter. Of course, we want to continue on with the mission, but it's kind of where we're at."

Valdez, who has previous experience with Scouting, started Cub Scouts Pack 22 and BSA Troop 22 in 2022 as an activity for his grandchild-

dren but also to teach other children valuable lessons about conduct and citizenship as well as trades and self-sustaining life skills.

"We're very happy with the relationships and the progress that a lot of the youth have made, and the ability for some of them to communicate and make eye contact has been amazing," Valdez said. "We've got some kids with special needs that didn't do that, and now you can't turn them off. So, we love and respect all of the families, and we're grateful for all the effort and time they put in, and we look forward to seeing them on the Scouting trail in the future, whether it be as a lone scout or in a unit."

Parents and former leaders who spoke to The Tri-County Reporter are considering their options to keep their kids in Scouting. For members of Scouts BSA Troop 22G for girls, continuing in Scouting means finding another girls troop, and there are no other troops for girls in Springtown currently.

Kay Hunnicutt, who was the

scoutmaster of Troop 22G and the secretary for the 22 unit, is looking for a Scouts BSA troop for her daughter and a Cub Scouts pack for her son to finish his Arrow of Light requirements so he can advance to a Scouts BSA troop.

"Unfortunately, the units folded at the worst time for the cub unit," Hunnicutt said. "A lot of these kids are in the middle of their ranks being earned as our crossover (is) in June because we are a year-round unit. Most units will be crossing over in February and March, so we are in a crunch now for my son. So that is the main focus right now."

Hunnicutt and Pack 22 Cubmaster Shane Gross said they would step back from Scouting leadership moving forward. Gross is in the process of deciding where his son can continue his Scouting experience.

"I'm just taking it in stride," Gross said about the units closing. "Part of Scouts is kind of accepting you can't control what other people do, and you try to roll with it and



MADELYN EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Chartered Organization Representative Patrick Valdez helps Cub Scout Jon Richardson Jr. place a tattered American flag into the fire during a flag retirement ceremony.

try to move on the best you can."

Despite the challenges, Gross maintained that Cub Scouts is a "great program."

"I hope that the kids continue on, find a home some-

where," he said. "I still care about them and hope to try to keep in touch to see how they grow."

Christy Stegman made the decision for her son to continue Scouting as a lone

scout, and she may look for a new Scouts BSA troop for her daughter but is staying put for now.

"I have faith we will get it back together," Stegman said.

TOGETHER

FROM PAGE B1

cipline,” Wyche told The Tri-County Reporter. “You have to have discipline, and it’s an everyday battle.”

He added, “I struggle with mental health, and it was a struggle for me every day. But I eventually reached the other side, and now I can help others. That’s what it’s all about.”

Wyche ended his speech by encouraging people to tell their stories and for those who are struggling not to give up.

“If you have a story, don’t be afraid to open up and tell it because you never know who you’re changing or saving their life,” he said to the crowd. “I hope today that I inspired somebody to continue on breaking the cycle. Put the drugs down because we need you here.”

Walters spoke about overdose response from his perspective as a Christian. He described how the medicine Naloxone (name brand Narcan) can be used to save the lives of people experiencing overdose, yet some self-identified religious individuals have told him they aren’t interested in carrying Narcan or helping people who struggle with substance use or overdose victims. Their reasoning was that people using drugs should have known better, overdose response is enabling addiction and they said it’s not their job to supply care for people overdosing. Walters refuted these sentiments and compared it to the Biblical parable the Good Samaritan, in which people may have used similar objections to justify not helping the man who was beaten and robbed on the way to Jericho.

Walters advocated for several harm-reduction techniques, starting with using people-first language — i.e., “person who uses drugs” instead of “addict” or “drug user.”

“A person that uses drugs can become a person who doesn’t use drugs,” he said about the language at the Jan. 6 event. “It’s not an essential part of a person’s personhood. So, a person who uses drugs can become a person in recovery, or a person who gets a job, or a person who takes care of their family. This is a person. We’re all

people. We are all made in the image of God.”

Walters also recommended Narcan be stored in public places along with fire extinguishers and AEDs and believes fentanyl test strips should be decriminalized to allow people to test drugs for fentanyl before using them. He also mentioned other potential tools and strategies that could be helpful for people struggling with drug abuse, such as making it easier for people to access opioid use disorder medications, syringe service programs, job assistance, housing and counseling.

“Everybody believes in harm reduction. It’s just where they draw the line,” Walters told The Tri-County Reporter. “People have a fire extinguisher, and that’s harm reduction. People don’t say, ‘Oh, well, I wouldn’t have a fire extinguisher in my store because that’ll just enable bad behaviors because then people will start fires if they know there’s a fire extinguisher.’ So, people use fire extinguishers. They have designated drivers; they wear seatbelts; they wear football helmets. All of those are harm reduction. And so, to me, Narcan is just another form of harm reduction, and it’s even more important nowadays because the kind of drugs that are in supply, people oftentimes don’t know what they’re taking. They think they’re taking a pill that isn’t going to kill them, but in fact, it may contain fentanyl, which is a more poisonous chemical.”

The event at the Tabernacle also included Narcan training from community health workers Juana Escobedo and Karen Ayala. They said if someone is displaying symptoms of overdose, bystanders can spray Narcan into that person’s nostril with their head tilted back while laying flat. The organization Unity Recovery was handing out Narcan as well.

Ayala said people should carry Narcan with them because “you never really know when it’s going to happen.”

Though an intentional death by suicide differs from some drug overdoses that may be unintentional, Shepherd said she sees parallels between the two tragedies because some people who die by suicide struggle with addiction. Shepherd’s mission is to bring awareness



MADELYN EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER
Parker County Stand Up Against Suicide founder Terra Shepherd creates a display with photos of those who died of suicide and a message “to not give up” at a Springtown overdose awareness event Jan. 6 at the Tabernacle.



Community health workers Juana Escobedo and Karen Ayala demonstrate how to use Narcan to save someone from overdosing. Find more information on how to use Narcan or Naloxone at <https://www.mayoclinic.org/drugs-supplements/naloxone-nasal-route/proper-use/drg-20165181> online.



The organization Unity Recovery handed out Narcan at We ARE Our Brother’s Keeper’s event Jan. 6.

to suicide and encourage people.

“I just want people to know that they are loved, and they are worthy,” she said. “Tomorrow will be a better day. I promise you.”

Jessica Castro, a founder of We ARE Our Brother’s Keeper, was pleased with how the event on Jan. 6 turned out.

“I think everybody that was here had to be here,” Castro said. “I love the networking

part of it, and I love the fact that people in the community were able to hear two good stories.”

Wyche vowed to collaborate with We ARE Our Brother’s Keeper again in the future

and encouraged the organization to keep going.

“We’re going to stick together,” he said in his speech. “This ain’t going to be the last time we work together. Y’all can’t get rid of me now.”

Find more information on how to use Narcan or Naloxone at <https://www.mayoclinic.org/drugs-supplements/naloxone-nasal-route/proper-use/drg-20165181> online. Those interested in community Narcan training can reach out to University of North Texas Health Science Center’s Dr. Teresa Wagner at teresa.wagner@unthsc.edu.

GOSPEL

FROM PAGE B1

number one U.S. Billboard Hot Country Single from 1973 “The Teddy Bear Song” at her Azle performance along with songs from her time in the musical group Heirloom and her collaborative album with country stars Connie Smith and Sharon White. In an interview with the Tri-County Reporter, Fairchild said she likes to include her old hits alongside her more recent gospel songs and songs honoring veterans.

“I love gospel music and I love the Lord who the songs are about, but I also still love country,” Fairchild said.

The singer-songwriter said she really found religion just before the release of “The Teddy Bear Song” and had

prayed to the Lord that fame would not derail her faith.

Today, Fairchild sees her country and gospel music as going hand-in-hand, both being divinely delivered.

“So many people identified with it and children loved it, and it had a happier sound than what the words actually said, and it just took off,” Fairchild said. “People still absolutely love it. Churches even love the teddy song. I’m thankful for that because I really think it was a gift from above.”

Fairchild said she hopes audiences at her shows come away feeling inspired and happy, and along with performing, she hopes to treat those in attendance to some banter and good rapport.

“No doubt there will be some humor,” Fairchild said. “We don’t just stand and sing songs. We do our best to real-

ly connect with the folks who are there. We love people and I think laughter is a very good medicine.”

Though she has rubbed shoulders with more than her fair share of country legends, Fairchild is adamant about sticking to her small-town roots. The country-gospel singer is originally from the tiny village of Knobel, Arkansas, which today has a population of less than 150.

“It’s a whole lot for a little girl from Knobel, Arkansas,” Fairchild said. “I can’t hardly believe it the Lord has done more than I could ever think. But I’m still the same person that moved out of Arkansas.”

While Fairchild calls country-mecca Branson, Missouri her home today, that was not her original intention. In 1992, Fairchild signed up to work for Mel Tillis at the Willie Nelson Theater in

Branson for one season but found herself unexpectedly leading a worship service when two of her friends left to pursue other opportunities. Fairchild soon became the service’s de-facto singer and preacher. It was in this role that she met Roy Morris, who had come in for counseling. Seeing his own musical potential, she invited him to perform with her. The two soon became more than just half the church’s musical quartet when they married and became their own life-long duo.

“If God’s got a plan for you, he just kind of opens the doors and he kind of organizes it,” Fairchild said. “We both love each other, and we have a lot of fun together. My husband, Roy Morris — he is one of the finest men I met in my life. I call him Mr. Fix it because he can fix about

anything. I don’t ever want another husband; I just want the one I got.”

Fairchild and Morris continued leading services in Branson for 27 years. Today, Fairchild still ministers, sings and travels the country, sometimes acting as a host for events like the Terry Music Awards, where she was recognized with its Living Legend Award last year. In March, Fairchild will be inducted into the North America Country Music Association International’s Hall of Fame along with Randy Travis, Mel Tillis (posthumously) and John Berry. Fairchild is in the Arkansas Country Music Hall of Fame and is also an author of the children’s book “Hi, I’m Teddy.” The book urges children to be inclusive and kind to the differently-abled and even features artwork

based on her grandchildren. Fairchild has used the book to provide resources to the families of children with autism. The 73-year-old Fairchild is a loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. In Branson, Fairchild is seen as a pillar of the community with Dec. 14 even being Barbara Fairchild Day.

Above all, Fairchild is happy with her life and excited to be able to perform and profess her faith in cities like Azle today.

“We hope folks will come and be with us that day. We’re ready to get out on the road again and do some singing out there,” Fairchild said.

Tickets to see Fairchild perform at Eagle Mountain Plaza are available at em-plaza.net and the show is scheduled to run from 3-5 p.m. Jan. 27.

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

039 Help Wanted

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

Do you and your best friend need a new car for a road trip?

Find that Perfect Car or Truck in the Community Classifieds.

OR

You can Sell your Auto in the same section. Call 817-270-3340 for more info on our 3-Month Special Only \$29.95

029 Fencing

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

Chad's Tree Service
 Trimming • Removals • Stump Grinding
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817-800-6059 CELL
Insured for your protection

THANKS FOR SHOPPING & DINING LOCALLY!

Last Puzzle Solution

S-1671

Save a Shelter Animal. Find your furever Friend

817-270-3340

Deadline:
1:00 PM FRIDAY

Classifieds

039



KARL KLEMENT

No Positions Available at This Time

Karl Klement Properties, Inc.

No Positions Available at This Time



No Positions Available at This Time

Apply in person at:
605 N. Business 287, Ste 102, Decatur, Texas or call
Human Resources
940-627-6362 | hr.info@klementford.com
Jodi Pettis, Executive Director

Help Wanted

KLEMENT DISTRIBUTION, INC.
(Hershey Ice Cream Distributor)

Route Driver
Growing company that offers competitive pay and great benefits is seeking long-term Route Drivers to fill and deliver client orders. No CDL required. Company vehicle provided. Qualified Candidates will be able to pass background/drug screening, have a valid TXDL with good driving history. Must be client friendly, dependable, and have previous delivery experience. Apply in person to the H/R office located at: 605 N Business 287, Ste 102, Decatur, TX 76234

Office Assistant
The ideal candidate will have excellent customer service skills, a friendly and professional demeanor, and the ability to multitask in a fast-paced environment. We are looking for someone who is organized, detail-oriented, and capable of managing multiple tasks at once.

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

084 Mobile Homes for Rent

Singlewide mobile home for rent \$1,200/month \$1,200 in security. Call for info. 817-220-4095 Springtown Area.

088 Rent Unfurnished

Rent Special, reduced rent & security deposit. 2-2 4-PLEX. \$1,050/mo \$600/security deposit, WBFP, walk-in closets, box windows, large kitchen w/ pantry, 1,100 sf. 817-360-3039.

1 bed/1 bath with bonus room, \$1025/mo all utilities paid. \$700 deposit. Contact AAA Properties, 817-598-0663

APT. - 2 bed, 1 bath, carport, lakeview, CA & heat, \$1,000 incl. bills. 817-237-7972 ask for Darlia.

Tiny House for rent, new 1/1/1 covered carport, fence yard. Briar \$1,100 per month and \$1,000 deposit, ready now John Clevenger 817 307 2511

Room to Rent, females only, 1 bedroom \$350/Mo. All bills paid, call 682-290-5276.

1516 CORAL CUT OFF
2-1-1 \$1,195.MO. \$800 DEP.
1904 CORAL RD
2-1-1 \$1,245.MO. \$800 DEP.
1513 CORAL CUT OFF
3-1-1 \$1,345.MO. \$1,000 DEP.
1572 REEF
3-2-1 \$1,395.MO. \$1,000 DEP.
Gene Thompson & Associates
817-246-4646 gtax.com



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Find the money you need in our Classified Section today!

16 words for \$10

040 Home Improvement

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

057 Pets/Livestock

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

060 Professional Services

Care giver seeking job with elderly, in your home. 20 years experience, great references. 940-220-1139

066 Roofing



AT HOME ROOFING & METAL BUILDINGS

817-304-4224

Tired of always replacing your roof? Call us for a metal roof quote. We'll be here after the storm.

079 Welding

Our Business is Metal Buildings - And We're Good!

DESIGN FABRICATION ERECTION

Cozart METAL BUILDING SYSTEMS

Fabrication and erection of quality metal buildings at reasonable prices, any size - any design

Office 817-237-2282 Fax 817-237-0904
Mark Cozart Jeremy Cozart
817-233-6668 817-237-2028

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Interior/Exterior Painting Residential & New Homes. 50 years experience.



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- Doors & Windows
- Decks & Stairs
- Cabinets & Countertops
- No Job Too Small

Springtown and Surrounding Areas
231-445-1221

062 Plumbing

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

068 Storage

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

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

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Metal Building Specialist

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- Metal Roofs

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1 & 2 Bedroom Unfurnished
Accepting Applications
Rent based on income
TDD: 800-735-2989
This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer

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gtax.com
817-246-4646

089 Wanted to Rent
Looking for a room, used RV, small trailer, or living space to rent for myself. Call Sandy 936-524-0830.

066 Roofing

Miles Roofing

- Insurance Claim Specialists;
- Free Estimates

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817-270-3340

069 Sand/Gravel



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Quality Family Business Since 1938
CALL Cliff Hall
(817) 221-2681

We go the extra mile to ensure you get more for your \$.
On House Pads, Driveways, Lot Clearing & Tractor Work, Etc.

Devin's Handyman Service

- Carpentry
- Cement
- Rock
- Granite
- Tile
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- Insulation
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- Powerwashing
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WINTER SPECIAL 20% OFF with this ad!



Call Devin at 817-629-9608

Advertising Works!



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- Deer Blinds
- Deer Feeders

8894 W Hwy 199 • Springtown
817-220-0008
www.SolidSS.com Open to the Public

046 Looking to Buy

Looking to buy a home, 1200-2000 Square Ft, 3-2, pre owned, garage, .75+ acre lot, Springtown area. Text 817-996-6351.

066 Roofing



DIAMOND ROOFING & CONSTRUCTION

Commercial & Residential

- Roofing
- Metal Roofing
- Carports
- Metal Buildings
- All General Contracting

417 N. MAIN ST • SPRINGTOWN
817-523-4137
Here Before The Storm. Here Long After.

080 Lots/Acreage

Wanted: Springtown area house on .75+ acre lot. See section 46. 817-996-6351.

049 Masonry/Stonework



Silva Masonry, LLC
CONCRETE
COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL
Landscape Designs, Outdoor Kitchens
Patios, Retaining Walls, Mailboxes

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email alvarogsilva@verizon.net

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Shelter animals have lots of unconditional love to share with their new best friends. Feel the Love - Adopt

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Metal Building Erectors

- Pre-engineered Weld-up
- Barns/Shops
- Arenas/Hangars
- Fencing

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817-220-2150
www.weld-done.net

081 Business/Commercial

40x50 building For Rent, 3 miles west of Springtown. 817-713-7495.

For Lease: 1 acre fenced lot with security. Use for material, equipment storage or other. 196 E Main St, Azle. \$1500/mo. 214-435-2342.

For Lease:
Hwy 199 frontage, near hospital, 2000 Sq Ft \$1500/mo. 817-220-2021
Bryant Real Estate.



ONLY \$29.95

TAKING A ROAD TRIP?
Find that Perfect Vehicle in the Classifieds.
OR
You can Sell your Auto in the same section. Call for more info on our
3 MONTH SPECIAL
Call 817-270-3340
TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

052 Movers

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

Advertising Works!

817-270-3340

Deadline:
1:00 PM FRIDAY

Classifieds



TexSCAN Week of
Jan. 14-20, 2024

ACREAGE

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

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

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Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 7-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-855-704-8579 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

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When veterinary care is unavailable or unaffordable, ask for Happy Jack® equine and canine animal health products. Results overnight. At Tractor Supply® (www.happyjackinc.com)

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

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

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

WATER DAMAGE

WATER DAMAGE CLEANUP & RESTORATION: A small amount of water can lead to major damage and mold growth in your home. Our trusted professionals do complete repairs to protect your family and your home's value! Call 24/7: 1-877-727-3027.

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

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



ACROSS

- 1 hangs down
- 5 in Concho County on U.S. 83 & 87
- 6 TXism: " _ _ lick" (none)
- 7 TXism: "tame as _ _ dog"
- 8 TX Kenny Rogers sang " _ _ I Can Make It on My Own"
- 9 J.R. was shot in the final _ _ of "Dallas" season 3
- 16 "those" in Mexico
- 18 TXism: "still wet _ _ _ ears" (inexperienced)
- 21 TX Nolan pitched seven _ _-hitters
- 22 rattling sound heard by a stethoscope
- 23 Clyde High class
- 24 fill 'er up (2 wds)
- 30 Highlands Mansion in Marlin has a stained- _ _ _ in the great hall
- 34 TX Tom Kite won _ _ Open in 1992
- 35 this David was leader of Waco's Branch Davidians
- 36 Humble Oil once had Esso and this brand name
- 37 rep for TX Matthew McConaughey
- 39 county west of Sabine (2 wds.)
- 43 Nacogdoches old road: "La Calle del _ _ _"
- 44 boycott, e.g.
- 45 TXism: "hard _ _ nails"
- 46 wedding cake layer
- 47 Eagles & Giants to the Cowboys
- 49 sought to influence Texan in 1-down
- 52 dir. to New Boston from Mount Pleasant
- 53 Texas cosmetics queen, Mary Kay
- 54 Texas pecan desserts
- 55 " _ _ _ _ jungle" (city)
- 58 on old XIT Ranch: "El Canyon _ _ _ Casas Amarillas"
- 59 holiday egg drink
- 60 a Denton univ.
- 61 Biblical donkey

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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DOWN

- 1 where TX Ted Cruz serves
- 2 this Rangers' Garcia hit 5 home runs against Astros in 2023 ALCS
- 3 "Whoopie ti yi yo, _ _ _ little dogies"
- 4 TXism: " _ _ _ beans" (in a pod)
- 9 TX Banks who was "Mr. Cub" (init.)
- 10 TX A.C. Greene book: "A _ _ _ Country"
- 11 TX Trini sang "If _ _ _ a Hammer"
- 12 farm storage tower
- 13 " _ _ _ band" (solo performance)
- 14 Duryea of 1954 "Ride Clear of Diablo" with TX Audie Murphy (init.)
- 15 Love Field arr. guess
- 17 TX wheeler-dealer: Billy _ _ _
- 19 legend has it that Texas "Enchanted Rock" is this
- 20 this bunny gives gifts
- 24 Kennedy of film "Creepshow 2" with TX Lois Chiles
- 25 Greek goddess of the dawn
- 26 TXism: "mobile mouse _ _ _" (cat)
- 27 film categories, e.g.
- 28 TXism: "busy _ _ _ -armed paper hanger"
- 29 this Denny won 1930 "Texas Open"
- 31 Texas fire _ _ _
- 32 _ _ _-fi, like "Avatar"
- 33 braggart, like some Texans
- 38 a Great Lake
- 40 state _ _ _ is topaz
- 41 this info. agcy. was dissolved in 1999
- 42 the gullet
- 48 a Gulf fish
- 50 this will prohibit a Texan from a jury
- 51 TX Drown started noted Hotel _ _ -Air
- 56 _ _ _ text (communicated)
- 57 farm machines

3-Month Special

Want To Sell Your Auto, Boat, Trailer
Motorcycle, RV, Tractor Or Other Vehicle?

ONLY \$29⁹⁵

Your ad runs for three months!

Call the The Tri-County Reporter
817-270-3340
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Local
Supports
Your
Community



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13 Months for the price of 12

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Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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