



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Ginger Brandon and other patrons thumbed through the stacks of books on sale looking for gold.

Tomes, tabbies and tournaments

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AZLE — Whether it's Mario Kart or books on Descartes, the Azle Memorial Library has something to offer everyone this January. One event that brought people out in droves was the library's Jan 12-13 book sale.

Azle Memorial Library holds wide array of fun activities through January

AML typically holds a book sale once a year either in the fall or winter. "This year was unique because we had so many DVD donations that we held

a separate DVD sale in the fall, then had our book sale this January," AML Director Curren McLane said in an

PLEASE SEE LIBRARY | A12

Springtown P&Z approves final plat for 137-lot subdivision in ETJ

MADELYN EDWARDS
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SPRINGTOWN — Contingent on settling any outstanding engineering comments, Springtown Planning and Zoning Commission unanimously approved the final plat for the new subdivi-

vision Pennsylvania Avenue in the city's extraterritorial jurisdiction during its Jan. 16 meeting.

The development will include 137 single-family lots on more than 34 acres at the northwest corner of Walnut Creek Drive and Williams-Ward Road. The new subdivi-

vision is expected to include lots that are between 7,500-8,250 square feet on average, though some lots are larger.

Pennsylvania Avenue is unique compared to other subdivisions outside the city limits because it will be served by Springtown sewer and water and therefore,

does not need to adhere to Parker County's usual minimum one-acre lot size. This is because the property has a sanitary sewer easement, so Springtown has to provide sewer service as well as water.

Because it's located in Springtown's extraterritorial

jurisdiction, the city doesn't have control over the specifications of the development like other subdivisions in the county. This means the city cannot regulate the subdivision's density, lot sizes, zoning or construction of the streets, nor can the city do inspections of the homes,

provide code enforcement services or improve traffic in the area.

City Secretary Christina Derr told the P&Z at the meeting in January the city would not be able to annex the development at this point.

PLEASE SEE PLAT | A4

Community Caring Center starts \$1.5M expansion project

As need increases in community, local nonprofit seeks to overhaul facilities

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AZLE — With its doors opening back up for 2024, Azle's Community Caring Center is experiencing the beginning of a major new construction project. From Dec. 18 to Jan. 1 the center was on hiatus, but has seen just as much, if not more, need for its resources in the new year.

As more and more families turn to the center due to food

insecurity, Executive Director Kristie Cooper talked about the expansion and how it will benefit the community. The average number of families served by the CCC per month jumped from 600 to 1,300 in 2023, Cooper said, adding that the organization has served 995 families in the first 11 days of January, alone.

The center received permits

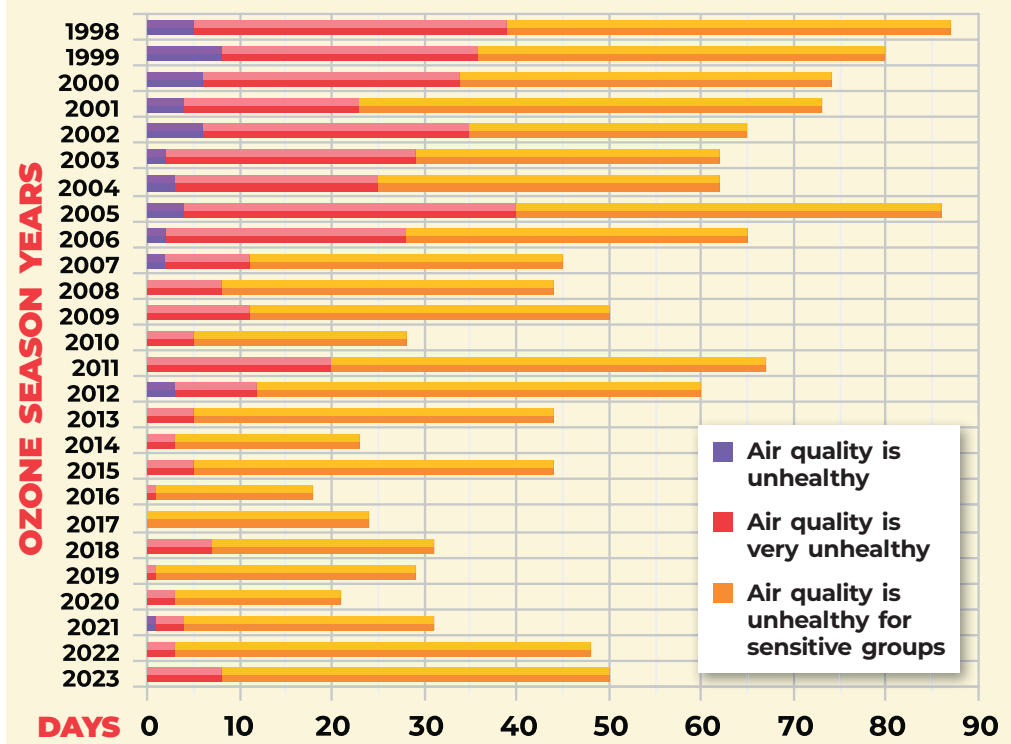
PLEASE SEE CCC | A11



COURTESY BONNIE MONNINGER

A cement-pouring crane could be seen from Commerce Street during the first few days after breaking ground.

Number of days ozone amounts in North Texas were above air quality standards



GRAPH CREATED BY MADELYN EDWARDS VIA NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS

Source: North Central Texas Council of Governments Regional Transportation Council and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Penalties coming if DFW doesn't reduce ozone levels

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While not as high as the late '90s or first half of the 2000s, North Texas' ozone levels in 2023 had the most days that exceeded the standard since 2012.

If the ozone levels don't improve significantly, industries in the Dallas-Fort Worth region could face millions of dollars in penalties.

The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) Regional Transportation Council's annual ozone report covers the 2023 ozone year for the 10-county nonattainment area — Parker, Wise, Tarrant, Dallas, Denton, Collin, Rockwall, Kaufman, Johnson and Ellis counties. The ozone season spans from March through November.

North Texas counties classified as severe for EPA's 2008 standard

According to the council's report, National Ambient Air Quality Standards for lead, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter were attained, but standards for ozone were not. The report found 50 days in the 2023 ozone season exceeded the standard. This includes 42 days with an orange rating, which means those with respiratory diseases should limit their time outdoors, and eight days with a red rating, meaning people with respiratory diseases should avoid prolonged efforts outside while everyone else should limit doing things outdoors, according to NCTCOG's Air Quality

Handbook from Spring 2022. The number of exceedance days in 2023 is slightly more than totals in 2022, 2015 and 2013 but much higher than the number of exceeded days in 2016-2021 and in 2014. The last time the number of exceedance days reached 50 was in 2012 and 2011 when there were 60 and 67 days, respectively, that surpassed the standard.

While stratospheric ozone protects people from the sun, ground-level ozone can cause breathing problems and aggravate lung diseases, according to the council of governments' website. Ground-level

PLEASE SEE OZONE | A4



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Walnut Creek SUD board awards bids for some bond projects

MADELYN EDWARDS
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SPRINGTOWN — Walnut Creek Special Utility District's infrastructure projects are moving forward as the board of directors awarded bids for two ground storage tanks and two booster pump stations during the Jan. 16 meeting.

Walnut Creek SUD's board approved selling bonds last year and received about \$38.8 million to improve infrastructure across the district. Before the work begins, the SUD must get bids on the infrastructure projects and award contracts to the best bidders.

For the 2 million-gallon ground storage tank at the surface water treatment plant in Bridgeport, the board accepted a bid from Tank Builders Inc. for about \$2.5 million. The contract for

the 1 million-gallon ground storage tank at the Farm-to-Market Road 920 booster pump station, which will be a larger tank than the one that's already there, was also awarded to Tank Builders for about \$1.5 million.

The board awarded both contracts for the booster pump stations on FM 920 and on FM 51 to Acadia Services, LLC, and both bids were about \$2.7 million for each booster pump station. The FM 920 booster pump station is already in existence but will be expanded to nearly triple its size, Engineer Bill Lohrke said. In contrast, the booster pump station south of Springtown on FM 51 will be brand new and allow for growth in the area.

"It will greatly bolster the water pressure and supply for those existing subdivisions," Lohrke said of the FM 51 booster pump station.

Amid these awarded contracts, the board also decided to reject a bid from Tank Builders for a 500,000 gallon ground storage tank, which will be on FM 51, because the bid was a few hundred thousand dollars over budget. Lohrke said the project will be rebid and also include an alternate option for a 300,000 gallon storage tank as well as some design changes.

Lohrke noted that the SUD has worked with both Tank Builders and Acadia previously. Acadia installed a 16-inch water line in the district recently, and Tank Builders rehabilitated a clear well at the water plant in 2022.

Of Tank Builders specifically, Lohrke said the company has an "outstanding reputation."

"We highly recommend them as contractors," he said during the meeting.



MADELYN EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Walnut Creek Special Utility District Board of Directors members Jim Cox and Vice President Al Garrett attend the board's meeting Jan. 16.

Don't let blood supply see winter slump

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AZLE — Carter BloodCare says Texas winters can put a chill on the local blood supply. Blood donations can slump each winter because of inclement weather and seasonal illnesses. This makes the need for the lifesaving resource even greater. If the blood supply drops, patients who require transfusions can face challenging delays. This includes local patients needing major surgeries, cancer treatments or medical aid following vehicle collisions or severe trauma. From 2014 through 2022, at least 1,630 have been injured in Texas from weather events, according to the National Safety Council. Over the last several years, Texas has led the nation in weather-related deaths. Keeping local blood supplies well-stocked is critical in saving lives after weather-related accidents

Carter BloodCare and Azle Area Ministerial Alliance host blood drive Feb. 5

and injuries.

On Feb. 5, from 3:30-6:30 p.m. the Azle Area Ministerial Alliance will host its first blood drive of the year at the First Methodist Church Azle at 200 Church Street.

Residents as young as 17 years old — or 16 with parental consent — can safely donate blood with Carter BloodCare. There is no upper age limit for donors. In addition, eligible donors must weigh at least 110 pounds and feel well on the day of donation.

Carter BloodCare always has high hopes for our city's blood drives. Past turnout for Azle donors have been some of the highest in DFW, according to the organization.

Those who present to give blood in February will receive a special gift.

"As a thank you, each of our donors will receive a new quarter-zip pullover," Andrea Sign with Carter BloodCare said. "These are available while supplies last, so we encourage you to sign up today for the Carter BloodCare blood drive."

For faster donations and less paperwork, donors-to-be can sign up on Carter BloodCare's Donor Portal, by going to ww3.greatpartners.org, by going to ww3.greatpartners.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/145184. More details can be found on the nonprofit blood center's website at CarterBloodCare.org.



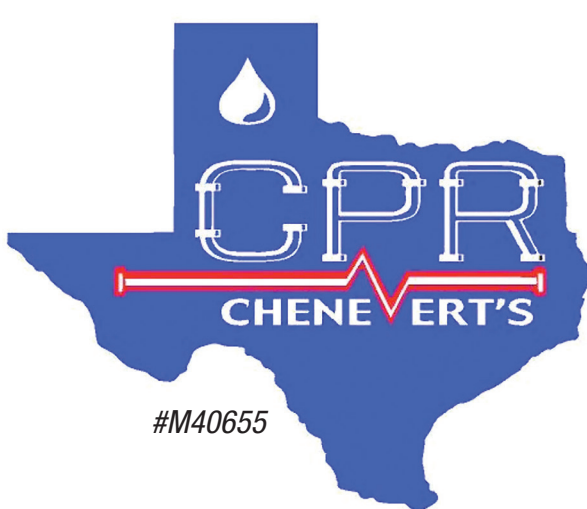
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Super Cyber: AHS tops in Texas, 8th nationally

Azle High School students continue to excel at CyberStart competition

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricityreporter.com

AZLE — Azle High School students have once again proven they're the best in Texas.

Carson Cooper, Jacob McCarroll, Eyvindr Lefever, Theo Chavez, A.J. Rogers, and Logan Leach each brought home a gold medal from the 2024 CyberStart America competition. This is the second time Cooper and Lefever have received the gold medal.

Although there is no official Texas state competition, AHS had more students qualify for the national competition than any other school in Texas. More AHS students qualified for nationals than the top schools in 41 other states as well.

Participants qualify for nationals by earning at least 20,000 points and earn a CSA Gold Badge by getting at least 100,000 points in CyberStart. CyberStart is an online pro-

gram that teaches cybersecurity skills through more than 200 unique challenges, tasks and puzzles.

These ninth through 12th graders were among 34,716 students from 2,969 schools to compete this year. AHS began participating in the CyberStart America competition four years ago. Since then, the program has offered many Azle students the opportunity to grow their skills and receive scholarships. Last year, AHS students placed first in the state and 10th nationally. The group's advisor, Sherri Prather, said her students continue to improve every year.

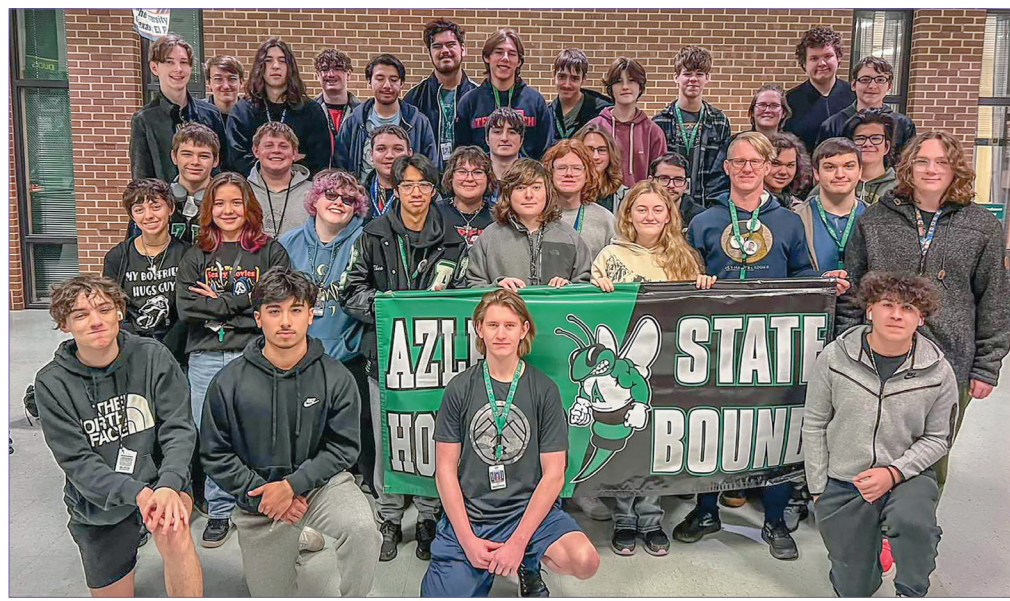
"I am always blown away by what a great job these students do," Prather said. "They work so hard, and they are very competitive. This program has grown so quickly from 12 qualifiers our first year to 69 this year and it is all because these students are

just outstanding. I could not be more proud of them and their hard work."

Six AHS students earned gold medals, 16 students earned silver medals, 106 students earned bronze medals and 45 earned the Cybersecurity Scholarship. According to CyberStart's website, it has awarded over \$20 million in scholarships to 4,400 students since CyberStart America was launched in 2020.

Cybersecurity is one of the fastest growing industries in America and by 2025, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates there will be 3.5 million unfulfilled cybersecurity jobs. The median annual wage for information security analysts was \$112,000 in 2022.

Last year's competition concluded in April and while Prather said losing a few months was a shock, the students still stepped up and managed to beat last year's



COURTESY AHS

Some of Azle's cybersecurity students before the conclusion of their contest.

ranking. "Again, it is the students that make this team special," Prather said. "I think every year that we cannot possibly top the year before, but

every year, they just work harder. We lose great students to graduation every year and other students step up to become leaders in their place. This year's juniors and

seniors have done a fantastic job of leading the team. It is that kind of commitment and leadership that I think has made this year's team so high-achieving."

North and East Texas Press Association scholarships available

STAFF REPORTS

The North and East Texas Press Association, in conjunction with the Texas Press Association, will once again award two \$1,500 scholarships to eligible candidates at its April 25-27 convention in Granbury.

Over the years, NETPA has helped college-bound journalism students with tuition and books through this scholarship program which is

funded by private donations and through the annual auction held at the convention.

Scholarships will be payable to the registrar of the college/university upon proof of enrollment as a full-time student majoring in journalism and the deadline to apply is no later than March 18.

Applicants must be from the geographic area served by NETPA and have a declared major in journalism/commu-

nications/photojournalism. Preference is given to print majors. Applications may be downloaded from the NETPA website: www.netpa.org.

High school applicants should submit the following materials in the scholarship application submission, while college applicants should submit only (b) and (c).

1. Complete the attached application and include a resume that includes scholas-

tic, athletic and community activities.

2. Provide a current official transcript certified by school or college registrar.

3. High school applicants should submit letters of recommendation from two of the following:

- a) senior, junior or dual credit college English instructor
- b) publication adviser or local newspaper supervi-

sor where student has been employed

c) from a person of the applicant's choice

4. All applicants should submit digital or print clips of published work. Include publication dates.

Applicants may send photocopies of work as published in yearbook or magazine. Please mount all photocopies and newspaper clippings on paper and place

in folder or binder IF submitting hardcopy. Also, please include a cover sheet with the following information:

Student's Name, Address, Phone number and email

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Spotlight on BUSINESS

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Clockwise from left: Zach, Gary, Rae, Sandra and Kathy have decades of combined tax experience that helps them better serve the Azle area.

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OBITUARIES

Dennis "Pops" Dorris 1949-2024

Dennis Ray Dorris, affectionately known as Pops to his friends and Pops to his beloved children and grandchildren, passed away Jan. 11, 2024. A Celebration of Life will be 4-6 p.m. Feb. 17, at Azle Deer Cove, 101 S. Pearson Ln., Azle. Born Feb. 27, 1949, Dennis was a loving family man and an avid sports enthusiast, whose unmatched love and passion for his family will be remembered by all who knew him. Dennis attended the University of Texas at Arlington where he established lifelong friends in the Phi Delta Theta fraternity. After college, Dennis began to work at Southwestern Bell where he retired after three decades of dedicated service. To Dennis, family always came first, his love for sports always rivaled only by his devotion to his family. He was an unwavering supporter of his children and grandchildren at their sporting events whether they were playing or coaching. Dennis was preceded in death by his parents, Herman and Doris Olive Dorris, and brother Kenneth. He is survived by his treasured children, Devon Dorris and his wife Keri, Derek Dorris and his wife Mindi, Rachel Dorris Plunk and her husband Nick. Pops will be fondly remembered by his grandchildren Dane, Drew, Dalton, Dylan, Addison and Witten. His sisters, Dorene Byrd and Charlene Dupaul, will forever hold dear their memories of Dennis as an influential figure who played a pivotal role in their upbringing. Also considered family is lifelong friend of nearly 70 years, David Conway and his wife Kathy. His memory will continue to resonate deeply with all who had the privilege of knowing him.



The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday Jan 25, 2024

Janice "Janie" Lower 1946-2024

Janice Elaine "Janie" (Ford) Lower received her wings Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2024. Visitation was Monday Jan. 22, at White's Funeral Home, Azle. Funeral service was at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 23, at White's Funeral Home, Azle. Interment was in Azleland Memorial Park. Janie was born April 23, 1946, in Shawnee, Oklahoma; daughter of Gilbert and Mildred (Miller) Ford. She met the love of her life, Leonard "Johnny" Lower; they were married March 8, 1967. She is preceded in death by her parents; brother, Bobby Ford; brother-in-law, Bill Williams; and daughter, Michelle Lower. Survivors include loving husband, Johnny Lower; sister, Lee Williams; many nieces and nephews.



The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday Jan 25, 2024

Kenneth Mitchell 1943-2024

Kenneth Raymond Mitchell, 80, of Azle, passed away Sunday, Jan. 7, 2024, surrounded by family. A memorial service will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 27, in White's Azle Chapel, Azle. Kenny was born March 19, 1943, in Rosston, Arkansas to Hubert and Florence Mitchell. Kenny married the love of his life, Polly Mitchell, on October 14, 1961. Kenny was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Polly; and his youngest granddaughter, Miranda Chappell. He is survived by his brother, Lawrence Mitchell and wife, Ramona; daughters, Mary Mitchell and Jerrie Deweese and husband, John; daughter-in-law, Virginia Chaney; grandchildren, Amanda Deweese, Bion and Joanna Pilcher, Justin and Jamie Deweese; great-grandchildren, Landon, Hudson, Braydon, Isabella, Korbyn, Braxton and Jaxson. The family would like to extend its sincere gratitude to Champion Healthcare for all its care, love and support.



The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday Jan 25, 2024

Mary "Diane" Martin 1943-2024

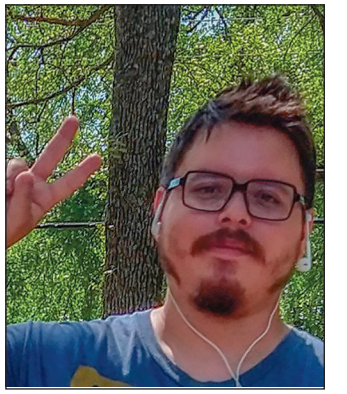
Mary Diane (Floyd) Martin, 80, left this world for a better place on Sunday, Jan. 21, 2024, in Weatherford, following a courageous battle with Parkinson's Disease. Visitation was from 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 24, at White's Funeral Home, Springtown. Funeral service is 2 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 25, at White's Funeral Home, Springtown. Interment is at Springtown Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made, in Diane's name, to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's research; or any foundation related to the cure of Parkinson's Disease. Diane was born April 3, 1943, in Dallas, daughter of Thomas Grady and Mary Opal (Thompson) Floyd. Her mother's family were long-time residents of the Springtown area. She met the love of her life, Buddy Windle Martin, and they were married May 20, 1960. They spent 63 happy years together raising their family. She was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend to many. Diane worked on special occasions for the Springtown Flower Shop for many years.



The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday Jan 25, 2024

Tommy Utley 1993-2024

Our sweet Tommy Joe Utley went to heaven Jan. 15, 2024. He was 30 years old. Tommy lived in Azle with his parents Terry and Deborah Utley; twin brother Anthony Utley; little brother Baylee Utley; and his dog Ikeman. Tommy was a kind soul and our loving Bear; he lived his life to make others happy. Tommy loved animals, nature, cooking meals for his family, writing, reading, playing video games and watching anime with his brothers, spending time with his family making us laugh and smile. Tommy really enjoyed connecting with others and was very sympathetic to their feelings and needs. Tommy



The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday Jan 25, 2024

Usleta Honeycutt 1937-2024

Usleta Ann Honeycutt, born Aug. 18, 1937, passed from this earth to her eternal heavenly home Friday, Jan. 12, 2024. A memorial service will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 3, at First Baptist Church Springtown, 500 N. Main St., Springtown. Usleta was a longtime member of the First Baptist Church of Springtown, she danced for many years with the Klassy Kloggers, enjoyed the Red Hat Society for some time, and over the course of her 22 years of service to the Parker County Extension Club, she held many leadership roles. She was preceded in death by her parents, Homer Clyde and Dorothy Butler Casey; her beloved and cherished husband of 48 years, Walter "Bud" Dean Honeycutt; son Daniel Dean Honeycutt; and her sister Clydette Potts.



The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday Jan 25, 2024

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Table listing church services for Sunday, including The Abbey Church, Ash Creek Baptist Church, Azle First Assembly of God, Azle Christian Church, Cornerstone Community Church, Crossroads Baptist Church, The Edge Church - Azle, First Methodist Church of Azle, Gracepointe Church, Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Hope Lutheran Church Elca, Legacy Church, Solid Rock Bible Church, Silver Creek Baptist Church, Silver Creek Methodist Church, The Ranch Christian Cowboy Church, The Word@Lakeside Church of God.

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

Hearings for Reno rezoning cases rescheduled for next month

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RENO — The Reno Planning and Zoning Commission meeting Jan. 8 ended abruptly even getting started.

The P&Z was scheduled to hold public hearings on two rezoning cases and then take action to recommend approval or disapproval of the rezonings. Developers are requesting a 62-acre property at 1491 S. Reno Road be rezoned from agricultural to commercial to establish a storage facility for manufactured items, and land at 4609 E. State Highway 199 be changed from single family to multifamily to make way for a residential development.

Before the meeting was scheduled to begin, commissioners and other officials talked among themselves, and once the clock struck 7 p.m., Chairperson Kevin Vandenberg announced the meeting was canceled. An error in announcing the meeting's public hearings meant the P&Z couldn't hold the public hearings. No ac-

Reno P&Z meeting canceled because of sign-posting error

tion could occur without having the public hearings, so the meeting had to be rescheduled.

"You're supposed to do three things," P&Z member Steve Streiffert said. "We're supposed to post it in the newspaper. We're supposed to notify neighboring residents within 200 feet, and we're supposed to post a sign on the property so the people driving by can see that the zoning is being considered... But we failed to get the sign up."

Interim City Secretary Rebekka Roberts confirmed Reno's code of ordinances states the city must provide a sign so "the public around them knows of the proposed changes in case they don't get their certified letters or they're outside of the 200-foot area we have to send it out (to)."

Rezoning cases are some-

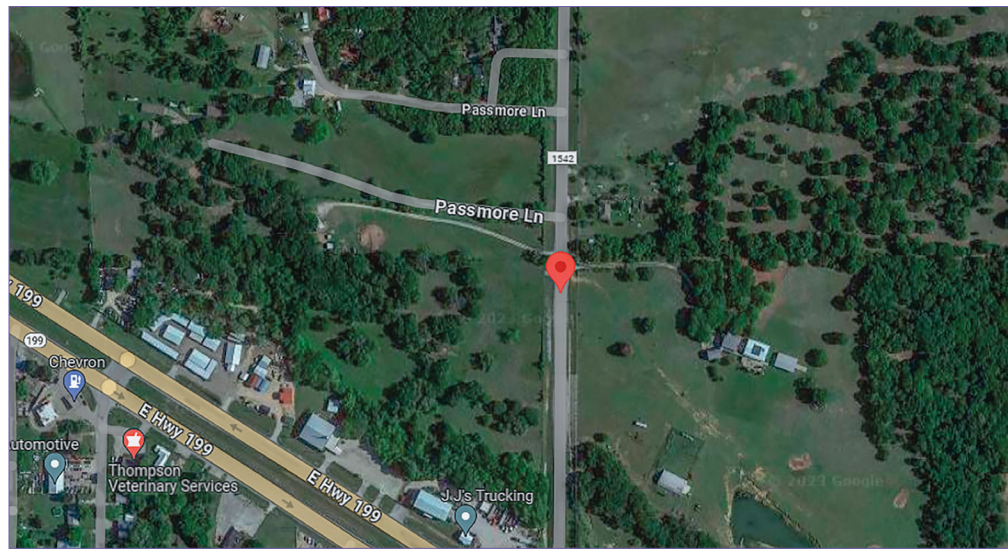
what rare in Reno. Roberts said the last time Reno was rezoned was in 2019, and that was a citywide effort. Vandenberg, who has been on the commission for a few years, said he hasn't witnessed a rezoning case in his time on P&Z.

"I don't get a lot of rezoning stuff," Roberts said. "This is the first one I've actually done."

While posting the sign is a job for the city's staff, Vandenberg defended Roberts since she was only appointed to her role last year and didn't know to get the signs posted.

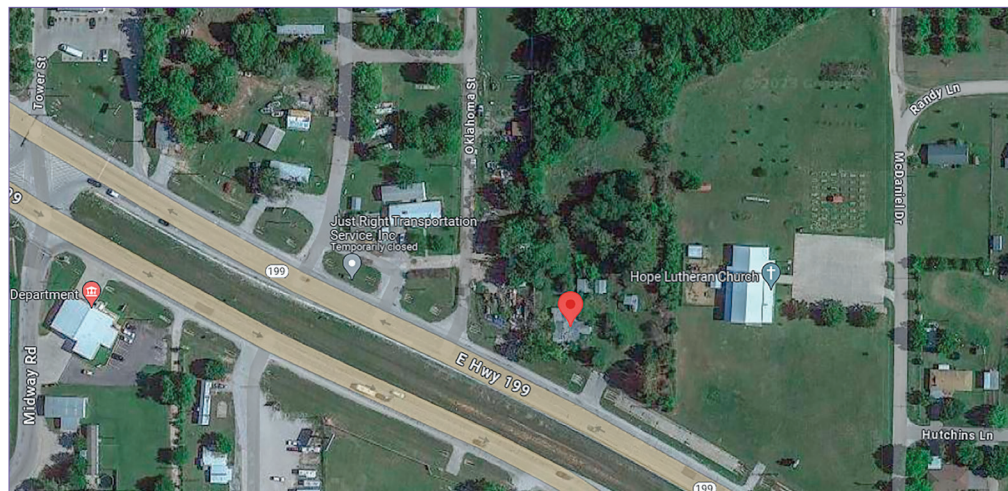
"We're all human; things slip by," P&Z Secretary Justin Williams said. "We all have full-time jobs and families and whatnot."

The P&Z will revisit the two postponed rezoning cases Feb. 5, Vandenberg said.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF GOOGLE MAPS

In February, the Reno Planning and Zoning Commission is scheduled to hold two public hearings on rezoning cases. One of them involves a request to rezone a 62-acre property at 1491 S. Reno Road from agricultural to commercial to establish a storage facility for manufactured items.



The other rezoning case the Reno P&Z is expected to consider in February is a request to change the zoning at 4609 E. State Highway 199 from single family to multifamily to make way for a residential development.

Fishing ups and downs

Any angler knows you are not going to catch fish all the time. Even the professionals who have them figured out occasionally get skunked. That is part of fishing.

However, if you have the time to spend on the water it may be a good idea to keep working that presentation until hopefully the fish do decide to feed.

Trying to locate active fish will have you burning fuel, but that is the best answer. Keep working the lake until you find a pattern. It is possible to find active fish in another location in the water body you are fishing. If they are not biting at the time, it is probably a good time to go scouting. If however, you know there are fish in a general location, you may consider waiting them out or returning to that spot at a later time.

The recent severe cold snap had a big impact on the fishing. In my experience with a drastic change in temperature, it may be prudent to wait a few days for the fish to get acclimated to their environment.

Following the moon does not give you any guarantee as I mentioned earlier, but it



ON FISHING

By Michael Acosta

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

is good to know when these times are. It may help you establish a pattern or you may plan your day around it. Charts of the moon phases are available from many sources. They even make watches that will keep you in tune with the moon phases and peak feeding times. If you don't have one of these charts or watches or you didn't check before you went out, it is relatively simple to remember when the approximate best times are. The major or peak feeding time is when the moon is directly overhead and the second peak or minor feeding time is when the moon is underneath on the other side of the planet. During a full moon, the major is around midnight and the minor is around noon. During a new moon the opposite is true; the peak is at noon and the secondary peak around midnight. A quarter moon (which is actually a half

moon) that is overhead during the morning will have the major in the morning and the minor will be around dusk. A quarter moon overhead near dusk indicates a peak feeding time around dusk and a secondary peak in the morning. This should help you approximate the feeding times according to the moon without any charts. These major and minor feeding times move about an hour each day as the moon gets larger or smaller. There are also other factors that are used to predict best feeding times. For example, if the moon is overhead at sunrise, that peak may be better than others.

I know with sand bass, many times you need to wait during the winter season for the sun to come up and warm the water some, which may have nothing to do with the moon phases. This can also be a good rule with black bass fishing especially on those

colder days. In many cases during the winter, the afternoon bite can be better than the morning bite due to the heating of the day.

Finding active sand bass most anytime of the year may be where you find the bigger striped bass and/or

hybrid striped bass looking for an easy meal. This happens quite often. It can also be smaller stripers/hybrids feeding and the bigger ones will not be far behind. As always, look where the baitfish are holding. Right now the water temperature is in the

low 40s and the majority of the baitfish are in deep water. It has been said many times that patience is part of fishing and it truly is. However, even though we know we have to wait at times for the fish to cooperate, we never really want to wait too awful long.

FISHING REPORT

Granbury water temperatures are in the lower 40s and the water level is close to full pool. Fishing reports for most species were slower due to the colder weather with better reports coming for those fishing in the afternoon. There have been some good catches of really large blue and yellow catfish close to 40 pounds on the upper ends on cut bait. Striped bass and white bass are fair on jigs worked in deeper water mid-lake; look for the birds. Black bass continue to be fair to good on soft plastics fished near deeper docks and flats just off the main channel. Crappie reports are mixed, but best reports are coming from Water's Edge to Bentwater on submerged timber using small crappie jigs and/or minnows.

Comanche Creek (formerly Squaw Creek) Reservoir is still attracting a large number of bass anglers looking for that warmer power plant water. Temperatures on Squaw Creek vary from the 60s to 70s depending on where you are on the lake. Fish are good on soft plastics fished near structure (under water ridges and humps). Eater-sized channel catfish limits continue to be taken on prepared baits. I do not have a tilapia report for Squaw Creek this week.



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State continues fight against fentanyl-related deaths

MADelyn EDWARDS

springtownreporter@tricountyreporter.com

Laws passed to increase penalties, awareness

Texans may notice a significant change in how fentanyl poisoning is addressed in 2024.

Developed in 1959, fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that can be used as a painkiller and anesthetic, according to a fact sheet from the Department of Justice and Drug Enforcement Administration. Fentanyl is about 50 times more potent than heroin and about 100 times more potent than morphine as a pain reliever.

Fentanyl is sometimes mixed with different drugs like other opioids, heroin, cocaine and methamphetamine, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, making a potentially deadly combination. The fact that fentanyl has been added may be unknown to the person using drugs.

"People who only use non-opioid drugs are more likely to overdose if they are exposed to drugs mixed with opioids, including fentanyl," the CDC's website states. "This fentanyl contamination of other drugs may contribute to increased risk for overdose, as those misusing other drugs can be exposed to drug products that vary in potency, including some extremely strong products."

Overdose deaths in Texas that involved heroin and synthetic opioids (largely fentanyl) started growing in 2014 but jumped significantly in 2017 and stayed high in

2018 and 2019, according to a 2021 report by the Texas Department of State Health Services Center for Health Statistics Agency Analytics Unit. Likewise, there have been increases in the state of overdoses involving synthetic opioids combined with commonly prescribed opioids, cocaine, benzodiazepines (e.g. Valium and Xanax) and psychostimulants from 2015-2019.

In response to this issue, the Texas Legislature took a few key steps to address fentanyl last year. The state's 2024-25 budget includes \$18 million for opioid overdose prevention and education as well as overdose reversal medication, like Narcan, that will go to first responders and certain educators. October has been deemed "Fentanyl Poisoning Awareness Month." Narcan will be distributed to Texas colleges and universities, and public school kids in grades six through 12 will learn about fentanyl and drug poisoning in class yearly.

"I think we've made huge strides, and I fully support the governor's One Pill Kills program that he's been so involved with," said state Rep. Glenn Rogers, who represents Parker, Palo Pinto and Stephens counties. He also stressed the importance of education as a tool for prevention.

Jessica Castro, founder of the Springtown over-

dose awareness organization We ARE Our Brother's Keeper, praised efforts to spread awareness and supply Narcan.

"I think one of the main things that we need more of is education on fentanyl, on overdose in general," Castro said. "The more educated we become, the less those things can happen, and so I think it's important to have that. And having the Narcan is invaluable to our society right now, so the more of that we're able to get, then that's great."

Castro established a resource center at 824 E. State Highway 199 that, among other things, distributes Narcan, and she frequently hears people tell her that they had to use Narcan in urgent situations. She would like to see more training on using Narcan in the community so people can know how to use it in an emergency.

Rogers said he carries the generic form of Narcan and recommended that anyone who spends time around young people should carry it.

"It's a very effective reversal. It's very safe," he said. "If you give it and it really wasn't fentanyl, it was something else, it doesn't cause any harm."

For addressing fentanyl-related overdoses, more than one dose of Narcan may be needed, Rogers said.

In addition, the legislature passed a law that allows people who distribute fen-

tanyl that causes death to be charged with murder.

"Anybody that would sell fentanyl that is so easily fatal to the user, they should be charged with murder," Rogers said.

The state representative pointed out a change was made to classify fentanyl overdoses as poisonings since sometimes those using drugs don't know they are taking fentanyl. Punishment for manufacturing and delivering fentanyl was also enhanced.

"Unfortunately, fentanyl has been killing dozens of Parker County residents, so I was glad to see the legislature take the problem head on in House Bill 6," Parker County District Attorney Jeff Swain said. "By allowing prosecutors to charge a drug dealer with murder when one of their customers dies from an overdose as a result of ingesting a pill the dealer sold them, the legislature has given us a powerful weapon in our battle against this deadly drug. When we can prove this offense, we will charge it."

Castro agreed with the idea that a person knowingly distributing fentanyl counts as murder and that heightening punishment may make drug dealers rethink selling fentanyl. However, she wondered about people who sold drugs without knowing they contained fentanyl.

"In that situation, how are

we going to prosecute for murder when they're going to say, 'We didn't know it had it in there,' because the times that the pills get made somewhere else, sometimes in different countries, sometimes in different states; the people that are selling them don't necessarily always know," Castro said.

Swain added that his office as well as law enforcement agencies in the county are

trying to stop fentanyl-related deaths. There are multiple approaches they can use, like sending drug dealers to prison, rehabilitating people who use drugs and educating the community.

"As a society though, we have to get our hands around this problem so that we can stop it from killing so many people," the district attorney said.



MADelyn EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER
Mike Carter, a licensed chemical dependency counselor and alumni manager at teen drug rehab center Clearfork Academy, attends an event in Springtown hosted by overdose awareness organization We ARE Our Brother's Keeper in January.

10 area students named to SNHU Fall 2023 Dean's List

STAFF REPORTS

MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE — Ten area students earned spots on the Fall 2023 Dean's List at Southern New Hampshire University.

Justin Hulet, Joseph Foss, Kaelin Randolph and Aaron Sissom of Azle attained the list, as did Abigail Osborne

of Paradise. Springtown students who appear on the list include Mason Morgan, Macy Witt, Chasity Kelley, Hunter Preston and Christopher Morton.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 for the reporting term are named

to the Dean's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit institution with a 91-year history of educating traditional-aged

students and working adults. Now serving more than 225,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 accredited undergraduate, graduate and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, New Hampshire.

"It is with great plea-

sure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Fall 2023 Dean's List," the university said in a press release. "The fall terms run from September to December.... Recognized as one of the 'Most Innovative' regional

universities by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner. Learn more at www.snhu.edu."

AHS students perform with Region 30 Honor Band



ZACH FREEMAN

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AZLE — Several Azle High School band students once again demonstrated their excellence with a recent special performance.

The Texas Music Educators Association hosted its All-Region concert Jan. 11-12 at Burlison High School where AHS concert band members participated as part of the Region 30 Honor Band. Across the state, Honor Bands are composed of Texas' best and most talented band students. The

AHS students earned their spots in the Region 30 Honor Band during auditions in December.

AHS HONOR BAND MEMBERS

- Ellie Bennett
- Madeleine Boivin
- Violet Isom
- Jocelyn Olund
- Aaron Barnes
- Harley Boyce
- Carson Cooper
- Isaac Lalonde
- Luke Walley
- Brady Danford
- Nicolas Renteria
- Anthony Rodgers
- Miguel Rubio

COURTESY AHS

Azle High School band students who made the Region 30 Honor Band and performed with other high-achieving Texas band students at a recent clinic.

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BOOK REVIEW

You've come for it all

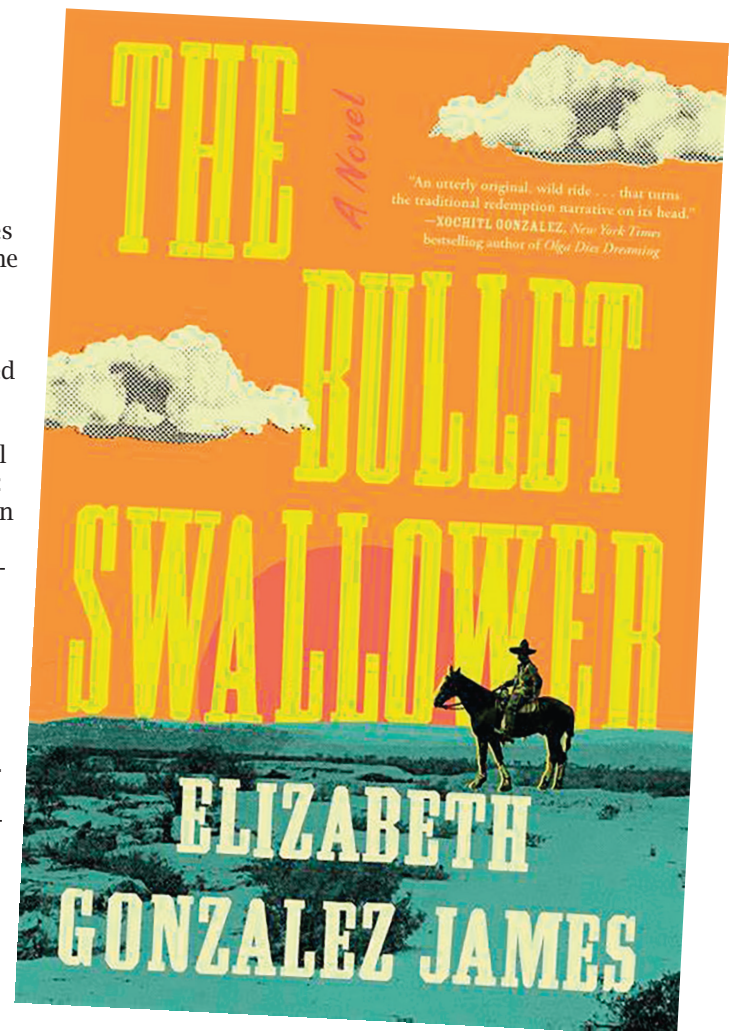
TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER
No more waiting around. The time has come and you're ready to do this thing, to seize it in its entirety. No more little bit, little bit, little bit, this is your birthright and you've come for it all — even if, as in the new novel, **"The Bullet Swallower"** by Elizabeth Gonzalez James, having it all could leave you in pieces.

Jaime Sonoro was used to insistent fans. It was 1964, he was Mexico's most popular, most-beloved singer, and it was common for fans to leave him gifts. But the woman who rushed to the front door of his home one afternoon and thrust a smelly book in his hands, well, that was extremely unusual. She'd muttered something about Jaime and his father being related to her, that everything Jaime

needed to know was in that book, she demanded that he read it, and then she ran. Taking the moldering thing to his office, Jaime opened the large tome. And his eyes were opened. The book was filled with florid language and the tale of Jaime's great-grandfather, Alferéz Antonio Sonoro, who killed an entire village for the love of gold, and whose boots were held by the ghosts of the people he'd buried alive. Alferéz's son, Antonio, never knew his father, but he knew the desperateness the elder Sonoro left behind. Because he was Mexican and good with a gun, Antonio eventually gained a reputation for being a *bandito* and it was unearned — though sometimes, a man had to make hard decisions. Every few weeks, for instance, a train filled with

Mexican riches crossed into Houston, and it was ripe for the looting. Antonio couldn't stop thinking about it. He'd need six, maybe ten men and plenty of horses and mules. He imagined his wife smiling, wearing a golden chain around her neck. The loot would get his family through a years-long drought. So he gathered supplies and his brother, the only man willing to help, and Antonio Sonoro rode to Houston, shadowed the whole way... If you're a fan of westerns, you have certain expectations: horses, dusty trails, pistols, hardship, cruelty, and probably some bigotry. Check them off your list before you read "The Bullet Swallower" because they're all there. Also: you can expect a truly incredible tale that author

Elizabeth Gonzalez James says "is true except for the stuff I made up." That honesty comes at the back of the tale, long after you've been rounded up and hog-tied to your chair, long after you've been tangled in chaparral and novel. More honesty: as the tale moves between 1895 and 1964 and back again, and you grow sympathetic to Antonio and start to hate Jaime just a little bit, you won't care what's true and what's not. You'll just want to spend every second of your time with this book. "The Bullet Swallower" is not just a tale for western-lovers. It's got a mid-century modern flair, too, and something for the paranormal reader. Find this book: here, you'll get it all.



Embracing life's ups and downs: A guide to resilience and positivity

MICKY SHEARON
Special to the Tri-County Reporter

As we all know, the only constant in life is that things are constantly changing. In the ever-changing landscape of life, the ability to adapt, stay positive and find strength in adversity is not just beneficial; it's essential. The journey through life is punctuated by highs and lows, successes and failures, joys and sorrows. Understanding and embracing these fluctuations can transform our experiences, leading to personal growth and a deeper appreciation for the journey. Here are 10 points about the importance of resilience, positive thinking and recognizing the transient nature of life's challenges.

THE POWER OF RESILIENCE
Resilience is the art of bouncing back from setbacks. It's about facing difficulties head-on and emerg-

ing stronger on the other side. Life, in its unpredictable glory, throws numerous challenges our way. How we respond to these challenges defines our journey. Resilient individuals don't avoid difficulties; they embrace them as opportunities for growth. They understand that every challenge is a teacher, every setback a lesson.

POSITIVE THINKING: A CATALYST FOR CHANGE
Positive thinking is tricky. Don't fall for the trap of toxic positivity. Positive thinking is NOT about ignoring life's problems; it's about approaching them in a more constructive and optimistic way. It's the difference between seeing a problem as an insurmountable obstacle or an opportunity to learn and grow. Positive thinkers are solution-focused. They believe in their ability to overcome challenges and are more likely to take proac-

tive steps towards resolving issues.

THE TRANSIENT NATURE OF LIFE'S CHALLENGES
Life is a series of phases, each with its own set of challenges and rewards. Recognizing the transient nature of these phases is crucial. Just as the night gives way to dawn, difficult times eventually lead to better days. This understanding fosters patience and perseverance during tough times and gratitude during good times.

EMBRACING CHANGE AND UNCERTAINTY
Change is the only constant in life. Embracing change, rather than resisting it, makes the journey smoother. Uncertainty can be daunting, but it's also where growth and innovation thrive. By stepping out of our comfort zones and embracing the unknown, we open ourselves to new experiences and op-

portunities for personal development.

LEARNING FROM FAILURE
Failure is often seen as a negative outcome, but it's an integral part of success. Each failure is a stepping-stone toward achieving our goals. It provides invaluable lessons and insights that cannot be gained through success alone. The key is to learn from these experiences and use them to propel ourselves forward.

CULTIVATING GRATITUDE
In the midst of life's challenges, it's easy to overlook the good. Cultivating a sense of gratitude helps to maintain a positive outlook. It's about appreciating what we have rather than lamenting what we lack. Gratitude enhances our overall well-being and helps us cope with stress and adversity.

BUILDING A SUPPORTIVE NETWORK
No one goes through life alone. Building a network of supportive friends, family and colleagues provides a safety net during tough times. These relationships offer emotional support, practical help and valuable advice. They remind us we're not alone in our struggles.

TAKING CARE OF YOURSELF
Self-care is crucial for maintaining mental and physical health. It's about taking the time to do things that nourish and rejuvenate us. This can be as simple as getting enough sleep, eating healthily, exercising or engaging in hobbies. Taking care of ourselves ensures we have the energy and strength to face life's challenges.

SETTING REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS
Setting unrealistic expectations can lead to disappoint-

ment and frustration. It's important to set achievable goals and be realistic about what we can accomplish. This doesn't mean lowering our standards; it means understanding our limits and working within them.

FINDING JOY IN THE JOURNEY
Finally, finding joy in the journey is about embracing life in all its complexity. It's about finding happiness not just in the destination, but in the journey itself. Celebrate small victories, enjoy the simple pleasures, and find humor even in difficult situations. Life is a tapestry of experiences woven together by our responses to its myriad challenges. By cultivating resilience, maintaining a positive outlook, and embracing the transient nature of difficulties, we can navigate life's ups and downs with grace and strength.

New \$2 credit card fee in Reno to start Feb. 1

MADelyn EDWARDS
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RENO — Starting Feb. 1, city of Reno customers paying bills with a credit card will be charged a \$2 fee. Mayor Hector Bas Jr. announced this change at the Jan. 17 city council meeting, noting the fee will apply to

people paying their water bills or purchasing a permit with a credit card. "Any person who chooses to pay their bill with a credit card, regardless if it is for water, trash and/or a permit, will be subject to a credit card fee of \$2," Bas said to The Tri-County Reporter. Reno City Council previ-

ously discussed adding a credit card fee last year, and in October, the council approved authorizing Interim City Secretary Rebekka Roberts to set the fee. At that time, Roberts confirmed the city is charged a percentage when customers use credit cards to pay bills. "The purpose of this item,

guys, is not to make money," Bas said at the Oct. 23 council meeting. "It's to cover the expense that we're eating for those that are using credit cards." The mayor reiterated after the Jan. 17 meeting that the city of Reno will no longer be absorbing the fees associated with credit card payments.

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Who's on the ballot?

STAFF REPORTS

Major elections are coming in 2024, starting in Texas with the primary in March.

This year's Primary Election Day is Tuesday, March 5, and early voting will take place from Tuesday, Feb. 20 to Friday, March 1. The deadline to register to vote in the primaries is Monday, Feb. 5. If needed, the primary runoff election will take place May 28.

Primary elections allow voters in the two dominant political parties, Republican and Democrat, to choose the candidates from each party that will go head-to-head in November's general elections. However, the primary

Multiple candidates vie to represent Parker, Tarrant County residents in March primary election

election is decisive in races where the winning candidate does not have a challenger from the other party. This is the case in multiple Parker County elections where the Republican candidate who triumphs in March has no Democrat opponent and therefore, will win by default in November.

Voters in Parker and Tarrant counties are likely aware this is the year they get to select the next U.S. president and their national repre-

sentatives, but they will also be able to pick the people who will represent them at the state and county level. Here are the candidates on the ballot in contested Parker and Tarrant counties primary races:

- Parker County Precinct 1 constable: Incumbent Ray Wright will face challenger Jason Ingram in the Republican primary election. There is no Democrat candidate running in this race.
- State representative for

District 60 (includes Parker, Palo Pinto and Stephens counties): Mike Olcott is running against the incumbent Rep. Glenn Rogers in the Republican primary. There is no Democrat candidate running in this race.

- State senator for District 30 (includes north and east portions of Parker County along with multiple other North Texas counties): In the Republican primary, there are four candidates vying for this position that was left open by retiring incumbent Sen. Drew Springer — Cody Clark, Carrie De Moor, Brent Hagenbuch and Jace Yarbrough. Meanwhile, the Democrat candidates are

Michael Braxton, Dale Frey and Matthew McGhee.

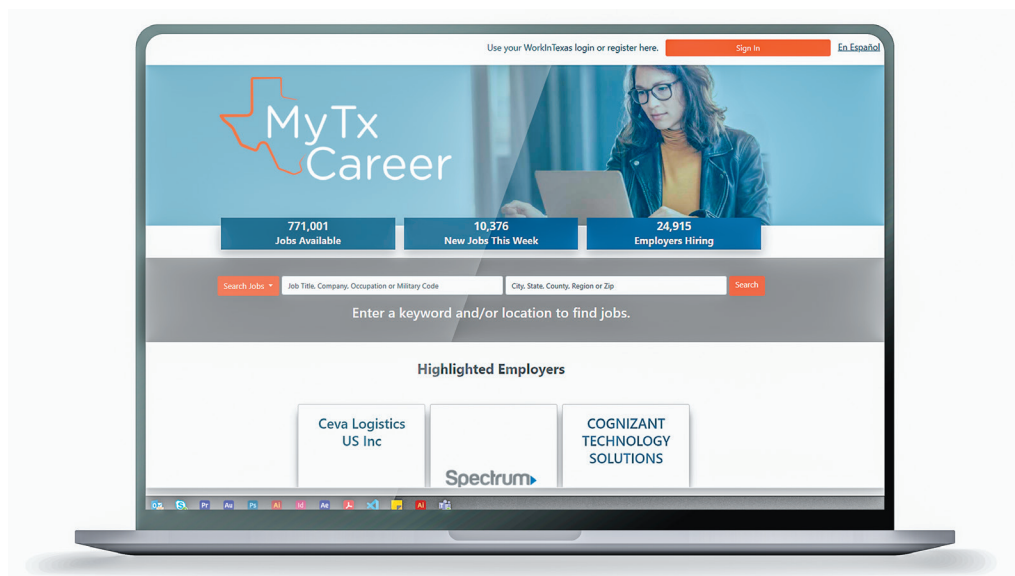
- State Board of Education member for District 11 (includes all of Parker, Hood and Somervell counties as well as parts of Tarrant, Johnson and Dallas counties): In the Republican primary, incumbent Patricia "Pat" Hardy will face off against challenger Brandon Hall. There is only one Democrat candidate — Rayna Glasser.

- State representative for District 99 (Tarrant County): Incumbent Charlie Geren will face challenger Jack Reynolds in this race for the Republican primary election. According to the Texas

Secretary of State's website, Mimi Coffey is running for this seat in the Democratic primary.

- Tarrant County Tax Assessor-Collector: Incumbent Wendy Burgess will face challenger Rick Barnes in Republican primary. According to the Secretary of State's website, KC Chowdhury is the only Democrat candidate running for this position.

- Tarrant County Sheriff: Incumbent Bill Waybourn is the only candidate in the Republican primary. According to the Secretary of State's website, Patrick Moses and Indya Murray will be on the ballot in the Democratic primary.



Texas Workforce Commission launches new app

STAFF REPORTS

The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) has launched a new mobile app to help Texans explore potential career pathways and discover step-by-step resources to achieve their goals. With the launch of MyTXCareer app, job seekers can now find personalized occupation matches and recommended career paths based on their skills, interests and experience.

"The continued growth of Texas' record-breaking economy creates opportunities for Texans to advance their careers," said TWC Chairman Bryan Daniel in a press release. "The MyTXCareer app will be an important tool for Texans to discover potential career paths and match to a job opportunity with a Texas employer."

MyTXCareer app is a free resource designed to guide users to potential careers

through three easy steps: browse occupations, explore pathways, and get support. While browsing occupations, users can view the average salary for the position, job demand, and position descriptions.

"The MyTXCareer app will help Texans unlock potential opportunities and discover career pathways in high-demand industries," said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Alberto Treviño III in a press release. "I encourage job seekers and people wanting a career change to download the app and begin to build the skills needed for a new career in the Lone Star State."

Users can take a career personality quiz and add their career goals, education, work experience and skills. The app provides several possible career paths and information about resources and train-

ing. Users can request more information, which will connect them with their local Workforce Solutions office and TWC's TX Credential Connect team.

"The launch of MyTXCareer app is great news for Texas employers because it helps them hire people who are passionate about what they do in the best state in the nation," said TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Joe Esparza in a press release. "This is one of the many innovative services TWC provides to make sure skilled workers are available for Texas employers who need them."

MyTXCareer is available for download in the App Store and on Google Play for iOS and Android mobile phones. The application is provided free to users and does not include advertising or in-app purchases.

Cook, Walker on Angelo State University fall 2023 Dean's List

STAFF REPORTS

SAN ANGELO — Two area students are among those on Angelo State University's Dean's List for the 2023 fall semester.

To be eligible for the ASU Dean's List, full-time undergraduate students must maintain a 3.25 or better grade point average on a 4.0 scale.

Parker Cook of Paradise, majoring in finance, and Katelyn Walker of Poolville, an English major, each earned a spot on the list.

Hayes of Azle named to Dean's List at Mississippi College

STAFF REPORTS

CLINTON, MISSISSIPPI — Azle resident Brelyn Hayes has earned a spot on the Fall 2023 Dean's List at Mississippi College.

The Mississippi College

Office of Academic Affairs releases the dean's list after the close of fall and spring semesters each academic year. To be eligible for the Dean's List, a student must maintain a 3.5 grade point

average, based on a 4.0 system. The student must take a full course load of at least 12 semester hours of undergraduate credit with all academic courses impacting their grade point average.

Padigimus recognized on Utah Tech University Dean's List

STAFF REPORTS

ST. GEORGE, UTAH — Kenton Padigimus of Azle, was among the 1,489 students honored on the Dean's List for the Fall 2023 semester at Utah Tech University.

Students at Utah Tech

University demonstrated remarkable academic performance during the Fall 2023 semester, with nearly 12 percent earning Dean's List recognition. A total of 1,489 students were included on the Dean's List, reflecting

their strong commitment to academics. To qualify, students had to achieve a semester GPA of 3.5 to 3.89 as well as complete at least 15 credits.

Menchaca named to Fall 2023 University of Dallas Dean's List

STAFF REPORTS

IRVING — Ariana Menchaca of Springtown was named to the fall 2023 dean's list at the University of Dallas for earning a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Menchaca is a sophomore politics major.

Undergraduate students at the University of Dallas must complete two years of fundamental coursework in the humanities, sciences,

politics, mathematics and fine arts. Students must also complete coursework in Ancient Greek, French, German, Italian, Latin or Spanish.

Now Hiring Part-time Photographer



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

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LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

To satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale to be held at Valley Rose RV Park and Storage, 1515 E. Highway 199 Springtown, TX 76082 at 10:30 AM on 2/09/24. Property to be sold to the highest bidder for CASH. Property includes contents of the following tenants, Tracy Shills household items, Scott Lewis household items, Mark Parker household items.

Notice of Public Sale

Public boat sale to satisfy storage lien. Up for bids LEGALLY BELONGING TO: Kathy M. Springfield, 1995 Glastron, TX # 7733HM, VIN#GLAM9498K495 The Sale Will Be Held on February 3rd. 12:00 PM, Lakeview Marina, 6600 Peden Rd Fort Worth, Texas 76179 Call Rodney for details 817-528-3471. Terms are cash/cashier's check at time of sale.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

Project No.: 537-063A

Owner: Walnut Creek Special Utility District Separate sealed bids for Water System Improvements, 500,000 Gallon Welded Steel Ground Storage Tank and an Alternate Bid for a 300,000 Gallon Welded Steel Ground Storage Tank located at the F.M. 51 Booster Pump Station Site will be received by the Walnut Creek Special Utility District at the District Office, 1155 Highway 199 West, P.O. Box 657, Springtown, Texas 76082, until 11:00 o'clock A.M. Local Time, Friday, February 9, 2024, and then publicly opened and read aloud at 1:00 o'clock P.M. on Friday, February 9, 2024. The Information for Bidders, Form of Bid, Form of Contract, Plans, Specifications and Form of Bid Bond, Performance and Payment Bonds and other contract documents may be examined at the following: E.S. & C.M., Inc. 8241 Mid-Cities Blvd., Ste. 100 North Richland Hills, Texas 76182 Office Telephone (817) 268-0408 Copies may be obtained at the office of E.S. & C.M., Inc., 8241 Mid-Cities Blvd., Suite 100, North Richland Hills, Texas 76182 upon payment of \$150.00 for each set. This payment is nonrefundable. The Owner reserves the right to waive any informality or to reject any or all bids. Each bidder must deposit with his bid, security in the amount, form and subject to the conditions provided in the Information for Bidders. No bidder may withdraw his bid within 60 (sixty) days after the actual date of opening thereof.

TRI-COUNTY REPORTER
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CCC
FROM PAGE A1

for the project in November and began laying the foundation in January.

"The new addition will not only replace our worn existing equipment but expand our capacity to store fresh

and frozen foods," Cooper said in an email to the Tri-County Reporter. "Our staff and volunteers currently unload all perishable pallets by hand into our coolers and freezers. The new addition will have pallet-width doors enabling us to roll entire pallets inside. The ability to roll a pallet of refrigerated

or frozen items directly into the new cooler versus hand unloading them will be a tremendous blessing to our staff and volunteers. The \$1 million campaign will allow CCC to better utilize the space created in our warehouse by phases one and two, as well as add some exterior items, including a

covered awning and widened drive-through lane. The Azle community came together over 20 years ago to fund the building of the existing food pantry. As we plan for CCC's next 20 years, we hope this incredible community will once again support our mission and see us through this exciting expansion."



The construction site from the back of the property.

ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER



Water bottles cap the rebar at the recently started site of the expansion.



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Milo Bazan working hard with a smile in one of the CCC's current freezers.

The planned 3,800 square-foot cooler and freezer space is the second part of a three-phase expansion which began with the addition of the Porch Resale Shoppe in 2021. The projects have been funded by local donors and revenue from the resale store. The freezer and cooler expansion is expected to be completed by June or July 2024, and the organization hopes to raise funds for the next phase by the end of the year. The in-kind gift of The Porch was valued at approximately \$1 million. The new cooler and freezer is approximately \$1.5 million, and the final phase of the expansion will be about \$1 million.

"I think it will definitely help us," Milo Bazan, a CCC board member and volunteer said. "Once expansion hits, there's no reason why we shouldn't have probably 2,000 families come by here. If you average it out to four people per family that tells you how many people are really hurting for food."

Bazan, who has been a volunteer for nearly four years, said without the efforts of Cooper, Assistant Director Bonnie Monninger, and the

center's donors, none of this could have been possible. The support and togetherness of the Azle community reminds Bazan of his 27 years in the military and was part of what inspired him to move here in 2006. Raising his four kids in Azle schools, he said he always saw the community push them to want to do better, which contributed to them now working in respected industries and pursuing master's degrees.

Bazan said there were initially some concerns about the cost of the project, but a local anonymous donor stepped up to the plate and made a big contribution.

"Y'all don't have anything to worry about," Bazan recalls the donor saying. "That really takes a big burden off of everybody's shoulders. You see the age of the building. We need to utilize it better and it's only going to be through remodeling and expanding it."

The CCC expects to see a continuing source of support as The Porch opens back up this week. The Porch will now operate from Monday to Friday under new hours.

LEGAL NOTICE
Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Retail Dealer's On-Premise License by MD Real Estate Development LLC dba Rodeo 51, to be located at 4319 N FM 51 Weatherford, Parker, Texas. Officer of said corporation is Luis Mata Gonzalez, owner.

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LIBRARY

FROM PAGE A1

email to the Tri-County Reporter. “The books and other items we sell come from donations that community members make, which are considered a tax-deductible donation. Our donors are very generous, and we could not have these sales without them.”

McLane described how donated books that don't make it onto the library's shelves are saved up until they have amassed a few thousand. The library charged \$1 for hard cover books and 50 cents for paperbacks in order to keep them affordable.

“Books are meant to be read, so we are happy they can be enjoyed by someone new,” McLane said.

All the proceeds from the sale go to the Azle Library Trust, the 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that supports the library. The Azle Library Trust provides AML with funding to buy new books, digital resources, programing supplies and more.

McLane said sales in the past have brought in anywhere from \$1,200 to \$2,500. Within the latest sale's first 10 minutes, 90 people had already crammed into the tiny community room.

“When we tell book sale customers the sale benefits the library, many of them are generous enough to let us keep the change from their purchase,” McLane said.

Over the course of the two-day sale, the library may see visitors in the high hundreds at least. Packed ear-to-elbow, library guests had traveled from as far as Crowley to visit the sale and stock up on reading material.

“I woke up and scrolled Facebook and saw the book sale and decided to get in my car and drive because there aren't many book sales like this concentrated in one place,” said Grace, an avid reader who drove 45 minutes to the sale. “I think it might motivate people to read more and I see everyone taking their kids here, too. Maybe it's exposing new generations to reading actual books, not just Kindle and digital books and such. Kids' books are outrageously expensive at Target and any retail location, but I imagine for people who have children it's nice having brand name, nice stories to take home for their kids.”

With her 30-odd books, Grace joined the long, snaky line that circled the room's perimeter. Others, like Azle resident Marie Gallardo, confirmed Grace's theory.

“It's a good selection,” Gallardo said. “The prices are good even if it's a little hard to get around. I always look forward to library book sales and I come out every time there is one. Mainly I come out for my daughter. She has like a huge library. We get books for her, and I get some for me. But it's nice to know that I'll be able to find something I'll probably want to read and it's a great price, especially now a days.”

With everyone coming out for the good deals, conditions at the book sale became so crowded and cramped that



Library volunteers helped patrons check out baskets and baskets of books often for less than the price of a meal at Whataburger.

ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER



“The library is great,” Ginger Brandon said after collecting her fill of historical fiction, WWII dramas and mystery. “There are so many books to choose from. The library is a good place to stay most of the time.”

one elderly patron even fainted, prompting a visit from paramedics with the Azle Fire Department. After a brief checkup, the patron recovered and required no further assistance.

Several days earlier, on Jan. 9, the library catered to a strictly younger crowd with its second-ever Teen Gaming Night. Young people from around the Azle area flocked to the library in droves to compete head-to-head in Mario Kart and Super Smash Brothers.

On Jan 19, AML treated teens and adults to a chance to make their own felt cat crafts. With a \$500 yearly budget, Adult Activities Director Rebecca Buchanan said she has to be creative and resourceful with projects she offers; last Thursday that included letting patrons sew

their own simple, yet adorable feline felt creations.

“(The library is) fun; there's always something to do,” sisters Mackenzie and Laura Greenwood said. “It helps us learn things. I want to make it exactly like (the design in the instructions). (My favorite thing about the cat design) is that it kind of looks anime-ish.”

UPCOMING LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

- Let's Talk Azle communication class for adults, Jan. 25 at 6 p.m.
- Jigsaw Puzzle Exchange for adults, Jan. 27, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- First Adult Gaming Night for ages 18 to 30, Jan. 30, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- AARP Tax-Aide certified volunteers return to the library Feb. 1



Dozens of patrons at a time bustled through the community room's cramped quarters looking for books of all kinds.



The victor celebrates his win in an all-Pikachu round of Super Smash Bros.

ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER



Members of the Mosier and Squires families pose with their felt cat creations.



More cute felt cats.



The Greenwood family making their felt cat creations on Thursday evening.

ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

THE TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

DIVERSIONS

B

THURSDAY, January 25, 2024

Popcorn Players to debut “Til Beth Do Us Part” Jan. 26

Directors and cast speak about excitement for upcoming performance

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricityreporter.com

AZLE — The cast of “Til Beth Do Us Part” hopes its Azle audience has as much fun watching the show as they do performing it.

Described as a side-splitting comic romp about marriage, career-driven Suzannah Hayden needs a lot more help at home than what she’s getting from her husband. Though with the hiring of a maid, Beth Bailey, her problems only seem to grow.

Popcorn Players regular Cynthia Hall is excited to play the titular character of Beth for all the character’s faults and flaws.

“I’m not really the antagonist but I kind of am and

that’s really a fun thing to be able to do,” Hall said. “I haven’t really had that opportunity very often, trying to cause a rift, to wreak havoc in the family unit. That’s kind of fun. I like Beth. Beth is ambitious but hasn’t had a lot of breaks and she’s had to make their own way. So, she is a little bit of a social climber and a little bit of a back-stabber. She’s a fun character.”

Hall said she is most excited to deliver the outrageous kind of humor and performance the Popcorn Players Theater has become known for.

“Here’s what I tell people: ‘We do white trash Southern comedy and we do it well,’” Hall said with a smile. “I think it’s going to be a really funny

show. There’s a lot of stuff happening all the time. I’m looking forward to (the cast) really meshing and getting it right, you know, providing a really good show for the audience. It’s sad to say, but opening night is sometimes one of our roughest shows but as it goes on it takes on more of a life of its own.”

Hall praised the co-directors and cast for all the hard work they’ve put in to make the show possible. Co-director Rozanne Gann, 70, is a founding member of the theater and estimates she’s been involved in 75% of Popcorn Players productions in some form or fashion.

“This is an awesome cast,

PLEASE SEE BETH | B4



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

“Til Beth Do Us Part” plays on big emotions and big physical performances demonstrated here by Jerry Hall and Lauren Schillings.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF AZLE ISD

Michael Sain has been named the new athletic director in Azle. He will replace Becky Spurlock, who will retire in June after eight years with the district and 41 overall in education.

Sain named new athletic director in Azle

STAFF REPORTS

Michael Sain was named the new athletic director for the Azle Independent School District during a meeting of the district’s board of trustees Monday, Jan. 22.

Sain will replace Becky Spurlock, who plans to retire in June. Spurlock has been with the AISD for eight years and in education for 41.

Sain comes to Azle after having been the assistant athletic director in Prosper since March 2020. He is a third-generation educator and has worked in education for 18 years.

His experience ranges from middle school to high school in both boys and girls

programs in a multitude of sports. He has served in an administrative capacity at both the campus and district levels.

“It is hard for me to contain my excitement as I think about the wonderful opportunity that has been awarded to me to serve Azle ISD and the Azle community,” said Sain in a press release.

“I am thrilled that my family will get the chance to be a part of such an excellent school district that always puts students first in all that they do. The community can rest assured that the athletic department will continue to do the same as we continue to search for ways to ensure

our student-athletes are always getting the first-class experience they deserve.”

During his time in Prosper, a 6A school district (Azle is 5A), Sain helped oversee a sports program that enjoyed much success. The volleyball team reached the state semifinals this past season and won 76 matches in the past two years combined; the football team was 11-2 in 2023 and had 33 wins in his three seasons. Other sports, such as boys and girls soccer, baseball, boys and girls basketball and softball have enjoyed much success.

“I am proud to welcome coach Michael Sain and his family to Azle ISD,” Azle ISD

Superintendent Todd Smith said.

“Coach Sain comes to us with a strong background of various athletic roles and duties in fast-growth school districts. I look forward to his passion and enthusiasm, along with the vision and plans he has for our Azle athletic program.”

Sain’s hiring was met with positive reactions on social media. Also, several folks expressed their gratitude for the outgoing Spurlock.

“Welcome to Azle, Coach Sain! Becky, we are going to miss you. Thank you for everything you have done for

PLEASE SEE SAIN | B4

SPORTS

Roundup

Azle wrestlers have great success, Hornets third at state duals, Lady Hornets win elite tourney

RICK MAUCH

Special to the Tri-County Reporter

The Azle Hornets won three of four matches to take third in the Texas High School Wrestling Coaches Association State Dual Championships in Wichita Falls this past weekend. The tournament featured the top 16 teams in the state. Azle came in as the No. 6 seed.

After defeating Amarillo 37-30, the Hornets downed No. 3 Comal Peiper 54-18. They fell 57-12 in the semifinals to No. 1 Melissa and edged Midlothian 35-34 for third place.

In the final match the Hornets were behind 34-32. In the last match heavyweight (285 pounds) Devin Wingfield defeated his opponent to secure the win for the Hornets.

Other notable performances included Landin Evans (138 pounds) winning for the 100th time in his career. Also, Wyatt Hicks (126) and Chase Yancey (132) each went 4-0 in the tournament.

Prior to State Duals, the

PLEASE SEE ROUNDUP | B2



LAYTH TAYLOR | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

The Lady Hornets dropped a non-league game at home to Dallas Madison, 51-32, Jan. 17 before falling at home to Granbury 47-31 two days later. #25 Cheryl Grubbs led the scoring in both games with 14 and 10 points, respectively.



LAYTH TAYLOR | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

The Porcupines (14-9, 2-1 in District 8-4A) picked up a pair of league victories last week, winning 61-40 at Bridgeport and 69-36 at home against Castleberry. Senior Dayne Thompson goes for the basket while junior Dylan Crutchfield positions himself for a possible rebound.

New year, new games

THE ENJENIR

The Enjenir, from developer PeatyTurf, was released Dec. 18, 2023. It's a physics-based sandbox-building game with 'ragdoll' third-person controls.

The character movement is very similar to Human Fall Flat, another physics game.

The developers behind The Enjenir are actually civil engineers, both still working full-time 9-5 jobs while creating this game. It's currently offered as an Early Access game to help with playtesting, so they can spend their time adding features and mechanics.

Building in this game is called 'gridless,' meaning there is no 'snap' when you place a building element. You have the freedom to place it as accurately (or inaccurately) as you like. You'll build intricate structures and vehicles, and then have to operate them with your clumsy ragdoll character.

I've played the demo, and the building part is fun. You're putting down vari-

The Enjenir, Touch Your Eyes and Chants of Sennaar



GAME ON

By Jennifer Harrison

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

ous construction elements to complete the tasks, like building a fence, a water tower and a cart.

There're also tasks you need to perform by manipulating your Enjenir character. The game mechanics for moving the Enjenir around are really strange, but once you get the hang of the keyboard shortcuts, they give you quite a bit of flexibility. You can make him climb a tree, for example, which is something I could never do in Human Fall Flat. But so far it's not a simple system to learn.

The really interesting part of the game is the actual building of the structures. You're placing beams together and nailing them to each other, and making sure there's lots of bracing. You're graded by your efficient building skills, your speed, and how strong the structure is. You're free to create whatever you like (including a roller coaster), limited only by your own incompetence.

The game is in Early Access for at least 12 months while development continues to add a bit of narrative and



SCREENSHOT COURTESY PEATYTURF

The Enjenir: cross-eyed and clumsy, but determined to help.

story to the game. To be honest, I don't care about the story, I just want a fun game. Let's hope they spend more time on the gameplay, not the story.

For a free playable demo, check out the Steam page.

https://store.steampowered.com/app/1800940/The_Enjenir/

TOUCH YOUR EYES

It's hard to come up with new puzzle ideas, but Touch Your Eyes from WoW_Studio manages to find something nobody else has tried.

Touch Your Eyes is a simple 2-D puzzle made of circles.

The goal is to cover the gray dots with the white circles and one black circle. Each circle can be made to be inside or outside the other circles, and they can be rotated along the inside or outside of the circle.

From the Steam page for the game: "Touch Your Eyes

is a game born in the 2023 CiGA Game Jam. It is primarily a puzzle game with a gameplay style similar to pushing boxes, featuring multiple levels with special mechanics." CiGA Game Jam is an annual development convention in China. Every year people get together and brainstorm new game ideas, and then develop them in three days.

The game is not yet available for purchase. Download the free demo on SteamOS and try it out for yourself at https://store.steampowered.com/app/2681740/Touch_Your_Eyes/.

CHANTS OF SENNAAR

From the Steam page: "Legend says that one day, a traveler will reunite the Peoples of the Tower who are unable to communicate with each other. Observe, listen and decipher ancient languages in a fascinating universe inspired by the myth of

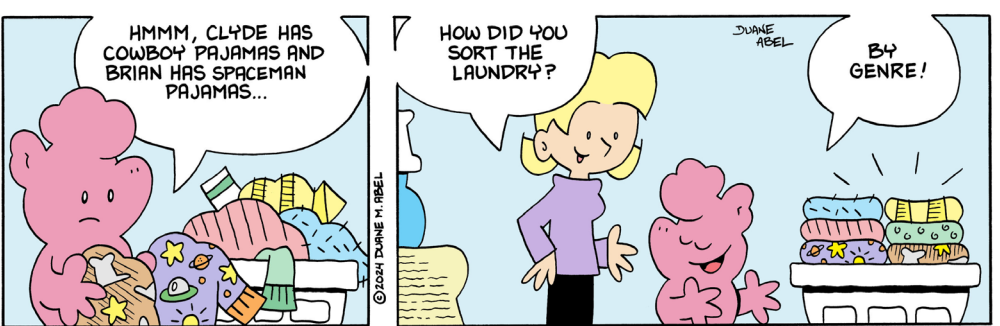
Babel."

You're a mysterious traveler who has arrived in a city full of enormous buildings with a minimalist color palette. During your exploration, you encounter carvings, inscriptions and writings that you won't understand. But as you continue to explore and get more information, you'll eventually be able to interpret what the beings are saying to you, and what the inscriptions say.

I really like the graphics in this game. The buildings and simple line art remind me of illustrations by Moebius (Jean Giraud), a French illustrator and cartoonist.

Chants of Sennaar is the latest from Rundisc. It's available on SteamOS for \$15.99, but you can check it out for free with their demo at https://store.steampowered.com/app/1931770/Chants_of_Sennaar/.

ZED by Duane Abel



Sudoku

JANUARY 18, 2024

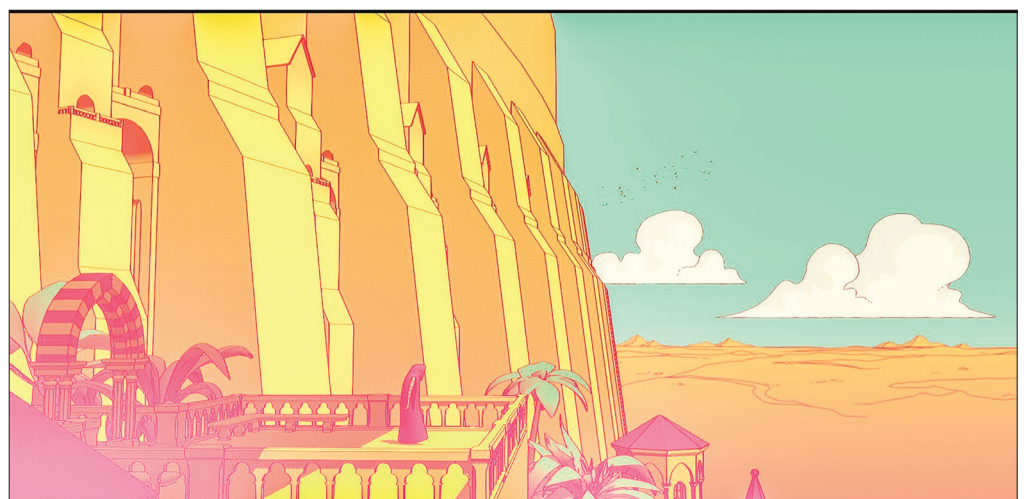
			6	7		8		
						3	1	6
	4							
6			8			2		
	8	5	7					
3		9						7
	9						4	
2		7	9		5			
		8	1					

Level: Intermediate



SCREENSHOT COURTESY WOW STUDIO

Move the circles around until all the gray dots are covered.



SCREENSHOT COURTESY RUNDISC

Chants of Sennaar is a game of interpretation through extrapolation — you're gaining context for each word, and continuing to learn the language as you interact with a different world.

Solution to last week's puzzle

JANUARY 11, 2024

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

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to dental hygiene.

LSOSF

--	--	--	--	--

Answer: Floss

CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to dental hygiene. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 17 = T)

A. 10 12 13 18 6 19 3
Clue: Dental technique

B. 17 13 8 17 13 8
Clue: Hard, calcified deposits

C. 17 9 19 3 11 1
Clue: Part of the mouth

D. 17 9 9 17 7 23 8 11 10 7
Clue: Cleaning device

BETH
FROM PAGE B1

very fun to work with and the script is very funny," Gann said. "Rehearsals have been great — like I said, this is a great cast. (I hope the audience walks away feeling) that they were entertained, had some laughs, and left their problems elsewhere!"

In the other director's chair is 22-year-old Emily Ball. Ball has performed with the Azle Arts Association since she was 13 and sits on its board of directors today. Her directorial debut was "Males Order Brides" in 2022 and this is her first time co-directing a production.

"I think the first time I directed was a lot of people around my age," Ball said. "This time I'm directing people that are older than me, so it's interesting to see the difference in how they see criti-

cism and the things you need to direct them on. Getting to know the people that founded this place makes me really feel like I want to be able to carry it on to show people eventually and tell them all the stories of what happened at Popcorn Players. It's an honor because there are so many people that have been through here and I think theater is such an important thing that I think it needs to carry on for generations."

Having been with the theater for much of her life, Ball has built great rapport with much of the cast and is quick to offer suggestions and clarification to help bring out the humor in any situation. Ball is excited to debut this production for its balance of exceptional quick wit and over-the-top slapstick.

"There's so much physicality to it which is the biggest thing I look for in shows," Ball said. "I think you can be

funny saying something but you're even funnier if you can add a movement to it."

Popcorn Players Theater is located at 1012 Southeast Parkway in Azle, and tickets are available in-person, online at www.azlearts.org, or by phone at 817-238-PLAY. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors and students and \$10 for the Sunday matinee. The show will run on Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2:30 p.m. for two weeks starting Jan. 26.

CAST

- Suzannah Hayden played by Amy Worthy
- Gibby Hayden played by Jerry Hall
- Margo James played by Lauren Schillings
- Beth Bailey played by Cynthia Hall
- Hank Russell played by Chris Pidgeon
- Celia Carmichael played by Carol Braden



"I'm looking forward to the audience reacting to the jokes because I think they're hilarious and I think each rehearsal something gets added that makes it funnier and funnier," Ball said.



Co-directors of "Til Beth Do Us Part" Emily Ball, Rozanne Gann and the cast enjoy rehearsals because of the upbeat atmosphere and camaraderie they've built together.

ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Azle School Menu Jan 29-Feb 02, 2024

BREAKFAST: PreK-4th Grade 7-12th Grade \$1.55 5-6th Grade FREE 2nd Meal \$2.00 Visitors/Employees \$2.75

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

PreK - 4th

BREAKFAST: Everyday - Assorted Fruits and Cereal, Juice, White or Chocolate Milk, Graham Crackers, Toast
Mon Dutch Waffle, Pears Diced **Tues** Pancake Sausage Breakfast Sandwich, Orange Juice Pineapples **Weds** Pancakes, Orange Juice, Oranges **Thurs** Biscuit with Peppered Gravy, Apple Sauce, Orange Juice **Fri** Breakfast Pizza, Apple, Orange Juice

LUNCH: Everyday - Variety of milk. Your choice of 1 entree & 1 fruit or juice
Mon Chicken Nuggets w/ Roll, Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich w/ String Oranges, Pears Diced, Green beans, Mashed Potatoes, Peppered Gravy **Tues** Hamburger, Mini Corn Dogs, Apple, Peaches, Mixed Veggies **Weds** Italian Sub, Spaghetti w/ Meatsauce, Breadstick, Oranges, Pineapples, Steamed Broccoli **Thurs** Meatball Sub, Popcorn Chicken Bowl w/ Roll, Apple Sauce, Bananas, Steamed Carrots Peppered Gravy **Fri** Cheese Pizza Fish Sticks w/ Roll, Pepperoni Pizza, Apple, Mixed Fruit, Crinkle Fries, Pinto beans

GRADES 5TH - 8TH

BREAKFAST: Everyday - Assorted Fruits and Cereal, Juice, White or Chocolate Milk, Yogurt w/Granola
Mon Dutch Waffle, Pears Diced, Salsa, Mild **Tues** Pancake Sausage Breakfast Sandwich, **Weds** Pancakes, Oranges **Thurs** Biscuit with Peppered Gravy, Apple Juice, Orange Juice **Fri** Breakfast Pizza, Apple, Apple Juice, Orange Juice

LUNCH: Everyday: Variety of milk. Your choice of 1 entree & 1 fruit or juice, rolls, crackers • Salad bar offered daily
Mon Breaded Chicken Sandwich, Chicken Nuggets w/ Roll Spicy Chicken Sandwich, Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich w/ String Cheese Oranges, Pears Diced, Peppered Gravy **Tues** Cheeseburger, Hamburger, Mini Corn Dogs, **Weds** Corn dog, Italian Sub, Spaghetti w/ Meatsauce Breadstick, **Thurs** Cheeseburger, Hamburger, Meatball Sub, Popcorn Chicken Bowl w/ Roll, Apple Sauce **Fri** Breaded Chicken Sandwich, Cheese Pizza, Fish Sticks w/ Roll, Pepperoni Pizza, Spicy Chicken Sandwich Apple, Pinto beans

HIGH SCHOOL

BREAKFAST: Everyday - Assorted Fruits and Cereal, Juice, White or Chocolate Milk, Yogurt w/Granola
Mon Breakfast on a stick, Apple Juice, Orange Juice, Pears Diced **Tues** Egg and Cheese on a Bun, Apple Juice, Orange Juice, Pineapples **Weds** Glazed Donut, Apple Juice, Oranges **Thurs** Breakfast Pizza, Apple, Apple Juice, Orange Juice **Fri** Egg and Cheese Taco, Bananas, Apple Juice, Orange Juice, FRESH SALSA

LUNCH: • Everyday: 1% unflavored or non fat chocolate milk & juice • Salad Bar
Mon Breaded Chicken Sandwich, Cheeseburger, Chicken Nuggets w/ Roll, Oranges, Pears Diced, **Tues** Hamburger, Mini Corn Dogs, Spicy Chicken Sandwich, Apple, Peaches, **Weds** Breaded Chicken Sandwich, Cheeseburger, Spaghetti w/ Meatsauce, Breadstick, Oranges, Pineapples, **Thurs** Hamburger, Popcorn Chicken Bowl w/ Roll, Spicy Chicken Sandwich, Apple Sauce, Bananas, Refried Beans, Tater Tots **Fri** Breaded Chicken Sandwich, Cheeseburger, Steak Fingers w/Roll, Mashed Potatoes Peppered Gravy

SPONSORED BY

SAID
FROM PAGE B1

Azle. I will miss you so much. Go Hornets," posted Crystal Renee Knight on Facebook. "We knew Spurlock from

Keller ISD and she will be greatly missed, but congrats on retirement! Welcome to the new AD in June!" wrote April Freeman.

"He is fantastic! He will be amazing for Azle," posted Prosper resident Stephanie Russell Stephens.

Sain graduated from Arkansas Tech University with a Bachelor of Arts in History Education in 2006 and earned his Master of Education Administration from Lamar University. He and his wife, Brandi, have four children.

SPRINGTOWN SCHOOL MENU
Jan 29 - Feb 2, 2024
PK through 12th Grade

BREAKFAST PRICES
 EC-12th Grade \$1.75
 EC-12th Reduced \$0.30
 Adult \$2.25

LUNCH PRICES
 PK-4th Grade \$3.00
 5th-8th Grade \$3.25
 High School \$3.00
 Reduced \$0.40
 Adult \$4.25

Students may prepay for their meals.

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

Mon Mini Pancakes, Applesauce Cup, **Tues** Chicken Biscuit, Sliced Peaches, **Weds** Eggstravaganza, Blueberries **Thurs** Breakfast Pizza, Apple Slices **Fri** Strawberry- Banana or Vanilla Yogurt, Banana

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

Mon Popcorn Chicken or Steakfingers, Roll, Mashed Potatoes, Fresh Veggies, Blueberries or Orange **Tues** Bosco Sticks or Chicken Fried Steak Sandwich, Steamed Broccoli, Fresh Veggies, Apple Slices or Watermelon Craisins **Weds** Chicken & Waffles, Tator Tots, Fresh Veggies, Apple or Sliced Pears **Thurs** Beef Enchilada Bake or Corn Dog, Roll, Ranchero Beans. Fresh Veggies **Fri** Pepperoni Pizza, Chicken Fried Steak Sandwich or Baked Potato Basket, French Fries, Fresh Veggies

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

Mon Breakfast for Lunch Eggstravaganza, Chicken or Sausage Biscuit, Hash Browns, Fresh Veggies **Tues** Mac & Cheese or Salisbury Steak, Roll, Mashed Potatoes Fresh Veggies, Apple, Sliced Pears **Weds** Cheeseburger or Hamburger, Tator Tots, Fresh Veggies, Apple Slices, Pineapples **Thurs** Beef Enchilada Bake or Corn Dog Sweet & Sour Pork Rice Bowl, Roll, Ranchero Beans, Fresh Veggies **Fri** Pepperoni Pizza or Baked Potato Basket, Roasted Broccoli, Fresh Veggies, Strawberries or Sliced Peaches

This menu is sponsored by ...

ONLINE

\$40 FOR ONE YEAR

817-270-3340
 TriCountyReporter.com

Azle Dental Care
 "Complete Dental Care for the Entire Family"
www.SmileGreat.com

Brooke Porter, D.D.S. 912 Boyd Rd., Azle • 817-444-1763

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

Ad Classifications

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

RATES

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

Over 16 words, add 20 cents per word

Extras such as Bold, Center & Border are available for a small fee

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

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CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINE:
1:00 PM FRIDAY

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



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

Nobody does it better!

006 Asphalt Paving

BYRUM CONSTRUCTION
Asphalt and Concrete Paving
 Driveways • Parking Lots
 Asphalt Repairs & Sealcoating
 Asphalt Millings • Gravel

Bruce Byrum, Azle, TX **817-690-2429**

032 For Sale

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

039 Help Wanted

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

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

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

Need to sell your ATV?
Call today and ask about our \$29.95 3-MONTH SPECIAL!

The Tri-County Reporter
 817-270-3340

019 Cement Work

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

817-271-4541

Piano with bench & music. \$450
817-454-3798

SILVER DOLLAR CUSTOMS HELP WANTED

2 Mechanics needed and 2 Body Technicians Experience a must and tools a plus! Mechanics We work on all types of vehicles; we specialize in classics. From full restorations, modifications, rebuilds and upgrades, maintenance, and repairs but not limited to. Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm

Occasional Saturday Body Shop Technicians Metal work, fabrications, welding, body working, sanding, grinding, and sand blasting. Hours: Monday - Friday 6:00am to 2:30pm Occasional Saturday Pay Negotiable Contact: Elizabeth @ 817-752-2165 or Come by: 408 Commerce St Azle, Tx 76020

Eagle Crest VILLA SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY

FT PCA

10p-6a pm shift. Looking for passionate and reliable caregivers for our Senior Living. Full benefits: Health, Life, Dental, PTO and 401k.

Come apply in person 113 Denver Trail, Azle. Or email resume to hsimpson@eaglecrestvilla.com

Find that Perfect Vehicle for you and your buddy in the 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**

Kiley Chesney Construction
Dirt & Concrete Work
 Driveways • House Slabs • Garages • Add-ons
 Small Land Clean-ups • Gravel Driveways

Kiley Chesney, Owner
 Springtown, TX • Mobile 817-846-6645

034 Garage & Estate Sales

SALE SALE SALE
 2023 gone, cleaning house, come buy.
 Needful Things
 463 Deer Butte St. Open 9am-? Closed Sunday & Monday.

Advertising Works!

020 Demolition

MCNEELY'S DEMOLITION & CLEAN UP SERVICE
We Create Vacancy

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

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

035 Garden/Mowing Service

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

021 Child Care

Need Childcare?
 Mon-Fri 7 AM - 6 PM
682-816-7753 TEXT

Chad's Tree Service

Trimming • Removals • Stump Grinding
 Systemic Feeding • Brush Chipping • Cable Bracing

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817-800-6059 CELL

Insured for your protection

FREE ESTIMATES

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S-1672

024 Electrician

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

036 Hauling

DORADO TRANSPORT LLC
 AZLE, TEXAS

We Haul: Auto, Power Sports, Equipment and Freight

817-789-2519
DoradoTransportLLC@Yahoo.com

026 Excavating

REED EXCAVATING

- SITE PREPARATION
- LOT CLEARING
- LEVELING
- FINAL GRADE
- LAND EROSION
- GRAVEL ROADS
- PARKING LOTS
- DEMOLITION
- STOCK TANKS

Dump Truck Hauling 817-919-3696

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

Save a Shelter Animal. Find your forever Friend

SUBSCRIPTION SPECIAL!

13 Months for the Price of 12

Circle your choice, clip and mail with check to:

The Tri-County Reporter
 321 West Main Street, Azle, TX 76020

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 County _____ Daytime ph. _____
 Email _____

1 Year Subscription \$50.00
 IN-COUNTY
 Tarrant, Parker & Wise only

Check one: \$70.00
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 With in Texas

\$40.00
 ONLINE ONLY
 View an online replica of the paper without receiving a printed copy


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

817-270-3340

Deadline:
1:00 PM FRIDAY

Classifieds

039 Help Wanted 080 Lots/Acreage 089 Wanted to Rent




KARL KLEMENT

No Positions Available at This Time

Karl Klement Properties, Inc.

No Positions Available at This Time



No Positions Available at This Time

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

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

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

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

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.

082 RV's for Rent

Nice 1BR RV in adult RV park. Great for older person on limited income. Starts at \$650/mo. All Bills Paid. Heritage RV Park 817-444-3760.

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 Darla.

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.
1836 CORAL RD
3-1-1 \$1,295.MO. \$800 DEP.
Gene Thompson & Associates
817-246-4646 gtax.com

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE

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

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



040 Home Improvement

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

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

057 Pets/Livestock

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

HORSE SALE
February 2nd, 2024
Tack Sale Begins at 6:00 PM
Horses Follow
Stephenville Cattle Co.
Highway 281 North • Stephenville, TX
Troy 254-967-1950 • Barn 254-968-4844

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.

Master Seal
BBB Accredited Business



Kevin's Handyman Services

40 Years Experience

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

Springtown and Surrounding Areas
231-445-1221

062 Plumbing

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

066 Roofing

Miles Roofing

- Insurance Claim Specialists;
- Free Estimates

817-797-3420

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

068 Storage

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

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

Ash Creek Storage

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

Devin's Handyman Service

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

WINTER SPECIAL 20% OFF with this ad!



Call Devin at 817-629-9608

069 Sand/Gravel

HALL'S SAND, DIRT & GRAVEL

Quality Family Business Since 1938

CALL Cliff Hall
(817) 221-2681

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

079 Welding



SOLID STEEL SOLUTIONS

- Metal Buildings
- Steel Components
- Welding Supplies
- Concrete Supplies
- Fabrication Supplies
- Pipe Fencing
- 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

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.

049 Masonry/Stonework

Silva Masonry, L.L.C. AZLE, TX

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

All Types Stone & Brick Work Free New Construction • Remodels Estimates
817-308-6512
email alvarogsilva@verizon.net

079 Welding

WDC WELD-DONE CONSTRUCTION LTD.

Metal Building Erectors

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

1220 E. Hwy. 199 • Springtown
817-220-2150
www.weld-done.net

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

088 Rent Unfurnished

3 Bdrm, 2 Bath, brick home, one acre, 1 car garage, all electric. \$1,500/mo, \$1,500/dep. Pet deposit. 817-965-1007

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

Cozart METAL BUILDING SYSTEMS

Fabrication and erection of quality metal buildings at reasonable prices, any size - any design
817-237-2282
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Metal Building Specialist

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

Compare Pricing
NO JOB TOO SMALL

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

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

052 Movers

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

Rescue your Ballerina from the Shelter and give her a Furever Home




SELL IT IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!

Advertising Works!

GENE THOMPSON & ASSOCIATES HOMES and MOBILE HOMES FOR RENT
gtax.com
817-246-4646

MOVING SALE

Raise some extra money through the Classifieds to help with that move.
16 words for only \$10
TRI-COUNTY REPORTER
817-270-3340
Hometown Paper!



Raise some extra money through the Classifieds. Have a Yard Sale.
16 words for only \$10
TRI-COUNTY REPORTER
817-270-3340
Hometown Paper!

Advertising Works!

817-270-3340

Deadline:
1:00 PM FRIDAY

Classifieds



TEXAS STATEWIDE CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING NETWORK
TexSCAN Week of Jan. 21-27, 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.

AUCTIONS

Emory Home Auction - Emory, TX: 269 Rs County Road 3346, 3BR 2.5BA 2,118+/-SF lake home on 0.74+/-AC w/attached 2-car garage. Open to the public 1-4 p.m., Sun., Jan. 28 & Feb. 11. Bid Online Feb. 19 - 21 at auctionnetwork.com. 800-801-8003, williamsauction.com/TXHomes.

Gilmer Home Auction - Gilmer, TX: 105 Oasis Street, 4BR 3BA 2,438+/-SF home on 0.41+/-AC. Open to the public 1-4 p.m., Sun., Feb. 11. Bid Online Feb. 19 - 21 at auctionnetwork.com. 800-801-8003, williamsauction.com/TXHomes.

CELLULAR PHONE SERVICE

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

ENERGY

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.

Texas Press Statewide Classified Network
221 Participating Texas Newspapers • Regional Ads
Start At \$250 • Email ads@texaspress.com

NOTICE: While most advertisers are reputable, we cannot guarantee products or services advertised. We urge readers to use caution and when in doubt, contact the Texas Attorney General at 800-621-0508 or the Federal Trade Commission at 877-FTC-HELP. The FTC web site is www.ftc.gov/bizop.

LIVESTOCK & PETS

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)

MEDICAL

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

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

OIL & GAS RIGHTS

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

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.

Need To Fill The Piggy Bank?



Put Your Ad in Our Classified Section Today!

TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Your local paper!

817-270-3340

321 W. Main St. Azle

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
Copyright 2024 by Orbison Bros.

ACROSS

- TXism: "if he's ___ he'll bark"
- TXism: "mean ___ old range cow"
- TXism: "chief cook and bottle washer"
- TXism: "wolves clothes"
- TXism: "wedding cake layer"
- TXism: "Gulf steering wheel"
- TXism: "coyote cry"
- TXism: "in Gray County, near Pampa"
- TXism: "cracker craver"
- TXism: "Texas ___ (oil)"
- TXism: "NAFTA is a free ___ agreement"
- TXism: "many Texas roads were early stagecoach"
- TXism: "ex-Cowboy White (init.)"
- TXism: "Robby Benson film: ___ to Billie Joe"
- TXism: "holiest city in Islam"
- TXism: "city on north side of Galveston Bay"
- TXism: "TX Harper of 'Silkwood'"
- TXism: "TX Bush: 'The liberation of Kuwait ___ begun'"
- TXism: "call ___ day"
- TXism: "___ chewed up and spit out"
- TXism: "not needed"
- TXism: "___ buster" (farmer)
- TXism: "Gail Borden invented process for ___ milk"
- TXism: "ex-Cowboy Tony (init.)"
- TXism: "playing with a ___ deck" (unlucky)
- TXism: "TX Sam Johnson was a POW here, for short"
- TXism: "driving without a seat belt is ___ in Texas"
- TXism: "in Palestine: '___ Trails Celebration'"
- TXism: "pledge part: 'Texas, ___ indivisible'"
- TXism: "guests of Gambill Goose Refuge"
- TXism: "in Super Bowl XXX it was 27-17"
- TXism: "___ me a bill of goods"
- TXism: "blister ___ (handle)"
- TXism: "'Fighting Irish' school (abbr.)"
- TXism: "honor. TX Ranger: Dr. Edward ___ (father of H-bomb)"
- TXism: "___ that like a duck needs an umbrella"
- TXism: "actor Brand who was TX Ranger Reese Bennett on 'Laredo'"
- TXism: "TX Roger Miller awards"
- TXism: "TX Henry in the Bill Clinton administration"
- TXism: "this Ames was 'Mingo' (init.)"
- TXism: "Spurs & Mavs org."
- TXism: "'quick to pull a cork'"

DOWN

- TXism: "pickup rubber"
- TXism: "between Lamar & Hopkins Counties"
- TXism: "he'd walk himself ___ a revolving door"
- TXism: "ex-Cowboy offensive coach Hudson"
- TXism: "TX Buddy Holly hit: 'Not ___ Away'"
- TXism: "'little' in Mexico"
- TXism: "antique autos"
- TXism: "historic '___ Houston House' in Independence, TX"
- TXism: "'couldn't ___ drum' (loser)"
- TXism: "___ water" (trouble)
- TXism: "shish kebob prong"
- TXism: "get your nest ___" (be still)
- TXism: "TX actress Vinson film: 'The Thin Man ___ Home' (1945)"
- TXism: "noted film director, Otto (init.)"

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THURSDAY, January 25, 2024

How seniors can get their balance back



METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Balance issues can pose a serious threat to individual health. When a person experiences issues with their balance, they may experience dizziness, lightheadedness and feel as if a room is spinning. Each of those factors can increase the risk for potentially harmful falls.

Seniors may not have the market cornered on balance issues, but the National Institute on Aging notes that many older adults experience such problems. The NIA also notes that people are more likely to have balance problems as they grow older. A number of variables can contribute to balance problems, including medications, health conditions like heart disease and vision problems, and alcohol consumption. The NIA notes that the remedy to balance issues may depend on what's causing them, though some exercises that require individuals to move their heads and bodies in a certain

way can help treat some balance disorders. A physical therapist or another professional with an understanding of the relationship between balance and various systems in the body also may be able to help.

When a specific cause, such as hypertension or low blood pressure, is identified, health care teams may be able to recommend various approaches to help seniors get their balance back.

HYPERTENSION

A 2015 study published in The Journal of Physical Therapy Science found that hypertension, also known as high blood pressure, can negatively affect balance. The study found that this occurs because hypertension damages the large arteries and decreases microcirculation in specific functional areas, ultimately resulting in impairment that reduces a person's ability to maintain a stable

PLEASE SEE **BALANCE** | C2

How to get kids more engaged in their dental health

METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Dental health should be a priority at any age, and is especially important for children. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says more than half of children between the ages of six and eight have had a cavity in at least one of their primary teeth. Also, more than half of adolescents aged 12 to 19 have had a cavity in at least one permanent tooth. Cavities and other oral health

conditions, such as periodontal diseases, are largely preventable with proper oral hygiene.

Parents know that getting children – especially young ones – to care for their teeth in the correct manner may require some help and then reinforcement throughout the developmental years. However, there are ways to make dental care a more engaging activity for youngsters.

USE PLAQUE-DISCLOSING TABLETS

Show children just where they may need to direct more brushing effort with plaque-disclosing tablets. These tablets use food-grade coloring in them, which sticks to areas with plaque accumulation. After chewing the tablets and the child smiles, he or she will see the spots where efforts need to be ramped up.

PLEASE SEE **DENTAL** | C2



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Did you know?

The hormone cortisol can affect individuals' vulnerability to heart disease. According to the University of Rochester Medical Center, cortisol is released as part of the human body's natural response to stress. Though cortisol is not inherently harmful, the URM reports that studies have suggested high levels of cortisol resulting from long-term stress can increase blood cholesterol, triglycerides, blood sugar, and blood pressure. Such increases elevate individuals' risk for heart disease. Various studies have found that acute stress can have a positive impact, providing motivation to accomplish goals and overcome daily challenges. However, individuals with chronic stress are urged to speak with their physicians so they can avoid the adverse outcomes, including heart disease, that can develop when individuals have high levels of cortisol related to long-term stress.



DENTAL
FROM PAGE C1

This can be a fun lesson as children will likely enjoy seeing their teeth covered in the tablet color.

FLAVORED TOOTHPASTES AND MOUTHWASHES

Mint reigns supreme in oral health products as the dominant flavor, but not all children are enamored with that flavor. Most oral care products geared toward the younger set come in different flavors like bubble gum and berry. Kids can take active roles in their oral health by choosing the flavored products they prefer to use.

ELECTRONIC TOOTHBRUSHES

Children may enjoy using electronic toothbrushes

because they are easy to maneuver and can even seem like a toy. According to the Cleveland Clinic, electric toothbrushes generally are considered more effective at removing plaque and keeping teeth clean. That benefits kids and adults because it potentially means fewer painful visits with the dentist.

MAKE IT A COMPETITION

Children love games and healthy competition between peers and siblings. Offer a prize (non-sugary, of course) to children who brush and floss daily for the required times. Extra points can be awarded for every dental wellness check that comes back with a glowing report.

MAKE SMART FOOD CHOICES

Engage children in lessons and choices about which

foods are good for oral health and which may be poor. Sticky foods or those with a lot of sugary content should only be occasional treats. The entire family can work together to plan meals around foods that are good for the teeth and gums, such as crunchy veggies, leafy greens, high-calcium dairy products, and fatty fish.

PRACTICE ON PETS

Pets need clean teeth, too. Children may enjoy not only brushing their own teeth, but learning how to keep their companion animals' mouths healthy with brushing and care.

Various strategies can increase the chances that kids engage with oral hygiene practices early on.

BALANCE
FROM PAGE C1

posture. Taking steps to address hypertension, such as eating less sodium, maintaining a healthy weight and exercising regularly, may also lead to a reduction in balance problems related to the condition.

LOW BLOOD PRESSURE

Low blood pressure also can contribute to balance problems. According to the American Geriatrics Society, sudden low blood pressure,

which is also referred to as orthostatic hypotension, can manifest when sitting up and standing up. When it does, a person may experience dizziness or lightheadedness, which may last just a few seconds or several minutes. The AGS notes that dizziness related to low blood pressure also may appear within one to three minutes of sitting up or standing up, which means individuals may be vulnerable to falls even when they initially feel fine after sitting up or standing up. The NIA reports that individuals with low blood pressure can

manage the issue by drinking plenty of fluids, including water, and avoiding alcohol. In addition, pay careful attention to posture and movements and make a concerted effort to stand up slowly.

Balance issues are often linked to aging, but that does not mean seniors are helpless against symptoms like dizziness and lightheadedness that are linked to problems with balance. Working with a health care team and identifying potential causes of balance issues can help seniors improve their health outcomes.

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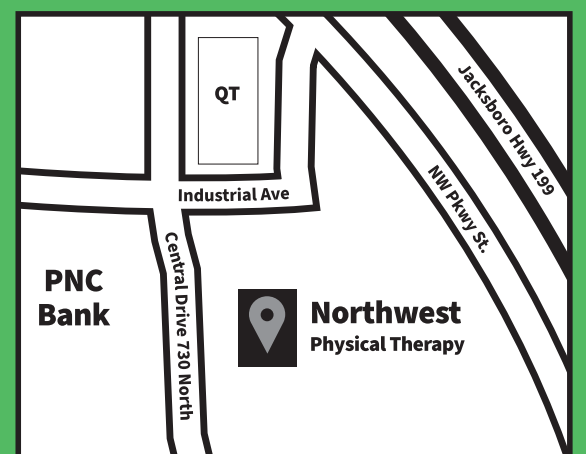


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Moderate-intensity activities that can improve overall health

METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Exercise is an important component of a healthy lifestyle. The current Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services indicates adults need 150 minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity each week. But what constitutes moderate-intensity physical activity?

Moderate-intensity physical activity gets the heart pumping, but only around one in five adults and teens get enough exercise to main-

tain good health, says the American Heart Association. It may be because people are having difficulty figuring out what constitutes moderate-intensity activity. Here is a more detailed explanation of the types of activities considered moderate-intensity.

- Walking very briskly (roughly four miles per hour)
- Heavy cleaning, like washing windows, vacuuming and mopping
- Mowing the lawn with a power mower
- Bicycling with light effort (10 to 12 miles per hour)
- Playing recreational

badminton

- Playing doubles tennis
 - Slow dancing
 - Shooting a basketball
 - Water aerobics
 - Playing volleyball
 - Heavy gardening
 - Painting and decorating
- Anything that doesn't increase heart rate and breathing speed will not count as moderate-intensity activity towards the recommended amount of activity. However, any exercise is better than no exercise at all. As long as an activity breaks up long periods of sitting still, doctors says it is still beneficial.

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Did you know?

Exercise is just as beneficial for older adults as it is for children and young adults. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, engaging in regular physical activity is among the most important steps older adults can take as they seek to safeguard their overall health. Such activity can prevent or delay many age-related health problems and strengthen muscles while improving balance, which can reduce risk for falls and injuries such as broken bones. The CDC notes that certain physical activities can be characterized as multicomponent activities, which means they combine aerobic activity, muscle strengthening and balance training. Examples of such activities include dancing, yoga, tai chi, gardening, and even sports participation.

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Notable senior health concerns

METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

The human body changes as it ages. While certain conditions are commonly associated with aging, some individuals may be surprised to learn of the more common health conditions that can affect seniors. The World Health Organization says one in six people will be 60 or older by 2030. With such a large portion of the population on the cusp of turning 60, it makes sense for individuals to familiarize themselves with the more notable issues affecting seniors.

COGNITIVE DECLINE

A certain degree of memory loss is a natural component of aging. Forgetting where you left your keys or experiencing difficulty putting a name to a face can be a random and frustrating occurrence. However, dementias, like Alzheimer's disease, are not a side effect of aging. As many as one in five seniors experiences mental health issues that are not associated with aging, and it helps to learn the early warning signs of dementia. Such recognition may compel individuals to seek treatment that can slow the progression of the disease.

OSTEOARTHRITIS

Aches and pains may come with aging, and often can be attributed to osteoarthritis, which is the most common form of arthritis, according to the Mayo Clinic. Osteoarthritis occurs when the protective cartilage that cushions the ends of bones wears away over time. It is progressive and cannot be reversed, but maintaining a healthy weight and staying active can help alleviate pain and improve joint function.

CATARACTS AND REFRACTIVE ERRORS

It should come as no surprise to most that the eyes change as the body ages. Refractive errors like nearsightedness, farsightedness, astigmatism, and presbyopia can make objects look blurry when viewed, says the National Eye Institute. Cataracts, which are a clouding of the eye's natural lens, affect about 20 percent of people age 65 and older, according to the American Geriatrics Society, while the National Eye Institute says half of all people over age 80 will get them. Cataract removal surgery and prescription eyeglasses can help.

TYPE 2 DIABETES

American Senior Communities estimates 25 percent of adults age 65 and older have type 2 diabetes. Unchecked diabetes can lead to a host of ailments, including vision problems, mobility issues, kidney damage, and increased risk for heart disease or stroke. Many people can manage type 2 diabetes with diet and exercise.

HEART DISEASE

The National Institute on Aging says adults age 65 and older are more likely than younger people to suffer from cardiovascular disease that affects the heart, blood vessels or both. Conditions like high blood pressure and high cholesterol need to be properly managed, and diet and exercise is important throughout life.

BALANCE ISSUES

Balance issues that can lead to falls are a major concern for seniors. According to HealthinAging.org, many things can adversely affect balance. These include nerve and brain problems, vision troubles, diabetes, arthritis, inner ear problems, and even dehydration. Dizziness or balance problems should be addressed.



Did you know?

Falls pose a significant threat to the senior population. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says someone age 65 or older suffers a fall every second of every day in the United States. This makes falls the leading cause of injury and injury death among this demographic. The National Council on Aging says one in four Americans fall each year. In fact, the NCOA notes that falls result in more than three million injuries treated in hospital emergency rooms each year, including more than 800,000 that lead to hospitalization. The financial toll of falls among older adults also is significant, and estimates suggest falls will cost \$101 billion annually by 2030. That cost is only expected to increase as the population ages.

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What seniors should know about prediabetes

METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Most seniors recognize that routine visits to their physicians are an important component of preventive health care. Annual physicals are important for everyone, but they're especially important for individuals 65 and older who may be more vulnerable to disease and various other health conditions than younger adults.

The National Institute on Aging reports that millions of individuals 65 and older have visited their physicians and learned they have a condition known as prediabetes. For some, the day they receive a prediabetes diagnosis also marks the first time they've heard of the condition. Since so many seniors are affected by prediabetes, it can behoove anyone to learn more about it.

WHAT IS PREDIABETES?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention notes that prediabetes is a serious health condition characterized by higher than normal blood sugar levels. When a person has prediabetes, his or her blood sugar levels are not yet high enough to indicate type 2 diabetes, but that could change if prediabetes patients do not make changes to prevent such a progression.

HOW COMMON IS PREDIABETES?

A 2023 study published in the journal Diabetes Care indicates that 464 million individuals across the globe had impaired glucose tolerance (IGT) and 298 million had impaired fasting glucose (IFG) in 2021. Each of those conditions are hallmarks of prediabetes, cases of which the study indicates are expected to rise significantly by 2045.

WHAT CAUSES PREDIABETES?

The CDC notes that when a person has prediabetes, the cells in his or her body do not respond normally to insulin, which is a hormone produced by the pancreas that enables blood sugar to enter cells, which then use it for energy. The pancreas then makes more insulin to get cells to respond, but eventually the pancreas cannot keep up, resulting in a rise in blood sugar.

DOES PREDIABETES PRODUCE SYMPTOMS?

Many people have prediabetes for years and do not know it. In fact, the CDC reports that more than 80 percent of the 98 million American adults who have prediabetes are unaware that they do.

HOW CAN I DETERMINE IF I HAVE PREDIABETES?

The sheer volume of people who have prediabetes but are

unaware that they do begs the question of what individuals can do to learn if they have the condition before they develop type 2 diabetes. Recognition of the risk factors for prediabetes is a good start. The CDC urges anyone who has any of the following risk factors to speak with their doctor about having their blood sugar tested:

- Being overweight
- Being 45 or older
- Having a parent, brother or sister with type 2 diabetes
- Being physically active less than three times per week
- A history of diabetes during pregnancy (gestational diabetes) or giving birth to a baby who weighed more than nine pounds
- Having polycystic ovary syndrome
- Being African American, Hispanic/Latino American, American Indian, or Pacific Islander. Some Asian Americans also are at greater risk for prediabetes.



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Did you know?


There's no one-size-fits-all strategy when it comes to calorie consumption, and that can contribute to some confusion as adults try to achieve and maintain a healthy weight. Dietary guidelines established by the United States Department of Health and Human Services promote nutrient-dense foods and beverages, but many people prefer to know how many calories they should consume each day. Though that's understandable, the quality of the calories consumed goes a long way toward determining how nutritious a diet is. The Cleveland Clinic notes that the DHHS guidelines have historically recommended adults 21 and over consume between 1,600 and 3,000 calories per day. However, staying within those parameters does not necessarily mean a person's diet is healthy. Though individuals should keep total calorie consumption in mind when planning their diets, it's equally important to recognize what else the DHHS has to say about diet, particularly foods to avoid. The DHHS recommends limiting consumption of foods and beverages that are high in added sugars, saturated fat and sodium. Limiting consumption of alcoholic beverages is another way to ensure your diet is working for you and not against you.



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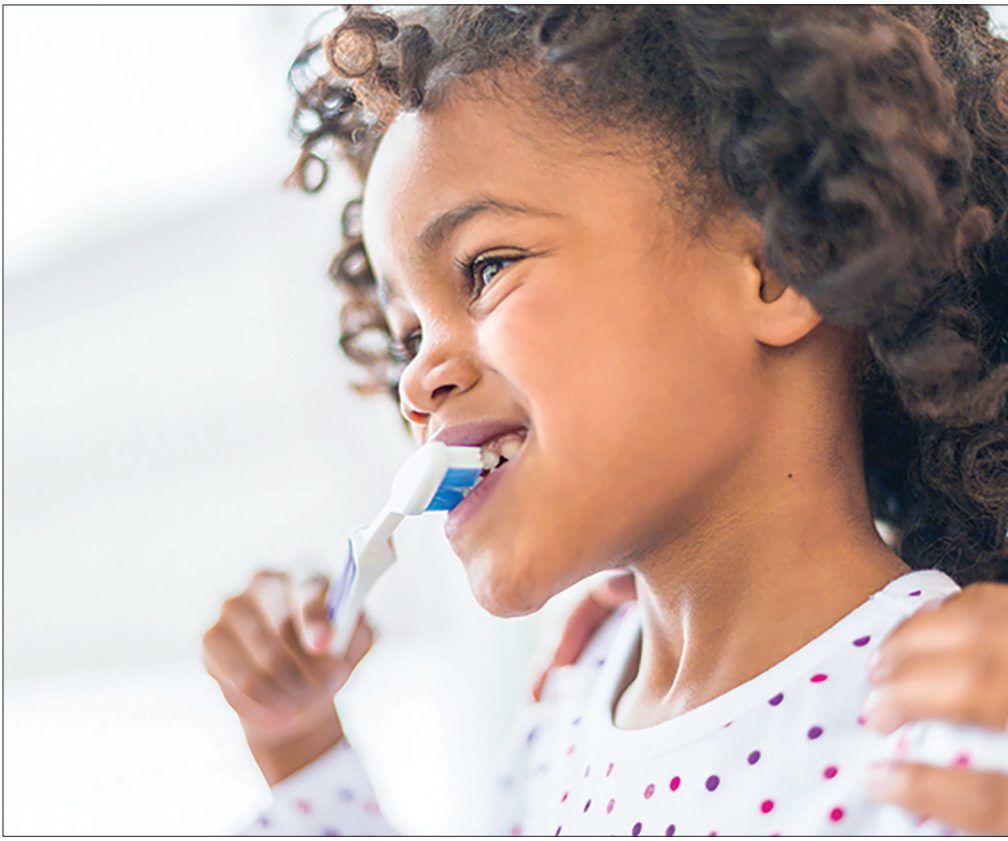
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The long-term effects of proper childhood dental care

METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Parents of young children are undoubtedly familiar with the morning and nighttime ritual of getting kids to brush their teeth. Kids may or may not embrace that routine no matter how hard parents try to relate the benefits of proper oral hygiene, but moms and dads can take solace in the knowledge that childhood dental care can have a positive and lasting effect on kids' overall health.

DENTAL CARE AND HEART DISEASE

Harvard Health Publishing notes that numerous studies have now shown that people with poor oral health exhibit higher rates of cardiovascular issues, including heart attack and stroke. The reason behind that remains something of a medical mystery, but some theorize that bacteria that infects gums and causes conditions such as gingivitis and periodontitis trigger an

immune response, inflammation, that then contributes to vascular damage.

DENTAL CARE AND ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

The National Institute on Aging reports that a recent analysis published in the Journal of Alzheimer's Disease noted the bacteria that cause gum disease are also linked with the development of Alzheimer's disease. That analysis found that older adults with signs of periodontitis, a condition marked by inflammation of tissue around the teeth that can cause loosening of the teeth, were more likely to develop Alzheimer's disease. Additional research is necessary before more concrete conclusions about the link between dental care and Alzheimer's disease can be made, but dental care that protects the gums could very well reduce individuals' risk for dementia.

DENTAL CARE AND CANCER RISK

Cancer is among the leading causes of death across the globe, affecting people from all walks of life. Researchers at Harvard's T.H. Chan School of Public Health discovered a link between dental care and cancer risk. In a letter published in the journal Gut in 2020, researchers reported that they found that people with a history of gum disease have a higher risk of stomach and esophageal cancers than people with no such history. And that risk was not exactly minimal, as researchers reported a 43 percent higher risk for esophageal cancer and a 52 percent higher risk for stomach cancer.

An emphasis on lifelong oral hygiene in childhood could pay lasting dividends, potentially reducing kids' risk for various diseases when they reach adulthood.

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3 questions to ask before beginning a new fitness regimen

METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Exercise is widely recognized as a vital component of a healthy lifestyle. Despite that, a recent analysis of data from the 2020 National Health Interview Survey found that more than two-thirds of individuals are not getting enough exercise. Though the survey was conducted amid the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, which suggests the overall figures might be somewhat lower than they might have been had the data been collected in a more typical year, just 28 percent of respondents were meeting the physical activity guidelines established by the

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Routine exercise is beneficial for people of all ages, and seniors are no exception. Aging adults who want to be more physically active but think they are among the 72 percent of individuals who aren't meeting CDC exercise guidelines can speak with their physicians and ask these three questions to ensure the transition to a less sedentary lifestyle goes smoothly.

1. SHOULD I GET A HEART CHECKUP?

Doctors may already be monitoring aging individu-

als' hearts even if they have not exhibited symptoms of heart problems in the past. However, it's best to discuss heart health in greater detail prior to beginning a new fitness regimen. In an interview with Penn Medicine, Neel Chokshi, MD, MBA, medical director of Penn Sports Cardiology and Fitness Program, noted the risk of heart attack or cardiac complications slightly increases when individuals begin to participate in a moderate or intense activity. So a physician might want to conduct a heart checkup in order to determine if a patient has an underlying heart condition.

2. WHICH TYPES OF ACTIVITIES SHOULD I LOOK TO?

A physician also can recommend certain activities depending on a person's age and medical background. Though exercise is beneficial for everyone, certain activities may not be. For example, AdventHealth notes that high-impact activities like jogging and jump rope may not be suited for individuals with arthritis. In addition, aging individuals with physical limitations that require them to use a wheelchair should not write off their ability to exercise, as physicians can recommend exercises for

patients with mobility issues as well.

3. SHOULD I TAKE EXTRA CAUTION WHILE ON MEDICATION?

Prescription medication use is another variable that must be taken into consideration before beginning a new exercise regimen. The CDC notes that roughly 84 percent of adults between the ages of 60 and 79 use one or more prescription medications. Each medication produces different effects, and a 2016 study published in the Methodist DeBakey Cardiovascular Journal noted that certain medications evoke an acute drop in blood

pressure, which can disturb balance and increase fall risk, while others actually facilitate greater improvements in health outcomes. That means the dynamic between medications and exercise is unique to each medication, which underscores the importance of speaking with a physician whenever a fitness regimen is started or tweaked and/or a new medication is prescribed.

These are just three of the questions seniors can ask when discussing exercise with their physicians. Seniors are urged to ask any additional questions they might have during such discussions.

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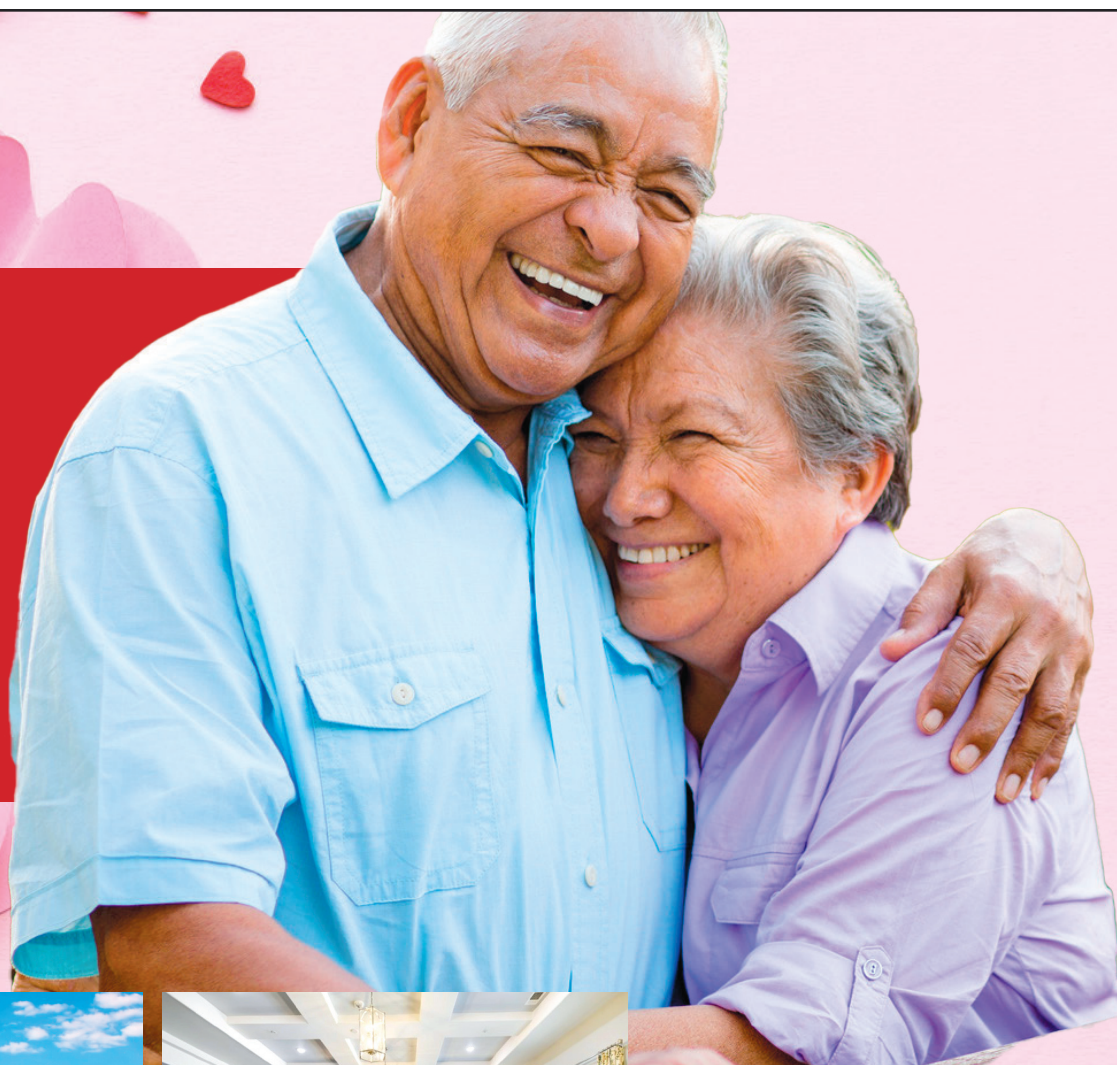


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