

# TRICOUNTY REPORTER

AZLE, SPRINGTOWN, AND SURROUNDING AREAS

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## Neighbor to Neighbors gets a new roof



PHOTO COURTESY OF SERVOLUTION NETWORK FACEBOOK PAGE

Rivera Roofing, Alvin Ord's Sandwich Shop, Hilltop Family Church and KL Concrete and Construction came together earlier this month to give Neighbor to Neighbors a new roof after being called to act by Servolution Network.

*Community businesses, organizations unite to give new roof to Springtown food pantry*

**MADELYN EDWARDS**

springtownreporter@tricityreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — By its nature, Springtown's local food pantry Neighbor to Neighbors gives help to folks who need groceries in the community.

But recently, the food pantry was on the receiving end of community aid.

Rivera Roofing, Alvin Ord's Sandwich Shop, Hilltop Family Church and KL Concrete and Construction came together earlier this month to give Neighbor to Neighbors a new roof after being called to act by Servolution Network.

"We were trying to get some businesses to jump in — no action," Servolution Executive Director Jason Malewiski

said in a Facebook video. "I texted Mistie (Rivera, owner of Rivera Roofing and Alvin Ord's), and probably three minutes later, (she) said, 'Hey, we got it.'"

When Rivera agreed to donate the labor toward a new roof, she thought Servolution had the correct number of shingles to cover the job. But she found out there were only a quarter of the shingles needed, so she and Malewiski had to raise funds for the rest of them. Hilltop Family Church came to their aid as did KL Concrete and Construction with a pledge of \$2,000 for materials. After getting all the shingles needed, the work was completed

PLEASE SEE **ROOF** | A10

## Local elections coming May 4

**MADELYN EDWARDS**

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*Check out which candidates will be on the ballot*

### AZLE CITY COUNCIL

Azle City Council Places 1, 2 and 5, which are currently held by members Derrick Nelson, Amy Estes and Rouel Rothenberger Jr. respectively. Only Place 2 is contested with incumbent Amy Estes facing off against law enforcement officer Jake Falcon in the May election.

### RENO CITY COUNCIL

In Reno, the city council members in Places 1, 3 and 5 are up for re-election, but only two places are contested. In Place 1, Hernando Herrera will face Reno Planning and Zoning Commission Chair Kevin Vandenberg in the May election. Another P&Z member, secretary Justin Williams,

filed for Place 5 and will run against incumbent council member Joy Jenkins, who was appointed to her position last year to fill the unexpired term left by former council member Jeff Davis.

Mayor Pro Tem Shelli Swift is running for Place 3 unopposed.

### SPRINGTOWN CITY COUNCIL

Three Springtown City Council members are up for re-election, and two will face opponents in May. David Martin is challenging Mayor Pro Tem Walter Roberson for Place 3, and Springtown Planning and Zoning Commission member Jessica Castro will run

SEE **ELECTIONS** | A3

## Azle man arrested after teen drug overdose

**ZACH FREEMAN**

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*Kaeden Farish of Azle arrested for murder after selling fentanyl-laced pills*

An Azle man has been arrested and charged with murder after selling fentanyl-laced pills to a Bedford teen.

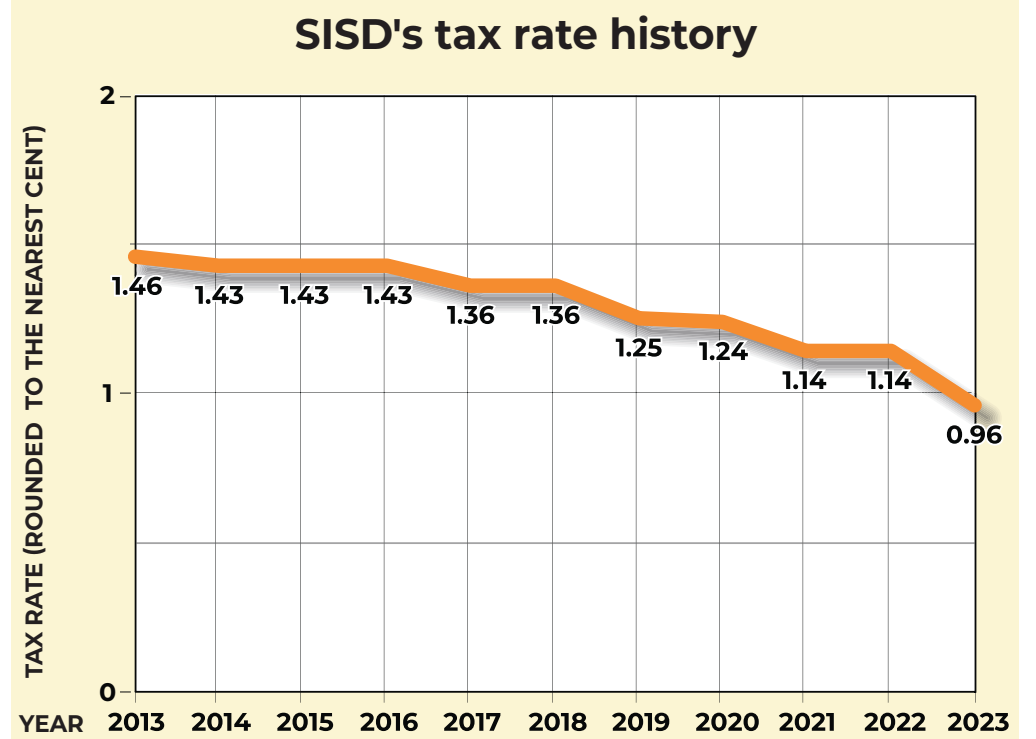
Kaeden Farish, a 19-year-old Azle resident, is among some of the first Texans to be charged with murder under House Bill 6 which took effect Sept. 1, 2023. The bill created a new penalty in instances where supplying fentanyl to an individual results in their death. Texas is just one of the more than 30 states that now have laws in place connecting narcotics

distribution and homicide. Police reported Farish sold fentanyl-laced pills to 17-year-old Bedford resident Dustin Anderson prior to his Jan. 21 overdose death. Farish was arrested Feb. 2 and charged with delivery of a controlled substance and murder. He is currently held in the Tarrant County Jail in lieu of \$175,000 bond. Farish was previously charged as a minor for deadly conduct-



COURTESY TCSO

PLEASE SEE **MURDER** | A6 **Kaeden Farish**



SOURCE: PARKER COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT

GRAPH CREATED BY MADELYN EDWARDS VIA NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS

In the past 10 years, Springtown ISD's tax rate has either stayed the same or decreased.

## Bond or bust

*'No' voters stand against property tax increases*

**MADELYN EDWARDS**

springtownreporter@tricityreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — Springtown resident Alex Rivera feels conflicted about Springtown Independent School District's previous bond proposal.

After he and his wife retired, the Riveras decided to sell their home in California to move to Texas where one of their daughters had previously settled. They lived in the Houston area for about

a year and eventually moved to a home in Springtown last spring. By fall 2023, Alex Rivera took a job working in the cafeteria at the intermediate school.

Rivera didn't move to Texas without concerns, the main one being expensive property taxes. His daughters — both the one who lives in Texas and is looking for a home to buy and the one who lives in California and wants to move to Texas — share that unease. "For me, it weighs heavily,"

Rivera said. "I own my home, so I don't have a mortgage. But to know that I'm going to be paying whatever it is, \$6,000, \$7,000, \$8,000, a year for the rest of my life and more depending on the initiatives that may get passed, it's a bit daunting."

Fear of more expensive property tax bills is what compelled Rivera to vote against SISD's bond proposal in November 2023, the latest

PLEASE SEE **BOND** | A9

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This article is part three of a series to find out why Springtown Independent School District's bond proposals have failed four times in a row. The Tri-County Reporter has interviewed supporters and opponents of the school bond and SISD's leaders as well as retrieved data on local property taxes. Part one delved into the history of SISD's bond efforts, and part two discussed overcrowding at campuses. Part three of this series considers the main objection to the bond — property tax increase.



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# Family awarded over \$300k in dog attack lawsuit

**MADelyn EDWARDS**  
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RENO — Over a year after their son was attacked by dogs, the Roebers have reached a resolution to their lawsuit against the dogs' owners and property owners.

In December 2022, two dogs attacked Isaac Roeber, who was 6 years old at the time, while he was walking home from the school bus stop on Carmen Street in Reno. Isaac's bus driver dropped him off later than usual that day because of a road closure and called his mother, Katherine "Tory" Roeber, to make sure Isaac made it home. Roeber sent her older son to check if Isaac was home, but he couldn't find Isaac and said it appeared that something was going on at the home with the problem dogs.

Roeber rushed to rescue Isaac, who had been bitten and dragged by a Lab mix and shepherd mix. A man had intervened and gotten Isaac away from the dogs; still, the child was bloody and had a black eye by the time his mother found him. From there, she took Isaac to the emergency room.

Following the attack, Isaac had a puncture wound on his skull, and he needed stitches on his arms and legs. He also suffered mental trauma from the attack and was fearful of dogs and playing outside alone.

In a previous article, Roeber said the dogs had been a problem for years, and she had been in contact with the Reno Police Department about the issue. At the time, former Reno Police Deputy Chief Nathan Stringer said the dog owners were issued citations for the dogs being at large and for not displaying a rabies tag. The dogs were euthanized and tested negative for rabies.

In response to the attack, Roeber and her husband David filed a lawsuit against the dogs' owners and the property owners Dec. 21, 2022. In the original petition, the Roebers asked for no more than \$1 million in their lawsuit against the dogs' owners and the property owners to cover their son's past and future physical pain, mental anguish, physical impairment, disfigurement as well as his past and future medical expenses.

The lawsuit accused Brian Campbell, who was a tenant of a home on Carmen Street and an owner of the dogs, of allowing large aggressive dogs around the public, failing to properly use a leash to prevent attacks, not paying

*Case started after young boy injured by loose canines*



Isaac Roeber was attacked by dogs in late 2022 when he was 6 years old. More than a year later, his family reached a resolution to their lawsuit against the dogs' owners and property owners.

enough attention to the dogs to ensure they were not a danger to the public, failing to keep the dogs on the property and prevent them from escaping as well as failing to stop or call the dogs, or intervening once he realized the attack had begun.

Others named in the lawsuit — described as property owners — were accused of failing to remove the dogs after being notified of their dangerousness and viciousness, not exercising care in property management and not applying care in the confinement of the dangerous dogs on the property.

When the lawsuit was filed, property owner Leonel Garcia sympathized with the Roebers but maintained he shouldn't be held responsible for the dogs and wasn't aware they were chasing people. He also said some of the other defendants named in the lawsuit have nothing to do with the property.

Roeber defended the choice to name four defendants as property owners in the lawsuit and said the property owner was warned about the aggressive dogs.

The lawsuit ended up being split into two parts. Last May, Campbell settled with

the Roebers, and the court ordered the Roebers to be paid about \$53,378 for expenses related to legal and medical services, future mental health treatment, and insurance as well as a total of about \$46,621 to be paid to Isaac in semi-annual installments starting in 2035. In the same judgement, the court ordered the defendants to pay \$3,600 to Isaac's court-appointed guardian ad litem.

Having settled with the dogs' owners, the Roebers severed Campbell from the lawsuit and turned their attention to the others named in the lawsuit. Earlier this month, when the remaining defendants didn't show up to court, the court ordered them to pay about \$233,934 for actual damages plus interest.

"Our family is happy with the lawsuit outcome, extremely sad this had to happen, and hope that this incident helps the city of Reno take calls serious when citizens report about aggressive dogs in their city," Roeber said. "Hopefully this can help prevent another child from being attacked unnecessarily."

Garcia declined to comment on the outcome of this case.

PHOTO COURTESY KATHERINE ROEBER

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# Remember the Alamo!

By its very nature, Texas history is exciting, dramatic and can be as overwhelming as a West Texas tornado. With the name Sam Houston, it was destined for me to be a fan of Texas history from my conception and this time of the year is filled with the remembrance of a generous portion of the events that shaped our great state.

The last few days marked the 188th anniversary of the start of the battle of the Alamo. On Feb. 23, 1836, a small group of volunteers who held the Alamo were met with the arrival of Gen. Santa Anna of Mexico and his lead force of nearly 1,500 men. The men inside the Alamo were few, less than 200, and as the Mexican forces continued to arrive the enemy's number would eventually



## FROM MY FRONT PORCH

By Sam Houston

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

swell to over 4,000. The battle went on for 13 days, ending with the utter destruction of the Texican forces. Santa Anna instructed the bodies of the defenders to be burned and to remain unburied as a demonstration of his absolute disdain for the Texas patriots.

Perhaps the most famous letter in Texas history was written by the commander of the forces of the Alamo, William Barrett Travis. Originally from South Carolina, Travis was a man who was true to his word and

committed to fulfill his duty to defend the Alamo. Written on Feb. 24, the day after the arrival of Mexican forces, it was sent to the delegates of the convention at Washington on the Brazos and was addressed to "The People of Texas and All Americans in the World." The letter ended with the immortal words, "Victory or death," which was truly the only outcome the battle could have.

For me, and I think a great many Texans, it is hard to read the words of Travis and not feel a swelling in our

chest and have a tear come to our eyes. Those powerful words instill a sense of what the men of the Alamo must have felt in those final desperate days; how they were willing to sacrifice their lives for the idea that Texas might someday be a sanctuary of freedom and liberty. It is clear in my heart, that every single person who has immigrated to Texas since the Travis letter was written has a duty and obligation to work and to live in such a way as to endorse the commitment of the defenders of the Alamo.

We must put aside petty disagreements and political rhetoric which divides, and in exchange, replace it with deeds and words which compel our fellow Texans to work together for the greater good. We must ensure that all our

people have opportunities, that we remain free and independent, and that we never waver from those things which make us Texas: hard work, helping our neighbor and keeping our word.

Our times are not as desperate as those final days of the men of the Alamo, but difficult political decisions stand before us and decisions must be made. Our world is changing and doing so rapidly. We must seek leadership from those who can embrace the future while maintaining the very character and essence of the history of Texas. It is who we are and what we should fight to maintain. It is why Texas is Texas!

As you go to vote this upcoming week, remember the blessed souls of those who gave their lives at the Alamo.

Remember the great men of Texas history, men such as Austin, Crockett, Bowie, Travis, Rusk, Lamar, Houston and many others. Vote for the men and women on the ballot who will put Texas and the well-being of her citizens first, and not their own selfish personal political agendas. The future of our Texas depends upon it.

Thought for the day: "Do your duty so that every son and daughter of Texas will praise your work this day and remember the Alamo, remember Goliad, remember the Alamo!"

— Sam Houston speaking to his troops just prior to the commencement of the Battle of San Jacinto.

Until next time...I remain a Texan, ridin' the storm out. sam@hcnews

## Chamber highlights: Fellowship and recognition

A couple of weeks ago, the Orchard Event Venue and Retreat packed in a few hundred local residents decked out in pinks and reds to celebrate a wonderful year for the Azle Area Chamber of Commerce. My wife, Daniele, and I enjoyed the evening immensely.

Executive Director Jennifer Herrington, administrative assistant Hartley McCauley and a host of volunteers put on a celebratory event to remember. The Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet included acknowledgement of three outgoing board members, including 2023 Board President Marcy Pinkston, and the swearing in of the 2024 board, with the gavel being passed to 2024 Board President Michael Wright.

The food, silent auction and game were all enjoyable. Two particularly special highlights for me were the fellowship and recognition of



## HOPE MATTERS

By David Shaffer

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

others.

The Azle Chamber is thriving under its current leadership and is strongly supported by a committed board of directors and team of Ambassadors. Its membership, which is currently approaching 400, is the heart of the organization.

The fellowship at the banquet reveals a chamber secret: We truly value and like one another. Business and organization leaders in the Azle chamber see each other as a company of equals and seek to support one another.

The city and school district are active with the chamber. Nonprofits promote other nonprofits. Even leaders in the same business sector are often friends and consult with one another.

Fellowship implies shared interest in a friendly association. Attendees met new people and caught up with friends. Henri Nouwen, a Dutch Catholic priest, professor, writer and theologian, observed, "Listening is paying full attention to others and welcoming them into our very beings. The beauty

of listening is that those who are listened to start feeling accepted." This is what I saw taking place.

Another highlight of the evening was the recognition given to 15 individuals or businesses/organizations. Each year, there are dozens who could be legitimately recognized, but only one is selected for each category. The winners are all incredible, and I am tempted to write about each one, but for the sake of brevity, I will share about three.

When Kelli Limbaugh was announced as Ambassador of the Year, an award chosen by the Ambassadors themselves, it provided a moment of sheer joy for all of us to witness. People say, "To know Kelli is to love Kelli," and her pure exuberance reflected her realization of being honored and respected by her peers. The late American author H. Jackson Brown Jr.

had people like Kelli in mind when he wrote, "Don't do work for recognition, but do work worthy of recognition."

I had the honor of presenting Azle icon Hogle Hogle with the 2023 Businessman of the Year Award. He was serving in his fixed role as master of ceremonies, and when I announced his name, the entire crowd stood to their feet to support a man who for decades beautifully combines business acumen, loyalty, kindness, humility, support, friendship and humor. He is one of my favorites, and I know that there must be hundreds who feel the same way.

Finally, the Citizen of the Year Award went to Kim Ware, publisher of the newspaper you are currently reading. Long overdue, Kim has excelled as a leader in her business and in the local area. She sacrificially gives of her time and talent to ad-

vance community nonprofits and initiatives. In fact, I owe my increased involvement in the Azle chamber to Kim. The crowd gave honor where it was due with an extended standing ovation to a phenomenal person who continues to serve.

The gifted American author Maya Angelou expressed, "I long, as does every human being, to be at home wherever I find myself." Our region is growing, and we welcome our new residents and want you to feel at home right away. A helpful way to do this, of course, is to plug in, perhaps starting with attending a chamber event or luncheon.

To Azle, our neighbor Springtown (whose chamber is also surging) and other communities in this tri-county area, I am hopeful for a year full of genuine fellowship and people who do work worthy of recognition.

## Devil's workshop?

Every now and again, someone comes up with suggestions for additions to the list of what to do when there's nothing to do.

As often as not, such "yawn fodder" winds up to fill holes — gaping or otherwise — just before newspapers go to press.

I have another thought concerning an item that should be forever deleted from the list — the mistitled annual "All-Star" basketball game foisted on us by the National Basketball Association and its TV cohorts. Any other suggestion on the "what-to-do-list" is superior to this debacle which is no better than watching paint dry.

The "event" held a few nights ago featured true all-stars, but they might as well have been playing "H-O-R-S-E." In the Eastern All-Stars' "win" over the West, the



## THE IDLE AMERICAN

By Dr. Don Newbury

Dr. Don Newbury, longtime university president, writes weekly and speaks regularly throughout Texas. Contact: 817-447-3872. Email: newbury@speakerdoc.com.

score was 211-186. Obviously whatever semblance of defense brought to the game was checked at the door.

Should the wretched excuse for a "game" continue, it should be more accurately named. How about a feel-good scrimmage featuring the Washington Generals vs. the Washington Generals? (with apologies to the Harlem Globetrotters who invariably rack up "wins" over the Generals).

If all-stars of the major professional sports ever have a get-together, the NBA elite should be banned. Let them

have their own party at a comedy club.

As youth, we were specialists in wasting time, but we could blame it on the young.

With much of my childhood in the 1950s, I recall two great time-wasters.

When soft-serve ice cream came to our town, one of our leading restaurants sold the cones at a "walk-up window." (This was several years before drive-in food joints appeared.) It was fun to watch the server's artistry in turning out cones with curls on top. Our parents usually sprung for nickel cones

which we licked slowly, wishing for the much bigger 10-cent cones.

But, wait! There was more. The restaurant also had an electric bug-zapper that produced sizzling sounds when bugs met their electronic end.

Sometimes we counted how many "zaps" we heard between cone-licks. Talk about minutiae.

That's not all, either.

Acceptable television reception was late getting to our town, what with the nearest station about 75 miles away. Before there were many TV sets in homes, they were often displayed in a downtown shop window. On many summer evenings, my dad would drive us slowly past the store, all of us hoping there'd be discernible TV pictures emerging from the snowy screen. When there was, we'd stop, pressing nos-

es against the window glass to get as close to the TV set as possible.

I suppose, then, that licking ice cream cones while hearing bugs get zapped and watching snowy TV pictures in a shop window might be akin to time wasted while watching the NBA circus. But remember, we were kids.

My ancient Uncle Mort claims he gave up on the game decades ago. He's not surprised that it continues its slide into meaninglessness. But, he admits to finding humor in circumventing the conventional, which is only a skosh different than purposely wasting time.

Specifically, he enlivens routine visits to doctors' offices by "poking fun" when he fills out the same papers completed during his previous visits. Office attendants "see him coming," knowing

they'll have to ask him to return to their desk to correct his fake answers.

In the "answer blank" about contact in case of an emergency, he writes "call ambulance." And on the "age blank," he answers "digital."

A patriot to the core, he also enlivens "shopping humdrum" by checking labels of merchandise, always delighted when he finds "made in America" tags. Too often, he whines, "made in Taiwan" or "made in China" dominate.

He stopped abruptly recently, noticing bold print on a box encasing a TV set. It read, "Built in antenna."

"Now that's a place I've never heard of," he told the sales guy, "Where is Antenna?" Mort was satisfied with the answer that Antenna is a small community a few miles from Athens.

## ELECTION

FROM PAGE A1

against incumbent council member Scott Richardson. Place 1 is uncontested with only incumbent council member Ted Martinez filing.

## AZLE SCHOOL BOARD

Two seats on Azle Independent School District board of trustees are up for election this year. Ray Lea, who currently serves in Place 4, will retire at the end of his term. Former educator and stay-at-home mom Kelsey Massey and Merge Church

pastor Brandon Geary are vying for the seat. Tim Brown, vice president, who serves in Place 3, is uncontested in his bid for re-election.

## SPRINGTOWN SCHOOL BOARD

Springtown Independent School District board of trustees will have one con-

tested race on the May ballot. Longtime board member Elizabeth "Tootie" Hall will face challenger Cody Bryant in the Place 7 election. Meanwhile, board member Mark Bryant is running for re-election to Place 6 unopposed.

## WALNUT CREEK SUD

Walnut Creek Special Utility District board of directors is expected to have two new members as a result of the election in May. Incumbents Vice President Al Garrett and director Frank Henderson, who was appointed to fill an unexpired term, are not run-

ning for re-election.

The four candidates who filed to be on the ballot are Robin L. Corder, Bill Roesicke, Mark Green and David DeSoto. Two of them will be chosen to fill the open spots on the board.



# Rotary recognizes Azle students

ZACH FREEMAN

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**AZLE** — At the beginning of February, five Azle High School seniors were recognized by the Azle Rotary Club as Student Rotarians of the Month. Alan Hard, Mason O'Daniel, Anahi Patricia Colmenero, Brandie Phillips and Jade Robinson were each recognized for their hard work and achievements in academics by distinguished members of the Azle community at the meeting and luncheon.

Alan Hard is the son of Mark and Heather Hard. He has a GPA of 101.15 and is ranked 33rd in his class. Hard is interested in attending Hardin Simmons University, Mary-Hardin Baylor or Angelo State University where he hopes to major in psychology, or a field related to social work. Hard is proud of having received college credit for all his classes in his junior year and being in the top 10% of his class. He considers math and logic to be some of his greatest skills and writing to be his greatest weakness. Hard says he finds himself caring for others to a tremendous degree but sometimes finds others who do not want to be helped. He considers himself kind, loving and trustworthy and hopes to mirror Christ in all that he does. Some of his favorite teachers are Ms. Williams, Mrs. Davis, and Mrs. Terrell. Hard is involved in powerlifting, sings in the AHS choir, loves leading worship and volunteering with Royal Family Kids Camp. Starting at the end of summer 2023 Hard has led a monthly worship service in Azle's Central Park. Hard made it to regionals in powerlifting and received a 1 rating at his state solo contest. He also enjoys singing, exercising and playing guitar.

Mason O'Daniel is the son of Larry and Felizia O'Daniel. O'Daniel has a GPA of 99.82

and is ranked 47th in his class. He is interested in attending Tarrant County College, Weatherford College, University of North Texas or Texas Christian University to study computer science and cyber security. O'Daniel is proud of himself for coming to a new high school and town where he didn't know anyone and still making the most of it. He is also proud of the certifications he has received while at AHS. He sees his greatest academic strengths as being able to do anything he puts his mind to and learning new things quickly. O'Daniel considers himself easy-going and quick to act for the betterment of others. He also sees being respectful and responsible as being two of his major strengths. Ms. Prather and Coach Averitte are some of O'Daniel's favorite teachers. He has participated in UIL one act plays for a year and has been a part of the massively successful CyberStart America team for two years. He has been a part of the high school's culture club, drama club and thespian society. O'Daniel enjoys playing the drums, going to the gym and skateboarding.

Anahi Patricia Colmenero is the daughter of Patricia Colmenero and Armando Colmenero. She has a GPA of 102.35 and is ranked 24th in her class. Colmenero hopes to attend Tarrant County College, Texas Cristian University, the University of Texas at Dallas or Texas A&M to study business administration, finances, and political science for pre-law. She sees math and chemistry as her best subjects. She enjoys doing group work, talking with others and solving problems while working with numbers and using formulas. She says her confidence in her quality of her work is one of her greatest weaknesses. Colmenero sees her friendly outgoing personality as a major personal strength.



Left to right: AHS Principal Nate Driver, February Rotary students of the month Brandie Phillips, Alan Hard, Anahi Patricia Colmenero, Mason O'Daniel, Jade Robinson and Rotary President Bob Buckel.

COURTESY AISD

"If there is a new kid, I always like to be the one to welcome them and make them feel as welcome as possible just because I've been in their shoes," she said.

Colmenero also considers herself to be hardworking and passionate. Mrs. Bevan and Coach Smith are two of her favorite teachers. In addition to serving as vice president of the AHS senior class, she participates in band, National Honor Society, Interact Club and AP Ambassadors. In sports, she plays on the Azle girls varsity soccer team where she was named Second Team All-District, and runs cross country. She is involved in

The Word at Lakeside Church and Bread of Life Missionary Group.

Brandie Phillips is the daughter of Becky Wethington. She is ranked 23rd in her class with a GPA of 102.41. She is interested in attending Paris Junior College to study engineering or business. She is proud to have earned all A's since kindergarten and earned Academic All-District status both her sophomore and junior years. Phillips says her memorization skills and ability to learn are her greatest academic strengths. Her personal strength is her work ethic, but she says she is often very critical of herself. She consid-

ers herself humble, determined and kind. Her favorite teachers are Coach Pruitt and Coach Davidson. Phillips is involved in softball, basketball, NHS and PALS. She has also played select softball for the Black Widows team, has been a youth group leader and was a Beautiful Feet Ministries volunteer.

Jade Robinson is the daughter of Amy and Robert Robinson. She has a GPA of 101.07 and is ranked 34th in her class. Robinson is interested in studying pre-law at Texas Tech or the University of Mississippi and hopes to eventually become a lawyer. She is proud of her high GPA and A-honor roll status. She

considers her time management and determination to be two of her major strengths. She sees her short attention span and indecisiveness as her biggest weaknesses. She considers herself determined, kind and helpful. Her favorite teachers are Mr. Prather, Mrs. Hopkins and Mrs. Jones. She is punctual, always on time. She ranked fourth place in the UIL State Cheer competition and received the 3D (determined, disciplined and dedicated) Award. She loves reading and has worked at The Cheer Connection and Color Crop Nursery.

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# Senior Spotlight

**JACKIE "JJ" JOY**  
jackie@mealsonwheels.org

## Adult Activity Center offers hot meals and programs through March

**AZLE** — If you are looking for a safe place to meet your friends, or make new friends, the Azle Adult Activity Center (Senior Center), is the ideal place. Located at 601 Southeast Parkway, in Ash Creek Park, you will find the center open weekdays from 9 a.m. till 1:30 p.m.

At 11:30 a.m. Monday through Friday, hot nutritious meals are served. You can choose between two options, menu A or menu B. Please call 817-444-0070 by 9:30 a.m. the day before you would like to eat to place your order. You will find our

menu on the City of Azle website at [www.cityofazle.org](http://www.cityofazle.org) or you may pick one up at the center.

Along with our weekly activities, such as Bible study, Bridge and daily nutritious meals, we look forward to some special celebrations as well. Since St. Patrick's Day is on a Sunday this year, we will celebrate on Thursday, March 14. There will be a prize for the man and woman with the best St. Patrick's

Day look.

On Friday, March 15, AARP will be here for the Safe Driving course. Offered every other month, this is an opportunity to learn about new laws and ways to stay safe on the roads. The cost is \$20 for AARP members and \$25 for non-members. Class starts at 9 a.m. and concludes by 1:30 p.m. with a 30-minute lunch break at 11:30 a.m. However, you will need to arrive by 8:45 a.m. to

complete the required forms to receive your certificate. Please call the center at 817-444-0070 by Wednesday, March 13, to make a reservation. Note: Call your insurance company for a possible discount for taking the class.

A special thank you goes to Care-n-Care Insurance for all the years they have partnered with the center. They have sponsored our birthday/anniversary celebrations for years, even through

the pandemic. When we were giving out grab-n-go meal boxes, representatives came once a month and gave out cupcakes. There have also been special presentations such as Fall Prevention and Medicare benefits.

While we will still see Care-n-Care at times, our birthday/anniversary celebrations on the third Thursday of each month will now be sponsored by Mutual of Omaha. Greg Runnebaum will also call bingo and provide a special "black-out" prize. But it doesn't end there. On March 21, at 11 a.m., Greg will make a presentation on Reverse Mortgages. So come help us

make him welcome.

Local award-winning gospel singer John Webster has been a strong supporter of the Azle Adult Activity Center for a lot of years. He has done fundraising, special music and even sponsored pizza for us. On March 27, he will be back to help us celebrate Easter. The music starts at 10:30 a.m. and will go till lunch.

As a final note, the center will be closed March 29 for Good Friday. We will reopen Monday, April 1 at our normal time. If you wish to order a meal for that Monday, please have it called in by 9 a.m. Thursday, March 28. Hope to see you soon!

# McKee named to elite list

### STAFF REPORTS

**BROWNWOOD, TEXAS** — Kellen McKee of Azle was one of 214 students recognized for academic excellence for the fall 2023 semester at Howard Payne University. McKee earned the college's highest

academic honor, landing a spot on its President's List. Students must earn a 4.0 grade point average to be named to the President's List. To be eligible, students must be enrolled in 12 or more semester credit hours and have no grade

of Fail (F), No Grade (NG) or Incomplete Grade (I) for all courses attempted. Howard Payne University is a private Baptist university in Brownwood. It is affiliated with the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

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# REPUBLICAN PRIMARY VOTE MARCH 5, 2024

POL. ADV. BY ANDY HOPPER



BOOK REVIEW

# How do you do?

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER  
Special to the Tri-County Reporter

Howdy. Hey, there. Hello. Hi, how are you? It's polite to greet people when you meet them for the first time, and respectful, too. Furthermore, it's human nature to want to be liked, to find common ground and get along. Read the new book "How to Win Friends and Influence Fungi," edited by Dr. Chris Balakrishnan and Matt Wasowski, illustrations by Kristen Orr, and you can happily be a bit of a know-it-all, too.

Twenty-one years ago, a group of nerds got together to offer one another short "presentations" on esoteric topics and eventually, "Nerd Night" grew and spread around the world. Seriously, how could a nerdy knowledge gathering like that get any better?

Well, some of the presentations went up on YouTube. Others made it into this book.

If you've ever served in the deserts of Kuwait, for instance, you know that mythology about camel spiders is mostly an exaggeration. The creatures are big, but not all that big. They can't jump super-long distances. They aren't really even spiders. Oh, but they'll chase you — though not for the reasons you've heard.

## "How to Win Friends and Influence Fungi"

Or take, for instance, a glass of moo-juice. You've been taught all your life that only mammals give milk, but that's not exactly a fact. By definition, birds, sharks, insects, even worms nourish their young with a form of "milk."

Trap-jaw ants and stomatopods can bring a world of hurt to your body. People who have misophonia can't tolerate the sound of your breathing; people with synesthesia might be able to taste it. There's a reason why some letters get lost in words we pronounce correctly. NASA is working on ways to recycle astronauts' solid waste for fuel, but you don't have control of your bladder. A real grizzly bear inspired the California state flag. Chances are, "you will probably not survive the next mass extinction [but] spiders and gophers will."

And when that end finally happens to you, embalming won't preserve you forever...

When was the last time you had pure, light-hearted, smart-aleck, gee-whiz, smack-your-forehead, geeky goodness from a book? If it's been awhile,

you'll want to find "How to Win Friends and Influence Fungi" now.

You won't be sorry you did, once you dip into the facts you didn't know you needed to know, offered to you informally here, and with a slice of sarcasm. Authors Dr. Chris Balakrishnan and Matt Wasowski break their book down into eleven basic categories, but the knowledge inside it runs from arthropods to World War Z and lots of other subjects in between. Each brief chapter comes from an expert on the topic at hand — or, at the very least, someone who had reason, for instance, to wander down a rabbit-hole of maggots, meteorites, romance-by-spreadsheet and zombies in your laundry room.

"How to Win Friends and Influence Fungi" is perfect for fun guys and gals ages 15 to adult. Expect to learn, expect to laugh, and expect to have your eyes opened. Get it and say "hello" to a good read.

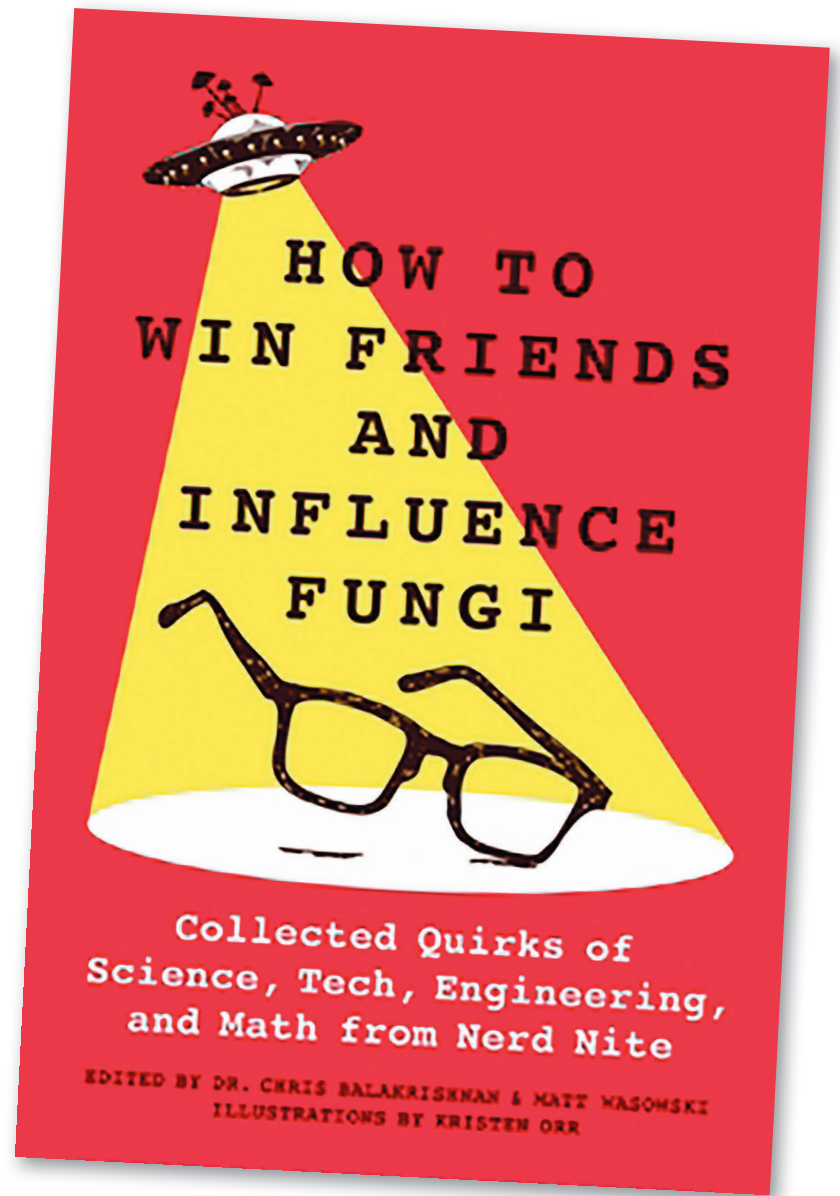


IMAGE COURTESY ST. MARTIN'S PRESS

"How to Win Friends and Influence Fungi: Collected Quirks of Science, Tech, Engineering, and Math from Nerd Nite" by Dr. Chris Balakrishnan & Matt Wasowski, illustrations by Kristen Orr. c.2024, St. Martin's Press, \$30.00, 320 pages

## OBITUARIES

### Ann Taylor 1938-2024

Ann Elizabeth Taylor passed away peacefully Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2024.

Ann was born Aug. 20, 1938, to William E. and Margery H. (Parker) Taylor. She grew up in Glen Rose and later moved to Fort Worth where she graduated from Poly Tech High School in 1956.

Shortly after graduation, Ann worked for the U.S. government and was assigned in Sweden. While there, she mastered the Swedish language.

She married in 1967 and became a mother to Lee in 1968. She then became one of the first women air traffic controllers in the U.S. in the late 1960s.

In 1977 she became a realtor and worked in the real estate industry and completed her bachelor's degree in business in 1985.

Ann was sharp minded and witty. She enjoyed oil painting and crossword puzzles.



She was politically active and engaged throughout her life.

Ann is preceded in death by her parents, and her brother, Tom Taylor.

Ann is survived by her son, Lee Taylor and his wife Chrissy; grandchildren, Sydney, Hayden and Lily, along with many extended family and friends. She will be dearly missed by all who know her.

The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday Feb 29, 2024

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## MURDER

FROM PAGE A1

discharging a firearm and credit card abuse.

The Tarrant County Medical Examiner's office lists Anderton's cause of death as bromazepam and fentanyl toxicity, under new language rolled out in HB 6. Anderton was declared dead after he was taken to a Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Hurst-Euleless-Bedford emergency room. Anderton's family held a life memorial Feb. 3 and family friends have created a Go-Fund-Me campaign for funeral expenses, raising over \$6,000 at [www.gofundme.com/f/dustin-anderton](http://www.gofundme.com/f/dustin-anderton).

Bromazepam is a non-medical benzodiazepine drug that has become increasingly popular in recent years. In the summer of 2022, the U.S. Department of Justice saw a signifi-

cant uptick in bromazepam seizures across the United States. This trend is believed to largely be driven by the similarly increasing use of fentanyl, with which the drug is often paired. Opioids mixed with bromazepam are sometimes sold at the street level under the name "benzo-dope." In an August 2023 study, the Indiana Department of Health reported that bromazepam made up 73% of all designer benzodiazepines found in toxicology reports in the first half of 2023. Of the over 1,000 samples containing bromazepam reported between January and June 2023, 83% also tested positive for fentanyl.

In 2023, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported the overdose death rate exceeded 112,000 in a 12-month period for the first time ever. Approximately 70% of those deaths are believed to be caused by fentanyl.

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

*Steak Cookoff Assn. founders speak about March 9 Lakeside event*

**ZACH FREEMAN**

azlereporter@tricityreporter.com

**AZLE** — The world of competitive grilling is a high “steaks” game, and professionals and amateurs alike will go head-to-head in a cook-off for the ages at the first-ever Rotary Club of Azle Steak Cookoff Saturday, March 9. The Steak Cookoff Association event will be held in the lot next door to Lakeside Plaza, at 8501 Jacksboro Highway — underneath the digital billboard — from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The SCA comes from our own little corner of North Texas, with offices at Lakeside Plaza, but has expanded to become a worldwide phenomenon. The organization’s co-founder and mayor, Ken Phillips, has been an Azle resident since 2007 and is originally from nearby Bedford.

SCA often partners with local community service organizations for its events. In addition to being a great way for attendees to show off their cooking skills and have fun, funds raised at the Lakeside event will benefit Azle’s Rotary Club. Rotary Club International recognizes youth and engages in community service projects around the world. In Azle, it recognizes high school students for their accomplishments each month, provides scholarships, and supports student organizations like the Interact Club, which works on service projects to feed the hungry. Azle Rotary President Bob Buckel is excited to be a part of bringing Academy 4 to Azle ISD next year in a program which connects volunteer mentors to fourth grade students.

The SCA began 11 years ago, and this year marks the organization’s 10th annual championship event. Winners of the Lakeside grill-off will join competitors from nearly 600 teams from all over the world at the March 14-17 championship contest at Will Rogers Memorial Center in Fort Worth. Participants hail from 18 countries and 46 U.S. states. The winner of the championship event will be awarded a “super bowl” style ring and a \$10,000 prize check. SCA is one of the only events of its kind to provide steaks — in this case purchased by the Rotary Club — to the contestants for grilling in order to create a more level playing field. Salt brine, sous vide, marinade or dry rub, each contestant cooks their steak in the style and manner of their choosing.

“Anybody has a chance,” SCA co-founder Brett Gallaway said. “Eighty percent of the country has some sort of grill in their backyard. That’s kind of what got us started with SCA. When you start a fire, people gather. Once you start cooking people come out. Ken and I started our first cook team together. We started this thing on a whim. There were nine steak cookoffs in the world. Last year we had 563 of them. People just love cooking. Anyone can win our events, it’s not just the guys that come out every week.”

Past SCA champions have ranged in age from 13 to 86. “When you put your arm around an 81-year-old man who just won his first event and he’s trembling, something’s going right,” Gallaway said.

SCA contests bring more than just steaks to the table.

The Rotary Club of Azle Steak Cookoff will feature appetizers as its ancillary category. Past ancillary categories have included chicken wings, chili, ribs and much more. The ancillary categories not only help broaden the appeal for potential applicant cooks, but it also serves the larger SCA message that anyone can cook. Last year’s ancillary champion had a less-than-traditional approach to his dish, tacos.

“A gentleman from the Netherlands who had never ate a taco went to Walmart, bought his supplies and beat 220 other teams that day,” Gallaway said. “Evidently, YouTube is very good at teaching tacos.”

The first-place prize for the grill-off is \$1,000, \$400 for second place, \$250 for third, \$150 for fourth, and \$25 for sixth through 10th place winners. The payout for the winner of the ancillary category is \$125.

It costs \$160 to enter a steak in A or B rounds, or \$320 to enter both. It is \$25 to enter an appetizer in the ancillary round. With two rounds, contestants have 20 chances to win money. The Rotary Club will also conduct raffles for cash and prizes at the event, including a payout of 50% of the proceeds raised that day and a large basket of various bottles of whiskey. The remaining 50% of proceeds will go to the Rotary Club of Azle.

The event would not be made possible without the support of a number of local sponsors including WHECO Controls, NBT Financial, Azle Dental Care, Community Waste Disposal, Ace Hardware of Azle, Eagle Mountain Realty, the Tri-



**ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER**  
L-R: Brett Gallaway and Ken Phillips at a February Azle Area Chamber of Commerce Luncheon.



The basket of whiskey that will be raffled off as one of the event’s prizes.

County Reporter, and Jay and Michele Ewing. To find more information or to enter, go to [steakcookoffs.com](http://steakcookoffs.com) or call Rotary organizer Debra Jenkins at 817-832-3663 or send her an email at [debrajenkins49@gmail.com](mailto:debrajenkins49@gmail.com). Contestants can enter a team until the end of the day

March 8. “Look around you, there’s a winner amongst you,” Phillips said to a crowd of Azle chamber luncheon attendees. “Somebody once described our event as a tailgate party meets a family reunion. It’s a really fun day. First timers win a lot. People just

bring their grills. It’s a great way to spend the day with your neighbors, your friends, and your family. I know a lot of people bring their kids and their extended family to cheer them on. Everyone has a good time, even the people that don’t win.”



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EMPLOYEE



JACK  
NOAH

FAVORITE NON-PROFIT



ANGEL WRANGLER  
GOOD N.E.W.S.



# Springtown Daddy Daughter Dance



PHOTOS COURTESY OF KIM WEBSTER

Springtown Band Backers, which supports the Springtown High School marching band Sound of Springtown, has hosted the Annual Daddy Daughter Dance for over 10 years. The money raised from this event will go to help the Springtown ISD band programs.

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VOTE FOR

Re-Elect

Dr. Glenn

# ROGERS

REPUBLICAN

## STATE REPRESENTATIVE

TO STOP THIS FROM HAPPENING

Early Voting: February 20-March 1  
Election Day: Tuesday, March 5, 2024

PD. POL. ADV. BY GLENN ROGERS CAMPAIGN



# BOND

FROM PAGE A1

of four failed bond elections meant to add a new campus and accommodate rising enrollment.

Rivera said his 2023 tax bill was about \$6,500, thousands more than what he paid for property taxes in California. For him, paying the bill isn't the issue, though he does know people who are concerned about being priced out of their homes; it's the principle of it.

"Something doesn't seem right about paying that much money for property tax when we don't get any benefit from it either," Rivera said. "We don't have any kids in the (school) system, so is there no consideration for that?"

Yet, Rivera doesn't want to sound selfish. He has listened to and sympathized with bond supporters.

"They apparently don't mind the raising of taxes because it's going to the schools, and I understand that, and their children are still in school, so they want the best for their kids, and I totally understand that," he said. "If I was in that situation, I would feel the same way. But I'm not."

Rivera even said he thinks SISD's bond proposal is necessary to accommodate growth. As far as he can tell from working in the intermediate school's cafeteria, there are multiple lunch periods that seem well-managed and not exactly overcrowded.

However, he said more space will be needed if enrollment continues to increase as projected. Still, he can't bring himself to support a property tax increase for a project that doesn't directly benefit him or his family.

"I want to be part of the community," Rivera said. "I want to help the community. I want to help the school district, but I'm just conflicted."

The November 2023 bond election, if passed, was projected to increase the tax rate that SISD's board set in August, which was lowered by about 18 cents. However, the new tax rate brought on by a successful election would have been about a cent

less than the previous year's rate.

Jessica Castro, who graduated from Springtown schools and has had children who were educated in SISD, isn't buying that higher property taxes are a legitimate reason for not supporting the school district's bond proposal.

"Are we really putting a price on our children's education and the comfort level that they have at school?" Castro said.

Rivera is not alone in his reasoning. After SISD's bond election failed in November, multiple people posted on Facebook about their opposition to bond, and many of them cited high property taxes in their logic.

"People are worried about losing their homes," SISD Superintendent Shane Strickland said. "They're worried about losing their small businesses. We've heard from some of those community members, and if they're having to make a choice of whether it's going to impact them and their family, they're not going to vote 'yes,' and that's just kind of the state of the economy right now. We're not mad at those people for it, but we still have our issues that we're dealing with and the way that school finance is built right now, this is our only way of being able to build a new building."

One of the people who posted on Facebook after the November bond election failed was Andrew Kloster, who has lived outside Springtown in unincorporated Parker County since March 2022 and pays taxes to the school district. On Facebook, Kloster wrote, "It's time for this school board to be fiscally responsible." He said his comment was inspired by his property taxes doubling.

"We cannot continuously increase property taxes," Kloster said. "It becomes too expensive for people if it goes up every single year. Plus, the school district gets the largest sum of the tax revenue. These government employees always want to spend, spend and raise taxes. They don't care about the repercussions. I'm still working, and it's still hard on me."

What about people that are on fixed incomes and can't afford \$200-\$300 a month in increased taxes? It's just too much."

School Board President Rick Beall said he shares the frustrations of other property owners in town and pointed out that lowering the tax rate has been a priority for the board.

"I'm also a taxpayer, and I understand," Beall said. "That's always forefront in every one of these trustees' minds that we want to make sure we're doing what's best for our stakeholders. Unfortunately, these things cost money. I wish there was a better way to do it, that we didn't have to do it this way. But it is the hand that we're dealt, and it's the only way we can go forward."

While the price of property taxes in Springtown may differ from other parts of the country, Samco Capital senior managing director Douglas Whitt said SISD's taxes are not generally higher than other growing North Texas suburbs.

"(SISD's) facility needs are well demonstrated," said Whitt, who has served as a financial adviser to the district. "Their bond plan to address those needs is necessary by state law and by how schools are funded in Texas and well within the scope of bond programs in Texas."

That said, property taxes in the Springtown area are not cheap.

## BILLS, BILLS, BILLS

According to the Parker County Appraisal District, the average market value of a home in the SISD area, which extends far past the city of Springtown's boundaries, is \$340,479 before exemptions and caps. When this figure is plugged into the appraisal district's property tax calculator for Springtown, it yields a 2023 tax bill of \$5,875.15 with the homestead exemption and a bill of \$6,834.63 without exemptions. Keep in mind that Texas voters approved increasing the homestead exemption from \$40,000 to \$100,000 in November, and this change applied to 2023 tax bills.

People who live in SISD's territory don't just pay taxes to the school district but also to the city, county, emergency services and hospital districts and Weatherford College, depending on where they live. But the lion's share of the money paid goes to SISD, which receives \$2,303.31 from an exempted property with a market value of \$340,479 and \$3,261.11 on the same property without exemptions, according to the appraisal district's tax calculator.

The average market value of a home in SISD increased between 2022 and 2023 from \$236,937 to \$340,479. Rising property values can be caused by economic growth, population increase, job opportunities and demand for real estate, Parker County Appraisal District Deputy

Chief Appraiser Troy Hanson said.

"Additionally, low interest rates and a limited housing supply can contribute to increased demand, putting upward pressure on prices," Hanson said. "We study these various factors and trends and adjust our appraisals according."

Hanson pointed out that the appraisal district reappraises properties every other year to coincide with the School District Property Value Study, a state audit that "ensur(es) that property values are at or near 100% market value for equitable distribution of state funding for public education."

Though school boards don't appraise homes, they do set the district's tax rate. In the past 10 years, SISD's tax rate has either stayed the same or decreased. This includes a significant decrease last year when the school board lowered the rate from about \$1.43 per \$100 valuation to about \$0.96 per \$100 valuation because of tax rate compression enacted by the Texas Legislature. In comparison to other Parker County area school districts, SISD's tax rate is below the median in 2021, 2022 and 2023 with Brock ISD and Aledo ISD having the highest rates and Garner ISD with the lowest.

Strickland hoped the increased homestead exemption and the fact that the district's tax rate would have been a penny less than the 2022 rate if the bond had passed would sway voters' opinions, but it didn't.

SISD's bond election failures may occur because of poor timing. School districts in Texas can either have bond elections in May or November, both of which are preceded by important property tax dates. In April, property owners receive their appraisal notices, and in October, they receive their tax bills.

A local bond election that did pass in November was Parker County's multi-

million-dollar proposal to improve transportation in all precincts. Strickland suspects voters approved it because by driving around the county, they can see that roads need to be fixed. In contrast, not all voters see the overcrowding in schools and therefore, are less likely to approve that bond proposal.

Put differently, Weatherford College Social Sciences Department Chairperson Jared Stewart said bond elections are won when "they are framed in a favorable way to the public that gets to vote on them."

"For example, if you can convince residents that a few extra pennies will reduce potholes, that is an investment they will see pay off every day they drive," Stewart said. "If they are being asked to provide more funds for an education program about which they have concerns, it will be a tougher sell. If you can convince residents that the issue is salient, the costs will be relatively low, and the payoff will be meaningful and quick, you will most likely be successful in getting your measure passed."

Kloster is skeptical of how SISD is using its tax revenue and planning its finances. He said he thinks SISD should pay off its previous debts before taking on more, but he's also concerned about a successful bond election having a snowball effect where the district continues to take on more debt and raise taxes.

"I think there just needs to be a little bit more fiscal control over the bonds because it's never going to stop," he said. "Every couple of years, they're going to come back and say they need something else, or they need more."

Despite people saying that SISD should consider other revenue sources or use the money it already has in its budget, Strickland said the only realistic way for the district to meet its needs is to pass a bond election. In August, the school board adopted a balanced budget of

just over \$53 million, which is dedicated to running the schools and paying off debts. The superintendent said the district's maintenance and operations (M&O) budget — which covers expenses like salaries, utilities and supplies — can be used for small construction projects but not much more.

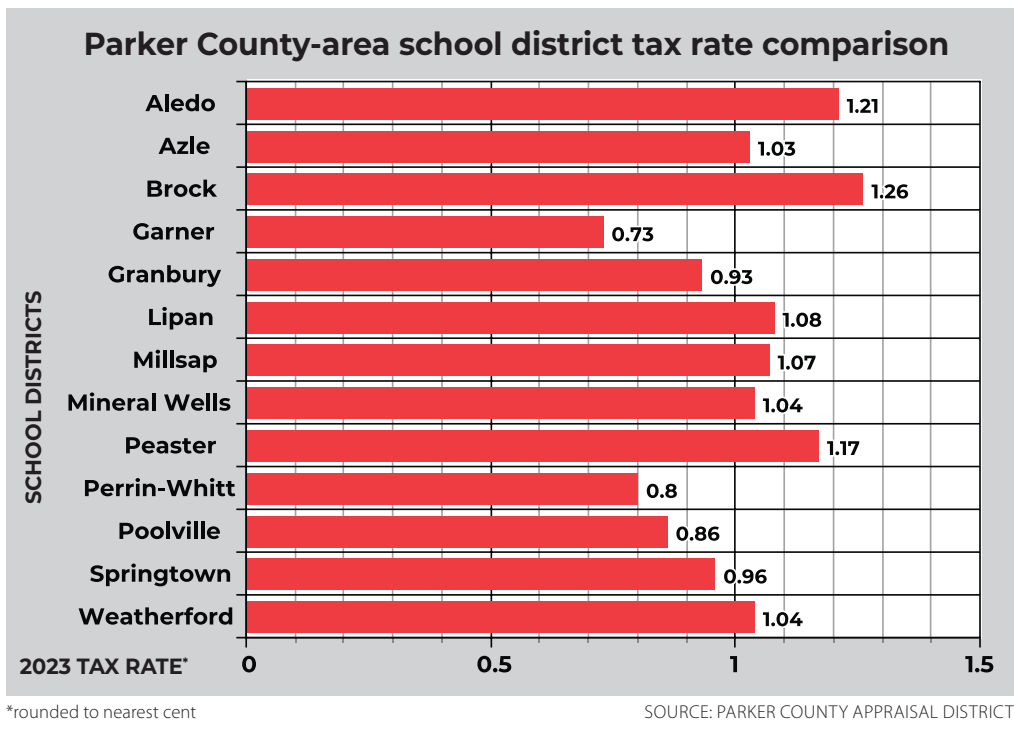
"We're able to do some renovations and things like that," Strickland said. "But as far as building a building, we just don't have the money in our M&O side for those things."

SISD's bond proposals in 2023 called for the district to fund a new middle school and renovation projects for \$120.78 million. Former assistant superintendent Mike Gilley said that number will only increase the longer construction is delayed.

"This is something that needs to happen because we're not going to get smaller," Gilley said. "Materials, construction is just going to increase per square foot on any building that we look at putting in."

Gilley said he has heard people say they don't support the school bond because they don't have kids in school, and he has a message for them. "Some of the kids I went to school with, my friends, they say, 'Why should I pay for it when I don't have any kids going?' Of course, my answer back was, 'Who do you think probably paid for us when they didn't have any kids going?' It's the people that live here and want to call this their home and their community and something to be proud of," he said.

Increased property taxes weren't the only reason why people opposed the bond. Another justification surfaced as well — rejection of the proposed middle school's sports facilities.



GRAPH CREATED BY MADELYN EDWARDS VIA NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS  
**In comparison to other Parker County area school districts, SISD's tax rate is below the median in 2021, 2022 and 2023 with Brock ISD and Aledo ISD having the highest rates and Garner ISD with the lowest.**

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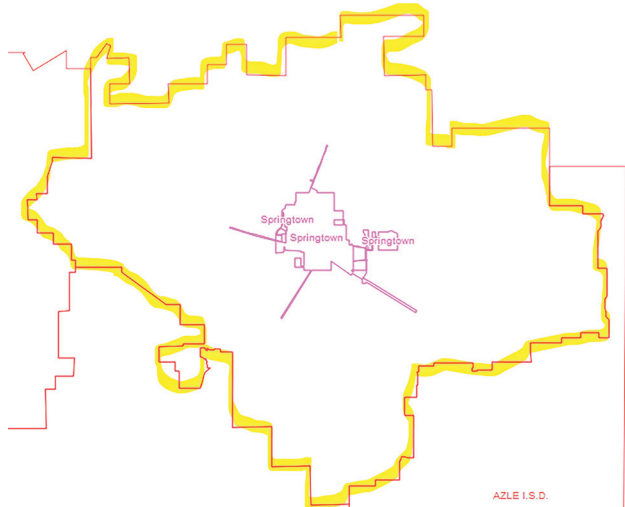


PHOTO COURTESY PARKER COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT

**Springtown ISD has a much larger service area than the city of Springtown. The average market home value in SISD tends to be more than in the city limits because custom built new homes are outside the city on larger lots.**

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e-clubhouse.org/sites/azle\_tk/  
Jamie Westbrook - president  
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Chris Akers - Secretary  
Clint Hall - Treasurer

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Stay tuned for the next part of "Bond or bust" in next week's paper.





ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Servolution Network Executive Assistant Cassie Long and Events Coordinator Maria Rivera were recognized for making the Love Your City Gala a possibility and for leading the organization throughout the year.

# Servolution Network hosts second "Love Your City" Gala

ZACH FREEMAN  
azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

*Nonprofit raises funds and recognizes businesses for 2023*

AZLE — Through awards, client testimonials, auctions and prizes, Servolution Network demonstrated all the ways people can love their city. On Saturday, Feb. 24, the nonprofit held its annual gala to shine a light on its work throughout 2023 and raise money for future projects.

Through its four main programs, Good Neighbors, Love Your Vets, Pay It Forward and Blessing Boxes, Servolution has managed to help 761 families over the course of the year by renovating houses in its biannual blitzes, providing furniture and appliances to families in need, and providing essential goods with its community food boxes.

Servolution leaders spoke about how they intend to "do more, serve more and love more" in 2024. According to Director Jason Malewiski, the organization has been growing rapidly since the end of the COVID-19 pandemic and intends to continue expanding its "revolution through serving." Among its goals for the near future are improve-

ments to its facility at 11698 S. Farm-to-Market Road 730, including engineering a drainage ditch, expanding parking, building a two-story warehouse for Pay it Forward, and purchasing a flatbed truck and new forklift.

Testimonials from Servolution Network clients like Jan Rogers, Vic Moore and the Moose Family were featured to the gala's audience in a short video. Rogers, a veteran, was gifted with a new trailer for her and her 18-month-old daughter after struggling and scrapping to repair a dilapidated trailer before winter. Rogers had purchased the original trailer for \$1,500 but did not have the means to repair it, so she submitted an application to Servolution Network.

"It really is a community of love," Rogers said. "I didn't have money for basic needs, toilet paper, basic soaps and I just wanted to make it through. I just wanted to provide for my daughter, and I knew if I could just keep

her alive and keep her fed and in diapers then eventually there had to be a downhill side to the mountain." After Malewiski reached out to Rogers and the organization ensured she had a safe and warm place to stay for Christmas, Rogers said she felt as if she had been saved from drowning.

"You're so overjoyed that someone cared enough to stop (and help)," Rogers said. With the new trailer, Rogers said she received everything she wanted for Christmas for the rest of her life.

The nonprofit also raised thousands of dollars through sponsors, ticket sales, a live auction and silent auction. The Servolution Network ended the night with an awards ceremony recognizing the many businesses and community members on whom the organization has relied for its service projects.

SEE MORE PHOTOS | A11

## ROOF FROM PAGE A1

in a day.

Rivera estimated that the new roof would have cost Neighbor to Neighbors about \$12,000.

"This is a legacy donation," Malewiski said in his video. "This will help families over families."

The old roof on Neighbor to Neighbors' building at 413 S. Main St. was the original and more than 30 years old, the food pantry's Board President James Heil said. The roof was so old that the nonprofit was in danger of losing its property insurance, which would've meant loss of access to the building.

"It was very deteriorated," Rivera said about the roof, adding that the old shingles weren't meant for longevity. "It had leaks. There were a couple of pieces of decking that had rotting where it had been leaking for so long."

Heil said the worst leak was in the main waiting area that dripped on clients seeking help.

"That's a minor inconvenience, but losing insurance and not being able to be open, that would have been big hit to the community for us not to have that building," he said.

Rivera, who has partnered with Servolution multiple times, knows how much the community relies on Neighbor to Neighbors, so she joined this project to keep the food pantry opera-

tional. She also understands what it's like to be in need.

"We lived in poverty for a while, and I feel like there's always people who step up and do things and volunteer that maybe are behind the scenes," she said. "We realized that when we needed, our community was there so we'll always give back to our community."

On its Facebook page, Neighbor to Neighbors thanked those who made it possible for the food pantry to get a new roof.

"It is a reminder of how God's timing is always perfect," read Neighbor to Neighbors' Facebook post. "We have needed a new roof for quite some time when God placed the right people in our path, at the right time."



PHOTO COURTESY OF SERVOLUTION NETWORK FACEBOOK PAGE

The crew of Rivera Roofing takes a break during their work on the roof. Rivera Roofing donated the labor needed to replace the roof on the building.

## LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICES

### INVITATION TO BID NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the City of Azle, Texas (OWNER) will receive sealed Bids at Azle City Hall until 11:00 a.m. local time on Thursday, March 7, 2024 for Bulk Process Chemicals for the Azle Water Treatment Plant and Azle Wastewater Treatment Plant #2024-005. Bids will be opened and read aloud publicly following the close of the Bid Period. Bidders may receive a copy of Invitation to Bid from the City's website at <http://www.cityofazle.org>. For additional information, please contact: Jennifer Walls/Purchasing Agent at 817-444-7003 or by email at [jwalls@cityofazle.org](mailto:jwalls@cityofazle.org)

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Pursuant to Chapter 59 of Texas property code to satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale to be held at Azle Self Storage at 11400 FM 730 N; Azle TX 76020 on [storageauctions.com](http://storageauctions.com) starting on March 1, 2024, at 9:00am CST and ending on March 13, 2024 at 10am CST. Cleanup deposit is required. The seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale. Unit items sold to the highest bidder. Property includes the contents of spaces of the following tenant and is primarily household items and furniture. TROY BLEVINS, CLAYTON CREWS, MICHELE GLASS, MEGAN MORRIS.

### THE STATE OF TEXAS CITATION BY PUBLICATION CAUSE NO. 24P003

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF LESLIE LOU ANNE THOMAS, DECEASED TO ALL UNKNOWN OR MISSING HEIRS OF THE ESTATE OF LESLIE LOU ANNE THOMAS, DECEASED. Roberto De Santiago in the above-numbered and entitled estate filed an Application to Determine Heirship and for Independent Administration and Letters of Administration Pursuant to Section 401.003 of the Texas Estates Code on 01/04/2024 In the Estate of Leslie Lou Anne Thomas, Deceased, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of Leslie Lou Anne Thomas, Deceased, and their respective shares and interest in such estate, and appointing Roberto De Santiago to serve as the Independent Administrator of said estate and Determined Heirship. The court may act on said application at any call of the docket on or after 10:00 o'clock A.M. on the first Monday next after the expiration of 10 days from the date of publication of this citation, at the Parker County Court, One Courthouse Square, Weatherford, TX 76086 in Parker County, Texas. All persons interested in this case are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court by filing a written contest or answer to said Application before the above stated time and date should you desire to do so. To ensure its consideration, you or your attorney must file any contest, objection, intervention, or response in writing with the County Clerk of Parker County, Texas on or before the above noted date and time. Given under my hand and the seal of said Court of Parker County, Texas at the office of the Parker County Clerk, on this 4th day of January, 2024. LILADEAKLE County Clerk, Parker County Texas. By Sharon Hall, Deputy Clerk. Applicant's Attorney: Jennifer S. Ruelas 1020 Fort Worth HWY STE 500, Weatherford TX 76086.

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# Servolution Network's "Love Your City" Gala

JIM STEVENS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

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The band Branded returned to perform at Servolution's second annual gala.



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Eleven-year-old Reylan Eason was one of many to walk away with a prize after winning a game of heads or tails at Servolution Network's second annual Love Your City Gala.



Sabrina Pyle, owner of Azle Café, received a Legacy Award for the help and many meals provided to Servolution staff over the years.



Caitlyn's Catering owner Scott Tanner and family were recognized with the Newcomer Award after donating their time and resources to provide meals for the gala's guests.



Principal Holly Hamilton of Azle Christian School was recognized with a Legacy Award for the resources and services donated to help the network during its home blitzes.

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- STOP POLICE DEFUNDING
- EXCELLENT EDUCATION
- ELECTION SECURITY
- PROTECT CHILDREN ONLINE
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**CHARLIE GEREN**  
 REPUBLICAN  
 STATE REPRESENTATIVE

**EARLY VOTING FEB 20-MARCH 1 • ELECTION DAY MARCH 5**



# Mobile music

**MADELYN EDWARDS**  
springtownreporter@tricountyreporter.com

## Grant helps Springtown Elementary students play xylophones

SPRINGTOWN — Thanks to the Springtown Education Foundation, the kids at Springtown Elementary can keep making sweet music for their school and community with ease.

The education foundation supports scholastic opportunities in the schools by funding initiatives that may not be included in the school district's budget, according to its website. This can be accomplished through the Innovative Teaching Grant program where educators can request money for projects or tools that enhance

classroom activities. "SEF believes that the ideas and aspirations of the teachers can truly make a difference in the lives of Springtown (Independent School District) students," according to the foundation's website.

Music teacher Sally McPhetridge recognized the need for xylophone stands in her classroom, so she applied for a grant through the education foundation at the

beginning of the school year. McPhetridge's application was successful, and the foundation awarded her \$1,500 to buy 11 mobile xylophone stands, which were recently received and assembled.

It may seem like xylophone stands have a singular purpose, but McPhetridge described multiple ways they have been used. First of all, they allow for mobility. The stands make it easier to transport the xylophones to



Thanks to the new xylophone stands, music students at Springtown Elementary can play the xylophone in breakout ensembles with more ease while also practicing good posture.



PHOTOS COURTESY SALLY MCPHETRIDGE

Springtown Elementary School music teacher Sally McPhetridge received a \$1,500 grant from the Springtown Education Foundation to buy 11 mobile xylophone stands, which allow the heavy instruments to be more accessible in the classroom.

wherever the kids are performing as well as around the music classroom.

"In the past, I rarely moved the Orff instruments (xylophones, metallophones, glockenspiels) around the room because they were heavy and awkward to carry," she said. "Now that is no longer an issue. The fact that first graders can roll a BASS xylophone around the room with ease is exciting. I haven't tried it with kindergarten yet because they are currently working on their program, but I am very confident that they will be successful with moving the instruments as well."

Aside from bettering logistics, McPhetridge said young kids being able to move the instruments around "encourages autonomy and fosters a

sense of ownership in their music education." She said the stands also allow the students to practice better posture while playing and can be used for breakout ensembles within the class.

"It's rewarding to watch these students create and play beautiful music using the xylophone, ukulele, drum, boomwhackers and frog scraper in their small groups," McPhetridge said. "They are learning to listen to each other, use their critical AND creative thinking skills and work as a team. The students are having fun and feeling very successful with their teamwork. This is happening because those xylophone stands have given us the opportunity to be flexible with every single class. I am extremely grateful for

the support of (Springtown Education Foundation) and my administrators. They know the importance a good music education can have on a child. I am looking forward to having more instruments included in the grade-level programs so that our parents can hear the amazing things their child is doing in the music classroom."

To show their appreciation to the foundation, McPhetridge and her students made thank you notes.

"We are grateful for your dedication to supporting quality education and innovative teaching," McPhetridge wrote in her letter to the foundation. "Your generosity will continue to resonate throughout our school community for years to come."

# KLEMENT

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<p style="font-size: small;">Savings \$14,168</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Stock #RN106320 MSRP \$70,840 - Klement Discount \$7084 - Rebate \$7084</p> <p style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px;">FINAL PRICE \$56,716</p>	<p style="font-size: small;">Savings \$12,530</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Stock #RG151911 MSRP \$83,535 - Klement Discount \$4176 - Rebate \$8354</p> <p style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px;">FINAL PRICE \$70,984</p>
<p style="font-size: small;">Savings \$5,836 + 0%</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Stock #RN125303 MSRP \$60,890 - Klement Discount \$5836</p> <p style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px;">FINAL PRICE \$54,987</p>	<p style="font-size: small;">Savings \$14,784</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Stock #RG149955 MSRP \$98,565 - Klement Discount \$4927 - Rebate \$9857</p> <p style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px;">FINAL PRICE \$83,781</p>
<p style="font-size: small;">Savings \$15,750</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Stock #PL576212 MSRP \$64,060 - Klement Discount \$6144 - Rebate \$9606</p> <p style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px;">FINAL PRICE: \$48,310</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">*0% for 72 Months *WAC</p>	

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THE TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

# DIVERSIONS



THURSDAY, February 29, 2024



## Winter Guard continues winning streak at Dallas Regional

*AHS Varsity Winter Guard earns second place at Coppell High School contest*

**ZACH FREEMAN**  
azlereporter@tricityreporter.com

AZLE — Azle High School's Varsity Winter Guard continues to have a spectacular season after winning second place in the Scholastic A category at its first Winter Guard International (WGI) regional competition. The winter guard program had not qualified for finals at the Dallas Regional competition since 2018. The Feb. 17-18 contest, held at Coppell High School, saw 44 color guard teams from across the DFW area compete in preliminary rounds. Only 20 teams, including Azle, qualified for finals.

"This is the most com-

petitive color guard contest in the country up to this point of the season," director Caleb Hunter said. "The competition will continue to get steeper as we progress through the rest of our WGI World Championships track."

Azle Winter Guard won first place in the equipment and general effect captions categories.

Upcoming contests include WGI Austin March 1, WGI Southwest at the University of North Texas Coliseum March 16, and the WGI World Championships held in Dayton, Ohio at the University of Dayton Arena April 11.

Azle's Varsity Winter Guard won first place at its season-opening competition in Frisco earlier this month and had the highest score of the day at its second contest in Alvarado. This year,

COURTESY AHS WINTER GUARD

**Bryanna Pender (senior lieutenant) in foreground and Dunesca Gutierrez on left.**

PLEASE SEE **GUARD** | B2

## Azle drumline 1st at NTCA Burleson competition

**FROM STAFF REPORTS**

The Azle Marching Green Pride Indoor Drumline beat out several tough competitors at the North Texas Colorguard Association competition Feb. 24 in Burleson. Scoring 80.05 points, the Azle High School drumline bested Burleson High School (78.50 points), Keller High School (75.90 points), Fossil Ridge High School (74.05 points), Chisolm Trail High School (71.15 points) and Saginaw High School (71.15 points).

"This is the first time in nearly a decade that the indoor drumline has broken the 80-point mark at the first contest," said Greg Davis, AHS assistant band director.

The indoor drumline and winter guard will host a BBQ dinner at 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 29 at AHS followed by a performance of their shows at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$8 for children 10 and under. Tickets to see the performance only are \$5. All Azle ISD students may attend the show portion for free.

PHOTO CREDIT CHRISTIE WETHINGTON

**The Azle Marching Green Pride Indoor Drumline scored 80.05 points to beat out several tough competitors at the North Texas Colorguard Association competition Feb. 24 in Burleson.**



# SPORTS Roundup

## Porcupines' season ends in thriller

*Lady Hornets have strong tourney showing*

**RICK MAUCH**  
Special to the Tri-County Reporter

One of the most successful seasons in years came to an exciting end with a 71-69 Class 4A bidistrict loss to Burkburnett Tuesday, Feb. 20 at Lake Dallas High School.

The Porcupines (19-13), the No. 3 seed from District 8-4A, came out firing on all cylinders, playing tough defense and capitalizing on offensive rebounds. Springtown maintained the lead throughout the majority of the game.

Despite ending the third period up by nine points, the fourth quarter did not go the Porcupines' way in any form or fashion. Burkburnett's depth served them well as Springtown fought until the very end, but the Dunkin' Dawgs fresh legs prevailed and allowed them to heat up offensively.

Junior Ethan Graham's shooting from deep at the end kept the Pines close as he finished with 15 points, but they ran out of time. Junior Dylan Crutchfield was a force

to be reckoned with on the boards, along with pouring in 30 points to lead the scoring.

This was the Porcupines' second consecutive playoff appearance, something they had not accomplished since 2013-15.

**AZLE SOFTBALL**

The Lady Hornets (6-5-1) won five of six in the Mansfield Tournament this past weekend.

Azle 8, NBV 2: Hitting leaders — Brandie Phillips two hits, two RBIs; Shaylea Cassell double, RBI; Ema Lehr double,

RBI; Haley Carlson double, RBI. Pitching leader: Morgan Terrell four innings, two hits, no earned runs, six strikeouts, two walks.

Azle 9, Mansfield Summit 0: Hitting leaders — Phillips two doubles, RBI; Corryne Barone two hits; Haley Carlson triple, RBI; Torrie Johnson double, Allison Smith double, three RBIs; Danni Wangler double, RBI. Pitching leader: Barone three innings, one hit, five strikeouts, three walks.

Azle 9, Mineral Wells 0: Hitting leaders — Kaylee

Parrish two hits, RBI; Smith two hits; Lehr two hits, walk, RBI; Johnson home run, three RBIs. Pitching leader — Adrianna Wiedman five innings, five hits, six strikeouts, no walks.

Azle 8, Mansfield Timberview 0: Leading hitters — Phillips two hits, home run, three RBIs; Wangler double, home run, four RBIs. Pitching leader — Barone three innings, one hit, three strikeouts, no walks.

Mansfield 5, Azle 4: Smith three hits, double, triple, two

RBIs.

Azle 6, Ennis 1: Parrish three hits, Barone double, Johnson double, Smith double, Wangler double, Wiedman double. Pitching: Wiedman five innings, one hit, one earned run, nine strikeouts, no walks.

Azle will compete in the Northwest Tournament this weekend and the Mid-Cities Tournament March 7 and 9 with a game at Granbury March 8 at 5 p.m.

PLEASE SEE **ROUNDUP** | B2



# ROUNDUP

FROM PAGE B1

## SPRINGTOWN BASEBALL

Advancing to the playoffs has become expected of late by the Porcupines, and with eight starters returning from a 19-10 District 8-4A championship squad that reached the second round of the playoffs, folks are excited for more.

Returning starters are: Brayden Fox, senior, infielder/pitcher, 8-4A Offensive Player of the Year

Carson Cox, senior infielder/pitcher, first-team All-8-4A Utility Player

Brayden Adams, senior, catcher/designated hitter Caleb Elmore, senior, pitcher

Keegan Martinez, junior, pitcher, second-team All-8-4A pitcher

Trent Solis, junior, first base

Ryan Kirk, sophomore, third base, 8-4A Newcomer of the Year

Layton Murrell, sophomore, catcher/outfield

"We have a good group of returners who have played a lot of varsity baseball for us," coach Colin Crawford said. "It will be a very competitive district this year, and we look forward to the challenge we will face every week. Krum and Decatur will also have very strong teams. Our players are tough and play hard!"

The Porcupines (1-3) opened the season by playing in the Kennedale Tournament

this past weekend. Amarillo Caprock 6, Springtown 5: Hitting leaders — Brayden Fox two hits; Layton Murrell two hits; Trent Solis two hits, double, two RBIs; Drake Doggett two hits, double, two RBIs.

Kennedale 3, Springtown 2: Hitting leader — Fox double.

Alvarado 3, Springtown 2: Ryan Kirk two hits, walk, two RBIs; Fox two hits; Doggett double.

Springtown 2, Brock 1: Doggett triple. Pitching: Keegan Martinez four innings, one hit, one earned run, five strikeouts, two walks; Fox two innings, three hits, three strikeouts, one walk.

Springtown will compete in the Ponder Tournament this weekend and in the Johnson County Tournament March 7-9.

**AZLE BASEBALL**  
The Hornets (4-1) opened the season by hosting the Southwest Ford Classic this past weekend.

Azle 4, Martin 3: Garring Graves three hits, two RBIs; Ivan Perez two hits. Pitching: Ty Bonnett 3.2 innings, three earned runs; Ethan Hadaway 2.2 innings, two strikeouts; Carter Landon save.

Mansfield Legacy 8, Azle 1: Jesse Hemmerling, Graves, Ryland Lipton and Perez each had one hit.

Azle 4, Abilene Cooper 2: Tyler Vaughn four hits, two doubles, three RBIs; Hemmerling two hits; Perez two hits; Lane Springfield two hits; Bonnet two hits. Pitching: Springfield 5.2 in-

nings, three hits, one earned run, 10 strikeouts; Christian Shepherd save.

Azle 10, Nacogdoches 0: Hemmerling, Graves, Perez and Bonnet two hits each. Pitching: Austin complete game, seven strikeouts.

Azle 8, Nolan Catholic 5: Bonnet three hits, Jacob McGee and Graves two hits. Cole Webb 4.1 innings, no runs, 10 strikeouts.

The JV Green Baseball team went 3-1 on the weekend with good pitching performances from Carsyn Syrus, Preston Dixon and Aiden Mackey. Henry Rosales stood out on defense at shortstop.

Azle will compete in the Jet Teague Tournament in Kennedale this weekend and the Drew Medford Tournament March 7-9.

**SPRINGTOWN SOFTBALL**  
The Lady Pines (3-2) competed in the Fort Worth Country Day Tournament this past weekend.

Cisco 8, Springtown 5: Haylee Sanborn two hits, triple, three RBIs; Addyson Norris two hits; Ava Fernandez double; Ryleigh Morris home run, RBI.

Springtown 2, FWCD 1: Nevaeh Vasquez two hits; Norris double, two RBIs; Fernandez double. Pitching: Kylee Spray six innings, one hit, no earned runs, six strikeouts, two walks.

Springtown 8, Tolar 7: Madison Terrell two hits; Sanborn double, walk, RBI; Cheyenne Atchley double, walk.

Springtown will play in the Iowa Park Tournament

this weekend and hosts Burk Burnett March 5 at 6:30 p.m.

## SPRINGTOWN TRACK

The Porcupines and Lady Pines competed in the Brock Invitational Feb. 22.

**BOYS**  
Team score: 98, third place  
Top individuals  
· 110 hurdles: 2. Kamryn Cleveland, 15.54; 3. Darren Sweely, 15.99  
· 4x200 relay: 2. 1:31.35  
· 300 hurdles: 2. Cleveland, 41.05; 3. Sweely, 43.25  
· 4x400 relay: 1. 3:29.87  
· Pole vault: 2. Devan Hair, 11-0  
· Long jump: 3. Riley Jackson, 20-6

**GIRLS**  
Team score: 81, third place  
· 4x200 relay: 1. 1:50.20  
· 4x400: 2. 4:25.65  
· Long jump: 1. Mackenzie Flaughner, 17-11.50  
· Triple jump: 1. Flaughner, 33-6.75  
· Shot put: 2. Dezrae Robinson, 33-9.50; 3. Natalia De Valle Gonzalez, 33-6.50

Springtown is in the Boyd Invitational Feb. 29 and hosts the Brad Legan Friends and Family Invitational March 7.

**AZLE TRACK**  
The Hornets and Lady Hornets competed at Decatur Feb. 22.

Azle results  
**BOYS**  
Team score: 76.5, 6th place  
· 400: 2. Josh Montelongo, 50.77  
· 4x100 relay: 2. Cale Cohen, Tyler Ulrich, Jakob Montelongo, Jo. Montelongo, 44.07  
· 4x400 relay: 1. Christian Tomlinson, Cayden Lawson,

Kaine Hill, Jo. Montelongo, 3:37.02  
· Triple jump: 2. Cohen, 41-07.5

**GIRLS**  
Team score: 65, 5th place  
· 100: 3. Raegan Williams, 12.45  
· 200: 1. Savana Panter, 26.44  
· 400: 1. Rebecca Marx, 1:00.59  
· 800: 3. Reese Jeter, 2:25.39  
· 1600: 2. Reese Jeter, 5:38.54

Azle will host its own meet Feb. 29 and travels to Boswell March 7.

**SPRINGTOWN GIRLS SOCCER**  
The Lady Pines (12-4-1, 5-1 in 8-4A) won 2-1 at Bridgeport Feb. 23. Kylie Wiens put a free kick past the goalkeeper with about 20 minutes left in the game for the winning score and Lily Duval scored on a first-half penalty kick.

"We had to dig in a bit because we knew they'd come after us," Springtown coach Ryan Bylerly said. "Solid defensive performance and our midfield kept things ticking for us."

The Lady Pines and Porcupines play at Castleberry March 1 and at Lake Worth March 5, girls starting at 5:30 p.m. and boys at 7:15 p.m.

**SPRINGTOWN BOYS SOCCER**  
The Porcupines (2-12-1, 1-5 in 8-4A) fell 4-1 at Bridgeport Feb. 23. Rylen Passmore scored the goal with an assist from Josue Anaya.

**AZLE GIRLS SOCCER**  
The Lady Hornets (12-4-

1, 5-2 in 5-5A) posted a 3-0 home win over Granbury Feb. 23. Scoring for Azle were Lily Hudman with her 16th goal of the season, along with Anahi Colmenero and Sophia McIntyre. Assists came from Melanie Harder, McIntyre and McKenzie Roberts.

Emma Nelson posted the shutout in goal.

The Lady Hornets and Hornets host Northwest March 1 and travel to Saginaw March, girls playing at 5:30 p.m. and boys at 7:30 p.m.

**AZLE BOYS SOCCER**  
The Hornets (4-11, 0-7 in 5-5A) fell 6-0 at home to Granbury Feb. 23.

**AZLE GIRLS POWERLIFTING**  
The Lady Hornets placed fifth at the district meet in Aledo Feb. 16. Top performers were:

105 pound class — 3. Kimber Gray, 4. Michelle Lechuga  
· 123: 1. Raegan Williams, best overall lifter on light platform  
· 132: 3. Dakota Donaldson  
· 148: 4. Kenzie Arellano  
· 242-plus: 2. Giselle Redding

They placed fourth of 17 teams in the Aggie Showdown Feb. 17.

· 97: 3. Kyndal Robbins, 4. Ryleigh Myers  
· 105: 4. Ella Swaim, 5. Paizlee Gray  
· 114: 5. Peyton Hill  
· 123: 5. Mckynleigh Sisk  
· 132: 3. Cooper Yates  
· 148: 4. Kayley Brekel  
· 181: 2. Emma Sustal  
· 242: 4. Jessie Johnson

# GUARD

FROM PAGE B1

the guard is performing its show entitled, "Bridge over Troubled Water."

## TOP TEN GUARDS FROM DALLAS REGIONAL:

- 1st — Hebron High School
- 2nd — Azle High School
- 3rd — Wylie High School
- 4th — Coppell High School
- 5th — Rock Hill High School
- 6th — Emerson High School
- 7th — Garland High School
- 8th — Cedar Park High School
- 9th — Royce City High School
- 10th — McKinney High School



COURTESY AHS COLOR GUARD

## Azle School Menu March 4-8, 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** Breakfast on a stick, Orange Juice, Apple **Tues** Egg and Cheese on a Bun, Orange Juice, Pears Diced **Weds** Glazed Donut, Orange Juice, Pineapples **Thurs** Breakfast Pizza, Orange Juice, Oranges **Fri** No School

**LUNCH: Everyday - Variety of milk. Your choice of 1 entree & 1 fruit or juice**  
**Mon** Chicken Nuggets Offered With - Whole Wheat Roll Homemade Macaroni & Cheese Offered With - Honey Wheat Breadstick, Apple Juice, Oranges, Pears Diced, Green beans **Tues** Chicken Alfredo, Turkey & Cheese Sandwich, Apple, Peaches, Apple Juice, Mixed Veggies **Weds** Chef Salad Offered With - 2 Honey Wheat Breadsticks, Grilled Cheese Sandwich, Apple Juice, Oranges, Steamed Carrots, Pineapples **Thurs** Breaded Chicken Sandwich, Chicken & Cheese Pizza Quesadilla, Apple Juice, Apple Sauce, Corn **Fri** No School

**GRADES 5TH - 8TH**

**BREAKFAST: Everyday - Assorted Fruits and Cereal, Juice, White or Chocolate Milk, Yogurt w/Granola**  
**Mon** Breakfast on a stick, Orange Juice, Apple **Tues** Egg and Cheese on a Bun, Orange Juice, Pears Diced **Weds** Glazed Donut, Orange Juice, Pineapples **Thurs** Breakfast Pizza, Orange Juice, Oranges **Fri** No School

**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 Offered With - Whole Wheat Roll, Homemade Macaroni & Cheese Offered With - Honey Wheat Breadstick **Tues** Cheeseburger, Hamburger, Maxstixs Offered With - Marinara, Turkey & Cheese Sandwich **Weds** Chef Salad Offered With: - 2 Honey Wheat Breadsticks", Corn dog, Hot Ham and Cheese Sandwich Offered With - Tomato Soup **Thurs** Breaded Chicken Sandwich, Cheeseburger Chicken & Cheese Pizza Quesadilla Apple Juice **Fri** No school

**HIGH SCHOOL**

**BREAKFAST: Everyday - Assorted Fruits and Cereal, Juice, White or Chocolate Milk, Yogurt w/Granola**  
**Mon** Breakfast on a stick Orange Juice Pears Diced **Tues** Egg and Cheese on a Bun Orange Juice Pineapples **Weds** Glazed Donut Orange Juice Oranges **Thurs** Breakfast Pizza, Apple, Orange Juice **Fri** No school

**LUNCH: • Everyday: 1% unflavored or non fat chocolate milk & juice • Salad Bar**  
**Mon** Breaded Chicken Sandwich, Chicken Nuggets Offered With - Whole Wheat Roll, Homemade Macaroni & Cheese Offered With - Honey Wheat Breadstick **Tues** Cheeseburger, Hamburger, Maxstixs Offered With - Marinara, Turkey & Cheese Sandwich **Weds** Chef Salad Offered With: - 2 Honey Wheat Breadsticks", Corn dog, Hot Ham and Cheese Sandwich Offered With - Tomato Soup **Thurs** Breaded Chicken Sandwich, Cheeseburger Chicken & Cheese Pizza Quesadilla Apple Juice **Fri** No school

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## Springtown School Menu

**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.

**March 4-8, 2024**  
**PK through 12th Grade**

\*Menus are subject to change.

**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** Dutch Waffle Sliced Pears Juice **Tues** Breakfast Stick Blueberries Juice **Weds** Bacon Scramble Pizza Apple Juice **Thurs** Cinnamon Roll Cereal & Toast Strawberry Applesauce **Fri** No School

**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** Tangerine Chicken, Rice Steamed Broccoli, Fresh Veggies Apple Slices or Mandarin Oranges, Juice **Tues** Spaghetti or Corn Dog, Garlic Roll, Green Bean, Fresh Veggies Applesauce or Orange, Juice **Weds** Cheeseburger or Hamburger French Fries, Fresh Veggies (Cucumber & Tomato, Celery, Carrots), Sliced Peaches or Apple, Juice **Thurs** Cheese Pizza, Chicken Nuggets or Baked Potato w/ Pulled Pork Roll Mixed Vegetables, Fresh Veggies Blueberries or Banana, Juice **Fri** No School

**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** General Tso's Chicken or Tangerine Chicken, Rice, Roll Fresh Veggies Apple Slices or Mandarin Orange **Tues** Lasagna or Chicken Sandwich Garlic Roll, Fresh Veggies Applesauce or Strawberry Applesauce **Weds** Chicken & Waffles, (Reg. or Spicy) or Sweet & Sour Rice Bowl w/ Pork, Tator Tots, Fresh Veggies Blueberries or Orange **Thurs** Cheese Pizza, Corn Dog or Baked Potato Basket w/ Pulled Pork, Mixed Vegetables, Fresh Vegetables Sliced Pears or Banana **Fri** No School

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**Sudoku**

FEBRUARY 29, 2024

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

Level: Beginner

**Solution to last week's puzzle**

FEBRUARY 22, 2024

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

**Crossword Puzzle**

1		2	3					4
		5						
		6						
7				8			9	
				10				
11								

**Crossword Puzzle Clues**

ACROSS

- 1. Silliest, craziest
- 5. Account of (abbr)
- 6. To a great extent
- 7. Smiles slightly
- 9. Either —
- 10. Not any
- 11. Response to a situation

DOWN

- 1. Happy sound
- 2. Calm, pleasant place
- 3. Midday
- 4. Unlucky number
- 8. Boy child

ANSWERS: Across: 1. Looniest 5. AO 6. So 7. Grins 9. Or 10. None 11. Reaction Down: 1. Laughter 2. Oasis 3. Noon 4. Thirteen 8. Son

**Fun games with real-world physics**

Here are a couple of quick-to-play physics games that will keep you entertained for a few of hours. 'Physics games' usually assign physical properties to objects in the game, and the puzzle is learning how to manipulate those physical properties to manipulate the object.



**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.

**DONUT COUNTY**

Meet BK, a hole-driving raccoon working for the local donut shop. His job is to deliver donuts (holes) to the citizens of Donut County. Every time he delivers a donut, he gets points in his game, and his raccoon employers get more trash.

Each delivery starts with a little hole, and the task is to drive the hole around, finding tiny little things to swallow up. As the hole swallows more and more stuff, it gets bigger and bigger, until finally it's swallowing up cars, trees, rocks and even houses.

Finally BK falls into one of his own holes, and is confronted by Mira, his best friend, and the rest of the town, 999 feet underground. They want answers — and they want their stuff back.

Gameplay is two hours at most. I'm at three hours, and I played it through twice. It's a cute game!

It's fun to move the hole around and find all the little things that will fall in it.

There's a little too much story in this game, in my opinion. They could have skipped some of the story and inserted another puzzle, but it's still worth playing. The game, developed by Ben Esposito and published by Annapurna Interactive, retails at \$12.99 on SteamOS. Or grab it when it goes on sale, like I did.

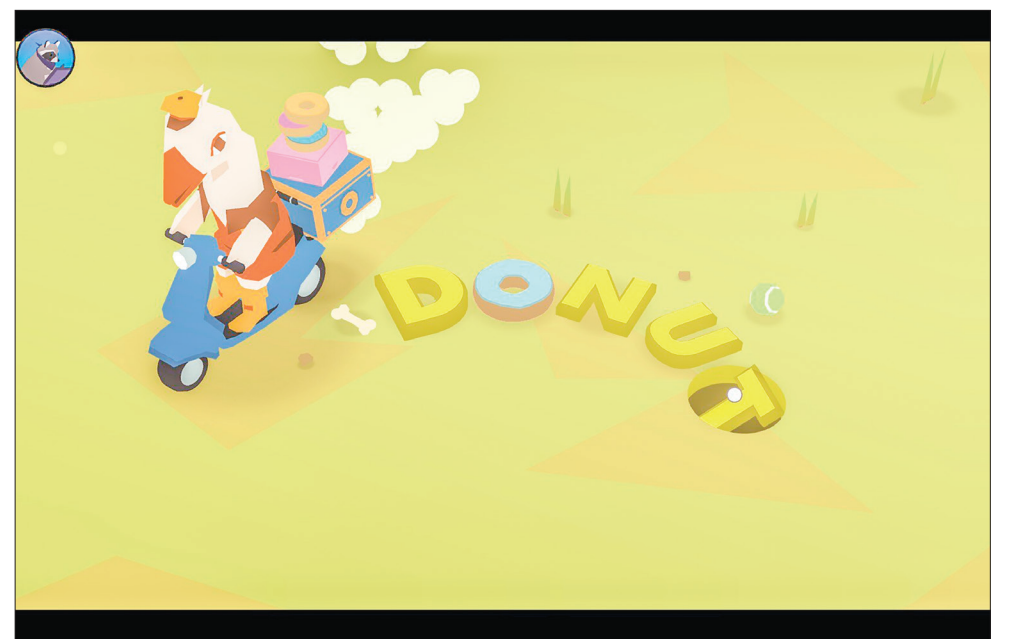
**KIDS**

KIDS is a short, interactive animation, drawn by Michael Frei and coded by Mario von Rickenbach. Gameplay is only about one-and-a-half hours. Each 'scene' starts with one or more of a generic human figure. Each figure has certain physical properties, just like matter. Sometimes they attract, sometimes they repel. Sometimes they move as if they're suspended in water. They are defined by how

they relate to one another while at the same time being featureless.

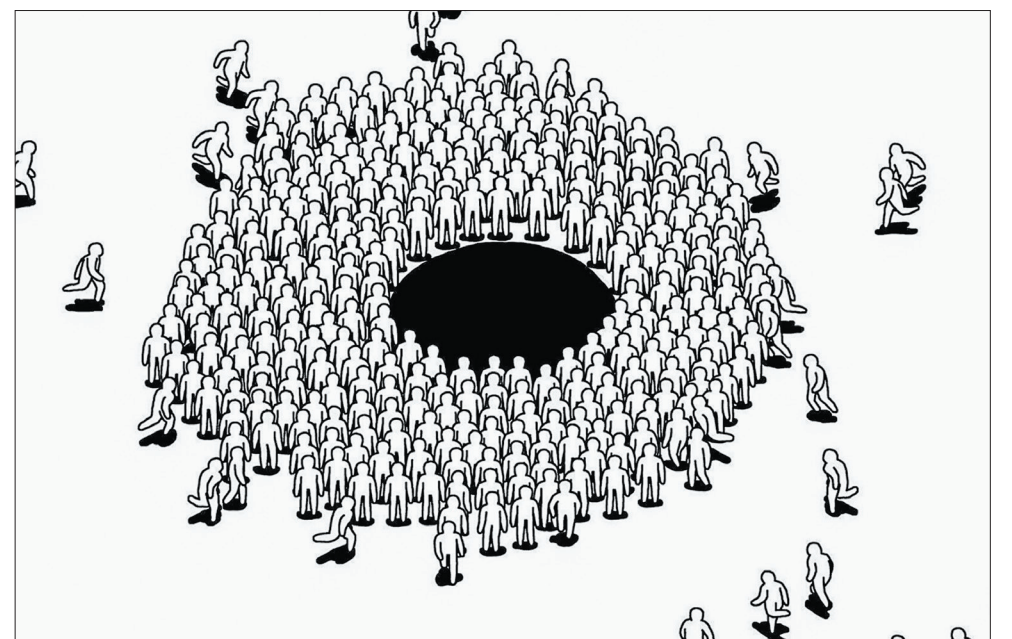
From the KIDS website (<https://playkids.ch/presskit/>) "KIDS was made using traditional 2D hand-drawn line animation in black and white. The animation was assembled, composited and choreographed using a game engine with a custom-made animation system in conjunction with physics simulations."

KIDS also exists as an art installation and a short movie. The installation premiered at the Museum of Digital Arts (MuDA) in Zürich, Switzerland in February 2018. It's toured around the world and has been exhibited at several gaming festivals and digital art galleries. The installation is divided into three parts: interactive scenarios, an installation of up to 50 puppets and a presentation of the production process.



SCREENSHOT COURTESY BEN ESPOSITO

The Honking Man gets a donut.



SCREENSHOT COURTESY PLAYABLES

In this scene each figure will fall into the hole when clicked.

**WORD SCRAMBLE**

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to holiday baking.

**G E R N G I**

--	--	--	--	--

Answer: Ginger



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EVENT 19 HEAT 2		1:59.6	
G 100 Back Finals			
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2	JACKSON	COHE 33.69	1:05.41
3	HICKOK	NOWE 32.32	1:01.40
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6	NOWAKOWSKI	AZLE 33.63	1:04.63
7	GREWS	ALED 33.61	1:05.19
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| 6..... Asphalt Paving      | 29..... Fencing                 | 51..... Motorcycles                    |
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| 9..... Auto Repair Service | 32..... For Sale                | 54..... Music Lessons                  |
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**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

**009 Auto Repair Service**  
**Rainwater's**  
**The Transmission Shop**  
 We do our own transmission rebuilding here in house, ASE Certified Rebuilder, saving you money. Most others don't! Others buy from suppliers and auto part stores.  
**682-615-7250 • 817-766-3852**

**LEON'S TREE SERVICE**  
 Expert take downs  
 Stump Grinding  
 Residential/Commercial  
 Licensed & Insured • Free Estimates  
**817-371-8597**

**039 Help Wanted**  
 Caregivers/Homemakers wanted for an Elderly Care for Tarrant County. Duties included: Meal preparation, Companionship, Light Housekeeping (ADL's). Must have insured dependable vehicle. Call 817-731-4444.

**Last Puzzle Solution**  
  
 S A B A  
 K N E T  
 E D G E  
 E R O S  
 D E N T O N C O O L E Y  
 A W E L E A R N E D A N D  
 D S G N A T R E I M E R  
 P R A Y E D A L E T H I K E W E  
 R I D E A L L D A Y D O C S B R A  
 M I S R E A D S T U N E F R O M  
 M E S O M E S L A C K D R I P S  
 S O U D E A L T R I O D E  
 N T S U L C E A S E  
 R I C H E S T  
 A N A I L  
 T N T  
 H O A  
 E E L  
 S-1677

**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

**032 For Sale**  
  
 2022 Honda ATV Rancher 4x4 420cc paid \$9,000, asking \$6,000. 42.4 hours, 545 miles. 810-735-1680

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

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

**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

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

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

**020 Demolition**  
**MCNEELY'S DEMOLITION & CLEAN UP SERVICE**  
*We Create Vacancy*  
 •Tear Down •Barns  
 •Removal •Houses  
 •Haul Off •Bobcat  
 •Mobile Service  
 Homes •Dirt/Gravel  
 •Garages Spreading  
**FREE ESTIMATES**  
**817-996-7887**  
 253 Eagles Way, Springtown

**Piano with bench & music. \$350**  
**817-454-3798**

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

**Advertising Works!**

**GARAGE SALE** 16 words for only \$10. Add \$2 for Facebook Coverage  
 A great way to raise extra money!  
 Call today for more info.  
 The Tri-County Reporter  
 817-270-3340

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

**034 Garage & Estate Sales**

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

Moving Sale  
 1232 Edgewater Dr., Azle. March 1st and 2nd. Solid wood desk, lots of things need to go. Too much to list.

Moving Sale  
 600 Sunset Dr, Azle. March 2nd 7:30-4:00. Dolls, camping gear, latter's, antiques, furniture, dishes, etc.

**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

**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

**035 Garden/Mowing Service**  
 COWBOY LAWN CARE.  
 Handyman services, residential, farm, , landscaping, tree trimming. Free Estimates. 817-271-0450. Spring Specials.

Advertising Works!

*Do you and your best friend need a new car for a road trip?*  
  
**Find that Perfect Car or Truck in the Community Classifieds.**  
**OR**  
**You can Sell your Auto in the same section.**  
**Call 817-270-3340 for more info on our**  
**3-Month Special Only \$29.95**



**817-270-3340**

Deadline:  
1:00 PM FRIDAY

# Classifieds

<p><b>039</b></p>  <p><b>KARL KLEMENT</b></p> <p><b>Service Technician</b></p> <p>Seeking to hire ALL levels of Automotive Service Technicians to join our team! Compensation based on experience and certifications. Must have a valid TXDL, be dependable and responsible with a good work ethic. To apply, please send resume via Indeed ad or come by our office located at 605 N. Business 287, Suite 102 in Decatur. Full-Time, Monday-Friday</p> <p><b>Pickup/Delivery Driver Needed</b> Full time; Monday-Friday</p> <p>If you enjoy being on the road, have excellent driving skills, and take pride in providing exceptional customer service, this is the perfect opportunity for you. Apply now to join our team of dedicated pick up / delivery drivers! To apply, come by our office located at 605 N. Business 287, Suite 102 in Decatur.</p>	<p><b>Help Wanted</b></p> <p><b>KLEMENT DISTRIBUTION, INC.</b> (Hershey Ice Cream Distributor)</p> <p>No Positions Available at This Time</p> <p><b>Karl Klement Properties, Inc.</b></p> <p>No Positions Available at This Time</p>  <p>No Positions Available at This Time</p> <p>Apply in person at: 605 N. Business 287, Ste 102, Decatur, Texas or call Human Resources 940-627-6362   hr.info@klementford.com</p> <p>Jodi Pettis, Executive Director</p> <p>All full-time positions offer growth opportunities &amp; a full benefits package including Medical, Dental, Vision, Life, 401(k) &amp; more.</p> <p>EEOC</p>	<p><b>081 Business/Commercial</b></p> <p>40x50 building For Rent, 3 miles west of Springtown. 817-713-7495.</p> <p><b>For Lease:</b> Hwy 199 frontage, near hospital, 2000 Sq Ft \$1500/mo. 817-220-2021 Bryant Real Estate.</p> <p><b>082 RV's for Rent</b></p> <p>Nice 1BR RV in adult RV park. Great for older person on limited income. Starts at \$650/mo. All Bills Paid. Heritage RV Park 817-444-3760.</p> <p><b>083 Houses for Sale</b></p> <p>Cute home near Eagle Mountain Lake on .52 acres. 3 bedrooms 2 baths, Two year old HVAC, updated flooring and paint. Must see \$244,500. 12490 Deeds Court, Azle, TX. Diana McDowell@KW.com</p> <p><b>084 Mobile Homes for Rent</b></p> <p>Singlewide mobile home for rent \$1,200/month \$1,200 in security. Call for info. 817-220-4095 Springtown Area.</p>	<p><b>088 Rent Unfurnished</b></p> <p>1516 CORAL CUT OFF 2-1-1 \$1,145.MO. \$800 DEP. 1517 CORAL CUT OFF 2-1-1 \$1,125.MO. \$600 DEP. 1916 PELICAN DR. N. 3-1-1 \$1,245.MO. \$1,000 DEP. 1572 REEF DR. 3-2-1 \$1,295.MO. \$1,000 DEP. Gene Thompson &amp; Associates 817-246-4646 gtax.com</p> <p><b>Azle Creek Apartments</b> W. Main St. • Azle</p> <p><b>1-2-3 Bedrooms \$750/mo. &amp; up</b></p> <p><b>817-598-0663</b> aaapropertiesonline.com FIND US ON FACEBOOK!</p> <p><b>AZLE OAKS APARTMENT</b> 700 JARVIS • AZLE 817-444-1712</p> <p><b>1 &amp; 2 Bedroom Unfurnished</b> Accepting Applications Rent based on income TDD: 800-735-2989 This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.</p> <p><b>GENE THOMPSON &amp; ASSOCIATES HOMES and MOBILE HOMES FOR RENT</b> gtatx.com 817-246-4646</p>
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**040 Home Improvement**

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

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

**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**

**049 Masonry/Stonework**

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

**052 Movers**

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

**057 Pets/Livestock**

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

Boston Terrier puppies, 6 weeks old, declawed, tails clipped, and first shot. \$800. 817-773-6266.

**HORSE SALE March 1st, 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.

**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.*

**068 Storage**

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

**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**

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

**WE SOLD IT**

**IN THE CLASSIFIEDS**

The Tri-County Reporter  
**817-270-3340**

**HANDYMAN NEAR ME**

**We Get That Honey-Do List Done For You**

Call For Details **817-612-3464**

**\$75 PER HOUR**  
(labor only on most jobs)

**Ash Creek Storage**

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

**085 Mobile Homes For Sale**

**Pelican Bay:**  
1513 Sheri Lane S.  
Mobile Home with lot Needs Work  
3-2 1986, 16x76 Sunrizon 70K  
Gene Thompson & Associates, LLC  
817-246-4646

**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**

**079 Welding**

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

**R & E Construction**

Metal Building Specialist

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

Compare Pricing  
**NO JOB TOO SMALL**

**079 Welding**

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

**DESIGN FABRICATION ERECTION**

**Cozart METAL BUILDING SYSTEMS**

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

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

**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**

**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.

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

Apartment for rent . 1 bedroom 1 bath. \$850 a month plus electric. \$850 deposit. 1 to 2 adults only, no animals allowed. Call Donna 817-688-9316 between 9am to 5pm Mon.-Fri. And Sat. 9am to 2pm

3/2/2 on 5 acres in Aurora area approx. 1882 SF \$2,000/mo plus deposit. Call for application/ appointment to 817-430-0339.

3-2 Duplex, quiet location, nice & clean, newly refurbished, no pets. \$1500.00/mo. 817-444-3636.

**HOME IMPROVEMENT**

*Check out the Home Improvement Specialists in the Classifieds for help with your next project!*

**046 Looking to Buy**

Looking to buy a home, 1200-2000 square ft., 3-2, pre-owned, garage, .75+ acre lot, Springtown area. Will consider houses needing repair, remodel, or vacant building site.  
**Text 817-996-6351**

**062 Plumbing**

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

**066 Roofing**

**Miles Roofing**

- Insurance Claim Specialists;
- Free Estimates

**817-797-3420**

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



**Advertising Works!**

Advertising Works!



# 817-270-3340

Deadline:  
1:00 PM FRIDAY

# Classifieds



TEXAS STATEWIDE CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING NETWORK  
**TexSCAN**  
TexSCAN Week of  
Feb. 25-Mar. 2, 2024

**ACREAGE**  
AFFORDABLE OWNER FINANCED LAND. We have some of the best in Texas. Hill Country, South Texas, West Texas. 800-876-9720, texasranchland.com.

**AUCTIONS**  
90 LIMOUSIN & LIM-FLEX BULLS, Sat., March 9, 1 p.m., At The Ranch, Chattanooga, OK. 1 mile W, 2 miles S and 1 mile W on Hwy 5. Bid LIVE www.LiveAuctions.tv, 580-704-6739, www.coyotehillok.com.

**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

**EMPLOYMENT**  
Now hiring a full time Handyman at the Strake Jesuit Retreat and Leadership Center in Leona, TX. Visit www.strakejesuit.org/employment for more information.

**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.

**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.

**WANTED**  
Need Extra Cash - 1 Buy RVs & Mobile Homes - Travel Trailers, 5th Wheels, Goosenecks, Bumper Pulls. In Any Area, Any Condition - Old/New, Dirty or Clean! I PAY CASH. No Title - No Problem, we can apply for one. We go anywhere in Texas. ANR Enterprises, 956-466-7001.

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**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.



**TEXAS CROSSWORD**  
by Charley & Guy Orbison  
Copyright 2024 by Orbison Bros.

**ACROSS**  
1 TXism: "jumpy as \_\_\_ on ice"  
5 Saturday is a cowboy's \_\_\_ day  
6 TX Mildred \_\_\_ "Babe" Didrikson  
7 Austin band: "Asleep \_\_\_ the Wheel"  
8 Texas fire \_\_\_  
9 inner Fort Worth suburb: \_\_\_ City  
15 director Preminger  
16 TXism: "grabbin' at straws"  
19 detests  
21 "copying" company  
22 "Wreck it Ralph" song: "When \_\_\_ \_\_\_ You Again?"  
27 party-giver  
28 "\_\_\_ on" (tell somebody else)  
29 Austin's "TreeFolks" encourage people to \_\_\_ tree  
30 TXism: "she could sell ice cubes to \_\_\_"  
32 noted TCU coach: \_\_\_ "Dutch" Meyer  
33 "let \_\_\_ bygone"  
36 TXism: "ain't \_\_\_ lick of sense"  
37 this agcy. administers soc. security  
38 TXism: "\_\_\_ bill of goods" (lied)  
39 biblical shouts of praise  
41 golf peg  
42 TXism: "short as \_\_\_ eyebrow"  
45 clean and tidy  
46 Texas legendary "no hitter" pitcher (init.)  
47 TXism: "\_\_\_-walking drunk"  
48 maker of caulks and sealants  
49 he is \_\_\_ to his state (a fine Texan)  
52 Del Rio FM station  
53 \_\_\_ Colony, Texas in Denton County  
54 this Desmond played with the Texas Rangers in 2016 playoffs  
55 TX Perot's 1st naval officer rank (abbr.)

**DOWN**  
1 "Honest \_\_\_" Lincoln  
2 this Farley founded Boys Ranch in Oldham County  
3 city in Texas and Georgia  
4 TXism: "you can take \_\_\_ (certain)"  
8 foot digit (2 wds.)  
9 TXism: "\_\_\_ bark on a tree" (frugal)  
10 TXism: "honest \_\_\_ the day is long"  
11 3rd largest political party in U.S. (abbr.)  
12 university before it was Texas A&M-Kingsville (4 wds.)  
13 antimony \_\_\_ are processed at a smelter in El Paso  
14 TX Tommy Lee Jones 1978 film: "Eyes of Laura \_\_\_"  
15 Galveston has the "International \_\_\_ Festival"  
16 office furniture  
17 works hard to do something (2 wds.)  
18 locals hired to be in a crowd in a film  
20 TXism: "useless as panty \_\_\_ to a pig"  
22 Texas singer of "Is Anybody Goin' to San Antone" (init.)  
23 first Texan moon-walker, Bean (init.)  
24 "no" votes  
25 gold brick, e.g.  
26 rustled cattle, e.g.  
28 \_\_\_ and pans  
31 cow sounds  
34 "Hook ' \_\_\_ Horns!"  
35 on the Gulf: " \_\_\_ Rim State Park"  
37 TXism: "He's still got some \_\_\_ in his garters" (able)  
40 " \_\_\_ as a pin"  
43 on banks of the Rio Grande: "Santa \_\_\_ National Wildlife Refuge"  
44 a bolo to a cowboy  
50 this Tom pitched for the Astros in the 1993-94 season  
51 soft drink created in Waco: \_\_\_ Pepper

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THURSDAY February 29, 2024



## BUSINESS OF THE YEAR Southern Honey Giftique

# 'A dream come true'

**MADelyn EDWARDS**  
springtownreporter@tricityreporter.com

Southern Honey Giftique co-owner Barbara Kent attended the Azle Area Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet while keeping a secret from her daughter and fellow co-owner JoAnna Johnson — their joint business would win a major award.

Kent learned of the honor ahead of time and had to provide the business' biography that would be presented during the ceremony. She said watching Johnson react to Southern Honey Giftique being named 2023 Business of

*Southern Honey Giftique, run by mother-daughter duo, named 2023 Business of the Year*

the Year was "amazing." "Just watching her face whenever she figured it out — best thing ever for me," Kent said. "She is the face of our business. I just do the behind-the-scenes stuff, so I feel like the award is mostly about her."

Johnson disagreed with her mother's assessment of their business.

"It is definitely a team ef-

fort," she said.

In the end, Kent's secret-keeping abilities were impenetrable, and Johnson was pleasantly surprised by the achievement.

"We are very excited," Johnson said. "We've only been in business for a few years, and we were not expecting this at all. There are

PLEASE SEE **BUSINESS** | C2



JIM STEVENS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Tracy Keene presents Barbara Kent and JoAnna Johnson with the 2023 Business of the Year award at the Azle Area Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet.



JIM STEVENS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Citizen of the Year winner Kim Ware takes a picture with Lora Paschal and Azle Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jennifer Herring.



## CITIZEN OF THE YEAR Kim Ware

# Ware lauded for contributions to community, charities

**MADelyn EDWARDS**  
springtownreporter@tricityreporter.com

The crowd at the Azle Area Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet applauded as soon as Kim Ware's name was announced as the Citizen of the Year before Lora Paschal even finished presenting the award.

Being the longtime head of Azle's local newspaper, Ware is usually aware of most things going on around town. But winning this award — what she called the "honor of a lifetime" — came as a complete shock.

*Tri-County Reporter publisher Kim Ware named Citizen of the Year*

"I'm honored and thankful, and I'm going to kill my staff because they've been keeping secrets from me," she joked during her impromptu speech. (This reporter is happy to confirm that no members of The Tri-County Reporter's staff were harmed in the aftermath of the banquet.)

Citizen of the Year honors people who make a "lasting contribution to the Azle-

area community," Paschal said. She described Ware as someone who supports local events and organizations like Azle Area Ministerial Alliance's Follow the Flag, National Day of Prayer, the Eagle Mountain Pregnancy Help Center and the Future, Hope and Healing Center. She and the newspaper led the Fill the Pantry Challenge

PLEASE SEE **WARE** | C6

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# BUSINESS

FROM PAGE C1

so many amazing businesses in the community, so this was very special to us."

Southern Honey Giftique opened in 2021 and was a dream venture for Kent and Johnson. The shop sells gifts, T-shirts, home décor and spirit wear.

"With their love of crafting and for their community, they set their course to build a successful business that allowed other crafters to have a true storefront location," said Tracy Keene, who presented the award to Southern Honey Giftique at the banquet. "JoAnna Johnson and Barbara Kent are never ones to boast, but we will because they are doing an amazing job. Our chamber is so proud of Southern Honey Giftique for all they have been able to achieve within our community."

Business of the Year recipients are chosen because they show "the pros-

perity and success that can be achieved in Azle," Keene said.

"This business is always evolving with the trends to keep our community members smiling," she said. "This business 'spreads the wealth' by collaborating with other businesses to create bonds throughout the Azle business community."

One of the ways Southern Honey Giftique supports the community is through working with the Azle Independent School District Transition Center, which "provid(es) essential life skills and vocational training to young adults as they navigate the transition from school to independent living," according to the center's Facebook page. Johnson said students in this program are offered a free booth at the shop to sell things like dog and cat toys they make, and the proceeds are given back to the transition center.

Johnson said being able to share the Business of the Year award with her mother is "a dream come true."



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Outgoing Azle Chamber president Marcy Pinkston with the 2024 Azle Chamber President, Michael Wright.

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# Family man wins Businessman of the Year



## BUSINESSMAN OF THE YEAR Hogye Hogle

### Shaye Hogle proud of father Hogye Hogle's achievement

**MADELYN EDWARDS**  
springtownreporter@tricityreporter.com

Shaye Hogle beamed from her seat as her father, Hogye Hogle, was named Businessman of the Year at the Feb. 15 Azle Area Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet.

The father-daughter duo heads up Hogle Insurance Group, which Hogye Hogle started in the mid-1980s. Shaye Hogle said her father inspired her business career.

"I was very, very proud of him," Shaye Hogle said. "I was very touched. It was great seeing him on stage. I have looked up to him ever since I can remember, and I still do, and I'm very, very proud and very honored."

When asked what his family means to him, Hogye Hogle said, "Everything."

"They're dandies," he said. "Why they put up with me, I'll never know."

David Shaffer presented the award to Hogye Hogle at the banquet and said winners of the award are people who

stand out as "exemplary." "The Businessman of the Year award is presented to a man who demonstrates the outstanding qualities necessary for the development and improvement of business," Shaffer said.

Regarding Hogye Hogle specifically, Shaffer described him as someone who makes people smile with his "Hogye-isms," as well as a humble man who is faithful to his family. Shaffer also quoted Hogle as once saying, "Azle is just my kind of people" when asked why he didn't move to a bigger city.

"He is well known for his readiness to deliver in whatever capacity is needed to help keep the city he loves thriving," Shaffer said.

The crowd at the banquet gave Hogye Hogle a standing ovation when Shaffer finished announcing him as the award winner. When Hogle approached the podium, his first words were, "You dirty dogs."

Hogye Hogle also served

as the banquet's master of ceremonies and said he had no idea he was going to win Businessman of the Year.

"I wondered why they wouldn't let me see who won the awards this year," he said after the ceremony ended. "I was going, 'What's happening here?' (They were) probably afraid I'd tell everybody."

Shaye Hogle knew her father would win the award and had the task of keeping the secret.

"I usually can keep my mouth shut pretty well," she said. "Writing his bio, I did get a little bit teary-eyed writing it."

Winning Businessman of the Year meant a lot to Hogle. He hasn't achieved this honor before and joked that he had previously won an award for getting thrown out of his hometown of Electra near Wichita Falls.

"Time goes by pretty quickly, and I've been through so many of these," he said on a more serious note. "I've just seen a lot since I started here."



JIM STEVENS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Hogye Hogle of Hogle Insurance Group was surprised to win Businessman of the Year at this year's Azle Area Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet.

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# Something old and something new



## RISING STAR Hill's Paint and Body

*Hill's Paint and Body recognized at Azle Area Chamber banquet as "Rising Star"*

**ZACH FREEMAN**

azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

One Azle business comes highly "wreck-a-mended" by local chamber members.

The Azle Area Chamber of Commerce recognized Hill's Paint and Body as one of Azle's most promising new businesses at a recent gala. Kim Ware, Tri-County Reporter publisher, presented the Rising Star Award to Hill's Paint and Body during the Feb. 15 Azle Area Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet.

The Rising Star Award is presented to a new business that has been established in

Azle within the past year and shows exciting potential.

Hill's Paint and Body has been family-owned and operated for 34 years. Previously located in Saginaw, the business moved to 1500 Boyd Road in Azle in June 2023 and celebrated with the chamber in an August ribbon cutting ceremony. Although their business is new to town, the owners are not. Two of their children are Azle ISD alumni, and their other children are Azle ISD students. They have been a part of the community on a personal level for years but wanted to be business members here. James and Candace Hill have

always seen the enormous potential Azle has. Candace Hill was without words after receiving the award, only describing the moment as amazing.

"It's an absolute blessing," James Hill said. "We wouldn't be here without the grace of our Lord and savior He's the one that made it all happen."

"We are proud and honored to be recognized by the Azle Area Chamber of Commerce and members for the Rising Star Award," the couple posted on Facebook. "It continues to be a blessing to serve our community. Thank you all for your continued support and God Bless."



Kim Ware with James and Candace Hill

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# WARE

FROM PAGE C1

in benefit of the Community Caring Center, and she has helped the effort to provide kids with free bicycles during the Christmas on Main Street event.

"Those of you that I've had the pleasure of helping over the years, raise some money for whatever your organization was, it was an absolute honor for me to do that,"

Ware said during her speech.

Aside from her charity work, Ware has participated in the Azle community in multiple other ways as well. She previously served as a Lakeside City Council member and has been president of the board at the Azle and Springtown chambers of commerce, in addition to other positions she has held.

"She works alongside local organizations like the Rotary Club, Optimist Club, multiple nonprofits, and the Chamber to help them strengthen their

presence and further their missions," Paschal said.

Ware may be most known for her position at The Tri-County Reporter, formerly The Azle News. She started her career at the newspaper in 1999 and took on the role of publisher in 2012. She is also president of the paper's parent company, Hyde Media Group, and oversees the company's two other publications, Hood County News and the Gatesville Messenger.

Ware specializes in newspaper advertising, and she is



Kim Ware addresses the crowd.

JIM STEVENS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER



Kim Ware rests her head on her husband Mark's shoulder during the ceremony at the Azle Area Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet.

JIM STEVENS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

passionate about supporting the local businesses that in turn aid the paper.

"It's a natural win-win for all of us, and there's nothing in this in this world right now that's more important than a community newspaper," Ware said. "We are the lifeblood of this community. We keep everybody informed of really what's going on in an unbiased way."

When she's not at work or volunteering, Ware spends time with her husband and grandchildren.

"Kim is a committed friend to many," Paschal said. "I am personally thankful to be able to present this award to a woman who has been a part of my life for more than 20 years, first as my high school cheer sponsor, and now my boss, mentor and friend. Kim, thank you for all the work you consistently put into strengthening our community and meeting the needs of our citizens and businesses."

Ware's win was met with a standing ovation and cheering from the audience. She

said she's proud to be a part of the community as well as the people she works with.

"It's easy to love this community," Ware said in her speech. "When I moved here 36 years ago, I was an outsider. Really, I was. It was so much fun though because I love small towns and small communities. What I didn't realize was how much I would love this community, and I love the people of this community."

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From L-R: Jennifer Herrington with Lacey Davis, Shaina Davis, and Jennifer Goodwin of The Orchard, and Hartley McCauley.

JIM STEVENS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER



## FRIENDS OF THE CHAMBER AWARD The Orchard Event Venue

# The epitome of fun in business

**JESSICA MCKINNEY**  
jessica@tricityreporter.com

The recipient of the 2023 Friend of the Chamber Award is an established business that has been a part of community events for many years. The Orchard Event Venue, where the chamber banquet has been held two

years in a row, was chosen by Jennifer Herrington, executive director of the Azle Area Chamber of Commerce, for being “a business that has supported the staff and the chamber and taken extra steps to become devoted friends.”  
Lacey Davis, Jennifer Goodwin and Shaina Davis,

staff members at The Orchard, accepted the award from Herrington.  
“We are so excited and grateful to have won this award,” said Lacey.  
“We love being a part of this community and especially the chamber. Jennifer and Hartley have been exceptional at making the chamber so

fun and exciting this last year that we have just jumped at the opportunity to help and be a part of everything we can. We love that we are forever best friends of the Azle Chamber.”  
“These ladies are the epitome of fun in business,” Herrington said when presenting the award.

“Work aside, their attitudes toward life are truly inspiring and rub off on you when in their presence. This duo has become a trio over the last year, and they have created such an inspiring team. They always show up when you need them, especially our sweet friend Lacey, who doesn’t mind a scatter-

brained directive at 4:30 on the morning of Sting Fling. Whenever you need a floorplan, a good laugh, or a helping hand, they are right there.  
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# Azle Chamber Banquet's silent auction and Lips or Hips coin toss game



JIM STEVENS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER



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Lips or Hips winner Kevan Kellison



JIM STEVENS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Competitors in the Lips or Hips game.

Funds raised from the silent auction and and the Lips or Hips coin toss game go to support local Chamber events, like the Sting Fling Festival, Business After Hours, the Chamber Golf Tournament, the Annual Clay Shoot, Christmas on Main Street, and many more. The mission and purpose of the Azle Area Chamber of Commerce is to promote the economic progress, civic, commercial, and industrial welfare of the City of Azle and surrounding areas. Events like the Silent Auction also helps to support the daily operations of the Azle Area Chamber of Commerce.

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From L-R, Robyn & Scott Tanner, their family, and Alton Davis

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From L-R, Alton Davis and Sara Langston

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**Jack Noah**



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From L-R: Alton Davis, Jack Ford

**FAVORITE AZLE ISD EMPLOYEE**  
**Matt Adams**



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From L-R: Alton Davis, Matt Adams

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From L-R: Alton Davis and Samantha Watkins

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From L-R: Alton Davis and Terri Bartlett



## Azle's People's Choice Awards

Winners are chosen by ballot. Azle citizens vote for the nominees and the results are announced at the Azle Chamber Banquet.



# Feel the love

## Candid moments from the Azle Chamber Banquet

**JIM STEVENS** | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Chamber board member David Shaffer bids on one of the many silent auction items provided by chamber members and local businesses for the event.




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# Azle Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors



L-R: Dena Hall, Joe Hamilton, Chris Wynn, Jim Stevens, Shaye Hogle, Debbie Bunero, David Schaffer and Michael Wright.

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**JIM STEVENS** | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Karen Ogea with practice manager of Azle Vision Source Nicole Lovato.



## SHINING STAR AWARD Azle Vision Source

# The 'eyes' have it

**ZACH FREEMAN**  
azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

A well-established business with a new location was honored with the Azle Chamber of Commerce's Shining Star Award at the organization's awards banquet Feb. 15.

Karen Ogea, board president of Eagle Mountain Pregnancy Help Center presented the award to Azle Vision Source during a grand ceremony with other outstanding Azle businesses. The Shining Star Award is given to a business that has made improvements or beautification to its property that benefits and enhances the appearance of the entire community.

Azle Vision Source has served patients in the Azle area for more than 20 years. Its current owner, Dr. Jamie Strong, purchased the practice in 2016. As Azle has grown, so has its need for

*Azle Vision Source recognized for beautification*

quality eyecare. The business decided to relocate to allow more space for its patients and to allow its staff to accommodate the vision needs of all people in the Azle area.

"Azle Vision Source is grateful for its new location and is looking forward to many more years serving our vibrant community," Ogea said introducing the awardee.

This was a huge undertaking, she continued. The total renovation and move took 11 months.

"(It feels) amazing, just wonderful (to be recognized for this award)," Nicole Lovato, practice manager of Azle Vision Source, said. "I can't believe it. We work hard

and appreciate the support of the community."

Azle Vision Source moved from a suite at 601 Northwest Parkway to its much larger building at 158 Industrial Ave., the former site of Aaron's Rent to Own, last year.

"(The new building provides) a lot more space," Lovato said. "We're better able to accommodate the patients that come in and especially the older patients. It's... definitely been an improvement for business as well. We're able to accommodate more patients and keep them here in Azle and keep them from going outside to the city."

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## AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR Kelli Limbaugh

# Limbaugh named Ambassador of the Year

JESSICA MCKINNEY  
jessica@tricountyreporter.com

The Azle Area Chamber of Commerce relies on its team of ambassadors to drive engagement and growth of the chamber throughout the year.

"(Ambassadors) are the beating heart — working the front lines, welcoming guests, providing information, and offering much-needed help at events" said Michael Wright, incoming board president, when presenting the Ambassador of the Year award.

"These individuals commit their time to genuinely welcoming our new members and befriending those in our community."

Each year, the chamber recognizes one ambassador who has "gone beyond the call of duty" in making a difference for the chamber and in the Azle community.

Kelli Limbaugh, owner of Long Dog Yard Art, was recognized as the 2023 Azle Chamber Ambassador of the Year.

"I was truly shocked," Limbaugh said about hearing her name announced at the banquet.

"To be given this award by my peers is overwhelming. That they think of me as a huge contributor, I was humbled. It feels good to be valued."

Limbaugh said that working with the chamber has allowed her to meet with wonderful, unique people of different backgrounds and she has truly enjoyed the connections and friendships that have come from those interactions.

"As an ambassador, I've learned that it's important to get people involved, help them understand the advantages of being a member of the chamber and how

it can help them be more successful."

Limbaugh and her husband, Randy, relocated to Texas from Michigan in 2020. Shortly after the move, the couple launched their yard card greeting company, Long Dog Yard Art, and they have been brightening up yards in front of homes and businesses with their fun designs ever since.

Limbaugh is a loving wife, mother, and "Gigi," and an Air Force veteran. She is known for her smiling face and fun outfits. She can always be found helping out at chamber events, from ribbon cuttings to luncheons, Sting Fling and Christmas on Main Street. Limbaugh also is seen throughout the Azle community, visiting other small businesses, cheering them on and supporting them in person and online.



Michael Wright and Kelli Limbaugh

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# BUSINESSWOMAN OF THE YEAR Carissa Widner

## Hometown hero recognized for banking career in Azle

**ZACH FREEMAN**  
azlereporter@tricityreporter.com

Long having served the people of Azle with her financial and monetary expertise, Carissa Widner was dubbed Businesswoman of the Year at the Feb. 15 Azle Area Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet.

Lauren Chavez of Red's Burger House presented the much-anticipated award to Widner, senior vice president of NBT Financial and Azle

*Carissa Widner recognized as businesswoman of the year by Azle Area Chamber of Commerce*

branch president. Widner is an Azle native and a graduate of Azle High School. At age 17, she began her career in banking when she joined the staff at Azle's First Bank. She worked in the operations department and as a lending assistant starting in 1996. In September 2010, Widner joined NBT Financial as a new accounts represen-

tative and lending assistant. She was promoted to a bank officer in 2012 and later to branch manager. She became president of the Azle branch of NBT Financial in April 2022. Along with her business success, Widner was described as a wonderful wife and mother, an active Lions Club member and dedicated mayor pro tem for the city of

Sanctuary. "I'm very honored and a little bit anxious," Widner said. "I'm very thankful to have grown up here and been able to be involved in many activities throughout the community." About her strategy in balancing the many activities she is involved in, Widner joked, "I go crazy." She embraces chaos and manages her busy schedule with dedication and the decades of expertise at her disposal.

**JIM STEVENS** | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER  
From L-R, Lauren Chavez, Carissa Widner



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From L-R, Jennifer Herrington and Lora Paschal. Lora Paschal, a chamber ambassador and the sales and marketing rep for the Tri-County Reporter, was awarded the 2023 Director's Award in recognition for all of the support she provided at the many chamber events throughout the year.



## DIRECTOR'S AWARD Lora Paschal

# Chamber director: 'Paschal has superpowers'

JESSICA MCKINNEY  
jessica@tricountyreporter.com

Jennifer Herrington, executive director of the Azle Area Chamber of Commerce, presents the Director's Award each year to "an individual who has provided great assistance and encouragement" to herself and the chamber.

This year, the distinguished award was presented to Lora Paschal, a chamber ambassador and the sales and marketing representative for the Tri-County Reporter.

"The 2023 Director's Award goes to an amazing person who I am convinced is an actual superhero," said Herrington.

"There is simply no other way she could be there for everyone the way she is without

superpowers."

Herrington described Paschal's dedication and hard work that makes her stand out among other chamber members and ambassadors throughout the year.

"From start to finish at all our events, (Paschal) is there to ensure we have the extra hands we need. I can't think of one event we have hosted this past year where she wasn't the first person to ask what she could do to help.

"At our annual clay shoot, she was incredible," said Herrington.

"When the day's activities had come to an end, and we sat down to relish the moment, she was nowhere to be found. As the hunt began, we found her in the entryway sweeping up mounds of

dried mud from the shooters' boots."

Herrington noted that Paschal is always "stepping up, always offering ideas, and always there when we need support."

"I am truly humbled to receive this award from the chamber," said Paschal.

"I try to put my best effort into everything I do, and being able to work alongside Jennifer, Hartley, chamber members and ambassadors has been such an amazing experience for me. I've learned so much, and the chamber's mission to support and help grow small businesses in Azle is something I've become passionate about. I'm so happy to be able to help with that in any way that I can."

*"When the day's activities had come to an end, and we sat down to relish the moment, she was nowhere to be found. As the hunt began, we found her in the entryway sweeping up mounds of dried mud from the shooters' boots."*

JENNIFER HERRINGTON

Executive director of the Azle Area Chamber of Commerce

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