



# THE TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

THE NEWS OF AZLE, SPRINGTOWN, AND SURROUNDING AREAS

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THURSDAY, March 7, 2024 • \$1.00

## Hornet Academy tops records with February graduation

Board, staff and families celebrate 52 grads with ceremony

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

AZLE — Since 2008, Azle ISD has allowed individuals without a high school diploma a second chance at graduation. Hornet Academy is a self-paced online alternative to high school. Unlike a General Educational Development or GED program, graduates of Hornet Academy get to walk the Azle High School auditorium stage after earning a bona fide high school diploma.

The latest graduating class is the academy's largest to date, with 52 students at its Feb. 26 graduation. In its 16 years, Hornet Academy has graduated 769 students.

"The fact that we are graduating 52 students tonight tells me the need for this program is greater now than it has ever been," Principal Chris Hill said at the commencement ceremony. "Graduates, you've anticipated this day for a long time."



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

PLEASE SEE **HORNET** | A14 The latest graduating class is the academy's largest to date, with 52 students filling Azle High School's auditorium.

## Springtown Chamber Gala is hands-down success

Businesses, organizations, individuals awarded at Kentucky Derby-themed event

MADELYN EDWARDS

springtownreporter@tricountyreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Terri Toone has a college education in event planning, and her skills showed during Friday's annual gala.

The chamber's Annual Awards Gala brings Springtown business leaders together to celebrate the best of the best in the community. This year's event took place at the Covered Bridge Venue, was hosted by Brooklynn Hatton and was catered by Corn Fed Catering, which provided southern classics like cornbread, black-eyed peas and fried chicken.

The "Run for the Roses" gala was Kentucky Derby-themed, and as such, horse racing motifs were present throughout the event — from the table settings that featured checkered runners and little gold horses sticking up from the centerpieces to the horse racing game played during the gala.

Women wore a variety of

hats and fascinator headpieces to the event to mirror Kentucky Derby fashion. Hats came in all sizes, and some were decorated with feathers and flowers. The hat contest winner, Jill Sebik, wore a hat that looked like a bouquet.

The main event of the evening was the awards ceremony, which celebrated some prominent figures in Springtown. The Corn Fed Club restaurant left the gala with the title of Business of the Year while the Pastoral Fellowship of Springtown took home the Organization of the Year award. The chamber named the grocery store Brookshire's its Member of the Year, and Springtown native Mistie Rivera won the Judy Smerud Spirit of Springtown Award. Springtown's Santa Claus and educator William "Bill" Foster was posthumously honored with the Hometown Hero Award.

The chamber also recognized Cpl. Weldon "Chip"

PLEASE SEE **GALA** | A2



JIM STEVENS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Platinum Eagle Mortgage senior loan officer Jill Sebik wins best hat at the Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce's March 1 Kentucky Derby-themed Annual Awards Gala. She is standing next to Chamber Executive Director Terri Toone.

## Bond or bust

MADELYN EDWARDS

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SPRINGTOWN — November 2023 was not a kind election season for school athletic facilities in North Texas.

Independent school districts in Prosper, Eagle Mountain-Saginaw and Lewisville all put propositions in front of voters asking to spend millions to upgrade athletic facilities, and those

An explainer on athletic facilities in SISD bond proposals

plans were rejected, though voters did approve other proposals from these districts. This recent trend has led some political analysts to theorize that attitudes about school sports may be changing.

"I think school districts are going to have to do a better job of making the case for why a facility is really needed and why it justifies a community expenditure rather than

PLEASE SEE **BOND** | A4

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This article is part four in 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 about local property taxes and bond elections across the state. So far, this series has covered the history of SISD's bond elections, the needs at campuses in the district and how property tax bills are deterring voters from approving the bond. This part of the series considers opposition to athletic facilities in SISD's bond proposals and why district leaders say these spaces are necessary.



MADELYN EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Things are changing for the football field/old stadium next to the current middle school. Superintendent Strickland pointed out a lot of the fencing has been taken down, and some of the bleachers have been repurposed at the newer Porcupine Stadium.



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VOLUME 1, NUMBER 40  
Local, zone(s) 2 sections, 24 pages

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# SISD school board honors students who qualified for state contests

Dallin Fabrizius, Katelyn Duncan recognized at board meeting



MADELYN EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Springtown Independent School District board of trustees recognized Dallin Fabrizius for qualifying for the state wrestling contest during the board's Feb. 26 meeting.



MADELYN EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Springtown High School student Katelyn Duncan qualified for the state UIL digital animation contest. The Springtown school board took note of her accomplishment at the Feb. 26 meeting.

# Springtown Middle School coach accused of assault

MADELYN EDWARDS

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An Azle man who works for the Springtown school district is facing assault charges.

According to the Tarrant County District Clerk's website, Jesse Springfield is accused of assault of a family

or household member by impeding breathing or circulation as well as recklessly causing bodily injury to a child.

Public case reports provided by Azle Police Department indicate the offenses were reported in January in Azle and involved an adult and a

toddler being strangled or choked.

According to the Texas Penal Code, recklessly causing bodily injury to a child is a state jail felony, which is punishable by state jail time of 180 days to two years as well as a fine of up to \$10,000. The code also states

that a person who assaults and causes bodily injury to someone they are dating, living with, parent a child with or who is an ex-spouse by impeding breathing or circulation of the blood by choking or suffocating them is a third-degree felony. In Texas, a third-degree felony is punish-

able by imprisonment of two to 10 years and a fine of up to \$10,000.

Springfield is listed as a member of the boys' coaching staff at Springtown Middle School on Springtown Independent School District's website. Superintendent Shane Strickland said

Springfield was hired in August 2022 and is still an employee of SISD, though he is currently on administrative leave.

The Tri-County Reporter was unable to interview Springfield by press time.

## GALA

FROM PAGE A1

Procter as the Springtown Police Department's Public Safety Employee of the Year and public works staffer Josh Crager as the city's Extra

Mile Award recipient. Jenifer Jones was named Springtown Independent School District's Teacher of the Year.

Toward the end of the night, the chamber honored those who are taking a step back from the chamber, including former Executive

Director Amy Walker, former administrative assistant Marcia Garcia and outgoing President Jennifer Conway.

Toone was satisfied with how the event turned out and gave credit to those who made the gala possible. "It was worth every bit of

12-hour days and shopping and folding 300 napkins," she said. "Without our ambassadors and our other volunteers, it wouldn't have turned out like this. I think it was fabulous. I got a lot of good feedback. Everybody, I think, had a good time."

In the end, Toone hopes that gala attendees left the event with "a sense of community."

"It's just all of us getting together and having a good time and just enjoying each other's company and celebrating," she said.

More information about the award winners will be available in The Tri-County Reporter's special section dedicated to the Springtown Chamber's Annual Awards Gala. This special section will be available in the March 21 newspaper.

## Can we talk about tough topics?



### AZLE

#### Common Practice

Avoid conversations about tough topics because people get angry, and it creates more division.

#### Best Practice

Approach conversations on tough topics constructively. Put the health of your relationship above your disagreement, and don't let it fester by avoiding it.



Let's Talk Azle is a community resilience initiative endorsed by the City of Azle, the Azle Independent School District, the Azle Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Azle Area Ministerial Alliance. We hope you will use each month's topic to have conversations with your family, friends, co-workers, etc.

For more information: [facebook.com/LetsTalkAzle](https://facebook.com/LetsTalkAzle) [LetsTalkAzle@gmail.com](mailto:LetsTalkAzle@gmail.com)



SCAN QR CODE FOR TRAINING VIDEOS

#### Helpful Habits

- Listen in order to understand rather than just to reply.
- Remember, listening doesn't obligate you to change your mind.
- Build on shared values and goals.
- Treat the other person with respect.
- Practice being a "non-anxious presence." The calmer you react, the calmer the conversation can be.

#### The End Game

- Explore common ground.
- Acknowledge unity around shared values and goals.
- Keep talking, and bring others into the conversation.
- Look for a '3rd Alternative.'

#### LET'S TALK

#### Practices

#### Conversation Starters

- When you said X, it got me thinking. Can I ask you about this?
- Can you help me understand where you are coming from?
- I want to be sure I understand you correctly. Can I ask you some questions about it?

#### Try this...

- I respect your passion about this, can you tell me why you care about it so deeply?
- I see you as a neighbor, can you help me understand your position better?
- Can we explore some common ground that we have about this and start from there?



# Got tickets? Here's help

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

AZLE — Starting Feb. 26, the City of Azle and the Azle Municipal Court are encouraging residents who have active warrants to come to Azle City Hall to pay their fines and avoid a trip to jail. As part of the 2024 Texas Warrant Resolution Program, these efforts are designed to target thousands of defendants with warrants from more than 250 participat-

## City of Azle kicks off 2024 Texas Warrant Resolution Program

ing jurisdictions. Counties, justices of the peace and municipalities across jurisdictions and of all sizes will participate. The program will conclude April 5.

Under Texas law, individuals who appear before a court and attempt to resolve their Class C warrants will not be arrested. If an individual is

unable to pay their fines, they can even request a judge to assess their financial situation and offer alternative solutions to satisfy the judgement. A Class C warrant is a type of arrest warrant issued for minor offenses, such as traffic violations or public intoxication.

Fines can be paid at the

municipal court's website, azletx.municipalonlinepayments.com/azletx, over the phone at 817-444-2541 or in person at Azle City Hall, 505 West Main Street, Building 1, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday. The Azle Municipal Court will also be open 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 30, to accept payments.

"I see a lot of them where they got pulled over and they got three or four or five tickets and these are lower income people," Mayor Alan

Brundrett said in a January city council meeting. "A lot of times they're tickets for registration expired, or insurance, not using the blinker or license plate, there will always be speeding in there. They just look at it and they don't show up in court because out of ignorance they're saying, 'I don't have the money to pay these,' because it'll be \$1,500 to \$2,000 in tickets. Then they end up in the jail and I'll go ask them 'hey why didn't you pay these tickets or why

didn't you show up for court' and they'd say, 'well, I don't have any money.' If you show up to court, just tell them you don't have money and they'll do payment plans. We don't put people in jail for being broke, we put you in jail for not showing up."

Along with the resolution program, the city government's Facebook page has begun posting the names, mugshots and amounts owed by five locals with outstanding warrants each week.

## BOND

FROM PAGE A1

just assuming everybody loves football, so the voters are automatically going to get on board," Southern Methodist University political scientist Matthew Wilson told Fox4 News in a Nov. 8, 2023, article.

Likewise, Brendan Steinhauser of Austin public affairs firm Steinhauser Strategies told NBC DFW in a Nov. 8, 2023, article that parents may be turned off by athletic improvements and are opting spaces that are more low maintenance.

"When (parents) see millions of dollars going to sports facilities or to things that are kind of less of a priority than academics, you're seeing parents vote and say, 'We're just not going to say, 'yes' to that. We don't need that stuff as much as we need to focus on educating students,'" Steinhauser said in the NBC DFW article.

Judging by comments made on social media, the opinion of prioritizing academics over athletics seems to have made its way to Springtown as well, although SISD didn't request that voters fund major athletic projects like in Prosper. The requested space for sports activities would have come with a new middle school.

SISD's failed bond elections in 2023 would have allowed the district to build a new middle school, use the current middle school as a ninth-grade center and convert the current intermediate school into another elementary campus. The new middle school would have included a practice football field, track, competition gymnasium and weight room.

While he supports the more academic aspects of the bond proposal (i.e. — the classrooms and library), SISD taxpayer Andrew Kloster said he didn't think all the athletic elements were necessary.

"I grew up playing sports, and I support the sports, but when they're saying part of the middle school but the project is listed as 'weight room, practice football field

and track, competition gym, et cetera.' Well, what does et cetera mean?" Kloster said, referring to the breakdown of the bond proposition on the district's website. "It says (Texas Education Agency)-required athletic facilities (is) part of the middle school. I think there needs to be a lot more clarification, and I don't think we need anything that needs to be over the top."

SISD Superintendent Shane Strickland emphasized that the district was not intending to erect a new Porcupine Stadium at the new middle school.

"We're not building a new competition stadium," Strickland said. "We're building a facility that can be practiced on."

Furthermore, the superintendent said the absence of those facilities wouldn't be feasible. Transporting students from the would-be new middle school on Williams-Ward Road on the east side of town to pre-existing facilities on the northwest side wouldn't make sense for school schedules.

"With the distance between the Student Event Complex and that location for a new middle school (being as far as it would have been), by the time you got student-athletes changed and loaded on a bus and then transported for practices and/or athletic periods, they would lose a minimum of 25 minutes out of a 50-minute period because of travel time," Strickland said.

SISD leaders also claim the athletic facilities are mandated by a state agency.

"By law, TEA requires that if you have a middle school and you have UIL athletics, you have to have a stadium," SISD school board member Tootie Hall said. "It doesn't have to be premier. You have to have a field, a track and bleachers. And that's out of our control."

The Tri-County Reporter reviewed the part of the Texas Administrative Code that covers the TEA and the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for physical education of middle school students and found a section that mandates "age-appropriate physical education equipment" for students in grades six through eight.



MADELYN EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Springtown Middle School's current football field has been used by students and community members alike. If passed, Springtown Independent School District's past bond proposal would have led to building a new middle school complete with athletic facilities, including a football field, on Williams-Ward Road.

"The term 'age appropriate' means that the equipment must include a variety of sizes, weights and textures to provide differentiated experiences for various ages and ability levels of students," the TEKS state. "Basic equipment for quality instruction includes, but is not limited to, the following list: sports balls, including fleece balls, foam balls, tennis balls, beach balls, volleyballs, basketballs, soccer balls, footballs, baseballs, softballs and unity balls; striking implements, including golf clubs, hockey sticks, baseball bats, pool noodles, tennis rackets, racquetball rackets, pickleball paddles, lollipop paddles and ping pong paddles; goals for various sports, including soccer goals and basketball goals; nets and standards for a variety of sports, including volleyball, pickleball, badminton and tennis; fitness-related equipment; other basic equipment, including scarves, bean bags, hula hoops, jump ropes and scooters; classroom management

equipment, including cones, mats, pinnies, poly spots and ball inflators; and technology, including microphones, projectors, speakers, heart rate monitors, timers and other technology appropriate for instruction."

Ergo, students need the proper facilities and spaces to use "age-appropriate equipment" and demonstrate certain physical skills like throwing, catching and dribbling, which are also outlined in the TEKS.

"For example, to use soccer balls and goals, a field is needed to accommodate the size of the equipment and the number of students involved at a time," SISD Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Tiffany Cano said. "The same would be true for football and any track activities. By including an actual field, we are able to use the field/track for UIL sports AND PE requirements."

In addition, the subchapter called "Commissioner's Rules Concerning School Facilities:

School Facilities Standards for Construction on or after Nov. 1, 2021," requires that gyms or physical education spaces called for by a school district's educational program must be no less than 4,800 square feet at the middle school level.

Strickland pointed out that the new middle school's facilities would not just be used for sports but for physical education, sixth grade pre-athletic classes, band and color guard practices and community youth sports programs such as football and soccer.

"Even with our gyms, you have so many groups that use those gyms, mainly the PE kids," he said. "Then your band and your color guard and all those people are utilizing these facilities. It's not just for sports."

Strickland continued, "A lot of people don't understand the fact that the district is very lenient with our community groups that want to use our facilities, and those people are getting to use those facilities on weekends, at

night when we're not occupying them. It's a benefit to the entire community. And again, it's just with the bond packages that we've tried to pass, we've done what is needed and not anything of what was wanted."

Things are changing at the football field/old stadium next to the current middle school. Strickland said a lot of the fencing has been taken down, and some of the bleachers have been repurposed at the newer Porcupine Stadium.

"There hasn't been any planning for that property up to this point, but we feel strongly that it will be utilized in some way in the future," he said. "When we begin long range planning soon, I believe there will be some discussion of that area."

The superintendent's comments beg a question — what is next for SISD moving forward?

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

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# Small Business Administration representative discusses loan options

**MADelyn EDWARDS**

springtownreporter@tricityreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — Robert Chieffalo started his career at the U.S. Small Business Administration just before the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic and was tasked with helping small businesses access the resources needed to stay afloat.

"I have spent 95% of my time over the past four years talking with small business owners, helping them navigate through these various programs as well as the programs that were made available during COVID," Chieffalo said to an audience of Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce members during the Feb. 22 luncheon.

Chieffalo works at the administration's DFW District Office in Euless, which serves 72 counties in northeastern Texas, from the Oklahoma and Arkansas border down to about Waco and from Texarkana to Vernon.

In the U.S., there are about 30.7 million small businesses operating, and nearly half of people working at private companies are employed by small businesses, Chieffalo said. Small businesses have created about two-thirds of jobs in the past 25 years, including 6.43 million since the

pandemic.

"Small businesses drive our economy," he said. "The SBA was established during the Eisenhower administration in 1953. Last year was our 70th anniversary. At that time, realizing that small businesses are an integral part of the fabric of this great country, the Eisenhower administration decided they needed to establish a federal agency that would cater and provide for the needs of the small business."

However, small businesses need money to operate, and accessing that capital can be a roadblock for them, Chieffalo said. More than 80% of small businesses reported needing a better way to get financing, almost 30% of small businesses collapse because they don't have enough capital, and the average number of days' worth of reserves that small businesses have on hand is 27.

"(That's) not very much time," Chieffalo said about number of days' worth of reserves on hand.

As a lender relations specialist, this is the area where Chieffalo can provide assistance.

"SBA guaranteed \$33.9 billion worth of loans, which amounted to a little over 63,000 total loans in fiscal

year 2023," he said, adding that 15 loans for about \$15.9 million total originated in multiple Parker County business sectors.

In fact, Chieffalo said the SBA administered over a trillion dollars' worth of loans in the Paycheck Protection Program and Economic Injury Disaster Loans during the pandemic. In 2023, more than 600,000 jobs were created or retained by loans originated by over 1,680 lenders.

Chieffalo talked about the different kinds of loans as well as the specific qualifications that small businesses need to meet to get loans. He also said that currently, the guarantee fee paid by small business owners in the lending process is waived for SBA loans up to \$1 million.

"Now there may be some cost to originate that loan, but the guarantee upfront and ongoing is absorbed by the federal government," Chieffalo said. "(This is a) big thing for smaller small businesses."

For assistance, Chieffalo recommended contacting a resource center, such as Small Business Development Centers and SCORE Business Mentors, both of which have offices near downtown Fort Worth. Small Business Development Centers assist



MADelyn EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

**Robert Chieffalo, lender relations specialist at the regional office of the U.S. Small Business Administration, speaks to Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce members during the Feb. 22 luncheon.**

with developing a business plan, budget and resume as well as getting ready to meet with a banker.

"Many times, you've never met with a banker before, and it could be foreign to you. It could create some anxiety," Chieffalo said. "These people can help walk you through that process that takes away

a lot of that and can help you prepare yourself for what you're about to face."

SCORE is made up of people who are either retired or in the later stages of their career and want to "give back," Chieffalo said.

"There are a lot of people in this world that are givers, and many times, that's what

you're going to find in these people, in these counselors," he said.

For more information, visit the SBA website at [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov) online. Chieffalo can be reached at 817-684-5512 or by email at [robert.chieffalo@sba.gov](mailto:robert.chieffalo@sba.gov).



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# Weatherford College honors area educators

## STAFF REPORTS

Three area instructors were among 45 of the finest teachers from across the region. These individuals were honored by Weatherford College at the annual Jack Harvey Academy of Exemplary Teachers celebration Thursday, Feb. 29, in the Emerging Technologies and Workforce Building.

Azle High School teacher Sarah Milosh was among those who received the award. Milosh teaches English and is the AVID coordinator for AHS. She was also the 2022-23 Azle ISD Secondary Teacher of the Year. Milosh was thanked for her years of service to the district in a post made on Facebook.

Jonathan Tucker of Azle Christian School and Sally McPhetridge of Springtown ISD also received the award.

"We are so blessed by Coach Tucker," ACS staff said in a Facebook post. "Coach Tucker graduated from Azle

Christian School in 2009. He earned his degree from Tarleton State University. He has taught at ACS for nine years. He is an outstanding man of God. He teaches 10-12th grade English and Bible. He is also the athletic trainer. Thank you Coach Tucker for being exemplary!"

Springtown ISD similarly thanked McPhetridge on Facebook saying "Let's all take a moment to celebrate the incredible achievement of one of Springtown Elementary's educators, Sally McPhetridge! Being recognized as the 2024 Jack Harvey Exemplary Teacher is a testament to Mrs. McPhetridge's passion and dedication to every student she comes across. Thank you for your tireless efforts in making a difference in the lives of our Porcupines every day."

Celebrating its 28th year, the Harvey Academy honors exemplary teachers in memory of Professor Emeritus Jack

Harvey, who taught at WC for 23 years and was considered among his peers as a "master teacher."

This year's keynote speaker was Naveen Cunha, a robotics instructor who was recently selected as the Texas Secondary Teacher of the Year. Cunha has an impressive background in math, science and engineering education including time in Washington, D.C. as an Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellow for NASA. He received many awards for teaching, including the Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching.

Cunha's passion for providing students with hands-on learning experiences has led to success in competitions like the Technology Student Association and Seaperch. Through his leadership at Odyssey Academy, he has created an award-winning STEM program in Bryan ISD.



## Camden Rushing completes basic training

COURTESY PHOTO

Camden Brock Rushing, a 2023 Azle High School honor graduate, completed U.S. Air Force basic military training Feb. 22, at Lackland AFB in San Antonio, Squadron 320/Flight 169. The son of Jeremiah and Melisa Rushing, Crew Chief Airman Rushing is currently stationed at Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls where he attends tech school training in aircraft tactical maintenance engineering.



COURTESY PHOTO

Teachers honored with Exemplary Teacher Awards

# Spotlight on BUSINESS

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Owner Jennifer Burrows started her automotive career 19 years ago. Working alongside her is her husband Zandorr, technicians Jeremy and Ricky, and office assistant Amber.

Together, Burrows Auto Service brings nearly 60 years of automotive experience to work on your vehicles.

"We have a family-like atmosphere, not only within our team but with our customers as well," Jennifer said.

"One of our core values is to use our gifts and talents to be of service to others."

Jennifer also runs a Facebook group — Lipsticks and Dipsticks (car care tips for women) — which helps educate women on automotive repair.

Burrows Auto Service does everything from routine maintenance like oil changes, tune-ups and brakes, to larger repairs on engines and transmissions.

In 2023, Burrows was voted Best of Azle for auto repair and oil change

They are also certified ignition interlock installers and can install and service alcohol breathalyzers.

Burrows Auto Service is located at 704 NW Parkway, next to Tim's Towing. They are open Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For questions about service or repairs, call 817-270-3230.

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# OBITUARIES

## Timothy Tanis 1957-2024

Timothy Allen Tanis, 66, passed into eternal life Feb. 21, at his home in Azle after a courageous battle with brain cancer.

Tim was born May 15, 1957, in Holland, Michigan.

Tim graduated from Azle High School in 1976. He embodied the virtues of hard work and commitment through his 40-year journey as a master craftsman of woodwork.

Tim was a man of the earth and open skies, bow hunter extraordinaire, and fantasy football aficionado who also loved camping with his family on vacations. He carved out a life filled with humor, love and a heart as solid as oak. His laughter was infectious to all who knew him and his dedication to family was the glue that held them together strong and unbreakable.

He was a favorite uncle to all his nieces and nephews. He enjoyed celebrating the holidays with his children and grandchildren, making them magical and full of wonder.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Virginia and



Fred Prince, and brother, Freddy Prince.

Tim is survived by his daughter Samantha Tanis; son Ryan Tanis and wife Jane O'Grady; goddaughter Nichole Brantley; granddaughters Emma and Ellie Betts; mother of his children Michelle Nobles Tanis; brothers Robert Tanis and Bill Prince; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Tim leaves behind a legacy of life characterized by integrity, humor and the undying love of a father, brother and friend.

*The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday March 7, 2024*

## Kenneth Woodruff 1963-2024

Kenneth Wayne Woodruff, of Paradise, died unexpectedly Saturday, Feb. 17, 2024, while practicing with the Terry's Texas Rangers at Fort Richardson in Jacksboro. He was 60 years old.

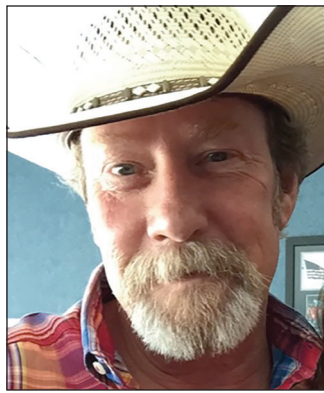
A celebration of his life was held Saturday, March 2 at Alexander's Midway in Springtown.

His family and friends are deeply saddened and shocked by his sudden passing.

Kenny was born in Charleston, Missouri, Dec. 6, 1963.

Kenny owned and operated Sundance Painting for over 35 years. His talent for painting has blessed many repeat clients over the years, many who became friends and not just clients.

In addition to painting, Kenny was a real life cowboy and filled his time as a member of the reenactment group Heroes of the Old West, and later being committed to the Terrys Texas Rangers, Company "I", 8th Cavalry



Regiment.

Kenny is preceded in death by his mother, Wilma Tautimer; father, Roy Woodruff; and his sister, Terri Smith.

Kenny is survived by his wife, Barbara; sisters, Brandi Woodruff, Traci Woodruff, Cheri Hamby and Rebecca Tautimer; grandchildren, Brayden Benton and Molly Tedrow; uncles, Tommy Woodruff and Jerry Coleman.

*The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday March 7, 2024*



## Springtown recognizes Black Balloon Day

MADELYN EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Springtown Mayor Greg Hood proclaimed March 6 Black Balloon Day in the city at the council's Feb. 27 meeting. Black Balloon Day is a national event where families and friends grieve and celebrate the lives of their loved ones who died of overdose. Hood presented the proclamation to Jessica Castro, who co-founded the Springtown overdose awareness organization We ARE Our Brother's Keeper. Castro was joined by her daughters Joey and Myra.



COURTESY AZLE OPTIMIST CLUB

Hannah Johns and Kalen McCullough alongside Optimist Club members and AHS Principal Nate Driver.

## Optimistic for the future

ZACH FREEMAN  
azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

### Top students recognized by Azle Optimist Club

AZLE — The Optimist Club of Azle recognized two Young Texans of the Month during a February meeting. Azle High School seniors Kalen McCullough and Hannah Johns were selected to speak to Optimist Club members about their achievements and goals.

McCullough is the son of Heather Huse and Jeremy and Lindsey McCullough. He is ranked 37th in his class with a GPA of 100.7. He has been accepted to Texas A&M University and wants to major in animal science and become a veterinarian. McCullough is proud of qualifying for regional competition in swimming, being in the top 10% of his

class and for being admitted into Texas A&M, which he has hoped to do for years. He considers his greatest strengths to be his dedication and academic mind. McCullough considers his hard-headedness and tendency to procrastinate his biggest weaknesses. Coach Estes, Mr. Enis, Coach Epps and Mrs. Prather are some of McCullough's favorite teachers. He works as an intern at Eagle Mountain Veterinary Clinic and hopes to soon receive his veterinary assistant certification.

Hannah Johns is the daughter of Kris Thompson

and Eric Johns. She has a GPA of 101.71 and is ranked 29th in her class. Johns has been accepted to Baylor University and Texas Christian University; she hopes to major in biology and eventually join the nursing field or become a pediatrician. Johns is proud of how much she has improved her grades since her freshman year and of earning college credit. She considers her organizational skills and natural outgoing nature and leadership skills to be her greatest strengths. Johns considers her greatest weaknesses to be her tendency to

procrastinate and her time management skills. She believes she is hardworking, compassionate and patient. Some of her favorite teachers are Mr. Laprade and Ms. Reasoner. One thing Johns considers unique about herself is that she has celiac disease.

"While it has altered my life in more than one way, I will never be ungrateful for having the condition," Johns said.

Johns has played volleyball, been an interact officer, won a VASE (Visual Art Scholastic Event) gold medal in 2023, is the current National Honor Society president, is currently a member of AP Ambassadors, is a powerlifter and qualified for the girls powerlifting regional.

*To place an obituary*

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# Waste not, want not

*Azle Community Waste Disposal presents year-in-review, raises rates for 2024*

**ZACH FREEMAN**

azlereporter@tricityreporter.com

AZLE — Community Waste Disposal (CWD) has partnered with the City of Azle to provide garbage collection and recycling services to its residents since 2007. The organization presented its annual report for 2023 at a Feb. 6 city council meeting. CWD Municipal Coordinator Robert Medigovich detailed the many achievements and feats the company achieved throughout the year. The company has partnered with Servolution during its spring and fall blitzes, the Azle Area Chamber of Commerce, Music in the Park, Sting Fling and much more.

According to the presentation given by Medigovich, in 2023, Azle residents properly disposed of 48,450 pounds of hazardous materials, including used electronics, tires and appliances at CWD X-treme Green events.

Medigovich often quips that CWD may have one of the largest collections of paint in Texas. CWD's Paint

Reuse Program is an environmentally friendly way to make use of old paint. The organization urges residents to recycle unused paint by bringing it to Azle's X-Treme Green Events in the spring and fall or to take it to the Fort Worth Environmental Collection Agency located at 6400 Bridge Street in Fort Worth. In return, the city provides free latex and oil-based paint in one-gallon and five-gallon cans, in various shades of beige. Azleites can stop by Azle City Hall during normal operating hours to take advantage of this opportunity. Since the program's introduction, CWD has distributed a total of 9,589 gallons of free paint.

Throughout the year, CWD also donated 30 open-top dumpsters to be used for trash throughout the Azle area. In total, Azle residents recycled 919 tons of material last year, saving approximately 15,623 trees, 349,220 gallons of oil, 6,433,000 gallons of water, 3,033 yards of landfill space, and 3,767,900 kilowatt hours of electricity,

Medigovich told the council. The company and the City of Azle won a Texas Environmental Leadership Award for "Innovative Organics Diversion" during a November State of Texas Alliance for Recycling celebration.

In February 2024, CWD increased residential rates for solid waste and recycling services by \$0.66 to \$23.75, which includes a \$.03 increase for the X-Treme Green Event. Commercial haulage rates increased by \$0.88 to \$34.28. Resolution Number 2024-05 Schedule A on the City's website has a complete breakdown of all new rates. All stated residential rates include billing and franchise fees and all commercial rates include only the 6% franchise fee as CWD took over billing commercial accounts on Feb. 15. CWD anticipates 57 newly ordered trash collection vehicles to arrive by the end of 2025. This fleet will replace old vehicles and expand the number of trucks in service with an additional 12 chassis.



COURTESY CWD

This environmentally friendly way to reuse old paint is produced by blending usable paint collected at Azle's X-Treme Green Events. The recycled paint (latex & oil-based) is available in 1-gallon containers and comes in various shades of beige.

## Multi-Year Class Reunion

Celebrating the Class of 1974's

# 50th Reunion

Including all of the 70's classes

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Saturday, April 6, 2024

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1974andfriends@yahoo.com



## LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICES

### 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 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.

### Notice of Public Sale

Pursuant to Chapter 59 of Texas property code to satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale to be held at Springtown Self Storage at 1050 W Hwy 199; Springtown, TX 76082 on storageauctions.com starting on, March 8, 2024 at 9:00am CST and ending on March 20, 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. DEIDRE ADAMS, BENI MUFFLER, RENDA DERINGTON, SARAH NESTLE, MARY GORKHALI, ERIN PARTAIN/KAREN EAGER, JOSHUA HALSTEAD, JAIRO RANGEL, GREG LEWIS, NANCY SCURRY, KHRISTANE LOVE, KATHERINE SHALTON, ANTHONY MACAL, CHASE WILSON, TAMMY MASON, DWAYNE YOUNG, ROBERTIE McBRIDE, ROBYN McCAULEY, KAYLI McLAIN, and RONNY MELTON.

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice is hereby given that the following will be sold to the highest bidder with bidding to take place at lockerfox.com on Tuesday the 26th day of March, 2024 at 9:00 AM to satisfy a landlords lien, pursuant to Chapter 59, Texas Property Code. Payment to seller via credit/debit card and pickup at the facility. Self-Storage unit contents of the following customers containing household and other goods will be sold. 10 Federal Self Storage, 2920 Avenue F, Arlington, TX, 76011 alexis faulknor. Keith Henry. Cindy Hernandez. Aya Wiley. Ronnie Duncan. Crystal Butterfield. Robert Davidson. Sade Wesley. DELIA ROSEMAN. Jonathan M Averill. Joshua Jackson. Traci James. Barbara Rowell. Andrea Young. Charlotte Brown Hodges. Valentino Salinas. Elizabeth Gustafson. Bruce Brooks. Shawnee Arkansas. Cecilia Baker. Chase Dorow. Chase Dorow

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Planning and Zoning Commission of the City of Azle will conduct a public hearing at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 21, 2024 and the City Council of the City of Azle will conduct a public hearing at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 2, 2024 in the City Council Chambers at City Hall, located at 505 West Main Street to consider text amendments to Chapter 14 "Zoning Ordinance" of the Code of Ordinances, City of Azle, Texas. The purpose of the text amendment is to consider amendments to the minimum requirements for Planned Development (PD) Districts.

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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### NOTICE TO BIDDERS

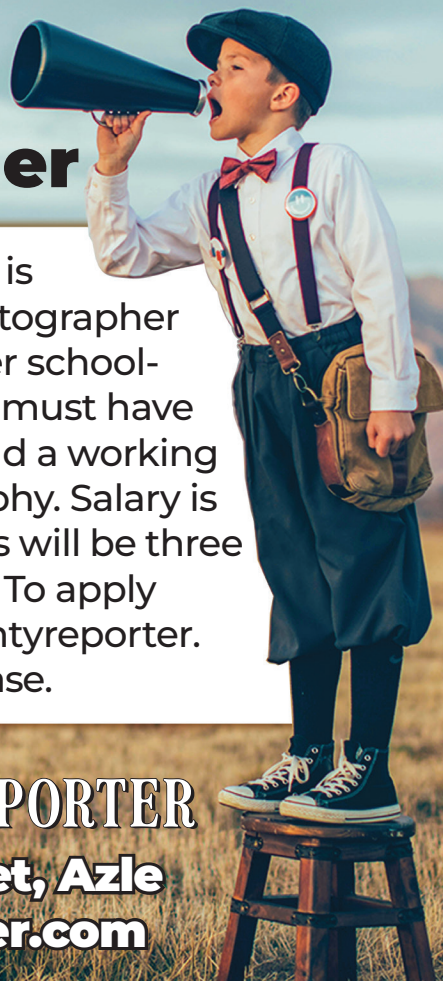
**2022 TXCDBG CDV21-0106 LIFT STATION NO. 1 IMPROVEMENTS**  
The City of Pelican Bay, Texas, will receive bids for the 2022 TxCDBG CDV21-0106 Lift Station No. 1 Improvements Project until 3:00 p.m., Monday, March 25, 2024, at the City of Pelican Bay Council Chambers, 1300 Pelican Circle, Pelican Bay, Texas 76020. The bids will be publicly opened and read aloud for furnishing all labor, materials and equipment, and performing all work required for removing and replacing ductile iron piping, wet well epoxy coating, new pump control panel (complete with all necessary electrical improvements), and associated appurtenances for the City's existing Lift Station No. 1 improvements. Proposals shall be accompanied by a cashier's or certified check upon a national, state bank or savings and loan in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the total maximum bid price, payable without recourse to the City of Pelican Bay, or a bid bond in the same amount from a reliable surety company, holding a permit from the State of Texas to act as surety, as a guarantee that the bidder will enter into a contract and execute performance bond and payment bond within ten (10) days after notice of award of contract to him. The notice of award of contract will be given by the Owner within thirty (30) days following the opening of bids. The low bidder must qualify within five working days after bid opening by submitting evidence as the City of Pelican Bay may require to establish the financial responsibility, experience, and possession of such equipment as may be needed to prosecute the work in an expeditious, safe and satisfactory manner. Should the bidder fail to produce evidence satisfactory to the City as stipulated in the specifications on any of the foregoing points, he may be disqualified and the work awarded to the next bidder so qualifying. The successful bidder must furnish performance, payment and maintenance bonds upon the forms provided in the amount of one-hundred percent (100%) of the contract price from an approved surety company holding a permit from the State of Texas to act as surety or other sureties acceptable to the Owner. The right is reserved, as the interest of the Owner may require, to reject any and all bids, and to waive any informality in bids received. Plans, specifications and bidding documents may be downloaded from CivcastUSA.com. Bidding documents downloaded from plan rooms or third-party websites (i.e. CivcastUSA.com) shall be at the Proposer's sole risk. No guarantee of receipt of addenda or clarifications will be made for third party downloads. Contact Justin R. Ivy, P.E., with Birkhoff, Hendricks, & Carter, LLP, via email at jivy@bhclp.com or phone (214) 361-7900, with general questions. No questions will be answered from those posted on CivcastUSA.com. Attention is called to the fact that not less than, the federally determined prevailing (Davis-Bacon and Related Acts) wage rate, as issued by the Texas Department of Agriculture Office of Rural Affairs and contained in the contract documents, must be paid on this project. In addition, the successful bidder must ensure that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex, sexual identity, gender identity, or national origin. CITY OF PELICAN BAY, TEXAS.

### ORDINANCE NO. 2024-02

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AZLE, TEXAS, AMENDING CHAPTER 4 "BUSINESS REGULATIONS" OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, CITY OF AZLE, TEXAS TO REPEAL AND REPLACE ARTICLE 4.09 "WRECKERS" TO ESTABLISH REGULATIONS FOR WRECKERS OPERATING IN THE CITY AND TO PROVIDE FOR CONTRACTING WITH A SINGLE WRECKER SERVICE COMPANY FOR TOWING AND IMPOUND SERVICES FOR THE CITY; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE IS CUMULATIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING A PENALTY CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. ALL ORDINANCES ARE AVAILABLE TO BE READ IN FULL AT THE CITY OF AZLE, 505 W. MAIN ST. AZLE, TEXAS 76020, AND ON THE CITY'S WEBSITE YAEL FORGEY, CITY SECRETARY CITY OF AZLE.

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



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# The future of law enforcement

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

Azle High School's Criminal Justice Club competed the weekend of Feb. 23 at the Texas Public Safety Association Regionals (TPSA) at Crowley Independent School District's CTE Center. Nine teams representing the AHS club qualified for state, a new record for Azle students.

Since 2015, Azle High School's criminal justice program has covered a wide spectrum of law enforcement, forensic and emergency service experiences. Students begin preparing for this competition at the beginning of the year, and advisors said the goal is to have teams set at the end of the previous school year.

"I am so incredibly proud of these kids for their performance and ability to adapt on the fly and still place first in several of the events," advisor Samantha Brown said. "We have also had so much community support in helping get all these teams ready for competition as this would be impossible to compete in 14 events and place so well in nine!"

Prepping this many kids is a major community effort, with experts and educators from numerous fields pitching in to help. Some students received instruction and trained with Azle Fire Station 52. Retired corrections officer Kathy Cruz assisted and helped train students on the cell extraction team. Students who competed on the all-freshman legal team received help from AHS teacher Ms. Susan Scott, and a student who competed in anthropology takes Mr. Jimmy Rider's anatomy and physiology course. Student Resource Officer Stutsman also serves as an advisor to the club with

## AHS Criminal Justice Club qualifies record number of students for state

help from Officer Westbrook and Officer Harding. Brown said many of her students plan on pursuing careers in the fields in which they compete.

"Last year was my first year with Azle High School and the first year to be a sponsor for the club," Brown said. "My background is corrections and I wanted to have a cell extraction team and inmate processors. The group of kids on my cell extraction took a risk with me last year and we won first at regionals last year as well. We have a couple of new members, but it is mostly the original team. And all but two of them are graduating this year. So, for me it is that last bit of time to spend with the kids who took that chance with me and knocked it out of the park both years. I am going to miss this year's seniors, but I do have a good group of freshmen as well who are motivated and just as excited about this club as I am and I am looking forward to hopefully building this club even more with them. This group of kids have such big hearts, and it will be a big loss to the team for the majority of them that are graduating."

Brown said all the teams will continue training and improving on past scores for a chance to win at the March 25-28 state competition in Allen. For more information about TPSA go to its website at <https://texaspublicsafetyassociation.org/about>.

### FUTURE FIREFIGHTER

Azle senior Cameron Nelson, 17, took first place in the firefighter agility course. He attributes his success to

the time he spends every week training with Azle firefighters. This is not his first time competing or making state in this category, having participated twice before, but this season marks a return to the event after a yearlong hiatus.

"It's not easy, of course, carrying full bunker gear with all the heavy equipment but I'm very grateful for Chief Scott and Chief Lee at Fire Station 52 in Azle. I'm very grateful for everything they've done. They've put the gear, the time, the effort to train me motivate me, get me up, get me going, of course all the crew that's been working with me, the whole crew in general."

Nelson's interest in firefighting came after assisting family friends in a volunteer fire force at Possum Kingdom Lake. Now he dedicates his time after school each Tuesday to training alongside Azle firefighters. Knocking down doors, dragging hoses and competing in a timed obstacle and agility course, Nelson does it all while carrying loads of heavy gear. His training not only gives him a full workout, it prepares him for many of the tasks required of firefighters during real emergencies. Even with all his hard work, Nelson was still surprised when he learned that he had won first place in his category.

"I competed Friday night," Nelson said. "Awards weren't until Saturday night, and I didn't sleep at all Friday night. I almost was late Saturday. Luckily, I had my buddy Tristan Dorado help me get up. He saved my butt

on that one for sure. So I'm grateful for him. And of course, all the members of the club, Officer Stutsman, Ms. Brown, they've all been a huge help as well. They're all just amazing. Without them this whole thing isn't even possible... It means a lot because I sat there and worried about it for so long. I knew that I'd given it 110%, as much as I could. The whole time. So, all I had to do was leave it up to God, prayed about it. I saw my name pop up and I about lost it in there. I was ecstatic about it because I tried. It meant a lot to get first and I can't slow down now. All I've got to do is continue to try and get better (and) train. The plan is to get first place at state, too. Bring that little trophy back here and do the best I can."

After high school, he hopes to receive his EMT certification and pursue a career as a professional firefighter.

"I liked it so much I figured, well, if I'm doing it for free I might as well do it for a career, too," Nelson said.

For this young future firefighter, competing means all or nothing.

"If you're going to do it, do it," Nelson said. "Because it's not something you can kind of slack on. At this point, the only thing stopping me is me and you can make up as many excuses as you want but in a solo event it's you and only you. You're the only one that can say I messed up on this this and this and you can either fix it or you let it eat you alive and not fix it and then you're not going to improve any."



Tristan Dorado



Cameron Nelson

### LEADER IN THE MAKING

Azle senior Tristan Dorado, also 17, is a Criminal Justice Club officer who won first place as part of the cell extraction team as well as an individual first place in law enforcement agility. Dorado came to Azle in September 2021 from California. He quickly became close friends with Nelson, who encouraged him to join the club. Dorado said he fell in love after his first event.

"The only way that it has changed is that I've never been happier that I've done it," Dorado said. "I've made so many lifelong friends. Just with being in this club and I've learned so many valuable tools and life lessons. I can get myself out of a sticky situation and I can help out my cadets if they're ever in one."

As one of the club's two student leaders, Dorado leads by example. When not competing, he volunteered to announce and lead other students to their competition areas at TPSA. Being a former member of the Civil Air Patrol, Dorado has taken to calling the other students on his team cadets. In training and during competitions, he takes a leading role in a simulated scenario in which his team safely retrieves an inmate from a prison cell. Dorado said this event is a great way to build and test communication, efficiency and assertion in a high stress situation.

"I try to convey 'have fun but give it 110%,'" Dorado said of his leadership style. He said he believes the club has done exceptionally well this year because of great leadership from advisors, and an experienced officer team that's just as focused on academics as they are competitions. Dorado also thanked Azle ISD for investing as many resources into CTE events as it does sports.

"They've given their time every week to dedicate to us to make sure we're having a good time, that we get our awards and that we feel accomplished," Dorado said of his advisors and other helpers to the club. "They are doing an amazing job and the mentorship that they give. They built a personal relationship. It's not just 'hey, do this, be better.' It's 'here's why you should be doing this' and 'what did you do over the

weekend?'"

Along with leading his team to first place, Dorado also excelled in his solo law enforcement agility course where he beat out 12 other contestants, including "a big D1 football player from Brewer."

"I would definitely say I was pretty surprised because of some of the opponents I was going up against," Dorado said. "I was talking with them before and the training that they did was 10 times more intense than mine. But I believe we all get a fair shot."

Dorado completed his course with a time of one minute, nine seconds. Out of other outstanding performances by his cadets, he is particularly proud of freshman Sage Laing who, at the last minute, unexpectedly had to switch competitions. Despite the change, Laing still earned third place in the Qualifying Expert Witness category.

Dorado is excited for the March 25 state competition where he believes his club mates stand a strong chance of placing well. Many of the team members also anticipate traveling to Europe in June with Ms. Brown as part of the school's associated forensics class. During the trip, students will visit world renowned medical facilities and explore the history of killers like Jack the Ripper. Dorado works a job at El Gran Torito and been making monthly payments in order to cover the \$5,100 needed for the trip.

### CRIMINAL JUSTICE CLUB WINNING TEAMS AND INDIVIDUALS

#### First place teams and individuals:

- Disturbance call: Lillian Pappas, Ramses Hernandez
- Cell extraction: Collin Hill, Tristan Dorado, Morgan Mask, Kaylee Iglesias, Riley Rahim, Denisse Pulido
- LE agility: Tristan Dorado
- Inmate processing: Kaylee Iglesias
- Firefighter agility: Cameron Nelson

#### Second place individuals:

- DWI traffic stop: Ashlynn Royal
- Anthropology: Chloe Jones
- Traffic stop: Ashlynn Royal

- Third place individuals:
- Qualifying expert witness: Sage Laing



COURTESY PHOTO

In the picture, back (L-R): Azle ISD Officer Steve Stutsman (advisor), Preston Braxton, Ramses Hernandez, Jacob Parsley, Lee McVay, Sage Laing, Kaylee Iglesias, Morgan Mask, Riley Rahim, Collin Hill, Samantha Brown (advisor); center (L-R): Denisse Pulido, Ashlynn Royal, Lillian Pappas; front (L-R): Tristan Dorado, Cameron Nelson.

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## TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

Maitland Company, LLC, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for: Renewal of Permit 75820.

This application would authorize continued authorization of an animal crematorium located at Smoke Rise Farm, 11330 Mountain View Drive, Azle, Tarrant County, Texas 76020-5056. Additional information concerning this application is contained in the public notice section of this newspaper.

## LEGAL NOTICE

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine Only Package Store Permit by Spring Fuels LLC (dba) Busy Fuel Mart, to be located at 5094 E Highway 199, Springtown, Parker County, TX 76082. Officer(s) of the said entity: Altaf A. Kurani – Manager; Waseem Syed – Manager; Rahail Hirani – Manager; Nuruiddin Hirani – Manager.

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TRI-COUNTY REPORTER



FOLKS AROUND TOWN

# Say hello to our neighbor, Rachel Perry!

If you've been to Crave on Main Street in Azle, then you've probably met Rachel Perry, who works in the front of the house at the local eatery. She is there with a welcoming smile, ready to serve up a delicious lunch or sweet treat prepared by owner Jaime Wynn. "I love seeing our customers and interacting with them," Rachel said.

When you ask her to recommend her favorite menu item, Rachel will tell you that you can't go wrong with the Turkey Bacon Pesto.

Rachel has lived in Azle for 12 years and has worked at Crave since 2022. Her favorite thing about Azle is how friendly everyone is. And what does she like about the local newspaper? "I like how it supports the community and keeps us connected."

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### Alice Martin, Mary Kay Independent Sales Director

The Azle Area Chamber of Commerce hosted a ribbon cutting for Alice Martin, Mary Kay Independent Sales Director, Feb. 27. Martin has been a Mary Kay consultant for over 21 years and is committed to the community. She believes empowered women empower women. Call Alice at 817-369-5027 or find her on the internet at <https://www.marykay.com/alicemartin>.

### Twisted Stitch Embroidery

Twisted Stitch Embroidery celebrated a ribbon cutting hosted by the Azle Area Chamber of Commerce Feb. 8. Located at 2717 E. State Highway 199 in Springtown, Twisted Stitch Embroidery is a family-owned business that takes pride in friendly service and quality products, specializing in embroidery, sublimation and much more. You can reach Twisted Stich Embroidery by phone at 682-842-1892 or on the web at <https://shoptwistedstitch.com/>.



### Williams Electric Company

Williams Electric Company celebrated a ribbon cutting ceremony hosted by the Azle Area Chamber of Commerce Feb. 20. Williams Electric Company has served North Texas since 1991 in both commercial and residential services for installation, new construction and remodels. The company's goal for 2024 is to give back to the community that has supported it by fundraising for a replacement generator for the Springtown Police Department. Located at 1272 E. State Highway 199 in Springtown, Williams Electric Company can be reached by phone at 817-523-5353 or by pointing your browser to <https://williamselectriccompany.net/>.

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ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

More Hornet Academy graduates than ever filled Azle High School's auditorium.

## HORNET

FROM PAGE A1

I know some of you just felt like high school diplomas were just out of your reach. However, you hung in there, believed in yourself and did not give up despite sometimes difficult circumstances and now your day is here. You deserve to feel proud of your accomplishment."

The program was started after Dr. Ray Lea, retiring Azle ISD trustee and former superintendent, envisioned a non-traditional way for students to earn their diploma. Lea, along with the other board members and current superintendent, Todd Smith, were all present for this graduation, shaking the hands of each graduate as they walked the stage. Principal Hill thanked the board, counselor Ms. Williams, registrar Ms. Johnson and teachers Ms. Ham and Mr. Baron for making the evening a possibility. Hornet Academy holds graduation ceremonies twice a year around February and June. Across its 31 graduations, Hornet Academy has come a long way, Board President Bill Lane said, urging students to tell others about the program.

"It struck me walking into the auditorium tonight how far we've come with this academy," Lane said. "It boggles my imagination we've been so successful. (The graduating class members) have taken a path that not many people take. You took that path less traveled. When you walk across this stage and get your diploma, you're going

to be able to say you're a high school graduate, not that you got your GED, you're a high school graduate. Education is our ticket to the future. You don't learn from all your success; you learn from all your challenges."

Stephen Cortez is a regular at West Side Café in Fort Worth, and he and his family came to the Azle High School auditorium to cheer on his favorite waitress, Lauren, as she walked the stage.

"I'm always glad to see someone graduate, even if it's not my own family," Cortez said. "If anybody can get ahead, it's good in my book. She's got a plan and I hope she sticks to it. I am very proud, almost like she's my own daughter. I've known her for a few years, maybe five total, I'm very proud. I hope she goes far with her education. I think she's trying to work on an associate (degree). I like it a lot, man. It's a second chance for a lot of youngsters that kind of stray from the path to get back on."

### FULL LIST OF FEB. 26 HORNET ACADEMY GRADUATES

- Destiny Danielle Abers
- Lauren Nicole Arnold
- Ciara Suzette Arreola
- Ethan Scott Blackmon
- Brayden Dasean Bradley
- Kayla Shae Branstetter
- Melanie Cristina Camarillo Morales
- Donal Ray Chism Jr.
- Anna Maria Duenez
- Amarrah Dezlynn Foster
- Julian Enrique Granados
- Summer Shyan Leigh Hamblin
- Jonah Morgan Hernandez
- Genesis Elizabeth Hernandez-Castro
- Stormy Renee Hicks
- Zackary Lynn Hicks
- Terisa Darlene Hopp
- Kurt Horner
- Desiree Liza Lynn Johnston
- Orion Wylie Judd
- Jacob Christopher Kreutzer
- Sun Ha Labree Lajjas
- Liliana Nicole Lozano
- Zakary Allen Lucas
- Nathan Christopher Morris
- Bryce Ryan Nealy
- Jaden Lane Neff
- Yandell Armando Olivares
- Arely Perez
- Selena Gabriela Perez
- Blayton Matthew Randle
- Marco Antonio Reyna
- Cristhian Eduardo Rivera Lara
- Marissa Nevaeh-Kaye Roberson
- Justin Alden Roberts
- Isaias Andrez Roldan Jr.
- Queren Hapue Rubio Andrade
- Art Adem Rugovac
- Jayden Chance Sanders
- David Michael Sepulveda
- Tori Lynn Simpson
- Roger Cole Skipper
- Randi Reann Slavey
- Stacy Lynn Sommers
- Amy Espejel Soriano
- Camrin Chayse Spivey
- Nicole Reagan Steedman
- Alexandria Danielle Stewart
- Jocelyn Gabriela Suarez
- Jacquelyne Karina Villalba
- Alexis Rose Wells
- Rene Yanes Jr.

SEE MORE PHOTOS | A15



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Azle ISD's board of trustees, Azle Superintendent Todd Smith and Hornet Academy Principal Chris Hill congratulated students and shook hands as they received their diplomas.



Unlike a General Educational Development or GED program, graduates of Hornet Academy get to walk the Azle High School auditorium stage after earning a bona fide high school diploma.

## TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



### NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND INTENT TO OBTAIN AIR PERMIT (NORI) RENEWAL

PERMIT NUMBER 75820

**APPLICATION.** Maitland Company, LLC., has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for renewal of Air Quality Permit Number 75820, which would authorize continued operation of an animal crematory at the Smoke Rise Farm located at 11330 Mountain View Drive, Azle, Tarrant County, Texas 76020-5056. **AVISO DE IDIOMA ALTERNATIVO.** El aviso de idioma alternativo en español está disponible en <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/air/newsource/airpermits-pendingpermit-apps>. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For exact location, refer to application. <https://gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/LocationMapper/?marker=-97.52964,32.93271&level=13>. The existing facility and/or related facilities are authorized to emit the following air contaminants: carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, organic compounds, particulate matter including particulate matter with diameters of 10 microns or less and 2.5 microns or less and sulfur dioxide.

This application was submitted to the TCEQ on February 7, 2024. The application will be available for viewing and copying at the TCEQ central office, TCEQ Dallas/Fort Worth regional office, and the Fort Worth Public Library - Northwest Branch, 6228 Crystal Lake Drive, Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas beginning the first day of publication of this notice. The facility's compliance file, if any exists, is available for public review in the Dallas/Fort Worth regional office of the TCEQ.

The executive director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application. In addition to the renewal, this permitting action includes the incorporation of the permit by rule related to this permit. The reasons for any changes or incorporations, to the extent they are included in the renewed permit, may include the enhancement of operational control at the plant or enforceability of the permit. **The TCEQ may act on this application without seeking further public comment or providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if certain criteria are met.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT.** You may submit public comments to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below. The TCEQ will consider all public comments in developing a final decision on the application and the executive director will prepare a response to those comments. Issues such as property values, noise, traffic safety, and zoning are outside of the TCEQ's jurisdiction to address in the permit process.

**OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING.** You may request a contested case hearing if you are a person who may be affected by emissions of air contaminants from the facility. If requesting a contested case hearing, you must submit the following: (1) your name (or for a group or association, an official representative), mailing address, daytime phone number; (2) applicant's name and permit number; (3) the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing;" (4) a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the application and air emissions from the facility in a way not common to the general public; (5) the location and distance of your property relative to the facility; (6) a description of how you use the property which may be impacted by the facility; and (7) a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period. If the request is made by a group or association, one or more members who have standing to request a hearing must be identified by name and physical address. The interests the group or association seeks to protect must also be identified. You may also submit your proposed adjustments to the application/permit which would satisfy your concerns.

**The deadline to submit a request for a contested case hearing is 15 days after newspaper notice is published. If a request is timely filed, the deadline for requesting a contested case hearing will be extended to 30 days after mailing of the response to comments.**

If any requests for a contested case hearing are timely filed, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for a contested case hearing to the Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting. Unless the application is directly referred to a contested case hearing, the executive director will mail the response to comments along with notification of Commission meeting to everyone who submitted comments or is on the mailing list for this application. The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. **If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material air quality concerns submitted during the comment period.** Issues such as property values, noise, traffic safety, and zoning are outside of the Commission's jurisdiction to address in this proceeding.

**MAILING LIST.** In addition to submitting public comments, you may ask to be placed on a mailing list for this application by sending a request to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below. Those on the mailing list will receive copies of future public notices (if any) mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk for this application.

**AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION.** Public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at [www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/](http://www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/), or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address and physical address will become part of the agency's public record. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the Public Education Program toll free at 1-800-687-4040. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from Maitland Company, LLC., P.O. Box 907, Azle, Texas 76098-0907 or by calling Ms. Kim Maitland, President, at (817) 360-7829.

Notice Issuance Date: February 15, 2024

# Hornet Academy Graduates 2024

ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER



Melanie Morales



Tori Simpson



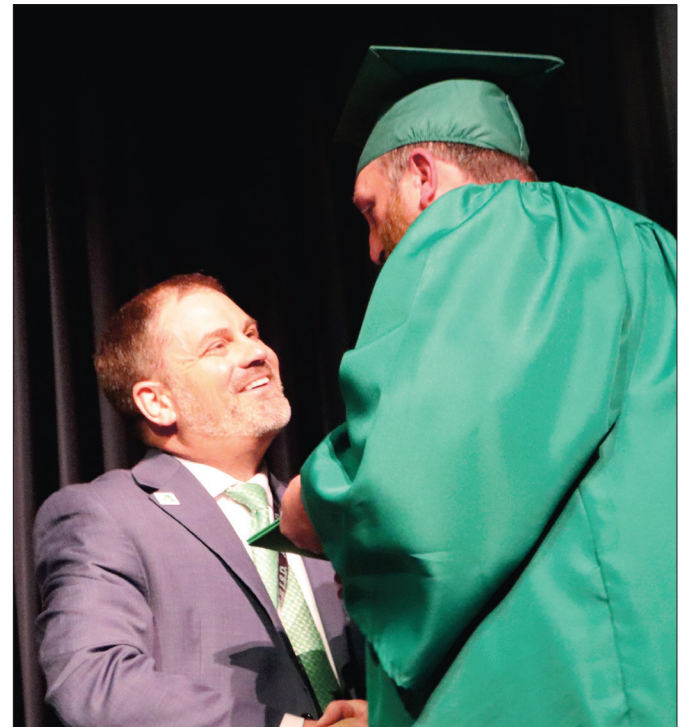
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Julian Granados



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# SHS choir students show off talents at school board meeting

Choir director reports 24 students qualified for state solo, ensemble contest



MADELYN EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Choir student Malia Vincent-Wilson performs the Italian-language song "Lascia ch'io pianga" at the Feb. 26 Springtown school board meeting. Her song was composed by George Frideric Handel in the 1700s and is sung from the perspective of an abducted woman.



Springtown High School choir student Gunnar Remington sang "How Do I Love Thee" for the school board last week. The song puts the phrases from Elizabeth Barrett Browning's poem to music.



In German, choir student Grady Odell performed the song "Verborgenheit" for the Springtown school board's Feb. 26 meeting. "Verborgenheit" was composed by Hugo Wolf in the 1800s.



The final Springtown High School soloist to sing for the board of trustees last week was Skyla Hayes. In Italian, she performed "O del mio dolce ardor" composed by Christoph Willibald von Gluck.



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THE TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

# DIVERSIONS

B

THURSDAY, March 7, 2024



## Azle Christian School district champs

STAFF REPORTS  
info@tricityreporter.com

Azle Christian School basketball clinched the district championship Feb. 13 with a 51-23 win over district rival Granbury Cornerstone. The first quarter was close, ending at 9-7, and remained close going into halftime with the score at 19-11.

The team adjusted at halftime and came out on fire, pulling ahead to end the third quarter 38-16. The ACS defense gave great defensive effort. Senior Jake Skartvedt led the way with 22 points and was 5-for-7 from the three-point line.

Sophomore Brodie Fairman had 11 points, and senior AJ Rollins had seven. This puts the team's overall record at 23-10 and 7-1 in district. This is the team's first district championship in TAPPS for basketball. They have made the playoffs all three years playing in TAPPS.

The Crusaders fell to Texoma Christian 57-27 during the area championship game Feb. 20 at home.

"These seniors have really believed in building this basketball program and I am thankful for what they have done," head basketball coach Ryan Rollins said in an email to the Tri-County Reporter.

COURTESY PHOTO

Head basketball coach Ryan Rollins with the team.

## Lady Pines qualify 14 lifters for state, Hornets send four

### SPORTS Roundup

RICK MAUCH  
Special to the Tri-County Reporter

The Springtown Lady Pines' tradition of powerlifting excellence continued with their recent performance at the 4A Big Regional Powerlifting Meet in Decatur Feb. 29. They won the team championship and qualified 14 lifters for state at the Comerica Center in Frisco March 15-16.

"This is always the toughest meet of the year, with the most pressure," Springtown coach Missy Castro said. "Decatur has a solid team this year and put up a great fight, scoring 66 points. That was not enough to beat the Porcupines who scored 68 points to win the regional championship. This win makes 10 regional championships in the last 12 years."

The Lady Pines made history by also winning every best lifter award at the regional meet.

- Best Squat Light Division: Zoey Adams, 315 pounds
- Best Squat Heavy Division: Ashi Elam 460
- Best Bench Light Division: Abigail Stoner 230, regional record
- Best Bench Heavy Division: Lyndsey Shotwell, 245
- Best Deadlift Light Division: Skyler Tyree, 335
- Best Deadlift Heavy Division: Grace Lewis, 340
- Best Overall Lifter Light Division: Adams, 765
- Best Overall Lifter Heavy Division: Elam, 1040
- Regional results:
- 105 pounds: 1. Adams, 765 pounds lifted, state qualifier; 3. Sarah Self, 535
- 114 3. Izzy Parker, 675, state qualifier; 4. Callee Gaston, 675, state qualifier
- 123: 1. Tyree, 810, state qualifier; 3. Jessica Montgomery, 730, state qualifier
- 132: 1. Stoner, 850, state

PLEASE SEE ROUNDUP | B2



PHOTO COURTESY OF MISSY CASTRO

The Springtown Lady Pines captured their 10th regional powerlifting championship in 12 seasons this past weekend. They are also sending 14 lifters to state in Frisco March 15-16.

## City workers demolish Springtown splash pad



MADelyn EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER  
After pulling down one of the structures at the splash pad, Springtown Public Works supervisor Robert Willis and Matthew Hetherly move them to their next task in the demolition process.

City Council agreed to tear down splash pad in January, replace it with another park feature



MADelyn EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER  
Springtown Public Works supervisor Robert Willis uses the excavator to move parts of the demolished splash pad out the way Feb. 27.

# ROUNDUP

FROM PAGE B1

qualifier; 4. Kimberly Munoz, 655  
 · 148: 1. Melissa Chavez, 919, state qualifier (tiebreaker); 2. Hayley Knight, 910, state qualifier; 3. Dominique Tamoki, 780; 7. Faith Styles, 655  
 · 165: 1. Lewis, 915, state qualifier; 2. Destiny Ramirez, 830, state qualifier  
 · 181: 2. Shotwell, 905, state qualifier  
 · 198 1. Elam, 1,040, state qualifier; 5. Lillian Siegel, 815, state qualifier  
 · 220: 3. Addison DeGreek, 900, state qualifier  
 · 242 1. Izzy Medina, 875, state qualifier

"I am excited we had so many athletes qualify this year. We are a young team with a lot of potential," Castro said.

## AZLE BOYS POWERLIFTING

The Hornets will send four lifters to the Class 5A State Meet in Abilene March 22-23 at the Taylor County Convention Center. The quartet competed at the regional meet at Keller Central High School March 2.

Alan Hard took first in the 132-pound division with 1,125 pounds lifted and Case Moore won the 220 weight class, lifting 1,580. Tyler Ulrich placed third in the 181 class with 1,465, and Cash Moore was sixth in the same division with 1,440.

## AZLE BASEBALL

The Azle Hornets (9-1) captured the championship of the Jet Teague Tournament in Kennedale this past weekend. In going 5-0 they outscored their opponents 41-9.

Their performance included a combined perfect game by pitchers Cole Webb and Anthony Virag in a 6-0 win over Amarillo Palo Duro.

Azle 4, Diamond Hill Jarvis 2: Lane Springfield double, RBI; Tyler Vaughn two hits, two RBIs; Ivan Perez two hits. Pitching leaders: Austin May picked up the pitching win, going 4.1 Innings. Landon Carter, save in 1.2 innings of relief.

Azle 11, Everman 1: Cole Webb two hits; Ty Bonnett two hits, triple; Garrin Graves double; Vaughn two hits, double; Perez two hits. Pitching leader: Graves got the win, going 5.1 innings with six strikeouts.

Azle 6, Amarillo Palo Duro 0: Webb two hits; Bonnet two hits, double; Vaughn two hits, double. Pitching leaders: Webb picked up the win, throwing six Innings with 14 strikeouts. Virag came in the seventh and kept the perfect game intact.

Azle 13, Gainseville 3:

Graves two hits, home run, four RBIs; Springfield two hits, double; Nathan Casperaites two hits, triple, four RBIs. Pitching leader: Christian Shepherd (win), 2.1 innings; Jacob Martin 1.2 innings, three strikeouts.

Azle 7, North Side 3: Jesse Hemmerling two hits; Webb triple; Graves triple; Vaughn one hit, three RBIs. Pitching leader: Springfield complete game 5-hitter.

The Hornets took an eight-game winning streak into the Southwest/Arlington Heights Tournament this weekend before opening District 5-5A play against Granbury, at home March 12 and there March 14, both games starting at 6:30 p.m.

The Hornets are ranked 15th in the state in Class 5A by the Texas High School Baseball Coaches Association.

## AZLE SOFTBALL

Azle 8, Denton Ryan 2, Feb. 27: Morgan Terrell two hits; Kaylee Parrish double, two RBIs; Allison Smith triple, two walks, two RBIs; Danni Wangler home run, RBI.

Northwest Tournament Whitesboro 4, Azle 1: Brandie Phillips two hits, double; Shaylea Cassell double, RBI.

Azle 6, Odessa Permian 5: Phillips two hits, RBI; Cassell two hits, RBI.

Azle 3, Odessa 1: Phillips two hits, double, RBI; Torrie Johnson double. Pitching standout: Corynne Barone seven innings, one hit, no earned runs, five strikeouts, two walks.

Hurst L.D. Bell 6, Azle 5: Phillips three hits, two RBIs; Smith double, two RBIs; Cassel double, hit by pitch.

Azle 2, Mansfield 0: Smith double, two RBI. Pitching leader: Adrianna Wiedeman seven innings, six hits, four strikeouts, three walks.

The Lady Hornets (10-7-1) begin District 5-5A competition at Granbury March 8 at 6:30 p.m. They host Wichita Falls Rider March 11 at 3 p.m. and travel to Northwest March 13 at 7 p.m.

## SPRINGTOWN BASEBALL

**Glen Rose/Godley/Stephenville Tournament**

Springtown 8, Snyder 3: Brayden Fox three hits, two RBIs; Yair Hernandez two hits, double, hit by pitch; Carson Cox double, RBI. Pitching leader: Caleb Elmore 6.2 innings, three hits, one earned run, one strikeout, one walk.

Godley 14, Springtown 5: Ryan Kirk two hits, triple, two RBIs; Hernandez double, walk, two RBIs; Cox double.

Springtown 4, Whitney 3: Kirk three hits, RBI; Hernandez two hits, double, two RBIs. Pitching leader: Nate McDaniel five innings,



PHOTO COURTESY OF BO MAINES

Azle powerlifters (from left) Tyler Ulrich, Cash Moore, Alan Hard and Case Moore qualified for the Class 5A State Meet in Abilene March 22-23.

three hits, one earned run, two strikeouts, three walks.  
 Springtown 6, LaGrange 4: Drake Doggett double, three RBIs.

Springtown 5, Maypearl 2: Cox three hits, triple, RBI; Hernandez two hits, double, walk, RBI; Trent Solis two hits, two RBIs; Doggett double. Pitching leader: Fox five innings, one hit, one earned run, five strikeouts, three walks.

The Porcupines (5-4) play in the Johnson County Tournament this weekend and host Godley March 15 at 1 p.m.

## SPRINGTOWN SOFTBALL

**Iowa Park Tournament**  
 Muenster 8, Springtown 7: Haylee Sanborn two hits, double, RBI; Nevaeh Vasquez double.

Wylie 12, Springtown 2: Cheyenne Atchley two hits, two RBIs.

Springtown 4, Amarillo Tascosa 3: Vasquez two hits, double, RBI; Atchley double, walk, RBI. Pitching leader: Sanborn six innings, three hits, one earned run, four strikeouts, no walks.

Amarillo Caprock 6, Springtown 2: Ava Fernandez double, walk; Atchley double.

Springtown 15, Wichita Falls City View 0: Atchley two hits, double, three RBIs; Vasquez two hits, RBI; Ryleigh Morris two doubles; Fernandez two doubles, RBI; Blaize Flood triple, RBI;

Kelsey Brandt triple, RBI; Kaylie Houghton triple, two RBIs; Sanborn home run, walk, RBI. Pitching leaders: Morris one inning, one hit, one strikeout, one walk; Sanborn three innings, four strikeouts, no walks.

The Lady Pines (5-5) were hosting Burkburnett and Wichita Falls City View at press time. They begin District 8-4A play at Decatur March 19 at 7 p.m.

## AZLE CHRISTIAN BOYS BASKETBALL

The Fighting Crusaders wrapped up the 2023-24 season with a 23-11 record, the most wins in team history. They captured the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools District 2-1A championship.

Their season came to an end with a 57-27 loss in the second round of the playoffs. Jake Skartvedt led the Crusaders with 11 points and Andy Wisniewski added nine.

The district title was the program's first since the 2014-15 season.

## SPRINGTOWN GIRLS SOCCER

The Lady Pines (14-4-1, 7-1 in District 8-4A) won a pair of defensive battles to stay in the hunt for a district title as they blanked Collegiate Academy at Tarrant County College Northeast at home Feb. 27. They then won 1-0 at Castleberry March 1.

Icis Lopez scored the goal

against Collegiate Academy, while Brooklynn Brickle was the goalkeeper. Samantha Orozco had the goal against Castleberry and Allison Kimball was in goal.

The Lady Pines have posted eight shutouts this season and have held 14 opponents in all to a goal or less.

The Lady Pines are second in league play behind only Decatur. They were playing at Lake Worth at press time and travel to Decatur March 8, where a win would move them into a tie for first place. Girls begin at 5:30 p.m. and boys at 7:30.

Decatur defeated the Lady Pines 3-0 in Springtown Feb. 16.

The Lady Pines have already clinched a second consecutive playoff berth. They advanced to the second round in 2023.

## SPRINGTOWN BOYS SOCCER

The Porcupines (2-14-1, 1-7 in District 8-4A) dropped a 1-0 home contest to Collegiate Academy Feb. 27. They followed with an 8-0 loss at Castleberry March 1.

## AZLE GIRLS SOCCER

The Lady Hornets (12-6-1, 5-4 in District 5-5A) suffered a pair of key losses this past week, falling 4-0 at home to Wichita Falls Rider Feb. 27 and 2-0 at home to Northwest March 1.

Azle is in fourth place and is in a three-way battle for

second place in district with Aledo (5-3-1) and Brewer (5-3-2). Northwest (4-5-1) is in fifth place.

The Lady Hornets were playing at Saginaw (1-6) at press time. They host Aledo March 8 and travel to Brewer March 18. Girls begin at 5:30 p.m. and boys at 7:30 p.m.

## AZLE BOYS SOCCER

The Hornets (4-13, 0-9 in District 5-5A) dropped two home contests last week by identical 4-0 scores. First, they lost to Wichita Falls Rider Feb. 27 and to Northwest March 1.

## AZLE BOYS GOLF

The Hornets shot 741 (366-375) to finish 10th in the Bearcat Brawl, hosted by Aledo, Feb. 23-24. Azle was led by Jacob Williams' 177 (89-88) and Konnor Hayes' 191 (93-98).

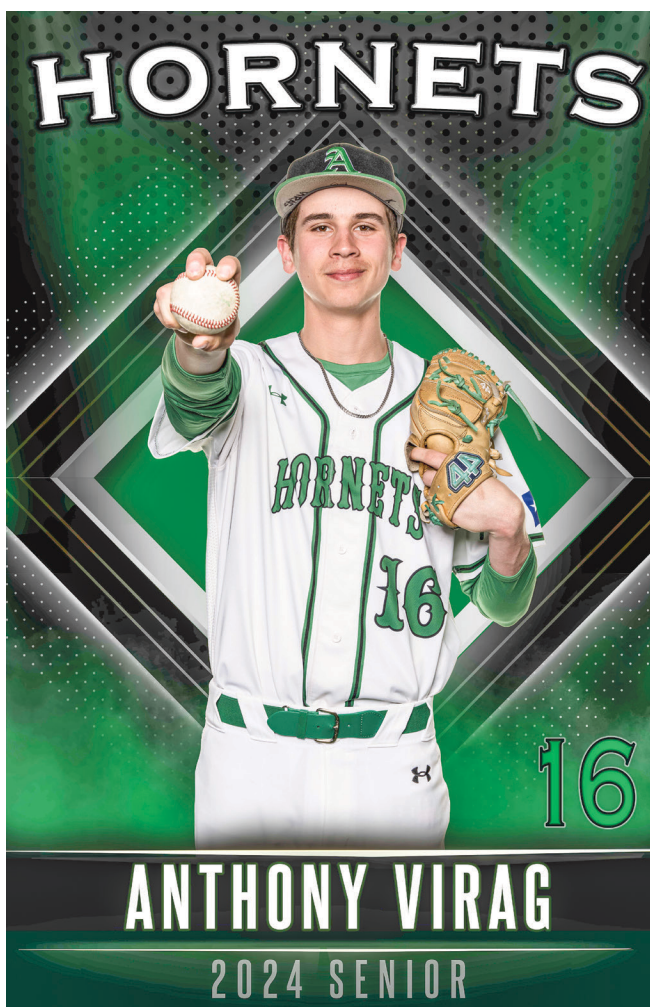
## AZLE TRACK

The Hornets and Lady Hornets hosted the Donnie Osterman Relays Feb. 29. Many events were canceled because of lightning. Top Azle finishers are:

**Varsity boys**  
 3200-meter run: 3. Parker Huffaker, 10:29.87.

4x100 relay: 1. Cale Cohen, Tyler Ulrich, Jakob Montelongo, Josh Montelongo, 43.46.

**Varsity girls**  
 3200: 3. Brooke Maples, 12:39.56.



Cole Webb and Anthony Virag combined to pitch a perfect game against Amarillo Palo Duro as the Azle Hornets won the championship of the Jet Teague Tournament in Kennedale this past weekend.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF STEPHEN SMITH

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# AHS qualifies 58 for State Solo and Ensemble Contest

AZLE — Azle High School band students participated in the UIL Region Solo and Ensemble Contest at Aledo High School Saturday, Feb. 17, and 58 students advanced to State competition.

The State Solo and Ensemble Contest will be held at The University of Texas in Austin in May.

The Azle Independent School District congratulated its hardworking Hornets band students on Facebook and its website.

## QUALIFYING BAND STUDENTS

- Caitlyn Adams
- Alaina Amato
- Javier Avila
- Aaron Barnes
- Ellie Bennett
- Donald Bewley
- Madeline Boivin

- Harley Boyce
- Gilliam Brentz
- Mason Cain
- Josh Carver
- Daniel Cohee
- Anahi Colmenero
- Caleb Connellee
- Carson Cooper
- Brady Danford
- Kayla Eversole
- Jack Gage
- Jack Graeber
- Cailyn Halyard
- Lila Harden
- Hensley Harman
- Jacob Hill
- Levi Hinkley
- Garrett Holden
- Paulix Howell-McFadden
- Joseph Hunter
- Violet Isom
- Katlyn Johnson
- Ethan Kacmyrinski
- Isaac Lalonde
- Eyvinder Lefever

- Michelle Lorenz
- Grady Meador
- Amy Munoz
- Emily O'Neill
- Jocelyn Olund
- Jaden Petty
- Johnnie Powell Marin
- Nicholas Renteria
- Anthony Rogers
- Miguel Rubio
- Amber Ryerson
- Zaidee Salas
- Gianna Schroeder
- Luke Sipe
- Michael Smith
- Jaeli Snell
- Eva Solorzano
- Ezequiel Soria
- Will Stroud
- Kaylin Taylor
- Madelyn Tucker
- Jayson Villalobos
- Reese Wethington
- Olivia Williston
- Kali Womack

# ACS coach, players lauded

## STAFF REPORTS

The Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools, or TAPPS, announced its basketball honorees for 2024, including an Azle Christian School basketball coach and several players.

Ryan Rollins, head basketball coach at ACS, was named TAPPS 1A Division 2 Basketball Coach of the Year.

Individual players who earned TAPPS 1A Division 2 honors include:

- Andy Wisniewski, District Most Valuable Player
- A.J. Rollins, 1st Team

- All-District
- Jake Skartvedt, 1st Team All-District
- Brody Fairman, 2nd Team All-District
- Jaxson Logan, 2nd Team All-District
- Jacob Rollins, Honorable Mention All-District

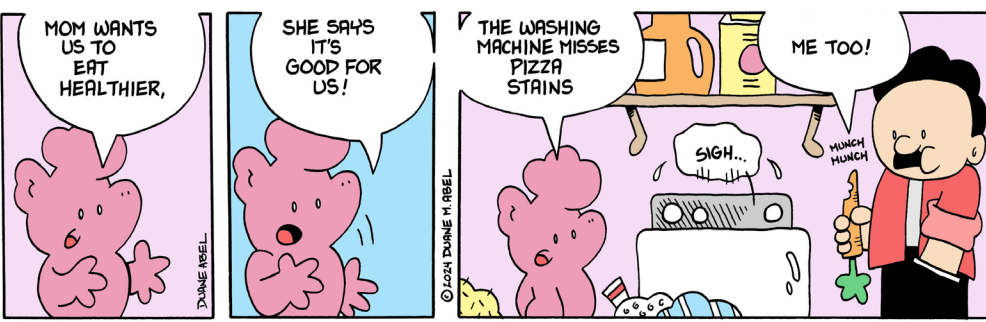


Andy Wisniewski, District Most Valuable Player



Ryan Rollins, TAPPS 1A Division 2 Basketball Coach of the Year

## ZED by Duane Abel



www.corkycomics.com

# Sudoku

MARCH 7, 2024

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

Level: Intermediate



Jake Skartvedt, 1st Team All-District



Jaxson Logan, 2nd Team All-District



A.J. Rollins, 1st Team All-District

# Solution to last week's puzzle

FEBRUARY 29, 2024

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

## WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to holiday decorating.

NGLEA

--	--	--	--	--

Answer: Angel

## CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to holiday baking. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 11 = R)

- A. 25 15 18 8 11  
Clue: Ground baking grain
- B. 5 3 22 19 11  
Clue: Blends things together
- C. 11 18 15 15 19 23  
Clue: Flattened and smoothed out
- D. 16 8 13 26 11  
Clue: Sweetener



Brody Fairman, 2nd Team All-District



Jacob Rollins, Honorable Mention All-District

# State Bound

Congratulations to the Azle High School Girls Powerlifting Team on becoming Regional Champs this season and sending four girls to State! Kyndal Robbins (97), Ella Swaim (105), Raegan Williams (123), and Emma Sustala (181) will compete at the State Meet March 16 in Sherman.



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# State Bound!

Congratulations to the Springtown High School Girls Powerlifting team on being named Regional Champs and sending 14 girls to state! The qualifiers will compete at the State Powerlifting Meet March 15 in Frisco.

State Qualifiers: Zoey Adams (105), Izzy Parker (114), Callee Gaston (114), Skyler Tyree (123), Jessica Montgomery (123), Abigail Stoner (132), Hayley Knight (148), Melissa Chavez (148), Grace Lewis (165), Destiny Ramirez (165), Lyndsey Shotwell (181), A'shianya Elam (198), Addison DeGreek (220), Izzy Medina (242)

PHOTOS COURTESY MISSY CASTRO



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2-1-1 \$1,125.MO. \$600 DEP.  
Gene Thompson & Associates  
817-246-4646 gtax.com

**081 Business/Commercial**

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

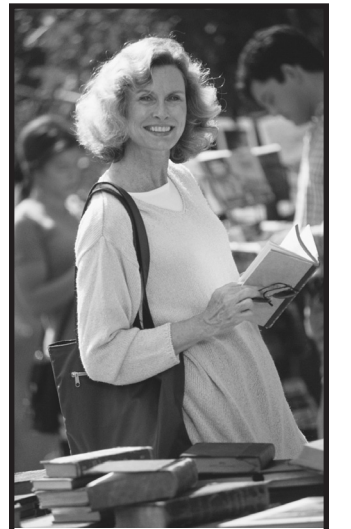
For Lease:  
Hwy 199 frontage, near hospital, 2000 Sq Ft \$1500/mo. 817-220-2021  
Bryant Real Estate.

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

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We Get That Honey-Do List Done For You

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

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

**WINTER SPECIAL 20% OFF with this ad!**

Call Devin at 817-629-9608

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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.  
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**066 Roofing**

**Miles Roofing**  
• Insurance Claim Specialists;  
• Free Estimates  
**817-797-3420**

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**HALL'S SAND, DIRT & GRAVEL**  
Quality Family Business Since 1938  
CALL Cliff Hall  
**(817) 221-2681**  
We go the extra mile to ensure you get more for your \$. On House Pads, Driveways, Lot Clearing & Tractor Work, Etc.

**079 Welding**

**WDC WELD-DONE CONSTRUCTION LTD.**  
Metal Building Erectors  
• Pre-engineered Weld-up  
• Barns/Shops  
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• Fencing

1220 E. Hwy. 199 • Springtown  
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**www.weld-done.net**

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Commercial & Residential

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- All General Contracting

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Bryant Real Estate.

# 817-270-3340

Deadline:  
1:00 PM FRIDAY

# Classifieds

**088 Rent Unfurnished**

## Gateway Apartments

313 Gateway · Azle · 817-444-0882  
TDD 800-760-1997

**Energy Efficient · Central Heat/Air  
Off Street Parking · Water Paid  
Fully Equipped Laundry**

**ONE & TWO BEDROOMS**

**Rent Based On Income  
For Qualified Applicants**

62 years of age or older, handicap/disabled, regardless of age

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer

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- Are now taking applications on a first come first serve basis.
- Will have rental assistance available for eligible households.

**EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY**

1300 VILLAGE GARDEN  
AZLE, TX

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**800-735-2988**

Call or come by now!



**Raise some extra money through the Classifieds to help with that move. 16 words for only \$10**

**TRI-COUNTY REPORTER**  
817-270-3340  
Hometown Paper

## TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison  
Copyright 2024 by Orbison Bros.

**ACROSS**

1 slightly wet

5 TXism: "went to the well \_\_\_ too often"

6 "don't put all your \_\_\_ in one basket"

7 "I will do nothing of the \_\_\_"

8 TX Willie & Kenny sang "We \_\_\_ the World" in 1985

9 moon to Houston on 7/20/1969: "The Eagle \_\_\_ Landed"

12 Beaumont University

17 TX Ellie Breaux was 1st Runner-Up of 2024 Miss America

19 TXism: "panting like a lizard \_\_\_ \_\_\_ rock"

21 "she \_\_\_ \_\_\_ of the world" (happy)

22 in Palo Pinto County on highway 16

23 "\_\_\_ a leak"

28 "\_\_\_ areas" on Texas highways

29 groupings of dominos

30 TXism: "happy \_\_\_ \_\_\_ with two tails"

31 TXism: "pay \_\_\_ \_\_\_ never mind"

35 Rio Grande City is seat of this county

36 TXism: "mean as a \_\_\_"

42 Lone Star Museum has a NASA Motion Base \_\_\_

44 "Texas Goes \_\_\_ \_\_\_" (about WWII)

**DOWN**

1 TXism for "yes" (4 wds.)

2 Texas has the most of these mohair goats in the U.S.

3 in McLennan County on U.S. 84

4 Texas fire ant, e.g.

9 ten-gallon lids

10 TXism: "that's his bell" (success)

11 oil or gas additive

12 "\_\_\_ Ebanos Ferry" crosses Rio Grande

13 TXism: "ran like \_\_\_ \_\_\_ burning stump"

14 TXism: "so broke I couldn't buy hay for a night \_\_\_"

15 what a cowboy has on his head (2 wds.)

16 lines of seats at Globe Life Field

18 dir. from Vega to Pampa

20 Davy's home st.

23 Alamo City (abbr.)

24 longest book of the Bible (abbr.)

25 stool pigeons

26 TX "Red" who was an oil well firefighter

27 this Bates was a momma's boy in 1960 film "Psycho"

32 TX George Strait's "\_\_\_ Like to Have That One Back"

33 Texas-based "Lone Wolf \_\_\_ Quade"

34 "\_\_\_ can do" (unable)

36 sedan or coupe

37 2,000 pounds (2 wds.)

38 make a hole with a chisel

39 TXism: "I've \_\_\_ overdose of woe" (sad)

40 TX Jamie Foxx won an Academy \_\_\_ for 2004 film "Ray"

41 one of 25-down

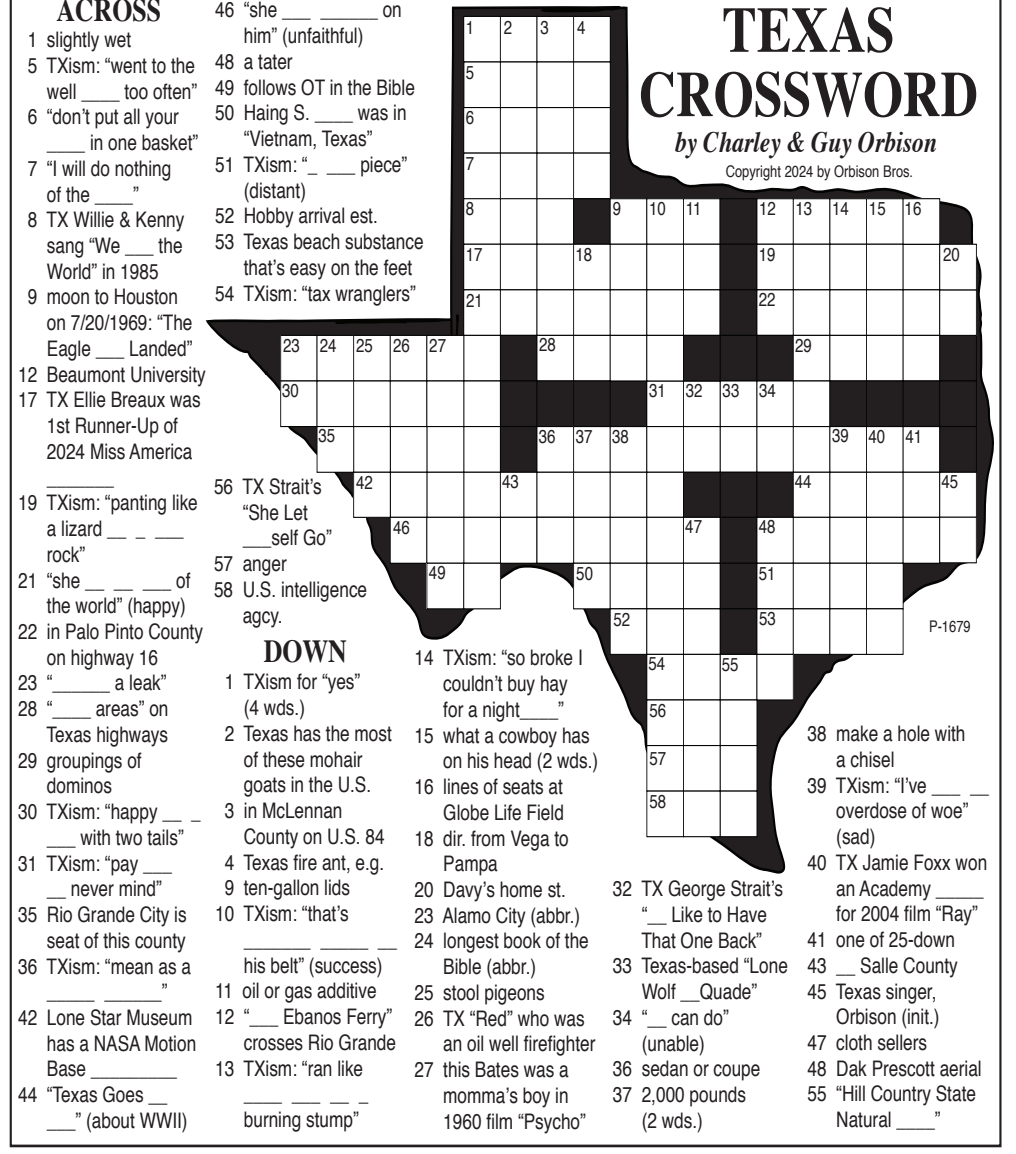
43 \_\_\_ Salle County

45 Texas singer, Orbison (init.)

47 cloth sellers

48 Dak Prescott aerial

55 "Hill Country State Natural \_\_\_"



**089 Wanted to Rent**

Looking for a room to rent or a new or used trailer, RV, or Mobile Home for myself to live in. Call Sandy 936-524-0830.



**Save a Shelter Animal. Find your furever friend**



**THANKS FOR SHOPPING & DINING LOCALLY!**

TEXAS STATEWIDE CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING NETWORK

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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.coyotehillsock.com.

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

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

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**OR**

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# THE TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

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