TRI+COUNTY REPORTER

NEWS OF AZLE, SPRINGTOWN, AND SURROUNDING AREAS

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Planning for the future

ZACH FREEMAN

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AZLE — The City of Azle is one step closer to formulating its Comprehensive Master Plan. The 2025 plan will act as a roadmap that will guide long-term decision making for the next 20 years. Thursday, Feb. 29, the city hosted a downtown workshop in order to hear comments and ideas from Azle residents and business owners on the future of down-

town Azle and Main Street. The event was held at Azle

City of Azle partners with Halff Associates for downtown workshop

Christian Church in anticipation of the large audience and was organized in partnership with Halff Associates and Catalyst Commercial who are advising the city. Halff Associates Director of Planning Brad Johnson spoke to an audience of over 40 people, introducing different outlines of Azle's downtown and welcoming written

feedback from attendees on maps of the area in question. The boundaries for Azle's downtown area, presented in Halff's maps, stretch from Boyd Road in the north and S. Stewart Street to the south. Ash Creek is the area's western boundary and State Highway 199 is the eastern

PLEASE SEE **PLAN** | A2



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Groups analyzed and offered alternatives and additions to proposed visions of Azle's downtown, presenting their ideas at the meeting's conclusion.

Azle students make a splash at 'Love Your Lake'

Nonprofit holds meeting and celebration of Eagle Mountain Lake, discusses impact

ZACH FREEMAN

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FORT WORTH — Bursting into spring with continued energy, the recently-revived nonprofit Save Eagle Mountain Lake hosted its second annual Love Your Lake celebration at the Fort Worth Boat Club.

The Feb.17 annual meeting served as an opportunity to bring people together to talk about the lake they love. SEML speakers talked about the vital role sponsors like Our Country Homes, West Bay Marina, Lakeview Marina and others have played in helping build the organization back stronger. Cary Lewis was announced as SEML's new president, replacing Curt Favinger.

SEML was founded in 1985 and in the last two years has sprung back into action after a period of inactivity. In 2023, SEML collaborated with C.A.S.T. for Kids to hold a fishing experience for special needs youth, donating smart watches to partici-

pants at the event's conclusion. The organization will hold its annual charity golf tournament from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 20. SEML also hopes to hold its second lake bottom cleanup event in the fall at Party Cove. During the first lake bottom cleanup in 2023, the organization removed a half ton of trash from the lakebed utilizing volunteer divers. The organization also participated in Toys for Tots and partnered with local schools and organizations to foster environmental stewardship and conservation; it also awarded student scholarships.

Guest speakers were comprised of a list of "who's who" in the local water world. Speakers included Dave Valentine, membership director for the Fort Worth Boat Club, Dr. Kelly Albus and Dr. Bardia Heidari from the Dallas County A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Cody Whittenburg, managing director for

PLEASE SEE SPLASH | A4



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Skye Dickens and Kristina Birkeland presented their project, which is focused on water quality and ecological issues facing Eagle Mountain Lake, for the FCCLA Public Policy Advocate, Level 3 contest at the Texas FCCLA Region II Leadership Conference Feb. 29 in Waco. Birkeland and Dickens won second place in their event and will advance to the state competition April 12 in Dallas.

Rogers, Hardy lose in Republican primary

Check out more results from Super Tuesday

MADELYN EDWARDS

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Primary Election Day re-

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vealed a couple of big upsets in Parker County-area races. Incumbent State Rep. Glenn Rogers was defeated by challenger Mike Olcott in the race for Texas House of Representatives District 60, which covers Parker, Palo Pinto and Stephens counties. Olcott's victory was resounding as he won with more than 63% of the vote, according to the unofficial results on the Texas Secretary of State's

website. The primary election usually allows voters to pick candidates from the two political parties — Republican and Democratic — to face off during the November general election. Since the Republican Olcott does not have a Democratic challenger, he will win in November by default.

Olcott, a retired biochemist who co-founded Parker County Conservatives, ran for election in District 60 in 2022 but lost to Rogers in a runoff election.

Olcott listed border security, property tax reduction and water availability as his main priorities in his answers to The Tri-County Reporter's questionnaire published last month.

"As your next state representative, I will fight for the conservative values of our district and the liberties that God and our forefathers bestowed upon us," Olcott said in the questionnaire.

The other upset from Super Tuesday took place in the race for State Board of Education District 11, which includes all of Parker, Hood and Somervell counties, part of Tarrant and Johnson counties and just a smidge of Dallas County. Springtown pastor Brandon Hall defeated longtime board member Patricia "Pat" Hardy by just over 53% of the vote, according to the unofficial results on the Texas Secretary of State's website.

Hall will advance to the November general election and face Democrat candidate and high school math teacher Rayna Glasser, who was the sole candidate in the Democratic primary for State

PLEASE SEE **PRIMARY** | A10

Bond or bust

MADELYN EDWARDS

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SPRINGTOWN — Springtown Independent School District Superintendent Shane Strickland, a self-described optimist, recalled having a sinking feeling leading into the November 2023 bond

The future of SISD after November 2023 bond election

election.

"Although I was confident, I was worried in the back of my mind," Strickland said in early December.

Strickland hoped district

leaders had done enough to educate the community about the bond proposal. He knew there would be more

PLEASE SEE **BOND** | A5

Editor's note: This article is the fifth and final part 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. This series has covered the history of SISD's bond elections, the needs at campuses in the district, how property tax bills are deterring voters from approving the bond and the arguments for and against athletic facilities in SISD's bond proposals.



MADELYN EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Springtown Independent School District Superintendent Shane Strickland speaks at the podium during the January 2024 school board meeting.





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ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Halff Associates, working with Catalyst Commmercial, talked about developing its master plan and including more community accessibility.

FROM PAGE A1

boundary.

Johnson and Chris Brown of Catalyst Commercial spoke about planning for both the known and unknown.

"People believe that downtown Azle can be more than a place, it can be a destination," Johnson said. "It can be a place where we can walk, gather with our family, walk and hang out, not just during the day but in the evening,

Halff Associates will help the city develop its master plan by comparing Azle to other communities, looking at projected growth and engaging the community in events like this. Accessible trails, sidewalks and a diverse range of housing options were some of the attendees' priorities. Some of the options discussed included creating an expanded trail along Ash Creek to make it easier to walk between Main Street and SH 199. All the ideas showcased by participants will be analyzed by Halff and Catalyst so they can come up with the best solutions for all concerned.

"I'm glad to see a few faces that you don't normally see at city hall and city events," Susie Hiles, assistant to the city manager, said.



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Some of the options discussed included creating an expanded trail along Ash Creek to make it easier to walk between Main Street and SH 199.

Special needs Easter event on March 16

2 p.m. Saturday, March 16 at the Newby Pavilion

STAFF REPORTS

SPRINGTOWN — An Easter event for those with special needs is planned to take place at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 16 at the Newby Pavilion in the part of the park that's behind Wells Fargo on Main Street.

People of all ages with special needs are welcome at the event. Activities are expected to include an egg hunt, face painting, a bounce house, cake walk and refreshments.

The event was started last year by Crystal Childers, who observed that Easter events involving kids without special needs tend to not be as beneficial to those with special needs.

"You have all the other kids running in and grabbing all the eggs, and then you have the special needs kids that are slower or in wheelchairs and not able to get up there, and all the stuff is gone before they're able to get anything," Childers said in the March 9, 2023, edition of The Springtown Epigraph.

Therefore, Childers created an event where individuals with special needs would feel welcome and be able to enjoy activities at their own

Donations of plastic eggs, candy, small toys, Easter baskets or bags, drinks, small bags of chips, cookies, nachos and cake walk items can be dropped off at the Chill Zone, 3-W's Smoke Shack, The Nutrition Lodge and Weatherford's Rock N



JIM STEVENS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

An Easter event for people of all ages with special needs is returning to Springtown for a second year. Pictured is Zoe Moray with the Easter bunny at last year's event.

Rootz Hair Salon. Volunteers the event or donations, email may also be needed. For more information on

Childers at crystalchilders9@ amail.com.



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The bluebonnets are coming!

Where has the time gone? Remarkably, we are halfway through the month of March while just the other day, it was New Year's Eve. A host of traditional markers seem to be upon us as most schools celebrate spring break this week, St. Patrick's Day is Sunday and Easter is just around the corner. Before we know it, full blown spring will be upon us.

The best thing about spring in Texas is the arrival of the bluebonnets. I am not sure of any annual ritual which puts a bigger spring in my step or smile on my face than does seeing bluebonnets dotting the Texas landscape.

Texas is known for



FROM MY FRONT PORCH

By Sam Houston

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

its bluebonnets and even though it's not the only place in the United States where they can be found, it is the only place you'll find both the Lupinus Texensic and Lupinus Subcarnosis species. Bluebonnets are often seen as a symbol of renewal, hope and the Texas spirit. The flowers are very hardy and represent the beauty that can emerge from even the harshest and most challenging environments.

One of my favorite ways to observe bluebonnets is driving down the highway, enjoying the fresh air of spring while listening to my favorite music on the radio. I do not know how many people in Texas have the same spring ritual as I, but I feel certain it is most of them.

Did you know the bluebonnet was chosen as the official state flower in 1901? Or that Texas was the first state to plant wildflowers along its highways? Aren't we glad they did so?

Community Waste Disposal Bluebonnets in Bloom contest

With the arrival of spring, it is time for the second annual Community Waste Disposal "Bluebonnets in Bloom" contest! Last year, hundreds of photos were submitted portraying our readers' favorite bluebonnet images. Some were silly, some artistic and all were simply amazing.

Starting March 18 and for a total of four weeks, a weekly winner will be selected from

those photos which are submitted on our website. The winner each week will receive a one-year subscription to the Tri-County Reporter, a Bluebonnets in Bloom T-shirt, and their photo will appear in the following week's edition of the newspaper as well as the paper's website. At the end of four weeks, a grand prize winner will be announced from the total entries received. The winner shall receive, in addition to the weekly prize, a \$100 cash prize, plus their photo will be featured on the front page of the newspaper! Importantly, all the entries will be featured in the gallery section of our website.

So, while you are out driving around, taking landscape shots of bluebonnets, images of your kids sitting in a field of "bonnies," or images of the Texas countryside dotted with bluebonnets, send the photo to the Tri-County Reporter website. Go to www. tricountyreporter.com and enter. Last year's grand prize winner was viewed online by nearly 500,000 people! This year we have a goal of a million views!

Thought for the day: God created Texas so we could all know what Heaven looks like. Until next time... I will keep

ridin' the storm out. sam@hcnews.com

"I'll wear no man's collar" - Davy Crockett

First, I want to thank my supporters, those who voted for me and those who supported me prayerfully, financially and in so many other ways. It has been the greatest honor to serve this district.

The corruption that exists at the highest level of Texas state government would have made Gov. "Pa" Ferguson

Gov. Greg Abbott has defiled the office of governor by creating and repeating blatant lies about me and my House colleagues — those who took a stand for our public schools. I stood by the governor on all his legislative priorities but just one, school vouchers. For just one disagreement, and for a \$6 million check from Jeff Yass, a Pennsylvanian TikTok



DISTRICT 60

By Glenn Rogers

Representative Glenn Rogers is a sixth generation Texas rancher, where his family has deep ranching roots in Palo Pinto County going back to the 1890s. He represents

investor and voucher vendor, Abbott went "scorchedearth" against rural Texas and the representatives who did their jobs —representing their districts.

My tenure in the Texas House included two general sessions, seven special sessions, redistricting, Covid, winter storm Uri, a Democrat quorum break, expulsion of a House member and the impeachment of Ken Paxton. It also includes a litany of conservative victories that

made Texas safer, reined in out-of-control government bureaucracy, lessened what had become a crushing tax burden on our families and businesses, and fostered economic growth.

I am not a good politician. I am just a Texas rancher who wanted to make a difference in my community. Who knew this simple mission would have resulted in three brutal campaigns?

Throughout my three campaigns, because of my

unwillingness to be compliant with the two billionaire, "Christian" nationalist, power brokers that run this state, I have been unmercifully slandered through the politics of unwarranted personal destruction on social media, radio, post mail, streaming sites and cable television.

In my first race, the opposition was the Wilks, Tim Dunn, Empower Texans, and the entire enterprise of dozens of PACs and "nonprofits" they financed. The race ended in a hard-fought, Covid-delayed runoff victory against Farris Wilks' son-in-law.

In my second race, my opposition was Wilks and Dunn, Empower Texans (rebranded to Defend Texas Liberty), and the voucher lobby, including the American Federation

for Children and the School Freedom Fund (based in Virginia). In that race, we dealt with a runoff and an expensive, unnecessary recount.

In my third race, the opposition was all the above, but now included a rebranded Defend Texas Liberty (Texans United for a Conservative Majority), vastly greater money from the voucher lobby, and Gov. Greg Abbott.

This time, the millions of dollars spent spreading lies about my record and the nonstop false impugning of my integrity were just too much to overcome. The real losers in this race are:

1)Texas public schools;

2) rural Texas; and 3) representative government.

This morning, I have no regrets. I believe in the words of Sam Houston, "Do right and risk the consequences."

History will prove Ken Paxton is a corrupt, sophisticated criminal. History will prove vouchers are simply an expensive entitlement program for the wealthy and a get rich scheme for voucher vendors. History will prove Gov. Greg Abbott is a liar.

History will prove that our current state government is the most corrupt ever and is "bought" by a few radical dominionist billionaires seeking to destroy public education, privatize our public schools and create a theocracy that is both un-American and un-Texan.

May God save Texas!

BOOK REVIEW

To be continued.

TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

Special to the Tri-County Reporter

Argh, you just finished Part One and now you have to wait a week, a month, an entire season or even a year before ou know what happens and the cliffhanger is solved. Part One had you on the edge of your seat. But as in "Life After Power" by Jared Cohen, just wait until you know the next

Americans are living longer, which is good news for retirees: it gives them a chance for a second career or a dream job after they've officially quit working. It's an idea that U.S. presidents had, starting centuries ago.

Take, for instance, Thomas Jefferson.

After eight years in office, he graciously stepped away to found a university and to

finish other long-dreamed projects. Still, says Cohen, "Jefferson knew that America would have a reckoning over his legacy and over slavery."

John Quincy Adams, son of our second president, appreciatively traveled the world with his father during the elder's presidency but Adams' own term in office was an unhappy one. Fortunately, after Andrew Jackson took over, Adams' contemporaries worked to give the former president a seat in Congress and, with no aspirations and no higher office in mind, Adams dared to ignore convention and speak passionately about subjects important to him. Says Cohen, he "was more decisive than he had been as president."

Grover Cleveland had a second term four years after he left his first term - and

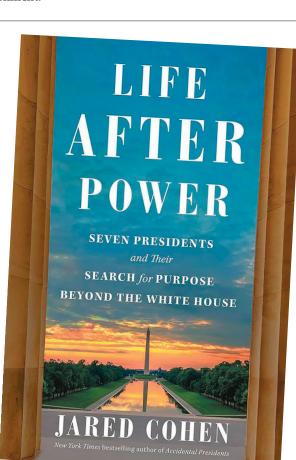
he regretted it. Just as she always wanted, Nellie Taft landed in the White House but that wasn't the dream of her husband, William. What he really wanted was a seat on the Supreme Court and he was delighted when it was offered. Herbert Hoover was "a hero" when he entered the office, and one of the most reviled men in America when he left it. Jimmy Carter left office in "humiliation," but then made the world a better place. And George W. Bush literally brushed his term in the White House aside.

At this point, it seems like the next guy in the Oval Office will be there for a second term. So what about the candidate who doesn't make it? If he knows what's inside "Life After Power," he'll have some nice guidance.

And you'll have an interest-

ing look at a part of the presidents' lives, in a way that's often ignored in historical accounts. Author Jared Cohen gives readers a detailed, backstage peek at the months after the election, and it's not always the smooth ride you might imagine. The life of a former president, with his pension and security, is not necessarily one of leisure; in fact, Cohen shows how troublesome it can be for someone with unfulfilled vision. Aspiring politicians, please note: you may want to take Cleveland's advice to young Franklin Roosevelt...

Certainly, "Life After Power" is for anyone who imagines what next spring will look like for the guy who doesn't get the votes. And if you love presidential history, you won't be able to part with it.



"Life After Power: Seven Presidents and their Search for Purpose Beyond the White House" by Jared Cohen c.2024, Simon & Schuster, \$32.50, 512 pages

It's not history, it's herstory

DARREN CLARK

Special to the Tri-County Reporter

March has been designated National Women's History Month. It's a month to celebrate the contributions of women throughout our nation's history, and those contributions are numerous. We all know the stories of Betsy Ross, Susan B. Anthony, Sally Ride, Rosa Parks and many other women who broke barriers, overcame hardships and faced challenges to create turning points in the path of our country.

What we often fail to realize, and by "we" I am referring to men like me, is the significance to women that this

month holds. As a husband of one woman and father of another, my perspective has drastically shifted when it comes to the significance of the accomplishments of women in our history.

As a man, growing up in a male-dominated world in the late '70s, '80s, and '90s, I saw the world through the male perspective. My own efforts, intelligence and dedication were the only things that held me back in society. All doors were open to me, provided I could meet the minimum qualifications. The curriculum for my history classes was dominated by the accomplishments of men and the failures of other men.

Women are, in a historical sense, relatively new to the workforce, new to the voting booth and new in political offices. Despite the accomplishments of some women, many women still face the male-centric viewpoint in television shows, movies, school curriculum and policies within the workplace and other organizations.

In the workplace, women are paid roughly 84% of what their male counterparts are making, according to the National Women's Law Center. The NWLC also states that mothers working full time are paid roughly 74% of what fathers make.

Suffice to say, women

still face battles for equality in all arenas. While laws have changed to reflect their equality, standard practices and belief systems have been slow to embrace these changes. It is way past time for our society to truly treat women as the equals they are in our world.

Yes, we have made strides in our society. A woman sits as vice president of the United States. We have women in the Senate, House of Representatives, State legislatures, county commissioners courts, city councils, and school boards. We have women judges at every level of our court system. Women are excelling as CEOs, board

members, entrepreneurs and in many other fields.

One of the struggles many women face is the expectation to be more like men in the workplace. Our various workplace cultures have unwritten rules that dictate the behavior of employees. These cultural guidelines tend to be more masculine in nature. Many businesses and corporations could benefit from a feminine influence in the boardroom, breakroom and showroom.

Throughout my lifetime, I have seen many women with different personalities excel in the workplace. They have been powerful leaders, compassionate coworkers and

highly productive members of their respective organizations. I have admired many of my female supervisors for their natural leadership skills, but I have also seen them admonished for not being "tough enough."

We must even the playing field to the plethora of ideas, notions and styles that we welcome in the workforce. After all, there is a lot of diversity among American and Texan consumers. When businesses recognize their customer base is diverse and seek to serve those customers in their diversity, they will only find increased success.

Publisher KIM WARE

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

SPLASH FROM PAGE A1

Environmental Health Services of Fort Worth, and Rachel Eckert from Tarrant Regional Water District's Watershed Protection Team.

Valentine spoke about the effectiveness of turning mundane tasks into opportunities for greater impact by making two Azle High School FCCLA seniors the "superstars of their class."

"Yesterday, I met two young women representing Azle," Valentine said. "They have come out here, which is completely awesome, showing that there are multiple generations and people from all walks of life that are interested in Eagle Mountain Lake. They've come out with a simple task... to find some research to help with their school project. I'm going to take this meeting and suggest that if you have a business card pull it out. I'll walk around and collect all of them and we'll give our business cards to them so they can go to their teacher and sav. 'we crashed Fort Worth Boat Club and we met with 20-plus influential leaders,

members of our community so on and so on."

The two Azle students, Skye Dickens and Kristina Birkeland, presented their project, which is focused on water quality and ecological issues facing Eagle Mountain Lake, for the FCCLA Public Policy Advocate, Level 3 contest at the Texas FCCLA Region II Leadership Conference Feb. 29 in Waco. Birkeland and Dickens won second place in their event and will advance to the state competition April 12 in Dallas.

"We really hope to connect Azle to the rest of the Save Eagle Mountain Lake organization, because we've only met two Azleites here and it's sad because we all draw on the same water," Birkeland said. "I grew up on Eagle Mountain Lake water like everybody in Azle. The watershed benefits everybody in Azle. And everybody needs to learn about what you can do to preserve, protect and also promote the health of the watershed just because it is water for everyone."

The students were disappointed to learn that 53% of surveyed high school students don't think they live in a watershed and hope to promote education on the importance of local water resources to their peers.

"I was really excited to see the emphasis on education and connecting with the community because that's kind of the basis of our project — to foster communication between water organizations like TRWD and the public," Birkeland said. "We have to very much utilize those resources and connect with people from TRWD and bring those to people in Azle. We hope they utilize things like Facebook and Instagram a whole lot more to be accessible to people."

Birkeland has focused past FCCLA projects on issues like sustainability and hopes to one day work on climate and environmental policy at the international level. Her partner in the project similarly saw Love Your Lake as a great opportunity to network and learn more about education and communicating effectively on public health and environmental issues.

"We really want to advocate having more knowledge on the water quality and just being able to access that more equally," Dickens said.

AgriLife researchers also spoke about water education



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Dr. Kelly Albus and Dr. Bardia Heidari speak about the North Texas Blue-Green Infrastructure Network.

opportunities and introduced Infrastructure Network future workshops promoting citizen science and community involvement through the North Texas Blue-Green

(BGIN). The next BGIN workshop will be May 17 at the TRWD office in Fort Worth. A June 6 educator workshop

geared toward educators will be held in Dallas. To learn more, go to https://dentonbgi-pmaps-tx.hub.arcgis. com/.



Former SEML presidents (L-R) Don Sanderson, Steve Kaylor and Curt Favinger received awards recognizing their contributions to the organization.



(L-R) Azle resident and TRWD deputy general manager Alan Thomas, real estate agent and Azle Rotary member Debra Jenkins, Skye Dickens and Kirstina Birkeland.





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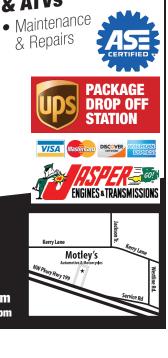


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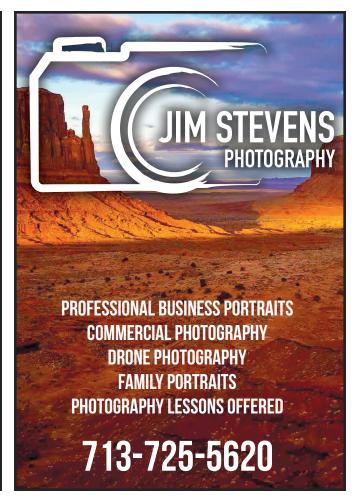
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BOND

people coming to vote because of the constitutional amendments election. Even though those amendments included property tax relief, he thought those measures might not have been enough to lessen taxpayers' burdens.

When the election results were released. Strickland's instincts proved to be correct as voters rejected SISD's bond proposal for a fourth time last fall. Passing the bond would have allowed the district to build a new middle school and renovate other campuses to accommodate student enrollment growth.

"The bond process is tiring because you feel like the community doesn't trust you, even though realistically I understand the reasons as far as the property taxes and families feeling strapped in Springtown," Strickland said. "The last thing I want to do is affect somebody and their family based off of a bond passing and affecting their property taxes in a way that it puts them out of their home, or they have to close their small business.

Strickland knows people are feeling "bond fatigue," as he calls it. After two bond elections in 2021 and another two in 2023, he suspects that community members may be feeling numb to the issue. He is also concerned about how the bond failures have affected his staff.

"We have teachers that are bond educators that are fighting for the bond, and they're pouring out all this energy for something, and it keeps failing," he said. "I think it's really discouraging to our staff. And I guess that then increases worry in me about if we're filling our rooms and our teachers are overwhelmed and you deal with just the day-to-day stuff of teaching a classroom full of kids with different needs and different abilities, and then they're trying to pass a bond and the community is not supporting them. How long are they going to want to stay in Springtown?"

However, the superintendent knew this would be a challenge when he was promoted into his current position at the beginning of last year. He vowed to keep encouraging and fighting for the district's stakeholders, specifically students and staff.

A couple of months after the November 2023 election, SISD School Board President Rick Beall had his mind set on the future. To him, feeling upset about the outcome of the failed bond elections won't help the kids who go to school within the district.

"You can wake up and you can be sad, or you can be glad. Either way, you've got to keep moving forward," Beall said. "These kids still have to be educated. We don't have the liberty of turning kids away. We have to educate these kids no matter what, so we want to make sure that they've got the best facilities and the best resources so they can go be successful members of this community.'

So, what is next? The school board did not call for a May bond election by the February deadline. If the board wants to order an election in November, it will have to make that decision in August.

SISD is in a fact-finding stage, and leaders are gathering data about how space is used to ensure efficiency and Huff said the attendance see what direction the dis-

trict should take, Beall said. Strickland pointed out that despite what the projected data may predict, the future

is still uncertain. "The thing, I guess, with student population and the economy and everything else that affects it, we don't have a crystal ball," he said. "We make estimations, and we try to base our decisions off those estimations."

Home sales in the area may have slowed down, but Zonda demographic adviser Hudson Huff predicted SISD's enrollment could amount to more than 4,700 students in about five years and about 5,300 students in 10 years.

During the school board's Feb. 26 meeting, Huff reported 41 subdivisions are actively being built and more than 1,100 vacant lots are ready for development in SISD's area.

"We do see that there are three future subdivisions, and those have potentially a little over 200 additional lots that can be added over time," he said.

Huff also mentioned two multifamily developments that could bring about 200 units to the district.

The upside to growth is that the Springtown area is attracting more businesses that can share in the cost of constructing more space for students, a price that is likely to increase.

"The longer that we have to wait to build something, those inflation rates will continue to go up," Strickland said. "My hope is that as we grow, we start getting more and more businesses here that help take that tax burden off of our community members.'

In terms of new homes, zones for Goshen Creek

Elementary School and Springtown Elementary School have a lot of activity, more so than the Reno Elementary School zone. Both Strickland and Beall said the elementary school zones will be evaluated to see if adjustments can be made to accommodate growth.

"Are we using our boundaries as well as we should? And that's a thing that we don't want to have to change, but if it is, then we have to do what's best for the kids in the district," Beall said.

Beall said school board members also want to listen to the community to develop a plan that is satisfactory for everyone.

"We want to present them with a package that they feel like is what's best for Springtown," he said.

SISD taxpayer Andrew Kloster said he'd like to see the district's leaders come up with a better plan moving forward, perhaps by saving tax revenue this year and reevaluating in 2025. He also questioned why SISD had changed its bond proposal from building a new elementary school in 2021 to a new middle school in 2023 — a decision that came from meetings with the public in 2022.

"They've had four bond elections in two years, so there's obviously something wrong with their planning. Something is not making sense," Kloster said. "The last one, it said (about) 57% voted against it (in Parker County). There's definitely lack of communication or lack of expected need for them resolving whatever issues there are with the classrooms. The classrooms are the most important thing, so I think they need to address classrooms to make



MADELYN EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

ing to take ... is to have that

Strickland said he'd like

to see more voter participa-

tion at the polls, especially

from parents and families

lots. The superintendent

said there are more than

19,000 registered voters in

SISD, but just under 4,000

people in Parker and Wise counties submitted ballots in

bond election.

the district's November 2023

who don't seem to be always

showing up to cast their bal-

kind of investment from your community people,"

Gilley said.

A couple of months after the November 2023 failed bond election, SISD School Board President Rick Beall had his mind set on the future. "You can wake up and you can be sad, or you can be glad. Either way, you've got to keep moving forward," Beall said.

sure they have enough classrooms for the students."

From another perspective, SISD alumna and parent Jessica Castro said the school district has already done a lot to inform the public on the growth issues and bond proposals.

"They hold meetings; they invite the public to come to these meetings; they send out emails; they send out everything," Castro said. "I'm not really sure what else they could do, but I'd be more than happy to talk to anybody if they want us to come up with ideas."

Former SISD Assistant Superintendent Mike Gilley suggested that having a community advocate may help a future bond effort, a person who isn't a school district representative who can reach people with different views.

"I think that's what it's go-

In a way, Castro is correct — there's only so much SISD can do to pass a bond. Voters have the ultimate say.

"I think if we just continue to outreach and educate those that will listen, that's all we can do," Strickland said. "Surely, it's in the voters' hands every time."

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The Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce is a place for community and businesses to come together.

The Chamber partners with the City of Springtown and Springtown ISD to build a strong, quality community and workforce for future generations.

The Chamber is comprised of businesses and individuals in and around Springtown. Together, they get involved with projects and events that support the local community.

Terri Toone is the Chamber's executive director, with Dene Berry as administrative assistant. Together, with many volunteers, Toone and team assist Chamber members out of their office located at 112 South Main St., on the west side of the Square.

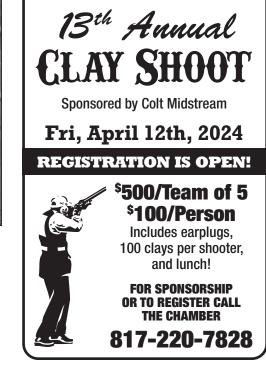
The Chamber is a 501(c) 6 non-profit organization and raises money through membership fees and fundraising events.

The next big fundraiser for the Chamber is the 13th Annual Clay Shoot happening Friday, April 12th. Registration is now open for teams and individual shooters. The entry fee is \$500 for a team of five, or \$100 per person. This includes 100 clays per shooter, earplugs and lunch. Sponsorship opportunities for the Clay Shoot are also open.

Another major event for the Chamber — the biggest of the year! — is the annual Wild West Festival, taking place Saturday, Sept. 21. This will be the 40th year for the event. The Wild West Festival is a day of family fun and a chance for locals to support their community and businesses. This event draws thousands of visitors each year with a variety of fun events, including gunfighters, a parade, and children's area with games and rides. It's also a great chance to check out hundreds of vendor booths with a variety of goods for sale.

The Chamber is an excellent partner with Springtown area businesses and individuals who have the goal of supporting local and shopping local throughout the year.

For more information about sponsorships, upcoming events, and memberships, call the Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce at 817-220-7828. They're right on the square and ready to visit with you Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.





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Michelle "Chelle" Kirby 1972-2024

Michelle "Chelle" Wise Kirby, age 51, left this earth to be with her Father in heaven Tuesday, March 5,

A memorial service was held at 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 12, Biggers Funeral Chapel, 6100 Azle Ave., Lake Worth. Visitation was 12:30-1:30 p.m., Tuesday, prior to service.

Chelle was a mother who loved her husband and children dearly. She was a creative woman who put her heart and soul into every project she managed. Chelle loved being a baseball and softball mom and would also attend many other events in support of other families and children. She will be greatly missed by all.

Chelle was preceded in death by her father, Bob Wise of Springfield, Illinois; grandparents, Carrie and Buell Wise of Simpson, Illinois; and Curt and Pauline Evitts of Simpson, Illinois.



She is survived by her husband, Paschal Kirby; son, Peyton Kirby; daughter, Madison Kirby, all of Fort Worth; mother, Connie Wilson of Euless; sisters, Jacqeline Booker of Chatham, Illinois and Laura Wise of Springfield, Illinois; stepmom, Joann Wise of Springfield, Illinois; and stepsisters Kim Splan and Jennifer Wilson.

> The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday June 8, 2023

Man dies by suicide at Dollar General

MADELYN EDWARDS

springtownreporter@tricountyreporter.com

AZLE — An Azle man died by suicide on the afternoon of Friday, March 8 at a Dollar General in unincorporated Parker County.

According to the Tarrant

County Medical Examiner's website, Dennis Allen Lowe died of a gunshot wound just before 3:30 p.m. at the Dollar General at 14465 North Farmto-Market Road 730. Lowe was 53 years old.

Parker County Sheriff's

Office Public Information Officer Deputy Danie Huffman confirmed that "a report was taken about a person who was found deceased Friday, March 8, in the 14000-Block of North FM 730. The PCSO investigates all un-

attended death cases." Huffman said the sheriff's office doesn't usually comment on suicide cases.

If you are considering suicide, reach out to the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline by calling or texting 988.

Reno to allow UTGCD to review groundwater studies per new law

MADELYN EDWARDS

springtownreporter@tricountyreporter.com

RENO — Reno City Council approved an interlocal agreement with Upper Trinity **Groundwater Conservation** District to review groundwater studies prior to builders breaking ground on developments.

Texas lawmakers passed legislation last year to protect landowners across the state from buying property that lacks sufficient water resources. Senate Bill 2440, which went into effect on Jan. 1, requires groundwater studies be conducted and approved by a licensed engineer or geoscientist to verify that enough groundwater is available in a platted subdivision that is expected to use groundwater.

"With this bill, we're looking forward to the fact that

landowners are now going to have some kind of idea about the future of their groundwater resources when they go to purchase a home," **Upper Trinity Groundwater** Conservation District assistant general manager Jill Garcia said in a previous Tri-County Reporter article. "When they put all of their life investments into this new build, they want to know something about their water future.'

To help local governments comply with this new law, the groundwater conservation district has worked out an interlocal agreement with Parker and Wise counties, as well as some cities within those counties, to review the groundwater studies free of charge and give recommendations, Garcia said. This means that developers, not the counties or cities in the

agreement, will complete these studies and pay the conservation district's fee to review the studies.

Reno is now one of the cities participating in this agreement.

Garcia told the council at the Feb. 26 meeting that the study will examine the 10year and 30-year drawdown of a water well at the pump well and edges of the subdivision, and a water quality test will be required.

"A lot of times when the properties go in, there is no state water quality requirement for private water wells at this time, so you wouldn't really know what you were drilling into otherwise," she said during the meeting.

In the agreement, the groundwater conservation district's licensed geoscientists will review the study presented to the city and

make projections based on two scenarios — high water use by the occupants of the development as well as low water use.

"I understand that sustainable growth and mindful development is on everyone's minds this evening, and this is going to provide a very critical tool for y'all to assess development and growth and pretty much the health of the aquifer," Garcia said.

As pointed out during the meeting, the new law is particularly relevant to Reno because city water is derived from a collection of wells. Therefore, the studies will be utilized whether the developer wants to install private water wells or use city water.

Reno City Council unanimously approved the agreement.





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Brandon Hall Ashley Hall

All are welcome

2nd Peter 3:18

But grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

Sunday School 9:45 AM Monday Worship 10:45 AM Evening Worship 6:30 PM Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 PM

TRI*COUNTY REPORTER

321 W. Main Street, Azle 817-270-3340 tricountyreporter.com

LEGAL NOTICE

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a wine and malt beverage retail dealers on premise permit (BG) by Lakeworth Inc. dba First Choice Food Mart, to be located at 8825 Jacksboro Highway, Lakeside, Tarrant, Texas. Officers of said corporation are Mohammad Jiwani Pres/Sec.

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THE ABBEY CHURCH Pastor: Paul Brownback

10400 Jacksboro Hwy 817-238-1404 www.TheAbbeyChurch.com Morning Worship......10:30 AM

ASH CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH Pastor: Dr. G. Wesley Shotwell 300 South Stewart St. 817-444-3219

www.ashcreekbc.org Contemporary Worship-TMP 10:45 AM Traditional Worship10:45 AM Evening Worship/Youth Refuge......6:00 PM

Wednesday Evening......6:15 PM **AZLE FIRST ASSEMBLY of GOD**

ALLE I IIIO I AGGEIIIDEI O	· uob
Rev. Joshua Lowrance	е
1020 S.E. Parkway, Azle 817-2	237-4903
Sunday School	9:30 AN
Morning Worship	10:30 AN
Wednesday Evening	7:00 рм
COMMUNITY BIBLE FELLOWSH	IP CHURCH
Pastor - Alton Davis 817-52	1-4510

1405 Reynolds Rd., Azle 817-444-7117 Directions: 730 N. to 1542 .5 mi. right

on Cardinal, left on Reyr	olds
Sunday School	9:45 а
Morning Worship	11:00 A
Sunday Evening	6:00 р
Wednesday Evening	7:00 P

AZLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

Interim Minister Rev. Russell Clark, Family Life Minister Emerson Braun 117 Church St. • **817-444-3527**

Morning Worship......11:00 AM **CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH** 2233 Hwy 199 E., Springtown

817-221-LIFE (5433) Wednesday......7:00 PM

CROSSROADS BAPTIST CHURCH Pastor - Jon Baker

Corner FM 730S & FM 1886 817-755-0279 Transportation Available Worship Service......10:30 AM Wed. Prayer Service......7:00 PM

THE EDGE CHURCH - AZLE 1313 S.E. Pkwy, Azle **817-237-4822** Missouri Synod "Love God - Serve Others - Share Jesus"

Traditional Worship9:30 AM Contemporary Worship......11:00 AM FIRST METHODIST CHURCH OF AZLE

Pastor: Rev. Raymond Gilman 200 Church St., Azle 817-444-3323 Morn. Worship8:30 & 10:45 AM Sunday School......9:45 AM Youth5:00 PM Sun & 6:30 PM Wed Wed. Bible Study...........7:00 PM

GRACEPOINTE CHURCH

4110 E. Hwy 199, Springtown Pastor: Timothy McKeown 817-221-5683 gracepointesbc.org

Sunday School......9:45 am Sunday Service......11:00 AM Wednesday Bible Study6:00 PM

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH 800 Highcrest Dr. - Azle **817-444-3063** Saturday......5:00 PM Sunday9:00 AM Sunday11 AM (Spanish) Daily Mass (M, T, Th, F)8:00 AM

Wednesday Mass Religious ED 6:30 PM ConfessionsSat 4 PM **HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA**

4795 E. Hwy 199 - Reno 817-221-HOPE Follow us on Facebook for streaming services Sunday School......9:00 AM Traditional Service10:00 AM

SOLID ROCK BIBLE CHURCH 591 S. Reno Rd, , Springtown, Texas 76082

Pastor - Bill Gay - **817-304-7443** Coffee and Donuts9:00 AM Sunday School......9:30 AM Morning Worship......10:30 AM Children's Church After Music Service Wed. Prayer Meeting......6:30 PM

LEGACY CHURCH Assembly of God Church

Pastor: Gary D. Veazey Hwy. 199 & Jaybird Lane 817-221-2983 Morning Worship......9:15 & 11:00 AM Kidz Zone.....9:15 & 11:00 AM Weds Evening Legacy Group Legacy Youth, Kids All Services......7:00 PM

THE RANCH CHRISTIAN COWBOY CHURCH Pastor: Greg Slankard 7955 Reed Rd., Azle **682-327-7082**

www.TheRanchCCC.org Sunday School 9:30 AM • Worship 10:00 AM Weds 7:00 pm • Thurs Potluck 6:30 pm **SILVER CREEK METHODIST CHURCH**

Pastor: Bill Killough 2200 Church Rd., Azle 817-444-1382 www.silvercreekmc.org

Sunday School 9:30 AM • Worship 10:30 AM **SILVER CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH** Pastor: Jay Ditty

Minister of Music: David Musick Corner FM 730 S. & Veal Station Rd. Church 817-444-2325

www.silvercreekbc.org Sunday School......9:45 AM Morning Worship......10:50 AM

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9396 FM 1886 Fort Worth, TX 76135 817-237-5500 thewordatlakeside.com

Pastors: Brandon and Kelly Bohannon **Worship Pastor**: Christen Moody Family Life and Young Adult Pastors: Jodie

and Mark James, Kids Pastor: Katie Pearson, **Student Pastors**: Taylor and Sheridan Tomlin, Creative Directors: Logan and Carrie Edwards, **Connections Coordinators**:

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at the WORD 9:30 AM Empower Worship at the WORD 10:45 AM Kids at the WORD...... 10:45 AM PreK at the WORD...... 10:45 AM Emanate at the WORD (Special Needs Ministry) 10:45 AM Nursery at the WORD 10:45 AM Young Adults at the WORD 6:00 PM Wednesdays Adult Bible Class.......7:00 PM The WORD Students (6th-12th grades)...... 6:30 PM

Wed. Prayer Service......7:00 PM Life at the WORD Life Groups Various Times A church alive is worth the drive! For more information or rates on listing your church, call Jessica at 817-270-3340

Walnut Creek SUD makes progress on bond projects

MADELYN EDWARDS

springtownreporter@tricountyreporter.com

 ${\tt SPRINGTOWN-Walnut}$ Creek Special Utility District approved another bid for an infrastructure project funded by the 2023 bond.

At the board of directors meeting Feb. 20, the board awarded a \$1.29 million bid to Tank Builders for the construction of a 500,000-gallon ground storage tank on Farmto-Market Road 51.

"The new tanks being built, both ground storage and elevated storage, will improve the system's storage capacity," SUD general manager James Blackwood said. "The elevated tanks will also help improve water pressure."

At the January meeting, the board rejected a bid from Tank Builders for the 500,000-gallon ground storage tank because the bid was a few hundred thousand dollars over budget. At the time, the district's engineer Bill Lohrke said the project would be rebid and include an alterlon storage tank as well as some design changes.

Again, Tank Builders put in the only bid for the construction of the tank and was awarded the project this time with a slightly lesser amount than in January.

"They came in a little higher than what the estimated bid was, but they also came in within working numbers," Blackwood said during the board meeting.

Board members pointed out that the difference was quite a bit more expensive with an estimated 30% difference. Lohrke said Tank Builders' bids for the 2 million-gallon ground storage tank and the 1 milliongallon ground storage tank, approved in January, were close to the district's projections, but the bid for the 500,000-gallon tank was "way off."

"The cost was higher due to material costs going up," Blackwood said. "The difference in price between the

nate option for a 300,000-gal- larger and smaller tank were not significant enough to go with the smaller tank. The bid accepted was for the larger tank, 500,000 (gallons) rather than 300,000."

> The SUD manager estimated that construction of the new tanks will start in a few weeks and will need several months of work before they are finished.

> Last year, the board authorized a bond sale that netted about \$38.8 million for the district to use for infrastructure improvements. In January, the board awarded bids for two ground storage tanks and two booster pump stations

Blackwood said bids for infrastructure upgrades on Knob Hill Road "where the line is being upsized to 12(inch) for better water capacity and flow in that area" and for two new filters that will upgrade the water plant capacity are expected to be considered within the coming

2023 ANNUAL ACTIVITY

SPRINGTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT

CALLS FOR SERVICE RESPONDED TO BY THE

SPRINGTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT DURING 2023



TOP 5 CALLS FOR SERVICE

ASSIST OTHER AGENCIES Law Enforcement, Fire, EMS









TOP SELF-INITIATED CALLS FOR SERVICE

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SUSPICIOUS PERSONS/VEHICLES

FEBRUARY 2024 ACTIVIT

- AZLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

1,469 **CALLS FOR SERVICE RESPONDED TO BY**

PATROL OFFICERS







CRIMES

AGAINST



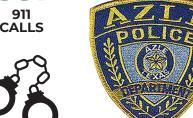
ACCIDENTS RELATED: 3 DWI ARRESTS: 10





CALLS TAKEN

47 ARRESTS





News From Azle City Hall

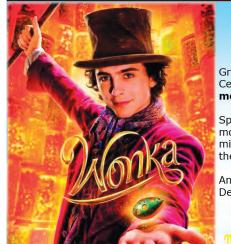
We welcome your comments or suggestions on information you would like to see reported on this page. Please call Azle City Hall, 817-444-2541, or email Assistant to the City Manager Susie Hiles at shiles@cityofazle.org Until next



Coffee Friday with the First Responders March 15 at 8:30 AM Azle's Central Park Pavilion

Join Azle Police/Fire and Briar-Reno Fire Department personnel for coffee and conversation at Azle's Central Park Pavilion, 263 W Main St. Coffee & breakfast will be provided. Sponsored by Caitlyn's Catering and Azle Area Chamber of Commerce.





City of Azle Presents Movie in the Park" 263 West Main Street

Grab the family and blankets and head to Central Park on March 16 to enjoy a free family

Special Events will be featuring the "Wonka" movie which will begin approximately 10 minutes after sunset. Movie will be shown at the Central Park amphitheater.

Any questions, please contact the Parks Department at (817) 444-7127.



Azle Memorial Library News and Free Events 817-444-7216 333 W. Main St. Discover more about the Library at www.azlelibrary.org LIKE us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/azlelibrary

15th Anniversary Celebration - March 23, 1-3 PM

Azle Memorial Library invites the community to help us celebrate our 15th anniversary. Attendees will enjoy complimentary refreshments, door prizes, activities for all ages, and more. Please note: the library will be open only during reception

Eclipse Watch Party - April 8, 12:30-1 PM

Join us for eclipse themed crafts for all ages, solar themed refreshments, and a once in a lifetime eclipse! Meet in Central Park behind the library. A limited number of eclipse glasses will be available for attendees, or bring your own. Lawn chairs and blankets welcome.

FREE Tax Preparation by AARP Tax-Aide

AARP Tax-Aide certified volunteers are at the library now through April 13 to provide free tax preparation for individuals ages 18+. An appointment is required by calling 817-752-2682. Don't delay, appointments fill up fast!

FREE In-Person Programs

The Library offers a variety of free programs for all ages. For full details, visit the Library's website and or pick up a monthly newsletter in the library. All events take place in the Library Community Room, unless otherwise noted.

- The Hunger Games Movie Showing March 15 @ 3 PM: Teens 13+ and adults can join us for a free showing of "The Hunger Games: A Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes" (rated PG-13) with free popcorn!
- String Quartet Performance March 21 @ 6:30 PM: Join us for a concert featuring world class musicians from the Ft. Worth Symphony Orchestra. Seating is limited. Please arrive by 6:30pm to reserve your seat and enjoy refreshments. The concert begins at 7 PM. Sponsored by the Azle Library Trust.
- Birthday Fiesta Storytime March 25 @ 10:30 AM: Celebrate the library's anniversary with a birthday themed storytime featuring bilingual elements! For ages 2-6 and their caregivers. No sign-up required.
- DIY Corner Bookmarks March 26 @ 6:30 PM: We invite all crafty adults to come make your own fabric corner bookmark! Registration required by calling 817-752-2682.
- Candy Sushi Making April 2 @ 4:30 PM: Kiddos ages 8-12, are invited to come make your own version of sushi using candy and treats supplied by the library! Registration required by calling 817-752-2682.
- Last Monday Matinee: Last Monday of every month at 2 PM, Adults can enjoy a newly released movie and free popcorn on the big screen in the Community Room! See website or call for upcoming titles.

Azle Municipal Offices Closed March 29 for GOOD FRIDAY (Azle Memorial Library also closed March 30)

Police/Fire services will be available by calling 817-444-3221, or 9-1-1 in case of emergency. For water/sewer emergencies, please call 817-444-3221.

Community Waste Disposal will run their regular trash route on this holiday.

Scan for more information on what's happening

in the City of Azle or visit us at www.cityofazle.org.



Reno denies rezoning for storage yard at city's south entrance

MADELYN EDWARDS

springtownreporter@tricountyreporter.com

RENO — A rezoning case that spurred mixed reactions from Reno residents finished in a somewhat contradictory way.

During Reno City Council's Feb. 26 meeting, three of five city council members voted to approve the rezoning of 62 acres at 1491 S. Reno Road from agricultural to commercial for industrial storage. Normally, a simple majority would be enough to approve action items put before the council, but because a supermajority was needed in this case, the motion to approve rezoning failed. This happened because neighbors with a certain percentage of property petitioned against the rezoning.

"Because two of the property owners that opposed it took up most of the area around it, that's why it had to have a supermajority," Interim City Secretary Rebekka Roberts said.

In contrast to the council, the Reno Planning and Zoning Commission unanimously recommended approval of the rezoning about a week prior to the council meeting.

If the rezoning had been approved by council, the industrial refrigeration company MRBraz & Associates would have used the land for outdoor storage of equipment.

Locals lodged multiple complaints against this rezoning case. First, development had begun on the property too quickly and before the proper permissions had been received from the city. During this time, MRBraz & Associates President Marcos Braz said the property was cleaned up, a gravel road was installed as well as a 10,000-gallon water tank for fire emergencies, and equipment was stored there.

The company's accountant Scott Richardson said work was stopped as soon as code compliance reached out.

"We waited until everything was approved before we got back on the property," Richardson said during the Feb. 6 public hearing. "Everything (that has) been done on the property has been under the approval of code compliance."

Despite owning up to the error, some residents seemed to lose trust in the company.

"The change isn't in the best interest of this city if they're not going to be a good steward of our city," resident Kim White said at the Feb. 26 council meeting.

In his comments to the council at the Feb. 6 public hearing, resident Stuart White argued that allowing the rezoning after the company started work without approval would set a precedent.

"If you approve this, you're approving any and every developer to just come in here and take over and build, and say, 'It's there. Now you have to get permission,'" Stuart White said to the council.

Residents also expressed concerns about the environmental impact of the proposed storage site, especially the truck traffic it would cause on Reno Road at the State Highway 199 intersection.

"It's not a Walmart by any means," Braz said at the Feb. 6 public hearing when asked about traffic impact. He added there would have been a few trucks at most going to and from the site per day.

Richardson negated claims that the project would create waste by saying that Braz "makes sure that everything is clean," that pallets are recycled, and trees are not removed unless he approves it. He also said the refrigeration equipment stored at the site would be dry as ammonia is not added until later in the process.

Richardson said the plan was to store the equipment at the back of the property,



MADELYN EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

At the Feb. 6 public hearing, MRBraz & Associates President Marcos Braz, right, fields questions from Reno residents about his request that the city council rezone property on South Reno Road to allow for a storage yard.

away from Reno Road, and there would also be a natural screen of trees to keep the storage yard out of sight.

"If you're driving by on Reno Road, you will not be able to see anything," he said. "You'll just see the land. I believe Mr. Braz has more plans on the front to make it even nicer than it is now and really fix it up nice."

At the Feb. 26 council meeting, Mayor Pro Tem Shelli Swift said she toured the company's facility on SH 199, though it would be different than what was proposed on Reno Road, and described it as orderly and organized. At the property on Reno Road, Swift confirmed there is a natural barrier of trees at the property line, but they were on the neighbors' side, not on Braz's property.

"On Mr. Braz's side of the fence, he has no control over that curtain," she said. "But on the neighbor's side, whoever's around this back part of the property, if they decided to cut down the trees, they would be taking away the natural curtain."

Reno resident Jesse
LaForest also toured one of
MRBraz's facilities and was
impressed with the experience and what he saw.
Though the initial plan for
the Reno Road property was
to use it for storage, the company's leaders spoke about
the possibility of expanding
into manufacturing in the
future.

"I come from a manufacturing background, so I had a lot of concerns about what was going to be done, potentially, in the future," LaForest said at the Feb. 20 P&Z meeting. "From what I saw, I have no concerns about potentially in the future what could be done even if they went full manufacturing."

manufacturing."
LaForest described the facility as nice and orderly with a nature area for employees to enjoy. During his tour, LaForest said the sound of traffic was louder than the workers, and he was told that if someone could hear the sound of hammers, it meant something was done wrong.

Despite his glowing review, LaForest said he didn't know if the property on Reno Road would be the right place for one of MRBraz's facilities or if P&Z members would even want a manufacturing development in town. But he didn't foresee the project causing negative impacts to the city.

"Is it the best for that property? I can't tell you that,"
LaForest said to the P&Z. "I do know that we don't have the infrastructure to support a whole bunch of houses."

To Lee Hughes, the answer to the question LaForest posed to P&Z is no. Hughes, who represented part of the ownership group of 738 acres that neighbors the MRBraz property to the north, came out as an ardent opponent of rezoning starting at the first public hearing. He said not all neighbors were contacted about rezoning, and the de-

velopment would not fit in an area that is an entrance to Reno.

"The applicant may be an ongoing, incredible business, but a glorified outside storage yard at your city limits is not what you see in other cities," Hughes said Feb 6. "I think the council has a real opportunity to put your stamp on that area of town as you come into it, and I don't think this opportunity for another storage yard is what the council really had envisioned."

Hughes said he had come to the council months ago with a plan for homes adjacent to parks and trails in that area and was turned down because of the area's importance as a gateway.

"If parks and trails, winding boulevards, police departments, fire departments, opportunities to build those at your city limits don't work, this storage yard shouldn't work," he said.

Hughes also claimed the city wouldn't get a lot of sales tax from MRBraz's storage yard, but Richardson pointed out the property would produce more tax revenue for the city if it was rezoned as opposed to the current agricultural zoning.

At the Feb. 20 P&Z meeting, chairperson Kevin Vandenberg said considering how much tax revenue a development will bring in is not necessarily in the commission's purview.

"Everything he's asking for is well within the ordinances, and that's what we have to worry about," Vandenberg said. "We're not concerned about sales tax or property tax."

But not everyone agreed that the rezoning would fit within the city's ordinances. Several people claimed the city's rules say commercial C-2 zoning is incompatible with residential zoning, but C-2 zoning is said to be present all along Reno Road butting against residential zoning. Between the P&Z and council meeting, city leaders had differing opinions on whether residential zoning was adjacent to the 62 acres at 1491 S. Reno Road at all. Some said there is a nearby Single Family-1 zoning, but others claimed the surrounding land is all agricultural.

For some of the reasons listed previously in this article — the fact that the property was in the city's entryway, the low tax revenue impact for a storage facility and the strong opposition from some — Deputy Mayor Pro-Tem Jennifer Vogle voted against the rezoning. Her vote along with council member Tod Siedell's led to the failed motion.

"Basically, I kind of made a list of pros and cons for the city of Reno, and it seemed like there were more cons than pros," Vogle said. "I had to choose kind of what was best for the city as a whole and not just one property owner."

Section 00 11 16 INVITATION TO BID

The City of Springtown is soliciting proposals for the construction of the following project:

Water Supply and Treatment Design for Water Treatment Plant Capacity Improvements

Sealed proposals must be delivered to:

Physical Address:

The City of Springtown City Hall, 102 East Second St., Springtown, Texas 76082

Mailing Address:

The City of Springtown, P.O. Box 444 Springtown, TX 76082

Proposals shall be received no later than April 11, 2024 at 2:00 PM. The proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud at this time and place. Bids received after this time will be returned unopened. Address proposals to **David Miller, City Administrator**.

Contract Documents and geotechnical report may be examined free of charge at the following addresses:

Engineer	Owner
Westwood Professional Services, Inc.	City of Springtown
7557 Rambler Road Suite 1400	102 Easy Second Street
Dallas, TX 75231	Springtown, TX 76082
Clint A. Bissett, P.E.	David Miller, City Administrator

Advertisement and bid phase information for the Project can be found at the following web site: https://cityofspringtown.com/live/city-services/bid-invitations/

Contract Documents may downloaded or viewed free of charge at this web site. It is the downloader's responsibility to determine that a complete set of documents, as defined in the Instructions to Bidders are received. Printed copies of the Contract Documents may be purchased at the website for the cost of printing. The cost for printed Contract Documents is not refunded.

This web site will be updated periodically with addenda, planholders lists, bid tabulations, additional reports or other information relevant to bidding the Project.

A non-mandatory pre-bid conference for the project will be held on: Date: March 27, 2024 Time: 2:00 PM Location: City of Springtown City Hall

Direct questions regarding distribution of Contract Documents for this project to Westwood. Direct questions related to the design of the project to:

	Project Manager
	Clint A. Bissett, PE
	972-235-3031
ĺ	Clint.bissett@westwoodps.com

This project consists of design improvements of the Surface Water Treatment Plant, which includes three (3) new pumps, one (1) new Trident Unit, 240 LF of 8" backwash supply line, 90 LF of 10" backwash supply line, and upgrades to the electrical equipment and controls.

Bidders must submit a cashier's check, certified check, or acceptable bidder's bond with their proposal as a guarantee that the Bidder will enter into a contract for the project with the Owner within 15 days of Notice of Award of the contract. The security must be payable to Owner in the amount of 5 percent of the bid submitted. Contractor must execute the contract, bonds and certificates of insurance on the forms provided in the Contract Documents.

Contractors for this Project must pay no less than the prevailing wage rates for the area established by the Owner and included in the contract documents.

The City of Springtown reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any informalities in the bidding.

Performance, Payment, and Maintenance Bonds are required.

The Owner reserves the right to adopt the most advantageous interpretation of the bids submitted in the case of ambiguity or lack of clearness in stating proposal prices, to reject any or all bids, and/ or waive formalities. Bids may not be withdrawn within 90 days from date on which bids are opened.

This contract is contingent upon release of funds from the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB). Any contract or contracts awarded under this Request for Proposals are expected to be funded in part by a loan or grant from the TWDB. Neither the State of Texas nor any of its departments, agencies or employees is or will be a party to this Invitation to Bid or any resulting contract.

Equal Opportunity in Employment — All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, handicap or national origin. Offerors are required to comply with the President's Executive Order No. 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375, and as supplemented in department of Labor regulations 41 CFR Part 60.

Celebrating historied women

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

AZLE — A lot changes in 100 years, and few live to weather it all. Eagle Crest Villa Senior Living in Azle is home to two local centenarians. These women, Margaret Leatherwood and Henrietta Morrison, have come around to the Roaring '20s for the second time to speak about the changes and challenges they've faced, as well as give advice to present and future generations.

MARGARET LEATHERWOOD, 100

Margaret Leatherwood turned 100 years old Nov. 2, 2023, and has lived in the Azle-Springtown area longer than most can remember. Originally from Palo Pinto County, she moved to Parker County at the age of 5.

Among the biggest changes to the community Leatherwood has observed are the growth and physical changes to the cities and highways.

"I was a teenager the first time I came to Azle and there was no highways,' Leatherwood said. "This was all dirt roads. This highway was not here. Just country roads you know. Springtown was the same way. Now it's blusterous and I'm afraid to get out on the highway and get run over. So, it's pretty wild and unsettled as opposed to when I first came here. It has exploded, (state Highway) 199 was going through Springtown to the east and west and then we had (Farm-to-Market Road) 51 going to Boyd or somewhere in that direction and there was no red lights. It was just laid back and people enjoyed life."

As a child, Leatherwood lived through the onset and completion of the Great Depression, describing it as "the time the world about starved to death."

"They managed as much as they could with the lack of work and all the Great Depression," Leatherwood said. "We had a real hard time back in the days before while I was still a young person. I lived through the Depression and there wasn't anything. I mean we ate nothing almost most of the time. It was re ally bad... Now (the population) has really exploded but a lot of the people are actually having a worse time now than what we had during the Depression. It just looks different. It's a different flavor. I don't know what I'd rather put up with, the Depression or the explosion. It's pretty

hairy out there."
Prior to World War II,
Leatherwood's husband,
Hubert Cecil Leatherwood,
worked with the New Deal
Civilian Conservation Corps
and, at the onset of war, became an agriculturist, helping
to feed American troops and
their families at home. The
two married in November

Azle centenarians at Eagle Crest Villa speak on life and outlook after 100 years

1944. Margaret Leatherwood played her own role in helping with the war effort, constructing airplane parts at General Dynamics.

"I made some of the first parts that was put on the airplanes that would take them and after I made the sample copy and would weigh it, measure it and if it passed the test, they'd put it in as okay, but if not then I guess we did it over," Leatherwood said.

In 1946, the couple moved to Springtown, where they'd spend most of the rest of their lives. Leatherwood briefly taught in Azle and Lake Worth schools but spent two decades as a Springtown ISD teacher until 1985. Her husband worked for General Dynamics. This postwar period and the decades that followed were some of Leatherwood's happiest.

"At that time a little bit of money was beginning to come in, so we thought that we were having a good time because we were able to go and buy groceries and clothes and whatever else we needed," Leatherwood said. "We would do whatever we had the money or equipment that we needed to do whatever we wanted to do. So that was the most desirable time that I had. After (her children) were up in junior high, I went back to college, and I finished my education then.

Leatherwood says she does not know why she has made it to the age of 100. While living a relatively healthy lifestyle without smoking or drinking may have made a difference, she does not see her life as much different than others of her times. For others trying to live as long, she offers no secret tips or advice apart from persevering though challenges.

"It's just by pure luck, I guess," she said laughing. "I just stayed busy. I wasn't any different than anybody else. Everybody was doing the same thing, trying to make ends meet... (My advice would be) to not give up, just keep going. You're not ever going to get anywhere if every time you run into a hard job you quit and try to find another one, you know. Just don't give up."

Leatherwood has two children, three grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren. Her surviving son, Wayne Leatherwood, still lives in the area and is a 78-year-old real estate agent with Texas Property Brokers.

HENRIETTA MORRISON, 106

Born in Dakota County, Minnesota Feb. 2, 1918 as one of eight children, Henrietta Morrison takes the title of Eagle Crest's oldest resident. At 106, she has also experienced the Great Depression, World War II, and over a century of American history. Born 10 years after the introduction of the Ford Model T, Morrison remembers a time when many households did not have cars.

"Now they've got three or four cars at the home," Morrison said. "Everyone has to have a car; we walked. We didn't have health clubs and gyms and stuff like that. We got our exercise by walking to work and school."

Morrison found increasing automation, the airline industry and advances in the medical field to be some of the most miraculous developments in her lifetime. Today, she says things like air conditioning are taken for granted at the cost of safety and security.

"When it was real hot, we didn't sleep in our beds," Morrison said. "We slept on the floor in the hall with a little draft here. Up north, Minnesota was very cold in the wintertime with lots and

lots of snow. It was hard to stay cool in the summer and warm in the winter... We never locked doors. We used to leave town and leave the doors unlocked. There wasn't any crime. We all helped out each other. We all went through the same thing. We worked hard. We had to learn how to save. We made use of everything."

Morrison dropped out of school during the Great Depression at 13 to help support her family. By 16, she began working in factories for four years until she married. When America entered World War II just a few years later, Morrison worked at the Swift & Company meat packing plant in Minnesota. Even when the men came back from war, she proved she could work alongside them and handle any job they threw her way. She remained with the company for 23 years until the plant closed. Morrison then volunteered as an event organizer for the women's VFW until retirement, receiving a 1990 Bell Tower Senior Volunteer of the Year Award. While Morrison moved to Azle a little over a year ago to be closer to her daughter, Jane, she has lived in Texas since

A product of the Great
Depression, Morrison urges
everyone not to take anything
for granted and learn to live
lean, because it can all be
gone in an instant.

"(My advice is) to be more While she is proud of her life saving and not to be so waste- and experiences, she is not al-

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Henrietta Morrison with her 1990 Bell Tower Senior Volunteer of the Year Award.

ful because things don't last forever," Morrison said "Things can get wiped out overnight. We have so many earthquakes and storms and tornados. Your whole life savings could get wiped out just in minutes. The banks used to go broke. Nothing is for certain. Treasure whatever you have. Do not smoke, go easy on the liquor, work hard, be kind and forgiving."

On how to live to be 106, Morrison said she worked hard, ate well, went to bed early, never smoked and has drunk no more than 10 "pops" (sodas) in her lifetime. While she is proud of her life and experiences, she is not always fully content with mod-

ern living. "I'm just spending the rest of my life just hoping to die," Morrison said. "Old age is not all it's cracked up to be... The world has changed so much. What they're trying to do to our children, it's a pity. There's so many changes. They don't have weddings in churches hardly anymore. They go to the beaches, and they forget there's a God and he's going to judge us all. I was brought up very strict. We need to get some of these virtues back in our world. It seems like it's a free-for-all, do whatever you want to do

and get by with it."

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 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. Shawniece Arkansas. Cecilia Baker. Chase Dorow. Chase Dorow

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@bhcllp.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.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Estate of Harry Benino Solano

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Harry Benino Solano, Deceased, were issued on March 1, 2024, in Cause No. 23P529, pending in the County Court of Parker County, Texas, to: Cecil Raymond De La Rosa, Independent Executor. Claims may be mailed in care of the Estate as follows: Cecil Raymond De La Rosa, Independent Executor c/o Wendi E. Andino, Attorney Ruelas Andino Law, PLLC 1020 Fort Worth Hwy., Ste. 500 Weatherford, Texas 76086 All persons having claims against said Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated this 5th day of March 2024. Respectfully submitted, Ruelas Andino Law, PLLC 1020 Fort Worth Highway, Suite 500 Weatherford, Texas 76086 Telephone: 817-609-8935 Fax: 817-550-6020 Wendi E. Andino WENDI E. ANDINO Co-Counsel for Cecil Raymond De La Rosa State Bar No. 24086674 wendi@ruelasandinolaw.com

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Peggy Lou Giddings Mitchell. Deceased, were issued on March 4th, 2024 in Cause No. 2023-PR037 I 5-2. pending in the Probate Court No: 2. Tarrant Count). Texas. to: Lita Giddings. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. DATED the 11th day of march, 2024. Deborah McGregor Cascino, Attorney for Lita Giddings State Bar No.: 24043598 107 North Alamo Weatherford. TX 76086 Telephone: (817) 599-8485 Facsimile: (817) 599-8483 Email: deb@debcascinolaw.com

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On March 26, 2024, at 7 p.m., the Springtown City Council acting as the Zoning Board of Adjustments will meet to consider a variance request for 897 Westover Lane, also known as Lot 22R, Block 1, Spring Branch Acres, an addition to the City of Springtown, Parker County, Texas for variance for the requirement that each residential property have a two-car garage. The meeting will take place in Municipal Annex Council Chambers at 200 N. Main Street, Springtown, Texas.



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Margaret Leatherwood with her son, Wayne.

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Board of Education District 11.

In his answers to the guestionnaire published last month, Hall said he wants to develop an alternative to the state's standardized test as well as "(eradicate) obscene materials from Texas schools.

"My political and policy experience will allow me to hit the ground running on day one and my ministry position will keep me plugged into the community and allow me to stay in touch with what parents are concerned about in education," Hall said in his questionnaire.

Glasser also mentioned the standardized test and wants to remove it as a graduation requirement. In her questionnaire, she focused on the need to address COVID-19's impact on education and get students back on track academically. She said she would prioritize setting curriculum standards that will prepare students for the workforce as well as support school districts in selecting resources that best fit their students' needs.

"We have to take care of our teachers so they can take care of our kids," Glasser said in her questionnaire. "That starts with setting realistic standards and a comprehensive curriculum that moves students forward while providing opportunities for students to close their learning gaps."

Read on for more results from Primary Election Day. All results are based on unofficial totals from the Texas Secretary of State's website unless stated otherwise. To see a full list of results, visit https://results.texas-election. com/landing-page.

U.S. HOUSE DISTRICT 12

Democrat candidate Trey Hunt won his party's nomination after beating Sebastian Gehrig, 58.1% to 41.9%, according to unofficial results. Incumbent Republican Kay Granger will retire at the end

of this term. Two Republican candidates will face off in a May 28 runoff election after no candidate secured more than 50% of the vote. Texas state representative and frontrunner Craig Goldman received 44.3% of the vote, businessman John O'Shea received 26.4% of the vote. U.S. Space Force veteran Clint Dorris, who will not participate in the runoff, received 14.9%

On his website, Goldman advocates prioritizing border security, fighting the fentanyl crisis, ensuring public safety by "backing the Blue," and fighting the "woke agenda" among other issues. Goldman touts his past support of the Heartbeat Bill and voting to defund abortion providers as indicators of his "pro-life" stance. Goldman also advertises his pro second amendment credentials and a commitment to lowering taxes.

"Americans are overtaxed, and I will support any efforts to return more of their hard-earned money back to them — just as I have done in Austin," Goldman said on his website. "As state representative, I helped pass a ban on a state income tax or wealth tax and have fought to eliminate the Texas franchise tax. More recently, I worked to pass the largest property tax cut in Texas history.

In a recent Republican candidate forum, O'Shea criticized candidate Goldman for being a part of the "establishment" and not appearing to speak to voters at what he said was a pivotal moment in the nation's history.

"I don't know that this country has two more years, as hyperbolic as it sounds," O'Shea said. "We are at a fork in the road. One goes back to that shining city on the hill, that bastion of freedom and liberty that our founding fathers instilled when we were blessed with divine providence. Only two countries in the world were blessed that way: Israel, because they are God's chosen people, and the United States of America because we chose God. The other path leads to this authoritarian cultural Neo-Marxism that we've been subjected to for the last three years.

O'Shea continued by stating his view that the country is in need of an "America First" candidate who is in support of former President Donald Trump.

Hunt has served as an outreach specialist, a case manager, and a housing coordinator for the homeless in Tarrant County. Hunt has been accepted as a Ph.D. student at Texas A&M Commerce and is running on a platform of affordable housing, criminal justice reform, the codification of abortion as a right and other issues.

TEXAS SENATE DISTRICT 30

This Senate district, which includes north and east portions of Parker County along with parts of multiple other North Texas counties, doesn't have an incumbent candidate since Sen. Drew Springer decided not to run for reelection. In his absence, four Republicans (Cody Clark, Carrie de Moor, Brent Hagenbuch and Jace Yarbrough) and three Democrats (Michael Braxton. Dale Frey and Matthew McGhee) filed for candidacy in this race. Since no one candidate won most of the vote in either the Republican or Democratic primaries, the leading candidates are expected to participate in runoff elections.

For the Republicans, the runoff race is expected to feature Titus Transport CEO and owner Hagenbuch, who led the pack with more than 36% of the vote, and conservative litigator Yarbrough, who gained almost 34% of the vote. On the Democratic side. Braxton — who works as a barber — garnered more than 37% of the vote while web developer Frey had the second most votes with 33%, so they will likely go head-to-head in the runoffs.

In their Tri-County Reporter questionnaire answers, Hagenbuch and Yarbrough both advocated for border security as well as parental rights and empow-

erment, with Yarbrough specifically arguing for "school choice." Hagenbuch added that he plans to "prioritize clearing logjams and getting tasks done with conservative management. As a Texas senator, I will support legislation that protects Texans, defends Texas values and removes over-burdensome regulation."

As a lawyer, Yarbrough said he knows how to make legislation "hold people and the government accountable," and he will stand by his beliefs.

"I have courageously lived out my deeply-held convictions every step of the way," Yarbrough said in his questionnaire. "You can rely on me to never back down from a fight for our values."

Braxton did not submit a questionnaire to The Tri-County Reporter, but he said on Facebook after the primaries that he is "so excited and looking forward to serving the people of District 30."

In his questionnaire, Frey said he supports supplying schools with additional funding, expanding Medicaid and helping individuals with low incomes buy their first homes.

"I am running for office because I have seen how poorly we treat our retired public school teachers, like my father-in-law," Frey said. "I saw how in his later years, the Medicaid system barely supported us. We don't support health, nor education, here in Texas. And that needs to change."

The runoff election is expected to take place on Tuesday, May 28.

TEXAS HOUSE DISTRICT 99

Republican incumbent Charlie Geren handily won the race for House District 99 against challenger Jack Reynolds, receiving 60.2% compared with Reynolds' 39.8% of the vote. Geren will go on to face Democratic challenger Mimi Coffey in the November general election. Coffey ran unopposed during the March Democratic Primary.

Geren previously defeated Coffey for the Texas House District 99 seat in 2022 with 61.8% of the vote to her 38.2%. Geren has been a state house member since 2001.

In his 2024 Tri-County Reporter election questionnaire, Geren touted his long history on various boards and organizations in Tarrant County and his goals for a potential next term.

"My top priority in the legislature has always been protecting our Northwest Tarrant County families and delivering meaningful tax relief every chance I get," Geren said. "This session, we passed the largest property tax cut in American history – \$18 billion in relief for homeowners and businesses. It's my duty to ease the burden on Azle families and I'm proud of our hard work delivering more each session. We

ple can afford their homes." Geren also spoke about securing the southern border, empowering law enforcement and cracking down on fentanyl, among a wide variety of other issues.

must keep cutting until peo-

On her campaign website, Coffey voices support for veterans and the defense industry, community colleges, initiatives to expanded Medicaid and other issues.

"For the first time in my lifetime, the Supreme Court, by overturning Roe v. Wade, took away a right, specifically — a woman's right to reproductive healthcare," her website reads. "I believe the right to choose is a private decision that belongs to the woman involved and her doctor. That being said, I do not believe in late term abortions (where the fetus can survive outside the uterus) unless there is a medical need or exception."

Coffey has practiced law in the Metroplex for over 27 years and is a White Settlement native.

PARKER COUNTY PRECINCT 1 CONSTABLE

In a race that was kind to the incumbent, Ray Wright defeated challenger Jason

Ingram in the Republican primary for Parker County Precinct 1 constable. According to Parker County's unofficial results, Wright gained more than 60% of the

Wright is a Springtown High School graduate and has been the constable in Precinct 1 (the northeast corner of Parker County) for the past

"My main priority at this moment, in the growing population of our precinct is to ensure that I as well as everyone under my authority is prepared and properly trained, thus ensuring that safety and quality of service remain unwavering and everchanging in our growth," Wright said in his questionnaire published in The Tri-County Reporter last month. Since there is no Democrat

in this race. Wright will win by default in the November general elections.

TARRANT COUNTY PRECINCT 4 CONSTABLE

Republican primary challenger Joe D. "Jody" Johnson defeated incumbent Scott Bedford with an estimated 64.12% of the vote. Bedford and a third candidate. Carolyn Gilmore, won 22.28% and 13% of the vote respectively. Johnson previously served as Precinct 4 constable from 2016 to 2022 but declined to run in the 2022 election while seeking another office. Johnson has frequently criticized Bedford's handling of the job on the campaign trail.

"I am running for constable to bring honesty, integrity and duty back to the office," Johnson said in a Tri-County Reporter election questionnaire. "The Precinct 4 constable's office is broken right now. The current leadership comes to work only a couple days a month and is not completing the basic duties that are required of the job."

There are no Democrats running for this office, making Johnson the default winner in the general election in November.



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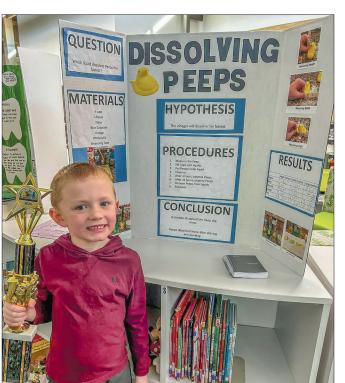
Azle High School's Cheer team was recognized at a Feb. 26 Azle ISD board meeting after placing fourth in the United Cheerleading Association's National competition at Disney World in Florida.



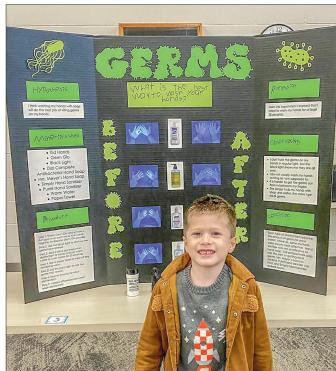
Azle High School's Cyber Security CTE team was recognized at a Feb. 26 Azle ISD board meeting after placing eighth in CyberStart America.



Ingle with her winning project on sound waves.



William Mace with his winning "Dissolving Peeps" project.



Windham with his winning project on germs and hand washing.

Science rules!

Science Fair Winners recognized by AISD board

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

AZLE — First place district science fair winners from each grade were recognized at the Feb. 26 Azle ISD board of trustees meeting. Winners from each elementary school's science fairs winners presented their projects at the Azle ISD administration building Jan. 17, for the 2024 Azle ISD District Science Fair followed by STEM demos from Azle High School CTE students. District winners were presented with ribbons at their campus after the event. Students also received trophies and gift bags from their schools.

Kindergarten first place winner Bradley Windham of Hill Top Elementary, first grade first place winner

William Mace of Eagle Heights \cdot 3rd — Rose Johnson, Elementary, second grade first place winner Micah Hinkley of Walnut Creek, third grade first place winner Rosalie Ramos of Eagle Heights Elementary and fourth grade first place winner Brooklyn Ingle of Hill Top Elementary were each recognized by the board for their excellent projects and adherence to the scientific method.

KINDERGARTEN WINNERS

- · 1st Bradley Windham,
- Hilltop Elementary · 2nd — Aubree Spinks,
- Liberty Elementary · 3rd — Emma Smith, Walnut Creek Elementary

FIRST GRADE WINNERS

 \cdot 1st — William Mace, Eagle Heights Elementary · 2nd — Bowan Bradley, Hilltop Elementary

Cross Timbers Elementary

SECOND GRADE WINNERS

- \cdot 1st Micah Hinkley, Wal \cdot nut Creek Elementary 2nd — Addison Cook,
- **Eagle Heights Elementary** · 3rd — Aiden Spinks, Liberty Elementary

THIRD GRADE WINNERS

· 1st — Rosalie Ramos, **Eagle Heights Elementary** · 2nd — Spencer Ross, Walnut Creek Elementary · 3rd — Reece Reavis, Silver

FOURTH GRADE WINNERS

Creek Elementary

· 1st — Rosalie Ramos, **Eagle Heights Elementary** · 2nd — Spencer Ross, Walnut Creek Elementary · 3rd — Reece Reavis, Silver Creek Elementary



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

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(L-R) Rosalie Ramos, William Mace, Bradley Windham, Micah Hinkley and Brooklyn Ingle.









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ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Azle Police Sgt. Jordan MacQuarrie and AHS teacher Andria Holly.

Shattered Dreams

AHS sees return of simulated car accident scenario

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

AZLE —Azle High School students were met with a disaster in their back parking lot the morning of March 6. Broken glass, a mother's sobs and a medical helicopter evacuation were just some of the hallmarks that marked the scene of an all-too-common tragedy: a deadly accident caused by distracted driving. Luckily for all involved, this was all simulated for the return of Shattered Dreams, a program intended to show students the consequences of behaving irresponsibly behind the wheel.

Shattered Dreams was last held at AHS in 2018. With assistance from the Azle Police and Fire Departments, the district hopes to host the event for juniors and seniors every other year. It was a campus-wide affair with 25 to 30 students involved along with countless administration and community members.

Theater Director Rebecca Crabtree and her students

did the makeup for the event. production student Jhiylin Crabtree hoped Shattered Dreams would encourage students to be more cautious and aware of the dangers of distracted driving.

"They are not invincible," Crabtree said. "They are not the exception. It could happen to anybody."

Coach Duston Shepard and his video production students filmed the scene and created a prior video for students to watch.

"These situations happen nearly every day," video production student Brenden Kelly said. "I couldn't imagine being the mother. You don't want this to ever happen to your child. (Shattered Dreams should show them) they need to put their phones up — it's not that hard to do. I think one thing they should walk away with is you've got to pay attention, especially driving because it's a serious matter."

Other students also say the program is important in demonstrating real-world conse-

quences to Azle students. "It's very deep and it hits close to the heart," video

Carlos Vega said. "It's something that can happen to all of us. I think it's amazing that we have a school that goes out of its way to really inform us about our safety and let everybody know the consequences. I think it's amazing that we have a school like that."

Throughout the day, the "grim reaper" also pulled certain students out of class, one-by-one. The students' phones were taken, and their obituaries were shown on school screens.

"Statistics say nine people a day lose their lives to distracted driving," Principal Nate Driver said. "(Shattered Dreams) is really to make sure that kids are aware of their responsibility. The ultimate goal is to raise awareness and promote a safe community."

Along with the simulated car accident and "reapings," a guest speaker talked with students Thursday about the loss of her child in a distracted driving incident.



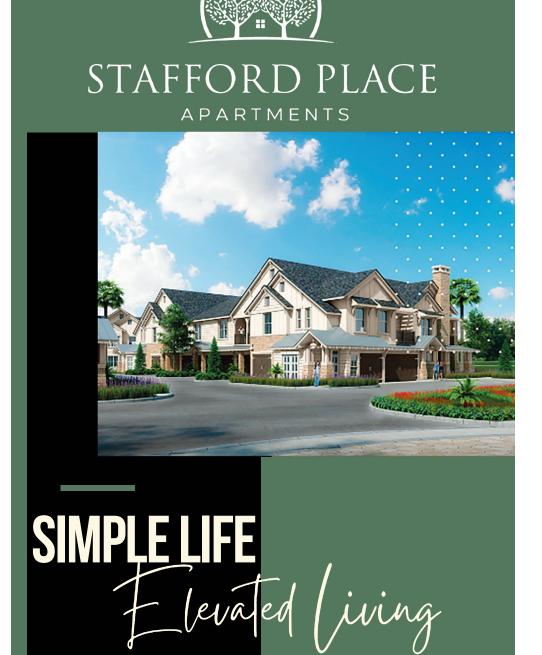
Soon after students were ushered outside, the Grim Reaper made his first appearance of the day.



Student Alan Hard played the offending distracted driver.



(L-R) Brenden Kelly, Dakota Norton, Jhiylin Carlos Vega and Harley Boyce were some of the video production students involved in the making of the Shattered Dreams video.

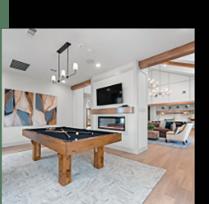


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Azle, Springtown powerlifters head to state finals



Twelve Azle boys competed in the regional meet; four qualified for state, including Case Moore, Alan Hard, Tyler Ulrich and Cash Moore.

EMMA VANBECELAERE

sports@tricountyreporter.com

Azle and Springtown High Schools' boys and girls have qualified for state competition in powerlifting. The state powerlifting meet for boys will be in Abilene Saturday, March 23, and the girls state meet will be in Frisco Saturday, March 16.

Twelve Azle boys competed in the regional meet; four qualified for state, including Case Moore, Alan Hard, Tyler Ulrich and Cash Moore. In addition to qualifying for state, the boys powerlifting team broke several records going into the final meet of the season.

"It's an incredible tribute to these four young men. They have always put in the work

and then some," coach Bo Maines said. "This is the largest number of lifters we have taken to state in history as far as my research shows. It's a great opportunity and experience for these four."

For the first time in Azle's history, the boys became district champions, with five individual district champions, 12 regional lifters, two individual regional champions, 11 lifters finishing in the top ten, four state qualifiers, four academic all-state, and a team that finished fourth in the region.

"All the records fall completely on the kids and show how hard our athletes work. A lot of times the kids will break a record and I didn't even know until they say, 'that's a new record for the

board coach," Maines said. "Coach Street and I wanted the board for that reason. (We) wanted the kids to see it and think I can beat that."

Maines and his four boys will leave for Abilene Friday, March 21 to be ready to compete Saturday, March 22.

AHS GIRLS QUALIFY FOUR

Azle High School's girls powerlifting team, comprised of 32 competitors, competed in the regional meet, qualifying four for state, including sophomores Ella Swaim and Emma Sustala, senior Raegan Williams and junior Kyndal Robbins. Sustala finished first and Robbins took second at the regional competition.

PLEASE SEE **POWER** | B2

Springtown to host middle school soccer tryouts

Soccer tryouts will be March 18-20. 4:15 to 5:15 p.m.

EMMA VANBECELAERE

sports@tricountyreporter.com

This year, Springtown will host middle school soccer tryouts for both boys and girls. Coaches Brian Maloney and Ryan Beverly will host the tryouts at the Springtown stadium from 4:15 to 5:15 p.m. March 18-20.

"I want all the kids to have a better understanding of what we're all about; this program will also give a bit of an idea of what it will be like at the high school working under us," Beverly said.

The tryouts will be after spring break to ensure that those who want to try out can. Having middle school soccer will help all the future soccer girls and boys who

love the game and want to get will give athletes a chance some playing time during the school year.

"I think from the boy's side, there's going to be more numbers. From what I'm hearing, I think the kids who were in seventh grade last year and in the middle school program are now in eighth grade. So, they're a little bit more prepared to know what to expect because of last year," Maloney said. "But I think the kids will come with their own expectations of what they want the season to be.

By adding middle school soccer to the school's athletic offerings, players will be better prepared for what high school is all about and what it will be like to play for both coaches. Starting earlier to prepare before moving to the next level while building relationships with coaches that can continue throughout high school — helping grow the program and moving the forward.

"We are aiming for both 15 on the A team and 15 on the B team, and that'll give us numbers for scrimmages between the teams as well as if a kid has to miss a practice or a game then it will make sure that we have them numbers, Maioney said.

Both coaches are excited about the upcoming tryout and are ready for all participants who want to be part of a program that will help them gain more skills in soccer as well as in life.

Art and therapy

Survivors Studio, MASTERpiece Paint Party collaborate for creative healing



PHOTO COURTESY YESENIA GUERRERO MASSARELLA

MASTERpiece Paint Party and Art Studio hosts mobile paint parties for a variety of events and often will use paint parties to fundraise for local nonprofit organizations.

JESSICA MCKINNEY

jessica@tricountyreporter.com

AZLE — Survivors Studio and MASTERpiece Paint Party and Art Studio will host an open house from 4-7 p.m. Friday, March 22.

"It is our open house to share with community about our joint projects including our upcoming 'The Exhibit of Hope,' an art exhibit and competition for students and adults which will also serve as a special fundraiser in benefit of Future Hope & Healing Center," said Yesenia Guerrero Massarella, owner and artist of MASTERpiece Paint Party and Art Studio.

Survivors Studio is "a safe blace for those who have experienced trauma to begin or renew their journey toward healing," according to its website. Karen Kimbrough, a therapist with

PLEASE SEE THERAPY | B2

Azle Memorial Library celebrates 15 years



PHOTO COURTESY AZLE MEMORIAL LIBRARY

 $Sculptor\,Susie\,Chisholm\,was\,commissioned\,by\,a\,bene factor\,of\,the\,Azle, Texas,\,Memorial\,Library\,to$ create the lifesize sculpture "Quiet Time in the Park".

Library staff to host March 23 reception

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

AZLE — March marks 15 years since the Azle Memorial Library opened. To celebrate, the library will host a reception Saturday, March 23 from 1 to 3 p.m. The event will feature activities for all ages, refreshments, door prizes, and a city-wide scavenger hunt. Library staff will make remarks, unveil a new library card design and reveal new services soon to be offered by

the library. Azle's first library was started in 1904 by Azle Christian Church. The first direct progenitor to the current library opened in 1964 as the Azle Public Library. Its first librarian was Eula Nation and it operated from the current location of the Azle Historical Society and

Museum. In 1970, the City of Azle assumed ownership of the library after it was donated by the Azle Women's Club. The Azle Library Trust was established as a nonprofit in 1973, a designation it holds to this day. In 1980, a new library building at 609 Southeast Parkway opened to the public.

The Azle Memorial Library was designed, constructed and donated to the City of Azle by a local benefactor. Located at 333 W. Main Street, the facility opened March 30, 2009.

· "The donor did exhaustive research by visiting libraries in Texas and other states to help determine what unique design elements to include in our library," said Curren McLane, library director.

In the 15 years since its opening, more than

2,850,000 items have been checked out from the library. It has seen almost 140,000 visits to its approximately 3,500 programs offered for children, teens and adults in that time. The library currently has nearly 14,000 card holders, almost equivalent to the city's population.

OTHER MARCH LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

· Water Conservation Education and make your own terrarium, ages 5 to 12, March 11, 1 p.m.

· All About Animals: Live Show, ages 4 to 12, March 13, 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. · Mozart: The Man, The Myth, The Music, by the Spectrum Chamber Music Society, 6:30 p.m. March 21. · And more!



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Texas Workforce Commission awards \$200,000 to North Central Texas Teachers

STAFF REPORT

The Texas Workforce Commission awarded a \$200,000 grant to the Workforce Solutions for North Central Texas to help more than 150 teachers prepare the next generation for the most needed occupations in the 14-country region.

During the summer, edu-

cators selected WSNCT's for Summer 2024 iWork: Teacher Externship will be matched with employers for job shadowing and immersion. After the week-long program concludes, teachers will create lesson plans which will emphasize the competencies required in the in-demand industries and present the

lessons to their classrooms in the 2024-2025 academic school year.

This is the fourth year WSNCT has offered the iWork externship to local school districts. Last year, 44 educators from three different school districts and 39 businesses participated. The grant this year will exponentially

increase opportunities for teachers, businesses and students in Collin, Denton, Ellis, Erath, Hood, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman, Navarro, Palo Pinto, Parker, Rockwall, Somervell and Wise counties.

A teacher from Allen High School who was matched with the Allen Fairview Chamber of Commerce

last year said, "Teaching can be its own little bubble. Realistically most of my students will advance to professions outside of education. There's no substitute for the chance to learn and network with other professionals in a different industry.'

Applications for host businesses located in the

14-county region are being accepted now at www.dfwjobs.com For more information about the WSNCT's Summer 2024 iWork: Teacher Externship, email externship@dfwjobs.com.

THERAPY

Survivors Studio, helps bring together creativity and therapy for those who are process-

ing trauma. The studio is located inside The Edge Church, 1313 Southeast Parkway in Azle, and has hosted therapy clients for more than two years.

MASTERpiece Paint Party and Art Studio hosts mobile paint parties for a variety

of events and often will use paint parties to fundraise for local nonprofit organizations.

"(This collaboration) will combine our love of art as a way for people to have joy and healing in their lives," Kimbrough said.

To reserve a spot, email

karen@survivorsstudiotx. com or masterpiecepaintparty@gmail.com. Reservations for the event are open through Monday, March 18. Light snacks and crafts will be offered to attendees.

TRWD presented with transparency award

STAFF REPORTS

info@tricountyreporter.com

FORT WORTH — Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar attended a special Tarrant Regional Water District board meeting Tuesday, March 5 to announce the

agency has been awarded its sixth Transparency Star for open government and compliance.

Hegar presented the award to TRWD's board of directors during a 1 p.m. special meeting at the district's administration building located at

Worth.

According to a statement provided by the Comptroller's office, TRWD is the first special purpose and water district to receive all six Transparency Stars. The latest Transparency Star

800 E. Northside Drive in Fort recognizes the district's efforts to ensure open government, which includes easily accessible information about the board members, the organizational structure and the public information handbook.

POWER FROM PAGE B1

"I am excited for the girls. We have one girl, Raegan Williams, who is a back-toback state qualifier. She is looking forward to trying to get in the top three. The other three girls have done it all year and will be return-

ue," coach Tanner Street said. The AHS girls leave for Frisco Friday, March 14, to

ing next year. I am excited to

see what they can do because

they have the drive to contin-

be at early weigh-ins. They will compete at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, March 16.

"I would tell the girls, do the best they can, they worked hard all year and let's just go for it. Go big or go home," Street said.

LADY PINES GO FOR REPEAT

The Springtown Lady Porcupines will compete in the state powerlifting meet for the second year in a row. Among the 14 girls heading to state, four are freshman.

"I'm scared but happy that this is my last meet; I feel like

3-year

I have worked hard for this one. It has been an emotional roller coaster. I am okay with the result. Win or lose, I made it to state, and I am happy about that." A'sbianya Elam, a senior making the return trip to state, said.

Last year, junior Lyndsey Shotwell had a different experience going to state than everyone else; she went to state as the powerlifting manager; this year, she goes back but as a lifter. With dedication and hard work, she was able

to qualify for the state meet. "Looking back last year, I

knew I didn't want to be holding the clipboard — I wanted to be lifting like the other girls," Shotwell said. "I knew I had to work hard and have a lot of dedication to be able to get to where I wanted to go."

Freshman Grace Lewis qualified for the state powerlifting meet in two ways: she placed first in her division, and also lifted the total weight she needed to qualify.

"I have a mindset of winning again like they did last year. I personally want to place. I came this far as a freshman and its my first

time lifting this much and I have already made it to state," Lewis said.

Missy Castro has coached for the last 12 years in Springtown. Here, she has been able to help the girls powerlifting team to 10 regional championships and has coached two state champions. Last year she took 13 girls to state; this year 14 girls are competing, including several who are two-time state competitors.

"Our program has definitely grown; we have a lot more girls that want to do power-

lifting and that want to join. It has also helped us grow as a team and get more interest in powerlifting," Castro said. "This year, a lot of the girls have stepped up and taken on a leadership role. In the long run, I don't want to put a lot of pressure on the girls because we won state; if we win it again, we win. I want to make sure that the girls are confident not only in powerlifting but also in their personal lives. It is more than winning state champions; it is about building girls and women of the future."

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Azie School Menu March 18-22, 2024

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



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

LUNCH: Everyday - Variety of milk. Your choice of 1 entree & 1 fruit or juice Mon Beefy Mac, Chicken Nuggets , Whole Wheat Roll, Green beans, Mashed Potatoes, Peppered Gravy Tues Hamburger, Mini Corn Dogs, Apple Juice, Peaches, Strawberry, Slices, Baby Carrots, Celery Sticks, Weds Italian Sub, Garlic Bread Stick, Chicken Alfredo, Oranges, Pineapples, Baby Carrots, Fresh Broccoli Thurs Maxstixs with Marinara, Popcorn Chicken Bowl, Whole Wheat Roll, Apple Sauce,

Bananas, Peppered Gravy, Baby Carrots Fri Cheese Pizza, Fish Sticks, Pepperoni Pizza, Apple, Crinkle Fries, Pinto beans **GRADES 5TH - 8TH**

BREAKFAST: Everyday - Assorted Fruits and Cereal, Juice, White or Chocolate Milk, Yogurt w/Granola

Mon Dutch Waffle, Pears Diced, Tues Pancake Sausage Breakfast Sandwich, Pineapples, Weds Pancakes, Oranges **Thurs** Biscuit With Peppered Gravy, Apple Sauce, **Fri** Breakfast Pizza, Apple

LUNCH: Everyday: Variety of milk. Your choice of 1 entree & 1 fruit or juice, rolls, crackers • Salad bar offered daily

Mon Breaded Chicken Sandwich, Spicy Chicken Sandwich, Honey Wheat Breadstick, Chicken Nuggets, Mashed Potatoes, Peppered Gravy Tues Cheeseburger, Hamburger, Mini Corn Dogs, Peaches, Pineapples, Weds Chicken & Cheese Pizza Quesadilla, Corn dog, Spaghetti w/ Meatsauce, Honey Wheat Breadstick **Thurs** Cheeseburger, Hamburger, Popcorn Chicken Bowl, Whole Wheat Roll, Strawberry, Slices, Curly Fries, Fri Cheese Pizza, Fish Sticks, Whole Wheat Roll, Grilled Cheese Sandwich, Pepperoni Pizza, Crinkle Fries

HIGH SCHOOL

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

LUNCH: • Everyday: 1% unflavored or non fat chocolate milk & juice • Salad Bar

Mon Cheeseburger, Chicken Nuggets, Mac & Cheese, Oranges, Pears Diced, Crinkle Fries, Green beans Tues Hamburger, Mini Corn Dogs, Spicy Chicken Sandwich, Apple, Peaches, Crinkle Fries, Mixed Veggies, Steamed Broccoli Weds Breaded Chicken Sandwich, Cheeseburger, Spaghetti w/ Meatsauce, Apple Juice, Oranges, Pineapples, Steamed Carrots, Steamed Peas Thurs Hamburger, Popcorn Chicken Bowl, Spicy Chicken Sandwich, Apple Juice, Apple Sauce, Bananas, Refried Beans, Tater Tots, Fri Boneless Buffalo Wings, Cheeseburger, Steak Fingers, Apple, Apple Juice, Mixed Fruit, Corn on the Cob, Mashed Potatoes

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Springtown School Menu

BREAKFAST PRICES **LUNCH PRICES** PK-4th Grade า-8th Grade igh School educed.



March 18-22, 2024 **PK through 12th Grade** *Menus are subject to change.

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

Mon Dutch Waffle, Sliced Pears Tues Breakfast Stick, Blueberries Weds Bacon Scramble Pizza, Applesauce Cup **Thurs** Cinnamon Roll, Strawberry Applesauce **Fri** Strawberry/Vanilla Yogurt, Banana

K - 4th Lunch

Lunch: Everyday - Choice of one meat, two vegetables, and one grain/bread with milk.,

Mon Bosco Sticks or Salisbury Steak Roll, Chili Beans, Mashed Potato, Blueberries, Tues Lasagna or Chicken Nuggets Garlic Roll, Green Beans, Applesauce Cup, Weds Chicken & Waffles, Tator Tots, Steamed Broccoli, Sliced Pears, **Thurs** Beef or Chicken Tacos, Corn, Refried Beans, Apple Slices or Watermelon Craisins, Fri Cheese Pizza, Fish Sticks or Baked Potato w/ Pulled Pork Roll Glazed Carrots, Fresh Veggies (Cucumber & Tomato, Carrots, Celery), Strawberry Applesauce or Banana

5th - 12th Lunch

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

Mon Pulled Pork Sandwich or Hot Dog, French Fries, Watermelon Craisin, Pineapples, Tues Chicken Parma. or Spaghetti, Glazed Carrots, Applesauce or Strawberry Applesauce Cup Weds Chicken & Waffles (Reg. or Spicy), Tator Tots, Fresh Broccoli, Blueberries or Mandarin Oranges, Thurs Beef or Chicken Tacos, Nachos, Corn, Refried Beans, Apple Slices or Sliced Peaches Fri Cheese Pizza or Baked Potato Basket w/ Pulled Pork, Green Beans, Fiesta Sticks, Sliced Pears or Banana

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State bound

Four members of the Azle High School Boys Powerlifting Team punched their ticket to state after the team placed fourth at the regional competition. Alan Hard (132), Cash Moore (181), Tyler Ulrich (181) and Case Moore (220) will compete at the state meet March 23 in Abilene.

PHOTOS COURTESY CHAPA PHOTOGRAPHY







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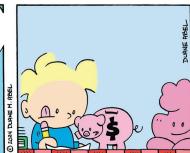
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					8			
1			9	7		3		
	9	5		3				
4	1		2					6
		6					8	4
			1					
					9	8		2
					7			5
	5	3		2	6			9

Level: Intermediate

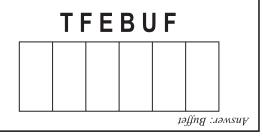
Solution to last week's puzzle

MARCH 7, 2024

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

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to entertaining.





Quilter's Guild to meet next week

STAFF REPORTS

The Quilter's Guild of Parker County will meet in-person and via Zoom Thursday, March 21 at Lakeshore Drive Baptist Church at 200 S. Lakeshore Drive in Hudson Oaks.

The program this month is a presentation by Carole Lyles Shaw called "What is a Modern Quilt? The Myths and the Magic." Shaw is a modern quilt designer, author and workshop teacher. Her passion and focus are on designing quilts for the modern quilt movement. For more information, see the guild's website, under Programs and Workshops, at quiltersguildofparkercounty.org.

The meeting will begin at 6:45 p.m., but attendees are welcome to arrive earlier to socialize. Visitors are welcome in-person and online. If vou wish to join online, email your name and telephone number to qgpc2000@gmail.



PHOTO COURTESY CAROLE LYLES SHAW

Afromodern Improv Squares In Orange, by Carole Lyles Shaw

guild, visit the website quil-

com. To learn more about the tersguildofparkercounty.org or find the guild on Facebook.

THR opens Breeze Urgent Care in Weatherford

STAFF REPORTS

info@tricountyreporter.com

ARLINGTON - TexasHealth Resources has opened a Breeze Urgent Care center in Weatherford.

Located at 1980 S. Main St., it is the first Breeze Urgent Care center in the city and in Parker County.

The new urgent care center connects residents living in communities west of Fort Worth with the personalized care, upscale amenities and transparent, affordable pricing that are key to the Breeze Urgent Care model, which launched in fall 2020.

It is the 28th Breeze center to open in North Texas.

"Texas Health completely redesigned the traditional urgent care experience, providing patients the care they need, when and where they need it," said Jamie Harraid, THR vice president of ambulatory services. "Adding a Breeze Urgent Care center in Weatherford is part of our continued focus on providing safe, high-quality care to North Texans.'

In 2023, Texas Health added urgent care centers in Arlington, Cedar Hill, Fort

Centers offer convenient, personalized services

Worth, Mansfield, Richardson and Rockwall. Earlier this year, THR opened a Breeze Urgent Care in Burleson

— the city's first — and a fourth Breeze location in Dallas, serving Oak Lawn communities.

"Our mission is to improve the health of the people in the communities we serve," said Kathi Cox, chief operating officer, ambulatory and virtual channel at THR. "We are thinking beyond the traditional healthcare model and adapting to new models of care to support patients wherever they are with the transparency and convenience they deserve."

Breeze Urgent Care centers offer patients a personalized experience from the moment they walk through the doors.

"Patients are greeted by a personal clinical concierge, a point person who guides them through their entire visit," Harraid said. "Patients are also seen by a Texas Health nurse practitioner or physician assistant who diagnoses their conditions, answers their questions and provides treatment options."

Breeze Urgent Care is tailored to people with active lifestyles and offers convenient hours 365 days a year. Most major insurance

plans are accepted, including Medicare. Breeze also offers a competitive flat-rate fee of \$205 for patients who don't have insurance, which can be ideal for people who may not have a primary care doctor or who like the convenience of urgent care but are looking for a better model.

Breeze providers can treat a variety of healthcare concerns, including allergies, earaches, sprains and most minor illnesses. Flu vaccines are available for \$25, and school/ sports physicals are available for \$35.

More information about Texas Health Breeze Urgent Care is available online: https://breezeurgentcare. texashealth.org.



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032



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

035 Garden/Mowing Service

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under the age of 18 living

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dians, pregnant women and

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> our office located at 605 N. Business 287, Suite 102 in Decatur. Full-Time, Monday-Friday

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KLEMENT DISTRIBUTION, INC.

(Hershey Ice Cream Distributor)

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Karl Klement Properties, Inc.

No Positions Available at This Time



No Positions Available at This Time

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940-627-6362 | hr.info@klementford.com Iodi Pettis, Executive Director

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email alvarogsilva@verizon.net

052

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Miscellaneous

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066

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079

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

RV's for Rent 082

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083 **Houses for Sale**

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Owner/Broker

1536 SWAN CT.

817-988-9954 genejr.com

2-2 \$995.MO. \$800 DEP. Gene Thompson & Associates

817-246-4646 gtatx.com

085 Mobile Homes for Sale

Pelican Bay: 1513 Sheri Lane S. Mobile Home with lot **Needs Work**

3-2 1986, 16X76 Sunrizon 65K

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321 W. Main St. **Azle**

ACROSS 1 home to giant cat-

- fish in east Texas: "Lake _' ___ Pines" 5 TXism: I was chewed up
- and spit out" 6 TXism: "sounds
- like a dry _ (bad singer) 7 TXism: "useless as
- panty on a pig' 8 TX Charley Pride's "Then Who
- 9 a question in 1991 College Bowl won by Rice: "vexillology"
- 16 a Texas pond 18 refuses to follow accepted doctrine
- 21 great TCU lineman Charles "__" Aldrich 22 Texas or Nevada
- town 23 "The Turtle Lady," TX Loetscher
- 24 building face 30 O. Henry story: "A
- Fog _ 34 TXism: "chompin'
- 35 Ranger Juan was in 1999 36 big party at the
- 37 TXism: "wipe the slate clean"
- 39 once a source of gold in Texas (2 wds.)
- (amazed me)

- 44 event at Luling's "Watermelon Thump":
- on U.S. 259 (2 wds.) 49 a fancy speech 52 TX Cassidy ("Lurch") of
- "The Addams Family"
- 53 TXism: "__ could strut
- 54 TXism:
- 55 "the gorge" in Mexico
- 58 TXism: "he'd be to his own
- ___ Grande
 - 1 TXism: "at the
- the bit" (eager) and Oklahoma
- gold in diving in ___, Finland governor's mansion
- Cathedral is oldest 43 TXism: "knocked 11 worry

- seed
- 45 Texas soda: __ Pepper 46 ERA to TX Nolan Ryan 47 in Upshur County
- sitting down" (big ego)
- (study _____
- 60 flightless bird 61 TXism: "Lreckon"
- 3 TX Browing won
- 4 Gen. Robert _ ___
- 10 San
- 12 Carson successor

- "skunk egg"
- funeral" (unreliable)
 - U.S. Army (abbr.) **DOWN** 15 TX Roddenberry's
- 17 TX Gene Autry: drop __ _ _ __"
 2 lake between Texas
 - Cowboys" 19 person from the biggest state by area 20 up-to-date
- Worth, TX (abbr.) 9 TX Roy Orbison's 25 in Smith County on _ Pretty Woman" highway 135 26 ex-Cowboy Aikman
- ship that sold these cathedral in Texas 27 TXism: "hot as stove

once owned dealer-

TEXAS

CROSSWORD by Charley & Guy Orbison

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- 13 makes amends 14 a Texan in the
 - 41 TXism: "__ _ was any better, I genre: -fi couldn't stand it" 42 TXism: "he zigged when he should
 - have zagged" 48 TXism: "war hoop" 28 TX Greer Garson 50 TXism: "beats_ film "_
 - 29 spliced a film thing I ever saw" 51 a King Ranch 31 Mr. Houston 32 this fighter beat TX Kleberg
 - 56 Macdonald in 1949 film "Streets of Laredo"

40 gunslinger Holliday

Foreman in 1974 33 problem along the Texas coast 57 TXism: "many Historic Site _" (often) in Hood County

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