

IINTY KEPORTER

ZLE, SPRINGTOWN, AND SURROUNDING

THURSDAY, June 20, 2024 • \$1.00



Splash around!

TxDOT officials met with

MADELYN EDWARDS

springtownreporter@tricountyreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — Twoand-a-half-year-old Connley Heit picked a shady spot at the kiddy pool outside the Family Resource Center in Springtown and settled in for exploration.

Instead of playing with the aquatic toys made for children, Connley scooped up water in a plastic bin floating inside the pool and even tried to fit the large bucket over his head. He also showed interest in the dirt and grass outside the pool and, to his mother's dismay, put some of the grass in his mouth for tasting and analyzing.

The pool itself was Connley's main fascination, especially the walls of the structure that separated the water from the earth. Connley would tug down on the soft walls so the water flowed into the dirt. While his mother Lacy Heit instructed him not to do that, FRC

PLEASE SEE **SPLASH** | A5

Kids, caregivers take part in water-themed activity at resource center in Springtown

The nearby entrance ramp

from Southeast Parkway near



MADELYN EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

and from those crossovers,

SH 199 gained the reputation

Two-and-a-half-year-old Connley Heit scoops up water in a plastic bin floating inside the kiddy pool during the FRC's "Splash Days" activity last Friday morning.

Murder suspect charged after body of missing person discovered

Heather Treibly was reported missing June 1

PLEASE SEE **TXDOT** | A4

ZACH FREEMAN

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AZLE — Local police say foul play is suspected after a body was discovered in the back yard of a Ty Lane residence just before 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 12.

A press release issued by the Azle Police Department said it is investigating the death with help from the Texas Rangers. Just two days after the body was found, 52-year-old Lake Worth resident Shane Breshers was arrested for the murder of victim Heather Treibly. Treibly, a 43-year-old Azle resident, was reported missing by a concerned family member June 1. Treibly was last seen May 27 around 11 a.m. near the 100 block of Ty Lane in Azle. The Azle



proposed construction in the

affected area.

COURTESY TCSO

Shane Breshers

Police Department initiated a missing person investigation with highest urgency because Treibly suffered from several health problems and required regular medication.

PLEASE SEE MURDER | A7



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Longtime AHS auto teacher retires, tells story

ZACH FREEMAN

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AZLE — After 39 years, Azle High School auto tech teacher Robert Herring said most people can't look at his shop without thinking of him or look at him without thinking of his shop.

On May 23, the same day as the district's retirement and awards ceremony, Herring sent an email to all his colleagues at AHS announcing that he would not be returning to the school in the fall. The beloved auto tech teacher sent in his resignation unexpectedly after being urged by his doctor to slow down and take care of himself amid unforeseen health issues.

Herring's love of cars goes deep.

"Automotive has always been my spark," he said in an interview with the Tri-County Reporter.

Born in Martinez, California, Herring moved around as a child, and grew up around racetracks because of his Uncle Brad who was a mechanic. Along with his stepdad Carol Herring, who was a longtime special education director at Azle ISD, he considers his uncle one of his biggest influences. His family eventually made its way to Mineral Wells where his mom ran Herring Nutrition Center on the bottom floor of the Baker Hotel. and he became Mineral Wells High School's first sophomore auto tech student. Herring said he felt encouraged by auto tech teacher John Hutton who saw his potential. During his time as a student, he and a special education student restored a 1921 American LaFrance firetruck that's still on display at the city's firehouse. He and other auto tech students also acted as the school's bus mechanics. His first car was a 1962 GMC his father pulled out of a ditch on a farm and paid \$100 for.

"He drug it home and said there's your vehicle — when you get it running you can drive it," the 64-year-old

Herring worked on the vehicle with his uncle and while he didn't understand everything at first, the lessons stuck. He was soon the go-to mechanic of the house, work- following, Herring found

ing on his own car as well as his parents' when any trouble arose. After his uncle passed away, Herring received his tools as a gift on his next birthday.

Early on, Herring dreamed of being a doctor but never had the money for school.

"The only difference is our customers keep coming back, year after year, even after the car is an antique," Herring said. "A doctor's customer they cease to exist at some point, they're going to pass."

In the summer of 1985, while working at North Hills Lincoln Mercury in Richland Hills he got a phone call from Azle High School principal Don Walker who offered him the school's auto tech position. Despite liking his job, he entertained the idea and sat down for an interview.

"He pitched me my keys and said go check out your shop. I said 'I don't want this job. This is not what I want to do.' He said, 'well, just go check it out.' Well, I go out there to check the shop out and the cops show up. I was almost arrested because they didn't know who I was. I was not Mr. Tanner, the teacher at the time '

Soon after, Herring learned that Tanner had recently suffered his second stroke and planned to retire from the position because of his terminal health. Herring was familiar with the district through his father and had regularly allowed AHS auto tech students to work on cars from the dealership where he was employed. After learning Tanner had specifically requested Herring for the job, he felt he could not say no. He took a one-year leave of absence from the dealership and agreed to take the AHS position for a year to give the school time to find a permanent instructor. Herring said his one-year leave eventually turned into 15 years before he officially left the employment of the dealership.

"I wrote my resignation (from AHS) twice in the first eight years and then the kids came to me, and they said Mr. Herring we'll do anything you say, we'll work on any car, we'll do any paperwork, whatever you want. Just please don't leave."

In that time and the years

a home for himself at Azle High School. He has worked for seven principals and has been awarded teacher of the year three times over the course of his career. Herring said this year he even taught the great grandson of one of his first students. Throughout the decades he spent at the school, having the ability to talk to students going through hard times is one of his favorite things about the job.

"I love those kids like they're my own." Herring said. "I get a lot of the kids that were trouble. They don't have a place where they're part of it. A lot of times the kids that don't do good in academics or other classes, they flourish in mine because they find their place.'

After nearly four decades teaching, Herring said there's no shortage of kids and adults he has helped make an impact on. He recalled one instance when Ms. Brown, a crisis intervention counselor, told him one student said they wouldn't be alive if he hadn't sent them her way. The auto teacher described other times when a student asked to pray with him or came to him during a difficult time. Herring's colleague at the shop, fellow auto tech teacher Cody Zdyb was one such student less than a decade ago. Career and technical education teachers Josh Weston and Jarrett Cotton were also his former

students. "Being able to get that close to a student, that shows that they fully trust you and they look up to you for advice or friendship," Herring said. "I can't go out to eat or go to the movies or something without someone coming up and saying, 'hey Mr. Herring how are you doing?' There are kids that may never do anything in sports, they never won an award in their life, but they built a starter, or an alternator and it got a superior rating and a blue ribbon and that's big stuff."

Results don't come easy. Herring recalls he and his wife often spending sun-up to sun-down at school, sometimes only coming home to shower between teaching classes and prepping students for competitions. Herring said without his wife



Robert and Susan Herring in the back with grandchildren Tucker and Mandie in foreground.

Susan, a former special education educator of 35 years, none of it would have been possible.

"My wife is my partner. we do everything together," Herring said. "She is the mother for the Skills USA team, she does everything in the background. She makes me look good."

As much as the Herrings have done for Azle students, those students have given it right back. Through successful showings at Skills USA competitions, which AHS has participated in since his third-year teaching, and extreme attention to detail, Herring said his students have made his shop one of the best in the state and have also made him look good in the process.

"We have world class students right here in Azle," Herring said. "We've got people all over the world that came from Azle. That's why I fell in love with this town, it's not just the teachers that care, the parents care. We've got some equipment that I'm told we're the only high school in the United States

the first thing is 'wow, look at this place,' they're real excited about it. We made it to where if a student wanted to be successful all they would have to do is do the work."

This year, the seven-person Skills USA team of Colby Griggers, Faith McMorris, Isabell Evans, Seth Sears, Emiliano Lopez, Adam Brown and Adrien Vega earned first place in the opening and closing ceremonies competition at Skills USA. Herring said this has been a regular occurrence since his students organized a SkillsUSA team in his third year. In the past has even had industry professionals from the Automotive Transmission Rebuilders Association comment on the quality of work students had done at contests.

"No one has a transmission as good as yours," Herring recalled them saying. "You're doing at your high school what we wish industry would do in their shops."

Herring said walking away from his career is the hardest thing he has ever had to do, but he believes it's a necessary step in God's plan and that has it. People walk in and his recovery. The list of people Herring said he will miss extends from the administration, who he said are the best "bar none," to teachers in the far-off English hall like Ms. Burnham who he said always help to inspire, motivate, and pull him out of a slump.

"I'm proud of the things I've done," Herring said. "I'm proud of the people I worked with. If it hadn't been for them a lot of things might not have happened. I just love the people that I work with. it's just real hard to walk away. . God's in control and we

make it what we make it." Herring's loyalty to Azle students extends beyond the halls and walls of AHS. In his time living in the Azle area. he has helped and made close friends with his students and neighbors. When the Herrings lived on Poe Street, Herring recalled making it a point to get to know everyone in his neighborhood and ensuring

that children on his block had a safe place to play. As a reaction to cars dangerously zipping through the community during the evenings, Herring and his neighbors organized community barbecues in front of their houses to offer food to any passersby while letting them know to "drive slow on Poe." In another instance, Herring was approached by former AHS Principal Randy Cobb after the school received comments from parents that Herring had been speaking with young children throughout town. To Cobb's amazement and relief, Herring revealed that he had been passing out free bicycles collected by him and other teachers to children who did not have one. Herring said he has instilled this kindness in his own children, teaching them that even just a simple fist bump and "I'm glad that you're here" can go a long

"We are sometimes the only Iesus that our students see and our loyalty to our kids doesn't stop at school," Herring said. "Our loyalty to our kids and our community is never-ending. I always tell people just keep living, keep loving and keep giving because there's people out there that need it."

In their downtime, Robert and Susan Herring hope to go on adventures around the country. The couple also plans on spending more time with their grandchildren, Tucker and Mandie Herring, age 8 and 7, who both attend Liberty Elementary. Most of all, he wants to continue helping people. When he recovers, he hopes to return to AHS to continue instructing in some capacity. Herring is currently looking forward to seeing many of his former students and colleagues at a retirement party at his former AHS auto shop June 29. From 2-6 p.m., the public can meet with Herring, revisit old memories and thank him for the impact he has made on their lives.



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

AHS auto tech teacher Robert Herring, students Emiliano Lopez, Adrien Vega, and Principal Nate Driver at the classic car show put on by Vintage Motor Car Club of America on April 11.



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White SUVs are a dime a dozen

My, oh my, how automobiles have changed since I got my first driver's license some 50-plus years ago. I'm not sure young people today really understand or appreciate the role a vehicle played in society back then. Automobiles were special: they were designed for appearance and for power instead of fuel mileage. Each model was iconic in its own way. People connected to their car, and it helped to formulate their identity.

Nowadays new car models roll out and nobody even knows it has happened. But back in the day, the annual ritual of unleashing the new model cars was something people looked forward to. There was a great deal of curiosity about what the new models would look like and what exciting new features they would have. Many automobile dealerships would



FROM MY FRONT PORCH

By Sam Houston

Sam Houston is a syndicated columnist and newspaper entertainment producer/promoter

rent huge search lights and place them in front of their dealership to draw attention, hoping to lure prospective buyers in for a glance. What the new cars would look like was kept a secret until the unveiling day, driving thousands insane with curiosity. Many people would not consider buying a new car in late summer for fear that one of the new cars introduced in the fall would be so spectacular they would want to change their mind as to which car to purchase. The new cars and what they looked like were a common topic of conversation around

the water fountain at work, the dinner table, and a huge part of our society. They each had their own style and appearance and were distinctively different from other cars on the road.

Nowadays cars look so much alike because emission standards, fuel consumption standards and safety standards have compelled engineers to use similar design styles. Back in the '60s and '70s no one would confuse an Oldsmobile Cutlass with a Chevy Impala, nor a Dodge Charger with a Pontiac Tempest. They each had their own special look, design and

appeal. Often the car manufacturers designed cars to project a certain image for the buyer and the image was magnified in their advertising. It was your chance to "see the USA in a Chevrolet." People loved it.

My favorite car as a young teenager was the Buick Riveria. The Riveria was a huge vehicle with a unique grill and tapered back side. It was powerful, had a spacious and luxurious interior, and had an aura of individuality. It was not quite as classy as a Cadilac or a Lincoln, but it was special — like something a movie star or a sports figure would drive. It was the epitome of coolness.

This past January, I found myself needing to purchase a car. I wanted something comfortable, efficient, trustworthy and reliable. I settled on a white-colored SUV. Now some six months later, I have

been pleased with how the car drives, operates and functions. It has gotten me to work without fail, has room for passengers and there has not been a single mechanical problem. So, what is the problem? There is no pride in ownership: there is no joy or exhilaration in driving the car. It is simply utilitarian.

Recently I went to the grocery store and when I completed my shopping and returned to the lot, I became confused. There were four other white SUVs parked around my car and I could not differentiate between those vehicles and determine which was mine. There was a Lexus, a Nissan, a Chevrolet and a Toyota, and in a quick glance they all looked the same. The outline was the same, they were all white, they all had a similar grill, and the rear of the cars were almost identical. I finally fig-

ured out which one was mine, but I drove away knowing cars were no longer a way to express individual tastes and personalities. They were simply a way to get to work, the bank, and to drop the kids off at school. The images of an Oldsmobile Cutlass convertible, a Mercury Cougar, or a Plymouth Roadrunner were for days gone by, and for auto shows. The American public has gone from owning units of individual expression, to personal buses that provide transportation. Nowadays cars are better made and more reliable, but I miss the thrill of individual expression. Those were the good old

Thought for the day: Take care of your car in the garage, and it will take care of you on the road.

Until next time...I will keep ridin' the storm out!

Is Springtown still growing?

MADELYN EDWARDS

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SPRINGTOWN — Springtown has obviously grown in recent years, evident by the increased number of homes and businesses around town.

What is not as clear is how much residential and commercial development the city can expect in the future.

On one hand, Springtown Planning and Zoning Commission Chairperson Ken Jensen told the city council at its meeting last month that the commission has considered 20 cases in the past year. P&Z makes recommendations to the council on development-related topics like platting and rezoning requests, among other things. The number of cases being considered has trended downward in the past two years, though the decrease this past year wasn't as high as from the previous year.

"It's picking back up," Jensen said.

P&Z chairman, assistant city administrator discuss development in town

Meanwhile, the city's permitting department has still been busy. Assistant City Administrator Christina Derr reported at the council meeting that Springtown commissioned 4,241 inspections, which are required for new or altered structures in Springtown before a certificate of occupancy is issued, from May 2023 to April 2024.

"That is a significant number of inspections for a city that does not even have 4,000 people in it," Derr said during the meeting.

Derr also said the vast majority of the 176 sets of building plans reviewed between May 2023 and April 2024 were for new single-family homes: 158. Only a small portion pertained to commercial construction or renovation.

All that said, it may seem like there's a discrepancy between Derr's figures on

the number of building plans and inspections and Jensen's report on the number of P&Z cases, but Derr reminded The Tri-County Reporter there is a one-to-two-year gap between P&Z approval and getting permits.

"That is because between approval at P&Z and the issuance of building permits, it takes one to two years for the developer to build all of the utilities and streets as well as get those approved and accepted by the city," Derr said. Then once building of structures starts, it takes an additional two to four years for all of the lots to be built out."

For example, developers are now building structures from the multiple zoning and platting cases the city council and P&Z approved in 2021-22. Derr said that is "why we are seeing such a large increase in permitting while platting/zoning cases have decreased because the permits being issued now are for subdivisions that were approved one to three years ago."

New development, residential and commercial, brings revenue into the city through property tax and sales tax. It may seem like if P&Z is considering a lower number of cases, then the city will receive less revenue and therefore won't be able to fund the city services it provides. Derr said that is not so because city leaders only budget for what the current tax base can support and has the money to operate the city even if no more homes were built in town. Besides, Derr said, permit revenue only amounts to a small percentage of the general fund budget.

"Our largest revenue source is sales tax, which

is something we monitor closely," she said. "However, the recent growth and new businesses have provided us the ability to continue to increase our level of service while decreasing our property tax rate. Even if residential growth continues to slow, I believe that we will still be able to keep increasing services while maintaining or decreasing the tax rate. Even though we have seen a decrease in the number of new subdivisions, we have seen an increase on the commercial side which impacts sales tax, which is again our largest rev-

fund." It's the same regarding debt as city leaders only consider approved subdivisions when looking at whether to increase the debt service tax rate, Derr said, and even then, they are careful not to get ahead of themselves.

enue source for the general

"Doing so has allowed us to approve three bond issuances over the last 10 years without raising the debt service

rate," she said.

The number of plats P&Z considers may be further affected by a new state law, Senate Bill 2038, that provides pathways for landowners to be released from a city's extraterritorial jurisdiction.

"This may decrease the number of plats that we see in the future," Jensen said during last month's council meeting. "But the law is being challenged in court. We don't know what's going to happen

Jensen is referring to litigation filed by Grand Prairie and other cities claiming the new law is unconstitutional.

Derr confirmed city staff has seen about three petitions from landowners requesting their properties, typically of a few acres, be released from Springtown's ETJ. She said those were approved without action as an "operation of law" and could be reversed in the future depending on the outcome of the litigation.

Miller, Killingsworth take places on Reno P&Z

Williams chosen as chairperson

MADELYN EDWARDS

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RENO — Reno has two new members on its Planning and Zoning Commission after last week's meeting.

On June 10, Interim City Secretary Rebekka Roberts administered the oath of office to Greg Miller and Whitney Killingsworth. Both applied to open positions on the commission, and then the city council assigned Miller to the P&Z seat left open after former chairperson Kevin Vandenberg was elected to council. Killingsworth was appointed to an open P&Z alternate position.

"I'm very thankful that (Miller) turned in an application," Mayor Pro Tem Shelli Swift said during the council's May 15 meeting. Swift and council member Jennifer Vogle added that they appreciated Miller's input and the information he shares with the council.

Miller, who has lived in Reno for more than four years, attends city meetings and used to serve on Reno's Water Task Force. He is retired from his construction and engineering career that

spanned over three decades. He also has experience with budgets, systems commissioning and testing.

"I feel that would help me a lot in evaluating some of the things within the city," Miller said about his skills during the May 15 council meeting. "I feel like I work well with others. I can listen to other people's opinions and use that information to make decisions."

When asked by the council, Miller said he applied for a position on P&Z so he could help the city. After the May meeting, Miller said he would work with the commission on developing goals for the year, and he is looking forward to serving with others on P&Z.

"This is exciting," he said. Killingsworth, who works at Springtown Elementary School, is a lifelong Parker County resident and has lived at her Reno home for about five to six years. Before teaching, she used to work with companies via the Occupational Safety and Health Administration doing public speaking and education.

Killingsworth was inspired to join P&Z to make a differ-



MADELYN EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Greg Miller takes his oath of office to serve on Reno's Planning and Zoning Commission June 10. Miller has lived in Reno for more than four years, attends city meetings and formerly served on Reno's Water Task Force. He is retired from his construction and engineering career that spanned over three decades.

ence in her community. "I would like to make an impact, hopefully be helpful," she said.

On P&Z, Killingsworth is looking forward to resolving matters through the democratic process and helping people feel like they are heard. She aims to make ob-

jective decisions, rather than those inspired by personal reasons.

"I would like to be able to do as much good as possible with causing the least amount of harm to everyone," Killingsworth said.

Also, during the June 10 P&Z meeting, the commission



Whitney Killingsworth is sworn in for the Reno Planning and Zoning Commission. Killingsworth, who works at Springtown Elementary School, is a lifelong Parker County resident and bought a home in Reno five to six years ago. Before teaching, she worked with companies via the Occupational Safety and Health Administration doing public speaking and education.

elected Justin Williams as its new chairperson and Charles Hale as the secretary. For his P&Z goals, Williams wants to see more developers bring their projects to Reno, which can grow the city's tax base and allow the city to expand its services.

"Bringing in people that

want to build, it just helps us, helps the city all together," he said.

Williams said he was pleased with the appointments made to P&Z. With his construction knowledge and other members' business smarts, he thinks everyone will work well together.

Publisher KIM WARE

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TXDOT FROM PAGE A1

the area. When TxDOT began reconstructing portions of SH 199 around the turn of the millennium, a temporary exit ramp was included from the northbound lanes of SH 199, which were elevated to accommodate an overpass, to Denver Trail. However, TxDOT removed that exit ramp around 2009, according to satellite images from Google Earth, when it reconstructed parts of the highway to the southeast. TxDOT Public Information Officer Val Lopez confirmed the ramp had been removed in a project that was completed by 2011.

Since then, both the public and all emergency services vehicles have had to exit northbound SH 199 near the Castle Hills neighborhood and travel on the Southeast Parkway frontage road at a limit of 40 mph to reach the

According to past Azle Mayor Pro Tem and former member of the Tarrant Regional Transportation Council Bill Jones, the prior exit ramp had only been temporary because the area it crossed was prone to filling with standing water during periods of heavy rainfall.

"To TxDOT's point of view, it was just a temporary ramp that they took back out and when they took it out it made everybody upset," Jones said. "As a member of TRTC I met with TxDOT every month. We had lots of conversations about how to get that bridge

back in place with the ramp. Why it was taken out and why it was temporary: apparently there is a creek or a stream or something that runs underneath it. (Also,) when they developed (portions of the highway) they took that bridge out because they had an entrance ramp right there with that bridge. They no longer today build highways with entrance merging exits right there on the highway. They don't like that combination. Put in the ramp, take this one out was their main thought process and the world got upset."

Currently, vehicles coming toward the hospital from SH 199 must either take the exit ramp 1.5 miles south onto Southeast Parkway or make a roughly 2-mile detour past Texas Health Azle via East Main Street and the frontage

In 2022, the highway saw 30,970 vehicles per day and had a 2% annual growth rate, according to TxDOT. As Azle grows, so will use of the hospital. By having an exit ramp from the highway directly in front of the hospital, utilizing existing rights-of-way, TxDOT officials hope to save emergency services precious minutes and cut down on time spent on lower-speed frontage roads.

Jones sees his time on the TRTC as a small part of a much larger push that has kept the slow wheels of TxDOT moving forward on the new ramp idea. Jones described remaining a constant voice in the ears of TxDOT officials and having to start over every few years after turnover and leadership



Bill Jones

changes. The biggest advocates for the project, Jones said, were a few key local Texas House representatives and judges who remained steady on pushing the idea to the Chairman of the Texas **Transportation Commission** and other officials through the years.

"Charlie Geren is the individual that really made most of this happen," Jones said. "Him and Judge Glen Whitley, who was the Tarrant County judge for many years, they were the two powerhouses that made the funding stuff possible ... TxDOT would have moved and went on. TxDOT's been a good partner, (but) they are difficult, and they have so much on their plate you have to follow up on a regular basis to make sure they don't overlook it."

Jones, who was replaced on the council by Derrick Nelson in 2022, plans to attend any future TxDOT meetings about the proposed ramp to voice his thoughts on the issue and other traffic prob-

lems throughout the city. "They need to do the environmental impact study, so they don't end up building an



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Kevin Howlett points out the planned off-ramp location on the project's schematics.

exit ramp across a stream," Jones said. "We always wondered why there was always water running across that exit ramp. Well, it makes sense, it was temporarily built over where water runs. I'm happy they're putting it back; it makes more sense. (Currently) the fire chief, ambulances, have to traverse that big ramp going west bound. During some times of the year, you don't want to climb that big old ramp when it's bad weather and it's a distance too, so (the new ramp) is needed and I'm verv pleased to see they're putting it back."

Before finalizing the project's design, TxDOT is looking for input and comments from residents living in the Azle area. Written comments

from the public regarding the project may be sent by mail to Matthew Berrones, TxDOT Fort Worth District Office, 2501 SW Loop 820, Fort Worth, TX 76133, or by email to Matthew.Berrones@txdot. gov. All comments must be postmarked or received on or before Thursday, June 20, in order to be a part of official meeting documentation. A pre-recorded and narrated video presentation is available online in English and Spanish by searching "SH 199 Ramp from Denver Trail to Skylark Drive" at www.txdot.

"Project public meetings are an important part of the design process," Lopez said. "Tuesday's meeting was well attended, and we received a good amount of feedback

from the public. The goal of this project is to increase safety, enhance mobility and improve access in the area, with specific assistance for those accessing the regional hospital. The citizens of Azle and the surrounding area will benefit from this enhanced access."

After reviewing the public response for the project, TxDOT will begin refining its preliminary schematics and finalize the design by winter 2025. The project is expected to begin construction in 2027 and take about six months to complete by spring 2028, according to transportation manager Kevin Howlett of RPS North America, a Houston-based engineering firm affiliated with the project.

LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Pursuant to Chapter 59, Texas Property Code, TMS STORAGE, LLC which is located at 9910 Hwy 199 W., Poolville, Texas 76487 will hold a public auction of property being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale will be at 10:00 a.m. on July 1, 2024 at 9910 Hwy 199 W., Poolville, Texas 76487. Property being sold includes contents in space of following tenant, TENANT'S COMPLETE NAME as shown on rental agreement: Michael Joseph Diaz Unit H87: misc. household.

24P205 NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hearby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of EARNEST STANLEY BYRD, DECEASED, were issued on May 29, 2024, in Cause No. 24p205, pending in the County Court, Parker County, Texas, to: SUZANNE MICHELLE BYRD and JAMIE LYNN McPHEARSON. 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. c/o W. Fave Murphree Attorney at Law 337 W. Main Street Azle, TX 76020 DATED the 5th day of June 2024. W. FAYE MURPHREE Attorney for Suzanne Michelle Byrd and Jamie Lynn McPhearson State Bar No.: 00792710 377 W. Main Street, Azle, TX 76020 Telephone: (817)270-0030; Fascsimile: (817)270-0085 fmlaw@earthlink.net

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE to satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale to be held at Azle Southest Storage, 1004 Southeast Parkway; Azle, TX at 10:30am 07-05-2024 Property to be sold to the highest hidder for CASH. Property includes contents of the following tenant:

Debbie Throgmorton:Household Items, Sierra Grizzard:Household Items

TO: ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, US FISH AND WILDLIFE, US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL

QUALITY, GROUPS, AND INDIVIDUALS

This is to give notice that the City of Springtown plans to submit an application to the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department for a Local Parks Program Grant. Pursuant to Executive Order 11988 and Executive Order 11990, to determine the potential effect that its activity in the floodway, floodplain, and wetlands will have on the human environment. If funded, Grantee shall complete playground, trail and other recreation improvements at Springtown Park which is approximately 33 acres in size. Project improvements to include installation of a playground, trail, pedestrian bridge, fencing, picnic tables, and other recreation improvements. Per FEMA Map 48367C0175E, eff. 9/25/2008, the improvements are located in floodway, 100-year floodplain, 500-year floodplain, and some improvements may be in the wetlands along Walnut Creek. The proposed project is located on property owned by the City of Springtown, Parker County, Texas.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplains and wetlands and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information about floodplains and wetlands can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in floodplains and wetlands, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Commenters are encouraged to attend the City of Springtown's public hearing on June 25, 2024 at 6:00 PM at the Springtown Court Annex building, 200 N Main Street, Springtown, Texas. If you are unable to attend, please submit your views and comments to Christina Derr, CDerr@cityofspringtown.com.

A: Todas las agencias interesadas, Pesca y Vida Silvestre de EE. UU., Cuerpo de Ingenieros del Ejército de EE. UU., Comisión de Texas sobre Calidad Ambiental, Grupos e Individuos

Este es para notificar que la ciudad de Springtown planea presentar una solicitud al Departamento de Parques y Vida Silvestre de Texas para una subvención del programa de parques locales. De conformidad con la Orden Ejecutiva 11988 y la Orden Ejecutiva 11990, determinar el efecto potencial que tendrá su actividad en el cauce de inundación, llanura de inundación y humedales sobre el medio ambiente humano. Si se financia, el concesionario deberá completar el área de juegos infantiles, los senderos y otras mejoras recreativas en Springtown Park, que tiene un tamaño aproximado de 33 acres. Las mejoras del proyecto incluirán la instalación de un área de juegos para niños, un sendero, un puente peatonal, cercas, mesas de picnic y otras mejoras recreativas. Según el mapa de FEMA 48367C0175E, vigente. 25/09/2008, las mejoras están ubicadas en el cauce de inundación, la llanura aluvial de 100 años, la llanura aluvial de 500 años y algunas mejoras pueden estar en los humedales a lo largo de Walnut Creek. El proyecto propuesto está ubicado en una propiedad propiedad de la ciudad de Springtown, condado de Parker, Texas.

Hay tres propósitos principales para este aviso. En primer lugar, se debe dar a las personas que puedan verse afectadas por las actividades en llanuras aluviales y humedales y a aquellos que tengan interés en la protección del medio ambiente natural la oportunidad de expresar sus preocupaciones y proporcionar información sobre estas áreas. En segundo lugar, un programa adecuado de avisos públicos puede ser una importante herramienta educativa pública. La difusión de información sobre llanuras aluviales y humedales puede facilitar y mejorar los esfuerzos federales para reducir los riesgos asociados con la ocupación y modificación de estas áreas especiales. En tercer lugar, por una cuestión de justicia, cuando el gobierno federal determina que participará en acciones que se llevan a cabo en llanuras aluviales y humedales, debe informar a quienes puedan estar expuestos a un riesgo mayor o continuo.

Se anima a los comentaristas a asistir a la audiencia pública de la ciudad de Springtown el 25 de junio de 2024 a las 6:00 p.m. en el edificio anexo del Tribunal de Springtown, 200 N Main Street, Springtown, Texas. Si no puede asistir, envíe sus opiniones y comentarios a Christina Derr, CDerr@cityofspringtown.com.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The City of Springtown, Texas, will hold a Public Hearing in regard to the submission of an application to Texas Parks & Wildlife (TPWD) for Local Parks grant funds. The public hearing will be held at 6 PM on June 25, 2024 at the City of Springtown Court Annex, 200 N Main, Springtown, Texas. The agenda will include discussion of the citizen participation plan; development of local housing, community development, and recreation needs; amount of TPWD funds available; explanation of eligible activities in the programs; use of past TPWD funds; citizens' views, proposals, questions, and comments; discussion of the application process.

Persons with disabilities that wish to attend this meeting should contact the City Hall at 817-220-4834 to arrange for assistance. Individuals who require auxiliary aids or services for this meeting should contact the City at least two days before the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

If you are unable to attend, please submit your views and comments to Christina Derr, CDerr@cityofspringtown.com.

AVISO DE AUDIENCIA PÚBLICA

La Ciudad de Springtown, Texas, llevará a cabo una Audiencia Pública con respecto a la presentación de una solicitud a Parques y Vida Silvestre de Texas (TPWD) para fondos de subvención de Parques Locales. La audiencia pública se llevará a cabo a la 6 PM del Junio 25, 2024 en Ciudad de Springtown Anexo de la Corte, 200 N Main, Springtown, Texas. La agenda incluirá la discusión del plan de participación ciudadana; desarrollo de necesidades locales de vivienda, desarrollo comunitario y recreación; cantidad de fondos TPWD disponibles; explicación de las actividades elegibles en los programas; uso de fondos pasados de TPWD; opiniones, propuestas, preguntas y comentarios de los ciudadanos; discusión del proceso de solicitud.

Las personas con discapacidades que deseen asistir a esta reunión deben comunicarse con el Ayuntamiento al 817-220-4834 para coordinar la asistencia. Las personas que requieran ayuda o servicios auxiliares para esta reunión deben comunicarse con la Ciudad al menos dos días antes de la reunión para que se puedan hacer los arreglos apropiados.

Si no puede asistir, envíe sus opiniones y comentarios a Christina Derr, CDerr@ cityofspringtown.com.

SPLASH FROM PAGE A1

groups coordinator Mieke Brock reassured her that everything was OK; the pool could always be refilled.

Those who are familiar with the FRC know it's a place for kids to be kids. Children are invited to explore and have fun. Even when they throw tantrums or misbehave, that's not a problem for the FRC's staff.

"If they make a mess, make a mess here (that) you don't have to clean up at home," Brock said, laughing.

Brock said parents are welcome to take breaks if their child has an issue by taking them outside for a while and then bringing them back. The FRC staff is also

equipped to manage and redirect if tantrums happen inside their building. Brock encouraged parents to have realistic expectations for activities. For example, she said no child is expected to sit perfectly still on their mat during Thursday's "Yoga Youngsters" for an extended period.

"I tell parents, 'Don't be discouraged. Just do what you need to do. Bring them back. Let them play,'" Brock said.

The FRC, located at 314 East Fifth Terrace in Springtown behind the school district administration building, is not a daycare center. As its name suggests, the FRC was established to provide resources to families in Springtown and beyond. One of the ways the center aims to help kids, parents

and caregivers is through its free group activities held year-round. The FRC's June and July calendar includes multiple activities spread Mondays through Fridays every week (except for June 20, 21 and 24 as well as July 28 through Aug. 3 and on holidays like July 4). The FRC hosts play dates at Azle's splash pad, arts and crafts, games and gardening lessons. The activities are geared toward younger children, but siblings are welcome to tag along.

The activity Lacy Heit and Connley attended was "Splash Days" at 10 a.m. Fridays at the FRC. The lawn outside the center included the kiddy pool filled with water as well as multiple smaller buckets of water with balls to throw or magnetic, plastic fish to catch.



MADELYN EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTE

Popsicle in hand, 2-year-old Arya sits on her grandmother's, Sharie Happel's, knee at the Springtown FRC's "Splash Days" June 14.

Popsicles were also given to children during the activity.

Last Friday was Connley's first visit to the FRC, which his mother learned about through Connley's speech pathologist. Their first time at the center was a hit for mom and child.

"That's why I'm really glad we were able to come today because I know he loves water, so I knew that he would really enjoy this," Lacy Heit said, adding that she and Connley plan to visit the center again.

Heit's goal in bringing Connley to the FRC is to allow him to explore a world outside his comfort zone and be social with some other children.

"That's hard for him, so that's something that we're working on," she said. "My plan is to socialize him, just to get him out of the house and do something different with others and experience something new."

Putting their children around other children is what some other caregivers also hope to gain while visiting the FRC, including Ashley Spotanski and her 2-year-old Casten who also attended Splash Days Friday.

"He's an only child, so he loves interacting with others, especially during the summer when he is not in daycare," Spotanski said.

Spotanski learned about the FRC when Casten was in early childhood intervention. Even though he has graduated from that, Spotanski said he is able to continue learning new skills by coming to the FRC. She also described the center as "family-oriented and inclusive."

The FRC didn't host "Splash Days" last year. Brock said the activity, along with the splash pad play date on Mondays, is a way for kids to play and cool off during the summer.

"It's safe for toddlers,"

Brock said. "And parents get to meet other parents."

Tri-County Reporter A5

Part of Brock's inspiration for the FRC's summer activities calendar this year was to benefit mothers of children as well and give them opportunities to help their kids learn through play.

"You meet people in the community; you make friends," Brock said. "It gives you that social connection, and we need that so bad."

A full list of the FRC's June and July activities can be found on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/ FamilyRC1 online. Brock advised that parents should bring sunscreen, drinking water and towels for the water-oriented activities that take place outside. They can also bring yoga mats, water and a snack for their child to the back-to-back activities of gardening and yoga on Thursdays, though yoga mats for the kids can be borrowed

at the FRC.



MADELYN EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Casten Spotanski, 2, shows and hands off the plastic fish he caught with his magnetic fishing rod. Casten's mother brought him to the Family Resource Center in Springtown for some watery fun last week.

Spotlight on BUSINESS



Hope's Bazaar and Future, Hope and Healing Center to host casino night fundraiser

Creating a future free from abuse

Hope's Bazaar is downtown Azle's upscale resale boutique located at 141 W. Main Str., next to The Glow Bar and Birdie Bridal. The mission of the boutique is to provide funding to Future, Hope and Healing Center, a local nonprofit organization working to support women who are leaving a life of domestic abuse.

Since January, FHHC and Hope's Bazaar have held a number of fundraisers for the creation of a future domestic violence and abuse shelter in Azle. This push has been dubbed Operation Safe Shelter by the organization's leadership.

On June 27, the organization plans to hold a casino night at the Crystal Oaks Event Center, 6925 Confederate Park Road in Fort Worth from 5:30-9 p.m. A \$25 ticket for general admission includes food, non-alcoholic drinks, one beer/wine ticket and \$500 in casino chips. The event will feature roulette, Blackjack, craps, Texas Hold 'em, live entertainment, raffle prizes and more. Winnings for the night can be turned in for tickets to enter a raffle and win a number of different prizes.

Food will be provided by Caitlyn's Catering. The event is country casual dress. Prospective sponsors are encouraged to email sd@fhhc.charity for additional opportunities. All sponsors will receive recognition from FHHC at events and on social media. Sponsorship levels with a variety

of perks range from \$1,000 to \$5,000 and are as follows:

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

- All In: Event Sponsor \$5,000High Roller: Craps Table: \$750
- High Roller: Craps Table: \$750 • The Gambler: Black Jack Table: \$500
- Gettin' Lucky: Roulette \$500
- Royal Flush: Texas Hold 'Em Bonus \$500
- Drink Up: Alcohol \$1,000

According to posts made on the organization's Facebook page, "All in" sponsors will receive four tickets and \$10,000 in casino chips. "High Roller" as well as "The Gambler," "Gettin' Lucky," and "Royal Flush" sponsors will receive two tickets and \$5,000 in chips. "Drink Up" sponsors will receive four tickets and \$5,000 in chips.

The main goal of Hope's Bazaar and FHHC is to one day be able to provide a secure shelter for women who have nowhere to go once they leave their abuser. The support of the community is the key to being able to do just that, whether through shopping at Hope's Bazaar, or donating to Future, Hope and Healing Center directly.

Follow Hope's Bazaar on Facebook to find out about daily sales and events. They are open Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For questions about donations or more information about FHHC, call 817-929-1866.





Monday - Friday

8:30 am - 6:00 pm



FOLLOW THE FLAG

CELEBRATING 31 YEARS

Azle Central Park

263 W. Main St. Azle • 7-10 PM

Food Vendors 6 pm - 8 pm

(while supplies last) **Live Music & Fireworks Show**

Misting Tunnel • Tea & Water

Snow Cones • Cotton Candy

Big Dill Pickles • Hot Dogs

And much, much more!

Follow the Flag is an annual tradition for the Azle Area that provides a safe, family friendly atmosphere in which to celebrate

the 4th of July, our Freedom, our Country,

our Community and our faith!

Allergy • Pediatrics • STIs • Senior Care
Work Comp • X-Rays • Injuries

7 DAYS A WEEK School and DOT Physicals

OBITUARIES

Karen Gayle Jett

1956-2024

ourselves.

She is our gift that is loved

She will be met in heaven

Foster; older brother Kenneth

enormously and will be

missed in equal measure.

by her father, Kenneth Lee

Foster; her mother, Marie

Lee Foster Jr., and younger

Left in this world to cel-

ebrate her strength and un-

Her loving husband, David

Wayne Jett; daughter, Bailey

Marie Verrett; son, Jacob Lee

Iett: numerous beloved niec-

es and nephews, her flock at

Azle Christian Church and

countless lifelong friends.

wavering resilience are:

brother Kevin Edward Foster.

Karen Gayle Jett, born

on March 9th, 1956 in Fort

realm on May 29, 2024 at

9:41 p.m. after valiantly en-

during complications that

accompanied several pul-

monary issues and a lung

Friends and family, please

join us for a memorial service

at 12 pm Saturday, June 22nd

at Azle Christian Church to

celebrate the life of Karen.

In lieu of flowers, please

consider making a donation

Karen experienced life to

She enjoyed creating mem-

in honor of Karen to your

favorite animal rescue or

orable moments with her

family, being outside - espe-

cially in her beautiful yard or

on the lake listening to music

with her husband, sharing

her infectious laughter with

friends (or a stranger!) and

sweet pets that found their

way into her life over the past

She taught those of us that

call her wife, mother, "Betty",

friend, daughter, sister, cous-

in, niece, aunt, and "partner

in good times" that kindness

showing love to the many

transplant.

shelter.

the fullest.

68 years.

Worth, Texas, left this earthly

Dennis Wayne Hall

1956-2024

Dennis Wayne Hall, 68, passed away at home with his wife by his side, Monday, May 20, 2024 in Springtown.

Memorial Service is at 1 p.m., Saturday, June 29, at Christway Baptist Church in Springtown.

Dennis was born April 7, 1956 in El Paso to Billy and Lela Firsbie Hall. He lived in Fort Worth until he was 18 years of age and joined the U.S. Army, serving his country 30 years until retirement. He then worked as a security guard for C.D. Hartnett

Company in Weatherford. Dennis was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Steve, and sister, Debra.

He is survived by his wife, Ida Luke; daughter, Jennifer of Germany; and



son, Joseph, of Fort Worth; three grandchildren, three great-grandchildren; a sister, Pam; a brother, Bill, and four stepchildren.

> The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday, June 20, 2024

George Douglas Baker, Sr. 1949-2024

George Douglas Baker, Sr. received his Heavenly reward on Sunday June 16, 2024.

Visitation is from 6-8 p.m. Thursday June 20, 2024, White's Funeral Home, Springtown.

George was born Nov. 18, 1949 in Fort Worth; son of Kenneth and Margaret (Helm)

He met the love of his life, Amy Lindquist and they were married on May 25, 1982. They would go on to spend over 42 happy years together raising their family.

George proudly and bravely served his country in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam era. He would serve in Japan, Korea, and the United States. Following his military career, George would go on to work for 26 years for Lockheed Martin (previously General Dynamics) until his retirement. He served as a crew chief and would specifically work on the F105, F111, F4, F16, F15 and F22 programs.

George had a love for classic cars, and was an active member of the Parker County Cruisers for many years. He and his wife, Amy, were both lifetime-members of the Wise

James R. Plowman

Norma Plowman

913 N. Elm St.

Weatherford, TX 76086

www.galbreaithpickard.com

1-800-593-2747

817-594-2747 • FAX 817-596-7803



They loved to travel, and this included frequent trips to the casino.

He was a Christian who loved both his God and his

He is preceded in death by his parents; and one brother,

Linde Rogers (John); George Douglas "Doug" Baker, Jr. (Shanea), and Margaret Cox (Shannon); 13 grandchilsister, Sandra Howeth; and a host of extended family

The Tri-County Reporter,



Kenneth Baker, Jr.

ing wife, Amy Baker; children, dren; 15 great-grandchildren;

Thursday, June 20, 2024

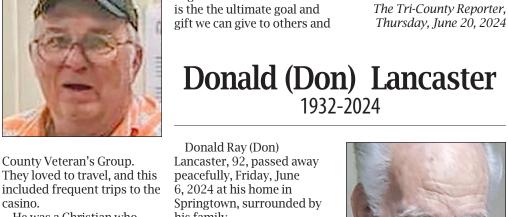


family very deeply.

Survivors include his lov-



members and friends.



his family.

Funeral Service was at 11 a.m., Monday, June 17, 2024 at Alexander's Midway. Burial: Veal Station.

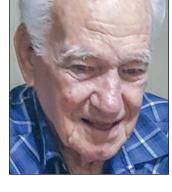
Don was born January 1, 1932 in Kennedale to Paul and Birdie (Sitchler) Lancaster.

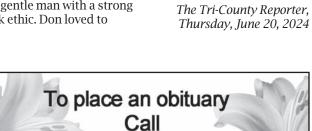
He is preceded in death by his parents; wife, Betty Lancaster and son, Michael. Don's parents moved to Springtown when he was four years old and settled the family farm where Don grew up and lived the rest of his life. He attended Azle High School graduating in 1950. Shortly after he married the love of his life Betty, and they were married for 42 years. Don served proudly in the Army during the Korean War and later owned a waste management company for many years. He was a kind and gentle man with a strong work ethic. Don loved to



take trips with Betty in their motorhome.

Don is survived by his son. Steve Lancaster and wife Melody; grandchildren. Steven and wife Krista Lancaster, Michael Lancaster, Colton Lancaster and wife Brittany and Shawna; greatgrandchildren, Christopher. Zane, and James, numerous nieces, nephews and extended family. He will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved him.



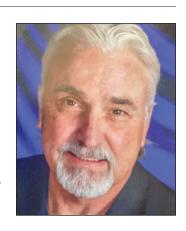


Richard Michael Talbot 1954-2024

Richard Michael Talbot, 70, went home to be with the Lord, Wednesday May 29, 2024 at home with his loving and devoted wife Connie by his side.

A celebration of life will take place Saturday, June 22, 2024 at 11 a.m. at First Methodist Church of Azle. Family requests no flowers or plants. Memorial contributions may be made to a charity of your choice. He was born January

17,1954 in Washington DC to Louis Lester and Helen Beatrice (Knopp) Talbot. Rich grew up in Ft Worth and after marrying settled with his bride in Weatherford Texas, where he ran a successful landscape business while owning and managing several rental properties. A skilled handyman, Rich's interests included over two decades of playing percussion in church praise bands, hiking, skiing, and a passionate love of classic Mustang cars. His easy-going nature, down-toearth pragmatism, infectious sense of humor, coupled with his readiness to help those in



need was a blessing to all. Rich was preceded in death by both parents, sisters Ann Marie Talbot, Margret Mary (Talbot) Spain and brother John Anthony Talbot.

Left to cherish fond memories are his loving and devoted wife of 44 years, Connie Talbot, and brothers Ralph Talbot (Diana Riesen), Tom Talbot (Jerry Ann), Bill Talbot (Stephanie), and James Talbot (Lori) along with numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and a wealth of friends.

> The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday, June 20, 2024

To place an obituary





817-444-3211 • www.whitesfuneral.com

TRI*COUNTY REPORTER 321 W. Main Street, Azle

817-270-3340 tricountyreporter.com

... ATTEND THE CHURCH OF YOUR CHOICE THIS SUNDAY

817-270-3340

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 Sunday School......9:30 AM 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** Rev. Joshua Lowrance 1020 S.E. Parkway, Azle **817-237-4903** Sunday School......9:30 AM Morning Worship......10:30 AM Wednesday Evening......7:00 PM **COMMUNITY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH** Pastor - Alton Davis 817-521-4510 1405 Reynolds Rd., Azle 817-444-7117 Directions: 730 N. to 1542 .5 mi. right on Cardinal, left on Reynolds

Sunday School......9:45 AM

Morning Worship......11:00 AM

Sunday Evening6:00 PM

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) Sunday Worship Service10:00 AM Wednesday......7:00 PM **CROSSROADS BAPTIST CHURCH** Pastor - Jon Baker Transportation Available

AZLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

Corner FM 730S & FM 1886 817-755-0279 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

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 Sunday11 AM (Spanish) Daily Mass (M, T, Th, F)8:00 AM Wednesday Mass Religious ED 6:30 PM

Confessions Sat 4 PM **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 Wed. Bible Study......7:00 PM SILVER CREEK METHODIST CHURCH Pastor: Bill Killough

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA 4795 E. Hwy 199 - Reno 817-221-H0PE Follow us on Facebook for streaming services Sunday School......9:00 AM Traditional Service10:00 AM **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 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 Wed. Prayer Service......7:00 PM Life at the WORD Life Groups ... Various Times

THE WORD@LAKESIDE CHURCH OF GOD 9396 FM 1886 Fort Worth, TX 76135 817-237-5500

thewordatlakeside.com **Pastors**: Brandon and Kelly Bohannon Worship Pastor: Christen Moody Family Life and Young Adult Pastors: Jodie and Mark James, Kids Pastor: Katie Pearson, **Student Pastors**: Taylor and Sheridan Tomlin, Creative Directors: Logan and Carrie

Edwards, **Connections Coordinators**: Preston and Ashley Larrew Equip Sunday School @ the WORD .. 9:30 AM

Empower Worship @ the WORD.....10:45 AM Kids @ the WORD10:45 AM PreK @ the WORD10:45 AM Emanate @ the WORD (Special Needs Ministry)10:45 AM Nursery @ the WORD10:45 AM Young Adults @ the WORD6:00 PM

Wednesdays Adult Bible Class......7:00 PM The WORD Students (6th-12th grades)......6:30 PM

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

2200 Church Rd., Azle 817-444-1382

www.silvercreekmc.org

OBITUARIES

Norval Howard Hopkins 1944-2024

Norval Howard "Hoppy" Hopkins, 79, laid down his tools for the final time on June 14, 2024 at his home in Weatherford, TX.

The funeral will be a private event remembering Hoppy in the presence of close family. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the American Diabetes Association in his name. To share memories with the family, please email mason-leehopkins@gmail.com.

Hoppy was born July 3, 1944 in Ypsilanti, Michigan, and his life was marked by service to his country, skilled craftsmanship in his trade and love for his family.

Hoppy graduated from Azle High School in 1963. He played trumpet in the Stage Band, was a member of both the Science Slide Rule Club and Chess Club, ran track, and acted in the Junior Class Play. After graduating high school, Hoppy joined the United States Marine Corps where he honorably served from 1963-1970, attaining the rank of Lance Corporal. A master carpenter and versatile tradesman, Hoppy owned Hopkins Contracting where he built custom homes and patios. In fact, he built the family home where his children grew up. Hoppy will



be remembered for his love of telling a good story, his presence at local estate and yard sales, and spending time with his grandchildren every chance he got.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Howard Hopkins and Mildred Howard, and his siblings, Sharman Ansley and Adrian Howard.

He is survived by his siblings, Alton and Shelly Howard, his children Aris and Jamel Musa, Taylor and Kristy Hopkins, and Mason and Christina Hopkins, and his beloved grandchildren Emery, Silas, Amelia, and soon to be born grandson from Mason and Christina.

The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday, June 20, 2024

Native Plants Society to meet June 25

STAFF REPORTS

The Cross Timbers Chapter of the Native Plants Society of Texas will meet June 25 at Mount Pleasant School at 213 Raymond George Way in Weatherford.

The business meeting will start at 6 p.m., and the program will commence at 6:30 p.m. Native Plants Society of Texas State President Rickey Linex will present the program "Riparian Management, Why Creeks Act the Way They Do." This presentation goes into the relationships of riparian areas to the uplands that provide water to the riparian areas and the importance of good land stewardship for the maintenance of healthy creeks and rivers. The program will show several native riparian plants and discuss the strength rating of each plant as well as its wetland indicator rating which shows how much wetness a plant can tolerate. The group will discuss what goes wrong when vegetation and landform cannot support the excessive amounts of water provided to the creeks, say from overgrazing or urban growth, and how erosion results. The program will show how creeks can be restored by removing the hindrances that created the problem. A handout that lists riparian plants of North Central Texas, including their strength rating and wetland indicator rating, will be provided.



DUIGTO COLUBTECV DICKEVI INEV

Photo taken at the Dixon Water Foundation's Leo Ranch.

MURDER FROM PAGE A1

FROM PAGE AT

According to the release, officers found the body after they responded to a report of a "suspicious situation — unknown" in the 100 block of Ty Lane. The deceased body was identified as Treibly through tattoos known to the investigators. The investigation

then shifted from a missing person case to a homicide investigation.

In a joint investigation by the APD and Texas Rangers, Breshers was identified as the primary suspect. Undisclosed evidence permitted investigators to obtain an arrest warrant for Breshers for tampering with physical evidence. Breshers was arrested without incident and charged with murder as well as with tampering or fabricating physical evidence to conceal the identity of a human corpse. Breshers has a slew of offenses listed on the Tarrant County District Clerk's website going back to 1992. Breshers' prior charges include multiple instances of assault against a family member, theft and driving while intoxicated.

In a public statement, the Azle Police Department

recognized the Tarrant County Sheriff's Office's Crime Scene Investigations unit and the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office for assistance with the case. The Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office has not released a cause of death to the public at the time of writing.

Local authorities ask anyone with information regarding the investigation to call 817-444-3221.





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Reno moves to Stage 3 water usage restrictions

MADELYN EDWARDS

springtownreporter@tricountyreporter.com

RENO — As of Tuesday, June 18, the city of Reno is in a severe water shortage condition that requires usage restrictions.

On Monday, June 17, Mayor Hector Bas Ir. announced during the city council meeting that the city would start Stage 3 restrictions the next day. Notice of the restrictions was also posted on the city's Facebook page Monday evening.

"The city's main water storage tanks are at critical low levels, so we ask the citizens of Reno to remain vigilant with (their) water usage," according to the notice posted

Even-numbered, odd-numbered addresses each allowed to irrigate once a week

to Facebook.

These restrictions didn't occur because of a main line break but seem to be a sign of a seasonal water shortage, Public Works Director Chris Albright said.

"People should know by now that we go through this every summer." Albright said. "They should be pretty accustomed to it. I know we've got a lot of new people in the city, but their neighbors will tell them, 'Hey, they go through this every summer. Just limit your watering. You'll be

Multiple restrictions are in place because of the Stage 3 status, including limiting the number of days that residents and businesses that use city water are allowed to irrigate their lawns. Water customers whose addresses end with an even number can water 6-10 a.m. Mondays, while those with odd-numbered addresses may irrigate

6-10 a.m. Thursdays. Washing any kind of motor vehicle, including bikes, trailers, boats or planes, is prohibited under Stage 3 as well as filling or refilling

pools or using water in ponds or fountains, unless the water is needed to support aquatic life. City water customers are also not allowed to flush gutters or allow water to run off and be wasted.

Residents and other city water customers are also instructed not to water paved areas, buildings or structures unless doing so is necessary to relieve immediate health and safety hazards or for fire protection. The city's notice acknowledges that some home warranties require that foundations be watered, and

the city will allow that 6-10 a.m. Mondays and Thursdays.

Fire hydrants are not to be used unless for fire protection or by the city's public works department.

The goal of the restrictions is to maintain a water level of 18 feet in storage capacity, according to the notice. Albright said he would like to manage the shortage through the restrictions, though the city can get water from a neighboring entity if need be.

The city was previously under Stage 1 restrictions, which allowed outdoor watering for both even-numbered and odd-numbered addresses twice a week. Albright said the Stage 3 designation basically cuts the previous allowances in Stage 1 in half.

Albright said the water situation will be evaluated each week, but he expects the restrictions to last through August. Stage 3 may be lifted in early September.

"I'm hoping we don't have to go any higher on the restrictions," Albright said, adding that the highest level of restrictions is Stage 5, and that would not allow for any outdoor watering. "I'm hoping we can manage at (Stage 3) like we did last summer."

The restrictions are enforced by the code compliance officer. Albright said last year, warnings escalating to citations were issued to addresses that didn't comply with the water usage rules.

Azle Council tackles short term rentals, seeks legal advice

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

AZLE — Since April, short term rentals have been a frequent point of discussion in Azle City Council meetings. At a June 4 meeting, attorney Rachel Raggio, considered an expert on the subject, was called in to discuss the matter with council members. Azle resident Kenneth Bachelor first brought the issue to the council's attention during an April 16 meeting. Bachelor said an Airbnb located on his street was a constant source of overcrowding and noise, and alleged there were as many as 17 cars parked in front of the house on a recent weekend; the police had to be called at one point.

The listing described the location as being able to, "sleep up to 18 adults if you really needed to. There are also some smaller leather couches that could sleep children." In addition to the nine beds, the property lists a chaise lounge that can sleep one person as well as four large couches throughout the house. It costs about \$900 per night to rent the property.

In discussion, Raggio recommended against any attempts to outright ban short term rentals, saying the case law is not favorable to municipalities. Over the course of future discussions, attorneys and the city council hope to craft a balanced approach between property owners and city concerns of health safety

and welfare. "I also think, with the price of things going up more, investors are starting to buy houses versus individuals,' Mayor Pro Tem Randa Goode said. "They're just investments to people. I don't

want our citizens to be in a neighborhood where they're expecting some level of peace and then they've got this party house next door that's disturbing them."

With few hotel options in the city, Mayor Alan Brundrett sees the need for rental options like Airbnb and VRBO but has worries about overcrowding. One possible option the attorney proposed could limit the number of occupants allowed to stay in a property at a given time by tying it back to fire safety, property size and parking regulations. In

legislating short-term rentals, the attorney said there are many pitfalls and factors to consider.

Nothing is set in stone, but the city hopes to continue discussing the issue in future meetings, to craft rules that act as a "safety belt" for property owners and the city.

"We did have an elder guest there who lost a family member (her brother) and was in town to celebrate their life,' Windjammer Lane Airbnb property owner Jason Silzle said in an email response to the Tri-County Reporter. "So I remember on the cameras

asking her why I was seeing people come and go carrying plates of food. But the point is they would come in, drop something off, give condolences and leave, definitely something out of the norm beyond what we've had but also not what I would classify as a loud party. No noise violations, etc. ... but yes, a lot of cars at one point. In fact we have really had 99% great renters. Any hint of a party situation and I step on it fast, but even that is like 1 to 2% of renters."





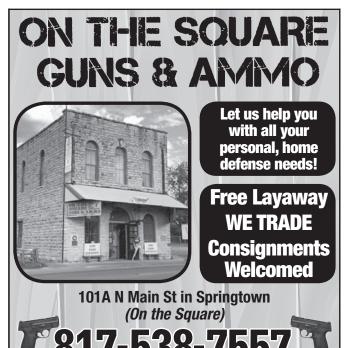












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Getting a foot in the door

Potential employees connect with employers at Springtown job fair

MADELYN EDWARDS

springtownreporter@tricountyreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — Since both her children have graduated, Springtown mother June Holt came to the citywide job fair to find a new outlet.

Multiple employers, both regional and hyperlocal, set up booths at Springtown's second annual job fair last week. City officials started the event last year to help connect employees with local employers.

Holt worked as a dog groomer for 10 years, but she eventually quit her job to raise her kids. Now that her kids have grown up, she has more time on her hands and is looking for a new job.

"I've got nothing to do, so I'm bored," she said.

Previously, Holt pursued a career in real estate for two years but found that it wasn't as flexible as she thought it would be.

"You have to dedicate 24/7. If you're not available, then they'll find somebody who is," Holt said. "You really have to be available all the

After seeing it advertised on Facebook, Holt came to the June 13 job fair to find something else to do. As she stood in line to talk with a representative from Weatherford College, she explained that she liked substitute teaching, especially in classes with hormonal and unpredictable middle school students.

"It was just fun to me to see their personalities coming out," Holt said. "I really enjoyed that."

If she could have any job she wants, Holt would love working with middle schoolers or pre-kindergartners on

a more permanent basis. Multiple companies and

entities, like the U.S. Army and Weatherford College, attended Springtown's job fair for a second year. MRBraz & Associates Human Resources Manager Carol Blackwood returned as well after seeing success at last year's event and meeting several qualified candidates.

"It's extremely important that you're staying connected to the community around you so that way, you're building the future of your company, Blackwood said. "You're filling a gap and a need locally.'

On the flip side, a few companies in attendance were new to the job fair, like Pipeline Plastics, which was hiring for positions in Decatur and Westlake.

"The company has been around for about 10 years, so it's really trying to kind of build a community name, not just necessarily in Decatur but kind of the surrounding areas," Pipeline Plastics Human Resources Generalist Brandy Moore said. "Everybody wants to stay close to home or as close to home as they can get, so we just want to make sure that they know we're out there."

Since the COVID-19 pandemic has died down, Moore has observed that there has been a lot more turnover in employment, so what Pipeline is looking for is employees who are willing to stick around.

"We really want retention; we want loyalty, and I would like to say that we kind of pride ourselves on that family atmosphere," she said. "We have a great team, and so we're just trying to get people who are wanting that."

From an education perspective, Weatherford College Workforce Education **Coordinator Brandy Grotts** said employers are often



June Holt talks with Weatherford College Workforce Education Coordinator Brandy Grotts during Springtown's job fair.



The company MRBraz & Associates attends the job fair in Springtown for a second year. Human resources manager Carol Blackwood and electrical manager CJ Story greet fair attendees at their booth in Springtown ISD's administration building.

seeking workers who can start right away and don't always want to wait years for them to finish their schooling.

"But they still want somebody who can show the potential to learn something and get training about a skill before they come to work for people or work for a business," Grotts said.

Therefore, Grotts has noticed the option of "stacking credentials," or starting off with earning a low-level certification, so a person can begin working or advance in their job and then continue to further their education as

they go. "You can actually work



Staff Sgt. Jameson McWhorter represents the U.S. Army at Springtown's second annual job fair June 13. He discussed recruitment with job seekers.

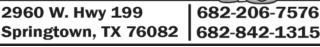
your way up all the way from (certified nursing assistant) or clinical medical assistant at Weatherford College," she said. "You could stack your credentials all the way up to a Bachelors of Science in nursing at Weatherford College."

Like everyone else, Holt has other options for job searching than coming to the fair,

such as utilizing websites like Indeed and ZipRecruiter, but she preferred coming to the

"Stuff like this is much more convenient, and you really get to meet the people and see what they're looking for," Holt said. "It's a lot more personable."







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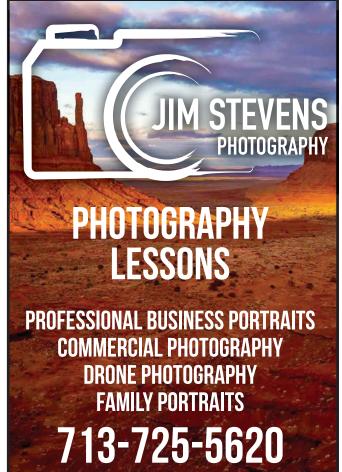


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Springtown Council serves lunch to city employees in show of gratitude



MADELYN EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORT

Springtown City Council member Richelle Pruitt hands out desserts to city employees at their luncheon. Springtown workers in all departments, including police, library, public works and administration, were honored for their service during the June 14 event.



Springtown Mayor Pro Tem Ted Martinez hands out awards to city employees for their years of service to the city at the June 14 luncheon.



Springtown Mayor Pro Tem Ted Martinez takes over the salad bar at the city employees' luncheon Friday and hands out salads to staff members as they pass through the serving line.



City council member Michele Chandler Kelley removes dirty plates from Springtown Police
Department's table during last week's employee luncheon. Council members Ted Martinez, Richelle
Pruitt and David Martin also attended the luncheon to provide service.





Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine and Malt Beverage Retailer's On-Premise Permit (BG) by Wonderland Ramen LLC dba Itadaki Ramen, to be located at 837 E Lamar Blvd, Arlington, Tarrant County, TX. Officers of said corporations are Chen Kuo Soong, President; Kuo Liang Chen, Manager.





Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a BQ Wine and Malt Beverage Retailer's Off-Premise Permit by JMASS PETRO INC., d/b/a POJO TRAVEL CENTER, to be located at: 936 HWY 199 WEST, SPRINGTOWN, PARKER COUNTY, TX 76082. Officer of said corporation is SULTAN OBEIDAT, PRESIDENT/SECRETARY.



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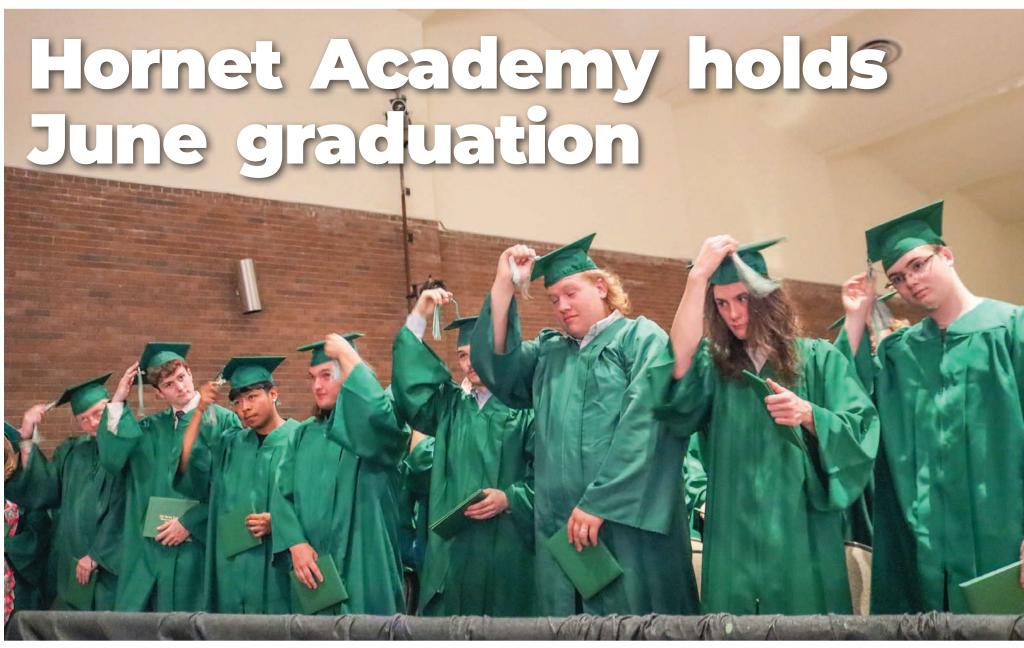
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ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Students turn their tassels as they become Azle Hornet Academy graduates.

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

AZLE — Officer Raymon Cannon has 26 years of experience in law enforcement; he holds a master peace officer's certification, is the training coordinator for the Parker County Regional SWAT Crisis Negotiations Unit and is regional vice president for the Texas Association of Hostage Negotiators.

But until Monday night, Cannon was not a high school graduate.

Since 2008, Azle ISD has allowed individuals without a high school diploma a second chance at graduation. Hornet Academy is a selfpaced online alternative to high school. Unlike a General **Educational Development** program, graduates from Hornet Academy get to walk the Azle High School auditorium stage after earning a bona fide high school diploma. As of the most recent ceremony, the program has graduated more than 800 students in biannual ceremonies.

Hornet Academy and

Disciplinary Alternative Education Program Principal Chris Hill was one of many to address students at a recent June 17 ceremony. This year, a place of honor was reserved for a special Hornet Academy graduate to address his peers.

Cannon joined Azle ISD as a student resource officer and teacher of a police interaction class at the DAEP campus at the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year. During a speech in front of the Hornet Academy grads, he spoke about what it means to set an example for his sons, his students and especially his young granddaughter.

"After attending the last Hornet Academy graduation, which I think was our largest group to date, I couldn't help but be inspired by the adults who had made the effort to come back and complete their high school experience and earn their diploma thought to myself that's got to be tough ... It's harder to go back and correct life's missteps and the longer you wait the harder it seems to be."

Cannon described how in his senior year of high school in 1986, he got too distracted by a girl to take his schoolwork seriously and he found himself two credits shy of graduating with his friends. Cannon would instead join the army and get his GED. Despite an amazing family and a job he loved, he said there was always an itch he could not scratch until now. On a program listing the ceremony's graduates, Cannon pointed out his own name third down on the left.

"That's my name and that's the name of an Azle Hornet Academy graduate," Cannon said. "It's never too late to accomplish something and it's never too late to start something.'

Cannon concluded by encouraging his peers to be a part of the best of humanity and expressing his pride in their shared accomplishment and hard work. three dozen other graduates walked across the stage to shake hands with Azle ISD Superintendent Todd Smith and receive their diplomas.



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Officer Raymon Cannon addresses Hornet Academy graduation attendees from the podium.

June 2024 Hornet Academy graduates

- Ericka Bills
- Caiden Boyd
- Raymon Cannon
- Ian Catano
- Tristan Checa Angulo
- Carter Cherry
- Jonah Collins
- Dane Crews
- Crowley James Douglas Foster Jr.
- Cadlie Gaskey
- Journey Guerrero
- Trinity Hart-Rhoads John Hatley Jr

- Kendylle Horton
- Jacob Ibanez
- Danielle Jama
- Kelcey Killinger
- Braden Langston
- Kenneth Light
- Ethan Main
- Nickolas McElhannon
- Hannah Moore
- Chloe Morrow
- Evian Nava
- Abraham Nevarez
- Christina Nichols
- Emma Oden
- Daniel Ortiz

- Faith Palmer
- Luis Rivera
- Saul Rodriguez Jr.
- Jessica Ryan
- Rachel Ryerson
- Danielle Shettlesworth
- Felicia Smith
- BrookIn Spencer
- Ethan Straw
- Marisol Torres
- Kynnedy West
- Carol Wills
- Nathaniel Wright Gavin Young



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Hornet Academy graduate Ericka Bills leads her peers as the first student to walk the stage that night, donning a customized "young, turnt, and graduated" green cap.



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER Faith Palmer shakes hands with Azle ISD Superintendent Todd Smith as she receives her diploma.



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Douglas Foster shakes hands with a representative of the Azle Education Foundation and accepts a scholarship before walking the stage to receive his diploma.

Revive UMC brings Vacation Bible School to Central Park

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

AZLE — Azle's Central Park amphitheater and surrounding areas were home to dancing, games and free Kona Ice for visitors of a Revive United Methodist Church Vacation Bible School Saturday, June 15. About 30 youth group and adult volunteers organized by youth pastor Kelsi Bernsen and married co-pastors Jenn and Todd Pick gathered in the park with children from the church for a day of fun in the sun.

The leaders of Revive, which often operates out of Cross Timbers Elementary and Azle Christian Church, took the event public with the goal of spreading the love of Jesus Christ to the community. In an interview with the Tri-County Reporter, Rev. Jenn Pick said that, for many people, a church building can be intimidating.

"We think that church can happen anywhere," Jenn Pick said. "This is God's creation. God made the sun that's shining down on us and all of this beautiful space that Azle has for us. So being able to be out in the park and be visible and to be a church outside the walls of a building is really an opportunity for us to make sure that everyone feels comfortable because a lot of people don't feel comfortable coming into a church building and we understand that."

Between water gun fights, free tacos, a Kona Ice truck, and no shortage of games, the event drew the attention of some children and parents who had been playing at the nearby Splash Pad and elsewhere in the park. Near the end of the event, youth leaders led kids in lessons at "Camp Firelight" about Jacob from Genesis and Philip and

the Ethiopian from the book of Acts. The central lesson from the event came from Psalm 56 and centered on putting one's trust in God when afraid.

"We love people, and all are welcome at Revive," Jenn Pick said. "We're an open and inclusive church and we want to make sure that everyone knows who we are and who God is in their lives. This is low pressure. Anyone can come over and see what we're about. Really what we want to do is love on the community because we love Azle."

Revive representatives will return to the park for the upcoming July 4 Follow the Flag event where they will man a temporary tattoo and glow jewelry table. The congregation also plans to hold a backto-school bash Sunday Aug. 11 at 11 a.m. with an obstacle course and lunch at Cross Timbers Elementary.



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

A small rainbow forms in the bottom corner as youth pastor Kelsi Bernsen is sprayed by kids from Revive UMC. "There was a lot of water, and it was a lot of fun with the sprayer thingies," attendee Sophie Dousay said.



Attendees have fun and try not to get wet during a water balloon toss game.



Revive kids march forward on a mission to spray their pastor.



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TRI*COUNTY REPORTER

DIVERSIONS

THURSDAY, June 20, 2024





COURTESY OF SPRINGTOWN ISD



Football linemen from Springtown (top) and Azle (bottom) will compete in Abilene Saturday in the ninth annual State Lineman Challenge at Hardin-Simmons University.

Local linemen going for title

RICK MAUCH

Special to the Tri-County Reporter

Legendary TV sports announcer Keith Jackson called them the "The Big Uglies." However, any football coach will attest it is a beautiful sight when linemen — both offensive and defensive — do their jobs to perfection.

Linemen will be in the spotlight Saturday, June 22, at the State Lineman Challenge at Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene. Teams from Azle and Springtown will championship.

The Lineman Challenge, which is in its ninth year, puts offensive and defensive linemen through a series of fundamentals and skills stations, including tire flips, bench-presses, obstacle

courses and tug-of-war. Participants from Azle are Devin Wingfield, Dylan Maines, D'Lathian Young, Conner Merrill, Ethan Alcala, Cole Johnson, Michael Gault, Case Moore, Leavy Owens and Brody Nelson.

Springtown participants are Hayden Nichols, Brett

Cannon, John Mejia, Breyden Kearby, Jack Melton, Jake Hudson, Aaron Street, Colton Phelps, Trent Wade, Julio Hernandez, Hayden Murrell, Robert Lewis and James Snyder.

"Participating in a state lineman challenge offers a unique and enriching experience for a group of athletes. This event fosters teamwork and continuity as athletes collaborate to tackle various physically demanding events," Springtown Lineman Challenge coach Alfredo Gutierrez said. "It enhances their physical conditioning, agility and strength through elite competition."

FLAUGHER AN ALL-STAR

Springtown triple jumper Mack Flaugher has been named a track and field all-star by the Texas Girls Coaches Association. The junior placed sixth at the Class 4A State Meet in early May after winning the 4A Region I Meet to qualify.

It was a third straight season for Flaugher to compete at state. She placed fourth as a junior with a careerbest performance of 38 feet, 3.75 inches.

She will be honored at the TGCA All-Star events Tuesday, June 25, at Lamar High School, 1400 W. Lamar Blvd. in Arlington. Orientation is at 2 p.m., demonstrations are at 6 p.m. and recognitions will be made at 8 p.m. For more information, visit the TGCA website http:// www.austintgca.com/ and click on the all-stars link.



JEFF PRINCE | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER **Mack Flaugher**

PLEASE SEE ROUNDUP | B2

King of the show birds

Springtown grad takes home top awards in Parker County show bird contest



MADELYN EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Springtown High School Class of 2024 graduate Carson Haynes nearly swept the Parker County show bird competition, earning both grand champion and reserve champion as well as Bantam champion and Standard champion.

MADELYN EDWARDS

springtownreporter@tricountyreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN -Springtown High School Class of 2024 graduate Carson Haynes finished his last Parker County Stock Show on a high note.

Haynes nearly swept the show bird competition, earning both grand champion and reserve champion as well as Bantam champion and Standard champion. He also made the sale and took home \$3,300 for his pig and

Haynes started taking agriculture classes in his freshman year and originally didn't have an interest in livestock showing. This was until former agriculture teacher Tony Pearson offered up a pig to be shown at majors during Haynes' sophomore year. He gave it a try and was hooked.

"I had that one (pig) for, I think, a month before I got

PLEASE SEE **BIRD** | B4



JOEY GARCIA | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

From left, newly hired Azle ISD band directors Matt Assis, assistant band director at Azle High School; Sebastian Martin, Forte Junior High assistant band director; and Zach Woolhouse, FJH head band director; and AHS head band director Greg Davis. Davis hosted a meet-and-greet event June 7 in the AHS band hall for the new directors.

Azle welcomes new band directors

JOEY GARCIA

sports@tricountyreporter.com

AZLE — Azle High School's and Forte Junior High School's band programs are rocking and rolling as they welcome three new band directors. Matt Assis will be AHS assistant band director. Zach Woolhouse takes the reins at FJH where Sebastian Martin will be assistant band

director.

as a band director. He graduated from Texas Christian University this year. Assis plays bassoon, saxophone

and euphonium. In 2023, Assis played in the Blue Devils Drum and Bugle Corps, 21-time Drum Corps International champions. DCI is a prestigious and highly sought after organization by band members from across the country.

Assis chose to be a band This will be Assis' first year director for his passion for music and desire to impact the world around him.

"I really love music and I wanted to make some sort of a difference," Assis said. "I kept looking around and didn't like what I saw from the world, from society ... and I was like, 'I want to make a difference somehow."

Assis chose AHS because he heard it was a tight-knit

PLEASE SEE BAND | B4

Changes coming to Texas high school sports

JOEY GARCIA

sports@tricountvreporter.com

AZLE — The University Scholastic League has decided to allow split divisions in the postseason for 1A-6A basketball, 4A-6A soccer, and 2A-6A baseball, softball and volleyball.

This means the top four teams in these sports will advance to the playoffs and there will be two separate championship brackets, which is the same format that 6A football currently uses. Under this format,

UIL decides to split divisions in postseason in five sports

Duncanville (Division I) and DeSoto (Division II) have each won back-to-back state football titles while residing in District 11-6A.

The UIL's Standing Committee on Athletics came to the decision at the Austin Marriott North in Round Rock June 11.

Azle High School athletic director Michael Sain notes

that he believes the UIL is advanced in its ability to create equity among the schools.

"I think this is a good thing for high school sports in creating equity" Sain said. "The UIL is probably one of the best governing bodies for high school sports in the entire country, if not the best, and take a great deal of pride in trying to create equity

where they can."

Azle Hornets baseball coach Stephen Smith likes the idea of more champions, meaning more players can reach the highest level.

"The decision gives you two state champions at each level which gives more kids an opportunity to win a state championship," Smith said. "Our district will stay the same and all seven teams are very capable of getting into the playoffs and making a run at each level."

Springtown High School athletic director Brian Hulett

growth in Texas but does not believe it will change much about how they go about sports in Springtown.

"They're just trying to equal and level the playing field for everybody," Hulett said. "It won't affect anybody until you get to the playoffs.'

SHS baseball coach Colin Crawford shared how the change was unexpected, but it does not change the baseball team's goals.

"I do think the UIL was trying to do something positive for everyone, so I'm good

believes it is a response to the with it," Crawford said. "The path to get to the playoffs will remain the same, so it shouldn't be a huge adjustment for us. We're excited

about next year." Next school year, the state tournaments will only consist of championship finals. The pre-determined dates and

sites for the state champion-

ships will not change. The UIL will also not be organizing pre-determined regional sites for regional tournaments.

ROUNDUP FROM PAGE B1

HIGH SCHOOL RODEO

Springtown's Colton Phillips led all competitors in the Texas High School Rodeo Association Finals, which concluded this past Saturday, June 15, in Abilene. He posted a seventh-place finish in bull riding.

Phillips' strongest ride was his first, on which he scored 77 points and was fifth after the competition's first draw.

Also in bull riding, Azle's Noah Lee was in first place after the opening draw with 82.5 points and was in third place after the two preliminary draws. However, he did not compete in the finals.

In pole bending, Heavenli Scribner of Azle was in third place after the first draw. She did not advance to the

finals, however. In that same event, Laurel Allred of Azle was in 11th place after the opening round but also missed the finals.

AZLE SOFTBALL

Four senior members of the Lady Hornets were honored as academic all-state by the Texas Girls Coaches Association. They are Kaylee Parrish, Brandie Phillips, Allison Smith and Morgan Terrell.

SWIMMING

Competing for the Weatherford Wild, Kayley Brekel of Azle won one event and placed second in two others in their season-opening meet recently. She was first in the 100-yard freestyle with a time of 1 minute, 7.33 seconds, second in the 50 free in 29.92 seconds and second in the 200 free in 2:36.48.

Also from Azle, Mavio Caldentey of Azle placed sixth in the Girls 13-14 50 backstroke with a time of 52.65 seconds.

The meet was originally set for June 8, but because of problems at the Weatherford pool it was postponed until June 10.

LAKE WORTH FOOTBALL

The Bullfrogs will host the Coach Chiaverini Football Camp June 28 from 10 a.m. to noon at Lake Worth High School, 4210 Boat Club Road. Registration begins at 9 a.m. and the cost is \$80.

The camp is designed for high school athletes hoping to play football at the college level. Northeastern State University (Oklahoma) head coach Darrin Chiaverini, who is entering his first season as the River Hawks head coach, along with his staff, will evaluate talent from this elite prospect camp. Scholarship offers

could be made on site.

To register, visit www.riverhawksfootballcamps.com.

PETERMAN IN FIRST SUMMER AS NEW LAKE WORTH AD/FB COACH

Todd Peterman begins his first off-season summer as the athletic director and head football coach in Lake Worth. Peterman came to Lake Worth after being the offensive coordinator in Duncanville, helping lead the Panthers to back-to-back Class 6A Division I state football championships in 2022 and 2023.

He was also formerly the athletic director and head football coach at White Settlement Brewer, where he led the Bears to the playoffs and a co-district championship during his time there. In addition, he was formerly offensive coordinator and assistant athletic director at

athletic powerhouse DeSoto. Peterman's coaching

honors include being named Coach of the Year by "Dave Campbell's Texas Football" magazine and by the Dallas Gridiron Club.

AZLE CAMPS

To register, visit https:// azlesports.rankone.com/ Website/Main and click on the camps link.

· Boys and girls soccer: June 24-27, Azle High School. Grades K-2, 5-6 p.m., \$40; grades 3-6, 5-7 p.m., \$80; grades 7-9, 6-8 p.m., \$80 Softball: June 24-27, AHS. Grades K-6, 10 a.m.-noon, \$75; grades 7-9, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., \$100

Volleyball: July 22-25, AHS main gym, 1-4 p.m., incoming grades 7-9, \$100 · Football: July 29-Aug. 1,

AHS football stadium, 6:30-8:30 p.m., incoming grades 7-9, \$60, includes T-shirt · Mini-Cheer: Aug. 24, AHS,

10 a.m.-2 p.m., incoming grades pre-K through 6. Cost is \$60 for silver level, \$75 for gold and \$150 for VIP (15 spots only)

SPRINGTOWN CAMPS

To register, visit https:// www.vancoevents.com/us/ eventlist/springtownisd. · Boys Basketball: June 24-26, Springtown High School gym, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., incoming grades 2-9, \$70 · Volleyball, session 1: June 24-26, SHS gym, 2-4 p.m., incoming grades K-9, \$70 · Girls Basketball: July 9-11, SHS gym, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., incoming grades 2-9, \$70 · Football: July 9-11, SHS indoor facility, 10 a.m.-noon, incoming grades 2-6, \$70 · Volleyball, session 2: July 29-31, SHS gym. Incoming grades K-6, 8:30-10:30 a.m.; incoming grades 7-9, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Cost \$70





IOFY GARCIA LTRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Pictured right, Logan Mask gives a thumbs up after he gathered lost tennis balls.

Young camp participants hit tennis balls off tees to practice their swings as coach Duston Shepherd looks on.



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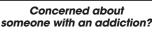
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College bound

Seven AHS baseball players commit to play ball in college

JOEY GARCIA

sports@tricountyreporter.com

AZLE — Seven Azle High School senior baseball players have signed their intention to play in college and one junior is committed to play but won't sign until he is a senior next school year.

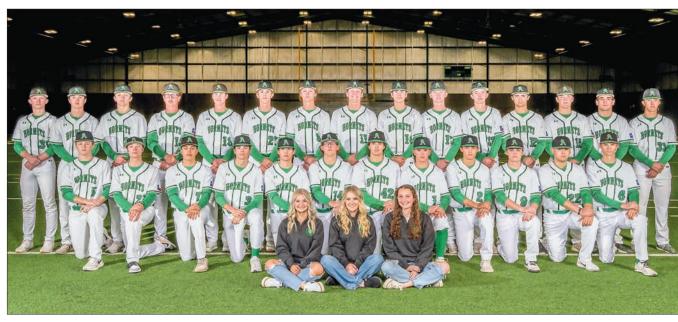
"I'm really proud of them," head baseball coach Steven Smith said. "Not just what they've done athletically, but I'm super proud of what they've done academically."

The AHS baseball program has seen tremendous success getting players to play in college. During Smith's nine-year tenure, the baseball program

has produced 63 players who have gone on to play in college, with 73 players considered academic all-state.

In 2023, 10 AHS players graduated and went off to play college baseball, three of whom were all-state players, and one who was a two-time all-state player.

Smith shared how he does his due diligence to help his athletes achieve their dreams to play in college, how he sends videos of the players to colleges and models practices after college baseball practices. Smith's desire to see his players succeed extends beyond the field, he emphasizes to them the importance



Back row from left, Samuel Lindahl, Jacob McGee, Cash Hunter, Ryland Liptow, Carter Landon, Jaxon Liddicote, Brice Watson, Austin May, Anthony Virag, Lane Springfield, Christopher Voelkel, Ty Bonnett, Tyler Vaughn, Garrin Graves and Mason Jennings. Middle row from left, Keagan Flynn, Chase Loftin, Ivan Perez, Jesse Hemmerling, Braden Sirkel, Christian Shepherd, Carsyn Syrus, Nathan Casperaites, Ethan Hadaway, Jacob Martin, Elijah Briseno and Cole Webb. Front row from left, Wakely Autry, Kaitlyn Caffey, Emily Smith.

of working hard in all aspects

"There's going to be 40 years of life after baseball," Smith said. "Baseball is important, yes, but your degree, your academics in high school, any college, they're the most important."

Jesse Hemmerling will attend Lyon College where he will play second base.

Cole Webb and Ivan Perez will attend Redlands College; both are pitchers.

Austin May and Christian Shepherd will attend Seminole State College; each of them will also play in the pitcher position.

Lane Springfield will attend Murray State University where he will pitch.

Anthony Virag will attend the University of Southwestern in New Mexico where he will play pitcher.

Garrin Graves will be a senior next year at AHS but is already committed to playing at Amarillo College, where he will play in the third base, short stop and pitcher positions. Graves was named the 2024 District Offensive Player of the Year.

Summer fun at tennis camp

Kids learn tennis skills at camp June 3-5



IOFY GARCIA LTRI-COLINTY REPORTER

Left: Azle tennis camp participants practice their spikes with tennis rackets in hand. According to tennis coach Connor Mason, last year the camp only had seven camp participants and this year there are 31. "For tennis in Azle, I think that's big," Mason said speaking about the growth in camp attendance.



JOEY GARCIA | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Right: Saylor Diaz keeps her eye on the ball as she gets ready to spike it. Diaz was just one of the many new faces at Azle tennis camp this year. Assistant tennis coach Jared Ewing shared that he believes the growth interest in tennis is because they have been winning so much. The AHS tennis team won bidistrict two years in a row in the fall and qualified two girls in regionals last spring.



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FROM PAGE B1

my second one." he said. "Then it just continued growing. It never stopped."

In just a few years, Haynes has shown all kinds of animals, everything but chickens and rabbits, he said. Pigs are his favorite animal to raise. Some people may not like their pig-headedness (pun intended), but for Haynes, their attitude is not a problem.

"They are stubborn, but I guess it's the personality because I can be stubborn, too, so I get it." Havnes said. "All my pigs, we've just always worked really, really well together."

But Haynes didn't exactly start off loving show birds. Last year, Haynes gave his Old English Game Bantam to his friend Gracie Wilk, who went on to win the grand champion title with the rooster. Haynes had decided that raising show birds wasn't as fun as he thought it would be, but not too long after he gave up the rooster, he regretted the decision.

"I was like, 'Man, I shouldn't have given you my bird,' but we're friends," Haynes said about Wilk. "We were just messing around, and we're happy to see each other do well.

Haynes changed his mind about showing birds and decided it was fun after all. This year he entered six show birds and two were winners. Haynes' Old English Gamebird Rusty won grand champion and Bantam champion. Another one of his show birds, Petey, won the reserve champion and Standard champion. While he was confident of Rusty and Petey going into the contest, Haynes said he did not expect to almost sweep the competition. He described his success as exciting and worth the effort he put in.

"I probably spent 20-30 hours studying different feeds until I found something that I thought would work and that I liked and thought it had everything it needed to," Haynes said. "It just felt good that everything finally got to pay off."

Haynes also placed third in class in the medium weight market goat competition and first in class in the market swine contest. He sold the goat for \$1,300, and the pig for \$2,000.

Selling off animals used to be tough for Haynes. He even cried the first time it happened. Now, he has learned to set emotional boundaries.

"I know it's part of it," Haynes said. "If you ask my mom, she doesn't go in the barn because she gets too

close to them, and they leave, erything. So, it's nice to have and she's upset. But I've learned to set that separation of this is not my dog. This is a pet that has a purpose."

Haynes plans to save the money he earned from this year's show and eventually use it to start a sow herd and show farm. Until then, he will attend Cisco College for a degree in livestock management. He also wants to earn his teaching certification and is considering a career in education. Teaching is on Havnes' mind because of his former teacher Mr. Pearson, who changed his life by introducing him to showing livestock.

"Tony was the role model and everything, and he is what got me to do what I'm doing," Haynes said. "I kind of want to give back and do what he did for me for other kids.'

Haynes wants to continue showing birds and work toward American Poultry Association master breeder status, but he plans to take a break on raising other animals to focus on his studies in college.

"I've had pigs year-round since sophomore year, summer and everything," Haynes said. "We've gone on vacations but not very many, and if we do, it's just for a couple of days because we got to come back, take care of ev-

a little more free time now. I'm going to miss it, absolutely, and I think it'll be perfect timing once I graduate college, that I'll have the break I wanted, and I can start back up and start raising them."

Haynes' mom, Lacy Bushaw, said showing livestock and being involved in Springtown FFA transformed her son from someone who was too shy to order food at a restaurant to the young man he is today. Bushaw choked up while gushing about her newly graduated son

"He's grown into an amazing, amazing young man," she said. "He helps everybody in the barn. He's very kindhearted and anybody that calls, he's there; he goes and helps everybody. ... He's going to be a great teacher or whatever he decides.'

Haynes agreed with his mother's assessment of the progress he's made through agriculture. He wouldn't have been the same without

"I used to be the kid that just sat in the corner and didn't say anything, and it put me out of my shell," he said. "I'm so much more outgoing, and I've met so many good people through it, and I couldn't see myself in any other way now."

"Music demands upper-level thinking"

ZACH WOOLHOUSE

Band Director, Forte Junior High

BAND **FROM PAGE B1**

community, like a family, which aligned with what he cared about and was looking for in a school.

Woolhouse has been a band director for the past nine years at Hillwood Middle School in Keller ISD. He graduated from Richland High School, then from college at the University of Houston where he specialized in saxophone.

Woolhouse shared how the educators in his life motivated him to become a band director. In his freshman year, he was unsure if he wanted to continue playing in band until RHS band director Bill Watson pulled him aside and told him how valuable he was to the band.

Woolhouse has many stories of students he has taught over the years becoming very successful. One story he shared was about a seventh-grade trombone student who started out in the lowest performing band and throughout her career, moved to the highest performing band in middle

school. She then played in the highest performing band in high school, attended the famed Interlochen Arts Academy in Interlochen, Michigan, and is now a student at The Juilliard School in New York City.

Woolhouse believes learning to play an instrument is good for kids because it teaches delayed gratification. He says kids are used to figuring things out too quickly, like video games, but learning to play an instrument takes time and effort.

"Music demands upperlevel thinking," Woolhouse said.

Woolhouse runs a saxophone camp called the Young Saxophonist Institute for middle and high school students in the Fort Worth, Dallas and Houston areas.

Woolhouse married his wife, Sarah Woolhouse, at The Orchard Event Venue & Retreat in Azle in 2018. His wife will work at Silver Creek Elementary School next school year as a teacher. The couple has two children and are excited to raise their family in the city where their family started.

ZED by Duane Abel

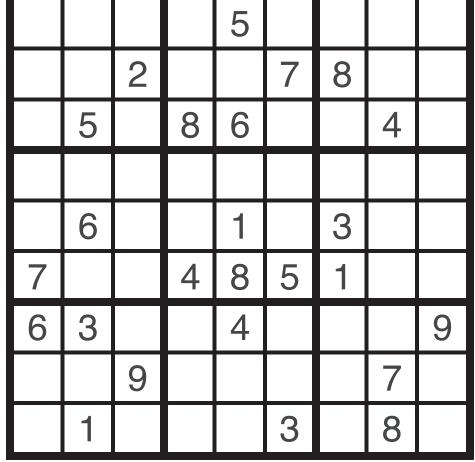






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9	4	2	1	3	7	8	6	5
3	5	1	8	6	9	7	4	2
1	2	8	3	9	6	4	5	7
5	6	4	7	1	2	3	9	8
7	9	3	4	8	5	1	2	6
6	3	7	5	4	8	2	1	9
4	8	9	6	2	1	5	7	3
2	1	5	9	7	3	6	8	4

WORD SCRAMBLE Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to the sea. SHFI

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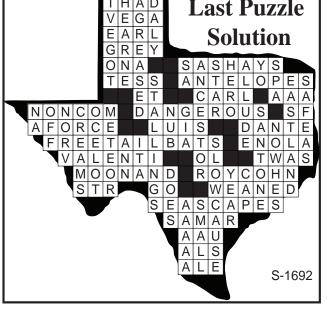
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- __ __ flies"
- on U.S. 96
- 31 TX-born actress,
- tycoon (2 wds.) 34 TX Jordan Spieth
- 35 dir. from Elgin to
- 39 fix a mistake?

- a noted dancer
- 47 stomach issue caused by stress
- 48 TXism: "she

- 37 "It's _ ___!"
- dog stink?" 12 this Tom was a

- 42 OJ's judge, Lance 43 TXism:"wipe the
- 44 this TX-born Alvin was
- 45 Mavericks rival, the

- him like a hot horseshoe
- 50 window shelves 51 TXism: "fits like scales _
- fish" 52 TXism: "_ __ it be" 53 TXism: "red

(liquor) **DOWN**

- 1 TXism: " _ to rope him" (large man)
- 2 cheerful and jolly 3 easternmost city 4 in Fisher County on highway 70
- 9 TXism: "dainty as bride' 10 TXism: "___ _ lick"
- (none) 11 TXism: "does a wet
- Traveling Wilbury with TX Roy (init.)
- 13 TXism: "she threw 14 TXism for "I declare" (2 wds.)
- 15 UT was 2015 football champ 16 TXism: half a
- mind to" (inclined) ___, sage, rosemary & thyme" 20 TX "_ Twins"
- 26 Austin PBS station sang on Lawrence Welk show 27 upcoming series for 22 TX Larry McMurtry was able to _ Harper: "

52

53

25 TXism: "_

- many other authors 28 24 init. of Houston's Olajuwon before he was Hakeem
- 30 "put shut up' 33 teacher labor union 34 instrument in the Dallas Symphony 35 TXism: "_ a judge in court"

37 branch of an artery

P-1693

- 38 TXism: "_ (left quickly) (very angry) 40 early Texas attacks:
- Indian TX William Jackson 41 TXism: "walking dandruff"
- Full" (Netflix) 44 Europe mountains 47 "night owl" (2 wds.) _ rest" (buried) 49 in Young County 29 big farm buildings on highway 79







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