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Bartlett receives coveted Lew & Sandy Shaffer Award

ZACH FREEMAN

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AZLE — Each year since 2012, the Azle Area Ministerial Alliance has presented the Lew and Sandy Shaffer Award to an individual or couple who has made significant contributions to the community while displaying the love of Christ in their daily walk. Presented during the AAMA's annual Follow The Flag event each July 4, the award honors the late Lew Shaffer, co-founder of Son Shine Ministries and founder of Follow The Flag, and his devoted wife, Sandy. The couple was the first recipient of the award in July 2012.

Terri Bartlett, director of the Good N.E.W.S. Living at Home Program, received the

2024 Lew and Sandy Shaffer Award, which was presented by AAMA President Alton Davis. For more than 20 years, Bartlett has run the Good N.E.W.S. nonprofit organization, which offers services and resources like transportation, friendly visits, light household chores and more to allow Azle-Springtown area seniors to more comfortably age in place.

"What a surprise," Bartlett said in an email to the Tri-County Reporter. "Receiving such a special award is genuinely humbling, and knowing Lew and Sandy Shaffer makes it all the more special. Living in a community that values Christlike service and supports the many ministries

PLEASE SEE **BARTLETT** | A3

JOEY GARCIA | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

AAMA President Alton Davis presents the Lew and Sandy Shaffer Award to Terri Bartlett with AAMA board member Stoney Stonebraker by her side.

Azle student becomes beauty pageant royalty

ZACH FREEMAN

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AZLE — Most little girls dream of being a princess. For one incoming Eagle Heights Elementary first grader, that dream has come true.

Just one year after competing at her first National American Miss event, Vanessa Webb now represents her state in the 4-6 age category as Texas Princess. On top of her win, Webb balances her time between

Vanessa Webb wins Texas Princess, eyes National American Miss

competitive cheerleading at Encore Championships, the TCC Cheer Connection, tumble, dance and Primrose Summer Adventure Club.

"She has a very busy schedule as a 6-year-old," the child's mother said in a family interview with the Tri-County Reporter.

Webb beat 60 other girls in her division to take home

the coveted Miss Texas sash and tiara at the Royal Sonesta Hotel in Houston on June 15. This fall she will compete at the National American Miss contest in Orlando, Florida, where she will also visit Disney World. The Webb family has lived in the Azle area for four-and-a-half years, moving from Keller. Her time at home is spent choreographing dances to Taylor Swift songs with her dad, rooting for the Oklahoma University football team, where she hopes to one day be a cheerleader, swimming and spending time with her dogs, cat and rabbit. Her favorite subjects in school are math and reading.

Webb's pageantry journey began last year after she was anonymously invited to a contest and decided she wanted to try it.

"I was excited to jump into it," Vanessa Webb said.

In her first year she placed in the top 12 at the state contest. Her parents, Don and Tracie Webb, while immensely proud, never expected to be in their position.

"We are not pageant people," Don Webb said. "There were some moms up there, you see them schmoozing with the judges and the people that run the thing

PLEASE SEE **ROYALTY** | A9



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Don, Tracie and Vanessa Webb at the Tri-County Reporter news office.



MADELYN EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Springtown Mayor Greg Hood explains the city's plan to seek grant funding from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to build an all-inclusive playground during the annual state of the city address at the Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce's June 27 luncheon. In his speech, Hood also touched on growth in the area, the city's decreased tax rate and efforts to replace city water meters, repair manholes, rehabilitate streets, improve the water treatment plant and bolster the police department.

Springtown to apply for grant to build all-inclusive playground

MADELYN EDWARDS

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SPRINGTOWN — For the third year in a row, Springtown city officials are seeking a state grant to improve the public park, but this time, they have a new plan.

At its June 25 meeting, Springtown City Council authorized applying for a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department grant to build a playground that will be inclusive of children with dis-

City officials will know in February if Springtown receives grant

abilities. The playground is designed to be used by kids up to age 12, both with and without special needs.

Some council members and city staff talked about the potential project with excitement. City Administrator David Miller claimed the playground may attract people to Springtown and serve as an example of what an all-inclu-

sive playground should be.

"It's what I believe is going to probably be one of the most premier all-accessible playgrounds in this area," City Administrator David Miller said during the meeting.

Adding to Miller's comments, project planning

PLEASE SEE **GRANT** | A3



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Local, zone(s) 2 sections, 20 pages

INSIDE

News - A1 - A6, A10 - A11 | Obituaries - A7 | Diversions B1 - B4 | Classifieds B12 - B14

6 99232 00001 0



Future, Hope and Healing raises funds
betting on the kindness of people's hearts

ZACH FREEMAN
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AZLE — Future, Hope and Healing Center hit big and pocketed its winnings at a recent fundraiser event and casino night. The domestic violence resource group hosted the event at Crystal Oaks Events venue on Confederate Park Road June 27. Ticketholders and sponsors supported the group's efforts in raising funds for a future domestic violence shelter in Azle, dubbed Operation Safe Shelter. "Casino Night was a fun and successful event, and we will certainly do this again," FHHC Director Sally Daniels said in an email to the Tri-County Reporter. Daniels estimates the group sold 84 tickets and gave another 22 to sponsors. With this, the silent auction, "whiskey wagon" and other revenue streams the event generated \$9,774. With the \$2,410 orga-

nizers spent to produce the event it ultimately generated \$7,364 in profits. A \$25 ticket for general admission included food, nonalcoholic drinks, one beer/wine ticket and \$500 in casino chips. The event featured roulette, Blackjack, Craps, Texas Hold'em, live entertainment, raffle prizes and more. Winnings for the night could be turned in for tickets to enter a raffle and win a number of different prizes. This fundraiser is just one of many the organization has held in the past year to raise money for its cause. The nonprofit's leadership estimates it will need about \$1.6 million to purchase its desired property, build the shelter and run it for one year. The group is excited to hold similar events in the future and is looking for more monthly sponsors. One of the night's sponsors was Cricket Wireless, where local store manager Peggy Mosley played a special hand in spearheading the company's decision to support the organization. "I grew up in a domestic abuse situation," Mosley said at the event. "So, wanting to be able to support it and actually being able to do that is a huge thing for me and Cricket Wireless as a whole really enjoys helping our community in the best way that we can. We have a partnership with the Azle Police as well where we donate phones for free for those who don't have cellphone service but need to call emergency. To be able to do this and that ... we just love it so much." At the event, organizers wore clothes from Hope's Bazaar, the nonprofit's resale shop and a major contributor of its resources, located at 141 W Main St.



Craps dealers chuck dice getting ready for a night of fun.

ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER
Dent Mechanic Group was sponsor of Future, Hope and Healing Center's Casino Night fundraiser. Pictured are Dent Mechanic Group staff accountant Carrie Mansfield with sales representative Tim. "We're sponsoring this because it's a wonderful program to sponsor any type of helping out victims of violence," Mansfield said. "We try to sponsor a lot of different things. It not only helps our community, but it also gets the word out."

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It is ok to say no ... in fact it may be a good thing

Last week I had the privilege of celebrating another birthday. It was wonderful to receive so many well wishes, notes and emails congratulating me for attaining the ripe old age of 68. Looking back, I am not sure I ever had a real doubt I would make it to 68, but I must admit, my confidence in making it to age 90 is a little shaky. It sort of makes a fella realize he is like a package with an expiration date stamped on it, only I cannot see the label and do not know when I will expire.

It would be nice if I knew when the end was near, because then I would know exactly how much money I'd need. I would be able to spend down to the last nickel, knowing my time was up and I would not need any more cash. I would also manage to make the trips and go see the friends I want to see one last time before I cash in my chips. But that is not how it works. We make our best plans, and the Lord decides what he is going to do, and it may or may not coincide with the plans we have made. Seems like the best we can do is to live each day to the fullest, and simply take the cards we get dealt with a smile on our face.



FROM MY FRONT PORCH

By Sam Houston

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

With the onslaught of age, it is always a little fun to reflect on how life has changed in these 68 years and what I have learned during all that time. Recently I had a discussion with a young single mother. She is mid-30s, attractive, has a good job, and has two children she is raising alone. She has been divorced for a few years and the father of the children is not what I would call a supportive or engaged parent.

This young woman came to me and suggested I should write a column about all the pressure young mothers feel in today's world. She explained that so many young women are single mothers without supportive fathers and sometimes without supportive extended families. It is a challenge for these women to make a living, serve their community and hopefully raise their children in such a way that they grow

up to be reasonable, responsible adults.

She confessed to me that being a single parent can be lonely, frustrating and sometimes downright aggravating. While she makes a reasonable living, it would seem the materialistic demands of children in today's world are far too great for the income she brings home. Her children are active, involved in sports and a string of other activities. All of them seem to require additional entry fees, uniforms, shoes and the like. They require extra travel, lots of time, and all sorts of other demands. She confided that there is an unbelievable amount of peer pressure for her to be "perfect," to do everything for her kids, to see they can participate in whatever event they wish, and they have all the resources required to participate.

In a moment of fatherly wisdom, I told the young

mother the only pressure on her is the pressure she is putting on herself. She is a fine, hardworking young woman and is clearly devoted to her children. I attempted to explain to her that in today's world, for whatever reason, there seems to be a need for people to have "more." By "more" I mean they want to be able to do any and everything and the cost or the time commitment is immaterial. Now how crazy is that?

It is fun for kids to grow as they participate in activities that cause them to improve as athletes, students or as human beings. However, just because something is fun does not mean you are a terrible mother for saying the "N" word if you cannot afford an activity. By "N" word, I mean saying "no."

Saying "no" is simple. By telling your children "no" on occasion, you may teach them one of the greatest lessons in the world, that there is a big difference between what you "want" and what you "need."

It may be fun to play select baseball, but if Mom cannot afford to fix her car because she has spent so much money driving to practices and games all over the me-

troplex, baseball needs to stop. If Mom has an overdrawn checking account because the next cheerleading camp is just around the corner and there is no money in the budget for the entry fees, then it is time to not go to camp. Would it be fun to participate? Of course. Is it responsible to participate in something you cannot afford; I think not.

I probably sound like a mean old man. Maybe like the old guy who doesn't want kids walking across the edge of his yard and shoots the water hose to run them off his property. I hope not. Saying no is not a punishment, it is sometimes a reality check and a teaching moment. It is important to learn that we cannot have whatever we want just because we want it. Sometimes we must acknowledge we cannot afford to go to Disneyland or play on a select team. The world will not end. In fact, the children may learn a sense of responsibility and self-respect they might not otherwise acquire. Through disappointment comes learning and understanding.

My wise father once pointed out an Amish family to me. There were three

young children. I couldn't help but utter to my dad that those kids had it tough being Amish. Could you imagine no car, no TV, no ... lots of things? My dad looked at me and said, "Son, maybe you are right, but in my life, I have never seen Amish kids who appeared to be unhappy. They seem to love their folks and their family. Who is to say what we really need? On the other hand, I have seen lots of kids who have been given everything who never seem to be happy."

I hope this young mother heard me and tries to apply some good judgment in deciding what she can and cannot afford in the future. The pressure on her is to raise two responsible, confident, well adjusted young people. From what I can tell she is well on her way to doing just that. Saying "no" won't prevent a child from succeeding, but it might give them an insight that will carry them a long way. Be the parent, not the good friend.

Thought for the day: It is a parent's job to teach. If the parent doesn't teach, life will, and the learning will be twice as difficult.

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

The story behind Follow the Flag

Thousands stationed themselves along Azle's Main Street, throughout Central Park and even in grocery store parking lots in Azle for the 31st annual Follow the Flag event hosted by the Azle Area Ministerial Alliance (AAMA).

Those who came to the park were treated to live music, free food and drinks and remarkable fireworks. Heartfelt thanks go to the Azle Police and Fire Departments, who served the huge crowd, keeping people safe and well.

My father, Lew Shaffer, was a retired U.S. Air Force officer and loved this country. He especially appreciated the protection Americans have to worship freely. He along with my mother, Sandy, and Ted and Barbara Platt would



HOPE MATTERS

By David Shaffer

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

eventually launch an event called Follow the Flag that celebrates the freedom we have in this country to follow Christ. The original characteristics of "food, fireworks, fun, faith and free" continue today, though the price tag to put on such an event for free is much higher now that the fireworks show is bigger, and the crowd is larger.

You may wonder what "Follow the Flag" means. While it certainly pays respect to the United States

of America and the freedoms we all share (celebrating them, in particular, on Independence Day), it has a greater meaning.

An Old Testament story found in the Bible in Exodus 17 tells of an attack the Israelites faced at the hands of a group called the Amalekites. Moses played a unique role in the Israelite victory and was assisted by two people named Aaron and Hur. After the battle, Moses built an altar and named it

"The Lord is my Banner." In Hebrew, the translation reads Yahweh-Nissi.

Such a banner can be seen as a flag that identifies and unifies a particular group of people. In the case of Moses, the flag identified unified followers of the Lord God. They followed the flag (the banner being God), placing their hope in the Lord. Other uses of this term in the Bible can be found in Psalm 20:5 and Psalm 60:4-5.

Unity in Christ and following him are the deeper meanings behind Follow the Flag. This distinctly Christian event honors America for its freedoms and is clearly patriotic. Even more importantly, though, it allows us to unify as Christ followers, coming together to honor God through praise, worship,

fellowship and celebration at a safe, approachable, family friendly event where everyone is welcomed.

This last Follow the Flag was incredible. I recognize Alton Davis, the AAMA president; Holly Killough, the AAMA coordinator; and the board of directors for their exhaustive work and excellent stewardship of this event. I celebrate the unity of dozens of churches, ministries, businesses, city first responders and people who came together to sponsor the event and provide food, drinks, entertainment and first-class fireworks in Azle. The volunteers were amazing! It was also wonderful to see John and Don Webster on stage, since John Webster was one of our original performers three decades ago.

The praise band from First Baptist Church Azle was also tremendous.

At each Follow the Flag an award is presented to a person who has selflessly served the community for years and made a substantial impact in the area with the love of Christ. This year's winner of the Lew & Sandy Shaffer Award is Terri Bartlett, someone who has faithfully served the elderly in our area for decades. Congratulations, friend!

This time of reflection reminds me of a quote by Barbara Bush, "When all the dust is settled and all the crowds are gone, the things that matter are faith, family and friends." What a blessing it is to live in a hope-infused community where these three characteristics run deep.

GRANT

FROM PAGE A1

firm Public Management's regional project manager Jake McAdams told the council the all-inclusive playground could be deemed a national demonstration site. Generally, a demonstration site features a recognized showplace that is designed and implemented with evidence-based best practices and shows community impact through data collection.

"This could be an extraordinarily exciting project that really puts Springtown on the map in more ways than one," McAdams said during the meeting.

Springtown City Council has focused on improving the park in recent years, including in 2023 when members approved bond funding dedicated to upgrading the city's park and streets. Before then, in 2021, city officials established a steering committee to create the city's parks master plan, which was adopted by the council in 2022. Officials went on to apply for a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department grant to renovate the splash pad, which had been closed since the 2017 season, into a fountain park with a recirculation system. However, the city did not receive grant funding in 2022, nor 2023.

Without securing state money, the council approved

demolishing the splash pad earlier this year. Meanwhile, the city conducted a survey to determine what residents of Springtown's 76082 ZIP code valued most in their city park. More than 400 people responded, and the majority prioritized three specific park features; more than 30% of respondents ranked playgrounds first, while 22.5% highlighted trails and 11.8% valued accessibility most. The rest of the options for park features — including those centered on various sports as well as dog parks, open spaces, parking and restrooms — were each prioritized by less than 10% of the surveyed population.

Assistant City Administrator and City Secretary Christina Derr presented the survey data to the council in April. At that time, Derr pointed out that the city analyzed the data from multiple viewpoints, and still, the respondents' top park features remained the same.

"It didn't matter if you looked at people with a lot of kids or no kids," she said. "It didn't matter if you looked at those who visited the park frequently or infrequently; it didn't matter if we were looking at those with multiple seniors in the home or those who have multiple disabled individuals in the home, the top two choices — very predictably — were playgrounds and trails."

Keeping the results in

mind, city officials set their sights on applying for a grant to build an all-inclusive playground on Walnut Creek Drive where the splash pad used to be. Miller pointed out that the former splash pad zone already has infrastructure, like sidewalks and restrooms, that is compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Planning to build a shaded all-inclusive playground correlates with the parks survey results. Since households with older adults ranked playgrounds and accessibility as top priorities, Derr said the potential project may allow grandparents to use the playground while entertaining their grandchildren.

"What (the survey results were) indicative of is you have grandparents that cannot use our existing playgrounds, but they can use an accessible playground even for their able-bodied grandkids," Derr said during the June meeting.

Miller said adult amenities, like putting greens and cornhole boards, would be installed in the splash pad area as well if funded by the grant. Improvements to pedestrian safety on the park's east side, specifically at the Lake Drive bridge, are also part of the potential project.

"As people travel down that trail, the only option they have of getting across the creek — besides wading through — is to actually cross



MADelyn EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER
Springtown Mayor Greg Hood had a large crowd for the June 27 State of the City address at the Springtown Area Senior Center.

on the Lake (Drive) bridge," Miller said. "This grant would include a pedestrian crossing bridge over there close to the Lake (Drive) bridge so that they don't have to get on the road when they're using the trail."

Council members reacted with mostly positive responses to the city's grant proposal.

"I wish we could start construction tomorrow," council member Scott Richardson said about the project during the meeting.

However, council member Michele Chandler Kelley expressed concerns about if the playground would cause segregation between kids

who are disabled and those who aren't.

"I just don't want any child to feel like they can't come to each playground," Chandler Kelley said during the June meeting.

But Miller assured her that wouldn't be the case.

"One of the issues that you have when you have special needs children is you have able-bodied children who then feel like they are left out," he said. "This playground is being specifically designed to include all."

McAdams explained that the city would apply for a grant in the Non-Urban Outdoor Recreation Program,

which would require the grant to be matched with city funds dollar-for-dollar at minimum. The most that can be requested in this grant is \$750,000. Springtown's match will come from the bond money the city secured last year.

At Mayor Greg Hood's State of the City address June 27, Hood said the city expects to utilize \$375,000 in matching funds.

Officials expect to be notified in February if the city is selected for a grant. If the city receives funding, McAdams said construction may start around spring 2026 and be finished by the end of 2026.

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Anatomy abroad

ZACH FREEMAN
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AZLE — Last month, Azle High School students returned from an annual trip abroad after touring famous European capitals and learning the sometimes-gruesome history of medicine and crime on the continent.

For a whole year, AHS graduate Tristan Dorado saved over \$400 from his El Gran Torito paycheck each month. By his last payment, the cost of the excursion totaled nearly \$5,300. For Dorado, the trip of a lifetime was worth the cost and hours spent between being a full-time student, practicing for his state-qualifying criminal justice club and carting tacos at the local Mexican eatery.

Dorado learned about the trip when he started his first criminal justice class with Samantha Brown last year at AHS. Dorado had only recently moved to the Azle area and would not be able to fulfill the prerequisite to get into the forensics class that

Azle health sciences and forensics students return from Europe trip

he would need to take for the trip. Fortunately, Brown granted him an exception and allowed him to bypass one of the two years of law enforcement classes needed to take the higher-level course.

“She told me about this trip, and she said that she knows that it’s going to be a lot but it’s going to be worth it,” Dorado said. “I took a couple of weeks to think about it and I signed up.”

The trip lasted from June 2 through June 12. The group’s first stop was in Toronto. After that, they flew to Edinburgh, Scotland before stops in London, England and Paris, France. The group arrived in Canada at 6:30 a.m. local time and “hit the ground running from there.” It was Dorado’s first time being outside the country apart from past excursions to the California-Mexico border where he stuck his arm

through the border fence.

The group had a total of 22 travelers including 15 students and recent graduates, four parents and three chaperones including teachers James Rider and Samantha Brown. Throughout the journey, the Azle group joined up with another student group from a Weatherford school.

“Getting us into places was rough, especially the London Eye. They were so mad when they saw 43 of us walking up. Every car on the London Eye is about as big as this room so we just did it by school. We had to go first because we’re better,” Dorado said jokingly.

All the AHS students that traveled alongside Dorado came from the school’s Career and Technical Education forensics and health science classes. Dorado described the free periods where he and the others in his group could explore



COURTESY PHOTO
Tristan Dorado served as an investigator in a forensics workshop where small groups attempted to solve the murder of a man thrown from the White Tower in England.

the streets and businesses in London and Edinburgh as one of the trip’s most memorable experiences.

“We had three hours to do whatever, and we found a little mini golf place,” Dorado said. “We went there, played a couple rounds and there was an arcade on it, too; played some pool, played some arcade games, then went to the museum. We had a bunch of free time in Scotland. Every night we’d just be walking, going up and down the streets seeing the local shops.”

On the trip, the group learned about the bubonic plague victims once housed in Mary King’s Close, took guided tours of each city, spoke with healthcare providers to learn the differences in healthcare delivery systems around the world and retraced the steps of the notorious 1888 “Leather Apron” killer, Jack the Ripper.

“All of his murders happened in walking distance of one another. I didn’t understand just how crazy this guy was until getting to know about it in detail,” Dorado said of the serial murderer. “There’s a lot of really gross history especially out in London where surgery was pioneered.”

Group members also got the chance to experience cultural foods from throughout Britain and France and visited iconic landmarks like Edinburgh Castle, the Eiffel Tower, the Arc de Triomphe and more. In an email to the Tri-County Reporter, AHS health science teacher James Rider described watching former AHS students try new things like public transportation, and experience interesting cultural shocks as the best part of the trip.

“One thing that we tell our travelers is that we believe that international travel is one of the best investments they can ever make in themselves. It’s an opportunity to step outside your comfort zone and the ‘normal day-to-day’ life that we are used to,” Rider said. “They have a chance to see how other cultures live with the added perspective of learning how other parts of the world deal with the healthcare needs of their citizens. This newly gained global view results in each person evaluating their own lives, daily routines, future careers and even the world around them back home. Traveling with our students and families gives us a chance to take the things we teach in our classrooms and labs and bring it to life for them so they can see (them)

with their own eyes and hold (them) in their hands!”

For Dorado, who rode a subway for the first time in London, the attitudes of the people he met and the ways they traveled were some of the most striking differences he noticed.

“Everybody walks everywhere. I’m so used to being babied with my truck and being able to drive everywhere and everybody is just walking and taking a train everywhere,” Dorado said. “Then how rude people are in France; everybody is so rude. They were really only rude when I talked like an American. I did a little experiment and wanted to see if they’d still be rude to me if I put on a little English accent and it worked, they stopped up-charging me, they stopped being all rude, they actually talked to me when I tried talking to them just like in gift shops and everything. Especially when we got closer to Notre Dame, they’re really stuck up there. They really don’t like us.”

Though Dorado has currently decided to pursue a career in welding, he says the memories and connections he made on the trip he will treasure for the rest of his life.



COURTESY PHOTO
The Azle student group rides inside the London Eye, Dorado in left of center back, Rider in center front.

Azle fire leaves man with extensive burns

STAFF REPORT

AZLE — On the morning of July 6, the Briar-Reno Fire Department was dispatched to a reported porch fire in the 14000 block of Briar Road north of Azle. Upon arrival, fire crews found the flames had spread throughout the home. In fighting the fires, crews located an unconscious 55-year-old male and per-

formed a rapid rescue of the victim.

According to a press release from Fire Chief Moses Druxman, the victim suffered second degree burns to approximately half his body and was flown by medical helicopter to Parkland Hospital. Agencies that responded to assist with the incident include Briar-Reno

Fire Department, Azle Fire Department, Wise County E.S.D. 1, Parker County E.S.D. 1, Tarrant County Sheriff’s office, Tarrant County Fire Marshal’s office, and CareFlite air ambulance.

The cause of the fire is currently under investigation by the Briar-Reno Fire Marshal’s office and the Tarrant County Fire Marshal’s office.



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Brendle’s Welding



PHOTO COURTESY AZLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Brendle’s Welding, a veteran-owned and operated company run by husband-and-wife team Jake and Dana Brendle, celebrated with a ribbon cutting ceremony June 18, hosted by the Azle Area Chamber of Commerce. The company enjoys fun, new projects. If you can think it, they can probably design it and build it! Brendle Welding is completely mobile and services new and existing automatic gate openers, specializing in Ghost controls/Lift master/Apollo/US Automatic. Call 817-609-6581 today!

Nut for Clusters and Down Magnolia Way



PHOTO COURTESY AZLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Nut for Clusters and Down Magnolia Way are veteran-owned businesses managed by a mother/daughter team. The two businesses celebrated a joint ribbon cutting ceremony hosted by the Azle Area Chamber of Commerce recently. Nuts for Clusters offers chocolate, nut-free treats, while Down Magnolia Way sells handmade jewelry, artwork, antiques and more. You can reach them via email at bbc6712@yahoo.com or by calling 817-706-3740.

Thank You

To our volunteers & supportive community

CASINO

Night

FUTURE HOPE & HEALING CENTER

Committee:

• Kim Ware

• Renee Kolar

• Jessica McKinney

• Lora Paschal

Sponsors:

• Dr Dean and Jane Peyton

• KMW Properties

• Renee Kolar-Keller Williams Fort Worth

• Crystal Oaks Event Center

• Terressa Nordstrom with Notes to Recovery

• Tri-County Reporter

• Brace Chiropractic and Wellness Center

• On-Site Air

• Cricket Wireless

• Dent Mechanical

• Red's Burger House

• Burrow's Automotive Donors:

• Northwest Lions Club

• Red's Burger House

• Pawlished Pets, LLC

• The Wells Inspection Group, LLC

• Daina's Nutt Hutt

• A Momma's Love

• Michelle Mangum

• Natalie's Snow Shack

• Hope's Bazaar

• Upward Arms

• N2 Bargains

• Cricket Wireless

• Kaitlyn's Photography

• Vickie Goodman

• Amara Garay

• Crystal O'Neill

• Rhonda Rodriguez

Behind the scenes and night of event helpers:

• Rhonda Rodriguez

• Diana Sandstrom

• Jennifer Mello

• Vickie Goodman

• Amara Garay

• Michelle Mangum

• Crystal Thomason

• Frances Carson

• Renee Kolar

• Lora Paschal

• Jessica McKinney

• Zach Freeman

There are not enough words for me to say how much I appreciate everyone that worked so hard to put on this event, to those that attended, sponsored, donated, hit the pavement getting raffle baskets and donations, selling tickets and just inviting your friends. They say it takes a village to raise a child, but I know it takes a supportive community to run a nonprofit. Thank you to everyone that participated in Casino Night in any way. We will do this again next year.

LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED PROPOSALS addressed to the City Council of the City of Springtown, Texas will be received at the City Hall Annex, 200 N. Main Street, Springtown, Texas 76082, until 3:00 PM on Thursday, July 18, 2024 for the purpose of furnishing all plant, labor, materials and equipment and the performing of all work required in the 2024 Street Micro Paving Project and other improvements incidental thereto, at which time and place the proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud in the City Hall Annex and retained by the city for tabulation, checking and evaluation. BIDS shall be submitted in sealed envelopes upon the blank Bid Form in the Contract Documents booklet. The entire Contract Documents' booklet must be returned in a sealed envelope with the following forms filled out and signed; Bid Form, Disadvantaged Business Enterprises Form, Conflict of Interest Questionnaire, Local Government Officer Conflicts Disclosure Statement, Vendor Compliance to State Law form, Contractor Compliance to Texas Sales Tax Code form. The Bid Bond for five (5%) percent of the total bid must be included in the sealed envelope with the bid. The sealed envelope shall be marked 2024 Street Micro Paving Project - DO NOT OPEN UNTIL 3:00 PM on Thursday, July 18, 2024. A non-mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at 3:00 PM on Thursday, July 11, 2024 at the City Hall Annex, 200 N. Main Street. Representatives of the Owner and Engineer will be present to discuss the project and answer any questions. The Engineer will distribute to prospective bidders of record such Addenda, as the Engineer considers necessary in response to discussions or inquiries arising at the conference. PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS and contract documents may be examined and obtained without charge at the Springtown City Hall, 102 E. Second Street, Springtown, TX 76082. No hard copies of the Bidding Documents will be made available at City Hall. It is the responsibility of the interested party to print the Bidding Documents. Neither the Owner nor the Engineer will be responsible for full or partial sets of Bidding Documents, including any addenda, obtained from other sources. Each Bid must be submitted on the prescribed Bid Form and accompanied by Bid security as prescribed in the Instructions to Bidders. The Successful Bidder will be required to furnish the additional bond(s) prescribed in the Bidding Documents. In case of ambiguity or lack of clearness in stating proposal prices, the Owner reserves the right to adopt the most advantageous construction thereof, or to reject any or all bids. No bid may be withdrawn within forty-five (45) days after date on which bids are opened.

CITY OF SPRINGTOWN, TEXAS

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

City of Springtown is accepting sealed requests for a contract on group medical insurance until 10:00 A.M. local time, July 18, 2024, via email, at which time they will be publicly opened. Specifications may be obtained from Brinson Benefits at 214-379-5157. The Title of the email should include "RFP# 10-24-817 for Group Medical Insurance". Any bids received after the time and date stated above, regardless of the mode of delivery, will not be considered. The City of Springtown reserves the right to accept, negotiate, amend, accept and/or reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, or to waive any informality in any bid, which, in its discretion, is in the best interest of the City of Springtown.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of LORETTA B. BAKER, Deceased, were issued on June 26, 2024, in Cause No. 24P211, pending in the County Court of Parker County, Texas, to: Franklin Lee Baker. 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: Representative, Estate of LORETTA B. BAKER 301 Joyce St. Weatherford, Texas 76085
Dated the 28th day of June, 2024. Michele Audet, Attorney for Franklin Lee Baker State Bar No.: 00792338 918 S. Main St. Weatherford, TX 76086 Telephone: (817) 341-0088 Facsimile: (817) 341-0090

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of MERRILL THOMAS CARTER, DECEASED, were issued on May 15, 2024, in Cause No. 24PI34, pending in the County Court, Parker County, Texas, to: STEPHEN LEE CARTER and SAMUEL THOMAS CARTER. 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. Faye Murphree Attorney at Law 337 W. Main Street Azle, TX 76020 DATED the 27th day of June, 2024. W. FAYE MURPHREE Attorney or Stephen Lee Carter and Samuel Thomas Carter. State Bar No.: 00792710 337 W. Main Street, Azle, TX 76020
Telephone: (817) 270-0030; Facsimile: (817) 270-0085 fmlaw@earthlink.net

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Building Board of Appeals of the City of Azle will conduct a public hearing at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 25, 2024, in the City Council Chambers at City Hall, located at 505 West Main Street to consider and or take action regarding repair, removal, or demolition in Case Number 22598, City of Azle vs. Therian Brown, regarding the structure(s) located at 305 Walnut Avenue, Azle, Texas 76020.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Zoning Board of Adjustment for the City of Azle will conduct a public hearing on Monday, July 29, 2024, to consider a variance request to Section 22 (3) Setback Requirements of the City of Azle Zoning Ordinance for the property located at 128 Richardson Street, and also known as a tract of land out of the James Hardgrove Survey, Abstract No. 1768, Parker County, Texas. The purpose of the variance is to allow for the construction of a new building addition to encroach the minimum twenty-foot (20') rear yard setback. The meeting will begin at 6:00 P.M. in the City Council Chambers located at 505 W. Main St., Azle, Texas.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Zoning Board of Adjustment for the City of Azle will conduct a public hearing on Monday, July 29, 2024, to consider a variance request to Section 19 (3) Setback Requirements of the City of Azle Zoning Ordinance for the property located at 1605 Southeast Parkway, and also known as Lot 1, Block 1, JA-JLP Addition, an addition to the City of Azle, Tarrant County, Texas. The purpose of the variance is to allow for the construction of a new building addition to encroach the minimum twenty-five foot (25') front yard setback. The meeting will begin at 6:00 P.M. in the City Council Chambers located at 505 W. Main Street, Azle, Texas.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of JOAN DEAN, Deceased, were issued on June 26th, in Cause No. 24PI 76, pending in the County Court of Parker County, Texas, to: Russell Wayne Dean. 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: Russell Wayne Dean 844 Voltamp Drive Fort Worth, Texas 76108 DATED the 3rd day of July, 2024. Michele Audet Attorney for Russell Wayne Dean State Bar No.: 00792338 918 S. Main St. Weatherford, TX 76086 Telephone: (817) 341-0088 Facsimile: (817) 341-0090
Email: micheleaudet@sbcglobal.net

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On July 11, at 6:30 PM the City of Springtown Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider a recommendation to the City Council for a requested zoning change for property known as 301 Goshen Road, Springtown, Texas being 1.0 acres of land situated in the Louisa Leonard Survey, Abstract 815, from SF-2 (Single Family Residential 2) to C-2 (General Commercial).

On Thursday, July 25, 2024 at 7:00 p.m., the City of Springtown City Council will hold a public hearing to consider the Planning and Zoning Commission's recommendation. Both meetings will take place in the Council Chambers at 200 N. Main Street, Springtown, Texas.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On July 11, at 6:30 PM the City of Springtown Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider a recommendation to the City Council for an amendment to Section 4 "Planning and Zoning Commission" of Chapter 1 "Enactment and Administration" of Exhibit 14A "Zoning Ordinance," of the Code of Ordinances, City of Springtown, Texas to provide for a Vice Chairman for the Planning and Zoning Commission. On Thursday, July 25, 2024 at 7:00 p.m., the City of Springtown City Council will hold a public hearing to consider the Planning and Zoning Commission's recommendation. Both meetings will take place in the Council Chambers at 200 N. Main Street, Springtown, Texas

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On Thursday, July 25, 2024 at 7:00 p.m., the City of Springtown Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing to consider a variance request for Lot 2, Block 6, Springtown Original Town, an addition to the City of Springtown, Parker County, Texas also known as 100 S. Main Street, being 0.082 acres of land for the use of storage containers. The meeting will take place in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Annex Building located at 200 N. Main Street, Springtown, Texas 76082.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On Thursday, July 25, 2024 at 7:00 p.m., the City of Springtown Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing to consider a variance request for a 2.42-acre tract of land situated in the William Copeland Survey, Abstract No. 242, also known as 620 N. Cedar Street for the requirement to have a two-car garage. The meeting will take place in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Annex Building located at 200 N. Main Street, Springtown, Texas 76082.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Azle City Council will be conducting a Public Hearing August 5, 2024 at 6:00 p.m., for the purpose of allowing input on the proposed FY 2024-25 Azle Crime Control and Prevention District Budget (CCPD).

This public hearing will take place in the Council Chambers, 505 W Main St, Azle, Texas 76020.

OBITUARIES

Nadine Ryan 1943-2024

It is with loving sadness that we announce the passing of Nadine Ryan (née Templin) from Springtown May 31, 2024. Nadine was born July 13, 1943.

A Celebration of Life service will be held to honor Nadine at First Baptist Church in Springtown, 500 N. Main St., July 27 at 2 p.m.

Nadine graduated from Coleman High School in 1961. In 1975 she graduated Magna Cum Laude from Texas Christian University with a Bachelor of Science degree in education. She completed her Master of Education from Texas Women's University in 1989.

Nadine went on to teach and coach for Springtown ISD for 28 years as a first and fifth grade teacher. She also taught at the Springtown Alternative Learning Center and coached the Springtown High School tennis team for seven years. In her spare time, Nadine was a Sunday School teacher at First Baptist Church in Springtown. Nadine was known for her love of education, children



and her great sense of humor!

Nadine is fondly missed by her daughters Angie Lyles and Amy Walker; four grandchildren: Angela Walker, Alexandra Walker, Ryan Lyles and Andie Lyles; her sister Bertha Devoss; her sons-in-law Ted Lyles and Fabio Walker; her brother-in-law John Devoss; and so many wonderful nieces, nephews and friends.

Nadine was predeceased by her husband Gary Ryan of Springtown.

*The Tri-County Reporter,
Thursday July 11, 2024*

Martha Jo Smith 1937-2024

Martha Jo (Marsh) Smith, 87, passed peacefully into the arms of the Lord Sunday, June 30, 2024.

The family will have a private memorial; there will be no public service.

She was born June 30, 1937, to Frank and Teresa (Sellers) Marsh in Memphis, Tennessee.

Martha "Jo" Smith was Mom and Nanny to everyone. It was her loving and caring nature that filled others' hearts with joy. She lived her life with a servant's heart, driven by her love for the Lord. Ever faithful, Jo continued her devotion to God, family and friends until her passing. We know she was greeted with loving arms by the love of her life, Ray Smith, her husband. Jo will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Martha was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Ray Smith; son, Bryan



Smith and sister Francis Prock.

She is survived by her sons, Monte Smith and wife Sharon, Micah Marin and wife Carol; daughter, Deborah Winters and husband Danny; grandchildren, Dustin, Meagan, Austin, Angelo, Maximillian, and Sebastian; great-grandchildren, Griffin, Gage and Hudson.

*The Tri-County Reporter,
Thursday July 11, 2024*

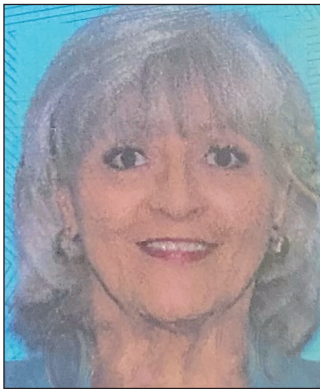
Glenda Nell Darden Zachary 1956-2024

Glenda Nell Darden Zachary, 68, passed away suddenly Tuesday, June 18, 2024, in Springtown as a result of an automobile accident.

Glenda was born Feb. 27, 1956, to Glyn and Ruby Nell Darden in Corsicana. She attended school in Bowie and would have celebrated her 50th class reunion this summer. Glenda loved her garden, sewing, playing the piano, and her late husband, Christopher Austin Zachary.

Glenda was preceded in death by her parents, her husband and her nephew, Christopher Jess Darden.

Glenda is survived by sons Aaron Carlisle (Cheri), Clinton Carlisle (Jenifer), Cheston Carlisle and Levi Zachary (Kim); daughter Skyelar Zachary; grandsons



Corbin, Grayson, Landon, Tucker, Campton and Audi; brother Roy Darden (Lesia); aunt Linda Hodge (Darryl); and friend Jewell Roberts.

A graveside service will be at 10 a.m. Thursday, July 18, at Salona Cemetery in Bowie.

*The Tri-County Reporter,
Thursday July 11, 2024*

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Lana Renee Davidson 1972-2024

Lana Renee Davidson (Crabtree), 52, of Columbus, Ohio died at 2:46 a.m. Thursday, June 27, 2024, from injuries sustained in a vehicle accident in Columbus, Ohio.

A memorial service celebrating her life was held at the Table Community Church located at 6011 W. Bailey Boswell Road, Fort Worth, Texas 76129, Sunday, July 7 at 10 a.m.

Born April 2, 1972, in Columbus, Ohio, she was the daughter of Eddie and Theresa Crabtree.

Lana received her master's degree in organizational management from the University of Oklahoma in Norman, Oklahoma. She attained the Gold Award in the Girl Scouts of America and this fostered a life-long career of selfless volunteerism. Lana was the consummate volunteer in any community or organization in which she was involved and she will be remembered for her gracious



tenacity, vibrant personality and zest for life.

She is preceded in death by grandparents, Berniece Newberry, and Ershel and Mary Lilly.

She is survived by her best friend and husband, Ronnie, her loving children, Mikayla, Nathaniel, Rebekah, Callie and Josh, and her sisters Vicki Rhodus and Lori Crabtree.

*The Tri-County Reporter,
Thursday July 11, 2024*

Charles Louis Stevens 1947-2024

Charles 'Charlie' Louis Stevens, 76, went to be with our Lord Friday, June 28, 2024, in Decatur.

Funeral was 11 a.m. Monday, July 8, at First Baptist Church in Decatur with burial at Oaklawn Cemetery.

Dr. David Lowrie and Gerre Joiner officiated. Pallbearers included Delvon Campbell, Rex Hoskins, Michael Dobyns, John Pellizzari, Tom Cain and Bill Hogg.

Charles was born Nov. 25, 1947, to Clarence Austin and Geneva Geraldine (Newsom) Stevens in Fort Worth. He was united in marriage Dec. 28, 1976, to Katie Marie Calhoun in Greenwood. Charles was a retired Department of Public Safety corporal, after working for the Texas Highway Department, as well as being a police officer for both Azle and White Settlement. After retiring, he enjoyed tending to his herd of cattle, as well as being a lifelong University of Texas sports fan. He was a beloved husband, father, brother, uncle, cousin and



friend to many who will miss him dearly.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, and sister-in-law, Bridgett Stevens.

Those left behind to cherish his memory are his daughters, Kristi Stevens of Allen and Courtney Stevens of Decatur; his brother, Dwight Stevens of Azle; his sister, Darlene Tatum and husband Jerry of Azle; numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and a host of friends.

*The Tri-County Reporter,
Thursday July 11, 2024*

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THE ABBEY CHURCH
Pastor: Paul Brownback
10400 Jacksboro Hwy **817-238-1404**
www.TheAbbeyChurch.com
Morning Worship.....10:30 AM
Community Groups.....Various Times

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 Worship.....10:45 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 Evening.....6:00 PM
Wednesday Evening.....7:00 PM

AZLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
DISCIPLES OF CHRIST
Interim Minister Rev. Russell Clark,
Family Life Minister Emerson Braun
117 Church St. • **817-444-3527**
Sunday School.....10:00 AM
Morning Worship.....11:00 AM

CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH
2233 Hwy 199 E., Springtown
817-221-LIFE (5433)
Sunday Worship Service.....10:00 AM
Wednesday.....7:00 PM

CROSSROADS BAPTIST CHURCH
Pastor - Jon Baker
Corner FM 730S & FM 1886 **817-755-0279**
Transportation Available
Worship Service.....10:30 AM
Wed. Prayer Service.....7:00 PM

THE EDGE CHURCH - AZLE
1313 S.E. Pkwy, Azle **817-237-4822**
Missouri Synod
"Love God - Serve Others - Share Jesus"
Traditional Worship.....9:30 AM
Contemporary Worship.....11:00 AM

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH OF AZLE
Pastor: Rev. Raymond Gilman
200 Church St., Azle **817-444-3323**
Morn. Worship.....8:30 & 10:45 AM
Sunday School.....9:45 AM
Youth.....5:00 PM Sun & 6:30 PM Wed

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 Study.....6:00 PM

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH
800 Highcrest Dr. - Azle **817-444-3063**
Saturday.....5:00 PM
Sunday.....9:00 AM
Sunday.....11 AM (Spanish)
Daily Mass (M, T, Th, F).....8:00 AM
Wednesday Mass Religious ED.....6:30 PM
Confessions.....Sat 4 PM

SOLID ROCK BIBLE CHURCH
591 S. Reno Rd., Springtown, Texas 76082
Pastor - Bill Gay - **817-304-7443**
Coffee and Donuts.....9:00 AM
Sunday School.....9:30 AM
Morning Worship.....10:30 AM
Children's Church After Music Service
Wed. Prayer Meeting.....6:30 PM
Wed. Bible Study.....7:00 PM

SILVER CREEK METHODIST CHURCH
Pastor: Bill Killough
2200 Church Rd., Azle **817-444-1382**
www.silvercreekmc.org
Sunday School 9:30 AM • Worship 10:30 AM

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA
4795 E. Hwy 199 - Reno **817-221-HOPE**
Follow us on Facebook for streaming services
Sunday School.....9:00 AM
Traditional Service.....10:00 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
Evening Worship.....7:00 PM
Wed. Prayer Service.....6:00 PM

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 WORD10:45 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
Awana Kids @ the WORD6:30 PM
Life at the WORD Life Groups ... Various Times

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Azle grads awarded scholarships by Masons

ZACH FREEMAN
azlereporter@tricityreporter.com

AZLE — Six Azle High School graduates and one teacher were recognized by Azle Masonic Lodge #601 the evening of June 27. The students were each awarded a \$1,200 scholarship by the fraternal organization.

Graduate Kaylee Parrish was motivated to apply for the scholarship because of its religious foundations.

“I did a lot of research on a bunch of scholarships that I did and I saw kind of the foundation and background of the holy background of this place and I am a Christian and I thought it would be a really good scholarship for me to apply for and I wasn’t sure I was going to get it but I was really blessed to have received it ... I have a really good Christian background. I worship God in every way.”

Parrish helped coach softball for the Fort Worth Lady Cats and plans to attend Hardin Simmons University where she will continue to play. She said the scholarship will help her continue this passion with her family’s

help.

“My parents are trying really hard to pay for my college as much as they can to keep me out of debt, so it’s going to help a lot. I’m really grateful for it ... I really just want to thank my parents and my family. I have six people here with me tonight and it just shows how much support I have throughout my family. I want to thank my coaches (and) my teachers for helping me get good enough grades to be able to even apply for the scholarships I wanted.”

Allison Wright has been aware of Freemasonry for most of her life and said this scholarship is just one of the many ways the Freemasons have supported her.

“I’m a member of the peer-support program at Scottish Rite Hospital for Children and that’s a very mason-led hospital. I would always see masons when I was there, and they did a lot for the hospital.”

As a child, Wright said she suffered from juvenile idiopathic scoliosis. Since the eighth grade she has spoken with children going through the same surgeries she did to help comfort and

inform them. Wight said the fact that the masons helped facilitate these experiences through their donations and support is what inspired her to apply for the scholarship. Wright said she plans on double majoring in marketing and finance. In high school she participated in the National Honor Society and AP Ambassadors.

“It means a lot to me because it’s going to help me continue my education,” Wright said. “I really want to continue my education, get a good job and a good degree and this scholarship will help me do that ... “I think (the masons are) an amazing organization and I think they do a lot for people and I’m very grateful for the scholarship, I’m beyond grateful.”

Annahi Colmenero said she applied for as many scholarships as she could but did not know much about Freemasonry until she received the scholarship.

“I’ve heard of them every once in awhile and I’ve seen them in parades and stuff, but I didn’t know much about them,” Colmenero said. “The money should help a lot.”

Colmenero hopes to save

money by first knocking out some core classes and electives at Tarrant County College before attending a larger university where she hopes to double major in finance and business management. At AHS, Colmenero was involved with cross country, soccer, band, Interact Club, AP Ambassadors, stu-

dent council, NHS and was student body vice president. Colmenero moved to Azle two years ago and her parents own Pop Pop Burgers in Springtown.

Students Miranda Markle and Angel Brown also were awarded the scholarship along with Shree Patel who was not present for the cer-

emony. Worshipful Grand Master Kenny Patrick announced that Silver Creek Elementary kindergarten teacher Kacie Krneta won the lodge’s Mirabeau B. Lamar Award along with \$500 cash. Krneta could not attend the meeting and was on a “long-needed vacation,” Patrick said.



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER
From left to right, Allison Wright, Annahi Colmenero, Kaylee Parrish, Angel Brown and Miranda Markle with their certificates of scholarship.

BARTLETT

FROM PAGE A1

that care for others is also a great honor.”

In June, the program celebrated its 27th year of servicing the community’s elderly. It now provides help for 168 people, a new record Bartlett said.

“This growth is a testament to the increasing need for our services as the population

ages,” Bartlett said. “We receive calls daily for help and are committed to meeting this demand within the limits of our resources... One of our many projects is the household bag delivery. We collect household items such as dish soap, laundry pods, shampoo, body wash, hand soap, toilet paper, etc., and deliver them to the seniors’ homes quarterly. As the number of seniors increases, additional items are needed to complete

the bags. With the struggles of a sluggish economy, donations have decreased, making the bags harder to fill. Also, the need for volunteers is more significant so we can continue to provide all services at no cost to the seniors on the program.”

Good N.E.W.S. is located at the One Azle building at 412 Commerce St. and can be reached at (817) 444-2300.

BARTLETT JOINS THE LIST OF HONORED RECIPIENTS OF THE COVETED AWARD:

- **2012:** Lew and Sandy Shaffer
- **2013:** Azle PD Chaplain and retired pastor Glyn Murphy.
- **2014:** Retired AISD Director of Administration Ray Ivey.
- **2015:** Retired AHS Principal and Azle city council member Rouel

- Rothenberger Jr.
- **2016:** Dr. Paul Brownback, senior pastor of The Abbey Church.
- **2017:** Lee Sipe, pastor of First Baptist Church Azle.
- **2018:** Retired Lt. Col. Stoney Stonebraker, longtime supporter of the AAMA.
- **2019:** Tim Stevens, former pastor of Azle First Assembly.
- **2020:** Longtime former AAMA Treasurer Nate

- Simmons.
- **2021:** Paul and Amy Collins, staff members and marriage ministers at Son Shine Ministries.
- **2022:** David and Daniele Shaffer; David is president of Son Shine Ministries, where he and Daniele serve together in marriage ministry.
- **2023:** Kim Ware, Tri-County Reporter publisher.
- **2024:** Terri Bartlett, director of Good N.E.W.S Living at Home Program.



JULY 4TH

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Vanessa Webb receives a crown and sash from 2023's Texas Princess, a duty Webb herself will fulfill for 2025's winner.

ROYALTY

FROM PAGE A1

and here we are, don't know anybody, so we were trying to prepare and say, 'you may not, but hopefully top three.' We definitely got some bad looks after she won."

Along with winning a \$100 bet with her dad, Vanessa Webb also got to eat rolls at Texas Roadhouse, her favorite food and restaurant, every day for a week after claiming the Texas Princess title.

"I bet her \$100 she couldn't win; I owe her \$100," Don Webb said. "The easiest way is to tell her she can't do it. She'll be like, 'I'll show you.' She likes to be the best. If she's going to do it, she doesn't want anybody else being better than her."

While Webb's mother had initial concerns about pageantry, she eventually found that the contest was a great way to build her daughter's skills and confidence. Along with an opening walk and dance, National American Miss contestants are judged on their resume writing, public speaking skills, interview skills and community service projects.

"As a mom you always think beauty pageants, stig-

mas, things like that so I wasn't super excited about it," Tracie Webb said. "While they are all very beautiful, they also focus more on their confidence, life skills, things like that. So, it's pretty well rounded. She really wanted to go back after seeing last year how much it really was about self-esteem building and just trying to create well rounded adults as little girls. She begged to go back again this year. She set some goals for things from last year that she felt she needed to work on. She went and worked hard on that and went back and took home the crown. So, we're really excited that she won."

Vanessa Webb has big plans for her national showing in Orlando. For the community service aspect of her performance, she would like to collect school supplies, create free book boxes, or write letters with her class to residents at Azle Manor in the fall.

Don Webb works at Azle Manor as therapy director and Tracie Webb works as a regional manager of a therapy company. Don and Tracie Webb said one thing that sets Vanessa apart from other 6-year-olds is that she's always excited to speak in front of crowds.

"Most kids get shy, she

blossoms on stage," Don Webb said. "Put her on a stage in front of people with a microphone and a plan (and) she goes to town. Even with her cheer and dancing and stuff like that, you put her in front of people and she's going to tear it up."

For Vanessa Webb, it's hard for her to choose a favorite part of pageantry. She enjoys being nice to people and hopes other girls consider competing in National American Miss to be just like her.

"I'm really excited to go on the stage and talk in front of all the people," Vanessa Webb said. "It was very fun. I like doing my opening dance and walking on the stage. I like all of it. I liked how I met new friends, and I liked doing the opening dance and I liked getting a lot of trophies."

Vanessa Webb looks forward to working on her community service projects, improving her speeches and giving it her all at the contest in November where she and others representing each state will vie for the National All-American Miss Princess title. Next year, Webb hopes to continue competing in pageants in the National American Miss Junior Pre-Teen category.

Springtown Council greets new police officers



MADelyn EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Springtown City Council hosted a pinning ceremony for two new police officers during the June 25 council meeting. First, Deputy Chief Jamie Oliver introduced Rhett Ballard, who started at Springtown Police Department in late May and will serve as a school resource officer at Springtown Elementary School. Ballard graduated from Springtown High School in 2009 and previously worked for the Wise County Sheriff's Office. His wife Samantha Ballard pinned his badge to his uniform during the ceremony.



MADelyn EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Springtown City Council also welcomed Dusty Hilliard to the police force during the June 25 pinning ceremony. Hilliard was formerly part of Springtown Police Explorer Post 1340 for youth who are interested in law enforcement jobs. He was inspired by his father's 25-year career at Lewisville Police Department and graduated from Tarrant County College's police academy in April. His mother Erica Phillips pinned his badge during the ceremony.



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College Station, Houston churches repair Azle homes in partnership with Servolution, FMC

ZACH FREEMAN
azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

AZLE — Earlene Gardner, 66, bought a house on Tenderfoot Trail near Azle thinking it was in good condition. Over the next three years, flooding, crumbling ceilings and a decaying porch would leave the disabled woman, at times, confined to her home. Triumphant cheering, clapping, and Aggie whooping followed as a team of mostly high school and college students helped bring the house down June 26.

About 150 volunteers from Christ Church in College Station and 30 from Lakewood Church in Houston visited the Azle and Springtown area during the week of June 24 for a mission trip. While in the city, the group worked on service projects at 11 different homes. Members of the First Methodist Church of Azle acted as shower homes for the group and hosted a large dinner for their guests Thursday night.

Christ Church is a 26-year-old congregation in College Station with 4,000-members. Brian Smith is the church's student and college pastor and served as director for the mission in Azle. Christ Church is a member of the recently formed Global Methodist denomination who made its exodus from the United Methodist Church, along with about a quarter of all UMC bodies, starting in 2019.

Smith first set his eyes on Azle two years ago, after wanting to do mission work in his home-city of Fort Worth and instead being referred to Servolution Director Jason Malewiski. Through Servolution, Smith found homes in need that had already begun building relationships with the service organization.

"We just love doing mission work and serving, around the state, nation and around the world," Smith said. "We loved working with (Servolution). We were actually staying in the Fort Worth area, but all of our work was out here, so we wanted to be closer to our actual job sites and we connected with First Methodist Azle. We were so excited as a new Global Methodist Church as well to be part of the connectional system in the Global Methodist Church and a part of our sending group and hosting group here and we've just really been enjoying their hospitality this week. It's been really incredible. Our goal is not to just come in for a week and just put a band aid on but to be a part of the long-term solution."

Christ Church takes a domestic mission trip each year to serve other communities in Texas.

"It's been very rewarding," Smith said. "We've been a connectional church since our existence, and I think that's very important, especially for the new denomination, it's important to remind ourselves of the mission that we've been called to worship passionately, to love extravagantly and to be the hands and feet of Christ. That's our calling — we're called to love people and make disciples of people."

Members of the group's "pink squad," an all-girl group of volunteers, and a volunteer from the Lakewood Church also spoke to the Tri-County Reporter about their experiences going on mission trips to serve neighbors across the state and world.

For Anica Gomez, age 17, this visit to Azle marked her fifth trip of this kind.

"I have just always been grown up with so many servant leaders as examples for me and I really do think this is just an amazing way to

show your servant hearted-ship for God and go out and physically be the hands and feet of the Lord in your community and in other people's communities," Gomez said. "I also think it has a very lasting impact in other people's communities because you can go out to help people that maybe you don't know. And then bring all of those things home. The year we had COVID we did one home at our home church, and I think that was very impactful because we were helping our neighbors, we were helping neighborhoods that were two minutes away from us. I think that is something that is so immensely heartwarming, too, because you're driving around town, and you see that progress and you see that work that you've done. I think everything about helping your community, loving others, loving your neighbors, loving people that you've never met before is just entirely what God calls us to do as Christians. I just think mission work is one of the most important ways to serve if you're able to."

Elena Boucher, age 18, was on her fourth mission trip. "Everyone who goes on these trips and experiences the things we get to do, we all leave transformed pretty much," Boucher said. "Getting to do what we do and hearing our clients' stories and how we're helping them — it's so powerful in itself to us."

Sara Garcia, age 17, only began going on mission trips this year but said the experience had been rewarding so far.

"I unfortunately did not get the privilege of growing up with this church but as soon as I joined this community I already felt so transformed. It's been such a privilege coming to this mission trip and just getting to see God's



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER
Back row, left to right: Andrew Hamilton, Gavin Wherley, Grant Wherley, Andrew Starnes, Kris Bagley, Turner Mangham; middle row far left: Kinsey Thomas; front row, left to right: Anica Gomez, Sara Garcia, Elena Boucher, Grace Murphy, Taz Gardner.

love is shining through everyone as they work, and it is so inspiring to see that because I did not grow up experiencing this. I didn't even know mission trips were a thing. I feel like the fact that I get to do this and the fact that I get to see everything play out is so heartwarming to me. It's something that I never thought I would get to experience and I'm so glad I did because I feel like I've completely grown as a person."

Kinsey Thomas, age 15, from Lakewood Church was excited to join the group helping in Azle. She said it is great to see happy faces in all the places she's traveled from locally in Houston to as far as Mississippi.

"It was great to get to know everyone and to see how Jesus' love is so far out," Thomas said. "It's not just in my church. It's everywhere and I've done it before, but it just felt different going somewhere new that you've never been before and to just be with a group that I never met before and just to get to know them has been amazing. My favorite part of the mission trips is to talk to the homeowners, get to know their story and how they came to Jesus to find our ministry to be able to help them ... Jesus' love is everywhere and not just in our community."

GARDNER'S STORY

The house on Tenderfoot represented one of the group's most extensive projects for the week. The owner wanted a stable environment to age in place after her husband died in 2020 but did not feel safe with her home's current state.

The building was described as rotting from the inside. In one section of the house, the back deck and an unfinished room had to be pulled off the rest of the structure. Gardner, the homeowner, has limited

mobility and uses a walker but neither the back porch or front porch was a safe or easily accessible exit. After moving in, Gardner hoped her son, who lives in the area, could help her with repairs. After he received a serious arm injury that was no longer an option.

"I bought the house thinking it was in good sound condition but required a lot of work," Gardner said. "It's just been too much because we've had to replace things after thing after thing. It's hard. I've been worried about things not being safe and Servolution has made it safe. Having a ramp to walk down instead of tripping on the steps with my walker is good. It's going to be so much better ... I used to hate the sound of roofs being done (but now) that was the most beautiful sound I ever heard."

While seeing the room torn down made Gardner feel safer, it was also a bitter reminder of what could have been. She had originally planned on turning the space into a sewing room, a passion she dedicates much of her time to. Gardner was born in Lahoma, Oklahoma. Her mother taught her to sew at the age of 7 and her father was the town's fire chief. He taught her the skills of his trade which she later used to assess home damage for the Red Cross. Gardner also attended college to be an architect in a time when it was still uncommon for women.

"Nobody would hire me because I was a girl. My granddaughter, now she graduated from accountant tech so getting to see that pass. My dad taught me when I was young, I need to learn everything I could so I could always take care of myself. That was one of the best lessons I had as a person and my mom taught me a woman can do anything a guy can as long as she tries.

Gardner's mobility issues began after she "snapped her back" trying to catch someone who was falling off a porch. Despite these limitations, she never stopped trying to care for others. With her crafting skill and architecture background she has always worked to modify and create things to help others. In one example, she created pillow rests for a neck brace after her sister suffered injuries in a car wreck. She later acted as a volunteer caregiver and taught sewing to home-bound patients.

"I see needs and I do that to fill them," Gardner said. "I've always taken care of everybody. When I was 5, my grandma told me, after we went to see one of her friends that had been in a car wreck, God gave you a gift to make people smile and that's what you should do. So that's been my goal in life. You don't expect it to come back."

Today, Gardner still tries to spend several days per week at the Azle Senior Center leading sewing and quilting activities. While she has only been here a few years, Gardner said she loves the community, that it reminds her of her hometown when she was young, and she's never met a rude Azleite yet. With the hard work of Christ Church and Lakewood volunteers, Gardner saw her home transformed with the inclusion of two new mobility ramps and other much needed maintenance.

Technically living on the outskirts of Fort Worth near Azle, Gardner said she has had a difficult time qualifying for transportation assistance and is always looking for ways to get to her doctor's appointment and surgeries. Gardner asked that anyone who may be able to help her get from place to place reach out by phone at 405-637-9696.



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER
Earlene Gardner with grandson, Taz, age 12, and dog, Frizzle.



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Summer fun with Cub Scouts

Pack 303 hosts Super Derby by launching water rockets in Springtown Park

Local kids met up Sunday, June 30 at the park in Springtown for Cub Scouts Pack 303's first summer event — the Super Derby. They launched water-filled rockets and ended the activity by tossing around water balloons. Scouts will have to attend all three of Pack 303's summer events to earn the National Summertime Pack award.

COURTESY PHOTO

COURTESY PHOTO

Before attending the Springtown Cub Scouts Pack 303's Super Derby, kids had to design and build rockets out of 2-liter bottles. At the event, the rockets were filled with water and launched by pulling a rope to release the rockets into the air.



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JOEY GARCIA | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

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Flaughter celebrates birthday with Junior Olympics bid

RICK MAUCH

Special to the Tri-County Reporter

Mack Flaughter celebrated her 17th birthday by jumping for joy — and for a berth in the USA Track and Field Junior Olympics.

The Springtown senior qualified for the USATF Junior Olympics in College Station July 22-28 by placing fourth in the USATF Region 12 Championships in Seguin this past week.

Competing in the Girls 17-18 age group, Flaughter had a triple jump of 38 feet, 1.25 inches. That's more than a foot-and-a-half farther than her distance of 36-7 at the regional qualifying meet three weeks earlier.

The top five in each event qualified for the Junior Olympics meet.

SPORTS Roundup

It's her best performance in the event since she jumped 38-3.75 May 11, 2023 to place fourth in the University Interscholastic League Class 4A State Meet, where she has competed each of the past three high school seasons.

Flaughter's career best in the triple jump is 38-4.5, which she cleared to win the UIL 4A Region I championship as a freshman.

Flaughter also qualified for USATF regionals in the long jump, finishing 12th with a

performance of 16-3.75.

AZLE SWIMMERS COMPETE AT TAAF REGIONALS

With the regular season behind them, the Weatherford Wild swim team will compete at the Texas Amateur Athletic Federation Region 4 Meet in Southlake this weekend.

Among those expected to be seeking a berth at the TAAF Summer Games of Texas in Brownsville July 25-28 are some Azle swimmers. Leading the Azle contin-

gent this summer has been Brooke Nowakowski in the Women's 18-24 category. The recent Azle High School graduate who narrowly missed a berth at the UIL State Meet posted one of the best seasons in Lady Hornets swim history.

Nowakowski has enjoyed a strong summer swimming with the Wild. So far she has won eight medals, seven of which have been gold, along with a silver. In the most recent meet she won four gold medals — three individual and one on a relay — along with a silver on a relay.

Also from Azle, Kayley Brekel has won five medals this summer, a gold, three silver and a bronze, competing in the Girls 15-17 division.



COURTESY PHOTO

PLEASE SEE **ROUNDUP** | B4 Mack Flaughter



COURTESY PHOTO

Emma Hauprich, 16, brought her lambs "Jet" and "The Other One" to Parker County's market lamb contest and won fine wool champion.

Hard work pays off for brother-sister duo

Springtown 4-H Club members earn fine wool champ, reserve champ at Parker County Stock Show

MADELYN EDWARDS

springtownreporter@tricityreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — A pair of Springtown siblings swept the fine wool category of Parker County Stock Show's market lamb contest earlier this summer.

Emma Hauprich, 16, won fine wool champion while her little brother Granger Farris, 10, received fine wool reserve champion.

Showing livestock isn't new to Emma. This was her ninth year competing overall, and she has entered the Parker County Stock Show for a handful of years. Meanwhile, Granger just started last year. Both siblings work with lambs and enjoy the animals' personalities. Specifically, Granger said he likes two aspects of showing lambs — winning competitions and the fact that lambs can see behind them without turning

their heads.

The siblings had nearly opposite experiences at the county stock show this year. Granger said he felt nervous the day of the contest, a fact that even his sister noticed.

"That was one of his first shows, so he was on edge the entire day," Emma said.

Despite that, Granger did well because his lamb Beast

PLEASE SEE **DUO** | B3



COURTESY PHOTO

Granger Farris, 10, shakes hands with Parker County Stock Show lamb judge Sierra Nauman, who named Granger's lamb "Beast" the fine wool reserve champion.

'Let's get ready to work'

State championship-winning coach named offensive coordinator and head track coach at LWHS

JOEY GARCIA

sports@tricityreporter.com

LAKE WORTH — There are many new faces at Lake Worth High School thanks to athletic director Todd Peterman. Othell Robinson will be the new offensive coordinator and head boys track coach at Lake Worth High School.

Peterman and Robinson have won football state championships together at Midland High School and

DeSoto High School.

Robinson was inspired to become a coach by his high school football coach Ed Hickman. He played college football at Texas A&M University Kingsville.

Robinson graduated college in 1997 and began coaching immediately afterward at Rice Consolidated High School. He has since worked at several schools, and this is his third time coaching with LWISD athletic director Todd Peterman.

Robinson shared that playing football has helped him become a better coach because he understands the value of working hard and the rewards that come with it.

"We want kids to know there is going to be a payoff. Hard work is going to set you up for life, it's going to teach you in the real world, how to fight through adversity," Robinson said.

"He's an exceptional play

PLEASE SEE **WORK** | B4



JOEY GARCIA | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Othell Robinson will be the new offensive coordinator and head boys track coach at Lake Worth High School.



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Kids moved from drill station to drill station, focusing on strength, speed and agility.

COURTESY PHOTO

Springtown kids brave the heat

JOEY GARCIA
sports@tricountyreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — The June heat could not stop coaches and kids from putting in work at football camp in Springtown. The Lion's Club football program held its second annual summer football camp June 29 at the Springtown High School Porcupine Stadium.

"We want to build leaders out of boys," Lion's Club football commissioner Mical Shotwell said. "We want to encourage discipline and hard work ethics from the football field to the classroom."

Springtown Lion's Club hosts second annual football camp

The camp focused on strength, speed and agility as kids moved from drill station to drill station. Coaches brought intense energy as they cheered, clapped and motivated every camp attendee to work their hardest.

The coaches brought equipment for the kids to use during drills like medicine balls, cones, parachutes and weights that kids strapped to themselves to run with, and,

of course, footballs. In his second year as football commissioner, Shotwell says the program is seeing success as it had six out of nine teams make the playoffs last season and two teams go to the super bowl — something Shotwell shared had never happened. With 71 football coaches and 208 kids in the football program, the Lion's Club future is looking bright.



The Lion's Club second annual football camp was June 29 at Porcupine Stadium in Springtown.

COURTESY PHOTO



In front, Kolyn Castro, Kyle Shotwell and Brock Wicketts throw medicine balls during a conditioning drill.

COURTESY PHOTO



Valen Carrizales runs with a parachute strapped to his chest.

JOEY GARCIA | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER



Eli Garvin runs with a weight strapped to his chest.

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Kicking it at soccer camp



Azle soccer camp was June 24-26 at the Azle High School indoor facility.

COURTESY PHOTO



JOEY GARCIA | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER
Bronson Loftis high fives his teammate after scoring a goal Azle soccer camp.



JOEY GARCIA | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER
Campers were taught soccer fundamentals and played scrimmage games against one another.

‘I am going to be pushing them in every way possible’



Brendon Rushing

JOEY GARCIA
sports@tricityreporter.com

LAKE WORTH — A former player for Lake Worth High School athletic director Todd Peterman, Brendon Rushing will be a football and basketball coach at LWHS.

Rushing played for Peterman at DeSoto High School where he graduated in 2016. He went to college at Texas State University on a football scholarship and

New Lake Worth High School coach shares his heart to make an impact

graduated there in 2019 with a degree in psychology.

Rushing has been teaching high school math for five years at Idea Achieve College Preparatory and had the highest scores in his district.

Rushing says in addition to working hard on the field,

he is very interested in working with student athletes’ extracurricular activities.

He shared how he found out one of his athletes is a good saxophone player and will look into getting him a band scholarship.

“I am going to be pushing

them in every way possible so they can get those opportunities for themselves,” Rushing said. “So they can take their family and achieve all they want to achieve.”

Rushing noted the LWHS boys really appreciate all the extra work the coaches are willing to put in to help them be better on and off the field, whether that means showing up to practices early or staying late. He shared that the boys told him that they

weren’t used to the speed and intensity the new coaches run drills and practices.

“Everyone here is really trying to bring a culture of achievement and positivity,” Rushing said. “I think we’re going to make Lake Worth a place that a lot of people really want to be.”

In addition to coaching, Rushing will teach math and his wife Nyja Rushing will be the new head athletic trainer at LWHS.

DUO

FROM PAGE B1

was nice and cooperative.

“When I was walking with him, he was easy and settled,” Granger said.

Emma, on the other hand, had to power through the show as her lamb moved around when she tried to set him up.

“Mine did not work as well as (Granger’s),” she said. “You can see in pictures that it was not going very good. But I mean, we got it done.”

Emma expected her brother to beat her in the contest, and she was feeling nervous when they had to go head-to-head after winning their classes. Once the results were announced, both Emma and Granger were happy with their titles.

Because of the timing of Parker County’s show, Emma and Granger’s mother Kara Farris said contestants sometimes have to raise different animals for county than for the major competitions that mainly take place from January through March.

“It’s unique because Parker

County is one of the only shows in Texas that is in the summertime,” Farris said. “A lot of those county shows are going to be in wintertime. When you have that, you almost have to get a separate set of animals if you’re going to go to the majors and Parker County Stock Show. So, it’s a process for those kids who do the majors and county.”

Emma and Granger got their county show lambs in the spring, and both siblings took two fine wool lambs each — which are all white and tend to be taller and skinnier than other breeds, Emma said — to the contest.

Before the show, Emma and Granger spent time exercising their lambs. Emma explained that she used a treadmill and a track to walk the animals backwards and forwards so they could build muscle and lose weight.

Granger said he walked his lambs for an hour-and-a-half daily.

Emma added that there is a “fine line” between exercising the animals and making them look overly bulky.

“You want a lot of muscle,

but you don’t really want them to be too muscle-y or else it just looks fake,” she said.

Granger and Emma agreed that through the competition they learned to be responsible for caring for their animals.

“Sometimes you just want to lay in bed and not do anything,” Emma said. “You have to go out there and feed (them), and then you have to do their water and stuff. And then later in the day, you have to go out and work on them. It’s just a lot of responsibility. You have to learn to keep up with all of it.”

Of course, the kids also have their parents to lend a hand in caring for their animals.

“It’s definitely a family project,” Farris said. “I don’t think a kid can be successful without the help of their whole family.”

After Parker County’s show, Granger and Emma are taking a year off competing in livestock competitions to focus on sports. However, Farris said they still plan to compete at the county show next year.



MADELYN EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER
Springtown siblings Granger Farris and Emma Hauprich swept the fine wool category of Parker County Stock Show’s market lamb contest earlier this summer.

“It’s one of those things where kids sometimes really have to pick and choose,” she said. “We always tell them, ‘You can be mediocre at a lot of things or really good at a couple of things.’”

Farris is proud of Granger’s

and Emma’s hard work and what they’ve learned. The family, especially Emma, is really involved in Springtown 4-H Club, which Farris said teaches kids to give back to their communities, be leaders, lead meetings and

speak in public, among other lessons.

“It’s things that they will take with them and use for the rest of their lives,” she said.

‘Know your worth’

JOEY GARCIA

sports@tricountyreporter.com

LAKE WORTH — Fort Worth native Chris Hollie will be the defensive lineman varsity football coach for Lake Worth High School.

“I believe in passing on what I know to the next generation so they can be successful,” Hollie said.

He graduated from O. D. Wyatt High School in 2002 and went on to Oklahoma Panhandle State University for a couple of years. Then he attended Langston University in Langston, Oklahoma, where he received his undergraduate degree in 2007.

Hollie’s resume speaks for itself. He worked at multiple NFL camps, including for the Detroit Lions and New England Patriots. He has also

Lake Worth High School welcomes new defensive line coach

played arena football for the Utah Blaze and the Bossier City Battle Wings.

Hollie says he doesn’t believe playing always translates to being a good coach, but playing football did help him become a student of the game.

His heart for students and the next generation is prevalent in what he does and how he speaks about being a coach and a mentor.

He believes the key to getting kids from one skill level to the next is the relationships he builds with them.

“Once you can get kids to believe in you, they’ll run

through a brick wall for you,” Hollie said. “I don’t think that we could move this world forward or move society forward without bringing up a good generation of young men.”

Hollie is married to Nomisha Hollie; the couple has four children.

In addition to coaching, Hollie oversees LWHS’ homeless program that follows the McKinney-Vento Education Assistance Act and works with truancy cases.

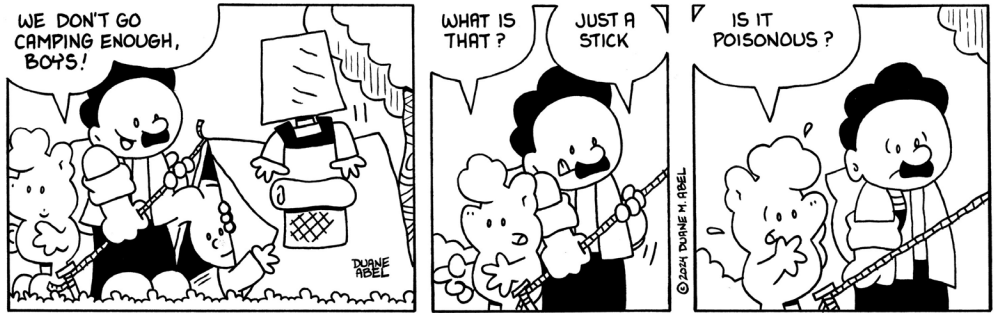
“Know your worth,” Hollie said, speaking about his message to the community. “You are worth so much more and we can prove it.”



Christopher Hollie

COURTESY PHOTO

ZED by Duane Abel



www.corkycomics.com

ROUNDUP

FROM PAGE B1

Karla Rodriguez has also competed in that division for the Wild, winning a silver medal.

“All of the Azle swimmers are doing awesome. We are very happy with their performances this summer,” Wild coach Matt Williams said.

JUNIOR GOLF

Springtown’s Dixie Mae Crain won first place in the Girls 11-14 age group recently as part of the Texas Junior Golf Tour in a tournament played at Bridlewood Golf Club in Flower Mound. She posted a two-day score of seven-over-par 151 (78-73).

She also tied for eighth in the Girls 11-18 division with the same score.

Crain finished tied for eighth in the prestigious national Drive, Chip and Putt competition at Augusta National golf course, site of the Masters, in April. She competed in the Girls 12-13 age group.

BRANAM, DIAZ TO LEAD LAKE WORTH SOFTBALL, BASEBALL

Jessica Branam is taking the helm of the Lady Bullfrogs softball program. She is formerly the head coach at Overton High School, consistently taking her team to the playoffs, and was an assistant at Ouachita Baptist University, her alma mater. A graduate of Irving High School, she was an All-East Region selection at OBU. She competed in softball and cross-country and was the recipient of the Fred Anderson Leadership award.

David Diaz takes over the Bullfrogs baseball squad. His coaching journey includes head coaching at NJCAA Division 1 Frank Phillips College, pitching coordinator at Brewer High School, and volunteer assistant at Southlake Carroll, implementing innovative pitching strategies and fostering a cohesive championship culture.

AZLE CAMPS

Visit <https://azlesports.rankone.com/Website/Main> and click on the camps link. 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 VOLLEYBALL CAMP

Visit <https://www.vanco-events.com/us/eventlist/springtownisd>.

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

LAKE WORTH VOLLEYBALL CAMPS

Visit Lake Worth ISD Athletics on Facebook or email head coach Alex Oppenborn aoppenborn@lwisd.org. Both camps at LWHS gym.

Intermediate Camp, July 22-24, 8:30-10:30 a.m., incoming grades 7-9. Cost \$20
Champion Team Camp, July 31-Aug. 2, 9 a.m.-noon, incoming grades 9-12. Cost \$85.

WORK

FROM PAGE B1

caller, coach, mentor, great teacher,” Peterman said.

Robinson’s three sons each played college football. His eldest son, Shawn, played quarterback on the state cham-

pionship DeSoto team. Then he played quarterback for Texas Christian University in 2017. Robinson’s middle son played quarterback at Boston College and his youngest played receiver at Midwestern State University.

Robinson’s wife is a state winning basketball coach. She

won state twice while coaching at Fort Worth Dunbar and three times at DeSoto.

Robinson is surrounded by winners and is a winner himself. There is little doubt he will bring tremendous value to the LWHS football program and Lake Worth community.



Sudoku

JULY 11, 2024

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

Level: Intermediate

Solution to last week’s puzzle

JULY 4, 2024

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

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to Fourth of July.

IRLSGL

--	--	--	--	--	--

Answer: Grills

CRYPTO FUN

Solve the code to discover words related to hurricanes. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 3 = E)

- A. 26 22 26 5 4 10 2 3 17
Clue: Persisting
- B. 3 13 3
Clue: Storm center
- C. 17 4 8 4 20 3
Clue: Ruin
- D. 22 1 16 11 11 5
Clue: Move forcefully

Answers: A. sustained B. eye C. damage D. approach



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THE FELLOWSHIP
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1356 Reno Rd., Springtown
817-221-2551
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817-319-7364
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COWBOY CHURCH
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15. Carports/Patios

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17. Carpet Service

18. Catering

19. Cement Work

20. Demolition

21. Child Care

22. Cosmetics

23. Computers/Services

24. Electrician

25. Equipment & Tool Rental

26. Excavating

27. Exterminating

28. Farm Equipment

29. Fencing

30. Firewood

31. Free

32. For Sale

33. Furniture

34. Garage & Estate Sales

35. Garden/Mowing Svc

36. Hauling

37. Hay

38. Health/Fitness

39. Help Wanted

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44. Janitorial Service

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49. Masonry/Stonework

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61. Personal

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67. Recycling

68. Storage

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70. Septic Tanks

71. Sewing/Alterations

72. Sewer Service

73. TV/Radio

74. Tractor Service

75. Upholstery

76. Vacuum Cleaners

77. Wanted

78. Well Drilling

79. Welding

80. Lots/Acreage

81. Business & Commercial Property

82. RV's for Rent

83. Houses for Sale

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Thinking of Retirement Yard Sale:

157 Scott Ln (off of Newsome Mound Rd.)

July 13, 7am-4pm

House furniture, clothing, arts/ crafts, household items & antique items.

Estate Sale

Every Fri/Sat in July 8am-?

Everything from A-Z, new items each weekend

1625 Rider Rd., Azle

SALE! Cool Inside. 4th Annual Book Sale. 1000 books, many free. Come buy, July 1st-31st

Needful Things 463 Deer Butte closed Sunday & Monday, open 9am

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350 Horseshoe Dr. Springtown, TX 76082. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday July 11th, 12th, and 13th. 9am -5pm. Toys, tools, jewelry, children and adult clothing, electric stove, rc cars, paint ball guns, and more!

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039 Help Wanted

Eagle Crest VILLA SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY

PART-TIME

Hospitality Aide to assist with bathing, dressing, and grooming of our wonderful residents Tues and Wed 9am-1pm

Please apply in person 113 Denver Trail, Azle

Welder/ Fabricator

Must be able to read prints and build from scratch. Equipment operator position opening soon.

Call 214-802-5157 for application info

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Looking for passionate individual for our 10p-6a shift Benefits: PTO, Paid Training, 401k, Medical, Dental and Vision Insurance

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High End Wood Parts Manufacturer in Haltom City, TX.

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ACROSS
1 this Guthrie played at eight of TX Willie's "Farm Aids"
5 "ten" in Mexico
6 Eden newspaper
7 "____ your keep"
8 TXism: "lonely as a ____ day"
18 Texas voted for this pres. four times
19 Texas flag being flown upside down (2 wds.)
21 "Oh, Pretty Woman" singer, TX Roy (init.)
22 ____ burnett, TX in Wichita County
23 Texas Rangers were first paid \$1.25 ____
24 pecan pie is ____ dessert
29 Texans must get this registration renewed each year
30 Texas-filmed "Two ____ Together"
31 hosp. nurse
32 Mexico's 9th month
34 TXism: "ramrod"
35 24-across is even better ____ mode
36 brother of Lee Harvey Oswald's killer (2 wds.)
37 Venetian blind part
38 con game: ____ flam
39 TXism: "____ shorts in a knot" (calm down)
41 city where Pizza Hut is headquartered

DOWN
1 you don't need ____ fry chicken
2 Lucy's Ricky
3 TX Jim who was a news anchor on PBS NewsHour
4 seat of Crockett County
9 rodeo bull riders come out of this
10 TX Audie Murphy in WWII, e.g.

TEXAS CROSSWORD
by Charley & Guy Orbison
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1 non game deer in West Texas
2 this Texan ran for president in 1992 and 1996 (init.)
3 before it was the "St. Regis Houston" it was "The Remington ____ Oak Park"
4 TXism: "I need that like a hog ____ a packing plant"
5 "____ David's Deer" can be found at Valkyrie Ranch in Bastrop County
6 find a sum
7 a cow that's branded
8 energetic person
9 French abbots
10 lion's sound
11 large coffee cup
12 Texas-made "____ Bell" ice cream
13 USA: "____ of opportunity"
14 TXism: "____ can't find the nose on your face"
15 a pilot
16 lawns
17 TXism: "bought a pig in a ____"
18 fence opening
19 Las Vegas state
20 medicinal tablets

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