





**ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER**  
A newcomer to the Popcorn Players stage, Benjamin Keely plays the pint-sized psycho Kid Kid as audience members shower the stage in old kernels.



**ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER**  
From left to right, the play's protagonists: Josh Holden Jr. as clueless Deputy Dudley Doowrong, Brandon Clouatre as Cowboy Bob Skcratch and Cameron Smith as Sheriff Wayne John.

## WEST

FROM PAGE A1

### CAST

- Sheriff Wayne John — Cameron Smith
- Deputy Dudley Doowrong — Josh Holden Jr.
- Polly Wanda Cracker — Lauren Schillings
- The Schizophrenic Kid — James Kelly
- Belle Starr — Carol Braden
- Richard Coldheart — Jerry Hall
- Sarsaparilla Sal — Rozanne Gann
- Widow Cracker — Juanita Gunnells
- Prunella Cracker — Sarah Lee

- Cowboy Bob Skcratch — Brandon Clouatre
- Bo Best — Boyd C. Mooney
- Snyderley Dastardley — Ron Counts
- Calamity Jan — Magdalene Gara
- Kid Kid — Benjamin Keely
- Black Bart — Will Stroud
- Blacker Bart — Jacob Heath
- The Lone Stranger — Chris Pidgeon
- Reverend Right — Bill Collins

### THE INDIANIANS

- April — Emily Ball
- May — Hannah Nurmela
- June — Canton Brenneman
- August — Shawna Clouatre



**ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER**  
Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde have got nothing on The Schizophrenic Kid. Actor James Kelly changes headwear and personalities from a black-hat baddy to a well-adjusted whiz.




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# Can we please agree, no more resolutions!

Politics is all about posturing. The word “politics” itself is neutral and refers to the art or science of government and political principles. However, it can carry a negative connotation when associated with activities characterized by artful and often dishonest practices. Maybe it is just me, but it seems like for the last 20 or so years the dishonest practices seem to far outweigh the “artful.”

Public perception of politics can vary widely. Many Americans have a highly negative view of politics, citing feelings of exhaustion when thinking about the political climate and process which they believe is dominated by special interests and partisan warfare. While politics can be a source of frustration and contention, it is also a necessary part of societal governance and can be a force for positive change when conducted with integrity and a focus on the common good. Many times,



**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.

the perception of politics as negative can depend on one’s view of human nature and the potential for political systems to improve or deteriorate. One of the recent political ploys that has been utilized by more and more politicians on both sides of the aisle, is the “resolution.” This is a called vote taken by a government body, expressing a position about a particular political matter. For example, it might be a motion for the school board to express an opinion whether it disagrees (or agrees) with a mandate created by the legislature. A motion is made, the resolution is read, and the board members vote. The resolution itself has no authority

or power. It does not change the status of any perceived injustice, nor does it affect any change. What it does is allow the proponents to use the resolution as a “talking point” on the campaign trail. I can hear the candidates preaching, “I voted in support of the resolution to end the mandate made by the legislature.” Sounds good, doesn’t it? Seems like a candidate is showing where they stand on an issue. The problem is the “resolution” itself is meaningless. It does nothing but blow hot air at an issue and confuses the unknowing voting public into thinking something is being done, when it is not. The fact that the motion has no demonstrative effect,

except for publicity, is what makes the entire process so meaningless and such a waste of time. For example, if the school board passed a resolution saying it believes all registered voters should be allowed to vote in the next election, the motion would have no effect. State law and certainly parts of federal law ensure that all registered voters are allowed to vote in an election. So why would such a resolution be made in the first place? I suggest for some politicians it is so they can state to the voters, “I supported the resolution stating all registered voters be allowed to vote in the next election.” Sounds good, doesn’t it? Who wouldn’t support a candidate who is in favor of free elections? The point is the right for registered voters to vote in an election already exists. A resolution by the school board or some other political board whether it be the housing board, water board

or the library board has no authority or jurisdiction to make any changes in existing law regarding voting rights. The resolution is an act by “politicians” to make a gullible public believe they are actually doing something. The truth is they are simply creating fodder to be used on the campaign trail. Instead of having all these resolutions decrying a certain political position, why don’t the politicians get to work and do those things that are within their power? Why don’t they work to affect positive change instead of spending meeting time on pomp and circumstance? There is an old cowboy saying that refers to a city dude who moves to Texas and buys a cowboy hat and attempts to get people to believe he is a cowboy. This sort of fellow is described as “all hat and no cattle,” meaning he may have the trappings of being a cowboy, but when all is said and done, he

has no cattle and would not know what to do with a herd if he had one. So it is with a bunch of our politicians. They have the “hat” of office holder, but not a care or concern about affecting positive change for the benefit of the public. They view their role as being about posturing, spin and perceptions. Let’s drop the resolutions unless there is one for office holders to start working together, to serve all the people in their constituency, and to take action that makes the citizens life easier, safer, healthier and happier. Now I can support that! Thought for the day: “Under democracy, one party always devotes its chief energies to trying to prove that the other party is unfit to rule — and both commonly succeed, and they are right” H.L. Mencken Until the next time...I will keep ridin’ the storm out!

# Center of Hope to open new location on Springtown Square

**MADELYN EDWARDS**  
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SPRINGTOWN — In just a few months, the faith-based nonprofit organization Parker County Center of Hope aims to move its Springtown location from Agnes Baptist Church to the square. Around October or November, Center of Hope’s new Springtown location will open in a building next to Wells Fargo. The center’s hours will stay the same: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Center of Hope aims to provide aid to those in need through crisis assistance in the short term and education and career development in the long term. The center has been based in Weatherford, but in 2021, the Springtown location opened thanks to a partnership with Texas Health Resources. Center of Hope Chief Executive Officer Staci Markwardt said being at Agnes Baptist Church has been good, but now, the Springtown center needs more space. “We have been seeing just so many people; we needed a bigger location,” Markwardt said. “We just were not able

*New location expected to open before center’s Christmas event*

to do everything we can.” Specifically, extra space is needed for the center’s food pantry and for classes — including GED tutoring, English second language, financial management and computer training, to name a few — as well as one-on-one life coaching, Markwardt said. In addition, being on the square as opposed to Agnes puts Center of Hope at the heart of Springtown, which may bring more awareness to it and make the center more accessible to people needing its services, Markwardt said. “People do, especially people who are struggling, have barriers to transportation and gas money,” she said. “Us being six miles out of town really made us sit back and think, ‘Where could we be a little bit more centralized to help the community better?’” The larger space will also allow class offerings to be expanded in Springtown. Markwardt said there are currently students who live in Springtown but drive to Weatherford for these classes. Having the new center

may resolve this issue. “If we could expand the service offerings that we have in Springtown, such as our ESL classes, they would not have to drive all the way to Weatherford to get the services that they need,” she said. “They can just go right there in their area and take ESL classes.” The center’s new 2,000-square-foot location, which used to be a church, is being renovated before it opens, Markwardt said. “It’s nice to know you’re moving into a place where there’s been a lot of prayer,” the CEO said with a laugh. “They had a big area at the back where they worshipped, and so that area is going to be where our large classroom is going to be, also two other offices and a storage closet. So, we’re breaking that big area down into different areas, and then the front of the building is going to be our pantry and lobby and dining room.” Center of Hope owns the new building and will no longer have to pay rent to Agnes

Baptist Church. However, Markwardt expects operation costs to go up a little because the center will have to pay for utilities as well as the extra expense related to serving more people. Markwardt estimated the renovation is costing Center of Hope about \$250,000. Though the Springtown location is moving, Markwardt expressed her gratitude for Agnes Baptist Church. “To know that we helped thousands of people in that very small location, we’re just so grateful for the church and what they allowed us to do and just to get the program started,” she said. The CEO also thanked the Springtown community — the city, businesses and churches — for welcoming and supporting the organization. Anyone who has feedback, ideas or partnership opportunities for Center of Hope’s Springtown location can contact Markwardt at 817-594-0266, extension 305. Those who want to volunteer for Center of Hope in Springtown can find more information at [centerofhopetx.com](http://centerofhopetx.com) by selecting “Volunteer” under the “Get Involved” drop-down menu.

### Center of Hope’s impact in ZIP code 76082 in 2023:

- 5,687 individuals received a month’s worth of food. Center of Hope participants shop for a month’s worth of groceries at a time as opposed to visiting the pantry every week.
- 449 classes were held in adult education and career development.
- 1,181 individuals participated in life coaching and advising sessions.
- 579 kids were given food, hygiene products and clothing through Center of Hope’s partnership with Springtown Independent School District and Camp Hope summer feeding program.
- Over \$820,000 was provided in assistance in 76082 by Center of Hope in collaboration with Texas Health Resources.

## AZLE FROM PAGE A1

and has a beautiful foot to put forward and I’d like to see that displayed,” Nelson said. “I think some simple things could really show the beautiful character of our town. I would focus on one whole complete project at a time to make it look uniform — not just a certain area — making it easy for the owners, a low barrier of entry. Main Street has so much potential. A coat of paint

and some flowers would do a lot to move forward. I think moving forward with the spirit of love where you love the local people, the community and moving with that, regardless of budget. I think anyone can present themselves and their home with dignity and I think there’s a lot of dignity to display in Azle to show off who we really are.” Sutton and Nelson are two of the first seven voting members to be appointed by the city council. The council decided board members can be some combination of up

to three members from the Azle City Council, one Azle High School student who resides within the Azle city limits, up to two nonresident owners or employees of businesses operating within the Azle city limits and up to three resident citizens who are qualified voters. Each committee member will be elected for two-year terms in alternating years. The committee’s purpose will be to aid and organize in “all things making Azle more beautiful.” Some of the committee’s proposed duties include helping make

the city a clean and attractive place to live, maintaining a healthy environment and advocating these efforts to its residents. The committee will make recommendations to the council regarding landscaping, maintenance, trash cleanup and public advocacy among other subjects. The council passed ordinance number 2024-03 during a March 4 meeting. The board’s motto — “Keep Azle Beautiful” — is reminiscent of similar initiatives in Fort Worth and White Settlement. Goode first brought up the

idea of establishing a beautification committee, as well as the possibility of erecting “no littering” signs during an Oct. 17, 2023, Azle City Council meeting. She was disappointed with the amount of trash she saw on certain Azle roadways and was excited to explore solutions after learning about the beautification committees of nearby cities. The council revisited the subject in February and has resolved to appoint the rest of this new advisory committee at some unspecified time in the near future.

*I think there’s a lot of dignity to display in Azle to show off who we really are.*  
**TIFFANY NELSON**  
Azle Beautification Committee



ORDINANCE NO. 2024-12

**AN ORDINANCE RENEWING A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, MAINTAIN, AND OPERATE PIPELINES AND EQUIPMENT IN THE CITY OF AZLE, TARRANT AND PARKER COUNTIES, TEXAS GRANTED TO ATMOS ENERGY CORPORATION, A TEXAS AND VIRGINIA CORPORATION, FOR THE TRANSPORTATION, DELIVERY, SALE, AND DISTRIBUTION OF GAS IN, OUT OF, AND THROUGH SAID CITY; PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT OF A FEE OR CHARGE FOR THE USE OF THE PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY; AND PROVIDING THAT SUCH FEE SHALL BE IN LIEU OF CERTAIN OTHER FEES AND CHARGES.**

**WHEREAS**, Atmos Energy Corporation (hereinafter called "Grant-ee"), is engaged in the business of providing Gas utility service within the City of Azle (hereinafter called "City") and is using the public rights-of-way for that purpose under the terms of Ordinance No. 0-2008-07 granting a franchise agreement and ordinance heretofore duly passed by the governing body of the City; and

**WHEREAS**, the Franchise expired in December of 2022 and the City and Grantee desire to enter into a new franchise agreement;  
**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AZLE, TEXAS, THAT:**

**SECTION 1. GRANT OF AUTHORITY.**

(A) The City hereby grants to Grantee consent to use and occupy, subject to the terms hereof, the present and future Public Right-of-Way for the purpose of laying, maintaining, constructing, protecting, operating, and replacing therein and thereon its System to deliver, transport and distribute Gas in, out of, and through the City for persons, firms, and corporations, including all the general public, and to sell Gas to persons, firms, and corporations, including all the general public, within the City, as such limits may be amended from time to time during the term of this Franchise.

(B) The provisions set forth in this Franchise represent the terms and conditions under which Grantee shall construct, operate, and maintain its System facilities within the City. Grantee, by its acceptance of this Franchise, agrees that all such lawful regulatory powers and rights as the same may be from time to time vested in the City shall be in full force and effect and subject to the exercise thereof by the City at any time.

(C) This Franchise does not grant to Grantee the right, privilege or authority to engage in any other activities within the City other than those set forth in Section 1(A).

**SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS.**

For the purpose of this Franchise, the following words and phrases shall have meaning given in this section. When not inconsistent with the context, words used in the present tense include future tense, words in the plural number include the singular number, and words in the singular number include the plural number. The word "shall" is mandatory and "may" is permissive. Words not defined in this section shall be given their common and ordinary meaning.

"Affiliate" means any entity controlling, controlled by or under common control with the entity in question.

"City" means the municipal corporation designated as the City of Azle and includes the territory as currently is or may in the future be included within the boundaries of the City of Azle.

"City Council" means the legislative body of the City.

"City Manager" means the City Manager of the City of Azle or the manager's designated representative.

"Franchise" or "Agreement" means the rights and obligations of the City and Grantee set forth in this Franchise ordinance, as the same may be amended from time to time, and includes those rights and duties provided under the laws of Texas and of the United States.

"Gas" means such gaseous fuels as natural, artificial, synthetic, liquefied natural gas, liquefied petroleum, manufactured, or any mixture thereof.

"Governmental Customer" means a tax supported institution operated and owned by a governmental entity.

"Grantee" means Atmos Energy Corporation, Mid-Tex Division, but does not include its Affiliates, subsidiaries, assigns or any other entity in which it has an ownership interest.

"Gross Revenues" means:

(A) all revenues received by Grantee from the sale of Gas to all classes of customers within the City (expressly excluding sales to Governmental Customers or to another Gas utility in the City for resale to its customers within the City);

(B) all revenues received by Grantee from the transportation of Gas through the pipeline system of Grantee within the City to customers located within the City (excluding Gas transported to Governmental Customers or to another Gas utility in the City for resale to its customers within the City);

(C) the value of Gas transported by Grantee for Transport Customers through the System of Grantee within the City ("Third Party Sales" [excluding the value of any Gas transported to Governmental Customers or to another Gas utility in the City for resale to its customers within the City]), with the value of such Gas to be established by utilizing Grantee's monthly cost of Gas charged to industrial customers in the Mid-Tex Division, as reasonably near the time as the transportation service is performed; and

(D) "Gross Revenues" shall also include:

(1) the following 'miscellaneous charges:

(a) charges to connect, disconnect, or reconnect gas within the City;

(b) charges to handle returned checks from consumers within the City;

(c) contributions in aid of construction" ("CIAC");

(d) and

(e) revenues billed but not ultimately collected or received by Grantee; and

(3) State gross receipts fees.

(4) Should the City wish for such other service charges and charges as may from time to time, be authorized in the rates and charges on file with the City be included, they may do so by addendum agreed upon by the Parties.

(E) "Gross Revenues" shall not include:

(1) the revenue of any person including, without limitation, an Affiliate or subsidiary of Grantee;

(2) sales taxes and franchise fees paid to the City;

(3) any interest or investment income earned by Grantee; and

(4) all monies received from the lease or sale of real or personal property, provided, however, that this exclusion does not apply to the lease of facilities within the Public Right- of-Way.

"Public Right-of-Way" means the public streets, medians, boulevards, roads, lanes, alleys, highways, public utility easements, viaducts, and bridges across water ways that are deeded or dedicated to the City.

"Railroad Commission" means the Railroad Commission of the State of Texas or other authority succeeding to the regulatory powers of the Railroad Commission.

"System" and/ or "System facilities" means all of Grantee's pipes, pipelines, Gas mains, laterals, feeders, regulators, meters, fixtures, connections or other appurtenant equipment used in or incident to providing delivery, transportation, distribution, and sales of natural Gas for heating, lighting and power.

**SECTION 3. USE OF PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY.**

(A) The grant to Grantee in Section 1 of this Franchise is subject to the terms and conditions contained herein, the City's Right-of-Way Management Ordinance, the Texas Constitution; the City's Code of Ordinances.; and the City's Charter, all as amended, and subject to applicable and controlling local, state and federal laws, including the rules and regulations of any and all agencies thereof, whether presently in force or whether enacted or adopted at any time in the future. This Franchise shall in no way affect or impair the rights, obligations or remedies of the parties under the Texas Public Utility Regulatory Act, other state or federal law, the Texas Constitution or the City's Charter. Nothing herein shall be deemed a waiver, release or relinquishment of either party's right to contest, appeal, or file suit with respect to any action or decision of the other party, including ordinances adopted by the City, that Grantee believes is in violation of any federal, state, or local law or regulation.

(B) Grantee shall provide reasonable notice to the City of planned work within the Public Right-of-Way and shall, except in cases of emergency conditions or work incidental in nature, obtain a permit if required by the City's ordinances before commencing work. If so required, Grantee shall comply with permitting requirements that do not conflict with this Franchise; provided however Grantee and its agents shall not be required to pay fees related to Grantee's use of the Public Right-of-Way other than in accordance with Section 7 hereof.

(C) The location of all System facilities in the Public Right-of-Way shall be subject to approval by the City Manager prior to construction; provided however, said approval shall not be unreasonably withheld. In the event of a conflict between the location of the System facilities of Grantee and the location of the facilities of the City or other utility franchisees within the Public Right-of-Way that cannot be resolved, the City Manager shall resolve the conflict and determine the location of the respective facilities. Grantee shall not interfere with power, telephone, cable, or water facilities, sanitary or storm sewer facilities, or other municipal or public use of the Public Right-of-Way. Grantee has the right to request City Council review of any actions concerning Grantee's use of the Public Right-of-Way.

(D) Grantee shall construct, maintain, and operate its System facilities in a manner which provides reasonable protection against injury or damage to persons or property.

(E) When Grantee is required by the City to remove or relocate its System facilities to accommodate construction of streets and alleys by the City, and Grantee is eligible under federal, state, county, City or other local agencies or programs for reimbursement of costs and expenses incurred by Grantee as a result of such removal or relocation, and such reimbursement is required to be handled through the City, the City shall include Grantee's costs and expenses in any application by the City for reimbursement, if Grantee submits a request together with its cost and expense documentation to the City a reasonable time prior to the filing of the application. The City shall provide reasonable notice to Grantee of the deadline for Grantee to submit documentation of the costs and expenses of such relocation to the City. When Grantee is required to remove or relocate any System facility without reimbursement, Grantee shall have the right to seek a surcharge to recover relocation costs pursuant to applicable law.

(F) The City may request Grantee to relocate any part of its System facilities installed or maintained in the Public Right-of-Way to accommodate construction or improvement of a highway, road, street, public way, other public work or other bona fide public purpose excluding projects with the primary purpose of beautification or benefitting a third party. Such relocation shall be made by Grantee at its expense to the extent System facilities are in conflict, within a reasonable period of time not to exceed 60 days after notice of re-

quest from City unless otherwise specifically agreed to by the City. Should Grantee request additional time to complete the relocation, and provide the City Manager with a written explanation of the reasons for its inability to complete the relocation within the specified time, the City Manager will not unreasonably deny approval of such request. System facilities are deemed to be in conflict to the extent that the proposed City facilities are determined by the Parties to be inconsistent with gas distribution industry standard safe operating practices for existing System facilities. Grantee shall not be required to relocate System facilities to a depth of greater than four (4) feet unless prior agreement is obtained from Grantee or the industry standards require relocation of System Facilities to a depth greater than four (4) feet. To the extent the Parties cannot agree, an unbiased third party will be hired to make such determination.

(G) Following relocation, Grantee shall repair, according to the City specifications, clean up, and restore to the approximate original condition it was in before being disturbed, all Public Right-of-Way disturbed during the construction and repair of its System at its expense.

(H) The installation and replacement of any System facilities in Public Right-of-Way by Grantee shall be subject to inspection and approval by the City. The repair and maintenance of any System facilities in Public Right-of-way by Grantee shall be subject to inspection by the City. Grantee agrees to cooperate fully with the City in conducting the inspection. Such inspections shall be conducted within a reasonable time after completion of the project and for the purpose of confirming conformance with City Ordinances and regulations. Grantee shall promptly perform reasonable remedial action required by the City pursuant to such an inspection.

(I) Grantee shall require its contractors working in Public Right-of-Way to hold all necessary contracting licenses and permits required by the City. In no case, however, shall contractors working within the Public Right-of-Way on behalf of Grantee be required to pay any fees related to use of the Public Right-of-Way.

(J) The City reserves the right to lay and permit to be laid, power, sewer, Gas, water, and other pipe lines or cables and conduits, and to do and permit to be done, any underground and overhead work that may be deemed necessary or proper by the City in, across, along, over and under any Public Right-of-Way occupied by Grantee, and to change any curb or sidewalk or the grade of any street.

(K) If the City abandons any Public Right-of-Way in which Grantee has facilities, such abandonment shall be conditioned on Grantee's right to maintain its use of the former Public Right-of-Way and on the obligation of the party to whom the Public Right-of-Way is abandoned to reimburse Grantee for all removal or relocation expenses if Grantee agrees to the removal or relocation of its facilities following abandonment of the Public Right-of-Way. If the party to whom the Public Right-of-Way is abandoned requests Grantee to remove or relocate its facilities and Grantee agrees to such removal or relocation, such removal or relocation shall be done within a reasonable time at the expense of the party requesting the removal or relocation. If relocation cannot practically be made to another Public Right-of-Way, the expense of any right-of-way acquisition shall be considered a relocation expense to be reimbursed by the party requesting the relocation.

**SECTION 4. INDEMNIFICATION AND INSURANCE.**

(A) IN CONSIDERATION OF THE GRANTING OF THIS FRANCHISE, GRANTEE AGREES TO INDEMNIFY AND KEEP HARMLESS THE CITY, ITS OFFICERS, AGENTS, AND EMPLOYEES (THE "INDEMNITEES") FROM AND AGAINST ALL SUITS, ACTIONS, LIABILITY, OR CLAIMS OF INJURY TO ANY PERSON OR PERSONS, OR DAMAGES TO ANY PROPERTY BROUGHT OR MADE FOR OR ON ACCOUNT OF ANY DEATH, INJURIES TO, OR DAMAGES RECEIVED OR SUSTAINED BY ANY PERSON OR PERSONS OR FOR DAMAGE TO OR LOSS OF PROPERTY ARISING OUT OF, OR OCCASIONED BY GRANTEE'S INTENTIONAL AND/OR NEGLIGENT ACTS OR OMISSIONS IN CONNECTION WITH GRANTEE'S OPERATIONS; THIS INDEMNIFICATION SHALL APPLY WITH RESPECT TO GRANTEE'S ACTS WHETHER OR NOT THE CITY, ITS AGENTS, OFFICERS OR EMPLOYEES WERE NEGLIGENT.

(B) IT IS THE INTENT OF THE PARTIES BY AGREEMENT TO THIS SECTION 4 THAT IF A CLAIM IS MADE IN ANY FORUM AGAINST INDEMNITEES FOR ANY OF THE REASONS REFERRED TO IN SECTION 4(A), AND UPON RESOLUTION OF THE CLAIM:

(1) THERE IS NO FINDING BY A COURT OF COMPETENT JURISDICTION THAT INDEMNITEES WERE NEGLIGENT IN CONNECTION WITH ANY OF THE REASONS REFERRED TO IN SECTION 4(A), GRANTEE SHALL HOLD INDEMNITEES HARMLESS AND INDEMNIFY THEM FOR ANY DAMAGE, LOSS, EXPENSE, OR LIABILITY RESULTING FROM THE CLAIM, INCLUDING ALL REASONABLE ATTORNEY'S FEES, COSTS, AND PENALTIES INCURRED; OR

(2) THERE IS A FINDING BY A COURT OF COMPETENT JURISDICTION THAT GRANTEE AND INDEMNITEE WERE BOTH NEGLIGENT IN CONNECTION WITH ANY OF THE REASONS REFERRED TO IN SECTION 4, INDEMNITY, IF ANY, SHALL BE APPORTIONED COMPARATIVELY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF TEXAS. GRANTEE SHALL HOLD INDEMNITEES HARMLESS AND INDEMNIFY THEM FOR GRANTEE'S PORTION OF ANY DAMAGE, LOSS, EXPENSE, OR LIABILITY RESULTING FROM THE CLAIM, INCLUDING REASONABLE ATTORNEYS' FEES, COSTS, AND PENALTIES.

(C) This section does not waive any governmental immunity available to the City under Texas law. This section is not intended to create a cause of action or liability for the benefit of third parties but is solely for the benefit of Grantee and the City. This section is not intended to limit the ability of City or Grantee to settle claims through alternative dispute resolution.

(D) If any action, suit or proceeding is brought against the City, its agents and employees, upon any claim arising out of Grantee's operations, the City shall give notice in writing to Grantee by registered or certified mail. The City agrees to reasonably cooperate with Grantee in connection with such defense.

(E) Promptly after receipt by an Indemnitee of any claim or notice of the commencement of any action, administrative or legal proceeding, or investigation as to which the indemnity provided for in Section 4(A) hereof may apply, the Indemnitee shall notify Grantee in writing of such fact. Grantee shall assume the defense thereof with counsel designated by Grantee and reasonably satisfactory to the Indemnitee.

(F) Should an Indemnitee be entitled to indemnification under this Section 4 hereof as a result of a claim by a third party, and Grantee fails to assume the defense of such claim, the Indemnitee will, at the expense of Grantee, contest (or, with the prior written consent of Grantee, settle) such third party claim.

(G) Grantee shall purchase and maintain the following insurance coverages throughout the term of this Franchise or maintain the equivalent coverages through a plan of self-insurance maintained in accordance with sound accounting and risk management practices:

(1) Worker's compensation insurance and employer's liability coverage meeting applicable state statutory requirements.

(2) Commercial general liability insurance, or any combination of general liability and umbrella or excess insurance, with minimum limits of Ten Million Dollars (\$10,000,000) as the combined single limit for each occurrence of bodily injury, personal injury and property damage. The policy shall provide blanket contractual liability insurance for all written contracts and shall include coverage for completed operations liability (to be maintained for one year); personal injury; and coverage for property damage from perils of explosion, collapse or damage to underground utilities, commonly known as XCU coverage. The insurance coverage must be written by a company or companies approved to conduct business in the State of Texas Grantee shall require its insurance to respond as if the City were named as an additional insured.

(3) Automobile liability insurance covering all owned, hired, and non-owned vehicles in use by applicant, its employees and agents, with personal protection insurance and property protection insurance to comply with the provisions of state law with minimum limits of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) as the combined single limit for each occurrence for bodily injury and property damage.

(H) Special Conditions. Insurance furnished by Grantee shall be in accordance with the following requirements:

(1) Prior to commencement of operations pursuant to this Agreement, Grantee shall furnish the City with satisfactory proof that it has provided adequate insurance coverage in amounts as required by this Franchise.

(2) All policies other than those for Worker's Compensation shall be written on an occurrence and not on a claims made basis and shall name the City, its officers and employees as additional insureds by using endorsement CG 20 26 or broader or, if Grantee is self insured, by equivalent coverages. All insurance carriers and surplus line carriers shall be rated A+ or better by A.M. Best Company, or if Grantee is self-insured, by a plan of self-insurance maintained in accordance with sound accounting and risk management practices.

(3) Insurance policies must provide that the issuing company or, for a plan of self-insurance Grantee, waives all rights to recovery by way of subrogation against the City, its officers, and employees and agents, in connection with damage or losses covered by the policies or the coverages described in this Franchise.

(4) Grantee shall be give at least thirty (30) days prior written to the City of any intention to cancel, replace, or materially alter its insurance coverages. Such notice shall be given by registered mail.

(5) The policy phrase "other insurance" shall not apply to the City where the City is an additional insured on the policy. If Grantee has adopted a plan of self-insurance, the plan shall be primary and non-contributory. The City's other insurance will be excess coverage and not contribute to the primary coverage.

(I) The City will accept letters of self-insurance which provide the same coverages as required herein, so long as Grantee demonstrates by written information to the City Manager that it has adequate financial resources to be a self-insured entity.

**SECTION 5. GAS SERVICE.**

(A) Grantee may make and enforce reasonable charges, rules and regulations for Gas supplies and service rendered in the conduct of its business, including a charge for services rendered in the inauguration of natural Gas service. Grantee may require, before furnishing service, the execution of a contract for such service. Grantee shall have the right to contract with each customer with reference to the

installation of, and payment for, any and all of the Gas piping from the connection thereof with Grantee's main in the Public Right-of-Way to and throughout the customer's premises. Grantee shall own, operate and maintain all service lines, which are defined as the supply lines extending from Grantee's main to the customer's meter where Gas is measured by Grantee. The customer shall own, operate, and maintain all yard lines and house piping.

(B) Grantee shall be required to extend distribution mains in any Public Right-of-Way up to one hundred feet (100') for any one residential customer only if such customer, at a minimum, uses Gas for unsupplemented space heating and water heating. Grantee shall not be required to extend transmission mains in any Public Right-of-Way within the City or to make a tap on any transmission main within the City unless Grantee agrees to such extension by a written agreement between Grantee and a customer.

(C) Grantee shall be entitled to require from each customer of Gas, before Gas service is commenced or reinstated, a deposit in an amount calculated pursuant to Grantee's Quality of Service Rules as may be in effect during the term of this Franchise. Said deposit shall be retained and refunded in accordance with such Quality of Service Rules and shall bear interest as provided in the Texas Utilities Code, as it may be amended from time to time.

(D) Grantee shall keep and maintain its books, records, contracts, accounts, documents and papers in any way related to this Franchise and shall make them available for inspection by City officials and employees upon reasonable notice.

(E) Grantee shall install, repair, maintain and replace its Facilities in a good and workmanlike manner.

(F) Grantee shall take such measures which will result in its Facilities meeting the standards required by applicable federal, state and environmental laws.

**SECTION 6. NON-EXCLUSIVE FRANCHISE.**

The rights, privileges, and franchises granted by this Franchise are not to be considered exclusive, and the City hereby expressly reserves the right to grant, at any time, like privileges, rights, and franchises as it may see fit to any other person or corporation for the purpose of transporting, delivering, distributing, or selling Gas to and for the City and the inhabitants thereof.

**SECTION 7. CONSIDERATION AND METHOD OF PAYMENT.**

(A) Grantee shall pay the City on or before the 15th day of June, 2024, and on or before the same day of each succeeding year during the term of this Franchise, four percent (4%) of the Gross Revenues received by Grantee during the preceding calendar year. Grantee's initial payment on the 15th day of June, 2024, shall be for the right of the Franchise for the period from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024. Except as provided in Section 7(B), the last payment hereunder shall be June 15, 2043.

(B) The franchise fee amounts due herein based on CIAC shall be calculated on an annual calendar year basis, i.e., from January 1 through December 31 of each calendar year. The franchise fee amounts that are due based on CIAC shall be paid at least once annually on or before April 30 each year based on the total CIAC recorded during the preceding calendar year. The initial CIAC franchise fee payment under this Franchise shall be due on or before April 30, 2024, and will be based on CIAC revenues for the year January 1 through December 31, 2023. The final CIAC franchise fee payment shall be due on April 30, 2044, and shall be based upon the CIAC revenues for the year 2043.

(C) Grantee agrees that at the time of each payment, Grantee shall also submit to the City a statement showing its Gross Revenues for the preceding calendar year from the sale of Gas to its customers, including but not limited to residential, commercial, industrial, and Governmental Customers, within said corporate limits, including the amount of revenues received by Grantee for the transportation of Gas. The City may treat this statement as if it were duly sworn to by an officer of Grantee.

(D) The reimbursement of the City by Grantee for hiring experts in connection with the rate making process pursuant to state law for which Grantee may be legally liable shall not be deducted from the payment hereunder.

(E) Should any payment due date required by this Franchise fall on a weekend or declared bank holiday, payment shall be delivered to the City no later than the close of business on the working day prior to any specifically required due date contained within this Franchise.

(F) If Grantee fails to pay when due any payment provided for in this Agreement, Grantee shall pay such amount plus interest at the prime rate or the statutory rate for deposits under Section 183.003 of the Texas Utilities Code, whichever is higher at the time of the due date of the payment. Interest shall be calculated from such due date until payment is received by the City.

(G) Grantee may file with the City a tariff or tariff amendment(s) to provide for the recovery of the franchise fees under this Agreement. The City agrees that as regulatory authority, it will adopt and approve the ordinance, rates or tariff which provide for 100% recovery of such franchise fees as part of Grantee's rates; if the City intervenes in any regulatory proceeding before a federal or state agency in which the recovery of Grantee's franchise fees is an issue, the City will take an affirmative position supporting 100% recovery of such franchise fees by Grantee and; in the event of an appeal of any such regulatory proceeding in which the City has intervened, the City will take an affirmative position in any such appeals in support of the 100% recovery of such franchise fees by Grantee. The City agrees that it will take no action, nor cause any other person or entity to take any action, to prohibit recovery of such franchise fees by Grantee.

(H) The City shall within thirty (30) days of final approval, give Grantee notice of annexations and disannexations of territory by the City, which notice shall include a map and addresses, if known. Upon receipt of said notice, Grantee shall promptly initiate a process to reclassify affected customers into the city limits no later than sixty (60) days after receipt of notice from the City. The annexed areas added to the city limits will be included in future franchise fee payments in accordance with the sales tax effective date of the annexation if notice was timely received from the City. Upon request from the City, Company will provide documentation to verify that affected customers were appropriately reclassified and included for purposes of calculating franchise fee payments. In no event shall Grantee be required to add premises for the purposes of calculating franchise payment prior to the earliest date that the same premises are added for purposes of collecting sales tax.

**SECTION 8. OTHER TAXES.**

(A) It is expressly agreed that the aforesaid payments shall be in lieu of any and all other and additional occupation taxes, easement, franchise taxes or charges, municipal license, permit and inspection fees, street taxes, and street or alley rentals or charges except as provided in this section. Payment of the fees and other consideration due hereunder by Grantee is not accepted by the City in lieu of any reimbursement of regulatory cost, payment of taxes that are uniform and generally applicable to other persons conducting business within the City, such as property, sales and use taxes or the costs to repair damages to the Public Right-of-Way or to indemnify the City as required herein. If the City does not have the legal power to agree that the payment of the foregoing sums of money shall be in lieu of taxes, licenses, fees, street or alley rentals or charges, easement or franchise taxes or charges as aforesaid, then the City agrees that it will apply so much of said sums of money paid as may be necessary to satisfy Grantee's obligations, if any, to pay any such taxes, licenses, charges, fees, rentals, easement or franchise taxes or charges as aforesaid.

(B) Payment of the fees and other consideration due hereunder shall not in any way limit or inhibit any of the privileges of the City whether under this Franchise or otherwise.

**SECTION 9. TERM.**

The right, privilege, and franchise granted hereby shall expire on December 31, 2043.

**SECTION 10. OTHER FRANCHISES.**

(A) If Grantee should at any time after the effective date of this Franchise agree to a new municipal franchise ordinance, or renew an existing municipal franchise ordinance, with another municipality in Grantee's Mid-Tex Division, which municipal franchise ordinance determines the franchise fee owed to that municipality for the use of its Public Right-of-Way in a manner that, if applied to the City, would result in a franchise fee greater than the amount otherwise due the City under this Franchise, then the franchise fee to be paid by Grantee to the City pursuant to this Franchise may, at the election of the City, be increased so that the amount due and to be paid is equal to the amount that would be due and payable to the City were the franchise fee provisions of that other franchise ordinance applied to the City.

(B) The City acknowledges that the exercise of this right is conditioned upon the City's acceptance of all terms and conditions of the other municipal franchise in toto. The City may request waiver of certain terms and Grantee may grant, in its sole reasonable discretion, such waiver.

**SECTION 11. LONG RANGE PLANNING FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS.**

The City and Grantee shall, with reasonable notice from either party, meet at least annually to discuss planned City and/or Grantee projects. The City shall make its annual capital improvements plan available to Grantee, and notify Grantee as soon as practicable of any projects that will affect Grantee's System facilities located in the Public Right-of-Way.

**SECTION 12. CITY RULES AND REGULATIONS.**

The City expressly reserves, and Grantee expressly recognizes, the City's right and duty to adopt, from time to time, in addition to the provisions herein contained, such cost of service, cost of Gas, charter provisions, ordinances, rules and regulations as the City deems necessary.

**SECTION 13. DOCUMENTS AND REPORTS.**

(A) Grantee shall file with the City, those documents required by law to be filed with the City, and otherwise, upon the City's request, all tariffs, rules, regulations and policies under consideration with the Railroad Commission relating to the facilities and operations, any matters relating to the System facilities and operations, any

matters affecting the use of Public Right-of-Way, or this Franchise. Upon request, Grantee shall provide the City with a copy of filings it makes with the Railroad Commission affecting the same. In addition, upon request, Grantee will provide the City copies of Grantee's most recent annual report, all petitions, communication reports, advice letters, audits, complaints and applications together with supporting pre-filed testimony and exhibits filed by Grantee or third parties with the Railroad Commission related to Grantee's service within the City.

(B) Grantee shall submit reports and information as the City may from time to time request concerning operations and activities of Grantee under this Franchise. The form and content of such reports and information shall be changed from time to time as reasonably requested by the City.

**SECTION 14. DEFAULT, REMEDIES, TERMINATION.**

(A) In addition to all other rights and powers retained by the City under this Franchise or otherwise, the City reserves the right to forfeit and terminate the Franchise and all rights and privileges of Grantee hereunder in the event of a breach of its terms and conditions. A breach by Grantee shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following:

(1) Violation of any provision of the Franchise or any rule, order, regulation or determination of the City made pursuant to the Franchise;

(2) Attempt to evade any provision of the Franchise or to practice any fraud or deceit upon the City or its Residents;

(3) Failure to begin or complete Gas facility construction and/or extension as agreed to with the City;

(4) Failure to provide the services set forth in the Franchise; and

(5) Material misrepresentation of fact in the application for or negotiation of the Franchise.

(B) The foregoing shall not constitute a breach if the violation occurs without fault of Grantee or occurs as a result of circumstances beyond its control which could not have been avoided as a result of the exercise of reasonable care. Grantee shall not be excused by mere economic hardship nor by misfeasance or malfeasance of its directors, officers or employees.

(C) The City may make a written demand that Grantee comply with any such provision, rule, order, or determination under or pursuant to this Franchise. If the violation by Grantee continues for a period of thirty (30) days following such written demand without written proof that the corrective action has been taken or is being actively and expeditiously pursued, the City may take under consideration the issue of termination of the Franchise.

(D) If Grantee does not cure the default within such time frame, the City shall notify Grantee in writing of its right to have a hearing before the City Council to present any objections or defenses Grantee may have that are relevant to the proposed termination. The notice shall specify a hearing date which shall be at least thirty (30) days from the date of the notice. After such hearing, the City may determine whether to continue or to terminate the Franchise. The final decision of the City Council may be appealed to any court or regulatory authority having jurisdiction. Upon timely appeal by Grantee of the City Council's decision terminating the Franchise, the effective date of such termination shall be either when such appeal is withdrawn or a court order upholding the termination becomes final and unappealable, and until the termination becomes effective, the provisions of this Franchise shall remain in effect for all purposes.

(E) Notwithstanding the foregoing, the rights and remedies of the City set forth in this section shall be in addition to, and not in limitation of, any other rights and remedies provided by law or in equity. The City and Grantee understand and intend that such remedies shall be cumulative to the maximum extent permitted by law and the exercise by the City of any one or more of such remedies shall not preclude the exercise by the City, at the same or different times, of any other such remedies for the same breach of this Agreement.

**SECTION 15. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.**

(A) This Franchise is made for the exclusive benefit of the City and Grantee, and nothing herein is intended to, or shall confer any right, claim, or benefit in favor of any third party.

(B) No assignment or transfer of this Franchise shall be made, in whole or in part, without approval of the City Council unless to an Affiliate of Grantee. The City shall grant approval unless the assignee is materially weaker than Grantee. For purposes of this section, "materially weaker" means that the long term unsecured debt rating of the assignee is less than investment grade as rated by both S&P and Moody's. If the assignee is materially weaker, the City may request additional documents and information reasonably related to the transaction and the legal, financial, and technical qualifications of the assignee. The City agrees that said approval shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed. If the City is not satisfied by the additional information provided, City may deny the assignment or transfer. Upon approval, the obligations, rights, privileges, and franchise herein granted to Grantee shall extend to and include its successors and assigns. The assignment shall not become effective until assignee agrees in writing to be bound by the terms, conditions, provisions, requirements and agreements contained in this Franchise.

(C) Any notices required or desired to be given from one party to the other party to this Franchise shall be in writing and shall be given and shall be deemed to have been served and received (whether actually received or not) if (i) delivered in person to the address set forth below; (ii) deposited in an official depository under the regular care and custody of the United States Postal Service located within the confines of the United States of America and sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, and addressed to such party at the address hereinafter specified; or (iii) delivered to such party by courier receipted delivery. Either party may designate another address within the confines of the continental United States of America for notice, but until written notice of such change is actually received by the other party, the last address of such party designated for notice shall remain such party's address for notice.

**CITY GRANTEE**

City of Azle Manager of Public Affairs  
City Manager Atmos Energy Corporation  
505 W. Main Street 901 Alta Mesa Blvd.  
Azle, Texas 76020 Fort Worth, Texas 76143

(D) This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas. In the event Grantee enters into an agreement with another municipality which provides for venue in the county in which the municipality is located, Grantee agrees, at the City's request, to amend this Franchise to provide that venue in any proceeding relating to this Franchise shall be in Tarrant County, Texas.

(E) Grantee shall not curtail Gas deliveries except in compliance with Grantee's tariff or curtailment plan approved by the Railroad Commission.

(F) Nothing herein contained shall limit or restrict any legal rights that the City may possess arising from any alleged violation of this Franchise.

(G) Neither the City nor Grantee shall be excused from complying with any of the terms and conditions of this Franchise by any failure of the other, or any of its officers, employers, or agents, upon

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# Walnut Creek SUD board approves rate changes, awards elevated tank bid

**MADELYN EDWARDS**  
springtownreporter@tricityreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — Walnut Creek Special Utility District's board of directors approved adjustments to the district's water rates during a July 15 meeting.

The new rates are expected to go into effect Oct. 1 after customers have been notified.

Currently, the district charges a minimum of \$35.70, which also covers

up to 2,000 gallons of water usage. From there, 2,001-10,000 gallons of water costs \$6.11 per thousand gallons; 10,001-20,000 gallons is \$6.95 per thousand, and customers who use 20,001 or more gallons must pay \$7.90 per thousand.

The new rates are organized in a different tier system. The base rate is still \$35.70, but that price will no longer cover any amount of water usage. The first tier charges \$6.11 per thousand

gallons for customers who use up to 5,000 gallons. After that, 5,001-10,000 gallons is \$6.95 per thousand gallons, \$7.45 per thousand for 10,001-15,000 gallons, \$7.90 per thousand for 15,001-20,000 gallons and \$9 per thousand for 20,001 or more gallons.

However, customers who are age 65 and older will continue to pay \$35.70 for up to 2,000 gallons of water. If their water usage exceeds 2,000 gallons, senior citizens

will follow the same water rates as other customers after Oct. 1. Once a customer turns 65 years old, they will be eligible for this rate system.

SUD General Manager James Blackwood said the district's water rates have not changed since 2017-18.

"We are one of the very, very few districts who give away 2,000 gallons anymore at the start," Blackwood said during the meeting. "Most charge for that 2,000 right

off the bat."

Blackwood added that a study determined the district was losing \$1.7 million a year by giving away up to 2,000 gallons and only charging the base rate. Despite the changes, he said the district's rates are "still cheaper" than other water providers nearby.

Also at the meeting, the board of directors approved awarding the bid for the 500,000-gallon elevated storage tank at Thomas

Road and Johnnie Drive to Caldwell Tanks for about \$2.16 million. This project is one of many aimed at improving infrastructure throughout the district using just under \$40 million in bond funds the SUD received last year.

For more information, see the website [walnutcreeksud.org](http://walnutcreeksud.org), click the "Customers" tab and then select "Recent News."

# City renews PNC Bank contract

**ZACH FREEMAN**  
azlereporter@tricityreporter.com

AZLE — During a July 16 Azle City Council meeting, city officials decided to continue using PNC Bank as its primary depository bank, renewing its five-year contract. City Finance Director Martin Avila introduced Tim Pinon, a representative of Valley View Consulting LLC, to explain why remaining with PNC would be favorable to switching to another Azle bank.

Municipalities are legally

required to solicit available banks at least every five years. With Sept. 30 marking the end of its current contract, the City of Azle was tasked with choosing who will hold city funds for the next two years with three optional one-year extensions. The city reached out to six potential candidates in Azle: Herring Bank, NBT Financial, Pinnacle Bank, PNC Bank, Prosperity Bank and Woodforest National Bank. Three banks responded: PNC Bank, Herring Bank, and NBT

Financial.

On reviewing the different pros and cons of each bank, the Valley View team narrowed its list down to just Herring and PNC. Herring caught the consultant's attention with its direct monetary benefits. In a two-year and five-year period, Herring offered a higher rate of returns and fewer fees compared with PNC. However, after a deeper dive into each bank's services and features, Valley View ultimately chose to recommend PNC.

"You've got millions of dollars floating in and out of the accounts on a regular basis, you need a fairly sophisticated bank to be able to handle all of that," Pinon told the council. "The finance part would be nice that Herring has to offer but at the end of the day this is a banking contract, it's not an investment contract. If you're investing in a (commercial bank), Herring's your choice but if you're looking for a robust service, really PNC is your best offer."

Same day automated clearing house transfers, which is a type of electronic bank-to-bank payment, and a later ACH cutoff period were major points in PNC's favor, Pinon said. He argued those amenities make a world of difference in ensuring city employees receive their paychecks on time in the event of unforeseen circumstances that could otherwise cause delays. The bank's electronic lockbox features, account validation, real time payments, "more robust servic-

es," and PNC's track record are several other factors that influenced the firm and the city's decision to stick with the incumbent.

"Changing banks is not a small task; there is a fair amount of work involved," Pinon said. "It's worth it if you've got a compelling reason to do so, we just didn't see that looking at the capabilities that Herring and PNC have to offer."

## VIRUS

FROM PAGE A1

motorcycle accident and how he moved Dranda's mother into their home after he and Dranda had been married for two years. She also remembered how organized he was around the house. When they got married, he insisted that the bed would be made in the morning, something Dranda said came from his days in the Navy, and no dirty dishes would be left in the sink before bedtime. Dranda agreed with one condition.

"I said, 'But don't expect to have dinner on the table when you come in because I'll be your wife but not your mother or your maid,'" she said. "He said, 'OK, that's a deal.' That was our deal, and it worked well."

Dranda Hopps described herself as someone who didn't used to distinguish between a closet and the living room, but being married to Gary made her more organized and clean at home. She also said he enhanced her ability to be kind, and Gary Hopps would remind her to stay calm and not be so stubborn.

"He made me a better person," she said.

The Hopkses lived in Fort Worth until Gary lost his job at American Recycling. When he found a new job in Decatur, Gary and Dranda relocated to Springtown, where they lived together for the past eight years. In that time, Dranda Hopps said they didn't have a problem with mosquitos at their home, aside from the usual irritation caused by the pesky insect.

Over a month ago, Dranda

and Gary Hopps were working outside in their yard. Thinking back, Dranda remembered seeing a mosquito bite on her husband's hand a few days later. That same week, Gary Hopps had to take off work because he was ill. At home, he was vomiting and running a fever, and his doctor advised Dranda to take him to the emergency room. Dranda had to help her husband put on his clothes to go to the hospital in Decatur, and she had to borrow a walker from a friend to get him out to their car.

"By the time we got to the hospital, he couldn't even hardly lift his legs," she said. "I had to pull him out of the car and put him into the wheelchair."

Dranda Hopps said her husband typically wasn't a sickly man. Despite him having chronic kidney disease and the flu last fall, she described Gary as healthy and active. When he became ill in June, Dranda thought he had caught the flu again and figured the hospital staff would give him medicine and fluids before quickly releasing him. But that's not what happened, as the flu and COVID-19 were ruled out at the hospital.

Gary Hopps was confused during his first days in the hospital, Dranda Hopps said. He would say he had to leave, and his wife had to remind him that he couldn't go because he was in the hospital. Then, on Saturday evening after being in the hospital for a couple of days, he stopped speaking.

"If we asked him a question, he was able to squeeze our hand, blink his eyes or raise his eyebrows," Dranda Hopps said. "Monday, he wasn't able to squeeze our

hand, but he was able to do the eyebrows. And then it just kept going downhill from there. And then that Wednesday, he wasn't doing anything."

Medical professionals were unsure of what was going on. Dranda Hopps said her husband's urologist told her his vital signs and kidneys were in good shape, despite his condition in the hospital. Doctors did determine that Gary Hopps had a stroke, which he and Dranda had mistaken for muscle cramps at the time, days prior to him being bitten by a mosquito while working in the yard.

After not seeing results in Decatur, Dranda Hopps had her husband transferred to Medical City Hospital in Fort Worth. There, staff ran all the tests, including a spinal tap that revealed he had West Nile Virus.

"The spinal tap was the last test that they could do, and that was almost three weeks after he's in the hospital," Dranda Hopps said.

After West Nile Virus was confirmed, the hospital wanted to put Gary Hopps on life support, but Dranda Hopps declined since that would have been against her husband's wishes. The next option was comfort care, or hospice, at home. He died June 29, days after he came home, at age 67.

Now, Dranda Hopps wants to warn people about West Nile Virus.

According to Texas Department of State Health Services' website, only about 20% of people exposed to West Nile Virus get symptoms like headache, fever, muscle and joint aches, nausea and fatigue. In less than 1% of cases, the virus attacks a person's nervous system

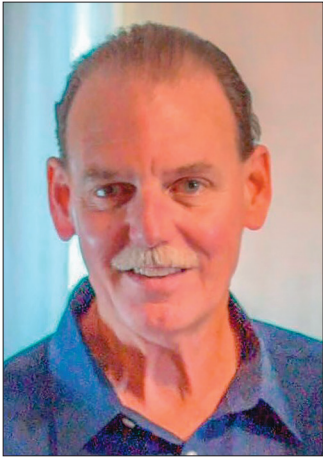
and leads to West Nile neuro-invasive disease.

Since there is no cure for the virus, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's website states people should protect themselves by avoiding getting bitten by mosquitos in general. This can be achieved by:

- Wearing loose, long-sleeved shirts and pants;
- Treating clothing and gear with permethrin;
- Installing screens on windows and doors, keeping doors and garages closed, and using air conditioning;
- Covering or emptying standing water containers to prevent mosquitos from laying eggs;
- Using larvicides in large bodies of non-potable water that can't be covered or dumped. Likewise, adulticides can be used to kill adult mosquitos outside;
- Applying insect repellent on one's skin.

Dranda Hopps, as well as some websites online, recommended lavender and peppermint to deter mosquitos from biting, but those oils are not active ingredients in registered Environmental Protection Agency insect repellents. Therefore, it is unknown how effective they are at preventing mosquito bites. Insect repellents DEET, picaridin, IR3535, oil of lemon eucalyptus, Para-menthane-diol and 2-undecanone are registered by the EPA and have been approved for safety and effectiveness.

Considering what happened with her husband, Dranda Hopps said those who have been bitten by mosquitos and develop flu-like symptoms should request a spinal tap to determine whether they have West Nile Virus.



COURTESY PHOTO  
**Gary Don Hopps, 67, died June 29 after testing positive for West Nile Virus.**

After her husband's death, Hopps posted on Facebook about how her husband had died in less than a month's time because of West Nile Virus and warned others to protect themselves. She also pointed out that city-wide spraying for mosquitos, which she thinks would be helpful, doesn't happen in Springtown like it does in other communities.

"We have kids around here," Hopps said to The Tri-County Reporter. "We have ponds and culverts and creeks. At least come and throw tabs in the water, or spray or something. That's all we're asking for."

Springtown Assistant City Administrator/City Secretary Christina Derr said city staff hasn't received official confirmation of a West Nile Virus case in Springtown from state health representatives. This may be because these investigations tend to take several weeks.

As for spraying for mosquitos, Derr said the city doesn't currently do that because of the "potential risks to humans, pets, livestock and other species that can come from spraying."

"Additionally, there is some evidence that shows that spraying is not an effective management tool for mosquitos in general," she said. "The city's number one priority is always the health, safety and welfare of our residents, so as we continue to monitor this situation, we will continue to evaluate all possible remedies."

For now, Derr said Springtown residents can keep mosquitos away by removing standing water, for which she provided the following tips: "Drill holes or puncture containers to get

rid of standing water. Empty and change the water in bird baths, fountains, wading pools, rain barrels and potted plant trays at least once a week. Fill in or drain low spots in your yard where water collects. Check for leaks or puddles around outdoor faucets and air conditioner units. Make sure coverings for boats, pools and compost piles are pulled tight and sloped to allow water to drain."

At the end of her July 3 Facebook post, Hopps said she doesn't "want anyone to go through what (she is) going through." Because her husband didn't have life insurance, she said she's working two jobs and considering picking up a third just to keep her home. Her sister-in-law is currently raising money for Hopps on GoFundMe to help her adjust during this time. To find her page and donate, visit [gofundme.com](http://gofundme.com) and use the search function in the upper left corner to look up "Give Dranda Hopps Time to Heal."

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In front, Bonnie Everly, Mattie Everly and River Everly at work during craft time at the Springtown Library.

JOEY GARCIA | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

# Springtown kids beat the heat with crafts and fun

Adults are also welcome to join the fun

**JOEY GARCIA**  
sports@tricountyreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — Things are heating up this summer but there are plenty of things for Springtown kids to do to beat the heat. The Family Resource Center located and the Springtown Public Library each offer indoor activities for kids to stay cool while still having fun.

In the months of June and July, the Family Resource Center hosted Tiny Tots Arts and Crafts Club every

Tuesday from 2-3 p.m. Craft supplies were available for families to use during the events.

Last Tuesday, small canvases, paint brushes and paint were on hand so kids could paint their own work of art.

Family Resource Center intervention specialist Meike Brock shared that art is calming, relaxing and helps kids with re-centering. The crafts are not just for the kids but are available for the parents as well.

The center also has toys and other things to do for kids, so if a child does not want to participate in the craft, they are free to do other things.

The Springtown Library hosts Story and Craft time every Friday from 10:30-11:30 a.m. During this time, they read stories, sing, dance and have a craft for children to do. They even have a bubble machine that creates tons of bubbles that make for a fun atmosphere.



JOEY GARCIA | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

In front, Roberta O'Donnell paints with her grandmother Grace O'Donnell.



JOEY GARCIA | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Bethany Harner uses the bubble gun during story time. Harner volunteers at the Springtown Library.



JOEY GARCIA | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

From left, Jacob Stokes walks on toy turtles with intervention specialist Mieke Brock during Tiny Tot's Arts and Crafts Club at the Family Resource Center in Springtown.

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THE TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

THE NEWS OF AZLE, SPRINGTOWN, LAKE WORTH AND SURROUNDING AREAS

**LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICES**

**Notice of Public Sale**

Pursuant to Chapter 59 of Texas property code to satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale to be held at Azle Self Storage at 11400 FM 730 N; Azle TX 76020 on storageauctions.com starting on July 19, 2024, at 9:00am CST and ending on July 29, 2024 at 10am CST. Cleanup deposit is required. The seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale. Unit items sold to the highest bidder. Property includes the contents of spaces of the following tenant and is primarily household items and furniture. Jennifer Gurley Donald & Alice Kirkland

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE**  
**A-Z STORAGE 817-237-7972**

A-Z STORAGE wishing to avail themselves of the provisions of Texas Revised Civil Statutes Article 523b and Texas Property Code, Ch. 59 Self-Service Storage Facility Liens Article 44, hereby gives Notice of Sale under said act to wit: On Sat, August 17, 2024, at A-Z Storage, 5824 Azle Ave., Lake Worth, TX, between the hours of 10AM - 12 NOON of that day, A-Z Storage will conduct a sale to the highest bidder for the contents of units: 103 rented by C. Farris, consisting of misc. Nearest intersection: NW Loop 820 at Azle Ave. 817-237-7972. This sale is being held to satisfy a landlord's lien. The Public is invited to attend. Dated this 11th day of July, 2024. Void if lien satisfied in full before date of sale. Mailing address only: A-Z STORAGE, PO BOX 136369, FORT WORTH TX 76136.

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Estate of Ronnie Dale Laws Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Ronnie Dale Laws, Deceased, were issued on July 16, 2024, in Cause No. 2024-PR01870-2, pending in the Statutory Probate Court No. 2 of Tarrant County, Texas, to: Julia Laws-Moser, Independent Executor. Claims may be mailed in care of the Estate as follows: Julia Laws-Moser, Independent Executor c/o Wendi E. Andino, Attorney Ruelas Andino Law, PLLC 1020 Fort Worth Hwy., Ste. 500 Weatherford, Texas 76086 All persons having claims against said Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated this 16th day of July 2024. Respectfully submitted, Wendi E. Andino State Bar No. 24086674 Ruelas Andino Law, PLLC 1020 Fort Worth Highway, Suite 500 Weatherford, Texas 76086 Tel: (817) 609-8935 Fax: (817) 550-6020 wendi@ruelasandinolaw.com Attorney for Julia Laws-Moser.

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# Blessing Fridge available at Springtown Septic Service

People allowed to take, donate food anytime

**MADELYN EDWARDS**  
springtownreporter@tricountyreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — People needing food have a new resource in Springtown: the “Blessing Fridge” in front of Springtown Septic Service and the We ARE Our Brothers’ Keeper resource center.

A “Blessing Fridge” is located outside the business’ and overdose awareness organization’s offices at 824 E. State Highway 199. People are welcome to come by any time of day to pick up food or donate food. Jessica Castro, co-founder of We ARE Our Brothers’ Keeper who also works at Springtown Septic Service, said getting the Blessing Fridge was a partnership with Servolution Network, which establishes small food pantries (Blessing Boxes and Fridges) across the area. A July 2 Facebook post on Servolution’s official account stated that Servolution has established 19 Blessing Boxes and three Blessing Fridges from Springtown to Fort Worth “meant to fill in the gaps between food pantries.”

Getting the Blessing Fridge came at the right time since Castro and Springtown

Septic Service staff were looking for more ways to help the community.

“I saw that (Servolution Executive Director) Jason (Malewiski) had posted that they were looking for a new location for the fridge, and I jumped on it,” Castro said. “I was so excited. That’s exactly what we wanted to do.”

Castro said the fridge is meant to be filled up with anything people may have at home in their own refrigerators, including meats, ice cream and produce.

The Blessing Fridge is needed because keeping food on the table is important not just for physical health but also emotional and mental health among families, Castro said.

“I think that not just in Springtown, but in general right now, the economy is just so bad, and people are hurting,” she said. “They just need help, and food is one of those things that if you have food in your home, you feel like you’re able to provide for your family, and it keeps, I think, stability in your home because when parents can’t provide food for their kids, I know for a fact that they feel like bad parents, and that causes a multitude of depression and

hurt and anger amongst the whole entire family.”

Castro said the fridge was picked up at the end of June before being placed on the porch in front of Springtown Septic Service and the resource center. In the early days of it being established there, she said people had already found it and were using it to take or leave food, including vegetables that appeared to be from someone’s garden. Castro will be in charge of monitoring the fridge and cleaning it out as needed.

While the Springtown and Azle area is home to multiple food pantries, Castro said the Blessing Fridges and Boxes are unique because they provide food to families in between trips to the pantries.

“The Blessing Boxes and the Blessing Fridges throughout town, I think, kind of supplement that necessary food until the next time they can go and visit another food bank,” she said. “They’re a tremendous help, and I think all together, collectively, it really is helpful to the community as a whole.”

# Miss Texas Princess collects school supplies in Azle



COURTESY TRACIE EDWARDS WEBB

Eagle Heights Elementary student and winner of Miss Texas Princess, Vanessa Webb, is collecting new and unused supplies for local elementary schools in need. Webb plans to present this effort as part of the community service portion of the National American Miss pageant in Orlando, Florida in November. Supply boxes are located at Azle Manor and Southern Honey Giftique and Stingers Bar and Grill. Read all about Webb in the July 11 edition of the Tri-County Reporter.

# Miles of memories: The Great American Road Trip

**MICKY SHEARON**  
Special to the Tri-County Reporter

A few weeks ago, I had to take a quick road trip all the way to northern Wisconsin and back. As I rolled through the states of Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, Minnesota, and finally, into Wisconsin, I started to get really nostalgic about the family vacations my family went on when I was a kid.

When I hear the old Roger Miller song “King of the Road,” my dad is who I picture. Until he was well into his 60s, he had never flown on a plane, and, to my recollection, that one time may have been the only time. He never took a bus or a train. Most of the world he saw was from a ship during his time in the U.S. Navy during World War II. But man, my dad LOVED. TO. DRIVE. He loved to drive more than any other person I’ve ever known. He was the undisputed King of the Great American Road Trip.

I suppose that’s where I get it from. I hate flying. HATE IT! But give me a vehicle and the open road, and I’m in heaven. I have such fond memories of seeing so much of the United States from the backseat of our 1966 Plymouth Belvedere. I remember the mighty roar of that 383 4-barrel car engine, the rhythmic thump of tires on asphalt, the whoosh of passing cars, and the clanging bell of a gas station pump as you pumped your gas.

Of course, this was before the proliferation of fast-food chains, so most of your meals were eaten out of a Styrofoam ice chest on the side of a road or, if you were lucky, at a roadside rest stop. I can proudly say I’ve eaten a sandwich on the side of the

road in probably 38 of the lower 48 states!

I also remember the literal thrill of pulling into a Holiday Inn Motel after a long day of driving. All it took was to see that big Holiday Inn sign from the highway, glowing like a beacon with the yellow-tinted lights, and somehow, all was right with the world because it meant two things: a good dinner in the restaurant and a nice swimming pool!

There is no question in my mind that the baby boomers who grew up in the 1950s, 1960s, and early 1970s were the witnesses to and beneficiaries of one of our most uniquely American institutions: the Great American Road Trip!

When I got home from my most recent road trip, I decided to research the term “Great American Road Trip” a little more to learn its history. What I found was really interesting.

The term “Great American Road Trip” emerged from the cultural significance of automobile travel in the United States. Beginning in the early 1900s, the invention and mass production of affordable cars, such as the Ford Model T, made car ownership and travel accessible to many Americans.

In the 1920s, the establishment of the U.S. Highway System in 1926 provided a network of roads connecting various parts of the country, encouraging long-distance travel.

The post-World War II era during the 1950s-1960s saw a boom in car culture and the construction of the Interstate Highway System, starting with the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956. This period also witnessed the rise of roadside attractions, motels and diners, all catering to road

travelers.

The spirit of the road trip even worked its way into popular culture. Indeed, literature, music and films played a significant role in romanticizing the road trip. Jack Kerouac’s “On the Road” (1957) and the film “Easy Rider” (1969) are iconic examples that captured the spirit of the road trip and embedded it in American culture.

The term “Great American Road Trip” itself likely gained traction as a way to encapsulate the allure and adventure associated with cross-country travel by car. It represents a sense of freedom, exploration and the discovery of America’s diverse landscapes and cultures. The exact origin of the term is difficult to pinpoint, but its popularization can be attributed to the confluence of automotive advancements, infrastructure development and cultural expressions throughout the 20th century.

So, the next time you plan a trip, why not make it a road trip? There is so much to see in this great country of ours. But you’ll have to change your mindset a bit. Be okay with getting off the Interstate and taking some of the lesser traveled roads. That’s where you see the really cool and memorable stuff!

And be OK with not keeping a schedule. Drive until you come across something you want to see, and then take the time to stop and enjoy. As they say, the joy is in the journey, and the Great American Road Trip is one of the best ways I know of to bring some joy into your life!

What are some of your fond memories of road trips you took as a kid? I’d love to hear them!

micky@hcnews.com

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# TRI★COUNTY REPORTER

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NANCY’S RECIPE

# Smooth sailing with Shipwreck Casserole

**NANCY PRICER**  
*Special to the Tri-County Reporter*

My husband and I have a full-size upright freezer for just the two of us. Honestly, we don’t need all that food for the two of us. But, it does come in handy since I really don’t like going to the grocery store. Plus, I like to buy in bulk when certain freezable things go on sale.

Every now and then I will do an inventory of what is in our freezer. Even though the freezer is always full, it doesn’t take long. I have a “basket” system: a basket for beef, one for chicken, one for pork, one for bread, one for veggies, etc. I just have to take out the basket, write down the contents, put the basket back in the freezer and get another basket. Then I cross items off the list as I use them.

Recently 80/20 ground beef was on sale at a local grocery store and I bought 20 pounds. My husband made a bunch of hamburger patties that we could throw in the freezer. I packaged the rest in one-pound bundles to freeze.

Needless to say, when I did my inventory, I had lots of ground beef to use up before freezer burn set in.

I surveyed our refrigerator

and pantry, typed the ingredients we had and I wanted to use into good ol’ Google and a recipe for “Shipwreck Casserole” popped up.

I’ve been reading cookbooks like novels for years and have never see any food dish with the word “shipwreck” in the name of the recipe. I was intrigued. Apparently, it’s a thing. Google the name and you’ll see for yourself.

There are numerous ways

to make it, but that’s the beauty of it. You can make it with what you have on hand. I took the best parts of some of the recipes and used what I had on hand to come up with my own version here. It’s one of those dishes that will probably be different every time you make it. You can use kidney beans, frozen mixed veggies, canned diced tomatoes, etc. One recipe said to add shredded sharp cheddar before serving. When you make

it, make it your own.

I made mine in an electric pressure cooker (Ninja Foodie), but I’m sure you could bake this in the oven, on the stovetop, or in a slow cooker; although I can’t vouch for cooking times with the ingredients I have listed. I tried to find times and temps for you, but there are so many options. I’ll let you go down that rabbit hole.



Shipwreck casserole can be made with ingredients on hand, and no two are the same.

## NANCY’S SHIPWRECK CASSEROLE

- (electric pressure cooked)*
- 1 pound ground beef
  - 1 cup diced onion
  - 1/2 tsp garlic salt
  - 1 cup beef broth
  - 1/4 cup uncooked white rice
  - 2 medium Russet potatoes, peeled and sliced into quarter-inch rounds
  - 1 cup peeled and sliced carrots
  - 4 cups chopped green cabbage
  - 4 stalks sliced celery
  - 1 Tbsp minced onion flakes
  - 1/2 tsp pepper
  - 1 tsp salt
  - 1 tsp garlic powder
  - 1/4 tsp dry mustard
  - 1 tsp chili powder
  - 1 Tbsp apple cider vinegar or white vinegar
  - 1 Tbsp Worcestershire sauce
  - 1 (8 oz) can tomato sauce
  - 1-2 cups shredded cheddar cheese (optional)
- Turn pressure cooker on and set to saute setting. Add ground beef, onion and celery and cook until beef is done. Drain grease now if you so choose.
- Add garlic salt and broth. Deglaze pot. Turn off. Sprinkle rice on top. Add potatoes on top in one layer. Add carrots and cabbage.
- Sprinkle onion flakes, pepper, salt, garlic powder, dry mustard, chili powder, vinegar and Worcestershire sauce on top. Pour tomato sauce over all.
- Put pressure cooker lid on and set to “sealing.” Set pressure cooker to two minutes. Do a natural release for 5-10 minutes. Stir gently. Add shredded cheese if desired.

# The transformative power of positive self-talk

**MICKY SHEARON**  
*Special to the Tri-County Reporter*

Show of hands. How many of you reading this have ever gotten discouraged because it seemed every time you thought you would get ahead, something unexpected happened, and now, instead of getting ahead, you’re further behind? Sound familiar? It’s easy to let life get you down. After all, life comes at all of us.

But have you ever noticed how much easier life feels when, despite your current circumstances, you believe in yourself? That’s because self-belief is like a secret superpower. The best part? You can train your mind to harness this power with daily affirmations.

Think of affirmations as a workout for your brain. Just like your muscles, your mind needs consistent training to grow stronger. Let’s dive into the world of affirmations and see how they can transform your life.

**THE MAGIC OF DAILY PRACTICE**

So, what exactly are affirmations? They’re positive statements you repeat to yourself to challenge and overcome self-sabotaging and negative thoughts. When you repeat them often, and believe in them, you can start to make positive changes. It’s not just about saying nice things to yourself; it’s about reprogramming your mind to focus on positivity and possibility.

Here are a few affirmations to get you started:

- “I cannot control everything that happens; I can only control how I respond to what happens. In my response is my power.”
- “I will stop focusing on how stressed I am and remember how blessed I am. Complaining won’t change my reality, but a positive attitude and taking action will.”
- “Making mistakes is always better than faking perfection.”
- “I will never be as good as everyone tells me when I win, and I will never be as bad as I

think when I lose.”

“All my small victories are worth celebrating; it’s the small things done well that make a difference in the end.”

**WHY AFFIRMATIONS WORK**

Affirmations work because they help you replace negative thoughts with positive ones. Just like every muscle in your body, your mind needs to be exercised to gain strength. When you practice affirmations regularly, you build a mental habit of focusing on what you can control and what’s positive in your life. This mental strength helps you handle challenges more effectively and makes you more resilient to stress.

**COPING WITH LIFE’S CHALLENGES**

Life throws curveballs at all of us. Whether it’s a demanding project at work, a disagreement with a loved one, or an unexpected setback, how you cope with these challenges makes all the difference. Affirmations are a powerful coping mechanism. They help you stay grounded, maintain a positive outlook,

and find effective ways to manage stress.

For example, let’s say you’re overwhelmed with a daunting task at work. Instead of panicking, you can use affirmations to calm your mind and remind yourself that you can handle it. “I will focus on making myself better, not on thinking I am better,” can be a great affirmation to keep you motivated and focused on improvement rather than perfection.

**A HEALTHY MINDSET**

Maintaining a healthy mindset is about more than just positive thinking. It’s about being open to your feelings, even the uncomfortable ones, and finding healthy ways to cope. Avoiding or denying your emotions can lead to unhealthy coping mechanisms like overeating or excessive drinking. Instead, use affirmations to face your feelings head-on. When you acknowledge and accept your emotions, you can deal with them more effectively and move forward.

Imagine you’ve lost a loved one. It’s incredibly painful,

and your first instinct might be to avoid dealing with the pain. But by using affirmations like, “I will accept whatever comes my way, and the only important thing is that I meet it with the best I have to give,” you can find strength and peace even in the most difficult times.

**TOXIC OPTIMISM: WHAT THIS ARTICLE IS NOT ABOUT**

It’s important to distinguish the practice of affirmations from toxic optimism. Toxic optimism is the relentless pursuit of a positive mindset, to the extent that it denies and invalidates the real emotions and challenges people face. This article isn’t about ignoring reality or plastering a fake smile over genuine problems.

Affirmations are tools for building resilience, not for pretending everything is perfect. They help you acknowledge your struggles while reminding you that you have the strength to cope. Affirmations encourage you to face difficulties with a constructive mindset, rather than avoiding or denying

them.

**CELEBRATE YOUR SMALL VICTORIES**

One of the most powerful aspects of affirmations is their ability to help you recognize and celebrate your small victories. Life is made up of countless small moments, and each one is an opportunity for growth and happiness. When you take the time to acknowledge your achievements, no matter how small, you build a foundation of positivity and self-belief that can carry you through even the toughest times.

In conclusion, affirmations are a simple yet powerful tool for building self-belief and resilience. By incorporating them into your daily routine, you can train your mind to focus on the positive, handle challenges more effectively, and celebrate the small victories that make life meaningful. So why not give it a try? Start with a few affirmations today and watch how they transform your mindset and your life.

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# Tumbling fun at the library

Maverick All Star Tumblers featured at the Azle Memorial Library

**JOEY GARCIA**  
sports@tricityreporter.com

AZLE — Normally, the Azle Memorial Library is a quiet and still place, but Tuesday July 16, it was filled with children laughing, jumping and tumbling. The library hosted Maverick All Star Tumblers, who had an obstacle course filled with balance beams, ramps and rails for kids to walk on, climb and tumble down.

"Kids just love it and it's so good for them," gym owner Yvonne Brogan said.

Children were very excited and eager as they waited their turn to go through the obstacle course at the library. Maverick All Star Tumblers coaches stood at each station

waiting to help and cheer on each child as they passed by.

Coach Taylor Turnbough kneeled at the tumbling ramp to assist kids who needed help and show them how to properly tumble.

Coach Morgan Taylor assisted kids at the foam pit as they either stepped over the pit or jumped into it. The kids did different freestyle jumps into the pit; one kid even belly flopped into it.

Coach Melissa Pierce stood at the balance beam, making sure kids safely walked across it and assisted little's by holding their hands as they balanced their way across.

Maverick All Star Tumblers is a cheer and gymnastics training facility based in Weatherford and is owned by Shawn Brogan, Yvonne Brogan and Angelique Little. This year, the gym will celebrate its 20-year anniversary. It has done a free event at Azle Memorial Library for years.

"It is our goal to put on free events for the community year-round," Library Director Curren McLane said.

Maverick All Star Tumblers has an open gym time every Friday from 7-9 p.m. for ages 12 and under. They also have an event for children five and under every Wednesday from 2-3 p.m.

The gym is located at 1308 Santa Fe Drive, Weatherford, TX, 76086.

To learn more visit maverickallstars.com.



**JOEY GARCIA** | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER  
Coach Morgan Taylor looks on as Greyson Thomas jumps into a foam pit.



**JOEY GARCIA** | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER  
Kelcie Murphy strikes a pose at the Azle Memorial Library during a free event featuring Maverick All Star Tumblers.



**JOEY GARCIA** | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER  
Coach Melissa Peirce helps Ozzy walk across the balance beam.



**JOEY GARCIA** | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER  
Coach Taylor Turnbough kneeled at the tumbling ramp to assist kids who needed help and show them how to properly tumble.

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SPORTS  
Roundup

Springtown's Dixie Mae Crain played for Team Texas in the Texas Mexico Junior Golf Cup challenge recently. Texas won the competition 68-60.

Crain helps Team Texas past Mexico

RICK MAUCH  
Special to the Tri-County Reporter

Springtown golfer Dixie Mae Crain continued her successful 2024 by playing for Team Texas in the recent Texas Mexico Cup competition at the Clubs of Kingwood. The competition featured two days of doubles match play, followed by a day of single match play. Team Texas won the event by a 68-60 score. Crain competed in the Girls 12-13 age group. She was partnered with Emma Nguyen of Frisco and Colleen Dewbre of Temple. In April, Crain tied for eighth in the national Drive, Chip and Putt competition at Augusta National golf course, site of the Masters.

**THOMPSON RETURNS AS LADY PINES HOOPS COACH**

Ken Thompson is returning as the Springtown Lady

Porcupines head basketball coach. He was previously the team's head coach from 2008-12 after being the head boys coach from 2006-08. He and his wife, Candie, graduated from Springtown in 1996. During his time leading the Lady Pines, Springtown reached the playoff all four seasons and won three bidistrict championships. Thompson is in his 26th season as a teacher/coach and 20th as a head coach, with his first head coaching gig being at Fabens, near El Paso, before coming to Springtown the first time. He also coached at Paradise for seven years and Perrin for one; he was the Springtown boys assistant coach this past season for basketball, football and track. Candie is assistant principal at Springtown Middle School. They have four sons, including Kaleb, who graduated from Springtown in 2014.

Ethan graduated in 2018 from Paradise and Dayne graduated from Springtown this year and is headed to McMurry University to play basketball. Chase will be a senior this year and is on the Porcupines varsity football team.

**FLAUGHER SEEKING J.O. SUCCESS**

Mack Flaughter of Springtown is competing this week in the triple jump in the USA Track and Field Junior Olympics. The Springtown senior, competing in the Girls 17-18 age group, qualified for the competition in College Station by placing fourth in the USATF Region 12 Championships in Seguin with a performance of 38 feet, 1.25 inches. Flaughter, who has competed at the UIL State Meet for Springtown High School

PLEASE SEE **ROUNDUP** | B2

Young gymnast sticks the landing at Parker County Stock Show

MADelyn EDWARDS  
springtownreporter@tricityreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — At only 9 years old, Gracelyn Olson is already a multi-talented young lady. Gracelyn is the reigning Level 4 state champion in gymnastics and trains year-round. As a member of Springtown 4-H Club, she also raises pigs and earned the down ear championship in the breeding swine competition at the Parker County Stock Show this year. Gracelyn has been practicing gymnastics since she was 14 months old, her mother Bethany Olson said, and she started competitive gymnastics at 4 years old.

Gracelyn Olson is both gymnastics, down ear breeding swine champion

Raising pigs came after her debut in gymnastics. Gracelyn has raised pigs for a few years now, following the footsteps of her parents who also did that as youth. Olson said her daughter has been in 4-H since she was 5 or 6 years old. "It's just something that is important to us as a family," Olson said about Gracelyn being in 4-H. "My husband did it. I did FFA, so I didn't do 4-H as a kid. It goes along with just our values and beliefs

and the way we want to raise our kids." Being in 4-H teaches kids to be responsible and caring, Olson said. "It just really shapes them," she said. Gracelyn said it's fun to raise pigs, whose personalities she described as typically being "hangry" and playful. This year, Gracelyn took three pigs to the county breeding swine show, and

PLEASE SEE **OLSON** | B3



COURTESY PHOTO

Gracelyn Olson walks her pig around the ring at this year's Parker County Stock Show.

LWHS boys play 7-on-7 football  
Lake Worth High School plays Fossil Ridge High School



JOEY GARCIA | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER  
Kevin Pointer aims as he gets ready to throw a pass to one of his receivers.



JOEY GARCIA | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER  
Antwon Crosby anticipates the receiver's next move.

# ROUNDUP

FROM PAGE B1

three straight years — with a fourth-place finish in 2023 — has a career-best triple jump of 38-4.5.

The competition was ongoing at press time.

## AZLE SWIMMERS COMPETE AT TAAF STATE

On the heels of capturing three silver medals and a bronze at the Texas Amateur Athletic Federation Region 4 Meet in Southlake, Brooke Nowakowski of Azle is expected to be among the field in the Women 18-24 age group competing for the TAAF Summer Games of Texas this weekend in Brownsville.

Joining her in qualifying is Karla Rodriguez in the Girls 15-17 division.

Nowakowski qualified with

runner-up finishes in the 50-yard backstroke, 50 breaststroke and 100 individual medley. She also swam a leg of the third-place 100 freestyle relay.

Rodriguez qualified by placing fourth in the 100 freestyle and as part of two runner-up relays, the 200 medley and 200 free.

### LAKE WORTH YOUTH SOFTBALL

The team of 643 Fastpitch Pinson is competing in the United States Specialty Sports Association 16U Southern Nationals in Frisco, Plano and McKinney July 26-28. They bring a 13-18 record into the tournament and are on a hot streak after starting the season 7-17.

In a six-game win streak they outscored their opponents 40-18.

They will face Texoma Sting Friday, July 26 at 12:45 p.m., followed by Hsa 07 out of

Oklahoma immediately after.

The team consists of Kat Utley, catcher/first base; Taylor Budge, third base/right field; Michael Hamilton, outfield/second base; Evelyn Manjarrez, catcher/left field; Gracie Hull, shortstop/third base; Rhyen Angles, pitcher/third base; Abygail Castro, outfield; Zoe Hawthorne, shortstop/center field; Haylie Ovalle, pitcher/right field; Leah Sanchez, pitcher/first base; Karah Cardinal, pitcher/middle infielder; Marleigh Sign, middle outfielder/outfield; Cheridan Rowell, catcher/first base.

### SPRINGTOWN FOOTBALL

The Springtown athletic department advises season ticket holders from 2023 to check their email for a message from Hometown Ticketing as season ticket renewals are being sent out. For all other Porcupine fans, season tickets go on sale to the

public July 30-Aug. 2. Contact the SISD athletic department at 817-220-3040.

### SPRINGTOWN WALL OF HONOR

Wall of Honor nominations are open to add to the list of athletic excellence at Porcupine Stadium's field house. This prestigious wall recognizes the outstanding achievements of teams and individuals who have excelled in athletics during or after high school. Nominations for the annual fall induction are being accepted until Aug. 1. A committee of community members will carefully review all nominations throughout August and September before selecting up to two recipients — individuals or groups — who have demonstrated exceptional talent, success in athletic competition, and exemplary moral character.

To nominate, visit [bit.ly/sisdwalloff](https://bit.ly/sisdwalloff).

honor #PorcupineFamily #WallOfHonor.

### AZLE VOLLEYBALL SEASON TICKETS

Season passes are now on sale for Lady Hornets matches. They are \$35 and all tickets are general admission. They will not be available at the gates and are only available online at <https://brushfire.com/azleisd/volleyball/579445/details>.

Tickets are also subject to a processing fee, are non-refundable and may not be exchanged.

Azle ISD has a clear bag policy.

### AZLE CAMPS

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

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 CAMP

Visit Lake Worth ISD Athletics on Facebook or email head coach Alex Oppenborn [aoppenborn@lwisd.org](mailto:aoppenborn@lwisd.org). Both camps at LWSHS gym.

Champion Team Camp, July 31-Aug. 2, 9 a.m.-noon, incoming grades 9-12. Cost \$85



PHOTO COURTESY SPRINGTOWN ISD ATHLETICS

Participants in the recent Springtown Lady Pines basketball camp.

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OLSON  
FROM PAGE B1

her Chester “Checkmate” placed first in class and earned the down ear championship, which refers to how a pig’s ears fall on their face. Checkmate liked to chase Gracelyn around, she said, and whenever she opened the gate, the pig would run around in circles and jump up and down.

Gracelyn prepared for the Parker County show by walking her pigs every night. She also kept them clean by washing them and getting the white ones bleached. These activities may seem like chores, but Gracelyn said she enjoyed the work.

Both of Gracelyn’s parents helped her raise the pigs. She said her dad, Jesse Olson, assisted in picking out the pigs and would act as the judge when she practiced for the show. He also taught her how to use the whip to control different kinds of pigs and make them act like she wants them to as well as how to feed them. Meanwhile, her mother helped wash, bleach and walk the pigs. Olson also taught Gracelyn about showmanship.

“She’s pretty good at it,” Olson said about her daughter raising pigs. “She’s pretty focused. Quiet, but focused.”

This year presented a first-time experience for Gracelyn. Before, she had never shown in the breeding swine cat-

egory before, but she had to because Checkmate was too big for the market show. Gracelyn felt good at the county show, and Olson said they expected to win, just not with Checkmate. Olson said a person can think their pig looks good, but winning comes down to the judge's preference.

Gracelyn was happy with her win and proudly hung her banner up in her barn. The down ear championship isn't her only stock show accomplishment. She won a champion title at a jackpot leading up to the county show, and she earned first place in all her classes at Parker County last year. This year, she also won third place as a junior in the breeding swine showmanship competition.

Right now, Gracelyn only works with pigs, but someday, she'd like to raise a heifer.

“My dad did it when he was younger,” Gracelyn said.

As she is listening to her parents and following their path, Gracelyn also has a little brother who is coming up behind her and wants to show pigs. Gracelyn said she would advise her younger brother to hit the pigs in the right spots and not too hard.

Next year, Gracelyn may go to Houston and compete in her first major stock show, though she'll have to balance that with her gymnastics season. But right now, her stock show goals are pretty simple: “Just to get a good pig.”



Gracelyn Olson shines atop the balance beam.

COURTESY PHOTO

TCR  
*Junior*

National  
Bagpipe  
Appreciation  
Day

July 27, 2024

Bagpipe Appreciation Day, celebrated on July 27th, invites us to embrace the soul-stirring melodies and cultural significance of the bagpipes. For kids, it's an exciting opportunity to explore this unique instrument and learn about its rich history and traditions.

Bagpipes are often associated with Scottish culture, but they have deep roots in various parts of the world, including Ireland, Spain, and the Middle East. These ancient instruments have been played for centuries, symbolizing heritage, pride, and resilience.

On Bagpipe Appreciation Day, families can embark on a musical journey, discovering the captivating

sounds of the bagpipes. Whether listening to recordings or attending live performances, kids can immerse themselves in the powerful melodies and rhythmic beats of this iconic instrument.

Parents can share fascinating facts about bagpipes, such as how they're made and the different types used in different regions. Kids may be intrigued to learn about the bagpipe's unique design, with its distinctive drones and chanter, and the skill required to play them.

Bagpipe Appreciation Day also offers a chance to explore the cultural significance of bagpipes. Families can learn about traditional Scottish celebrations like Highland games and ceilidhs, where

New  
Word

spor-ran

a small pouch worn around the waist so as to hang in front of the kilt as part of men's Scottish Highland dress.

bagpipe music takes center stage. Kids can discover how bagpipes have been used in ceremonies, festivals, and military marches throughout history.

For hands-on fun, children can get creative with DIY bagpipe projects using simple materials like cardboard tubes and balloons. Building their own makeshift bagpipes allows kids to appreciate the mechanics of the instrument and gain a deeper understanding of how it produces sound.

Bagpipe Appreciation Day is not only about

celebrating the music but also honoring the traditions and stories woven into its melodies. It's a day to recognize the enduring legacy of this ancient instrument and the cultural connections it fosters around the world.

So, on July 27th, let's come together to appreciate the stirring tunes and timeless charm of the bagpipes. Whether listening to the haunting strains of Scottish airs or dancing to lively jigs, Bagpipe Appreciation Day is a celebration of music, heritage, and the universal language of melody

Did You Know?

During the first world war, and even the second, Scottish soldiers would often march into the war to the tunes of bagpipes.

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# Lessons in holding on ...

I'm not sure who the TV weather guy was, which city he served or exactly what he said, but if his observation passed down through the ages is even close to accurate, it still has wide application today.

The man must have had his news antenna aimed far beyond the weather. He was a philosopher as well.

This Ohioan not only predicted the weather, but also included an account of the colorful president of Ohio University. And, it was during flood conditions, for crying out loud ...

President Roger Alden, unquestionably an icon in both education and business, called on his remarkable conciliatory skills when students went on a rampage about the university cafeteria. He calmed them; order was quickly restored.

But wait! Cafeteria personnel were miffed that students were critical of their food, so they threatened to strike. Again, President Alden quickly "charmed" them and once again reigned supreme.

Hours later, the campus was crippled by flood waters that all but engulfed university buildings before subsiding ...

Here's what the weather



## THE IDLE AMERICAN

By Dr. Don Newbury

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

guy allegedly said: "Earlier this week, students protested the Ohio University food service, and President Alden quickly allayed their concerns. Then, cafeteria workers balked, but again, President Alden was equal to the situation."

Then came his classic line about the flood, perhaps rubbing right up against verbatim.

"Today, God tried to close Ohio University, and President Alden is holding his own." ...

Stories abound about folks "holding their own," and this holds true throughout the world. Fingernail prints are everywhere, left by folks trying to hang on.

To sharpen our focus, the community of Branson, Missouri, has dreamed big, even when staring straight into the squinty eyes of adversity. Case in point: Opening of its world-class,

multi-million-dollar aquarium coincided with COVID's arrival. So much for a grand opening.

It held on, as have dozens of other venues in this vacation destination that is gradually regaining a foothold following the pandemic ...

Thankfully, much about Branson is predictable. Folks at the more than 100 shows and attractions are as happy to see visitors as Minnie Pearl was in her weekly half-century comedy routine at The Grand Ole Opry: "I'm just so proud to be here."

Shows are top quality, clean, patriotic and generally "priced right."

We landed at the Pierce Arrow Theater on a recent visit. Three take-aways: Producer Dan Britton can really hit the low notes, now included in the Guinness Book of Records. Baritone Michael Cole is an absolute phenom, springboarding to fame 15



PHOTO COURTESY AQUARIUM AT THE BOARDWALK

Branson, Missouri's Aquarium at the Boardwalk, was listed as No. 9 nine out of 175 analyzed and reviewed aquariums.

years ago with a high finish in network TV's America's Got Talent. And comedian James Sibley remains one of the funniest guys on the planet ...

It is noteworthy that Cole can't remember when he wasn't singing, having busted loose at age 4 in his church choir in rural New York state. A five-sport star in high school, he chose music, or maybe it was chosen for him.

"I don't remember ever going anywhere in the car without the radio blaring mu-

sic, and I sang along with the artists." He, his brother and sister were "back seat harmonizers" later to be recognized on national TV.

He joined Pierce Arrow three years ago and loves life in Branson with his wife and two sons, ages 12 and 3. His mom and dad have moved their ministry to nearby Hollister, his brother is in marketing for Silver Dollar City and his sister is an area realtor ...

Sibley, appearing in over-

alls that may have been custom-made by the Acme Tent and Awning Company, is a humor genius.

Most of his comic jabs are self-inflicted. One great story revealed a lie he told his grandchildren. He said when the ice cream truck came by playing music, it meant they were out of ice cream. He admits to being one year younger, since his parents held him back one year!

Long live Branson! May it ever hold on! ...

## ZED by Duane Abel



## Sudoku

JULY 25, 2024

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

Level: Advanced

## Solution to last week's puzzle

JULY 18, 2024

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

## KID'S CROSSWORD

1			2				3
4		5					
					6		
7							

### ACROSS

- Devices with wheels or blades
- Enclosed area for skating
- Frozen water
- Made a surface even and regular

### DOWN

- Physical activities
- Speak and express
- Ice sport
- Tortilla chip with cheese or other topping
- One-twelfth of a foot

1. Sports 2. Talk 3. Hockey 4. Rink 5. Nacho 6. Inch

1. Skates 2. Rink 3. Ice 4. Rink 5. Nacho 6. Inch

Answers:

## WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to pets.

ODVEL

--	--	--	--	--

Answer: Loved

## CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to Independence Day. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 14 = E)

- |    |    |    |    |    |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| A. | 10 | 26 | 11 | 14 | 3 | 14 | 26 | 11 | 14 | 26 | 19 | 14 |
|    |    |    |    |    |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| B. | 13 | 10 | 24 | 14 | 7 | 5  | 24 | 15 | 8  |    |    |    |
|    |    |    |    |    |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| C. | 19 | 14 | 17 | 14 | 2 | 24 | 25 | 23 | 10 | 5  | 26 |    |
|    |    |    |    |    |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| D. | 20 | 10 | 19 | 23 | 5 | 24 | 1  |    |    |    |    |    |
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817-237-4903  
**FELLOWSHIP OF LAKE WORTH**  
4024 Dakota Trail, Lake Worth  
817-237-9433  
**NEW BEGINNINGS CHURCH**  
810 Goshen Rd, Springtown  
817-523-4462  
**LEGACY CHURCH**  
Hwy. 199 W. at FM 2257, Azle  
817-221-2983 / 817-221-5760  
**VICTORY CHRISTIAN CENTER**  
737 Boyd Rd., Azle  
817-444-LOVE  
**BAPTIST**  
**ASH CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**  
300 South Stewart, Azle  
817-444-3219  
**AGNES INDEPENDENT BAPTIST**  
350 Agnes N., Springtown  
817-523-7271  
**BETHEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST**  
408 S. Ash St., Springtown  
817-220-4238  
**AZLE AVENUE BAPTIST**  
2901 Azle Ave., Fort Worth  
817- 626-5556  
**BY THE WORD BAPTIST**  
West of FM 730 N. at sign, Briar  
817- 444-3484  
**CALVARY HEIGHTS BAPTIST**  
1 block off Hwy. 199,  
east of David's Patio,  
Springtown, 817-221-2241  
**CENTRAL BAPTIST**  
4290 Old Agnes Road  
817-594-5918  
**CHURCH ON THE HILL**  
836 NW Parkway, Azle  
817-444-3752  
**CHRISTWAY BAPTIST**  
7673 West Hwy. 199, Agnes  
817-220-9133 or 817-220-3581  
**CLEAR FORK BAPTIST**  
Corner of FM 730 & Ragle Rd.,  
Weatherford, 817-594-1154  
**EAGLE MOUNTAIN BAPTIST**  
8780 Eagle Mtn. Circle, Azle  
817-237-4135  
**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF AZLE**  
1017 Boyd Road  
817-444-4828  
**FIRST BAPTIST CASTLE HILLS**  
401 Beverly Rd., Azle  
817-797-4706  
**FIRST BAPTIST LAKE WORTH**  
700 Charbonneau Tr., west side of Effie Morris  
Elementary • 817-237-2624  
**FIRST BAPTIST LAKESIDE**  
8801 Jacksboro Hwy., Lakeside  
817-237-8113  
**FIRST BAPTIST COTTONDAL**  
1 block N. of FM 2123, Cottondale  
940-433-5539  
**FIRST BAPTIST POOLVILLE**  
1 block W. of FM 920, Poolville  
817-594-3916

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5th & Main Street, Springtown  
817-220-5229  
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801 Friendship Rd., 9½ miles S.  
of Springtown off Hwy. 51 S.  
817-594-5940 or 817-599-4917  
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Hwy. 51 across from Radio Tower  
**GRACE POINTE CHURCH**  
4110 E. Hwy. 199, Springtown  
817-221-5683  
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3577 FM 51 N., Weatherford  
817-564-3946  
**IGLESIA BAUTISTA**  
Nueva Jerusalem  
6640 Midway Rd., Springtown  
817-694-0444  
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817-237-8441  
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817-237-4163  
**METROPOLITAN BAPTIST**  
6051 Azle Ave., Fort Worth  
817-237-2201  
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817-221-2184  
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817-707-2741  
**PRIMERA IGLESIA BAUTISTA**  
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817-500-3641  
**SPRINGTOWN BAPTIST TEMPLE**  
201 J. E. Woody Rd., Springtown  
817-523-0376  
**UNION BAPTIST CHURCH**  
3451 Sarra Lane, Springtown  
682-333-1645  
**WALNUT CREEK BAPTIST**  
220 W. Reno Rd. in Reno  
817-221-2110  
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**COMMUNITY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP**  
1405 Reynolds Rd., Reno  
817-521-4510  
**NORTHWEST BIBLE CHURCH**  
5025 Jacksboro Hwy., Fort Worth  
817-624-2111  
**SOLID ROCK BIBLE CHURCH**  
591 S. Reno Rd., Springtown  
817-304-7443

**CATHOLIC**  
**HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC**  
800 High Crest Dr., Azle  
817-444-3063  
**CHRISTIAN**  
**THE CHURCH AT AZLE**  
1801 S. Stewart, Azle  
817-444-9973  
**AZLE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**  
35 West Forty Estates., Azle  
817-688-3339  
**GREATER VISION FELLOWSHIP**  
1801 S. Stewart St., Azle  
817-825-0485  
**THE ABBEY CHURCH**  
10400 Jacksboro Hwy., Azle  
817-238-1404  
**CROSSING FELLOWSHIP**  
120 E. Main St., Azle  
817-406-4577  
**CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**AZLE CHURCH of CHRIST**  
336 NW Parkway  
817-444-3268  
**BRIAR CHURCH of CHRIST**  
109 W.N. Woody Rd.  
(½ block west of FM 730 N. in Briar)  
817-444-7102  
**MIDWAY CHURCH of CHRIST**  
6400 Midway Rd. 817-221-2107  
**NEWSOME MOUND ROAD CHURCH of CHRIST**  
1460 Newsome Mound Rd.  
817-677-3290  
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6059 Azle Ave., Fort Worth  
817-237-1205  
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**SOUTHSIDE CHURCH of CHRIST**  
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817-444-3527  
**CENTRAL CHRISTIAN**  
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817-594-3043  
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**ST. ELISABETH EPISCOPAL**  
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817-237-7919  
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**KINGDOM HALL OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES**  
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817-221-2242  
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**THE EDGE CHURCH - AZLE**  
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817-237-4822  
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817-221-HOPE  
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817-444-3323  
**LIGHTHOUSE FELLOWSHIP**  
7200 Robertson Rd., Fort Worth  
817-237-2758  
**SILVER CREEK METHODIST CHURCH**  
2200 Church Rd., Azle  
817-444-1382  
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817-523-7874  
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817-752-8255

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www.thechurchinpeaster.org  
817-596-8805  
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940-969-2427  
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**PRECIOUS FAITH TEMPLE CHURCH**  
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# THE TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

# CLASSIFIEDS

THURSDAY, July 25, 2024

## AD CLASSIFICATIONS

1 Air Condition/Heating	24 Electrician	46 Looking to Buy	69 Sand/Gravel
2 Antiques	25 Equipment	47 Lost & Found	70 Septic Tanks
3 Appliances	26 & Tool Rental	48 Maintenance/Repairs	71 Sewing/Alterations
4 Appliance Repair	27 Excavating	49 Masonry/Stonework	72 Sewer Service
5 Arts/Crafts	28 Exterminating	50 Mobile Home Service	73 TV/Radio
6 Asphalt Paving	29 Farm Equipment	51 Motorcycles	74 Tractor Service
7 Auctions	30 Fencing	52 Movers	75 Upholstery
8 Autos, Trucks	31 Firewood	53 Musical Instruments	76 Vacuum Cleaners
9 Auto Repair Service	32 Free	54 Music Lessons	77 Wanted
10 Backhoe Service	33 For Sale	55 Miscellaneous	78 Well Drilling
11 Boats, Motors	34 Furniture	56 Party Planning/Events	79 Welding
12 Bookkeeping	35 Garage & Estate Sales	57 Pets/Livestock	80 Lots/Acreage
13 Business Opportunity	36 Garden/Mowing Svc	58 Piano Service	81 Business & Commercial Property
14 Campers/Trailers	37 Hauling	59 Pool Service	82 RV's for Rent
15 Carports/Patios	38 Hay	60 Professional Services	83 Houses for Sale
16 Equipment Repair	39 Health/Fitness	61 Personal	84 Mobile Homes for Rent
17 Carpet Service	40 Help Wanted	62 Plumbing	85 Mobile Homes for Sale
18 Catering	41 Home Improvement	63 Public Notice	86 Mobile Home/RV Lots
19 Cement Work	42 House Leveling	64 Photography	87 Rent Furnished
20 Demolition	43 House Cleaning	65 Printing	88 Rent Unfurnished
21 Child Care	44 Hunting	66 Roofing	89 Wanted to Rent
22 Cosmetics	45 Janitorial Service	67 Recycling	
23 Computers/Services	46 Job Wanted	68 Storage	

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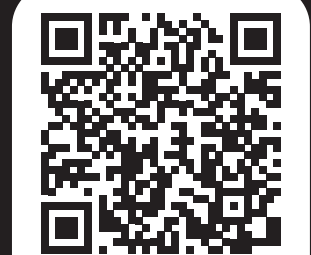
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1963 Chevrolet C60 2ton with straight 6  
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Clean Blue Texas Title. \$3500 OBO Call  
or text Mark 682-777-8001

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Text **817-691-0073**



### 034 Garage & Estate Sales

**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

**Yard Sale**  
334 Briar Oaks Dr., Azle July 27-28,  
9am-1pm. Rain Date Aug 3rd  
MT122LS Tractor, Riding lawnmower,  
lots of tools, odds & ends

### 035 Garden/Mowing Service

**COWBOY LAWN CARE.** Handyman  
services, residential, farm, , landscaping,  
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0450. Spring Specials.

**STUMP GRINDING**  
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### 039 Help Wanted

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Monitors. Training available. Contact the  
Transportation Dept. 817-220-1418.

**MAINSTREAM** group homes are hiring  
for FT/PT direct care staff. Weekday  
3:30pm-8:30am shifts as well as 24-  
hour weekend shifts. Work 2 days a  
week, get paid to sleep, and have a  
full-time job! Paid training, benefits,  
bonuses, and OT opportunities. Start  
\$9.00/hr with quick advancement  
possible. Call 817-270-2747, Monday-  
Friday, 9am-3pm.

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2 Mechanics needed and 2 Body  
Technicians Experience a must and  
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all types of vehicles; we specialize  
in classics. From full restorations,  
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Occasional Saturday Pay Negotiable  
Contact: Elizabeth @ 817-752-2165 or  
Come by: 408 Commerce St Azle, Tx  
76020

High End Wood Parts Manufacturer  
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Hardwood cut-out tech, must read  
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**CNC Router Operator/Programmer**  
Looking for someone who wants to  
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Professional shop, good wages, paid  
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Contact customerservice@clmlwork.  
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Must be able to read prints  
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WORDS FOR  
\$10**

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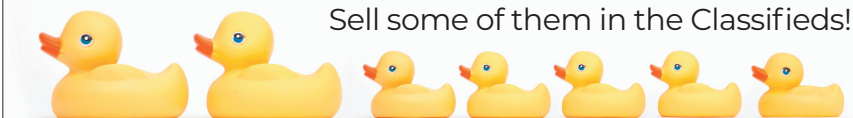
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CLASSIFIEDS

039

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068

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084 Mobile Homes for Rent

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085

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088 Rent Unfurnished

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CLASSIFIEDS

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SEE PAGE B6 for Deadlines

ACROSS

1 TXism: "if \_\_\_\_ rooster, he'll crow" (inevitable)

5 gorillas

6 TX Freddy Fender's "Wasted \_\_\_\_ and Wasted Nights"

7 TX Bob Wills' "Take \_\_\_\_ Back to Tulsa"

8 San Angelo is seat of \_\_\_\_ Green County

9 TXism: "got as much \_\_\_\_ a hibernating bear" (idle)

15 "Ben \_\_\_\_ Hospital" in Houston

16 TX Audie Murphy 1955 film about his war exploits: "\_\_\_\_ Back"

19 TX Paula Prentiss film: "The \_\_\_\_ Henry Orient"

21 TXism: "that's a fine how \_\_\_\_ do"

22 people with no skin or hair pigment

27 TXism: "beller"

28 these are blue on the state flower

29 TXism: "\_\_\_\_ a doornail"

30 "Las \_\_\_\_ Wild-life Management" actress Taylor of Texas "Giant" (init.)

33 Galveston got 15 inches in the "\_\_\_\_ Snow" of 1895

36 TXism: "\_\_\_\_ got a prayer" (hopeless)

37 TX Young Netflix series: "Cobra \_\_\_\_"

DOWN

1 TXism: "if a hog \_\_\_\_ wings he'd be an eagle"

2 agcy. that watches over the environ.

3 Baylor County seat in Arlington (2 wds.)

4 what GM operates in Arlington (2 wds.)

8 some Texans ski here in New Mexico

9 TXism: "strong enough \_\_\_\_" (coffee)

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

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38 TXism: "\_\_\_\_ lap dog"

39 most delicious

41 cut off a branch

42 Texas legal specialty: "oil \_\_\_\_"

45 LBJ took \_\_\_\_ of office on Air Force One

46 TX Nat who sang "Sweet Thang" (init.)

47 TX Roy Orbison early group: "\_\_\_\_ Kings"

10 TX Roy Orbison's "\_\_\_\_, Pretty Woman"

11 \_\_\_\_ Kalb, TX is in Bowie County

12 Nacogdoches is "The \_\_\_\_ in Texas"

13 TXism: "a mess of" (2 wds.)

14 Dionne 1967 hit: "I \_\_\_\_ Little Prayer"

15 TXism: "he \_\_\_\_ to his own beat" (independent)

16 a road Texans have to pay to drive on

17 if your dog has \_\_\_\_ , you're liable

18 how to clean a bookshelf (2 wds.)

20 \_\_\_\_ Smith County

22 anno Domini abbr.

23 TXism: "crooked as a dog's hind \_\_\_\_"

24 ABC's Bret and \_\_\_\_ Maverick

25 best possible

26 father of TX singer Lefty Frizzell

28 pots and \_\_\_\_

31 unaccounted for soldiers (abbr.)

34 TX-born singer Autry (init.)

35 Texas' country noncommercial FM in Commerce

40 "last yeer I kudn't spel engineer, now \_\_\_\_ won."

43 TXism: "pushing up bluebonnets"

44 TXism: "the real McCoy"

50 rods and \_\_\_\_

51 former Cowboy star, Emmitt (init.)

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