

# OUNTY REPORTER

LE, SPRINGTOWN, LAKE WORTH AND SURROUNDING AREAS

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Widow copes with loss through gardening, starts seed library

#### **MADELYN EDWARDS**

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SPRINGTOWN — In 2022, Christine Landis found herself amidst a tragedy.

Landis' husband, Harley Landis, died of suicide, and she became a single mother to her four daughters. She said grief caused her to lose 30 pounds in a month because she couldn't keep food down. On the financial front, she thought about selling the house she and her husband built in Springtown to make ends meet, though she ultimately kept their home.

During this time, one activity stood out as a beacon of hope for her — gardening.

"It was my beautiful little project that got me through a really dark time," Landis said.

Now, she wants to share the therapeutic nature of gardening with the Springtown community.

Landis was the driving force behind Springtown

PLEASE SEE **SEEDS** | A8

# Lake Worth man arrested for bomb threat

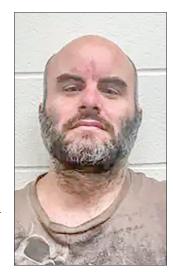
#### STAFF REPORT

LAKE WORTH —A man suspected in a Lake Worth bomb threat was taken into custody just hours after the evacuation of a local Walmart and the brief closure of NW Loop 820 July

According to a news conference with Lake Worth Police Department Chief of Police JT Manoushagian, Donald Mark Scott, age 43, is currently under investigation after he was reported to be in the area with armed explosives. Police tracked the suspect using his phone signal to the Lake Worth Walmart Supercenter after he sent a presumed bomb threat to his probation officer.

"I've had this plan since 2007," the message said. "I have things stashed everywhere. I've been here over 24 hours. Cops play with my word ... When I say planned, I mean everything. Even going to prison for bank robbery.

During a manhunt in the area, officers discovered a suspicious bag at the nearby Richie Brothers Auctioneers and another in the 3900 block of Boat Club Road. The Fort Worth Fire Department's arson and



COURTESY LAKE WORTH POLICE

#### **Donald Mark Scott was** arrested after allegedly making a bomb threat July 25.

bomb squad was called in and a safe perimeter was established. Initial concerns about possible explosive contents in the bags were proven unfounded after investigators instead discovered pressure cookers, electric wires and other miscellaneous cooking and camping equipment.

Manoushagian praised the handling of the situation. "All things consid-

ered, this incident was

PLEASE SEE THREAT | A3

# Azle FD welcomes new employees, ambulances



COURTESY FRAZIER LTD FACEBOOK

One of the two new ambulances that will be introduced to service next month, manufactured by Frazier LTD.

#### **ZACH FREEMAN**

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AZLE — The Azle Fire Department recently welcomed three new employees and two new ambulances with a third on the way.

The Azle Fire Department acquired three new employees in May 2024. According to Fire Chief Will Scott, the hires were replacements for positions that have been left vacant since at least 2023. Two of the hires will be attending

the Tarrant County College

Fire Academy this fall. Scott previously spoke about the job openings during a December Azle City Council meeting. He attributed difficulties in filling the positions to changes happening in the emergency medical services industry that are making it harder to employ them; many potential candidates choose to go to emergency rooms instead. The Azle Fire Department and emergency medical services have been combined for many years.

"The employees that you do have are doing a fantastic job considering what the workload is," Scott said.

Scott said he would like to have 32 firefighters on staff, but the current budget only pays for 21 non-administrative employees. With the hiring of the three most recent employees, all available positions have been filled.

The department also took delivery of two new ambulances in late April. The ambulances have not yet entered service as the FD is still waiting on all the equipment needed to outfit the vehicles. Scott predicts they will likely enter service sometime in the next month. The city obtained the funding for the vehicles as part of its participation in Tarrant County Emergency Services District No. 1. TCESD No. 1 received a grant from the

PLEASE SEE **AZLE** | A2



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**VOLUME 2, NUMBER 9** Local, zone(s) 2 sections, 16 pages **INSIDE** 

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# **AZLE** FROM PAGE A1

American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to assist in the purchase of three ambulances. The third ambulance was ordered around the same time but became untraceable and did not arrive due to complications during the 2023 United Auto Workers strike, Scott said. A replacement ambulance has been ordered and with the current demand for chassis, Scott expects it to be delivered between 12 and 24 months from now.

TCESD No. 1, previously known as Tarrant County Rural Fire Prevention District, contracts with 25 fire departments to provide fire and EMS coverage for approximately 50,000 residents in the 183 square miles of unincorporated Tarrant County.



COURTESY FRAZIER LTD FACEBOOK

The interior of one of the new ambulances that will be introduced to service next month, manufactured by Frazier LTD.





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# Can we talk about conspiracy theories?

#### **Common Practice**

I tend to believe stories that match my views, or that are reported by sources that I agree with.

#### **Best Practice**

I search for verification on stories that I hear and share them with caution.

### **Helpful Habits**

- Beware of conspiracies designed to make you suspicious of one group.
- · Ask questions about the story and how it is designed to make you feel.
- · Look for solid facts from multiple reliable sources.
- Think before you share. Does the story sound too good (or bad) to be true? Is the tone objective and factual, or is it sensationalist? Does the headline accurately reflect the story?

#### **The End Game**

We can all fall for conspiracy theories and unintentionally assist in spreading them. Learn how to spot and evaluate them, especially before we share them.



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

For more information: facebook.com/LetsTalkAzle LetsTalkAzle@gmail.com



LET'S TALK

#### **Practices**

#### Think about this...

- Remember that conspiracy theories are persuasive and will play upon our fears.
- Conspiracy theories are designed to help us feel in control and explain our frustrations.

#### Try this...

- What are the central claims of the conspiracy theory and where do they come from?
- Be skeptical of stories shared from sources supporting only one viewpoint.
- Conspiracy theories and misleading information thrive by invoking a strong reaction. If the information upsets you or makes you angry, it could be a sign that you're being manipulated.

# Living with our mistakes is a part of life

Humans are fallible and in some ways our failings are what make us endearing. But in other ways our shortcomings are the source of personal irritation and frustration, so much so that it is sometimes hard to appreciate the lesson life is teaching us.

We recognize the good Lord who created us humans gave us a higher intellect than other creatures. With that intellect comes a level of responsibility which the lower animals do not have. Wait a minute that may not be entirely fair for when the lower animals make a mistake in judgment, the price they pay is usually their life. For example, when a small fish exercises poor judgment and swims near the surface of the lake in clear sight of the bald eagle resting in a neighboring treetop, the fish's poor judgment is violently confirmed when the



FROM MY FRONT PORCH

By Sam Houston

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

fish out of the water making it the "catch of the day." With our greater degree of brainpower, we humans can make a wider variety of mistakes than just swimming too close to the surface. Fortunately, most of the mistakes we make in a civilized society are not paid for by sacrificing our lives like the fish in my example, though occasionally we feel so remorseful about a mistake we might wish we could die.

Stop and think about the absent-minded, lackadaisical, silly mistakes you have

eagle dives in and swoops the made over the course of your life. The mistake that may come to mind for some could be marriage to a certain exspouse. Admittedly, in some instances a bad marriage can be a huge mistake. But I am referring to the everyday "dealing with life mistakes" like pulling your vehicle into oncoming traffic and not seeing the truck that hits your front quarter panel and spins you off into the ditch. Clearly the oncoming truck was there, but for whatever reason, we simply did not see it; a mistake is made, and consequences result. If we are

lucky, the mistake only costs us financially.

Then there is just plain, old absent-mindedness like the time in graduate school when I thought my final exam was Wednesday. When I showed up to take the test, I learned that the exam had been administered the day before! I had gotten the date wrong! The stress and mortification I suffered until I could contact my instructor and beg her to allow me to take the test, was excruciating. Fortunately, through the grace provided me by my forgiving professor, predicated on a promise I had not talked to anyone else who had taken the test and learned what the questions were, I did not have to repeat a whole semester of school. Reminiscing about the situation still makes my heart shudder thinking about how bad the consequences

might have been. After realizing I had made a mistake, the worst part was trying to reconcile why I had made the mistake in the first place. What caused me to write the date down incorrectly? Why had I been confused? Did somebody else screw up and tell me the wrong date?

Yes, when a mistake occurs, it is human to attempt to deflect blame on someone or something else. Is there a logical explanation which will absolve the blame or the consequences of the mistake? While on a rare occasion there is a legitimate explanation and the mistake is someone else's fault, much more commonly the mistake is ours. The sooner we admit to the mistake and accept our failings, the quicker we can deal with the consequences and get back on track. The tragedy is not the mistake;

the tragedy is the failure to learn from the mistake, rather than taking steps so it does not happen again and growing. Without mistakes, how would we learn and get better? Sometimes it is hard to accept learning a lesson is a good thing. Like the time we printed last week's date on this week's paper. After some shame, embarrassment and aggravation, a lesson was learned and will never be forgotten. I bet we all learned a lesson this week, whether we liked it or not. It was probably a lesson worth learning

Thought for the day: Mistakes ae like knives that either serve us or cut us, as we grab them by the blade or by the handle.

Until next time...I will keep ridin' the storm out! sam@hcnews.com

# What is woven into the lives of others

This past week I was at a series of events, meetings and activities where I found myself looking around at the various people I knew and retrospectively thinking about our friendships.

Several people were ones I would consider good friends. Interestingly, like in most close friendships, we have had to work through things together that were, at times, quite difficult. Although rare, some of those issues involved hurt feelings and confusion.

The 19th century American novelist Louisa May Alcott wrote, "Stay' is a charming word in a friend's vocabulary." How true! When a friend stays to work through an issue, reminding me that we are on the same side despite our disagree-



**HOPE MATTERS** By David Shaffer

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

ments, I feel emboldened and the lives of others." strengthened, and it bonds us even closer together.

Relationships can be tough, but they are clearly what give life meaning and context.

This is, of course, no new revelation. Pericles, the most prominent and influential Greek statesman and orator during the Golden Age of Athens, wisely noted nearly 2,500 years ago that "what you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into

More than two millennia later, William Shakespeare added his observation of relationships, saying, "The course of true love never did run smooth."

My work in Son Shine Ministries is focused primarily on marriage and family ministry. Almost every day I am inspired by couples and individuals who are putting forth the effort to strengthen their relationships.

Friendships almost always

involve the risk of being hurt, saddened, scared and broken; yet they also are the primary source where love, joy, peace, happiness and safety can thrive.

A few years ago, a friend of mine saw the division in our country and remarked to me, "No matter what I hear on the news, I'll tell you one thing, David: I'm not fearful."

While I believed him at the time, I remember feeling that I could not match his declaration. I did have some anxiety about what was happening in our culture and nation, and I transparently shared that with him, which was met with understanding. For me, a great friend is someone with whom I feel comfortable being completely honest.

U.S. Olympic sprinter Noah

Lyles, in a recent NBC News interview, paraphrased classic wisdom about fear as it relates to his competitions. He made the point that it is not the absence of fear that is his goal. It is the willingness to recognize the fear he feels and not let it keep him from lining up in the starting blocks and competing.

As I continue in this life, I want to strengthen my friendships and fight for them when necessary. I want to develop new friendships and to linger at times, staying long enough to get below the surface.

It is so easy to be contentious. Some relationships don't make it, and some sadly actually need to end. Whenever possible and wise, though, I want to discipline

myself to be positive and to support people rather than find faults and tear down people. I have been shown so much grace in my life! Why would I not extend it to others?

Perhaps what I love best about healthy friendships is that they weave hope into our lives. I am deeply grateful for the hope I have because of my relationship with Christ, my wife, my family and my friends.

Despite associated challenges and risks, special relationships are well worth it. May you be blessed with friends who know you, support you and love you! And may you reciprocate such kindness to them and to others!

# Springtown woman thanks EMTs who saved her life after she fell through her porch

Hirleman's blood pressure was 70/0 when first responders came to her rescue

#### **MADELYN EDWARDS**

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SPRINGTOWN — "How do you thank somebody that literally saved your life? What do you do for that person?"

Asking this question caused Springtown resident Donna Hirleman to choke up with emotion as she retold the story of how Parker County emergency medical technicians helped her during a traumatic accident.

"God is good," Hirleman said. "I absolutely have God and my angel, whatever people believe that's out there, (who) brought those other angels to my aid."

On a Saturday evening in mid-June, Hirleman needed an ambulance. She was headed out to test drive her truck after it had been worked on, but unfortunately, she never made it that far. She stepped outside onto her front porch, and unbeknownst to her, one of the wooden boards on her deck where her foot landed was rotten, causing her leg to fall through.

"I went straight down, and

when I did, the wood cut my leg," she said. "It went really deep."

Hirleman started bleeding, but she specified that the blood wasn't running down her leg but instead spraying out of her leg. Hirleman, who had her phone with her when she fell, called 911, and her husband addressed her wound by wrapping his belt around her thigh along with a towel.

Luckily for Hirleman, she lives close enough to the Parker County Hospital District emergency medical services station on East State Highway 199 that she could hear the sirens turn on when the first responders were on their way to her. When they arrived, the EMTs hooked Hirleman up to an IV and took her blood pressure, which was 70/0. (Keep in mind that a healthy blood pressure is between 90/60 and 120/80.)

During the traumatic ordeal, Hirleman said she felt like she was going unconscious, but the EMTs reassured her that she would be

"(One of the EMTs) says, 'If you pass out, it's fine.' He said, 'Just let go. You're fine," Hirleman said. "I had to totally trust in those guys. They were awesome. I would trust them to come to my aid any day of the week."

The first responders bandaged Hirleman's leg and whisked her away to the hospital in Azle, where she had to have stitches.

Looking back, Hirleman realized that if she didn't have her phone in her hand when she fell and if her husband wasn't home, she might not have survived the accident.

"That's the scariest injury I've ever had in my life, ever, hands down," she said.

Hirleman's husband suspected the deck needed to be replaced but didn't realize it was bad enough to cause his wife's injury. Shortly after the incident, he redid the whole deck. The couple has lived in their current home in Springtown for almost 20 years, and nothing like that

had ever happened before. After she healed, Hirleman



Donna Hirleman delivers a basket of snacks to the Parker County Hospital District emergency medical services station in Springtown and meets one of the first responders who saved her life, Matt Dunn.

decided she wanted to show her appreciation to the EMTs who came to her aid. She assembled a large basket of snacks and keychains for the

first responders and dropped it off at the emergency medical services station July 24.

"It may have not been a big deal to any of them as far as

this is not much of an accident," she said. "It felt really big to me, and I'm just very

handled nearly perfectly," Manoushagian said.

The suspect, described as homeless and residing in a wooded area, remains in custody. Scott has a long criminal history in the Lake Worth area and beyond.

In 2008, Scott was arrested along with Thomas Leon Jochum Jr. after the two allegedly robbed several banks in Saginaw and Blue Mound with a pellet gun. After stealing \$10,000, the pair used the money to bail their friend, Kenyon Grady Cox, out of jail. The trio met in the Tarrant

County Jail in 2007 after each was arrested on child sex charges. After Cox removed a monitoring device from his ankle and a warrant was issued for his arrest, all three

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were apprehended together at a Parker County pawn shop three days later.

Publisher KIM WARE

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# Top cops: Azle officers recognized at in-house awards ceremony

#### **ZACH FREEMAN**

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AZLE — Thursday night, July 25, the Azle Police Department hosted a small, private award and pinning ceremony for officers and their families at the Orchard Event Venue. Police Chief Ben Hall said this is the first year the department has had a dedicated ceremony of this kind, which the department used to honor the accomplishments and recognize the experiences of officers going back the last eight years.

Hall, who became Azle's chief in 2022, said he was inspired to host this event because of the rough transition the department faced with the sudden retirement of one of its lieutenants as well as its former chief. Hall said the department had failed to properly record certain notable events, in his view, and this ceremony was the department's way of rectifying the situation and setting a good precedent for the future.

"When I first got here, we were talking about commendations and recognition and it kind of became apparent that there was a gap," Hall said. "With the loss of these people a lot of history went with them, where there may

have been written commendations or things prepared, a lot of that stuff got lost."

The first to be recognized was new Azle Officer Stefan Beard. Beard, originally from Chicago, Illinois, attended the University of Texas at San Antonio on a full football scholarship. With hopes of a future in law enforcement, Beard joined the Tarrant County Sheriff's Office as a detention officer and graduated from the police academy in 2023. Beard was joined by his wife and children. Beard said he feels blessed and grateful for the opportunity to serve the Azle community.

Another new officer, Joe Nelson, earned an associate degree in applied science from Kaplan College, received his basic peace officer licensing at Weatherford College and is working toward an intermediate license. Nelson has a passion for helping others and building strong relationships with the community. He has a goal of one day being a K-9 unit. He enjoys arts, crafts and spending time with his partner Chandler, family and friends.

The chief then recognized two corporals who were promoted in the last year. Officers Loren Lyon and Kevin Nguyen were recog-



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Left to right, Perez, Gallardo, Lyon, and Beane pose for a silly photo on the back row. Nguyen, McQuarrie, Giittinger, Javarone and Lukowsky pose in the middle row. Ty Tapp lays in front.

nized with a pining ceremony, along with their wives.

"When you take on a formal role of leadership at the police department there's a level of responsibility that goes with it. You're now not just in charge of yourself, you're in charge of your coworkers and you're in charge of officers and to some degree you're in charge of your sergeant because if you screw up, your sergeant is going to hear about it. From a leadership perspective, this is the beginning of forming the rest of your career. It's important to understand with each step, the burden becomes bigger, and the hard stuff becomes harder but there's also more rewards because you're touching more lives," Hall said.

To conclude the ceremony, Cpl. Angel Perez was recognized with the APD's Medal of Honor. This commendation came as a result of an

incident in which Perez shot and killed an individual in the spring of 2016. Perez responded to a report of a man firing a gun in the 600 block of Alameda Road. When Perez arrived, 51-yearold Mark Minnick reportedly advanced toward Perez and pointed his weapon at the officer after an effort was made to deescalate the situation. Perez was placed on administrative leave during an investigation into the incident; he was found to be justified in defending himself.

"It is my privilege to present this final award," Hall said. "It really should have been covered years ago. The decision he made is one that sticks with an officer for a lifetime ... Cpl. Perez is commended for his bravery. His heroism and his professionalism were demonstrated, as well as his willingness to place himself at imminent risk of serious violence, injury or death in the service of his community. Unless you have known a person who has been through what he has been through or been through it yourself, you don't get the full impact of those moments in life."

#### **OTHER AWARDS FROM THE EVENING INCLUDE**

· Officer Brock Royal, Cpl. Angel Perez, and Officer David Beane were each recognized individually with a Lifesaving Award for instances in which their actions helped to protect or ensure the safety and lives of others.

· Perez, Sgt. Jordan Mac-Quarrie, Officer Jason Castro, senior dispatcher Somer Lukowsky, and dispatcher Tessa Erwin were recognized together for Lifesaving and **Exemplary Service Awards** for their actions in resolving a critical missing person's case.

· Cpl. Loren Lyon, Sgt. Richard Lukowsky, Cpl. Chris Javarone, Cpl. Ty Tapp, and Cpl. Mike Winterrowd were presented with an Exemplary Service Award for their response to a serious accident involving death.

· Royal and Sgt. Eric Scheid were recognized together with a Lifesaving Award. · Javarone and Officer Joseph Giittinger were recognized together with a Lifesaving Award.

· Cpl. Kevin Nguyen and Perez were recognized together with a Lifesaving Award. · Officer Marco Gallardo was recognized with an Exemplary Service Award. · Officer Joseph Giittinger received the Purple Heart Award.

By the ceremony's conclusion, the APD had presented one Medal of Honor, one Purple Heart Award, 11 Lifesaving Awards and 10 Exemplary Service Awards.



Officer Joe Nelson is joined by his partner and recognized as one of Azle's newest officers during a pinning ceremony.



Officer Beard is joined by his wife and recognized as one of Azle's newest officers during a pinning ceremony.



Cpl. Kevin Nguyen is joined by his wife during his pinning ceremony for his promotion to the rank of corporal.



his promotion to the rank of corporal.



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Left to right, Officer Brock Royal and Sgt. Eric Scheid with Police Chief Ben Hall.



Cpl. Loren Lyon is joined by his wife during his pinning ceremony for Left to right, Perez, Sgt. Jordan MacQuarrie, dispatcher Tessa Erwin, Officer Jason Castro, and senior dispatcher Somer Lukowsky.

# Back-to-school giveaway, car show fundraiser slated Aug. 10 in Springtown

#### **MADELYN EDWARDS**

spring town reporter @tricount y reporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — Two events that were previously hosted by overdose awareness organization "We ARE Our Brother's Keeper" are merging into one this year.

The third annual Cars for the Cause Car Show will take place 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 10 on the Springtown Square, concurrently with the Back-to-School Family Day that provides free school supplies to families

#### Free school supplies, overdose awareness memorial to come

who need them. Aside from cool cars and backpacks, the event is also expected to include bounce houses, snow cones and entertainment provided by a live DJ.

School supplies — pencils, pens, paper, folders, binders, backpacks, highlighters, crayons, markers, glue, tape, calculators, notebooks, erasers, rulers, Sharpies, scissors and the like — are being collected to give out to families in need. People can donate these items by Aug. 6 at Springtown City Hall, Springtown Police Department, Springtown Public Library, The Nutrition Lodge, Alvin Ord's, The Community Bank and

Allstate Insurance.

The event also coincides with We ARE Our Brother's Keeper's annual overdose awareness memorial, which pays tribute to people's loved ones who died of overdose. We ARE Our Brother's Keeper co-founder Jessica Castro expects to put up yard signs that have pictures of those who died at the car show.

Typically, the car show takes place in May, but Castro said she ran out of time to put the event together then.

Since it didn't happen in May, combining the car show with the back-to-school bash is what made the most sense to her.

"(We'll) get more people, more families in general, to come out because the dads want to look at the cars; the kids will be able to do their stuff for school," she said. "I just thought it would be perfect to throw them together."

The car show is also a fundraiser for We ARE Our Brother's Keeper's funeral

fund, which goes to aid families who lost loved ones to overdose.

To preregister for the car show, email Castro at weareourbrotherskeeper19@ *gmail.com* before the event. Car enthusiasts can also enter the show the day of. The registration fee is \$25, and the best vehicles in the show can win first, second or third

# Springtown Council meeting provides updates on infrastructure projects

#### **MADELYN EDWARDS**

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SPRINGTOWN — Springtown City Council is moving forward with street improvements that were promised after the council passed a bond — specifically, certificates of obligation that didn't require voter approval last vear.

Around August 2023, the city obtained about \$4 million in bond funds to pay for upgrades to streets and the public park. In January, the city council agreed to repair multiple streets with the bond funds, and at last month's meeting, the council awarded a \$727,370-contract David Miller said the price

Council awarded bid for street improvement project; city to receive \$6.2 million to mitigate water loss

to Intermountain Slurry Seal, which is based in Lewisville. This covers the first phase of the project, resurfacing Avenue D, Church Street, East Third Street, East Sixth Street, Oakview Drive, East Ninth Street as well as inside the North Gate and Bonnie Bell Estates subdivisions.

Intermountain Slurry Seal was the only bidder on this phase of the project, and the bid was about \$100,000 more than the anticipated cost. However, City Administrator

was "not out of line" and still manageable for the city.

"From a financial standpoint, we're solid enough to absorb the additional cost," Miller said during the meeting.

The city's engineer Thomas Hoover described slurry seal as a cousin to chip seal, which is a process used by Parker County to pave roads. The difference is chip seal uses a larger aggregate, which results in more road noise, than slurry seal. Miller pointed out there aren't as many rocks

slinging around on the road with slurry seal versus chip

Hoover said the slurry seal has a longevity of about five to 10 years. Before the resurfacing can start, the city's public works department will have to clean up the streets and fix potholes. The city will have 45 days to do this before the contractor starts working. Then, Intermountain Slurry Seal will have 120 days to finish the job.

When the mayor called for a motion, both council

members Michele Chandler Kelley and Scott Richardson spoke up at the same time to approve awarding the bid. Chandler Kelley and Richardson agreed during the meeting that if the council stalled a decision, costs were liable to go up even higher.

"Quite frankly, the longer we wait, the worse streets get, which then causes us to have to spend more money for the repairs as well," Miller added.

The city of Springtown is also working on improvements to its water system, and to that end, Miller said the council may be able to decide on awarding bids at its August meeting. Additionally, the city received

a \$6.2 million grant from the Texas Water Development Board to resolve water loss issues across the city.

"Most of our water loss has been identified in the 10-inch pipe that feeds from our water intake plant to our treatment plant, but it also will help with any other water loss that we identify throughout the city, whether there are leaky pipes or things of that nature," Miller said during the meeting.

The grant requires a 10% match from the city, and Miller said the city may take advantage of a low-interest loan from the state water board.

## **Annual Public Notification of Nondiscrimination in Career and Technical Educational Programs**

Azle Independent School District offers career and technical education programs in Agricultural, Food and Natural Resources, Architecture & Construction, Arts, A/V Technology & Communication, Business Management & Administration, Education & Training, Finance, Health Science, Hospitality & Tourism, Human Services, Information Technology, Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security, Manufacturing, Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics, Transportation, Distribution & Logistics. Admission to these programs is based on interest and aptitude, age appropriateness, course prerequisites, and class space available.

It is the policy of Azle ISD not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or handicap in its vocational programs, services or activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

It is the policy of Azle ISD not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, handicap, or age in its employment practices as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

Azle ISD will take steps to assure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all educational and vocational programs. For information about your rights or grievance procedures, contact the Title IX Coordinator, Mark Kehoe, at mkehoe@azleisd.net, (817) 444-2368, and/or the Section 504 Coordinator Krista McFarlane a kmcfarlane@ azleisd.net, (817) 444-2851...

### **Notificación Publica de No** Discriminación en Programas de **Educación Técnica y Vocacional**

Azle Independent School District ofrece programas de educación técnica y vocacional en Agricultural, Food and Natural Resources, Architecture & Construction, Arts, A/V Technology & Communication, Business Management & Administration, Education & Training, Finance, Health Science, Hospitality & Tourism, Human Services, Information Technology, Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security, Manufacturing, Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics, Transportation, Distribution & Logistics. La admisión a estos programas se basa en interés y aptitud, adecuación a la edad, requisitos previos del curso y espacio de clase disponible.

Es norma de Azle ISD no discriminar en sus programas, servicios o actividades vocacionales por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo o impedimento, tal como lo requieren el Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, según enmienda; Título IX de las Enmiendas en la Educación de 1972, y la Sección 504 de la Ley de Rehabilitación de 1973, según enmienda.

Es norma de Azle ISD no discriminar en sus procedimientos de empleo por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo, impedimento o edad, tal como lo requieren el Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, según enmienda; Título IX de las Enmiendas en la Educación, de 1972, la ley de Discriminación por Edad, de 1975, según enmienda; y la Sección 504 de la Ley de Rehabilitación de 1973, según enmienda.

Azle ISD tomará las medidas necesarias para asegurar que la falta de habilidad en el uso del inglés no sea un obstáculo para la admisión y participación en todos los programas educativos y vocacionales.

Para información sobre sus derechos o procedimientos de quejas, comuníquese con el Coordinador del Título IX, Mark Kehoe en mkehoe@azleisd.net, (817) 444-2368, y/o el Coordinador de la Sección 504, Krista McFarlane a kmcfarlane@azleisd.net, (817) 444-2851.

# **OBITUARIES**

#### Carolyn B. Thompson 1935-2024

Carolyn B. Thompson, 88, passed away Monday, July 22, 2024 in Azle.

A memorial service was at 11 a.m. Wednesday, July 31, at Azle First Assembly of God, 1020 Southeast Parkway, Azle TX 76020.

Carolyn was born Oct. 1, 1935, in Los Angeles, California to Asaph and Virginia Blaskowsky. She was the third of eight children and grew up with her parents and siblings in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas. She married George Burke Lutman Dec. 1, 1953, and had five children with him.

She and George moved to Azle in 1980 and joined the First Assembly of God congregation there. Carolyn was very active in her church, answering phones and taking prayer requests two to three days a week. She was known as a prayer warrior, and many in the church looked to her as a surrogate mom.

Carolyn is survived by a sister, Eleanor Koonce; three children, Kathy McLemore, Patti Hoyle and Curt



Lutman; two sons-in-law, Pat McLemore and John Hoyle; seven grandchildren: Frances, Randall, Charity, Patrick, Bryan, Ashley and Joseph; seven great-grandchildren; and multitudes of nieces and nephews and their children.

She was preceded in death by her husband, George; her second husband, KW; her sons, Richard and Ronnie; and her siblings, Wanda, Lorraine. Charles Leroy, Ruby, Louise and Loyd.

> The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday August 1, 2024

#### Teresa Ann Evans 1958-2024

Teresa Ann Evans 65, of Azle, passed away peacefully with family at her side June 29, 2024 in Azle.

A Celebration of Life will be from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 3, at Eagle Mountain Plaza, 300 West Main St., in Azle.

Teresa was born in Fort Worth Nov. 8, 1958, to Elza Ree "ER" Evans and Allie Louise Owen Evans. Teresa attended Lake Worth schools beginning in 1966 and graduated in 1977. She furthered her education at the Child Study Center from 1978 through the early 1990s where she learned skills for independent living and held a job earning her own paycheck working at the "Workshop" for special needs kids

Teresa is preceded in death by her father, Elza Ree "E.R." Evans and mother Allie Louise Owen Evans, as well as her grandparents, Virgle Lee and Martha Rebecca Burnett Evans and Elisha Andrew Owen and Allie Odessa Mann.



She is survived by her younger sister, Patricia Evans of Azle; nephew Jason Downes and his children Iacob, Kaylee, Kinsley and Jaiden of Azle; niece Brandie Boyle, her husband John, and their children Timber and Saige of Azle: aunt Connie Woody of Little Elm; uncle Paul Owen of Durant. Oklahoma; and multiple

FISHTAIL LLC

**AZLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH** 

**DISCIPLES OF CHRIST** 

Reverend Russell Clark,

Youth Minister Joey Garcia

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

**CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH** 

2233 Hwy 199 E., Springtown

817-221-LIFE (5433)

Sunday Worship Service ......10:00 AM

Wednesday......7:00 PM

cousins, family and friends.

The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday August 1, 2024

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# Reno P&Z to hold public hearing over proposed 'one-unit-per-acre' ordinance

#### **MADELYN EDWARDS**

springtownreporter@tricountyreporter.com

RENO — Reno Planning and Zoning Commission is expected to hold a public hearing Aug. 5 and discuss a draft ordinance that would reinforce Reno's one-homeper-acre rule.

Reno City Council ad-

dressed this briefly at its July 29 meeting but didn't take action.

The ordinance, if approved by council, would amend the zoning rules to mandate there be one unit per acre in Single Family 1 zoning districts. After being discussed at P&Z, the council is expected to talk about it again at its

August meeting.

"This will most likely require a comprehensive plan amendment, but that'll all be addressed at the Planning and Zoning Commission," Reno's attorney Dottie Palumbo said July 29.

A few people spoke critically about the ordinance at the July 29 council meeting

and questioned the impact of the proposed rule on infrastructure and the city's finances as well as the legality of the agenda item. Palumbo said during the meeting that an analysis of the ordinance and its impact will be discussed at the P&Z meeting.

# Who's choosing D-FW?

#### **STAFF REPORT**

Special to the Tri-County Reporter

Wondering where those new neighbors came from in the U-Haul truck?

With summer moving season at its peak, chances are you have seen a U-Haul moving truck pull into your neighborhood in recent weeks. After all, nearly half of all residential moves in a calendar year occur between Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends.

According to demographic data from Azle ISD, the number of people living within the district increased by about 2,000 people from 2020 to

So where did the new neighbors' trip originate? U-Haul itself can help shed light on the question.

As part of its migration trends news-sharing campaign, U-Haul looked at one-

way truck transactions for the first half of 2024. More specifically, the company considered the 25 most populated U.S. cities — according to the latest U.S. Census

reports — and where U-Haul traffic arriving in those markets originated between Jan. 1 and July 1.

To give you an idea where your new neighbors may

have previously called home, below are the top origins for U-Haul do-ityourself customers pulling into the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex.

#### Top origin states excluding Texas

- Oklahoma
- Florida
- Louisiana
- California
- Arkansas
- Colorado
- Georgia
- Arizona
- Tennessee
- Missouri

#### Top origin metro areas outside Texas

- Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
- Denver, Colorado
- Phoenix, Arizona
- Atlanta, Georgia
- Tulsa, Oklahoma
- Los Angeles, California
- Kansas City, Missouri

Shreveport, Louisiana

- Little Rock, Arkansas
- New Orleans, Louisiana

#### **Top origin** metro areas within Texas

- Houston
- Austin
- San Antonio
- Lubbock
- Tyler



James R. Plowman Norma Plowman 913 N. Elm St. Weatherford, TX 76086 www.galbreaithpickard.com



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#### ... ATTEND THE CHURCH OF YOUR CHOICE THIS SUNDAY **GRACEPOINTE CHURCH**

#### **THE ABBEY CHURCH** Pastor: Paul Brownback 10400 Jacksboro Hwy 817-238-1404 www.TheAbbeyChurch.com Morning Worship......10:30 AM **ASH CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH** Pastor: Dr. G. Wesley Shotwell

300 South Stewart St. 817-444-3219 www.ashcreekbc.org Sunday School......9:30 AM Contemporary Worship-TMP ...... 10:45 AM Traditional Worship ......10:45 AM Evening Worship/Youth Refuge......6:00 PM

**AZLE FIRST ASSEMBLY of GOD** Rev. Joshua Lowrance 1020 S.E. Parkway, Azle **817-237-4903** Sunday School......9:30 AM Morning Worship......10:30 AM Wednesday Evening......7:00 PM

**COMMUNITY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH** Pastor - Alton Davis 817-521-4510 1405 Reynolds Rd., Azle 817-444-7117 Directions: 730 N to 1542 5 mi right

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on Cardinal, left on Reynolds	
Sunday School9	9:45
Morning Worship11	:00
Sunday Evening6	6:00
	7·00

**CROSSROADS BAPTIST CHURCH** Pastor - Jon Baker Corner FM 730S & FM 1886 817-755-0279 Wednesday Evening......6:15 PM Transportation Available Worship Service......10:30 AM Wed. Prayer Service......7:00 PM THE EDGE CHURCH - AZLE 1313 S.E. Pkwy, Azle 817-237-4822 Missouri Synod "Love God - Serve Others - Share Jesus" Traditional Worship ......9:30 AM Contemporary Worship......11:00 AM FIRST METHODIST CHURCH OF AZLE Pastor: Rev. Raymond Gilman 200 Church St., Azle 817-444-3323 Morn. Worship ......8:30 & 10:45 AM Sunday School......9:45 AM Youth ......5:00 PM Sun & 6:30 PM Wed Sunday School 9:30 AM ● Worship 10:30 AM

4110 E. Hwy 199, Springtown Pastor: Timothy McKeown 817-221-5683 gracepointesbc.org Sunday School......9:45 am Sunday Service......11:00 AM Wednesday Bible Study ......6:00 PM

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

Confessions ...... Sat 4 PM **SOLID ROCK BIBLE CHURCH** 591 S. Reno Rd, , Springtown, Texas 76082 Pastor - Bill Gay - 817-304-7443 Coffee and Donuts ......9:00 AM Sunday School......9:30 AM Morning Worship......10:30 AM Children's Church After Music Service Wed. Prayer Meeting......6:30 PM Wed. Bible Study......7:00 PM

**HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA** 4795 E. Hwy 199 - Reno 817-221-H0PE

Follow us on Facebook for streaming services Sunday School......9:00 AM Traditional Service ......10:00 AM

**LEGACY CHURCH** Assembly of God Church Pastor: Gary D. Veazey

Hwy. 199 & Jaybird Lane 817-221-2983 Morning Worship......9:15 & 11:00 AM Kidz Zone......9:15 & 11:00 AM Weds Evening Legacy Group Legacy Youth, Kids All Services......7:00 PM THE RANCH CHRISTIAN COWBOY CHURCH

Pastor: Greg Slankard 7955 Reed Rd., Azle **682-327-7082** www.TheRanchCCC.org Sunday School 9:30 AM • Worship 10:00 AM

Weds 7:00 pm • Thurs Potluck 6:30 pm SILVER CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH Pastor: Jay Ditty

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

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

#### THE WORD@LAKESIDE CHURCH OF GOD 9396 FM 1886 Fort Worth, TX 76135

817-237-5500 thewordatlakeside.com

**Pastors**: Brandon and Kelly Bohannon Worship Pastor: Christen Moody Family Life and Young Adult Pastors: Jodie and Mark James, Kids Pastor: Katie Pearson,

**Student Pastors**: Taylor and Sheridan Tomlin, Creative Directors: Logan and Carrie Edwards, **Connections Coordinators**:

Preston and Ashley Larrew Equip Sunday School @ the WORD .. 9:30 AM

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

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

**SILVER CREEK METHODIST CHURCH** 

Pastor: Bill Killough

2200 Church Rd., Azle 817-444-1382

www.silvercreekmc.org

#### **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 "Grantee"), 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

#### 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

'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:

mixture thereof.

(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

(2) 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, boule-

vards, roads, lanes, alleys, highways, public utility easements, viaducts, and bridges across water ways that are deeded or dedicated

"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

(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 benefiting 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 NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE 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 INJU-RY 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 PER-SONS 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 EM-PLOYEES WERE NEGLIGENT.

(B) IT IS THE INTENT OF THE PARTIES BY AGREEMENT TO THIS SEC-TION 4 THAT IF A CLAIM IS MADE IN ANY FORUM AGAINST INDEM-NITFESFOR 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 JURISDIC-TION 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 CON-NECTION 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. GRANT-EE 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 Agree-

ment, Grantee shall furnish the City with satisfactory proof that it has provided adequate insurance coverage in amounts as required (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

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 Rightof-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

(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.

a good and workmanlike manner.

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 navment 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 Fran-

chise 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 IMPROVE-MENT 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.

(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.

SECTION 15. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.

(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 (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 any one or more occasions to insist upon or seek compliance with any such terms and conditions. (H) The paragraph headings contained in this Franchise are for

convenience only and shall in no way enlarge or limit the scope or meaning of the various and several paragraphs hereof. Both parties have participated in the preparation of this Franchise and this Agreement shall not be construed either more or less strongly against or for either party.

#### SECTION 16. PUBLICATION AND ACCEPTANCE. (A) In order to accept this Franchise, Grantee must file with the City

Secretary its written acceptance of this Franchise within sixty (60) days after its final passage and approval by the City in accordance with Section 10.02 of the City Charter. If such written acceptance of this Franchise is not filed by Grantee, then this Franchise shall be rendered null and void. (B) The City Secretary is hereby directed, pursuant to Section 10.02

of the City Charter, prior to second consideration, to publish the full text of this Franchise ordinance in the official City newspaper once each week for four consecutive weeks, at the expense of Grantee. (C) When this Franchise becomes effective, all previous ordinances

of the City granting franchises for gas delivery purposes that were held by Grantee shall be automatically canceled and annulled and shall be of no further force and effect. SECTION 17. ATTORNEY'S FEES.

The prevailing party in the adjudication of any proceeding relating

#### to this Agreement shall be authorized to recover its reasonable and

necessary attorney's fees pursuant to Section 271.153 of the Texas Local Government Code. None of the City's costs reimbursed by Grantee under this Section shall appear in a separate line item surcharge SECTION 18. EFFECTIVE DATE. If Grantee accepts this Franchise ordinance, by filing of its written

acceptance, this ordinance shall become effective on the 1st day of September, 2024. Franchise payments remitted to City prior to the effective date of this ordinance shall be calculated and paid pursuant to Ordinance No. 0-2008-07.

PASSED on FIRST Reading this 4th day of June, 2024.

Alan Brundrett, MAYOR

Yael Hoffman, TRMC, CITY SECRETARY PASSED on SECOND Reading this 16th day of July, 2024.

Alan Brundrett, MAYOR

Yael Hoffman, TRMC, CITY SECRETARY

You can find the original signed ordinance on the City's website at the following link https://ecode360.com/AZ6233/laws

### SEEDS

Public Library's new seed library that allows people to leave leftover seeds and take new ones to use.

Landis and her husband Harley moved to Springtown four years ago. While serving in the Air Force, the couple met briefly in Pensacola, Florida, but they really connected in Fort Worth at the former Carswell Air Force Base, now National Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth.

"Him and I started hanging out, and we got married three months later" in 2013, Landis said. "It was the world's most perfect marriage for a while."

Christine couldn't talk about her late husband without choking up. She described an attractive man with bright blue eyes that one of her daughters inherited from him. He was the kind of person who would help people on the side of the road.

"He made me see the good in the world and myself," she

Landis said her husband's caring and giving personality extended to her and their children. The girls were his No. 1 priority, and he worked hard to provide for them, she

After ending their contracts with the Air Force in 2018, Harley Landis went to work for Lockheed Martin, and Christine stayed home with the kids. Christine Landis noticed her husband's mental health changed in the late 2010s after he had surgery on his foot. He had good pain medication, she said, but then he transitioned to substances like Kratom.

"His mental health deteriorated with the drug use, and then without the drugs, his mental health was worse," Christine Landis said. "Then it just was a negative spiral downward.'

Landis said her husband

experienced a cognitive decline evident through seclusion, oversleeping, anger and delusion. She recalled a fight between her and Harley where he accused her of taking his wallet, something that

baffled her at the time. "Now I look back, and I realized that was drugs," Landis said. "But I was ignorant to drug use and didn't realize that they were signs that he

was an addict." Harley Landis, who also had borderline personality disorder, visited a psychiatric hospital twice, but because of issues with insurance, he couldn't stay long enough to get the full treatment that he needed, Christine said. The hospital stays did help, but Christine Landis said her husband would eventually go back to using substances.

After Harley Landis died in September 2022, Christine said she went into "survival mode" as she grappled with becoming a single mother of four without her husband, who was the family's provider.

"Around month five is whenever the shock really started wearing off, and it really hit me that he wasn't coming back," she said.

The first eight months after his death were the most difficult, though Landis credited the community to helping her pay her mortgage and sending over meals for her and her children.

Around this time, she discovered the book "The Garden of Hope" that came with kids' meals at Chickfil-A. She was touched by the story of a mother who would plant a seed in her garden when she was worried, but she knew that when her plants bloomed, the worry would fade away.

Landis had a garden of her own as well, a piece of land that her husband dedicated for her to use. In early 2023, Landis began tilling the land for hours every day while her kids played outside. She described the tranquility there of being able to listen to worship music and only worry

about the task at hand. "That year was my year of quiet, and it was the glimmer of hope that I really, desperately needed, and that was even before I planted any seeds," she said. "I was in control of that quarter acre of land, and that was so powerful."

When she started planting seeds, Landis was also reminded of the good times she had gardening with her husband. She laughed thinking of how he was able to line up the plants and T-posts in perfectly straight rows.

Landis found that the message of the book "The Garden of Hope" came true. By the time her plants bloomed, her worries had passed.

"No, I couldn't bring back Harley, obviously, but I was able to see the tangible proof that all the other worries were temporary," Landis said. "Whenever I felt like I didn't have anything else to look forward to because everything was so dark, I had that to look forward to.'

Landis heard about seed libraries on Facebook and thought it would be a good way for her to give back and 'keep Harley's name alive.'

"I want everyone to be able to grab seeds for free and be able to plant something that they could look forward to," she said.

Before the seed library, Landis had visited the Springtown Public Library previously for mundane reasons, like making copies and for her four daughters to explore the kids' area. But one day, she pitched the seed library idea and ended up talking with Library Director Andie D'Avignon. Landis told D'Avignon that her husband died of suicide and said D'Avignon showed her compassion and pointed her to resources.

"The library is so much more than books," Landis said, recalling a realization she had after talking with the library director.

D'Avignon coordinated with Landis and the Friends of the Library group to make the seed library a reality, including getting a table for it to sit on and drawers to contain the seeds. Early in the process, D'Avignon envisioned pairing the seed

library with literature on gardening based on the season.

While D'Avignon herself said she has the opposite of a green thumb, the library director knows many gardeners in the community who will likely support the seed library.

"This is a really cool idea, especially in an area like this because you have a lot of people that have the area to be able to grow stuff and need to and can and want to, and then this way they can afford to, in some cases," she said after a city council meeting in May.

For more information about the seed library, visit the Springtown Public Library at 626 N. Main St.



JOEY GARCIA | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

The seed library opened at the Springtown Public Library in July. The library is located at 626 N. Main St.



MADELYN EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Christine Landis checks on a tomato in her garden. While grieving the death of her husband, gardening helped her cope.

# **WALNUT CREEK Special Utility District**

Notice of rate increase to be effective October 1, 2024.

#### **Current Rates:**

Minimum: \$35.70	0 – 2,000 gal
2,001 – 10,000 gal	\$6.11 per thousand gallons
10,001 – 20,000 gal	\$6.95 per thousand gallons
20,001 – up gal	\$7.90 per thousand gallons

#### **APPROVED WATER RATES:**

#### **New Water Rates:**

Minimum: \$35.70	
0 - 5,000 gal	\$6.11 per thousand gallons
5,001 – 10,000 gal	\$6.95 per thousand gallons
10,001 – 15,000 gal	\$7.45 per thousand gallons
15,001 – 20,000 gal	\$7.90 per thousand gallons
20 001 – up gal	\$9.00 per thousand gallons

#### Senior Citizens (65 and Up): \*

Minimum: \$35.70	0 – 2,000 gal
2,001 – 5,000 gal	\$6.11 per thousand gallons
5,001 – 10,000 gal	\$6.95 per thousand gallons
10,001 – 15,000 gal	\$7.45 per thousand gallons
15,001 – 20,000 gal	\$7.90 per thousand gallons
20,001 – up gal	\$9.00 per thousand gallons

\*To be set up with the Senior Citizen rate, the customer must come by the office at 1155 W Hwy 199, Springtown, TX 76082 or call the office at (817) 220-7707 to be added to the list. A valid driver's license must be presented for the account owner.

#### **LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICES**

CITATION BY PUBLICATION CAUSE

NO. 24P253

In the Matter of the Estate of Emma Frances Sisk, Deceased TO ALL UNKNOWN OR MISSING HEIRS OF THE ESTATE OF EMMA FRANCES SISK, DECEASED Billy Robert Sisk in the abovenumbered and entitled estate filed an Application to Determine Heirship and for Independent Administration and Letters of Administration Pursuant to Section 401.003 of the Texas Estates Code on 06/13/2024 In the Estate of Emma Frances Sisk, Deceased, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of Emma Frances Sisk. Deceased, and their respective shares and interest in such estate, and appointing Billy Robert Sisk to serve as the Independent Administrator of said estate and Determined Heirship. The court may act on said application at any call of the docket on or after 10:00 o'clock A.M. on the first Monday next after the expiration of IO days from the date of publication of this citation, at the Parker County Court, One Courthouse Square, Weatherford, TX 76086 in Parker County, Texas. All persons interested in this case are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court by filing a written contest or answer to said Application before the above stated time and date should you desire to do so. To ensure its consideration, you or your attorney must file any contest, objection, intervention, or response in writing with the County Clerk of Parker County, Texas on or before the above noted date and time. Given under my hand and the seal of said Court of Parker County, Texas at the office of the Parker County Clerk, on this 13th day of June, 2024. LILADEAKLE County Clerk, Parker CountyTexas. By: Meridith Hawk, Deputy Clerk. Applicant's Attorney: Wendi E. Andino 1020 Fort Worth HWY STE 500 Weatherford TX 76086.

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE OF ORDER**

On July 25, 2024, the Building Board of Appeals for the City of Azle held a public hearing in Case No. BBA 22598; City of Azle vs. Therian Brown, real property owner, regarding the structure(s) located at 305 Walnut Avenue, Azle, Texas. On the vote of four Board members in attendance at the hearing, the Board approved an Order to Remove or Demolish **Substandard Building which provides:** 

The owner of the Property must demolish the structure(s) on the Property within 30 days of the date of this Order.

In the event the owner fails to comply with any requirement of this Order within the time period provided in this Order, that the City of Azle shall, without further application, notice, or hearing, be fully authorized to enter upon the Property and to (a) secure the Property, and to cause the demolition and removal of the Property, including the following requirements: all debris removed, the lot brought to grade, erosion control installed, and/ or seed/sod installed or as otherwise specified in the City-issued permit, (b) assess the reasonable costs and expenses for such demolition and removal, and (c) fix a lien on the Property, as authorized by applicable law and ordinance, to secure the reimbursement of all such unpaid costs and expenses for the demolition and removal of the Property as provided for in this Order.

A complete copy of the Order in the above case may be obtained in the Office of the City Secretary for the City of Azle, 505 W Main Street, Azle, Texas, during regular business hours.

CORRECTED NOTICE OF SF-1 ZONING AMENDMENT TO PROVIDE FOR 1 UNIT PER ACRE, MINIMUM LOT AREA OF 43,560 SQUARE FEET; MINIMUM LOT WIDTH OF 100 SQUARE FEET FOR THE CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING TO BE HELD ON AUGUST 19, 2024 AT 7:00 PM IN THE RENO CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Public hearings will be held at the City of Reno Planning and Zoning Commission meeting beginning at 6:00 p.m. on August 5, 2024 at Reno City Hall, 195 W. Reno Road, Azle, Texas 76020 and thereafter, a public hearing will be held by the City of Reno City Council at the meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m. on August 19, 2024 at Reno City Hall, 195 W. Reno Road, Azle, Texas 76020, to consider the approval of a zoning amendment to amend the Reno Zoning Code provisions for SF-1 zoning to provide for one unit per acre for a single family dwelling; minimum lot area of 43,560 square feet and a minimum width of 100 square feet. . The zoning ordinance amendment is available for viewing on the City's website or at City Hall during regular business hours. Comments regarding the proposed zoning amendment may be emailed to rebekka. roberts@renotx.gov or mailed to 195 W. Reno Road, Azle, TX 76020. For more information call City Hall at (817) 221-2500.

#### **REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS**

**Walnut Creek Special Utility District Request for Qualifications** 

**Independent Audit Services** 

Walnut Creek Special Utility District ("WCSUD") is issuing a Request for Qualifications ("RFQ") for professional audit services from qualified certified public accounting firms to audit its annual financial statements. Sealed responses shall be submitted to the Office of the General Manager, Walnut Creek Special Utility District, 1155 Highway 199 West, Springtown, TX 76082. Deadline for submittal is 4:00 p.m. August 28, 2024. Late submittals will not be accepted and will be returned unopened. A copy of the RFQ may be obtained from the District Office located at 1155 Highway 199 West, Springtown TX 76082, or electronically, if requested at customerservice@walnutcreeksud.org. The Walnut Creek Special Utility District reserves the right to reject any or all submittals, waive minor technicalities or to proceed otherwise when in the best interest of the District.

# Tech truck comes to Azle library

Perot Museum of Nature and Science brings fun and learning to Azle youths



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

The Perot Museum of Science and Nature partnered with Azle Memorial Library to bring fun science crafts and activities to Azle children July 24.



Local kids built their own rocket concepts out of household materials.

ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Local kids play stimulating tech-based games to get a better understanding of how everyday items works.



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Local kids learn about engineering and physics while building and testing Lego cars.



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# **Mission: Texas**

#### **ZACH FREEMAN JOEY GARCIA**

azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

AZLE — Many have gone out of their way to do something good for others, but rarely does "out of their way" mean 900 miles.

Young volunteers from Faith Community Church traveled about 16 hours from Pipestone, Minnesota to Azle to work on homes in the D-FW area for a week. The group began its renovations at the Servolution Dream Center, after making

#### Minnesota youth group tackles work at area homes, ministry

a connection with the nonprofit through Real Family Fellowship's pastor, Joe Bruce. Through Servolution Network, they were directed to houses in need in River Oaks, Springtown and Azle. While at each home, volunteers did everything from trimming trees and removing brush to rebuilding porches. While this was the first time many of these youths had been to Texas, their mission

trips have brought them as far north as Alaska and will bring them as far south as Ecuador, according to the church's plan for the next few

A few things that youth group members said made Texas stand out include the heat, giant spiders and friendly people.

"Right now, we're just trying to get used to the Texas heat," Gavyn Rowden, age 15,



Carter De Ruyter tosses some trash into a dumpster while cleaning out an elderly woman's garage.



Youth group members from Minnesota pose for a picture in front of the home they're working on.

said after remarking that the high in his hometown was 85 that day.

"It's awesome, other people here are so nice," Jenaya Drietz said. "(People) talk about 'Minnesota nice' but I think people should talk more about 'Texas nice.'"

One Azle home in the week's schedule required new flooring and an extensive deep-clean of the garage while its owner was spending time with a newborn grandson and family in the hospital.

Rowden, along with Elliot Vander Pol, 15, and Carter De Ruyter, 14, were tasked with the garage. The group recounted their time spent over the last few days doing hard labor in the Texas sun, but

the moment that most stuck out for them was removing an old carpet from a cat-filled house in Springtown.

"That was definitely eye opening to see that my situation wasn't always as bad, and someone always has it way worse," Rowden said. ""Honestly, we're just here to serve. That's the biggest, most important thing we're doing. I'm not really doing this for me. I'm doing this for the Lord. That's what is most important to me."

Rowden finished with a word of advice for those seeking help or religion.

"You don't have to clean up yourself before you come to the Lord, the Lord meets you where you are."

Linda and James Dority

served as group leaders for an Azle house and were impressed with the hard work they saw from the youth group's members.

"These kids work hard and they're such good kids," Linda Dority said. "I mean it's amazing what they do. They've been polite, they haven't made comments about 'this house smells' or anything.'

During their week in Azle, the group would pray at Azle Central Park each evening and spent free time dining and getting to know their hosts. On July 19, the group left to return to southwestern Minnesota after doing work at five houses, the Dream Center, and Servolution's Pay it Forward program.

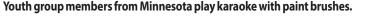


JOEY GARCIA | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

From left to right, Carter De Ruyter, Elliot Vander Pol, and Gavyn Rowden stand in front of an Azle home.





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# Take a lunch, leave a lunch

This week Legacy Oaks of Azle swaps premade lunches for canned goods and nonperishables for Azle students

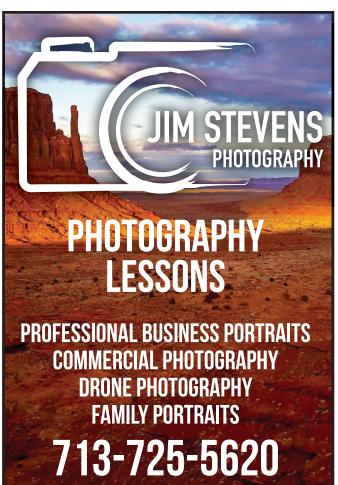


Until August, Legacy Oaks of Azle staff will be trading a bag containing a sandwich, chips, fruit and other foodstuffs for canned goods and other nonperishable items.

**ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER Community Relations Director Saundra Bramlett is** Legacy Oaks' newest director, taking over the job from Kelly Case just six weeks ago. The idea was initially Case's while Bramlett got to oversee its implementation. "We're just really pleased to always serve the community any way we can," Bramlett said. "So hopefully, we will be able to not only supply some Azle students with some lunches, but also lunch bags. We just look forward to doing that and any other way we can plug in and help out the community. This is an event that we're really reaching out to our professional partners throughout the community, folks that work in health care or just other professional capacities. We've had a really amazing turnout, and we're going to keep it open for the next week so that we can stuff these lunch boxes as full as possible. It's good to help the kids out, you know, making sure they've got their meals, and they can focus on school and what's important."











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**404 Main Place** Outdoor & indoor vendor space available. Applications must indicate items

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- 16, 2024, payments will include a \$25.00 late fee. Booth fees and late fees are considered donations and refunds will not be issued for any reason. • All vendors are responsible for providing their own 10 x 10 tent, tables, and chairs. Inside booths are limited. They will be filled on a first come first served basis. Inside booths are located at 404 Main Place. You must bring your own tables and chairs. Limited booths with electrical hookup.
- . Outside booths will be placed along Main Street in front of existing businesses. Electrical hookup not available. Must bring your own generator
- All vendors must sell from their booths only. No soliciting from any area other than your own rented booth. Booths must be maintained from 9:00
- a.m. until 3:00 p.m. No breaking down early
- · Absolutely NO READY TO EAT FOOD, FOOD SAMPLES OR DRINKS may be sold from craft and sales booths.
- Each vendor is responsible for their trash cleanup at the conclusion of the event.
- Each vendor is solely responsible for paying sales tax.
- All food vendors are required to obtain a temporary permit from the Tarrant County Health Department at their own cost. Under no circumstance will a vendor be allowed to operate without a permit. Non-profit organizations must obtain a health permit but are exempt from the fee. No food permits
- will be issued on the premises. Health Department #817-321-4960.
- All vendors using generators or cooking food, please be aware that the Azle Fire Department will be inspecting your area on festival day. If you have questions, you can contact the Azle Fire Department #817-444-7051.
- · Vendors will be assigned booth spaces by festival coordinators. You will be contacted with your number, location, and other important information
- All booths must be safely constructed and not constitute a hazard. Walkways must always remain clear. Azle Police Department will be monitoring
- This is a family friendly festival, profanity, alcohol, and tobacco products are not permitted.
- Anyone violating any of the above rules may be asked to leave and can be denied participation in future festivals.





















**August 16-30** 

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# TRI\*COUNTY REPORTER DIVERSIONS

THURSDAY, August 1, 2024w



# Lake Worth coach pleased with 7-on-7 success

#### **RICK MAUCH**

Special to the Tri-County Reporter

In preparation for their first season under head coach Todd Peterman, the Lake Worth Bullfrogs participated in 7-on-7 football competition this summer. And while University Interscholastic League rules prohibit him from actually coaching the players in this competition, Peterman liked the progress

of his players.

"The kids are digesting the offense and defense verv well," Peterman said.

Coming from Duncanville, where he was offensive coordinator for the two-time defending Class 6A Division I state champions, Peterman said the Bullfrogs will operate out of an uptempo multiple spread offense, albeit "with a little more option than we ran home against Frisco Panther at Duncanville."

As for the defense, which also benefits from the passing game of 7-on-7, Peterman said the Bullfrogs will run an even front.

The Bullfrogs will begin practices for the coming season Aug. 5. Their first scrimmage is Aug. 15 at Aubrey, followed by hosting Waco Connally Aug. 22. They open the regular season Aug. 30 at Creek.

#### **FLAUGHER COMPETES AT NATIONALS**

Springtown triple jumper Mack Flaugher competed at the USA Track and Field Junior Olympics in Bryan-College Station July 24. She posted an effort of 37 feet, 5 inches to place 18th in the Girls 17-18 age group.

This was her first time participating in the elite competition. She qualified by

placing fourth at the Region 12 Championships in Seguin with an effort of 38-1.25.

Flaugher, a senior this coming school year, is seeking a fourth consecutive trip to the UIL Class 4A State Meet next

#### **VOLLEYBALL SCRIMMAGES STARTING**

Practices are set to begin Aug. 5 and scrimmages are soon to follow.

Azle: Aug. 9, hosting Tolar, Lake Worth and Spartans home school team. 9 a.m. Aug. 10, at Keller Central, also including Boswell and Denton Ryan, TBA.

Lake Worth: Along with the matches at Azle, the Lady Bullfrogs will host Fort Worth North Side and Fort Worth Dunbar Aug. 10 at 8 a.m. Springtown: Aug. 9, at

PLEASE SEE **ROUNDUP** | B3

# Back-to-school 101: A parent's guide to smooth transitions

#### **MICKY SHEARON**

Special to the Tri-County Reporter

As the lazy days of summer draw to a close, the countdown to the first day of school begins. For many families, this time of year brings a mix of excitement, anxiety and a dash of chaos. As the parents of five kids, my wife and I have experienced our share of the first days of school. Admittedly, some were smoother than others!

But fear not, dear readers! We've compiled a list of tips and advice to help you

and your kids start the new school year on the right foot. So, grab a cup of coffee, put your feet up, and let's dive into some back-to-school brilliance!

#### PLAN A FUN FINALE FOR

**SUMMER** Make the last days of summer memorable with a family outing or a special activity. Whether it's a picnic at the park, a day trip to the zoo, or a movie marathon at home, creating a fun end to the break can help everyone transition more smoothly into

school mode.

#### **GET BACK INTO A ROUTINE**

Ease back into school schedules by gradually adjusting bedtimes and wakeup times. Start this process at least a week before school begins. This way, the first day of school won't come as a shock to anyone's system — at least not a complete shock!

#### **ORGANIZE SCHOOL SUPPLIES TOGETHER**

Make a fun family event out of shopping for school supplies. Let the kids pick

out their favorite notebooks, pens, and backpacks — in accordance with your school's supply list, of course. When you get home, organize everything together, and label items if necessary. This not only builds excitement but also ensures nothing is forgotten.

#### **CREATE A HOMEWORK STATION**

Set up a dedicated, distraction-free space for homework and studying. Stock it with all the necessary supplies, like pencils, paper and a calculator. This will help kids get into the habit of focusing on their schoolwork and keeping everything they need in one place.

#### **SET GOALS AND EXPECTATIONS**

Have a family meeting to discuss goals and expectations for the new school year. Encourage your kids to set their own academic and personal goals. This can range from improving grades to making new friends or joining a club. Having clear objectives can motivate them to

stay on track.

#### **MEAL PREP MAGIC**

Save time and stress on busy mornings by planning and prepping meals ahead of time. Create a weekly menu and prep lunches and snacks the night before. Consider healthy, easy-to-grab options like fruit, cheese sticks and pre-made sandwiches.

#### **GET INVOLVED**

Stay engaged with your child's education by attending school events, meeting

PLEASE SEE **SCHOOL** | B3



# **Marching Green** Pride begins practice in July

The MGP performs at all home and away football games, parades, pep rallies, marching contests and more.





# **Azle Girls** Volleyball **Camp '24**

Azle Volleyball Camp is for incoming 7th to 9th grade girls. Camp focused on volleyball skills, positional focus, game dynamics, and teamwork.



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e-clubhouse.org/sites/azle\_tk/

10328 Jacksboro Hwy Fort Worth TX 76135 817-237-1819 www.emphc.org Tues 9 - 3 PM • Thurs 12-6 PM SE HABLA ESPAÑOL

#### ROUNDUP FROM PAGE B1

Granbury with Saginaw Chisholm Trail and Peaster, noon, Aug. 10, at Glen Rose,

Regular-season matches begin the following week with Lake Worth hosting Brewer Aug. 12 at 1:30 p.m.; Azle traveling to Boswell Tuesday, Aug. 13 at 6:30 p.m.; and Springtown playing in a tri-match at Peaster along with Godley, time TBA.

#### **YOUTH BASEBALL**

The Azle Hornet 12U All-Stars have had a standout season this summer. They have posted a record of 22-6-1 and have outscored their opponents by a margin of 328-162, average of 11.3 to 5.6.

The team's prolific offense has resulted in scoring 20 runs on two occasions and 19 another time. They've also scored 15 runs eight times, 14 twice, 13 once and 12 in 11 games.

#### SPRINGTOWN FOOTBALL

Season tickets for

Porcupines home games are on sale to the public through Aug. 2. Contact the SISD athletic department at 817-220-3040.

Home games are Graham, Sept. 6; China Spring, Sept. 20; Fort Worth Southwest, Sept. 27; Fort Worth Eastern Hills, Oct. 11; and Fort Worth Western Hills, Oct. 25. All games kick off at 7 p.m.

### 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 competi-

tion, and exemplary moral character.

To nominate, visit bit.ly/sisdwallof-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 through Aug. 2 at https://brushfire.com/azleisd/volleyball/579445/details.

Tickets are also subject to a processing fee, are nonrefundable and nonexchangeable.

Azle ISD has a clear bag policy.

#### **AZLE CHEER CAMP**

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

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 Football Camp '24



JOEY GARCIA | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

A Springtown football camper practices how to catch a football.

#### Nominate an athlete to Springtown Wall of Honor

bit.ly/sisdwallofhonor

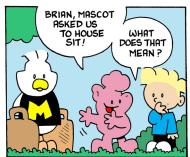
#### **Azle Volleyball Season Tickets**

https://brushfire.com/azleisd/volleyball/579445/

#### **Azle Cheer Camp**

https://azlesports.rankone.com/Website/Main

#### **ZED** by Duane Abel



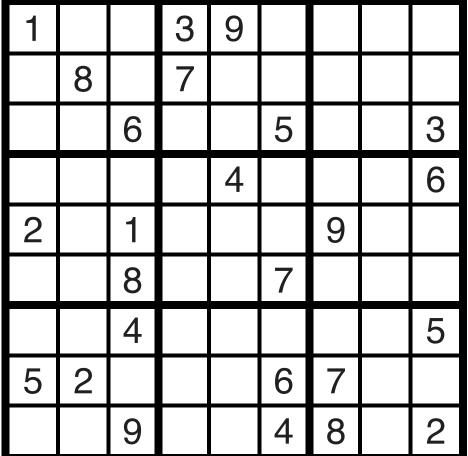




www.corkycomics.com

# Sudoku

**AUGUST 1, 2024** 



Level: Advanced

# Solution to last week's puzzle

JULY 25,2024

1	3	6	4	9	5	7	2	8
9	5	2	6	7	8	1	4	ვ
4	8	7	3	2	1	9	5	6
5	7	4	9	8	2	6	3	1
6	2	3	1	4	7	5	8	9
8	1	9	5	3	6	4	7	2
3	4	8	7	6	9	2	1	5
2	9	5	8	1	4	3	6	7
7	6	1	2	5	Q	Ω	a	1

# WORD SCRAMBLE Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to community papers. POTERR

Answer: Report





JOEY GARCIA | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Campers learn to run the football.



JOEY GARCIA | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Campers ferociously tackle foam mats to the ground.

#### BACK FROM PAGE B1

teachers and joining the PTA. Being involved not only shows your support but also helps you stay informed about what's happening at school.

#### ENCOURAGE INDEPENDENCE

In age-appropriate ways, foster independence by encouraging your kids to take responsibility for their own tasks, such as packing their lunch, organizing their backpacks and setting their own

alarms. This not only builds confidence but also teaches valuable life skills.

### STAY POSITIVE AND SUPPORTIVE

Starting a new school year can be nerve-wracking for kids. Offer plenty of positive reinforcement and support. Listen to their concerns, celebrate their successes and reassure them that it's okay to make mistakes along the way.

#### HAVE FUN!

Above all, remember to have fun. School is a time for learning, growth and new ex-

periences. Encourage a love of learning by making education enjoyable. Whether it's through educational games, reading together or exploring new hobbies, make sure to keep the joy in the journey.

Starting the school year on the right foot doesn't have to be a daunting task. With a little planning, a dash of creativity and a lot of love and support, you can set your family up for a successful and enjoyable school year. Here's to a fantastic start to the new school year!

# Marching Green Pride begins practice in July

The MGP performs at all home and away football games, parades, pep rallies, marching contests and more.



From left, AHS band director Greg Davis points at assistant band director Matt Assis' shoulders as he demonstrates how the band members should stand.



JOEY GARCIA | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER



JOEY GARCIA | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Trumpet players raise their hands as they follow directions.

Seasoned band members check the posture and pose of the new students.

# Springtown Girls Basketball Camp '24

Springtown High School hosted its girls basketball camp July 9-11 for girls in grades two through nine.



JOEY GARCIA | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER



JOEY GARCIA | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Campers hustle down the court at SHS girls basketball camp.

A seasoned basketball vet gives a camper some pointers.

# Beyond medals: The core values of the summer Olympics

#### **MICKY SHEARON**

Special to the Tri-County Reporter

One of the things I love most about the Olympic Games is that for a few weeks every two years, we see athletes from all over the world — from all walks of life, all cultures, all races and ethnicities — come together in the spirit of athleticism and camaraderie to compete against al respect and admiration for are not just a showcase of one another in their respective events.

While these highly trained athletes are no doubt at the Olympic Games to compete, do their very best, and hopefully bring home a coveted Olympic medal, there is a clear connection among the athletes. Even in the midst of competition, they have mutuone another. They support one another because they all know the dedication, commitment and hard work it takes for every athlete to get to the Olympic Games.

In a microcosm sort of way, the Olympic Games are a picture of what we all wish the world could be every single day. Indeed, the Olympics

athletic prowess; they represent a philosophy of life that transcends sports, fostering a global community bound by shared ideals. The three fundamental values of Olympism — excellence, respect and friendship — form the bedrock of the Olympic Games, guiding its mission to promote sport, culture and

education, all in the pursuit of a better world.

The essence of the Olympics is rooted in values that transcend the finish line and go beyond winning; it celebrates participation, perseverance and the unity of the human spirit.

#### **STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE**

Excellence in the Olympic

context is about more than just winning medals. It's about pushing oneself to achieve the highest personal standards and striving to be the best version of oneself. This value encourages athletes to perform their best, inspiring others to pursue their own goals with determination.



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BY THE WORD BAPTIST West of FM 730 N. at sign, Briar 817-444-3484

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Springtown, 817-221-2241 **CENTRAL BAPTIST** 

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4290 Old Agnes Road

**CHRISTWAY BAPTIST** 7673 West Hwy. 199, Agnes 817-220-9133 or 817-220-3581

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46 Looking to Buy

48 Maintenance/Repairs

49 Masonry/Stonework

50 Mobile Home Service

53 Musical Instruments

47 Lost & Found

51 Motorcycles

54 Music Lessons

55 Miscellaneous

57 Pets/Livestock

59 Pool Service

**61** Personal

**62** Plumbing

**65** Printing

66 Roofing

**68** Storage

67 Recycling

63 Public Notice

**64** Photography

Piano Service

Movers

- Air Condition/Heating
- Antiques
- **Appliances**
- Appliance Repair
- Arts/Crafts
- Asphalt Paving
- Auctions
- Autos, Trucks Auto Repair Service
- 10 Backhoe Service
- 11 Boats. Motors **12** Bookkeeping
- 13 Business Opportunity
- 14 Campers/Trailers **15** Carports/Patios
- **16** Equipment Repair

- 17 Carpet Service
- 18 Catering
- 19 Cement Work
- 20 Demolition
- 21 Child Care 22 Cosmetics

009

- 23 Computers/Services
- 24 Electrician 25 Equipment & Tool Rental 26 Excavating
- 27 Exterminating 28 Farm Equipment
- Fencing 30 Firewood **31** Free
- 32 For Sale 33 Furniture
- 34 Garage & Estate Sales Garden/Mowing Svc
- **36** Hauling **37** Hay
- **38** Health/Fitness **39** Help Wanted
- **40** Home Improvement
- House Leveling
- 42 House Cleaning
- **43** Hunting **44** Janitorial Service
- 45 Job Wanted

- 69 Sand/Gravel 70 Septic Tanks 71
- Sewing/Alterations **72** Sewer Service
- 73 TV/Radio 74 Tractor Service
- 75 Upholstery
- **76** Vacuum Cleaners 77 Wanted
- 78 Well Drilling
- 56 Party Planning/Events 79 Welding 80 Lots/Acreage
  - Business & **Commercial Property**
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  - 84 Mobile Homes for Rent 85 Mobile Homes for Sale
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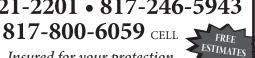
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#### **081 Business/Commercial**

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

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

#### 082 **RV's for Rent**

Nice 1BR RV in adult RV park. Great for older person on limited income. Starts at \$650/mo. All Bills Paid. Heritage RV Park 817-444-3760.

#### **084 Mobile Homes for Rent**

1676 LONG AVE 3-2 \$1,395 MO. \$1,000 DEP. 1801 CORAL RD 2-1 \$895 MO. \$500 DEP. Gene Thompson & Associates 817-246-4646 gtatx.com

#### **085 Mobile Homes for Sale**

Pelican Bay: 1513 Sheri Lane S. **Mobile Home with lot Needs Work** 3-2 1986, 16X76 Sunrizon 55K

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#### **Rent Unfurnished**

3-2 Duplex, quiet location, nice & clean, newly refurbished, no pets. \$1500.00/ mo. 817-444-3636.

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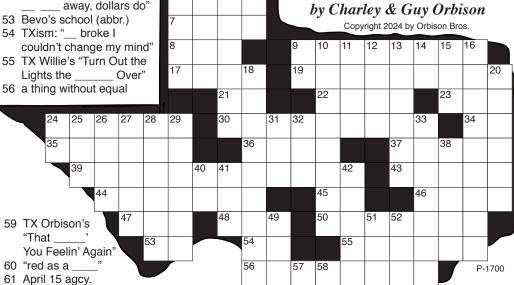
### 817-270-3340 **SEE PAGE B6 for Deadlines**

#### **ACROSS** 1 book by TX game

- hunter Buck: "Bring Alive" 'em 5 TXism: "liquid \_
- (perfume)
- 6 on the Gulf 7 Fort Worth's Cullen
- 8 Heisman winner
- 9 Kelvin Martin left Cowboys in 1993 for
- 19 racetracks have to
- TV show
- 22 this actor Busey 23 TXism: "couldn't find
- 24 TX Charlie Dunn was 60 "red as a first to put
- 30 publication: Texas
- Farm & 34 Green Bay Packers'
- 35 TX Armstrong was stripped of his \_
- 36 TX outlaw booty
- money with measure" (rich)
- as a coyote with a rubber chicken"

- was found not guilty in death of this Farr
- Brown from Dallas
- this Seattle team 17 hair cutting action
- pay \_\_\_\_ fees 21 popular "emergency"
  - was TX Buddy Holly hide \_\_ hair of him"
- roses on boots
- home state (abbr.)
- France titles
- 37 TXism: "counts his
- 39 TXism: "
- 43 cheerleader cries 44 former U.S. Congressman, Ortiz

- 45 TXism: "let '\_\_ rip!" 46 Valley \_ \_\_ vera plant
- 47 neither's sidekick
- 48 football rally 50 TX O'Connor: "Land does
- \_ away, dollars do" 53 Bevo's school (abbr.)
- 54 TXism: "\_\_ broke I
- 55 TX Willie's "Turn Out the
- Lights the \_\_\_\_ \_ Over" 56 a thing without equal



61

28 in Lubbock County

on U.S. 82

29 expel a foreigner

state buildings

33 aircraft hard to

detect by radar

from the country

are \_\_\_\_-smoking

Corey Seager **DOWN** 

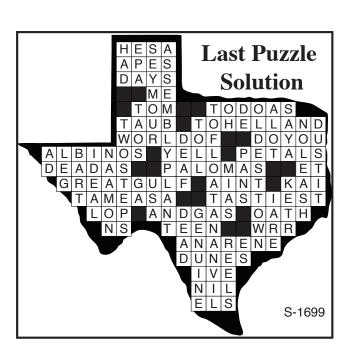
62 pos. of Rangers'

- 1 bomb explosions
- 2 state capital 3 Texas-based Blue Bell products are
- richer & 4 Abilene FM radio
- 9 Oliver Hardy's "pardner" (init.)
- 10 San Jacinto battle lasted \_ min. 11 TXism: "fits like
- sardines in \_
- 12 TXism: "skeedaddle out of
- 14 TX-born jockey Shoemaker (init.)

you can"

- 15 TXism for relatives
- 16 road equipment not seen in South Texas (2 wds.)
- 18 flavor of 3-down: '\_ cream
- 20 past winning Miami QB Bob 24 TXism: "keep\_\_
- under your hat" 25 approving head bob
- 26 former Astro outfielder, Gonzalez (1990-95)
- 27 fire crime

- 38 Goddess of Liberty atop Texas Capitol is aluminum
- 40 after lunch (abbr.) 41 TX V.T. Hamlin's comic: Alley
- 42 TXism: "got the " (clumsy)
- 49 "cement pond" 51 sarcastic insult
- 52 an "Achy Breaky" Cyrus (init.)
- 57 noted 1960s UT linebacker, Tommy 32 Bowie's Alamo bed
  - 58 Denton's historic hardware store (now closed)







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