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SPRINGTOWN, LAKE WORTH AND SURROUNDING AREAS

THURSDAY, August 8, 2024 • \$1.00

## Springtown Education Foundation gala raises over \$80k

*Nonprofit provides teacher grants, student scholarships*

**MADELYN EDWARDS**  
springtownreporter@tricityreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — The Springtown Education Foundation cashed out this year's casino-themed gala with over \$80,000 and is all-in on supporting local teachers and students.

The July 26 event brought Las Vegas to Springtown. Guests were invited to play blackjack, roulette and craps, provided by Texas Casino Parties, and were treated to live entertainment from Josh Weathers and his band. They also participated in a silent and live auction, played the Heads and Tails game, ate dinner and danced the night away at the Covered Bridge Venue in Springtown.

"It was an incredible evening," Springtown Education Foundation President Vicky Trichel said. "I am always amazed by the generosity and the support of the Springtown community. The concert by Josh Weathers certainly added to the excitement of the event."

Springtown Education Foundation Gala Chairperson Mistie Rivera agreed that this year's event was successful and enjoyable. She wanted to



MADELYN EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

It's all smiles between Dayla Stuckly, Dana Drake and Beverly Kelley at one of the blackjack tables at Springtown Education Foundation's gala.

"raise a substantial amount of funds for SEF and to show our sponsors and community what it's like to join forces to do great things for our district," and she said those goals were accomplished through this year's gala.

"Our community showed up big time for our organization, and it showed," Rivera said. "We will continue to grow and work on new ideas for making the gala a success for years to come."

The education foundation

was founded in 1992 and supports local education by providing student scholarships to seniors, grants to innovative teachers and funds to new educators to help them prepare for the school year. To accomplish

this, the foundation raises money through an annual golf tournament and spirit T-shirt sales. The gala, which started last year, is its biggest fundraiser.

"We would not have this type of success without

all the local participation," Trichel said. "We had over 60 businesses, organizations and community members donate to the gala. Our top sponsors were: R&C Custom

PLEASE SEE **GALA** | A11



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Azle Optimist Club members introduce themselves at the new teacher luncheon.

## Azle ISD, Optimist Club welcome teachers with luncheon

**ZACH FREEMAN**  
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AZLE — It's soon to be another new school year, and a new sea of faces were present at the Azle ISD new teacher luncheon. The luncheon took place at the end of new teacher orientation and a day before convocation, July 31. Azle Optimist Club members and volunteers from Azle High School's drama department served teachers in the school's recently renovated cafeteria.

"It's always our favorite thing to do at the start of the school year," Azle Optimist board member and administrative assist at the Azle Area Chamber of Commerce Jessica McKinney said. "To be able to serve them a good lunch and welcome them to our district lets them know who we are and how we help students so we kind of work hand-in-hand."

McKinney noted building these connections are important for other Optimist Club activities like the annual pen-

ny race that happens around spring break.

Along with several free meals throughout the week, teachers who are new to the profession were each presented with a \$250 Amazon gift card from the Azle Education Foundation to help with classroom decorations and supplies. The Azle Walmart and the Azle Area Chamber of Commerce also donated gift bags to the district for new professional

PLEASE SEE **AZLE** | A5

## 'This should have never happened'

**ASHLEY TERRY**  
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The nation is still reeling from former President Donald Trump's attempted assassination during a campaign rally in Butler, Pennsylvania Saturday, July 13.

### THE SHOOTING

Although the incident is still being investigated, it was revealed that the shooter, 20-year-old Thomas Matthew Crooks, opened fire at the

### Former Secret Service agent speaks about assassination attempt on Trump

former president using an AR-style rifle. Trump — who was immediately surrounded and protected by Secret Service as he was rushed into a vehicle for safety — suffered an injury to his ear.

According to CNN, Crooks, who was killed by Secret Service agents following the

shooting, fired on Trump while perched on a nearby rooftop outside the rally's security perimeter.

The shooting resulted in the death of one rally attendee and left two others critically injured; however, the

PLEASE SEE **ATTEMPT** | A7

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This story was originally published in the Hood County News. It is being shared here due to the broad nature of the story and the fact that many in our community are interested in the events of July 13.



COURTESY PHOTO

Granbury resident Mark Lowery is pictured walking with President George W. Bush during Lowery's time as a Secret Service agent.

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# 'Welcome home'

SISD introduces about 73 new teachers, staffers at annual luncheon



Springtown ISD Superintendent Shane Strickland speaks to new staff members at the new teacher luncheon. Afterward, Strickland said the number of staffers introduced at the luncheon is about average for the district and stressed the goal for SISD to retain staff.

Springtown Independent School District welcomed 73 educators who will be new to the district in the coming school year at the annual new teacher luncheon Aug. 2 at Oak Knoll Ranch. The event was sponsored by the Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce, the Springtown Pastoral Fellowship, Springtown Education Foundation and Oak Knoll Ranch.

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Springtown Middle School Principal Brittney Chavez, Springtown Intermediate School Principal Joe Brown, SISD Special Education Director Kristi Westendorf and Goshen Creek Elementary Principal Wendy Ashley were among the educational leaders to introduce new staff members at the luncheon last week.



Goshen Creek Elementary Principal Wendy Ashley smiles big as she introduces the new members of her staff to the community at the new teacher luncheon.

## Can we talk about hate?



### Common Practice

I avoid speaking up when a person or group is being treated unfairly.

### Best Practice

It is my responsibility as a good neighbor to intervene when I witness hate and speak out to avoid future incidents.

### Helpful Habits

- Practice the art of listening. Don't assume what others need after they have been targeted by hate.
- Stay informed about the state of hate in your area. If you see that this incident is part of a trend, then it requires broader prevention to break the cycle.
- Stay engaged. After the community vigil ends and the news cameras go away, the work to build peace and safety for all isn't over.

### The End Game

Create coalitions across social groups to decrease the space for hate to thrive. Educate yourself and people around you about the causes and effects of hate crimes and how to respond.

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](https://facebook.com/LetsTalkAzle)  
[LetsTalkAzle@gmail.com](mailto:LetsTalkAzle@gmail.com)



SCAN QR CODE FOR TRAINING VIDEOS

## LET'S TALK Practices

### Think about this...

- Would you want someone to speak up for you if you were being discriminated against?
- Remember that sometimes interrupting a hate crime can stop the violence in its path, so just saying something can help.
- Remember that accountability doesn't require shaming or deepening divisions. Consider how your community's response to hate embodies your values.

### Try this...

- To the perpetrator: I noticed you doing X to this person, please stop. I'll call the police if you continue to hurt this person.
- To the victim: Hi, my name is \_\_\_\_, I want to help. What do you need right now?
- To yourself: How diverse are the people I interact with? Do I speak up when I hear comments or jokes based on stereotyping others?
- To your community: How can we build a community where people don't feel that this kind of behavior is acceptable?

# Newspapers have an important role in maintaining America's freedom

Newspapers have had an important role in our country since the very inception of our nation. One of the biggest political issues in colonial America was free speech and the right of citizens to speak against a tyrannical government. At the very heart of free speech was the role of the newspaper. It provided information and news that helped form public opinion with the understanding that in a democracy, the electorate needs to be adequately informed so it might make enlightened decisions. From our nation's infancy, newspapers provided the information that allowed the public to go to the polls, educated on the issues of the day.

When drafting the Constitution, our founding fathers felt so strongly about the free press their first action was to draft the First Amendment to ensure the press had certain freedoms and rights which could not be impinged upon. In no small way, the freedoms recognized in the other constitutional amendments are dependent on the protections that exist in the First Amendment. Our founders understood a voter without knowledge is simply a political token making decisions with the art of a blind chess



## FROM MY FRONT PORCH

By Sam Houston

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

player.

With those constitutional rights in place, our nation's newspapers helped our society as it formed opinions on the issues of the day. Whether it be the Monroe Doctrine, slavery, tariffs, women's rights, war or economic growth, American newspapers reported on the issues throughout our history. In their constitutional role, they helped ensure that truth, justice and fairness were consistently presented to the American voter. For many, reading the newspaper has been a way of life.

With the passage of time came radio, television, internet and cell phones. Without question these technological advances have altered how people receive their news. No longer are people reviewing the daily results of the New York Stock Exchange by newsprint. They no longer grab the morning paper to see the results of last night's baseball game, nor the late-night results of the local

election. Some forms of communication are now "faster" than newspapers, but are they as accurate or as complete and as balanced?

The demise of the newspaper has been predicted again and again, and yet good community newspapers are still standing at their posts, providing the public with the information it needs to know.

Technology may have provided an alternative to print, but the local community newspaper still does and will always serve a vital role. There is no more credible source of local news than the community newspaper. There is no other source who will professionally communicate the goings on at the school board, the commissioners court or the city council. The local paper is the watchdog that works to keep greed and political corruption from being cozy in the comfortable seats of power. It helps readership understand a bond issue, planning and zoning decisions, and other

intricacies of government.

Of course, the community newspaper is also more than just governmental updates and news reports. It reveals what is happening in the community, what events are taking place and when they will occur. It contains pictures that document the flood or a tornado, as well as the peewee t-ball game. It reports on those who have passed, and those obituaries become a recorded part of history that will never be erased. A community newspaper should not only reveal public issues to its readers but celebrate the events and accomplishments that are part of every community, giving people a sense of pride and ownership in where they live.

Newspapers are the canvas of your life presented to you each week without fail.

Tragically, some local newspapers in smaller and rural communities have closed because of rising costs and little to no advertising base to make their operation profitable. It is a sad and serious problem; so much so that there is pending legislation in Congress to support community newspapers through tax credits and business credits for advertisers who do business with their local news-

paper. Legislators fear that without community newspapers there will be no one to report on local government, and rural America could become an informational desert — a situation which would have been abhorrent to the founding fathers.

Newspapers will continue to evolve. Digital issues will have more and more growth as people wish to access the newspaper from their phone or laptop, and whether they are in the comfort of their home or on the road. Through it all, your community newspaper will be here, providing you with information you want and need to know in both digital and print forms.

Recent polling reported by the Texas Press Association shows a significant number of people still want to receive their local news from the community paper. They place more trust in the advertisements in their local paper than they do in TV, radio or social media ads and are significantly more likely to buy because of that trust. They value knowing what is going on in their neighborhoods and they like seeing pictures and reading stories about their friends and neighbors. They want a strong community newspaper to make a difference in their life in a posi-

tive way.

I am proud to be a part of the newspaper fraternity and believe we provide an essential service I hope never goes out of favor. I wish I could express to you the earnestness with which the professionals I work with go about their business and the important responsibility they willingly accept. We are not perfect but work diligently and proudly to keep you informed and to do so factually, fairly and objectively. In these days of extreme partisanship, some readers may disagree with my statement, and of course that is their right. I simply remind those critics that being objective is giving a voice to both sides and letting the readers decide which view is the best. It is not merely supporting a view because that is what many readers might like to read. Confirmation is not objectivity. Newspapers have a duty to be better than that, especially local community newspapers.

Thought for the day: "Were it left to me to decide if we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter." — Thomas Jefferson

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

# SISD Superintendent welcomes families back to school, gives updates on district

Dear Porcupine family, As we prepare to begin a new school year, I am filled with excitement and anticipation for the opportunities that lie ahead for all of us as a Porcupine family. Our administration has been working diligently getting ready for this upcoming school year. We will be excited to open our doors to your most precious possessions.

Our district is experiencing tremendous growth, and we continue to grow at an incredible pace. This growth is a testament to the wonderful community we have and the quality education we provide. However, with growth comes challenges, particularly with overcrowding. We want you to know we are doing everything we can to address this issue.

One of our key initiatives this year is the formation of a Long Range Planning Committee. This committee will be crucial in shaping the



## SPRINGTOWN ISD

By Shane Strickland

Shane Strickland has been the superintendent at Springtown Independent School District since 2023. He has worked in public education as a teacher, coach and administrator for 26 years and counting. He has spent most of his career, 21 years, at Springtown ISD. Strickland is husband to Leighann, father of four and a grandfather.

future of Springtown ISD, helping us plan and prepare for continued growth and development. We will begin this long-range facility planning process at the start of the school year. As we do so, we ask for your patience, especially during the first few weeks of school when the impact of our growth will be most evident. We are committed to working incredibly hard to make necessary adjustments and improvements.

Some of the visible changes you will notice when returning to our campuses are security upgrades with our fencing at SES and GCES. We have

poured sidewalks at GCES and RES to assist with the moving of students in and out of the building. We also removed the very long and deteriorating awning that ran down the front of SES, which enhances the appearance of the campus.

As part of our planning, we will be evaluating our current facilities and sharing this information with all stakeholders. One challenging but likely necessary adjustment will be to change the attendance boundaries of our three elementary schools, pending approval from the school board. Currently, GCES and SES are over capacity according to

the Texas Education Agency's standards, and we must address this issue to ensure a conducive learning environment for all students.

As we begin the new school year, I'm excited to highlight how our district is enhancing education for all students. We're expanding our Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses to offer even more opportunities, and we're integrating engineering practices across all science courses from grades K-12. Our elementary schools remain dedicated to fostering lifelong learners and avid readers, while students in grades six through 12 can participate in our award-winning fine arts and athletic programs. Our ongoing goal is to provide a dynamic and engaging educational experience that supports both growth and achievement. We eagerly anticipate seeing our students thrive with these new opportunities and make

the most of this exciting year ahead.

To our returning students, welcome back! We're so glad to have you with us again. Your energy and hard work are what make our school district so great. Let's build on everything we achieved last year and aim for even more success this time around, and we're continuing to develop personalized learning pathways that cater to individual student needs.

For those of you joining us for the first time, whether you're moving up to a new grade or are new to our district, we're excited to welcome you into the Porcupine family! We're here to give you a great place to learn and grow. Springtown ISD is becoming a destination district for families, and we're happy to see our community grow.

To our parents and guardians, thank you for all your support. We couldn't do this without you. Your part-

nership is key to making sure our students succeed. Together, we'll keep fostering a positive and open atmosphere for everyone.

As we look forward, let's embrace all the chances for learning, discovery and growth that come our way. Let's tackle any challenges with courage and creativity, knowing we're stronger together. We're excited to make this school year full of achievements, inspiration and joy.

I am honored and humbled to serve as your superintendent, and I am excited to see what we can achieve when we work together as a community of learners. Here's to a successful and rewarding school year ahead!

Growing smarter, stronger, together.

— Shane Strickland  
Springtown ISD  
Superintendent of Schools

# Springtown Battle of the Badges Blood Drive coming Aug. 16-17

## MADELYN EDWARDS

springtownreporter@tricityreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — Do you favor Springtown Police Department or Parker County Emergency Services District 1?

The Springtown community will have its chance to pick a side and do some good by participating in the city's fifth annual Battle of the Badges Blood Drive Aug. 16-17.

The drive, in partnership with Carter BloodCare, will

take place from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 16 and 8:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, Aug. 17 in the parking lot of the city of Springtown annex building, 200 N. Main St.

Usually, the blood drive is held in July, but it was moved this year at Carter BloodCare's request, Springtown Assistant City Administrator Christina Derr said. This schedule makes sense for the city as well.

"It also fits better in the rotation of our other quar-

terly drives held throughout the year," Derr said. "Donors have to go a certain period of time between donations, so we base the schedule on spacing them out so that the same donors can donate at each one."

Either way, the summer is a good time for a blood drive since blood supply is usually low during the summer as families spend more time planning out-of-town vacations and student donors take a break from classes,

according to an article on Carter BloodCare's website.

Springtown has collected 137 pints of blood during the first four Battle of the Badges drives, Derr said, and that equates to 411 life-saving transfusions, since each pint can be used in three separate blood transfusions.

"This year, they are putting an emphasis on O negative and O positive donors due to need, so while all donors will get a free T-shirt, O negative and O positive donors will get

a \$50 gift card," Derr said.

In a July 8 article, Carter BloodCare reported a critical need for O positive blood, which is used to treat traumatic bleeding and other medical emergencies.

Of course, Battle of the Badges is also a friendly contest between Springtown's police department and ESD 1 as donors choose an agency when they give blood, and so far, the firefighters are technically ahead. Aside from last year's tie, ESD 1 has won the

competition twice while the police department has only come out on top once.

Those who plan to donate blood can sign up for Battle of the Badges ahead of time on Carter BloodCare's website by going to [carterbloodcare.org](http://carterbloodcare.org), selecting "Mobile Drives" under the "Find a Location" drop-down menu at the top of the page, then searching for the ZIP code 76082 and clicking "Schedule" for Springtown Battle of the Badges on Aug.

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

## 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;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AZLE, TEXAS, THAT:****SECTION 1. GRANT OF AUTHORITY.**

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

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

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

**SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Gross Revenues" means:

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

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

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

(D) "Gross Revenues" shall also include:

(1) the following "miscellaneous charges":  
(a) charges to connect, disconnect, or reconnect gas within the City;  
(b) charges to handle returned checks from consumers within the City;  
(c) contributions in aid of construction ("CIAC");  
(d) and

(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 to be included, they may do so by addendum agreed upon by the Parties.

(E) "Gross Revenues" shall not include:

(1) the revenue of any person including, without limitation, an Affiliate or subsidiary of Grantee;  
(2) sales taxes and franchise fees paid to the City;  
(3) any interest or investment income earned by Grantee; and  
(4) all monies received from the lease or sale of real or personal property, provided, however, that this exclusion does not apply to the lease of facilities within the Public Right-of-Way.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(F) The City may request Grantee to relocate any part of its System facilities installed or maintained in the Public Right-of-Way to accommodate construction or improvement of a highway, road, street, public way, other public work or other bona fide public purpose excluding projects with the primary purpose of beautification or 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 to relocate System facilities to a depth of greater than four (4) feet unless prior agreement is obtained from Grantee or the industry standards require relocation of System Facilities to a depth greater than four (4) feet. To the extent the Parties cannot agree, an unbiased third party will be hired to make such determination.

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

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

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

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

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

**SECTION 4. INDEMNIFICATION AND INSURANCE.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**SECTION 5. GAS SERVICE.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**SECTION 8. OTHER TAXES.**

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

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

**SECTION 9. TERM.**

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

**SECTION 10. OTHER FRANCHISES.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**SECTION 13. DOCUMENTS AND REPORTS.**

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

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

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

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

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

(1) Violation of any provision of the Franchise or any rule, order, regulation or determination of the City made pursuant to the Franchise;  
(2) Attempt to evade any provision of the Franchise or to practice any fraud or deceit upon the City or its Residents;  
(3) Failure to begin or complete Gas facility construction and/or extension as agreed to with the City;  
(4) Failure to provide the services set forth in the Franchise; and  
(5) Material misrepresentation of fact in the application for or negotiation of the Franchise.

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

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

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

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

**SECTION 15. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.**

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

(B) No assignment or transfer of this Franchise shall be made, in whole or in part, without approval of the City Council unless to an Affiliate of Grantee. The City shall grant approval unless the assignee is materially weaker than Grantee. For purposes of this section, "materially weaker" means that the long term unsecured debt rating of the assignee is less than investment grade as rated by both S&P and Moody's. If the assignee is materially weaker, the City may request additional documents and information reasonably related to the transaction and the legal, financial, and technical qualifications of the assignee. The City agrees that said approval shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed. If the City is not satisfied by the additional information provided, it 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.

# AZLE

FROM PAGE A1

employees. Azle High School Principal Nate Driver said he was excited to welcome those at the luncheon and get to better know some of the incoming teachers at his school and in the district.

"We're just super pumped, ready for everybody to come back," Driver said. "It's going to be a great year."

Greenhorn and veteran teachers across a variety of subjects attended the luncheon. Lorena Sublasky joins Azle ISD as a bilingual fourth grade teacher at Eagle Heights Elementary. Eagle Heights is unique among Azle ISD schools in that nearly one third of the students are emergent bilinguals or speak English as a second language. Sublasky has been teaching for 27 years and is originally from El Paso. She has done everything from teaching elementary and high schools to developing curriculum. Sublasky said she is excited to help her students learn

English while continuing to retain and improve on their Spanish skills as well.

"It's a satisfying experience because you do see such growth in a year," Sublasky said. "It's amazing, and especially at the younger grades, it's so amazing. It's like, 'oh, my god, they got it.' It just, it evolves so quickly ... I'm looking forward to meeting my students, getting to see what they what they're like, what they don't like, the music, what their parents are like, and that's really what I look forward to ... I try to play on that during the year so that we can experience their culture, their lifestyle because in all homes, it's very different. But now when you're talking about people coming from different countries, that's very different. So, when I get to know all of that, then I try to embrace that and bring it into the classroom for everybody else. I know I'm going to have an awesome year so I'm really looking forward to it."

Amanda Seymour and Kassidy Hightower are two more newbies to the dis-

trict this school year. While Seymour is new to the city, Hightower is more than familiar with the district as a 2017 Azle High School graduate.

"So far, it's great," Seymour said. "It's a little bit bigger than what I'm used to, but I'm excited. I've made some friends, so, we're on the right track. I'm going to be teaching sophomore English at Azle. I just moved from Decatur so I just kind of wanted to get to a different school district and grow my profession and kind of just learn more from a little bit bigger district and I'm excited to see what it has to offer. I grew up in Colorado and then I moved (to Texas) after college, to pursue education and just teach here."

Hightower is returning to her alma mater to teach English to sophomores and freshmen. After attending Azle schools from kindergarten through 12th grade, Hightower attended Tarleton State University where she graduated in December 2023. She has previously worked as a substitute teacher at the

high school and was a long-term substitute from January to May last year.

"So, I kind of have some experience here, which is really nice, but it's also kind of surreal that I am now working with some of the same teachers that I had as a student," Hightower said. "We had awesome teachers here in Azle that inspired me to go into this profession. So, I'm excited to pay it forward and give back to the community that raised me. I just love Azle. It's my home. So, I want to help keep it great and make it better."

Hightower listed Sarah Milosh, who she had in high school, and Keri Dorris, who she had in both junior high and high school, as two particularly influential teachers.

"They were both huge inspirations," Hightower said. "And it was really great working with both of them last year in the English department. I look forward to working with Mr. Driver and the administration. Everyone's been super great and welcoming. I really love the community that they are trying to build."



Lorena Sublasky stands in the newly renovated AHS cafeteria.



Left to right, Amanda Seymour and Kassidy Hightower pose for a photo at the Azle Optimist Club's new teacher luncheon.



Rebecca Crabtree, last on right, volunteered with drama department students to serve new Azle teachers.

**AZLE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

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**2024**

**PARADE**

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**CHECK-IN** Azle Administration Building, front area. Participants should check in by 8:00 a.m. Check-in table will be located at the front of the Azle Administration Building.

**PARKING** Cars NOT participating in the parade will not be allowed to enter the staging area. Parking will be available in different areas around the festival.

**STAGING PARADE** staging will begin at 8:00 a.m. You will be directed to your lineup position from the check-in table. Route The parade will enter Church Street from the Azle Administration Building. It will travel down Church Street and make a right on Main and travel north to Industrial Ave. It will turn right on Industrial Ave. and then right on Central Dr., ending where it began behind Azle Administration Building.

1. Entry numbers must be clearly visible for the entries to be eligible for awards. Entry numbers will be distributed during staging.
2. Vehicle drivers must hold a valid driver's license and liability insurance, and be at least 21 years old. Azle PD will be checking these documents during check-in.
3. Participants must be 18 years or older to ride an ATV, go-cart, or any other recreational motorized vehicle.
4. Vehicles must be large enough for all riders to remain seated, with all body parts inside the perimeter of the vehicle.
5. Walking parade participants will be allowed to hand out candy or toys during parade.

**ABSOLUTELY NO CANDY OR TOYS SHALL BE THROWN FROM PARADE VEHICLES. VIOLATORS WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN NEXT YEAR'S PARADE.**

6. All horse entries must provide Coggins Test papers.
7. Late arrivals will be placed at the end of the parade, No Exceptions.
8. Vehicles are not permitted to stop during the parade route.
9. No off-loading of parade participants will be permitted along the parade route.
10. The Azle Area Chamber of Commerce reserves the right to refuse any entry for any reason.

**Azle ISD Administration Building, 301 Church Street**

**Saturday, September 14, 2024**  
**Check-In: 8:00 a.m.**  
**ENTRY DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 10, 2024**  
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# Once a Hornet, always a Hornet

LILY HUDMAN

Tri-County Reporter intern

AZLE—Although he wasn't born in Azle, Azle ISD superintendent Todd Smith feels the most at-home as a Hornet.

Smith grew up in Arlington, and after an unexpected decision he made to enroll in Tarleton State instead of Stephen F. Austin University, Smith still had his mind set on becoming a wildlife biologist. His plans changed, however, when the head of the agricultural education department asked him to consider getting his teaching certificate.

"I told him, 'I'm not a teacher,'" Smith said. "But I had several friends who were in (agricultural education) so I switched my major, and fast forward, I did my student teaching and I was like, 'Wow, this is cool.'"

He graduated in May 1994 and got a job as the agriculture teacher at Azle High School that summer. After transitioning from agriculture teacher to an assistant principal at the high school, he got a job as principal at

## Superintendent Todd Smith and his journey to the top

Walnut Creek Elementary in 2006, replacing former principal Thomas Hicks.

"That was a tough deal following Mr. Hicks, because everybody loved Mr. Hicks," Smith said. "But, looking back on all that stuff that I went through, while I've enjoyed every aspect of things, those seven or eight years at Walnut Creek were some good times."

He later became the director of district operations, and now, as superintendent, Smith has found what he loves most.

"I enjoy having that connection to the overall district," Smith said. "At the superintendent level, I get to work with our campus leaders, work with our central administration team and really oversee the district."

As superintendent, Smith has made impactful connections with people all around the district and community, which he said helps him thrive in an administrative

position.

"I would say that's kind of been what I focus on, is that relationship component," Smith said. "Making the students and teachers feel valued, and then taking it to the next level with the parents and making them feel valued as well."

Smith was hired as superintendent in March 2020, which brought its own set of challenges besides being a first-time superintendent for a 5A school.

"Of course, we're a larger school district so I didn't go the traditional route of starting at a smaller school district and then working my way up," Smith said. "So that was challenging enough, and then COVID hits, and you take all these experienced superintendents and nobody knew what we were getting into."

Despite having to overcome unexpected challenges, Smith continues to set big goals for the district.

"I want us to be one of the leading school districts in the North Texas area for sure, and a leading school district across the state," Smith said. "I want us to be very well known for academics, athletics, CTE and everything. So really just developing and continuing to improve in all campuses is really important."

To become such an impactful person and leader in Azle ISD, Smith has taken advice from previous principals and administrators to be as prepared as possible for any challenges he may face in the future.

"Rouel Rothenberger, who's on the city council now, he was the principal (of Azle High School) when I was hired and he has been a great mentor," Smith said. "He was one that encouraged me, and I had several, to go get that administration certification and become a campus principal."

When asked what he would most want people to know about him, Smith gave a response that shows just how dedicated he is to Azle ISD and the community.

"I would hope that it ex-

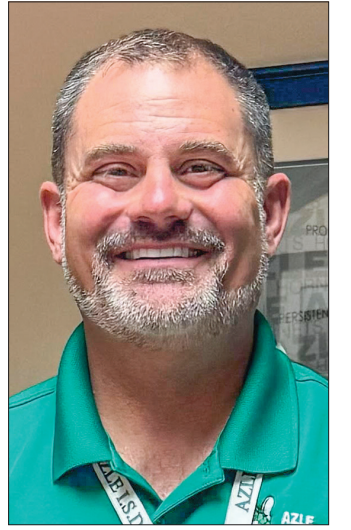
emplifies, but again, just my passion for Azle ISD — the students, the staff and our families, and just that passion and willingness to do what needs to be done to follow our model of every child, every chance, every day and the pure passion in my heart for trying to be sure that we're doing that."

Because of his dedication, Smith has stayed in Azle his entire career and has no plans to leave anytime soon.

"So if I was working in that school district, (my family) wanted to live in that community and be a part of it and then through that, become very involved with the community," Smith said. "We also just really liked the feel of Azle and so we made a commitment to make that our home and it's worked out."

To become the district Smith envisions Azle ISD being in the future, he and countless other administrators and teachers have prioritized what it means to be an Azle Hornet and how they can enhance students' learning in Azle ISD.

"Our goal is to get students to become lifelong learn-



LILY HUDMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER  
Superintendent Todd Smith has worked in Azle ISD for 30 years.

ers and to have that love of learning for the rest of their lives," Smith said. "It's just not something that stops at 12th grade when you go into your career or on to college or into the military. And so creating that lifelong learner and having those life skills is something we really want to focus on."

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## The Small Business Resource Center of Texas

The Small Business Resource Center of Texas was welcomed as a new member of the Azle Area Chamber of Commerce with a ribbon cutting ceremony July 9. Owner Greg Coe has worked in the field for many years but for larger corporations. Then his idea struck that small businesses have the same needs but don't have the same resources. Coe's mission is to help small businesses — free of charge — get in contact with the service providers they need at a cost that works for them. If your small business is shopping for that perfect deal for services needed, give Greg Coe a call at 817-945-1613.

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Application has been made with the TEXAS ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE COMMISSION for a WINE AND MALT BEVERAGE RETAIL DEALER'S ON-PREMISE PERMIT (BG PERMIT) by PINNACLE OIL & GAS HOLDINGS INC. DBA CHARGE UP 78, to be located at 776 NE ALSBURY BLVD BURLESON (TARRANT COUNTY), TX 76028. The principal of said Company are IRFAN TEJANI, PRESIDENT/SECRETARY/DIRECTOR.

Application has been made with the TEXAS ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE COMMISSION for a WINE AND MALT BEVERAGE RETAIL DEALER'S ON-PREMISE PERMIT (BG PERMIT) by PINNACLE OIL & GAS HOLDINGS INC. DBA CHARGE UP 72, to be located at 3204 ALTA MERE DR FORT WORTH (TARRANT COUNTY), TX 76116. The principal of said Company are IRFAN TEJANI, PRESIDENT/SECRETARY/DIRECTOR.

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

<p><b>THE ABBEY CHURCH</b> Pastor: Paul Brownback 10400 Jacksboro Hwy 817-238-1404 www.TheAbbeyChurch.com</p> <p>Morning Worship..... 10:30 AM Community Groups..... Various Times</p> <p><b>ASH CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH</b> Pastor: Dr. G. Wesley Shotwell 300 South Stewart St. 817-444-3219 www.ashcreekbc.org</p> <p>Sunday School..... 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship-TMP..... 10:45 AM Traditional Worship..... 10:45 AM Evening Worship/Youth Refuge..... 6:00 PM Wednesday Evening..... 6:15 PM</p> <p><b>AZLE FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD</b> Rev. Joshua Lowrance 1020 S.E. Parkway, Azle 817-237-4903</p> <p>Sunday School..... 9:30 AM Morning Worship..... 10:30 AM Wednesday Evening..... 7:00 PM</p> <p><b>COMMUNITY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH</b> Pastor - Alton Davis 817-521-4510 1405 Reynolds Rd., Azle 817-444-7117 Directions: 730 N. to 1542 .5 mi. right on Cardinal, left on Reynolds</p> <p>Sunday School..... 9:45 AM Morning Worship..... 11:00 AM Sunday Evening..... 6:00 PM Wednesday Evening..... 7:00 PM</p>	<p><b>AZLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH DISCIPLES OF CHRIST</b> Reverend Russell Clark, Youth Minister Joey Garcia 117 Church St. • 817-444-3527</p> <p>Sunday School..... 10:00 AM Morning Worship..... 11:00 AM</p> <p><b>CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH</b> 2233 Hwy 199 E., Springtown 817-221-LIFE (5433)</p> <p>Sunday Worship Service..... 10:00 AM Wednesday..... 7:00 PM</p> <p><b>CROSSROADS BAPTIST CHURCH</b> Pastor - Jon Baker Corner FM 730S &amp; FM 1886 817-755-0279 Transportation Available</p> <p>Worship Service..... 10:30 AM Wed. Prayer Service..... 7:00 PM</p> <p><b>THE EDGE CHURCH - AZLE</b> 1313 S.E. Pkwy, Azle 817-237-4822 Missouri Synod</p> <p>"Love God - Serve Others - Share Jesus" Traditional Worship..... 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship..... 11:00 AM</p> <p><b>FIRST METHODIST CHURCH OF AZLE</b> Pastor: Rev. Raymond Gilman 200 Church St., Azle 817-444-3323</p> <p>Morn. Worship..... 8:30 &amp; 10:45 AM Sunday School..... 9:45 AM Youth..... 5:00 PM Sun &amp; 6:30 PM Wed</p>	<p><b>GRACEPOINTE CHURCH</b> 4110 E. Hwy 199, Springtown Pastor: Timothy McKeown 817-221-5683 gracepointesbc.org</p> <p>Sunday School..... 9:45 am Sunday Service..... 11:00 am Wednesday Bible Study..... 6:00 pm</p> <p><b>HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> 800 Highcrest Dr. - Azle 817-444-3063</p> <p>Saturday..... 5:00 PM Sunday..... 9:00 AM Sunday..... 11 AM (Spanish) Daily Mass (M, T, Th, F)..... 8:00 AM Wednesday Mass Religious ED..... 6:30 PM Confessions..... Sat 4 PM</p> <p><b>SOLID ROCK BIBLE CHURCH</b> 591 S. Reno Rd., Springtown, Texas 76082 Pastor - Bill Gay - 817-304-7443</p> <p>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</p> <p><b>SILVER CREEK METHODIST CHURCH</b> Pastor: Bill Killough 2200 Church Rd., Azle 817-444-1382 www.silvercreekmc.org</p> <p>Sunday School 9:30 AM • Worship 10:30 AM</p>	<p><b>HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA</b> 4795 E. Hwy 199 - Reno 817-221-HOPE Follow us on Facebook for streaming services Sunday School..... 9:00 AM Traditional Service..... 10:00 AM</p> <p><b>LEGACY CHURCH</b> Assembly of God Church Pastor: Gary D. Veazey Hwy. 199 &amp; Jaybird Lane 817-221-2983</p> <p>Morning Worship..... 9:15 &amp; 11:00 AM Kid Zone..... 9:15 &amp; 11:00 AM Weds Evening Legacy Group Legacy Youth, Kids All Services..... 7:00 PM</p> <p><b>THE RANCH CHRISTIAN COWBOY CHURCH</b> Pastor: Greg Slankard 7955 Reed Rd., Azle 682-327-7082 www.TheRanchCCC.org</p> <p>Sunday School 9:30 AM • Worship 10:00 AM Weds 7:00 pm • Thurs Potluck 6:30 pm</p> <p><b>SILVER CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH</b> Pastor: Jay Ditty Minister of Music: David Musick Corner FM 730 S. &amp; Veal Station Rd. Church 817-444-2325 www.silvercreekbc.org</p> <p>Sunday School..... 9:45 AM Morning Worship..... 10:50 AM Evening Worship..... 6:00 PM Wed. Prayer Service..... 7:00 PM</p>	<p><b>THE WORD@LAKESIDE CHURCH OF GOD</b> 9396 FM 1886 Fort Worth, TX 76135 817-237-5500 thewordatlakeside.com</p> <p>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</p> <p>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 Awana Kids @ the WORD..... 6:30 PM Life at the WORD Life Groups ... Various Times</p>
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# ATTEMPT

FROM PAGE A1

two injured have since been reported as stable.

As investigation of the incident continues, the Secret Service faces significant scrutiny and demands for congressional investigations regarding its management of security at the rally, according to CNN.

There have also been rumors circulating that some Secret Service agents were involved in the assassination attempt, while others have suggested that the entire incident was staged, either by Trump or President Joe Biden.

TikTok, X, Facebook and other social media platforms have also been flooded with dark humor in the aftermath of the shooting, with numerous memes surfacing to make fun of the situation and Trump himself.

## A CALL FOR PATIENCE

While many details surrounding the incident remain unclear at this time, former Secret Service agent and Hood County resident Mark Lowery urges the community to remain patient

and understanding as the investigation unfolds.

“Don’t judge the Secret Service until a competent, transparent and timely investigation has been completed,” he wrote, in a Letter to the Editor. “This is a complex and challenging responsibility. Until one has performed this duty one cannot understand the depth of responsibility and level of detailed work it requires to be successful in each and every event. I have performed countless site advances, many much larger than this one in Butler, Pennsylvania. I have questions like many of you, but I also have a perspective many of you do not have. I ask that all of us refrain from critical judgment, spreading uncorroborated information and humorous memes.”

Lowery — who served in the Secret Service for 24 years and retired as the Senior Executive Service Special Agent in Charge — shared that the Secret Service has a motto: “We don’t make history. But we sit on the front row of history and observe it.”

“It’s a very demanding job and a very challenging job,” Lowery told the Hood County News. “It’s 24/7. You can’t fail. We saw what happened on the 13th of July. It could have been much more tragic.

I asked people to think, ‘Would that have potentially changed the history of our nation in the world?’ I think it would have.”

The responsibility of the Secret Service, Lowery said, is to “keep our protectees alive,” so they can freely make decisions to lead the country — and the world — without fear of assassination.

## HISTORY

One of America’s oldest federal law enforcement agencies, the Secret Service was originally created in 1865 during the Civil War to stamp out rampant counterfeiting in order to stabilize America’s young financial system, according to [secretservice.gov](https://secretservice.gov).

It wasn’t until the assassination of President William McKinley in 1901 that the Secret Service was tasked with the full-time protection of the president of the United States.

Throughout the years, protective details of the Secret Service have grown and evolved, often in response to assassinations, close calls or other major security events, according to ABC News. In fact, Lowery said the Secret Service has had a “successful career” in preventing assassinations since presidential candidate Sen. Robert F.

Kennedy’s assassination in 1968.

“Our protection responsibilities and investigations have expanded throughout the years,” Lowery said. “There was an attempted assassination on (politician) George Wallace in the early 70s, President (Gerald) Ford had two attempts on his life, President (Ronald) Reagan had an attempt on his life, and of course, the attempt on President Trump’s life. We’ve had a very successful career, if I may, in preventing assassinations.”

## BEHIND THE SCENES

Lowery explained that new recruits in the Secret Service undergo a period of assessment in the field office to determine their suitability for high-stakes assignments, including the president’s detail. He emphasized that agents are closely monitored during this time to ensure they are trustworthy.

“There’s a period of time when the agency is watching the agents to see who’s really suitable to go to the president’s detail. You got to fully know this person,” he explained. “The Secret Service can’t put somebody next to the president of the United States and have any concerns they’re going to harm them, man or woman.”

While there can be anywhere from 20 to 200 Secret Service agents assigned to protect the president at any given time, Lowery explained that the number varies based on the specific site and event. He also clarified that agents typically surround the president as part of their “working shift,” noting that the number of agents in that shift is usually pretty set but can vary based on circumstances.

“It’s a tremendously responsible job, and the history of the world hinges on the safety of our world leaders and for them to be able to work in a safe environment without worry of assassination,” Lowery said. “If we can’t provide that to them, it’s going to impact their ability to serve the American people.”

Reflecting on his own experience, Lowery noted that his understanding of protection deepened significantly after joining the White House detail. He said he thought he had a solid grasp of security protocols, but since learned there is a vast array of sophisticated tools and strategies in place to ensure safety at high-profile events.

“It’s not until you actually go to the White House detail do you see the depth and the tools that are available, the sophistication of what protection’s really like, and the complexities it takes to make a venue safe,” he said.

He recounted a significant event during President Reagan’s visit to an auditorium at Ohio State University, where approximately 12,000 people had gathered. As guests passed through the security screening, Lowery said he and his team were prepared for the president’s arrival in about 20 minutes when they received an alarming call about a potential bomb threat in the building.

“I could make the decision to direct the motorcade and president to not come to the site, but ultimately my decision was to bring the president and the event went without incident,” he explained. “But I also looked out and saw 12,000 souls, men, wom-



COURTESY PHOTO

During his 24-year career as a Secret Service agent, Granbury resident Mark Lowery had the honor of serving as protector to President Ronald Reagan during his term in the 1980s.

en and children that didn’t come to that site that day and expect to be hurt, so that’s the responsibility that I don’t think people understand.

“Unfortunately, that agent (in Butler) will live the rest of their life knowing that someone lost their life at their site, and that’s a huge responsibility. And that responsibility never goes away.”

## UNDER REVIEW

Lowery expressed his belief that the attempted assassination on Trump should never have occurred. He shared his confidence that a thorough advance was performed on the outdoor venue, despite challenges posed by factors like long-range visibility and high ground.

“Once the investigation has concluded, we will know from a survey report on what their plan was,” he said. “There’s assignment logs for each and every police officer and each and every agent. We will know who was supposed to do what, at that venue ... Clearly, something broke down in the execution of that, but we the people right now don’t know what happened.”

Lowery said the protective shift did a “marvelous job” during the incident, stating that they acted effectively to protect the former president. He noted that as soon as Trump realized he had been shot, he instinctively dropped down, prompting the agents to quickly surround him and form a human shield. Lowery acknowledged that some people questioned why the presidential candidate wasn’t evacuated sooner but emphasized there was an active gunman at the scene. He said once the shooter was neutralized, the agents assessed the former president’s condition, checking for any additional injuries and ensuring he was alert and able to communicate.

“They executed their plan precisely the way it was designed to play out,” he said. “You don’t want to move a protectee into another gunfight.”

Lowery added there is a high likelihood that if the counter sniper team had not neutralized the shooter, he would’ve continued to shoot into the crowd, possibly injuring not only the Secret Service agents and Trump, but more citizens as well.

“It was a tremendous shot

(by the counter sniper) — even though it was not a long-range shot — but it probably prevented the loss of life,” he said.

Lowery also voiced concern about the spread of conspiracy theories and unverified information on social media before the investigation into the attempted assassination has completed — labeling it dangerous and unhealthy for the community and the nation as a whole.

“I just ask people to please don’t criticize Secret Service agents who were working without having the facts,” he said. “I was frustrated after watching the four-and-a-half hours of testimony (of the director) but I have complete confidence at some point we will know what was planned. Until that time, I’m deeply disturbed by the American people, friends of mine, and residents within this community who are spewing social media conspiracy theories and throwing out supposedly evidence that they found without knowing the facts — and that’s dangerous. It’s not healthy for them. It’s not healthy for America.”

Lowery emphasized that while the Secret Service can conduct extensive training at its Beltsville facility, including drills for “assaults on principles” with flashbangs and dummy rounds, nothing can fully prepare agents for real-life scenarios.

“I’ve been involved in shootings,” he said. “And until you’re there, the scream of the crowd, the sounds, the madness that’s going on, you can’t train that to the level of real life.”

It may take a while before all of the facts behind Trump’s assassination attempt are revealed — but until that time, Lowery urges community leaders and elected officials to take a stand and guide residents in refraining from posting their speculations on social media.

“I am confident the truth will be provided,” his Letter to the Editor states. “I am expecting a competent and transparent investigation! From my experience there are preliminary surveys, post assignment logs, CP Logs and many witness interviews that will determine what went very wrong at this rally. This should have NEVER happened!”

# NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE

A tax rate of \$0.6140869 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of City of Azle.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.6140869 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.5446237 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.6018780 per \$100
DE MINIMIS RATE	\$0.6140869 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2024 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for City of Azle from the same properties in both the 2023 tax year and the 2024 tax year.

The voter-approval rate is the highest tax rate that City of Azle may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate, unless the de minimis rate for City of Azle exceeds the voter-approval rate for City of Azle.

The de minimis rate is the rate equal to the sum of the no-new-revenue maintenance and operations rate for City of Azle, the rate that will raise \$500,000, and the current debt rate for City of Azle. The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that City of Azle is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2024 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON August 19, 2024 AT 6:00 PM AT 505 W Main St, Azle TX 76020.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the voter-approval tax rate but not greater than the de minimis rate and does not exceed the rate that allows voters to petition for an election under Section 26.075, Tax Code. If City of Azle adopts the proposed tax rate, the City of Azle is not required to hold an election so that voters may accept or reject the proposed tax rate and the qualified voters of the City of Azle may not petition the City of Azle to require an election to be held to determine whether to reduce the proposed tax rate.

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE RATES MENTIONED ABOVE CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

Property tax amount= (tax rate) x (taxable value of your property)/100

**FOR the proposal:** Randa Goode, Amy Estes, Stacy Peek, Rouel Rothenberger, and Brian Conner

**AGAINST the proposal:**

**PRESENT and not voting:**

**ABSENT:** Alan Brundrett, Derrick Nelson

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes) to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by City of Azle last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by City of Azle this year.

	2023	2024	Change
<b>Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)</b>	\$0.5688744	\$0.6140869	increase of 0.0452125, or 7.95%
<b>Average homestead taxable value</b>	\$252,275	\$267,716	increase of 15,441, or 6.12%
<b>Tax on average homestead</b>	\$1,435.13	\$1,644.01	increase of 208.88, or 14.55%
<b>Total tax levy on all properties</b>	\$8,773,626	\$10,302,953	increase of 1,529,327, or 17.43%

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for City of Azle at 817-884-1100 or [taxoffice@tarrantcounty.com](mailto:taxoffice@tarrantcounty.com), or visit <https://taxonline.tarrantcounty.com/TaxPayer> for more information.

The City of Springtown will conduct a public hearing for the proposed operating budget for fiscal year 2024-2025 on Thursday, August 22, 2024, at 7:00 pm. The adoption of the ordinance approving the budget is scheduled for Thursday, August 22, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will take place at the Municipal Annex Building, 200 N. Main Street, Springtown, Texas 76082.

This budget will raise more revenue from property taxes than last year’s budget by an amount of \$171,517, which is a 8.59 percent increase from last year’s budget. The property tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year is \$180,437.

### Property Tax Rate Comparison

	2024-2025	2023-2024
Property Tax Rate:	\$0.506589/100	\$0.466087/100
No-New-Revenue Tax Rate:	\$0.506589/100	\$0.379438/100
No-New-Revenue Maintenance & Operations Tax Rate:	\$0.344657/100	\$0.261169/100
Voter-Approval Tax Rate:	\$0.565615/100	\$0.466087/100
Debt Rate:	\$0.154950/100	\$0.150399/100

Total debt obligation for Springtown secured by property taxes: \$773,287

# Azle ISD prepares for school year with convocation

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

AZLE — The Azle Independent School District welcomed more than 1,100 district employees with its yearly convocation Thursday, Aug. 1. Teachers, administrators and others from across the district packed an Azle High School gym to celebrate the new school year after a school vendor fair earlier in the day. Azle ISD board of trustees President Bill Lane, Azle Education Foundation Vice President Philippe Lalonde, Azle Mayor Pro Tem Randa Goode and Azle Area Chamber of Commerce President Michael Wright each spoke on a variety of

topics including their history with the district, their hopes for the future, and the threat school vouchers may pose for public education during the upcoming school year.

Azle ISD Superintendent Todd Smith was introduced as the event's keynote speaker. Smith recalled his childhood growing up in Arlington and what led him to Azle and his current position.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by AHS student body President Chloe Hennessy. The Azle Marching Green Pride, AHS cheerleaders and Emerald Dazzlers dance squad concluded the event with music and feats of acrobatics.

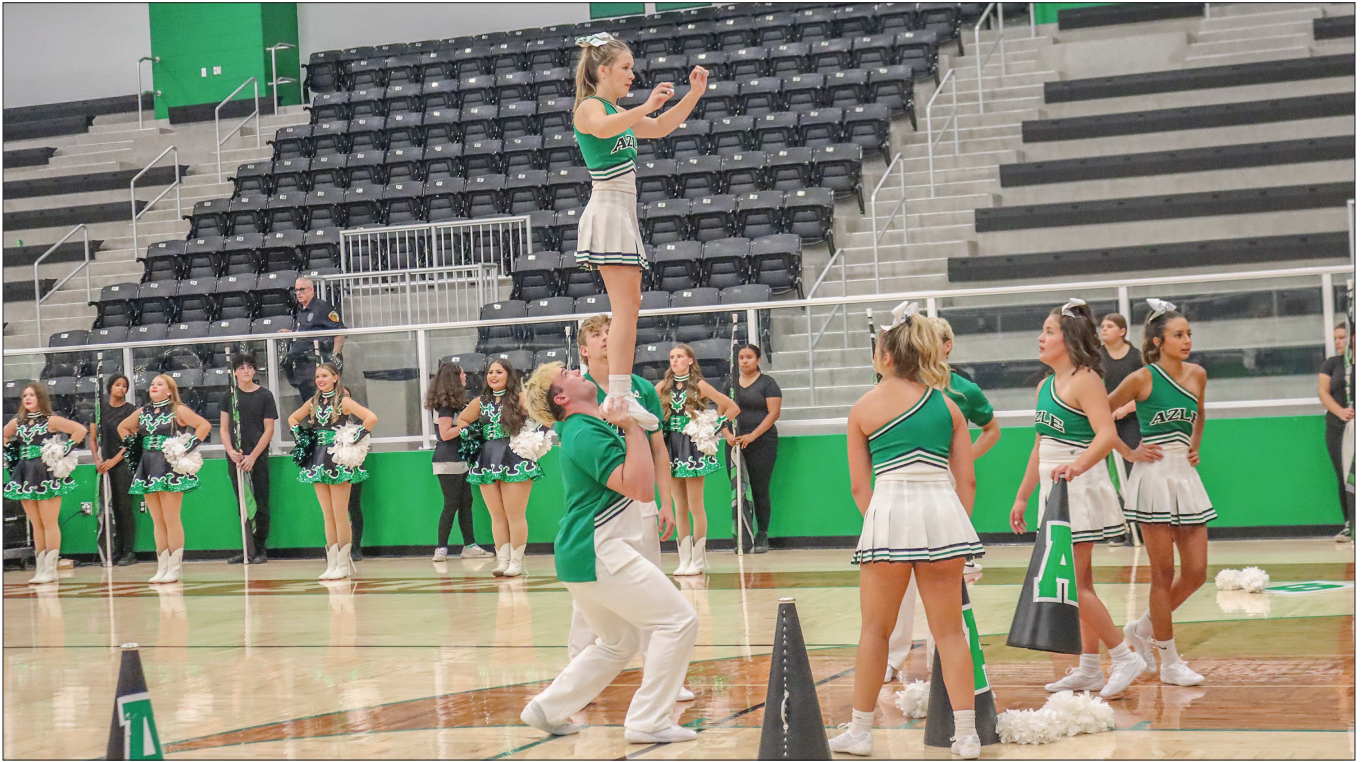


Azle Mascot Buzzy performs with AHS cheerleaders.

ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER



Azle ISD Superintendent Todd Smith recalls his past in Azle and elsewhere.



AHS cheerleaders perform following the conclusion of convocation.

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# Free, reduced-price meals available for qualifying SISD students

## STAFF REPORT

Students at Springtown Independent School District start the new year Aug. 14, and SISD's child nutrition department is determining who is eligible for free and reduced-price meals.

At SISD, breakfast costs \$1.75 for students in grades pre-kindergarten through 12. Lunch costs \$3.25 for elementary and pre-kindergarten students, \$3.50 at the intermediate school and \$3.75 for middle and high schoolers. Some children qualify for free or reduced-price meals, the latter meaning free breakfast and \$0.40 for lunch.

In July, SISD started distributing letters to the households of the children in the district about eligibility benefits and any actions households need to take to apply

for these benefits.

Applications for free and reduced-price school meals are only good for one school year at a time and for the first few days of the new school year. Some qualifying families will need to send in a new application unless the school has told them their child is eligible for the new school year. Applications are available at SISD's Child Nutrition Office, 212 Avenue D, Springtown, TX 76082 or online at [www.springtownisd.net](http://www.springtownisd.net).

The following criteria will be used to determine a child's eligibility for free or reduced-price meal benefits:

- Income: Household income that is at or below the income eligibility levels;
- Program participant: Child's status as a foster child, homeless, runaway,

migrant or displaced by a declared disaster; child's enrollment in Head Start or Even Start;

Categorical or automatic eligibility: Household receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR).

SISD is working with local agencies to identify all children who are categorically and program eligible. The school district will notify the households of these children that they do not need to complete an application. Any household that does not receive a letter and feels it should have should contact Child Nutrition Director Laura Champagne

or Assistant Director of Child Nutrition Jenifer Law at 817-220-2460. Any household that wishes to decline benefits should contact Champagne.

For those households that qualify for free or reduced-price meals based on income, an adult in the household must fill out the free and reduced-price meal application and return it by mail to 301 East Fifth St. or the physical address 212 Avenue D, Springtown, TX 76082. Those individuals filling out the application will need to provide the following information: names of all household members; amount, frequency and source of current income for each household member; last four digits of the Social Security number of the adult household member who

signs the application or, if the adult does not have a social security number, check the box for "No Social Security number," and the signature of an adult household member attesting that the information provided is correct.

Applications may be submitted anytime during the school year. The information households provide on the application will be used for the purpose of determining eligibility. Applications may also be verified by the school officials at any time during the school year.

Under the provisions of the free and reduced-price meal policy, Law will review applications and determine eligibility. Households or guardians dissatisfied with the reviewing official's eligibility determination may wish

to discuss the decision with the reviewing official on an informal basis. Households wishing to make a formal appeal for a hearing on the decision may make a request either orally or in writing to Executive Director of Operations Micheal Chavez at 301 East Fifth St., Springtown, TX 76082, 817-220-1700.

If a household member becomes unemployed or if the household size increases, the household should contact the school. Such changes may make the children of the household eligible for benefits if the household's income falls at or below the attached current income eligibility guidelines.

## Income Eligibility Guidelines for Determining Free and Reduced-Price Benefits

Effective from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025

FAMILY SIZE	Annually		Monthly		Twice Per month		Every Two Weeks		Weekly	
	FREE	REDUCED	FREE	REDUCED	FREE	REDUCED	FREE	REDUCED	FREE	REDUCED
1	\$19,578	\$27,861	\$1,632	\$2,322	\$816	\$1,161	\$753	\$1,072	\$377	\$536
2	\$26,572	\$37,814	\$2,215	\$3,152	\$1,108	\$1,576	\$1,022	\$1,455	\$511	\$728
3	\$33,566	\$47,767	\$2,798	\$3,981	\$1,399	\$1,991	\$1,291	\$1,838	\$646	\$919
4	\$40,560	\$57,720	\$3,380	\$4,810	\$1,690	\$2,405	\$1,560	\$2,220	\$780	\$1,110
5	\$47,554	\$67,673	\$3,963	\$5,640	\$1,982	\$2,820	\$1,829	\$2,603	\$915	\$1,302
6	\$54,548	\$77,626	\$4,546	\$6,469	\$2,273	\$3,235	\$2,098	\$2,986	\$1,049	\$1,493
7	\$61,542	\$87,579	\$5,129	\$7,299	\$2,565	\$3,650	\$2,367	\$3,369	\$1,184	\$1,685
8	\$68,536	\$97,532	\$5,712	\$8,128	\$2,856	\$4,064	\$2,636	\$3,752	\$1,318	\$1,876
Add a family member:	\$6,695	\$9,953	\$583	\$830	\$292	\$415	\$269	\$383	\$135	\$192

COURTESY PHOTO

This chart details the income eligibility guidelines that families must meet to qualify for free or reduced-price meals at Springtown ISD. Children can get free or reduced-price meals if a household's gross income is within the limits described in the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines. To qualify, household income must be at or below the income eligibility levels.

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## LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICES

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](mailto: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.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The City of Azle will conduct a public hearing on the FY 2024-2025 Annual Budget on Monday August 19, 2024 at 6:00 PM at Azle City Hall, 505 W Main Street, Azle, Texas 76020.  
**THIS BUDGET WILL RAISE MORE REVENUE FROM PROPERTY TAXES THAN LAST YEAR'S BUDGET BY AN AMOUNT OF \$1,529,327, WHICH IS A 17.43 PERCENT INCREASE FROM LAST YEAR'S BUDGET. THE PROPERTY TAX REVENUE TO BE RAISED FROM NEW PROPERTY ADDED TO THE TAX ROLL THIS YEAR IS \$424,709.**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The City of Azle will conduct a public hearing on the FY 2024-2025 Water and Sewer rates on Monday, August 19, 2024 at 6:00 PM at Azle City Hall, 505 W Main Street, Azle, Texas 76020.

CITATION BY PUBLICATION  
CAUSE NO. 24P183

In the Matter of the Estate of Ronald David Fisher, Deceased TO ALL UNKNOWN OR MISSING HEIRS OF THE ESTATE OF RONALD DAVID FISHER, DECEASED Wendy Lee Fisher in the above-numbered and entitled estate filed an Application To Determine Heirship, For Independent Administration And Letters Of Administration Pursuant To Section 401.003 Of The Texas Estates Code on 04/29/2024 In the Estate of Ronald David Fisher, Deceased, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of Ronald David Fisher, Deceased, and their respective shares and interest in such estate, and appointing Wendy Lee Fisher 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 10 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 30th day of April, 2024. LILA DEAKLE County Clerk, Applicant's Attorney: Jennifer S. Ruelas, 1020 Fort Worth HWY STE 500 Weatherford TX 76086

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

To satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale to be held at Azle Southeast Storage, 1004 Southeast Parkway, Azle, TX at 10:30am 8/23/2024 Property to be sold to the highest bidder for CASH. Property includes contents of the following tenants Debbie Julie Blackman: Household Items Donald Fulton: Household items

## NOTICE OF MEETING TO VOTE ON TAX RATE

A tax rate of \$0.506589 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of Springtown.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.506589 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.506589 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.565615 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2024 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for Springtown from the same properties in both the 2023 tax year and the 2024 tax year.

The voter-approval rate is the highest tax rate that Springtown may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that Springtown is not proposing to increase property taxes for the 2024 tax year.

A PUBLIC MEETING TO VOTE ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON August 22, 2024 AT 7:00PM AT Springtown City Hall.

The proposed tax rate is also not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, Springtown is not required to hold an election to seek voter approval of the rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate by contacting the members of the of Springtown at their offices or by attending the public meeting mentioned above.

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE RATES MENTIONED ABOVE CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

Property tax amount= (tax rate) x (taxable value of your property)/100

FOR the proposal:  
AGAINST the proposal:  
PRESENT and not voting:  
ABSENT:

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](http://Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes) to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by Springtown last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by Springtown this year.

	2023	2024	Change
<b>Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)</b>	\$0.466087	\$0.506589	increase of 0.040502, or 8.69%

# Texas Health offers HELP for uninsured

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

AZLE — For the uninsured, managing chronic illness without racking up major debt can seem like an insurmountable problem. A lesser-known and homegrown Texas Health Resources program is here to help.

The Healthy Education Lifestyles Program is a low-cost chronic disease health clinic available for those without health insurance. It is located on the hospital campus in the Professional Office Building at 909 Southeast Parkway. It provides enrolled patients with education and disease management, augmented by lab testing, prescription assistance, and other treatment resources for just \$20 per visit. It is primarily staffed by just three women. The "A-Team" of THR's Azle HELP program are nurse practitioner Bobbi Hardman, licensed vocational nurse Shannon Choate, and administrative assistant Melanie Jackson. The program was started by former THR Azle Director of Community Health Marsha Ingle in 2012 and saw immediate success throughout the hospital system.

Her idea spread quickly and nine other entities opened similar programs, facilitated by Azle with orientation and training. System-wide grant funding for HELP ran out in 2022, but many hospitals have decided to continue funding the program individually — including the flagship clinic in Azle. Since the beginning, local staff said hospital leadership recog-

nized the value of the clinic and the community's need for the program.

Through health education and active management of chronic diseases, HELP staff hope to see uninsured patients improve their quality of life and save money by improving their health, minimize emergency room visits, and avoid hospitalizations.

The program accepts patients 18-years and older from Tarrant, Parker and Wise counties who are uninsured and meet certain medical qualifications. Some common illnesses they treat include diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, asthma, COPD, and heart failure. The program currently works with the University of Texas Southwestern Moncrief Cancer Institute to provide free colon cancer screening kits and free or low-cost mammograms. Clinic staff hopes to continue increasing services as the area continues to grow. Exclusions to the clinic include immediate life-threatening diseases or injuries, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, and pain management.

Staff reports seeing six to 10 patients per day and spending a much longer time with them than an average emergency room or physician visit. One central pillar of the program is education, which is carried out by Choate. Every month the clinic offers a different topic. Examples include medication management, chronic inflammation, the importance of oral health, and currently the importance of hydration and staying safe in the summer heat. Choate



Melanie Jackson, Shannon Choate and Bobbi Hardman in the HELP waiting room.

ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

described seeing patients improve and self-manage their chronic condition as the most rewarding part of her job.

"We've had people say, 'you saved my life. I had no idea how I was going to be able to afford the care I needed,'" Choate recounted. "To watch them transition from the time of their initial visit and after making some lifestyle changes, taking their medications and being more hands-on in their own care is really rewarding."

Patients in the program are often asked to return once per month for about a year in order for staff to closely monitor their progress and help them manage diseases in the long term. One advantage to the program is that the staff runs the necessary labs in-office and provides the results during their visit. Also, the waiting times to schedule appointments are much shorter.

The gratitude and connections that HELP patients have

for the program last much longer than any hospital visit, staff said. Most HELP patients are in their 40s and 50s, but they will occasionally receive younger patients or older patients who do not qualify for Medicare. Staff describes former patients often stopping by the office or leaving a message to let them know how they're doing. "We're lucky to be a part of that," Hardman said. "That's the wonderful thing about healthcare in general is you get to be a part

of somebody's life that you never otherwise would and that's just really a blessing. ... We truly partner with the patient to help provide them with care that they need. ... It's such a great feeling when you can celebrate a patient's accomplishments!" The clinic is open Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. To see if you qualify call 817-270-1366.

## 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.

### Notice About 2024 Tax Rates

Property tax rates in Springtown. This notice concerns the 2024 property tax rates for Springtown. This notice provides information about two tax rates used in adopting the current tax year's tax rate. The no-new-revenue tax rate would impose the same amount of taxes as last year if you compare properties taxed in both years. In most cases, the voter-approval tax rate is the highest tax rate a taxing unit can adopt without holding an election. In each case, these rates are calculated by dividing the total amount of taxes by the current taxable value with adjustments as required by state law. The rates are given per \$100 of property value.

<b>This year's no-new-revenue tax rate</b>	\$0.506589/\$100
<b>This year's voter-approval tax rate</b>	\$0.565615/\$100

To see the full calculations, please visit [www.cityofspringtown.com](http://www.cityofspringtown.com) for a copy of the Tax Rate Calculation Worksheet.

---

**Unencumbered Fund Balance**  
The following estimated balances will be left in the taxing unit's accounts at the end of the fiscal year. These balances are not encumbered by corresponding debt obligation.

Type of Fund	Balance
Interest & Sinking Fund	172,969

**Current Year Debt Service**  
The following amounts are for long-term debts that are secured by property taxes. These amounts will be paid from upcoming property tax revenues (or additional sales tax revenues, if applicable).

Description of Debt	Principal or Contract Payment to be Paid from Property Taxes	Interest to be Paid from Property Taxes	Other Amounts to be Paid	Total Payment
2024 Tax Note	0	0	110,000	110,000
GO Bonds	360,000	92,487	0	452,487
CO Bonds	20,000	190,800	0	210,800
Total required for 2024 debt service			\$773,287	
- Amount (if any) paid from funds listed in unencumbered funds			\$0	
- Amount (if any) paid from other resources			\$0	
- Excess collections last year			\$0	
= Total to be paid from taxes in 2024			\$773,287	
+ Amount added in anticipation that the unit will collect only 100.00% of its taxes in 2024			\$0	
= Total debt levy			\$773,287	

This notice contains a summary of actual no-new-revenue and voter-approval calculations as certified by Christina Derr, Assistant City Administrator on 08/02/2024.

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](http://Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes) to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

# GALA

FROM PAGE A1

Homes LLC, top donor; RWN Contractors; KL Concrete & Construction; Winstead Paint & Body; Edward Jones.”

Organizing the gala took about a year's worth of planning and effort, particularly in contacting local vendors, businesses and people to get the support needed, Rivera said.

“The saying ‘teamwork makes the dream work’ is true in so many aspects,” she said. “This is no one-man show. We as a board are all in this together and make it happen.”

Allocation of the gala proceeds will be decided on by the SEF board of directors, Trichel said. For her part, the president would like to see the additional funds used “to

show our students and teachers how important education is to Springtown's future.”

“I joined SEF because I realize the importance of a strong education,” Trichel said. “By offering students scholarships for continuing their education, whether it be a four-year university, a junior college or a vocational school, we are essentially making an investment in the future of Springtown. I think this organization, more than any other, realized the dedication of our SISD teachers and staff members. With the many changes occurring in government policies that will affect our local public schools, I think it is important to support and acknowledge the efforts of our staff.”

During the live auction at the gala, businesses vied to sponsor next year's event. KL Concrete & Construction came out on top and pledged

\$25,000 to present the 2025 gala as the top sponsor. Additionally, Modern Woodmen took the secondary sponsor spot for \$10,000. Trichel said the foundation can start planning next year's event now that its top two sponsors have been chosen.

Likewise, Rivera said the foundation's board is already thinking about the theme for next year's event.

“The gala is just a way to be able to bring something fun and exciting to Springtown and raise the most funds possible for SEF,” she said. “What's really important to me is being able to give back, to help fund scholarships and teacher grants through SEF. With this event we also get to showcase the amazing support from our local businesses, that also care about our cause. It's really a win-win for everyone involved.”



**MADELYN EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER**  
**Chuck Easter and Junior Styles play blackjack at Springtown Education Foundation's annual gala at the Covered Bridge Venue. The games were provided by Texas Casino Parties.**



Trish and Robert Russ make smooth moves on the dance floor at Springtown Education Foundation's July 26 gala.



Emma Nichols, right, smiles big after winning the Heads and Tails game at Springtown Education Foundation's July 26 gala. Next to Nichols is Goshen Creek Elementary Principal Wendy Ashley.

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For more information, visit [TexasHealth.org/Azle](https://TexasHealth.org/Azle)

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**TRI-COUNTY REPORTER**

# THE TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

# DIVERSIONS



THURSDAY, August 8, 2024

## Azle's Rodriguez competes at TAAF state swimming

RICK MAUCH

Special to the Tri-County Reporter

Karla Rodriguez of the Azle Lady Hornets swim team competed for the Weatherford Wild at the recent Texas Amateur Athletic Federation Games of Texas in Brownsville. She is one of two from the AHS team to qualify, though recent graduate Brooke Nowakowski did not make the trip after qualifying in the Women 18-24 division.

Competing in the Girls 15-17 age group, Rodriguez participated in five events: three relays and two individual events. She swam the anchor leg of the 200-yard medley relay that finished fifth with a time

## SPORTS Roundup

of 2 minutes, 11.37 seconds. She also swam the first leg of the 200 freestyle that placed fifth, clocking 1:56.91.

On the Mixed 200 medley relay, she swam the opening leg for the team that took sixth in 2:06.39.

Individually, she was 13th in the 100 free with a time of 1:03.64 and 18th in the 500 free with a 29.71.

### LAKE WORTH YOUTH SOFTBALL

The team of 643 Fastpitch Pinson had a strong performance in the United States Specialty Sports Association 16U Southern Nationals in Frisco, Plano and McKinney recently, winning four of its six contests.

The team improved to 17-20 after starting the

season with a 7-17 mark. Tournament results were:

Defeated Texoma Sting 10-4. Kathryn Utley three-run home run. Rhylan Angles pitching win, six hits surrendered, four strikeouts, no walks.

Defeated HSA 07 8-1. Haylie Ovalle pitched a one-hitter. Evelyn Manjarrez hit a solo home run and Angles had a solo home run with a double and another RBI.

Defeated American Freedom 2526 11-10. Zoe Hawthorne won the game by drawing a bases-loaded walk in the bottom of the final inning.

Lost 4-3 in a walkoff to Impact Gold Graves. Addy Clark tied the game in the

top of the seventh with an RBI single. Angles also had a double and an RBI.

Defeated Glory Adkins 7-6. Gracie Hill had a double and an RBI.

Lost 13-5 to Nebraska Thunder Gold Dillon. Angles tied the game at 5-5 with an RBI single before Thunder scored eight runs in the sixth.

Also on the team are Taylor Budge, Michaela Hamilton, Abygail Castro, Leah Sanchez, Karah Cardinal, Marleigh Sign and Cheridan Rowell.

### VOLLEYBALL SCRIMMAGES/ SEASON OPENERS

With the first week of try-outs and practices wrapping up, next is the regular season for volleyball teams from

across the state. Scrimmages this weekend include:

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

Regular-season matches begin next week with Lake Worth hosting Brewer Aug.

PLEASE SEE **ROUNDUP** | B3



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER  
Left to right, Azle ISD Head Coach of the Year Amy Estes with Athletic Director Michael Sain.



Left to right, Azle ISD Junior High Coach of the Year Kari Crosby with Athletic Director Michael Sain.



Left to right, Azle ISD Assistant Coach of the Year Randon Knoll with Athletic Director Michael Sain.

## Sideline superstars

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricityreporter.com

AZLE — At the conclusion of a recent Azle ISD coach's convocation, Athletic Director Michael Sain named three Azle coaches the best of the bunch. Sain recognized junior high coach of the year, assistant high school coach of the year and head high school coach of the year with a rousing speech about the merits of each and an en-

### Kari Crosby, Randon Knoll, Amy Estes named coaches of the year

graved trophy as a reward during the July 31 ceremony.

"This coach often goes to great lengths to ensure student success in the classroom and athletics," Sain said of Kari Crosby, his first awardee. "This coach loves coaching and has been a great as-

set. This coach has worked very hard this year to help our athletes get better in each of their sports. She has a genuine love for kids and wants to see them succeed in life. In the classroom she is always prepared and is always looking for new ways to do things.

She doesn't stop learning. In history class, she received a grant that was able to bring authentic colonial era artifacts for AJH for students to see and touch."

Crosby was named junior high coach of the year. She coaches volleyball, girls' basketball and girls' track at Azle Junior High where she also teaches history. Crosby began her teaching and coaching career in 2022 at Azle ISD. Prior to teaching, she

was a stay-at-home mother for much of her adult life and then was a private investigator for Weatherford-based Morrison Investigations for seven years. Crosby was also recognized as Junior High Coach of the Month for April earlier this year.

"This coach's professionalism is evident in every aspect of the job," Sain said of assistant high school coach of the year Randon Knoll. "He consistently sets high stan-

dards, with his unwavering dedication to the sport and all of our athletes. His integrity is beyond reproach. He conducts himself with honesty and fairness at all times. Loyalty is a hallmark of his, as evidenced by his steadfast commitment to the growth and success of our program year after year. Additionally, his tireless effort and passion for his role has not gone

PLEASE SEE **SIDELINE** | B3

## Azle artisans



Crafters, hobbyists and starter-uppers from across the Azle area and beyond gather for a vendor fair at Azle High School

ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER  
Dani Mercado and Athena Mercado, age 8, of TX Stitching in Aledo sell Azle pride merch and swag. "My sister-in-law works here," Dani Mercado said. "So, it's fun to come over."

SEE MORE **PHOTOS** | B3

# 'Be yourself ... unless you can be Batman'

**MADELYN EDWARDS**  
springtownreporter@tricountyreporter.com

**SPRINGTOWN —** Who is Andrew Hohman?

Before speaking to Springtown High School's new principal, his office décor — which was set up at least a month before students would return to campus — starts talking for him. The pictures above his desk show that he's a family man, husband to his English teacher wife and father to a young boy. If you sit down at his meeting table, you may notice the kinetic sand he put there for kids or adults to play with to feel more comfortable in the principal's office.

Hohman also has an array of motivational signs, the most striking of which reads, "Always be yourself unless you can be Batman. Then always be Batman." He was inspired to have the sign made by one of his colleagues at another school district who frequently quoted the saying.

"You just have to be yourself. None of us can actually be Batman," Hohman said about the message of the sign. "I mean, if we could, who wouldn't want to be Bruce Wayne, a billionaire and indefensible and all the cool stuff that it comes with, but we can't, so just be yourself and be happy with who you are."

Likewise, Hohman can't help but bring his experiences and nontraditional education to his new job. He is upfront about how he dropped out of high school and had to pursue a GED. He recalled how school was difficult for him for a few reasons. He is dyslexic and struggled with reading as a student. Because of this, he was held back in the first grade, making him older than his classmates.

## SHS' new principal hopes to help students succeed

Hohman said his behavior at school also became an issue.

"Because I struggled academically, I always tell people, I'd rather have been the class clown than the class fool," he said. "So, I acted up a lot. I was talkative. I was just always the one that wanted to make the joke."

Hohman also moved around a lot in his youth, and he attended eight schools from the elementary level to when he dropped out of high school as a sophomore.

"You don't always feel like you fit in when you go to the new place," he said.

After leaving school, Hohman worked for his father laying floors. A few years later, he saw the economy was slowing down and felt motivated to get his GED and further his education. Furthermore, he recognized a difference in quality of life between people who had attended college and those who hadn't finished school.

"I knew I wanted better than what I was living, and I saw what an education could provide you," Hohman said. "And when I started applying for jobs, you have to mark down, 'When did you graduate high school?' and I couldn't. It was different when you're in construction and you're a contract employee; you don't have to do that stuff. But once you start looking for jobs, all of a sudden, they want to know when you finished high school."

The credentials on Hohman's office wall at SHS piece together his path to his current position. He first went to a technical school before earning a bachelor's

degree at Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls and a master's degree at the University of North Texas. He learned how to draft in trade school and was able to work for an architect.

"I didn't go to college first or anything like that. I went to a trade school, and I think that's important to show kids, too," he said. "To be honest, that trade school was what paid for college. The jobs that I got after that allowed me to continue to go to school and pay for it."

Though he initially pursued architecture, Hohman realized he wanted to be an educator, especially to be like the teachers he remembered being helpful and influential when he was in school.

"It was meant to be," Hohman said. "God has a path, and sometimes you don't follow it in a straight line, but he definitely meant for me to be here."

Hohman's past fueled his aspirations. Above his desk, near the shelves with pictures of his family, is where he keeps copies of the Wise County Messenger articles that were written about him and how he started a drop-out prevention and accelerated high school program in Bridgeport.

"It's made me who I am," Hohman said about his past. "At the same time, I think it makes me relatable for students, especially the ones that struggle. And that's why I'm in this. I'm in this because I personally don't want any student to have to go through what I went through."

Hohman doesn't regret his past but acknowledges



MADELYN EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

**New Springtown High School Principal Andrew Hohman holds a sign from his office that says, "Always be yourself unless you can be Batman. Then always be Batman."**

he had to work harder and spend more money than he would have if he had taken advantage of opportunities in high school.

"Maybe it was because I didn't feel like somebody cared enough to help me get there," he said. "I don't know, but I want every kid to know that I'm here for them. I don't want them to go that route, so we'll do what we need to do to help them feel like they belong here and help them be successful."

In his career, Hohman has had experience in special education, including as a teacher at a Lake Worth elementary school and in a variety of roles at a special education school in Garland. He has also been a counselor at a STEM academy, at an elementary school and at a middle school. He took on administrative roles as an assistant principal, head of the Alternative Learning Center in Bridgeport and then the principal of Bridgeport High School.

Prior to becoming SHS' principal, Hohman and his wife had already been settled in Springtown for 10 years. His wife is native to the Wise County area, and they moved to Springtown to be closer to her family and to get away from the growth in Justin, their former home.

Hohman became aware of the principal opening at SHS and started learning about the school district and community. What he found was encouraging enough for him

to apply for the job.

"Doing the research of what the central admin leadership is like, what the board leadership is like, I thought this is a place that I could come in and continue to be successful," he said. "I had a lot of great support in Bridgeport, but I thought being a part of the community I lived in would be amazing, too."

Before the school year started, SISD Superintendent Shane Strickland shared that he is impressed with Hohman's recruitment efforts for teachers, counselors and administrators.

"Mr. Hohman will be a change agent for Springtown High School as the new campus principal," Strickland said. "His teacher, administrator and counselor recruiting efforts this summer have been astronomical. He has had the opportunity to hire a very solid staff."

Hohman compared the job of a high school principal to a CEO, someone who sets the tone of an organization, carries out the mission, vision and core values, oversees budgets and hiring and ensures compliance with laws. Principals need to look at the big picture, admit mistakes and listen to fix them, validate the staff, students and parents, hold people accountable and follow through on plans.

"I think the key thing is creating a culture where staff can be successful so that they ultimately do what's best for students so that our students

are successful," he said.

One of Hohman's goals is to connect students receiving career and technical education to workplaces in the community where they can get hands-on experience. He is also thinking about getting the school involved with the OnRamps program, which can help high schoolers get college credit, through the University of Texas at Austin.

Strickland expects career and technical education programs to grow with Hohman leading SHS and working with other administrators.

"I have high expectations for him, and I know he will gladly accept the challenge," Strickland said.

In the short-term, Hohman hopes to meet parents and students in the SHS community. His favorite memories in education are the times when he's been able to help troubled kids. He recalled a student he was able to connect with when no one else could and another one who spent a year in the disciplinary alternative program. Both students went on to graduate.

"I believe one of the major things our stakeholders will see almost immediately is that he is a culture builder," Strickland said. "He is great at communicating and creating relationships with all stakeholders. Everyone that I happen to run into in the education field speaks very highly of Mr. Hohman. I am excited for SHS with the knowledge and excitement that he will bring."



**Andrew Hohman, who has lived in Springtown for about a decade, is Springtown High School's new principal.**

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# Azle artisans

Crafters, hobbyists and starter-uppers from across the Azle area and beyond gather for a vendor fair at Azle High School



**ZACH FREEMAN** | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER  
Kelli Limbaugh promotes her Azle-based yard sign business, Long Dog Yard Art, at the vendor fair.



"I honestly just was a college student who was bored and learned how to crochet," AHS Class of 2022 grad Elyse Atwell of Snug Stitch Studios said. "I started making stuffed animals and then people were like, 'oh, I want to buy those.' I started selling them so that I could fund my hobby, that isn't necessarily cheap. I ended up making a little bit of money and I didn't have 17,000 stuffed animals around my house. I have a lot of fun. I just go to markets, and I sell stuff on Instagram and do commissions for people. My mom saw (the vendor fair) advertised on Facebook. You can either (direct message) me or email me (at [snugstitchstudios@gmail.com](mailto:snugstitchstudios@gmail.com)) and I'll do pretty much whatever stuffed animal you want."



Eighth grade Azle Junior High science teacher Amanda Russ has won the 2023 Firebird Book Award in Christian Fantasy and Outstanding Creator Award in Christian Fiction for her Christian fantasy novels, the "Sacred" series. "The first book is about a single mom who has to go through heaven and hell to save her only daughter with the help of her guardian angel and then the second book kind of just continues with the story and the fallout from book one," Russ said. "A lot of different things went into the book. The first thing is, I was behind somebody at Jack in the Box who had a wing tattoo on their ankle, and I was like, 'oh, that'd be interesting if his tattoo popped out and became wings' and so that's kind of the premise for the wings of the angels. I have won several awards for book one and I was at "Readers Take Denver" in Colorado in April and I have another several book signings coming up throughout this year."

## ROUNDUP

FROM PAGE B1

12 at 1:30 p.m.; Azle travels to Boswell Tuesday, Aug. 13 at 6:30 p.m.; and Springtown plays in a tri-match at Peaster along with Godley, time TBA.

Tournament action also begins next week. Springtown will compete in the Denton Ryan Tournament Aug. 15-17, Azle is in the Duncanville Tournament Aug. 16-17 and Lake Worth is in the Castleberry Tournament Aug.

15 and 17.

### FOOTBALL PRACTICES TO START

It's August in Texas and that can only mean high school football teams across the state are starting practices. Soon to follow are scrimmages and then the regular season. The scrimmage schedule includes:

Azle: at Boswell, Aug. 15; hosts Frisco Wakeland, Aug. 22. Both start at 5 p.m. with subvarsity and varsity to follow.

Lake Worth: at Aubrey, Aug. 16, TBA; hosts Waco Connally, Aug. 22, varsity 7 p.m., subvarsity TBA.

Springtown: Hosts Brock, Aug. 15; Aug. 22 at Mineral Wells. Both start at 5 p.m. with subvarsity, followed by varsity.

Regular-season openers are:

Azle vs. Abilene Cooper at Shotwell Stadium in Abilene, Aug. 30, 7 p.m.

Lake Worth hosts Frisco Panther Creek, Aug. 30, 7 p.m.

Springtown at Joshua, Aug. 30, 7 p.m.

Azle (3-7 in 2023) competes in District 3-5A Division I with two-time defending state champion Aledo (16-0), along with Denton Ryan (8-3, second round of playoffs), Fort Worth Richland (12-1, third round), Fort Worth Brewer (3-7), Keller Fossil Ridge (3-7), North Richland Hills Birdville (4-6), Denton (4-7, bidistrict) and Granbury (3-7). The Hornets return 10 offensive and six defensive starters.

Lake Worth (6-5, bidistrict in 2023) competes in District 6-4A Division I with Alvarado (7-5, second round), Kennedale (7-4, bidistrict), Waxahachie Life (2-8), Fort Worth Castleberry (3-7) and Carrollton Ranchview (2-8). The Bullfrogs return four offensive and eight defensive starters.

Springtown (9-4, third round in 2023) competes in District 5-4A Division I with Decatur (10-5, state semifinals), Fort Worth Southwest (4-6), Fort Worth Eastern Hills

(5-5), Fort Worth Western Hills (5-6, bidistrict), Fort Worth Carter-Riverside (4-6) and Fort Worth Diamond Hill-Jarvis (0-10). The Porcupines have four offensive and five defensive returning starters.

### AZLE MINI-CHEER CAMP

Visit <https://azlesports.rankone.com/Website/Main> and click on the "camps" link. Aug. 24, AHS, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., incoming grades pre-K through six. Cost is \$60 for silver level, \$75 for gold and \$150 for VIP (15 spots only).

## SIDELINE

FROM PAGE B1

unnoticed. There is nothing that he cannot do or is unwilling to do. His presence in our program not only elevates the team but has also inspired countless athletes to strive for excellence both on

and off the mat."

Sain kept coy during each coach's introduction, slowly revealing more information about the subject until their identity was announced. Under Knoll, AHS had 11 student-athletes qualify for the State Wrestling Tournament in Cypress in February. He teaches social studies at the high school and coaches

wrestling. Knoll has previously been named assistant coach of the year and has been coaching wrestling at AHS for about five years. Knoll was formerly a career United States Marine. He grew up wrestling in Iowa through his youth and high school years.

"I don't know if they know just how near and dear to me

they are," Sain said of head high school coach of the year, Amy Estes. "The first few thoughts that come to mind when I think of this coach are unselfish and Hornet Pride. She exudes a level of genuine love for all things Azle. She is constantly looking for ways to get involved and to give back. Whether coaching multiple sports, serving

as an event worker, serving on the city council or simply trudging through water during April cleanup day, this Hornet 'bleeds green.'" Estes has been teaching for almost 30 years and was named the high school's head swimming coach in 2020. According to reporting from Azle High School's student newspaper, *The Sting*, Estes

herself started the swim program at AHS as a student. She described herself as a "one-person swim team" during her freshman year where she received All American, All State, and placed third at the state competition. Estes has held Azle City Council Place 2 since 2022, after beating incumbent David McClure; she was re-elected to serve a second two-year term this year.

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**Texas Health**

Harris Methodist Hospital AZLE

**Volunteers Needed**

[TexasHealth.org/Volunteer/Our-Process](http://TexasHealth.org/Volunteer/Our-Process)

**RAINBOW INN GIFT SHOP**

Inside Hospital 108 Denver Trail

Azle 817-444-8651

**ATTIC RERUNS**

**NOW OPEN! FRI 9-4 SAT 9-1**

714 SE Pkwy Azle 817-270-3690

**Good N.E.W.S.**

Living at Home Block Nurse Program

**Volunteer Caregiver Training Classes**

Classes open to public at no charge

**Our Volunteers Make a Difference!**

**Caregiver Volunteer Meeting**

1st Monday of Each Month at 6pm

**817-444-2300**

**412 Commerce St.**

**Rotary Club of Azle**

**MEETS AT NOON THURSDAY**

412 Commerce St.

(across from Azle Post Office)

**The Finish Line**

Addiction wants to destroy you & everyone around you.

**With Jesus there is Victory over addiction.**

**GET BACK IN THE RACE!**

Meetings held every Friday from 7:30pm-9:30pm at The Church at Azle

1801 S. Stewart • Azle • 817-401-8513

[www.ourfinishline.com](http://www.ourfinishline.com)

**Faced with a DRINKING Problem?**

Perhaps Alcoholics Anonymous can HELP.

**AA**

Daily meetings at Noon & 6:30 pm

Sunday at 3 pm

**229 S. Stewart St. • Azle**

**817-332-3533**

**Azle Lion's Club**

Meets 2nd TUESDAY 6:30 PM

412 Commerce, Azle

[e-clubhouse.org/sites/azle\\_tk/](http://e-clubhouse.org/sites/azle_tk/)

Jamie Westbrook - president

**817-550-7625**

**AZLE AREA MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE**

UNITED IN CHRIST

Christian Leaders partnering together with one voice to impact our culture for Christ. We celebrate unity amidst diversity as we pastor our community.

**Luncheon meetings**

11:45 a.m. - 1 p.m. 2nd Tues of each month; location varies.

See [www.azlema.com](http://www.azlema.com) or email [director@azlema.com](mailto:director@azlema.com) for additional information.

**817-200-4611**

Let's build community together.

**SERVOLUTION NETWORK**

**LET'S START A COMMUNITY WIDE REVOLUTION THROUGH SERVING.**

Love God. Love People. Love Your City.

Dream Center open 9-3 M-F

11698 FM730 S. Azle

FOR QUESTIONS CALL:

**833-4WE-SERV**

[servolutionnetwork.com](http://servolutionnetwork.com)

**CLUB or ORGANIZATION meeting?**

**Only \$125**

for 52 weeks of advertising

**Call for details: 817-270-3340**

**Optimist Club of Azle**

Meets every **FRIDAY at 6:45 AM**

**Moe's Country Kitchen**

316 W. Main, Azle

**Azle Lodge No. 601**

**Floor School or Work**

**7:30 PM THURSDAY NIGHT**

Kenny Patrick - Worshipful Master

Chris Akers - Secretary

Clint Hall - Treasurer

**EAGLE MOUNTAIN PREGNANCY HELP CENTER**

10328 Jacksboro Hwy

Fort Worth TX 76135

817-237-1819

[www.emphc.org](http://www.emphc.org)

Tues 9 - 3 PM • Thurs 12-6 PM

**SE HABLA ESPAÑOL**

# Azle coaches rally for school season



**ZACH FREEMAN** | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER  
Azle ISD Executive Director of Educational Leadership Jessica Hanson speaks to coaches at the Azle administration building.



**ZACH FREEMAN** | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER  
Azle ISD Athletic Director Michael Sain speaks to coaches at the Azle administration building.

**ZACH FREEMAN**

azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

**AZLE** — During the final week of July, Azle ISD coaches spent their days preparing for a new school year. Coinciding with the final day of new teacher orientation, July 31, coaches attended a convocation for athletic department staff.

During the program-wide meeting, Azle ISD Athletic Director Michael Sain discussed issues like the year's heat plan, new developments and communication expectations between the district and University Interscholastic League's chain of command. Near the end of the day's activities, Sain introduced the district's Executive Director of Educational Leadership Jessica Hanson to give a few words of encouragement to this year's coaches and talk about becoming a "destination district." Hanson spoke about her high school's basketball coach and eventual

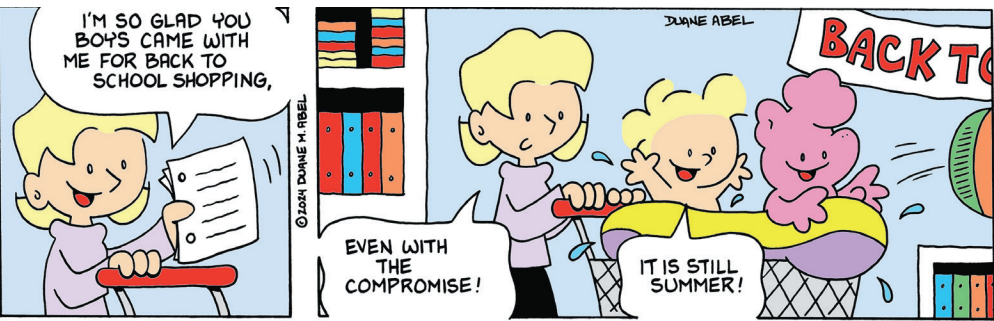
employer, Ron Shelton, and the impact he had on her life.

Hanson also listed take-aways from motivational speakers and authors that she recommended to the audience. Among the ideas presented were loving your job, giving everything your all and the Jon Gordon quote, "if you're complaining you're not leading."

"He says complaining is a lot like throwing up," Hanson recalled. "You feel better, but everyone else around you feels sick. What we know about complaining is it's always best to take complaints to the person that can do something about it. So, complaining to other people, it just (makes you the) energy vampires in the room, right? If you want something changed, find the solution and go to the person that can change it."

After lunch and these talks, convocation concluded with three staff members being named coaches of the year.

**ZED by Duane Abel**



www.corkycomics.com

## Springtown School Menu

BREAKFAST PRICES	
EC-12th Grade	\$1.75
EC-12th Reduced	\$0.30
Adult	\$2.25
LUNCH PRICES	
PK-4th Grade	\$3.00
5th-8th Grade	\$3.25
High School	\$3.00
Reduced	\$0.40
Adult	\$4.25



**August 14-18, 2024**  
**PK through 12th Grade**

\*Menus are subject to change.

Students may prepay for their meals.

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

**Wednesday** Mini Maple Pancakes, Applesauce Cup **Thursday** Biscuit, Pineapple **Friday** Blueberry Parfait w/Strawberry or Vanilla Yogurt, Strawberry Parfait w/Strawberry or Vanilla Yogurt, Strawberries

**K - 4th Lunch** **Lunch: Everyday** - Choice of one meat, two vegetables, and one grain/bread with milk, Variety of milk is offered every day for breakfast and lunch.

**Wednesday** Chicken Tenders, Waffles for Chicken & Waffles, Fiesta Sticks, Fresh Baby Carrots, Side Salad, Tator Tots, Applesauce Cup, Strawberries **Thursday** Bosco Sticks, Chicken Sandwich, Chili Beans, Fiesta Sticks, Fresh Baby Carrots, Side Salad, Blueberries, Fresh Apple Slices **Friday** Baked Potato Basket, Cheese Pizza, Pepperoni Pizza, Roll, Fiesta Sticks, Fresh Baby Carrots, Mixed Vegetables, Side Salad, Fresh Grapes, Sliced Peaches

**5th - 12th Lunch** **Lunch: Everyday** - Choice of one meat, two vegetables, and one grain/bread with milk, Variety of milk is offered every day for breakfast and lunch.

**Wednesday** Cheeseburger, Hamburger, Fiesta Sticks, French Fries, Fresh Baby Carrots, Side Salad, Watermelon Craisins **Thursday** Beef Enchilada Bake, Corn Dog, Roll, Chili Beans, Fiesta Sticks, Fresh Baby Carrots, Side Salad, Fresh Apple Slices, Mandarin Oranges **Friday** Baked Potato Basket - Entree Only, Chicken Nuggets, Meatball Sub, Pulled Pork for Baked Potato, Roll, Fiesta Sticks, Fresh Baby Carrots, Roasted Cauliflower, Side Salad, Blueberries, Fresh Banana

This menu is sponsored by ...

## AZLE DENTAL CARE

Proudly Helping Azle Smile for over 26 Years!

**Dr. Brooke Porter & Associates**  
**817-444-1763 • SmileGreat.com**



## Azle School Menu August 14-16, 2024

BREAKFAST:	LUNCH:
PreK-4th Grade, 7-12th Grade \$1.55	PreK-4th Grade \$2.55 5-6th Grade \$2.75
5-6th Grade FREE 2nd Meal \$2.00	7-12th Grade \$2.55 2nd Meal \$3.20
Visitors/Employees \$2.75	Visitors & Employees \$3.75

**PreK - 4th**

**BREAKFAST: Everyday** - Assorted Fruits and Cereal, Juice, White or Chocolate Milk, Graham Crackers, Toast

**Wednesday** Apple Frudel, Fruit Cup **Thursday** French Toast, Mini's, Fruit Cup **Friday** Trix Strawberry Banana Bash Low Fat Yogurt, Animal Crackers, Bananas

**LUNCH: Everyday** - Variety of milk. Your choice of 1 entree & 1 fruit or juice

**Wednesday** Beef Quesadilla Triangles Mac & Cheese, Whole Wheat Roll, Black Beans, Steamed Carrots **Thursday** Chicken Nuggets, Maxstixs, Marinara, Mashed Potatoes, Mixed Veggies **Friday** Cheese Pizza, Cheeseburger, Smile Fries, Steamed Broccoli

**GRADES 5TH - 8TH**

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

**Wednesday** Cinnamon Toast Crunch, Dutch Waffle, Red Apple Slices **Thursday** Breakfast Taco Egg, Sausage and Cheese, Apple Sauce, Oranges **Friday** Pancakes, Bacon, Pears Diced

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

**Wednesday** Cheeseburger, Corn Dog, Mac & Cheese, Whole Wheat Roll, Crinkle Fries, Steamed Broccoli **Thursday** Chicken Alfredo, Maxstixs, Spicy Chicken Sandwich, Honey Wheat Breadstick, Crinkle Fries, Marinara **Friday** Cheese Pizza, Mini Corn Dogs, Walkin' Taco, Corn, Crinkle Fries

**HIGH SCHOOL**

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

**Wednesday** Cinnamon Toast Crunch, Dutch Waffle, Red Apple Slices, Hashbrown **Thursday** Breakfast Taco Egg, Sausage and Cheese, Apple Sauce, Oranges **Friday** Pancakes, Bacon, Pears Diced

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

**Wednesday** Popcorn Chicken Bowl, Whole Wheat Roll, Crinkle Fries, Steamed Broccoli, Steamed Carrots **Thursday** BBQ Pork Rib Sandwich, Pineapples, Crinkle Fries, Steamed Peas **Friday** Sloppy Joe, Corn, Crinkle Fries, Peaches

SPONSORED BY

## AZLE DENTAL CARE

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**Dr. Brooke Porter & Associates**  
**817-444-1763 • SmileGreat.com**



## Sudoku

AUGUST 8, 2024

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

Level: Advanced

## Solution to last week's puzzle

AUGUST 1, 2024

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

## WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to dog days of summer.

DCLOEO

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

Answer: Cooled

## CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to community papers. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 3 = N)

- A. 18 10 22 3 5**  
Clue: Text on paper
- B. 3 23 17 24**  
Clue: Newly received information
- C. 14 8 15 20 14**  
Clue: Belonging to a neighborhood
- D. 15 8 9 9 7 3 22 5 11**  
Clue: Local area

Answers: A. Journal B. News C. Local D. Community



# TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

# DEVOTIONAL PAGE

This devotional and directory is made possible by these businesses who encourage all of us to attend worship services.

## APOSTOLIC

### CORNERSTONE APOSTOLIC CHURCH

1801 FM 730 N., Azle  
817-400-0612

### HARVEST TIME APOSTOLIC

1 Block N. FM 2048 in Keeter  
817-433-8220

### ASSEMBLY OF GOD

FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD  
1020 S.E. Pkwy, Azle  
817-237-4903

### FELLOWSHIP OF LAKE WORTH

4024 Dakota Trail, Lake Worth  
817-237-9433

### NEW BEGINNINGS CHURCH

810 Goshen Rd, Springtown  
817-523-4462

### LEGACY CHURCH

Hwy. 199 W. at FM 2257, Azle  
817-221-2983 / 817-221-5760

### VICTORY CHRISTIAN CENTER

737 Boyd Rd., Azle  
817-444-LOVE

## BAPTIST

### ASH CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

300 South Stewart, Azle  
817-444-3219

### AGNES INDEPENDENT BAPTIST

350 Agnes N., Springtown  
817-523-7271

### BETHEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST

408 S. Ash St., Springtown  
817-220-4238

### AZLE AVENUE BAPTIST

2901 Azle Ave., Fort Worth  
817-626-5556

### BY THE WORD BAPTIST

West of FM 730 N. at sign, Briar  
817-444-3484

### CALVARY HEIGHTS BAPTIST

1 block off Hwy. 199,  
east of David's Patio,  
Springtown, 817-221-2241

### CENTRAL BAPTIST

4290 Old Agnes Road  
817-594-5918

### CHURCH ON THE HILL

836 NW Parkway, Azle  
817-444-3752

### CHRISTWAY BAPTIST

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

### CLEAR FORK BAPTIST

Corner of FM 730 & Ragle Rd.,  
Weatherford, 817-594-1154

### EAGLE MOUNTAIN BAPTIST

8780 Eagle Mtn. Circle, Azle  
817-237-4135

### FIRST BAPTIST

CHURCH OF AZLE  
1017 Boyd Road  
817-444-4828

### FIRST BAPTIST CASTLE HILLS

401 Beverly Rd., Azle  
817-797-4706

### FIRST BAPTIST LAKE WORTH

700 Charbonneau Tr., west side of Effie Morris  
Elementary • 817-237-2624

### FIRST BAPTIST LAKESIDE

8801 Jacksboro Hwy., Lakeside  
817-237-8113

### FIRST BAPTIST COTTONDALE

1 block N. of FM 2123, Cottondale  
940-433-5539

### FIRST BAPTIST POOLVILLE

1 block W. of FM 920, Poolville  
817-594-3916

## FIRST BAPTIST SPRINGTOWN

5th & Main Street, Springtown  
817-220-5229

### FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST

801 Friendship Rd., 9½ miles S.  
of Springtown off Hwy. 51 S.  
817-594-5940 or 817-599-4917

### FUNDAMENTAL BAPTIST

5th & Main in Springtown  
817-523-5477

### GRACE BAPTIST

3 miles N. of Springtown on  
Hwy. 51 across from Radio Tower

### GRACE POINTE CHURCH

4110 E. Hwy. 199, Springtown  
817-221-5683

### HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH

3577 FM 51 N., Weatherford  
817-564-3946

### IGLESIA BAUTISTA

Nueva Jerusalem  
6640 Midway Rd., Springtown  
817-694-0444

### INDIAN OAKS PRIMITIVE

BAPTIST CHURCH  
3229 Shawnee Trail, Lake Worth  
817-237-8441

### LAKE WORTH BAPTIST

4445 Hodgkins, Lake Worth  
817-237-4163

### METROPOLITAN BAPTIST

6051 Azle Ave., Fort Worth  
817-237-2201

### NEW HOPE BAPTIST

782 New Hope Rd., Reno area  
817-221-2184

### NORTHWEST BAPTIST

5500 Boat Club Rd., Lake Worth  
817-237-6063 or 817-270-8476

### SANDY BEACH ROAD

BAPTIST CHURCH  
Don Webster, Pastor  
1006 Sandy Beach Rd.,  
Azle, TX 76020 • 817-565-8904  
sandybeachroad.org  
Sunday Service 11 am

### SILVER CREEK BAPTIST

730 S. & Veal Station Rd., Azle  
817-444-2325

### NEW BEGINNINGS

BAPTIST CHURCH  
3605 Jacksboro Hwy., Azle  
817-707-2741

### PRIMERA IGLESIA BAUTISTA

300 S. Stewart, Azle  
817-500-3641

### SPRINGTOWN

BAPTIST TEMPLE  
201 J. E. Woody Rd., Springtown  
817-523-0376

### UNION BAPTIST CHURCH

3451 Sarra Lane, Springtown  
682-333-1645

### WALNUT CREEK BAPTIST

220 W. Reno Rd. in Reno  
817-221-2110

## BIBLE

COMMUNITY BIBLE  
FELLOWSHIP  
1405 Reynolds Rd., Reno  
817-521-4510

### NORTHWEST BIBLE CHURCH

5025 Jacksboro Hwy., Fort Worth  
817-624-2111

### SOLID ROCK BIBLE CHURCH

591 S. Reno Rd., Springtown  
817-304-7443

## CATHOLIC

### HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC

800 High Crest Dr., Azle  
817-444-3063

## CHRISTIAN

### THE CHURCH AT AZLE

1801 S. Stewart, Azle  
817-444-9973

### AZLE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

35 West Forty Estates., Azle  
817-688-3339

### GREATER VISION FELLOWSHIP

1801 S. Stewart St., Azle  
817-825-0485

### THE ABBEY CHURCH

10400 Jacksboro Hwy., Azle  
817-238-1404

### CROSSING FELLOWSHIP

120 E. Main St., Azle  
817-406-4577

## CHURCH OF CHRIST

### AZLE CHURCH of CHRIST

336 NW Parkway  
817-444-3268

### BRIAR CHURCH of CHRIST

109 W.N. Woody Rd.  
(½ block west of FM 730 N. in Briar)  
817-444-7102

### MIDWAY CHURCH of CHRIST

6400 Midway Rd. 817-221-2107

### NEWSOME MOUND ROAD

CHURCH of CHRIST  
1460 Newsome Mound Rd.  
817-677-3290

### NORTHWEST

CHURCH of CHRIST  
6059 Azle Ave., Fort Worth  
817-237-1205

### POOLVILLE CHURCH of CHRIST

West of FM 920 in Poolville  
817-594-4182

### SOUTHSIDE

CHURCH of CHRIST  
130 W. Bradshaw Lane, Springtown  
817-221-2799

### SPRINGTOWN

CHURCH of CHRIST  
Just west of Hwy. 51 North  
817-523-4419

### TRI-COUNTY

CHURCH of CHRIST  
525 Hwy. 199 W., Springtown  
817-980-8156

## CHURCH OF GOD

### ABUNDANT LIFE

CHURCH of GOD  
4800 East Hwy. 199, Suite 7  
Springtown, 817-677-3208

### LAKESIDE CHURCH OF GOD

THE WORD@LAKESIDE  
9396 Confederate Park Rd.  
(FM 1886) 817-237-5500

## DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

### AZLE CHRISTIAN

117 Church St., Azle  
817-444-3527

### CENTRAL CHRISTIAN

1602 S. Main St., Weatherford  
817-594-3043

### FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

4th & Main, Paradise

## EPISCOPAL

### ST. ANNE'S

ANGLICAN EPISCOPAL  
6055 Azle Ave., Fort Worth  
817-237-1888

## PROVIDENCE REFORMED EPISCOPAL

405 Bowie Dr., Weatherford  
817-596-7476

### ST. ELISABETH EPISCOPAL

5910 Black Oak Lane, River Oaks  
817-739-0504

## GOSPEL

### CENTRAL FULL GOSPEL

FELLOWSHIP  
3009 Delaware Tr., Lake Worth  
817-237-7919

### GOSPEL GATHERING

FELLOWSHIP  
7315 Silver Creek Rd.,  
Azle, TX 76020  
832-289-8720

## JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

### KINGDOM HALL OF

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES  
212 Pearson Lane, Azle  
817-221-2242

## LUTHERAN

### THE EDGE CHURCH - AZLE

1313 SE Parkway, Azle  
817-237-4822

### HOPE LUTHERAN (ELCA)

4795 Hwy. 199, Reno  
817-221-HOPE

## METHODIST

### BOYD UNITED METHODIST

FM 730 North in Boyd  
940-433-5334

### FIRST METHODIST

CHURCH OF AZLE  
200 Church St., Azle  
817-444-3323

### LIGHTHOUSE FELLOWSHIP

7200 Robertson Rd., Fort Worth  
817-237-2758

### SILVER CREEK

METHODIST CHURCH  
2200 Church Rd., Azle  
817-444-1382

### FIRST UNITED METHODIST

Hwy. 51 N & 3rd Street, Springtown  
817-523-7874

### POOLVILLE GLOBAL METHODIST

1 block W. of FM 920  
(behind Poolville Post Office)  
817-599-3601

## THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST

OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS  
1010 Timberoaks, Azle  
817-237-5075

## PENTECOSTAL

### GRACE CHAPEL UNITED PENTECOSTAL

CHURCH  
3508 Shawnee Trail, Lake Worth  
817-237-4844

## PRESBYTERIAN

### GRACE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

606 Mockingbird Lane, Weatherford  
817-594-2744

### ORTHODOX PRESBYTERIAN

CHURCH OF FORT WORTH  
Meeting at Northwest YMCA  
5315 Boat Club Road, Fort Worth  
817-989-9800

## ORTHODOX

### ARCHANGEL GABRIEL

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
1157 S. E. Parkway (Jacksboro Highway), Azle  
817-752-8255

## OTHER

### ALIENTO DE DIOS

2233 E. Hwy 199, Springtown  
817-521-4694

### THE CHURCH IN PEASTER

www.thechurchinpeaster.org  
817-596-8805

### CORNERSTONE

COMMUNITY CHURCH  
2233 Hwy 199 East, Springtown  
817-221-LIFE (5433)

### FAMILY CHURCH

9 miles S. of Springtown on Hwy. 51  
817-599-7655

### GRACE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

2964 W. Hwy 114, Paradise  
940-969-2427

### HILLTOP FAMILY CHURCH

1227 Old Cottondale Road,  
Springtown, 817-220-7177

### THE FELLOWSHIP

AT PLEASANT GROVE  
1064 CR4679, Boyd  
940-999-8210

### THE HOUSE OF PRAYER

1356 Reno Rd., Springtown  
817-221-2551

### POWERHOUSE

OF PRAISE CHURCH  
1649 S.E. Parkway, Azle  
817-319-7364

### BRANDED CROSS

COWBOY CHURCH  
3282 FM 2048, Boyd 76023  
817-755-7021

### SECRET PLACE MINISTRIES

112 Optimist Rd., Springtown  
682-229-1433

### GOSPEL GATHERING FELLOWSHIP

7315 Silver Creek Rd at Flatrock Rd, Azle • 832-  
289-8720

### LIGHTHOUSE CHURCH

6409 FM 730 S., Azle  
817-444-4311

### LIGHTHOUSE HARBOR CHURCH

1960 Long Circle, Pelican Bay  
817-444-3547

### THE LIVING WORD COUNTRY

CHURCH OF TEXAS  
1240 E. Hwy 199, Springtown  
817-913-2717

### NEW LIGHTED WAY

624 Harbor Dr. Circle, Azle  
817-444-1577

# THE TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

# CLASSIFIEDS

THURSDAY, August 8, 2024

## AD CLASSIFICATIONS

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

## RATES

**\$10.00 A Week**  
16 Words or Less

- Over 16 words, add 20 cents per word.
- Extras such as Bold, Center & Border are available for a small fee
- Classified boxed display ads also available for \$9.00 per column inch
- All ads must be paid in advance unless you have previously established credit

Most ads require payment in advance, but we do accept VISA, MASTERCARD, DISCOVER or AMERICAN EXPRESS by phone.



**CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINE: 11:00 AM FRIDAY**

Advertising Works! Call or email us today to place your own ad in the classifieds.  
**classified@tricountyreporter.com**  
**817-270-3340**

Reach more than 8,000 households with advertising in THE TRI-COUNTY REPORTER!

*Nobody does it better!*

### 006 Asphalt Paving

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### 034 Garage & Estate Sales

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Springtown ISD is accepting applications for Bus Drivers and Monitors. Training available. Contact the Transportation Dept. 817-220-1418.

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

High End Wood Parts Manufacturer in Haltom City, TX. Hardwood cut-out tech, must read drawings. Must have some experience. CNC Router Operator/Programmer Looking for someone who wants to learn and grow into a professional career. Professional shop, good wages, paid vacation and holidays. Contact customerservice@clmillwork.com or 817-605-0002

Truck driver needed to haul cement. Work is in Texas and Oklahoma. Be home some nights and off on weekends. CDL-A required. Call Douglas 817-5812671 or 817-996-9786

Azle ISD is accepting applications for a groundskeeping position in our Maintenance Department. Must have a valid Texas driver's license and experience preferred. Must be able to operate various landscaping equipment. Apply online at www.azleisd.net.

**Welder/Fabricator**  
Must be able to read prints and build from scratch. Equipment operator position opening soon.  
**Call 214-802-5157** for application info

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**NOW HIRING**  
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# CLASSIFIEDS

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**KARL KLEMENT**  
Ford

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No Positions Available at This Time

**KLEMENT**  
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Seeking to hire ALL levels of Automotive Service Technicians to join our team! Compensation based on experience and certifications. Must be dependable and responsible with a good work ethic.

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Experience is preferred but will train the right candidate. Must have a valid TXDL, good driving record and a positive attitude! Candidate must be dependable with a great work ethic! Potential for advancement with promote from within opportunities!

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For Lease:  
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# CLASSIFIEDS

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## TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison  
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**ACROSS**

1 oil rich countries

5 Patricia of Texas-based film "Hud"

6 "\_\_\_\_-farty" (pretentious)

7 made a run for it

8 San Antonio Zoo has several of these (2 wds.)

16 ambulance services (abbr.)

17 Galveston County town (2 wds.)

21 TX Ernie who was "Mr. Cub" (init.)

22 New England chowder

23 TXism: "\_\_\_\_ a bug in a rug"

24 TXism: "from womb \_\_\_\_" (lifetime)

29 TXism: "at the drop of \_\_\_\_" (impulsive)

30 rose stalk

31 t-shirt size

32 TX Gary Morris hit: "The Love \_\_\_\_ Me"

34 planting dirt

35 LBJ Supreme Court nominee, Fortas

36 in the 1990s, it was easy to find one in Texas (2 wds.)

37 TX Ronnie who sang with Brooks

38 long, narrow cut

39 in Columbus, TX: "Tate-\_\_\_\_ Brandon House"

41 TXism for "fellow"

42 enjoyed a meal

**DOWN**

1 TXism: "attacked like conventioners \_\_\_\_"

2 how shearers charge? (2 wds.)

3 cowboys are big \_\_\_\_

4 in Callahan County on I-20

9 37th governor, Shivers

10 tidy

11 Neil Diamond's "\_\_\_\_. . . I Said"

12 late Texas singer, Gilley (init.)

13 live music TV show: "\_\_\_\_ City Limits"

14 with "S2," name of a security system

15 TXism: "he's lower than pond \_\_\_\_"

18 Army inspector, e.g. (abbr.)

19 in 1991, IRS sold some of TX Willie Nelson's property to pay this (2 wds.)

20 "\_\_\_\_ Mission" is oldest in Texas

22 smokestack

24 TXism: "dot the i's and cross the \_\_\_\_"

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

26 golf ball holders

27 sirloin and brisket are cuts \_\_\_\_

28 TXism: "he wouldn't know how to \_\_\_\_ stick horse" (dude)

29 frock (2 wds.)

30 TXism: "gave me a \_\_\_\_ and dance" (runaround)

33 Texas country singer, Stuckey

34 TXism: "he's a \_\_\_\_ 'nuff Texan"

35 star of "Bandit Kings of Texas," Lane

37 former San Angelo festival: "Fiesta \_\_\_\_"

38 "mister" in Mexico in Brown County on U.S. 67 & 84

41 taxi cost

44 illegal motion by a Ranger pitcher

47 corporate raider, TX \_\_\_\_ Pickens

49 how unhappy fans showed disapproval

## Last Puzzle Solution

S-1700

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**TRICOUNTY REPORTER**  
THE NEWS OF AZLE, SPRINGTOWN, LAKE WORTH AND SURROUNDING AREAS

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