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THURSDAY, August 15, 2024 • \$1.00

Moment of a lifetime

Torchbearer recounts his experience from 1996 Olympics

MADELYN EDWARDS

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SPRINGTOWN — Springtown Park Rehabilitation and Care Center resident Billy Edwards remembers his Olympic torch being heavier now than when he ran with it in Fort Worth about 28 years ago.

Edwards, who is 74 years old (and not a relative of the reporter writing this article), shared his story of Olympic glory to a captive audience of his peers at the center Aug. 2.

In 1996, Edwards thought his co-worker, Noreen Campbell, at Diamond

Supermarket in Azle was playing a trick on him. They joked and kidded each other frequently, so when Campbell told Edwards that she had nominated him to be a torchbearer for the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, he was unconvinced. Even when she got him to call the Coca-Cola company, which sponsored the torch relay, he still thought it was a big hoax.

"She wrote the recommendation," Edwards said. "I have no idea what she said, but she must have lied a lot because they wanted good people to

PLEASE SEE **TORCH** | A3



MADELYN EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Jackie "JJ" Johnson, activities director at Springtown Park Rehabilitation and Care Center, shows off resident Billy Edwards' scrapbook from when he was an Olympic torchbearer in 1996. Edwards talked about his experience to his peers at the center Aug. 2.

District begins construction for replacement AJH



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

BTC has begun prepping the AJH campus for the lengthy construction process ahead.

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

AZLE — Residents of Parkwood Court, Azle Oaks Apartments and surrounding areas may have to get used to the sights and sounds of construction for the next two years. At the end of July, the plan to build a replacement Azle Junior High entered phase one of building.

The replacement junior high was approved by voters during a 2023 bond election and was seen as necessary by the district because of its growing student population, current space limitations, and the advanced age of the original building.

During the last Azle ISD board of trustees meeting, school board members voted to approve a guaranteed max-

imum price of \$9,996,543 for the first stretch of construction. Mike Trammel and Joel Martin of BTC, which specializes in school construction, were introduced by Assistant Superintendent Matt Adams to answer questions and lay out the company's plan going forward.

Phase I will include constructing proper drainage areas, earthworks, retaining walls and the necessary fencing for future construction. The retaining walls will be of the same style created for Hilltop Elementary last year.

Board secretary Sarah Bennett asked Trammel and Martin about the intensity of lights that will be used over the course of construction. While saying some concrete

PLEASE SEE **AJH** | A5

Springtown to adopt new tax rate, budget Aug. 22

MADELYN EDWARDS

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SPRINGTOWN — For the first time in years, the city of Springtown's tax rate may increase.

Because of an error with the state's tax rate calculation process, Springtown City Council is considering a rate higher than the current one. The council met Aug. 1 and set the rate-not-exceed at about 4 cents more than the current rate. The council is expected to adopt the final rate at the Aug. 22 meeting. The rate it adopts cannot be more than the not-to-exceed rate.

Tax rates are calculated through the Texas comptrol-

Council discussed possibility of approving higher tax rate

ler's Truth in Taxation form. The calculation process is different this year because the city council approved a tax freeze for homesteaders who are 65 or older and those with disabilities in 2022. Assistant City Administrator and City Secretary Christina Derr said this is the first year the freeze has had an impact in tax rate calculations, and as such, the city was expecting a revenue loss. As a result of a "poorly written section of the tax code," Derr said the state's tax rate calcula-

tion form shows Springtown will lose about \$58 million in property values, but this isn't actually the case. The state's system is counting all freeze-qualifying home values as a loss, but in reality, the city will still get tax revenue from these properties, but those taxpayers' bills are frozen at a certain amount.

"The good news is that this should be a one-time problem because next year, we will have two sets of numbers to calculate a difference," Derr said during the council

meeting.

Because of this miscalculation, the comptroller's form projected higher tax rates, namely the no-new-revenue rate and the voter-approval rate. The current rate is 46.6087 cents per \$100 valuation. Based on the state's calculations, the no-new-revenue rate is 50.6589 cents per \$100 valuation, and the voter-approval rate is 56.5615 cents per \$100 valuation.

Typically, the no-new-revenue rate is what is needed to generate the same amount of revenue as the current year, and the voter-approval rate is the maximum the council could adopt without triggering an election. However, the names of these rates are mis-

nomers because of the state's calculation error. The so-called no-new-revenue rate would produce more revenue than the current year, and the voter-approval tax rate is above the usual threshold for triggering an election.

The current tax rate is enough to fund the city's budget for the next fiscal year and generate \$121,191, or 8.8%, more for the maintenance and operations fund than the current year, Derr said. The no-new-revenue rate, which the council ultimately selected as the not-to-exceed rate, would levy \$294,619, or 21.4%, more for the M&O fund than the current year. Lastly, the voter-approval rate (which is cur-

rently off the table because of the council's decision Aug. 1) would have increased M&O revenue by almost 40%.

The city is required to post notices leading up to the adoption of a new tax rate Aug. 22, but Derr said Truth in Taxation is not calling the potential adoption of the not-to-exceed rate an increase, even though that's what it is. The public notice in The Tri-County Reporter reads, "Springtown is not proposing to increase property taxes for the 2024 tax year."

"Council, what you're faced with tonight is a byproduct of the Truth in Taxation bill, which is not a clear picture

PLEASE SEE **TAX** | A5



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ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

The event was the brainchild of adult services librarian Rebecca Buchanan, second from left, who said she was inspired by her previous job working the night shift as a police dispatcher. "Driving home at 7 in the morning after working since 11 p.m., sometimes I need to scream a little bit. I have healthier outlets now but every now and then I need to get back to my roots."



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Local moms let off a little steam and enjoyed snacks and drinks.

"No more sun!"

Exasperated Azleites scream at the sun for AML stress release activity



Hilltop Elementary student Paige Maldonado, 9, said she came out because she likes yelling.



Buchanan, along with AML Assistant Director Victor Gonzales, library assistant Ginger Holland, local parents and kids listened to weather-inspired music, enjoyed snacks and drinks and came up with creative signs and chants disparaging the Texas heat and calling for cooler temps. "I'm tired of wearing my oven mitts when I drive," Holland yelled.

trwd Tarrant Regional Water District

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Newspapers are still a bargain

Now that we are getting close to Election Day, we will hear a lot in the news about the economy. One side will tell you how desperately bad the economy is and the other will promote the idea times have never been so good. When dealing with political discussions, usually neither side rings 100% true. I have doubts the average citizen really understands how our national economy works. Do people know the role of the federal reserve board, who determines interest rates, or understand what goes into computing the gross national product? I think the national economy is much simpler than that; folks understand if they have a job or not, and if things cost more money than they have in the past. They know if the price of fuel is higher and if housing costs more.

With that being said, it seems like there is always someone who will complain about prices. I will admit, I become a little frustrated when I hear people say how much more a newspaper costs today than it once did. Hardly a week goes by some-



FROM MY FRONT PORCH

By Sam Houston

Sam Houston is the publisher of the Hood County News. He is also an actor, author, playwright, performer and entertainment producer/promoter. sam@hcnews.com | 817-573-7066, ext. 260

one doesn't mention to me they "used to get a paper for a quarter and now it costs a \$1!" Usually, the person making this statement has a scowl on their face and is shaking their head like the "robber barons" who own the newspaper are charging an arm and a leg and are the primary reason why we have inflation and higher interest rates. It is almost like the newspaper singlehandedly could be responsible for a

host of problems ranging from unsightly teenage blemishes to the national debt.

I reflected on the issue and decided when confronted by such a comment, I respond with "Yes, a newspaper does cost more than it did 50 years ago." Then I suggest they make a comparison between the cost of a newspaper and other items. I have gone to the trouble to do a little research and here are interest-

ing comparisons:

It is true, over time the price of a newspaper has gone up, but not at the same rate as most products — In fact, significantly less. It is funny how people seem to have memories that they once paid a quarter for a paper but forget they once paid as little as a nickel for a cup of coffee they now pay \$6 at the local coffee boutique. Talk about an increase! As a kid I could buy a Snickers and a Coke for a quarter and just last week I paid \$2.69 for a bottle of pop in a convenience store. Times have changed.

I have no doubt the manufacturers incurred price increases from their suppliers which were passed

on to their customers. In the newspaper business we have been hit with several severe price increases and unfortunately, those increases have been repeated and have come in a short period of time. Most of our readers do not know that the U.S. postal service has raised the price of newspaper delivery more than four times in the past two years and over 18% in the past 15 months. Similarly, the price of a load of newsprint has gone up dramatically in the past three or four years, and coupled with the closing of several paper mills, the supply chain is tight and the cost ever increasing. Did you know the cost of seeing the paper delivered to your door and the cost of the newsprint it is printed on is roughly 50% of the cost of the paper? This is before the first reporter, copy editor, pressman or publisher gets a penny. Or before the electric bill, phone bill and other regular expenses get paid. These core costs have nearly doubled in the past 10 years.

Prices for newspapers will continue to go up, just like

every other commodity, but where else is there as much entertainment, enlightenment, joy and education as that achieved through the purchase and reading of a newspaper? In 10 minutes, that \$6 cup of coffee is gone forever, but with the newspaper you have grown, learned, seen and experienced your community and all that has happened that week. Sounds like a wonderful bargain to me.

Newspapers need your support. We are an important part of the community. We report and document your life and are a source of information that cannot be replaced. If you do not believe that, ask a community that has lost its paper.

We are your community newspaper, and you are our community. You are worthy of our attention, and we are worthy of your continued support. Sounds like a match made in heaven!

Thought for the day: Price is one factor to consider when making a purchase, but value is what makes the purchase worthwhile.

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

Product	Cost in 1974	Cost in 2024	% change over 50 years
Bread	\$0.28	\$2.50	892% up
Gasoline	\$0.53	\$3.20	603% up
Electricity	\$.025 per kilowatt	\$15.45 per kilowatt	618% up
Cup of coffee	\$0.56 a cup	\$3.41 a cup	608% up
Soft drink	\$0.15 a can	\$1.00 a can	667% up
U.S. stamp	\$0.10	\$0.73	730% up
Newspaper	\$0.25	\$1.00	400% up

Comparison of the cost of items in 1974 vs. the cost of items today.

Tarrant County experiences increase in West Nile activity

STAFF REPORT

TARRANT COUNTY — Tarrant County Public Health has observed a significant increase in West Nile virus activity for the 2024 season, which runs from April to November.

In the current 2024 mosquito season, there are 28 human West Nile Disease cases with 24 hospitalized and one death reported. Across

the county, 482 mosquito samples have tested positive for WNV. Comparatively, the 2023 season ended with 12 human cases and 244 positive mosquito samples.

TCPH urges residents to prevent, protect and take control against mosquitoes.

"As children are headed back to school, family and sporting activities begin to take place at prime mos-

quito activity times," TCPH Director and Local Health Authority Dr. Brian Byrd said in a recent press release. "If you are going to be outside, keep the air moving by using a fan. Mosquitoes surprisingly do not fly well."

The mosquitoes that transmit West Nile virus are most active during the period as the sun begins to rise and when the sun begins to set.

MORE TIPS TO PREVENT, PROTECT AND TAKE CONTROL:

- Even on the lowest setting, floor fans can help to keep mosquitoes from landing and biting. Portable handheld fans can also work well with airflow as low as eight mph.
- Do not leave standing water in pet dishes, saucers of flowerpots or kids' toys for

more than two days.

- Use "Mosquito Dunks" or "Mosquito Bits" to eliminate mosquito larvae in areas that cannot be drained like bird baths or other ornamental pools.
- Cut down weeds in the yard, paying particular attention to areas that surround the foundation of the house.

· Protect yourself by using EPA-approved repellent.

To keep up-to-date with the status of mosquito traps across the area, visit Tarrant County's *Mosquito Dashboard Map* online. For more information about West Nile Virus visit the "Be Mosquito Free" webpage.

TORCH

FROM PAGE A1

do this."

On the contrary, Campbell told The Azle News in a previous article that she nominated Edwards because of his favorable qualities — a sense of humor, professionalism and likeability.

"I wrote that Billy is a very good role model for the employees in the store," she said in the May 23, 1996, Azle News article. "He's a gentleman, has good leadership qualities and everybody in the store looks up to him."

Edwards said his wife also couldn't believe he was nominated. In fact, it didn't really sink in until the torch arrived in Fort Worth, and Edwards learned where his route would be — about 5/8ths of a mile on Rosedale Street in Fort Worth, an area which he was told was a bad part of town.

"Well, I shouldn't have no problem running if I got to be running from people," Edwards said at the time.

In spring 1996, Edwards was in his mid-40s. He played softball with a church league but still had reservations about running. However, that day, he said he wasn't breathing hard, and trotting came naturally to him. He remembers a police officer pulling up to him on a motorcycle while he was carrying the

torch to say that the police would follow at his speed, whether it be fast or slow.

"That's when the cop pulled over beside me and said, 'Don't you worry about how fast you're going,'" Edwards said. "I said, 'I'm not. Am I worrying y'all?' He says, 'No, no, no, no, I'm just saying we go at your pace.'"

At one point, the flame went out while Edwards was carrying it. He said some guys watching the procession ran up to him offering to light the flame, but an official stepped in and stopped this. The Olympic torch could not be relit with a cigarette lighter, but instead with the mother flame that was riding in a BMW, Edwards said.

Olympic torches change each time the summer and winter Games occur and are designed to represent the host country, according to the Olympics website. As such, the torch from the 1996 Olympics included a center grip made from Georgia pecan wood. The flame arrived in Los Angeles from Greece in April of that year and traveled across the U.S. until it arrived in Atlanta in July. More than 12,000 torchbearers participated in the U.S.'s relay.

The torches are designed to be wind resistant. When Edwards was carrying it at first, he held it upright and away from himself because he was nervous about getting burned.

"(Feeling the heat,) I said, 'What if my hair catches on fire?'" he said. "My hair was longer then than it is now. I said, 'Ooh, I don't want that.' I started holding it up straighter and away. And that's when it blew out."

When the flame was relit, Edwards was advised to let the torch lean back so the wind would blow over it.

After lighting the next person's torch, Edwards said he fell as he was getting on the bus carrying the torchbearers and was put back on his feet by the man who had lit his torch.

"He reached down and grabbed me and picked me up with two hands. 'Are you OK?' I said, 'I ain't been this good in a long time, and I probably won't be this good for the rest of my life,'" Edwards said. "He said, 'My feelings exactly.'"

Edwards was given the opportunity to buy the torch, and his employers at the supermarket decided to pay for it. Edwards said he tried to leave the torch with the company but was told to "take it and enjoy it."

"So, I took it, and I'm still enjoying it," he said.

Talking about being a torchbearer causes Edwards to get emotional. He remembers his whole family being there, including his parents and oldest brother who have since died. The only person absent was one of his sisters who lived in Georgia at the



MADELYN EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Billy Edwards holds his Olympic torch in one hand and his scrapbook with a 1996 article from The Azle News in the other hand. Edwards was one of the torchbearers for the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta and participated in the torch relay in Fort Worth. His scrapbook also includes a picture of the torchbearers being honored at a Texas Rangers game.

time. She called him later that day to ecstatically tell him that she saw him running on TV.

"Family means a lot to me," he said.

The 1996 Olympics were special to more than just Edwards. Though ancient Greeks started the Olympic Games around 776 B.C., Pierre de Coubertin led the revival of the Games in 1896, which meant the 1996 Olympics was celebrated as the centennial. In honor of the 100th anniversary,

Edwards' Olympic torch is engraved with all the locations of the Summer Olympics up to that point.

The final person who lights the Olympic Games is usually a celebrity, Edwards said. So, who lit the Olympic cauldron in 1996?

"Me!" Edwards joked to his peers before revealing that the person to light the cauldron was Muhammad Ali.

Edwards clarified that he didn't dream of participating in the Olympics like the 1996

Azle News article implied, though he did enjoy watching the games in general. He likened the feeling of watching the Olympics to college football — the chance to see dedicated and humble young people put their hearts into their sport.

"The kids, to me, sound honest," he said. "They say, 'It's an honor to even be here. I don't even care if I win. I'm just glad I'm in.' I thought I really do believe them. Truth and honesty go a long way with me."

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FILE PHOTO

Azle Police Chief Ben Hall presented the Crime Control and Prevention District's budget to Azle City Council.

CCPD proposes increased budget

ZACH FREEMAN
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AZLE — Created by the Texas Legislature in 1989, Crime Control and Prevention Districts are intended to give smaller communities a way to raise more funding for law enforcement efforts. In 2001, Azle's CCPD was established by popular vote. Voters re-approved the entity in 2006, 2011 and 2021.

With oversight from a seven-member board, two city council members and Azle's police chief, the district provides additional funding for the Azle Police Department throughout the year. Largely using a city-wide crime control sales tax, the CCPD enables the department to spend more on training, travel, overtime pay and supplies among other resources.

This year the district collected \$829,000 in sales tax revenue for this purpose. On Aug. 5, Police Chief Ben Hall came before the city council during a public hearing to explain new and notable expenses in the CCPD's 2024-2025 proposed budget.

Among the board's requests were \$13,070 in additional funding for training, specifically for APD sergeants and corporals, and \$30,000 in funding for overtime pay up front. Hall explained that funding overtime up front would be more effective than asking the council for the funding in the mid-year budget when preexisting funds start to run low. The proposed budget also states with increased overtime the department can build on youth programs to strengthen community ties.

Another \$30,000 in funds was requested for officers to replace their current Gen 4 Glock 17s, purchased in 2016, with Gen 5 Glock 47 MOS handguns. These new sidearms will come equipped with electronic optics and backup iron sights. Hall said as their firearms age, the department must begin to invest more time and money into maintaining and preparing them and new top-of-the-line equipment better prepares officers for every possible outcome.

In total, the board also

proposed \$28,995 for new software programs. The costliest of the three programs is ClearView AI at \$10,500.

"If we have a video of a suspect, we can plug that into ClearView AI and it will do a deep dive on that image through facial recognition," Hall said. "We can look up open-source things like jail booking photos, the internet, social media, and help develop suspects. We did a test case for 30 days. Out of a large number of cases, I think we ended up finding 11 suspects and closed 11 cases that we couldn't have closed otherwise without it. One was a sexual assault. So, kind of cool. It's good. It's neat software."

The APD will also switch databases and software used for investigations from TLO to Accurant for \$8,000. Hall said this new database will better allow crime analysts to search for reports and information on suspects who are committing crimes in Azle. The final proposed software purchase was Motorola Redaction Software, for \$10,495, which Hall said will save time from the burdensome task of manually redacting information in open records requests. The CCPD board requested an additional \$35,000 be added to IT Services to cover the increased software and maintenance fees. In January, the city council approved the APD to enter into an agreement with TxDOT placing automated license plate readers on Azle service roads. The 11 cameras are planned to be installed in February 2025 and the APD has elected to pay for the project using CCPD funding instead of the general fund to the tune of \$36,000.

During the next fiscal year, CCPD funds are also likely to be used to reconfigure the console layout for Azle's police dispatcher's eight large monitors. Hall presented a \$12,000 proposal which should increase visibility and better facilitate communication between dispatchers and their supervisor.

Azle City Manager Tom Muir explained that the office's current layout is circu-

lar and to allow for the supervisor to see each console and more easily walk around the room, each dispatcher's console should instead be against the wall.

"It's an improvement in it should get us a little bit more room in that working space," Hall said. "It'll also improve functionality, training and allowing the supervisor to supervise... The supervisor can see what multiple people are doing at once. It's just a better configuration. It's also easier to get all the high-tech gear, because you're not having to go through someone else's console to get through it."

The CCPD also requested \$35,000 for annual medical and wellness evaluations for APD staff. The proposal states this will help keep the department at maximum operational readiness and will allow it to provide employees with a total health portfolio. Hall remarked that the Azle Fire Department has already implemented similar procedures, and this change will be a boon due to the stressful and physically demanding nature of police work.

The CCPD's projected operating expenses for the 2024-2025 fiscal year is \$1,002,804, an increase from last year's \$834,052, leaving a balance of \$170,960 after crime control sales tax revenues are applied. In order for the city council to amend any of the items or amounts in the budget, they must have a joint meeting with the CCPD board per state law. This and other budget items may be discussed further by the Azle City Council on Aug. 19 when the city will hold public hearings on the proposed budget, tax rate, water and sewer rates. On Aug. 26, the city will hold another special meeting to consider adopting the proposed budget for the new fiscal year starting Oct. 1.

During the Aug. 5 meeting, the council also reappointed Leslie Simmons, Joe Lieb and Kathy Heath to the CCPD's board.

CCPD meetings are held as needed in the community room at Azle City Hall, 505 W. Main Street. The meetings are typically at 6 p.m. and are open to the public.

Section 00 11 16 INVITATION TO BID

The City of Springtown is soliciting proposals for the construction of the following project:

Water Supply and Treatment Design for Water Treatment Plant Capacity Improvements

Sealed proposals must be delivered to:

Physical Address:

**The City of Springtown City Hall,
102 East Second St.,
Springtown, Texas 76082**

Mailing Address:

**The City of Springtown
P.O. Box 444
Springtown, TX 76082**

Proposals shall be received no later than **September 12, 2024 at 2:00 PM**. The proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud at this time and place. Bids received after this time will be returned unopened. Address proposals to **David Miller, City Administrator**.

Contract Documents and geotechnical report may be examined free of charge at the following addresses:

Engineer	Owner
Westwood Professional Services, Inc. 7557 Rambler Road Suite 1400 Dallas, TX 75231	City of Springtown 102 Easy Second Street Springtown, TX 76082
Clint A. Bissett, P.E.	David Miller, City Administrator

Advertisement and bid phase information for the Project can be found at the following web site: <https://cityofspringtown.com/live/city-services/bid-invitations/>

Contract Documents may downloaded or viewed free of charge at this web site. It is the downloader's responsibility to determine that a complete set of documents, as defined in the Instructions to Bidders are received. Printed copies of the Contract Documents may be purchased at the website for the cost of printing. The cost for printed Contract Documents is not refunded.

This web site will be updated periodically with addenda, planholders lists, bid tabulations, additional reports or other information relevant to bidding the Project.

A non-mandatory pre-bid conference for the project will be held on:

Date: August 28, 2024

Time: 2:00 PM

Location: City of Springtown City Hall

Direct questions regarding distribution of Contract Documents for this project to Westwood. Direct questions related to the design of the project to:

Project Manager

Clint A. Bissett, PE

972-235-3031

Clint.bissett@westwoodps.com

This project consists of design improvements of the Surface Water Treatment Plant, which includes two (2) new pumps, one (1) new Trident Unit, and upgrades to the electrical equipment and controls.

Bidders must submit a cashier's check, certified check, or acceptable bidder's bond with their proposal as a guarantee that the Bidder will enter into a contract for the project with the Owner within 15 days of Notice of Award of the contract. The security must be payable to Owner in the amount of 5 percent of the bid submitted. Contractor must execute the contract, bonds and certificates of insurance on the forms provided in the Contract Documents.

Contractors for this Project must pay no less than the prevailing wage rates for the area established by the Owner and included in the contract documents.

The City of Springtown reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any informalities in the bidding.

Performance, Payment, and Maintenance Bonds are required.

The Owner reserves the right to adopt the most advantageous interpretation of the bids submitted in the case of ambiguity or lack of clearness in stating proposal prices, to reject any or all bids, and/or waive formalities. Bids may not be withdrawn within 90 days from date on which bids are opened.

This contract is contingent upon release of funds from the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB). Any contract or contracts awarded under this Request for Proposals are expected to be funded in part by a loan or grant from the TWDB. Neither the State of Texas nor any of its departments, agencies or employees is or will be a party to this Invitation to Bid or any resulting contract.

Equal Opportunity in Employment — All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, handicap or national origin. Offerors are required to comply with the President's Executive Order No. 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375, and as supplemented in department of Labor regulations 41 CFR Part 60.

END OF SECTION

Man drowns during CrossFit Games near Lake Worth

JOLEE SKINNER
jolee@tricountyreporter.com

LAKE WORTH, TX — A 28-year-old man drowned in Marine Creek Lake while competing in the CrossFit Games.

On Aug. 8, Fort Worth first responders responded to a call of a possible drowning. Fort Worth Fire Department at 10 a.m. recovered the body of Lazar Đukic, who

was competing in the swim and run event for the annual CrossFit happening in Fort Worth this year.

According to the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's website, Đukic was pronounced dead at 10:24 a.m. Thursday.

It was the first day of the games, which were being live streamed on ESPN+ when the stream abruptly ended.

Later that afternoon, the


Fort Worth Police Department publicly released the identity of Đukic.

CrossFit CEO Don Faul said a third-party investigation will be launched into Đukic's drowning.

Đukic was from Serbia and was a four-time CrossFit Games athlete. When the drowning took place, Đukic was competing in an 800-meter swim with only 100 meters to go left in the race.


News From Azle City Hall

We welcome your comments or suggestions on information you would like to see reported on this page. Please call Azle City Hall, 817-444-2541, or email Assistant to the City Manager Susie Hiles at shiles@cityofazle.org. Until next month.....



Clean It Up – Green It Up

Azle City-Wide clean up and recycling event



Saturday, September 14

City Garage

8:00 am - 1:00 pm

470 Denver Trail

The City of Azle, in partnership with Community Waste Disposal (CWD), will conduct a **FREE** city-wide clean-up. Residents can drop off brush, furniture, bulky items, appliances, metal for recycling and small amounts of construction materials from do-it-yourself projects.

CWD will be on site to collect Household Hazardous Waste (paints, chemicals, cleaners, used motor oil and batteries), E*waste (computers, printers, electronic devices, old television sets), used tires and a document shredder will be on site.

We ask that you pre-sort as much as possible; this will help keep traffic moving and allow staff to work as efficiently as possible. This is a *free* event for Azle residents and proof of Azle residency will be required by presenting your utility bill and driver's license.

Items Not Accepted: Ammunition, asbestos, boats, building materials, butane cylinders, explosives, medical waste, PCBs, propane cylinders, radioactive material, and smoke detectors.

Questions? Contact Storm Water Manager Jimmy Duvall at 817-444-4511.



What's Happening at The FeedLot?

AN OUTDOOR DINING EXPERIENCE
225 Church Street, Azle

The FeedLot is your new go-to destination for a fantastic food truck dining experience right here in Azle!

But that's not all! You'll also enjoy live music, fun events, and connect with the community in a family friendly atmosphere. The FeedLot also hosts Azle Farmers Market on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month.

Here's what you can expect in the coming weeks....

- ⇒ 8/17 - Dog Days of Summer – Supporting the Azle Animal Shelter
- ⇒ 8/17 - Azle's Farmers Market
- ⇒ 8/31 - 90's Night at the FeedLot, Featuring Dustin Bell



Football Season at The FeedLot


With football season right around the corner, The FeedLot will be extending its hours on Friday night when Azle Hornets play at home, 5pm - 11pm. Plus, we'll be hosting Azle Football watch parties for the away games! Be sure to follow The Feedlot on Facebook (facebook.com/FeedlotAzle) to get details about our Azle Football watch parties and other upcoming events!

Azle Animal Shelter wants to help you keep your pets healthy

Azle Animal Shelter partners with Texas Coalition for Animal Protection (TCAP) to provide low-cost monthly vaccination clinics and quarterly spay/neuter clinics. Vaccination clinics are held the third Tuesday of the month and quarterly on the second Saturday. **Remaining dates in 2024 are: September 17, November 9 and December 17.**


Animal Control also partners with TCAP to provide low-cost spay/neuter clinics for any individual whose pet needs sterilization. **Next spay/neuter clinic is September 17.** The procedures are conducted at the old Azle Library, 609 SE Parkway, by a licensed veterinarian and veterinary technicians. By appointment only; slots fill fast, so call toll free (940) 566-5551.

For more information, visit the city website at: <https://tx-azle3.civicplus.com/602/Vaccinations>.



Low-Cost Vaccine Clinic
940-566-5551 www.texasforthem.org

Sprinkler Evaluation Program



Outdoor water use can add up to 50% or more of the water we use during the summer. Improving sprinkler system efficiency can minimize waste and build a healthy landscape.

Tarrant Regional Water District, City of Azle, and M&M Irrigation and Illumination have partnered together to provide a Sprinkler System Evaluation Program to Azle homeowners, **at no charge**. The evaluation program provides a **free** comprehensive look at your sprinkler system including components, controller, and current watering schedule and provides a valuable, detailed report to both the homeowner and the city with recommended changes to help increase efficiency and reduce water waste.

If interested, register at www.mysprinklereval.com/?Azle or visit the city website for more information.

Azle Memorial Library News and Free Events

333 W Main St, Azle, TX 76020

817-752-2682 - www.azlelibrary.org - facebook.com/azlelibrary

Fall Storytime - Resumes August 21


Little ones and their caregivers can participate in early learning fun with the Children's Librarian! Tiny Tykes (ages 1-2) takes place on Wednesdays at 10:30am, and Pre-School Pals (ages 3-6) takes place Thursdays at 10:30am.

Library Closures:

- Monday, 9/2: Closed for Labor Day
- Saturday 9/14: Closed for Sting Fling. Visit our booth in front of the Library that day! Please note: The outside return drops will be inaccessible during Sting Fling.

FREE In-Person Programs

The Library offers a variety of free entertaining and educational programs for kids, teens, and adults. Learn about upcoming programs by visiting the Library's website, Facebook page, or monthly newsletter.



Azle Municipal Facilities Closed Labor Day


Monday, September 2

Azle City facilities will close September 2 in observance of Labor Day.

Police and Fire services will be available at 817-444-3221, or 9-1-1 in case of an emergency. For water and sewer emergencies, please call 817-444-3221.

Community Waste Disposal will run their regular residential garbage/recycle route and commercial route.

Scan for more information on what's happening in the City of Azle or visit us at www.cityofazle.org.





A group poses for a photo after last year's Trash Bash.

FILE PHOTO

TRWD's Eagle Mountain Trash Bash set Sept. 7

STAFF REPORT

AZLE — The Tarrant Regional Water District will host its 32nd Annual Eagle Mountain Trash Bash Saturday, Sept. 7.

Community volunteers are encouraged to pick up trash and debris around the lake from 8-10 a.m., and then attend a volunteer after-party at Twin Points Park from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Registration for the event closes Sept. 2. Volunteers who sign-up before Aug. 19 will also receive a free Trash Bash T-shirt.

In more than 30 years of hosting cleanup events, thou-

sands of community members have helped remove more than 500 tons of trash from local waterways, according to TRWD's website.

To find out more information about the event, registration, packet pickup and the after-party, visit www.trwd.com/trashbash.

In addition to this event, TRWD hopes to give volunteers a better way to pick up litter year-round. By downloading the mobile phone app Litterati and entering join code JOINTRWD, readers can help TRWD compile a database by snapping a picture as they pick up garbage. The

app will allow users to smart-tag litter photos before uploading them. Crowdsourced litter data helps TRWD learn what kind of litter contaminates Tarrant area waterways, where it is recurring, and how the district can best prevent the problem at the source.

ADDITIONAL UPCOMING CLEANUP EVENTS IN THE AREA:

- Cedar Creek Lake, Saturday, Sept. 28
- Cobb Park, Saturday, Sept. 21
- Trinity River, Saturday, Sept. 21



Fencing now blocks off most of the AJH campus on Jarvis Lane.

ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

AJH

FROM PAGE A1

work needs to be done at night, the BTC representatives said they will keep the disturbance to a minimum, using only small security lights for the most part.

Superintendent Todd Smith noted that for much of construction, BTC will occupy the baseball field at AJH rendering it unusable for several seasons. Trammel and Martin explained that because of space limits with the current AJH campus, drainage areas and driveways, BTC did not have a better alterna-

tive. BTC said a new drive will be in place by next summer. Classes at the current AJH building will begin as scheduled Wednesday and will continue concurrently with construction.

The new Azle Junior High School will consist of three stories and, when completed, the new building will accommodate 1,200 sixth through eighth graders. The school will be built in steps of increasing height, comparable to a wedding cake, but because of the drastic differences in elevation throughout the campus, it will appear as if it is only one story from the north side when complete.

BTC will return to the board in September to pitch a guaranteed maximum price for Phase II of construction. All new facilities are expected to be online and ready for the school year by August 2026. Removal of the existing junior high building will be in the last phase of construction.

"There's a lot of moving parts of this project," Trammel said. "It's a very difficult project but we do this all the time. We spend a lot of time and effort planning and thinking about how we're going to do it. I think we've got a pretty good plan in place."

TAX

FROM PAGE A1

of what's going on with our tax rate," City Administrator David Miller said during the Aug. 1 council meeting.

Taxpayers who own a home with a taxable value of \$238,753 would have a bill of about \$1,114.67 with the city's current rate, Derr said. If the not-to-exceed rate is adopted, that person's bill would go up by \$94.83. Each penny that the tax rate goes up would equate to about \$23.88.

An upside to this situation is that if the council adopted the not-to-exceed rate, the city may be able to pay cash instead of leasing equipment items listed in the budget, like a police patrol vehicle, trucks for new parks groundskeepers, a Kubota mower with a side-arm and an additional animal control vehicle, Miller said.

Generating more revenue in this one-time allowance of flexibility for the city can also help as the city prepares to see more losses related to the tax freeze in the coming years paired with the city's growth leveling off, Derr said.

Because the tax freeze for qualifying homesteaders means a loss in revenue for the city, nonqualifying property taxpayers will have to take on more tax burden, and the city might not be able to keep decreasing its tax rate like it has in the past, Derr said.

"The reality is that police officers don't stop going to people's homes because they have a tax freeze; we don't stop paving the roads in front of their house; we don't bar them from the library or from the parks," she said during the council meeting. "When you have a pie that is your tax levy and some people's pieces get smaller, but you need the pie to stay the same size, the

only option is for everybody else's pieces to get bigger. And so, you will see in coming years that the ability we've had over the last several years to continuously drop the tax rate, sometimes by a substantial amount, that's going to become less and less frequent just because we're having to make up for the implications of the senior tax freeze."

Springtown's proposed budget includes a 5% cost-of-living pay raise for city employees and a 5% increase on utility rates. The budget also allocates funds for park improvements, a new mower, a monument sign for the public library, creation of a citizens academy, equipment for a special response team and a UTV for administration and police. The city is also poised to hire an additional court clerk, water utility technician, two new groundskeepers for the parks, a full-time kennel technician and two part-time librarians.

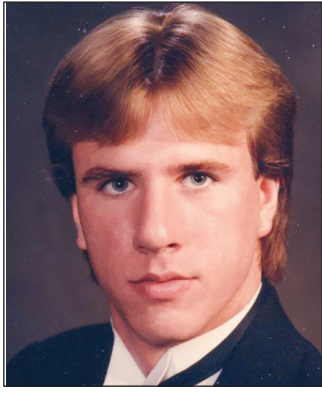
OBITUARIES

Brent William Creamer 1970-2024

Brent William Creamer, 54, took Jesus by the hand and crossed over the River Jordan July 9, 2024. Brent is the son of Gene Creamer and Janetta Mullennix Wright.

Brent grew up on a farm with his brother Russell and friends on the banks of Ash Creek in Azle and took great pride in being "raised country." Growing up, Brent enjoyed trapping, quail hunting, fishing and coon hunting with his bluetick hound, Dixie. He excelled at playing baseball when growing up and passed a lot of his knowledge of the game to his son Jake. Brent graduated with honors from Azle High School with the class of 1988. He was greatly influenced by his Papaw Creamer who he worked for while growing up at Creamer's Service Station in Azle. Brent earned his A&P license and worked at Premier Aviation and spent more than 20 years at Lockheed Martin as an aircraft mechanic and inspector. He was very meticulous and excelled at everything he did. Brent enjoyed building hot rod cars and trucks, guns and anything mechanical. His greatest passion was singing, self-taught mastery of the guitar and playing his great granddad's fiddle.

Brent accepted Jesus Christ as his savior at an early age. The family finds comfort in knowing he is playing his fiddle and guitar in heaven with the "Angel Band."



Brent is preceded in death by grandparents, Arvie Jacob and Eva Mae Creamer and Warren and Ann Mullennix; cousin Jeffrey Creamer (son of Johnny Creamer and Diana Vale); stepdad Martin Wright; and numerous aunts, uncles and friends.

He is survived by his wife Krystal and her children and grandchildren; son Preston Jacob Creamer and his mother, Katrina Weekley; stepmother Theresa Creamer; brother Russell Creamer and wife Pam; uncle Johnny Creamer and wife Carolyn; aunt Shauna Smitt and husband John; and numerous cousins.

Brent will be dearly missed and loved by all, and we know in our hearts he has arrived at his new home in Beulah Land. "In the sweet by and by we shall meet on that beautiful shore."

The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday August 15, 2024

Bobby Dean Holland 1948-2024

Bobby Dean Holland, born Nov. 17, 1948, in Azle, passed away Aug. 6, 2024. He spent his entire life in Azle, attending Azle schools and leaving a lasting impact on his community.

A funeral service was at noon, Friday, Aug. 9, in Biggers Funeral Chapel under its direction.

Interment followed the service at Azleland Memorial Park.

Bobby's journey of faith began at Walnut Creek Baptist Church as a child when he felt called by God to profess his faith and accept Jesus as his Lord and Savior.

Despite facing numerous health challenges at a young age due to Addison's Disease, Bobby was determined and resilient. He embarked on a 45-year career at W Pat Crow Forgings Company, holding various positions until his retirement in 2012 as its purchasing agent.

In 1977, Bobby married Marcia Collins, with whom he shared a wonderful life until her passing in 2003.

In 2008, he found love again with Kathy Garner, and they married in 2011 in Las Vegas. Bobby embraced his role as an instant father, PaPa, son-in-law and SHPC, including recently becoming a Great Papa. His love for his family, especially the children and grandchildren, was evident in the special bond they shared. Bobby taught them valuable life lessons and created memories that will be cherished forever.

Experiencing medical challenges in recent years that limited his favorite activities, Bobby continued to find joy in gambling, fishing and live music.

He was known for his sweet, loving nature, good humor and unwavering loyalty to those he held dear.



Bobby's presence will be deeply missed, but the impact of his love and kindness will live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved him.

As we mourn the loss of Bobby, we also celebrate the legacy of a kind-hearted man who touched the lives of many and left an indelible mark on the world around him. May his memory bring comfort and peace to all who were fortunate enough to have known him.

Bobby was preceded in death by his late wife, Marcia Holland; mother, Martella Holland; brother, Kenneth Don Holland; nephew, Jon Holland; and brother-in-law, Jere Garner.

Survivors include wife, Kathy Garner; children, Clayton and Krystle Bradford, Candace Lamb; grandchildren, Raylynne Lamb and Kyler Greathouse, Kaitlynn Bradford, Colton Bradford; great-grandson, Charles Dean Greathouse; brother, Billy Holland; sister-in-law, Joni Holland; mother and father-in-law, Shirley and Ray Garner; brothers-in-law, Gary Garner, Steve Garner and sister-in-law, Sue Garner; numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, lifelong friends and coworkers.

The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday August 15, 2024

Sondra Bogy Williams 1941-2024

Sondra Bogy Williams, a 50-year resident of the Azle area, passed away Aug. 8, 2024, at her home after enduring Alzheimer's for 15 years.

Her body was donated to UT Southwestern for scientific studies. No other funeral services are planned.

Sondra was born in Burkburnett April 1, 1941, was a 1959 graduate of West Columbia High School and a 1962 graduate of the University of Texas.

Sondra was an avid quilter, having taught in Taiwan and Japan, and attended national quilt shows in Tokyo, Istanbul and Budapest (where she also displayed a quilt); she was co-president of the Trinity Valley Quilters Guild. She was an active member of Azle Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) as elder emeritus, Sunday School teacher, and women's ministry member. She taught school in the Azle ISD at Walnut Creek and Azle Elementaries.

Sondra was blessed to live in Taiwan, Japan and Korea for 10 years where her husband was assigned, making lasting friendships with local and international people. She possessed a lively sense of humor and was extremely likeable. A suggestion for memorials is the missions ministry of Azle Christian Church.

She was predeceased by her son Colby Williams of



Waco; brother Gary Bogy of Waxahachie; and parents Waid and Ruby Bogy of West Columbia.

She is survived by her husband John Williams of Azle; daughter Marcie Markell of Mountain Home, Arkansas; grandchildren Matthew Markell (wife Kara, son Christopher) of Springfield, Missouri, Alicia Markell of Gainesville, Missouri, Sarah Jackson (husband Jonah, sons Oliver, Jamie and Tommy) of Mountain Home, Arkansas, Daniel Markell of Azle, and Genevieve Markell of Mountain Home, Arkansas; brother Don Bogy (wife Bonnie) of West Columbia; sister-in-law Linda Williams Filgo of Waco; brother-in-law Michael Williams (wife Claudia) of Lakeway; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday August 15, 2024

Melissa Cheryl Heath 1954-2024

Melissa Cheryl Moss Heath, 70, passed away peacefully July 31, 2024. She was born April 13, 1954, to Juanita Nichols and Troy Nichols. Melissa was a proud resident of Azle and made many friends over the years.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Juanita Smith and Troy Nichols, and grandson, Clayton Booth.

Melissa is survived by her spouse of 42 years, Glenn Heath; son, Jason Moss; son and daughter-in-law Kenneth and Kimberly Heath; daughter, Stella Ballard; daughter and son-in-law Shelly Heath and Matthew Thomas; grandchildren Hayden Clark, Carter Alvarado, Tanner Ashbury-Moss, Holby Ashbury-Moss, Chandler Ashbury-Moss, Cramer Ashbury-Moss, Marcum Evans, Amber Booth, Justin Heath, Alex Heath and Ainslee Thomas; great-grand-



daughter, Faith Consula; sisters, Vicki Bente, Dee Havens, Sandy Rose, Molly Nichols Doskocil; brother, Kirby Nichols; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

A memorial will be at David Beards Restaurant in Azle at noon Saturday, Aug. 17 in the banquet room.

The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday August 15, 2024

You're not alone.

If you or someone you know is considering suicide, please contact the **National Suicide Prevention Hotline 1-800-273-TALK (8255)** text "STRENGTH" to the **Crisis Text Line at 741-741** or go to **SuicidePreventionLifeline.org**

To place an obituary
Call
817-270-3340

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... ATTEND THE CHURCH OF YOUR CHOICE THIS SUNDAY

<p>THE ABBEY CHURCH Pastor: Paul Brownback 10400 Jacksboro Hwy 817-238-1404 www.TheAbbeyChurch.com Morning Worship..... 10:30 AM Community Groups..... Various Times</p> <p>ASH CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH Pastor: Dr. G. Wesley Shotwell 300 South Stewart St. 817-444-3219 www.ashcreekbc.org Sunday School..... 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship-TMP..... 10:45 AM Traditional Worship..... 10:45 AM Evening Worship/Youth Refuge..... 6:00 PM Wednesday Evening..... 6:15 PM</p> <p>AZLE FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD Rev. Joshua Lowrance 1020 S.E. Parkway, Azle 817-237-4903 Sunday School..... 9:30 AM Morning Worship..... 10:30 AM Wednesday Evening..... 7:00 PM</p> <p>COMMUNITY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH Pastor - Alton Davis 817-521-4510 1405 Reynolds Rd., Azle 817-444-7117 Directions: 730 N. to 1542 .5 mi. right on Cardinal, left on Reynolds Sunday School..... 9:45 AM Morning Worship..... 11:00 AM Sunday Evening..... 6:00 PM Wednesday Evening..... 7:00 PM</p>	<p>AZLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH DISCIPLES OF CHRIST Reverend Russell Clark, Youth Minister Joey Garcia 117 Church St. • 817-444-3527 Sunday School..... 10:00 AM Morning Worship..... 11:00 AM</p> <p>CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH 2233 Hwy 199 E., Springtown 817-221-LIFE (5433) Sunday Worship Service..... 10:00 AM Wednesday..... 7:00 PM</p> <p>CROSSROADS BAPTIST CHURCH Pastor - Jon Baker Corner FM 730S & FM 1886 817-755-0279 Transportation Available Worship Service..... 10:30 AM Wed. Prayer Service..... 7:00 PM</p> <p>THE EDGE CHURCH - AZLE 1313 S.E. Pkwy, Azle 817-237-4822 Missouri Synod "Love God - Serve Others - Share Jesus" Traditional Worship..... 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship..... 11:00 AM</p> <p>FIRST METHODIST CHURCH OF AZLE Pastor: Rev. Raymond Gilman 200 Church St., Azle 817-444-3323 Morn. Worship..... 8:30 & 10:45 AM Sunday School..... 9:45 AM Youth..... 5:00 PM Sun & 6:30 PM Wed</p>	<p>GRACEPOINTE CHURCH 4110 E. Hwy 199, Springtown Pastor: Timothy McKeown 817-221-5683 gracepointesbc.org Sunday School..... 9:45 am Sunday Service..... 11:00 AM Wednesday Bible Study..... 6:00 PM</p> <p>HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH 800 Highcrest Dr. - Azle 817-444-3063 Saturday..... 5:00 PM Sunday..... 9:00 AM Sunday..... 11 AM (Spanish) Daily Mass (M, T, Th, F)..... 8:00 AM Wednesday Mass Religious ED..... 6:30 PM Confessions..... Sat 4 PM</p> <p>SOLID ROCK BIBLE CHURCH 591 S. Reno Rd., Springtown, Texas 76082 Pastor - Bill Gay - 817-304-7443 Coffee and Donuts..... 9:00 AM Sunday School..... 9:30 AM Morning Worship..... 10:30 AM Children's Church After Music Service Wed. Prayer Meeting..... 6:30 PM Wed. Bible Study..... 7:00 PM</p> <p>SILVER CREEK METHODIST CHURCH Pastor: Bill Killough 2200 Church Rd., Azle 817-444-1382 www.silvercreekmc.org Sunday School 9:30 AM • Worship 10:30 AM</p>	<p>HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA 4795 E. Hwy 199 - Reno 817-221-HOPE Follow us on Facebook for streaming services Sunday School..... 9:00 AM Traditional Service..... 10:00 AM</p> <p>LEGACY CHURCH Assembly of God Church Pastor: Gary D. Veazey Hwy. 199 & Jaybird Lane 817-221-2983 Morning Worship..... 9:15 & 11:00 AM Kidz Zone..... 9:15 & 11:00 AM Weds Evening Legacy Group Legacy Youth, Kids All Services..... 7:00 PM</p> <p>THE RANCH CHRISTIAN COWBOY CHURCH Pastor: Greg Slankard 7955 Reed Rd., Azle 682-327-7082 www.TheRanchCCC.org Sunday School 9:30 AM • Worship 10:00 AM Weds 7:00 pm • Thurs Potluck 6:30 pm</p> <p>SILVER CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH Pastor: Jay Ditty Minister of Music: David Musick Corner FM 730 S. & Veal Station Rd. Church 817-444-2325 www.silvercreekbc.org Sunday School..... 9:45 AM Morning Worship..... 10:50 AM Evening Worship..... 6:00 PM Wed. Prayer Service..... 7:00 PM</p>	<p>THE WORD@LAKESIDE CHURCH OF GOD 9396 FM 1886 Fort Worth, TX 76135 817-237-5500 thewordatlakeside.com Pastors: Brandon and Kelly Bohannon Worship Pastor: Christen Moody Family Life and Young Adult Pastors: Jodie and Mark James, Kids Pastor: Katie Pearson, Student Pastors: Taylor and Sheridan Tomlin, Creative Directors: Logan and Carrie Edwards, Connections Coordinators: Preston and Ashley Larrew Equip Sunday School @ the WORD .. 9:30 AM Empower Worship @ the WORD..... 10:45 AM Kids @ the WORD..... 10:45 AM PreK @ the WORD..... 10:45 AM Emanate @ the WORD (Special Needs Ministry)..... 10:45 AM Nursery @ the WORD..... 10:45 AM Young Adults @ the WORD..... 6:00 PM Wednesdays Adult Bible Class..... 7:00 PM The WORD Students (6th-12th grades)..... 6:30 PM Awana Kids @ the WORD..... 6:30 PM Life at the WORD Life Groups ... Various Times</p>
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A church alive is worth the drive! For more information or rates on listing your church, call 817-270-3340

OBITUARIES

Marilyn Ruth Fuller 1936-2024

Marilyn Ruth Fuller, 88, passed away Sunday, Aug. 11, 2024, with her loving family by her side.

A memorial service is set for 5 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 21, at GracePointe Church, 4110 East State Highway 199, Springtown.

Marilyn was born Feb. 25, 1936, in Toledo, Ohio to James and Helen Perdiue.

She loved crocheting, baking and traveling. Marilyn was very involved in her church, enjoying Bible Study with her friends for over 15 years.

She was preceded in death by her son, Tommy Keilholtz; husband, Paul David Fuller; her parents; and her brother.

Marilyn is survived by DeSiree Wright and husband, David; grandchildren, Tiffany Alba and husband, Mauricio, Sabrina Gonzalez and hus-



band, Lupe; great-grandchildren, Christopher, Gabriel, Savannah, Mauricio and Marcus; great-great-grandchild, Santiago; and four step-grandchildren, Aaron, Paige, Stacy and Alex.

*The Tri-County Reporter,
Thursday August 15, 2024*

Cynthia Drews 1948-2024

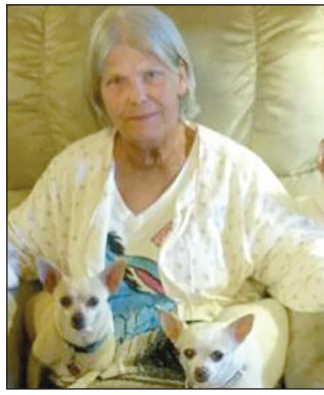
After a long hard battle with cancer, Cynthia Drews of Springtown went to her forever home July 16, 2024.

A celebration of her life will be at 2 p.m. Aug. 18, at GracePointe Church, 4110 East State Highway 199, Springtown.

Born Feb. 2, 1948, she was preceded in death by her parents, Odean and Daisy Hendrix. Cynthia was a loving wife, daughter, mother, sister and grandma (Maw-maw).

More than anything, she was an all-around beautiful and loving human being.

She is survived by her husband, Robert Drews; children, James Covey, Dewayne Covey and Donnie Nethkin; grandchildren and great grandchil-



dren; and her dogs who comforted her until her last days. She will always be loved and never forgotten.

*The Tri-County Reporter,
Thursday August 15, 2024*

Lake Worth ISD goes back to school

JOLEE SKINNER
jolee@tricityreporter.com

LAKE WORTH — The first day of the 2024-25 school year at Effie Morris Early Learning Academy in Lake Worth Independent School District began at 7 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 13.

This is the first day back for Lake Worth ISD after the summer break. Effie Morris is home to Lake Worth ISD daycare, pre-K and kindergarten students. Parents lined up all the way to the sidewalk to drop off their kids for their first day of school.

Lots of parents arrived at the school early to get some "first day of school" photos with their children. Teachers, staff and faculty greeted parents at the front doorway. Lake Worth police officers greeted parents at the door as well.

Teachers and faculty helped kids get out of the parent's vehicle at the drop off line.

Teachers had parents fill out a nametag for their child before they walked into the building for class.

Effie Morris Principal Robbin Church was outside to greet parents and kids and to help teachers pass out nametags and guide parents toward the front office to check in.

The line quickly extended out the door as kids eagerly waited to get to class. Teachers at the front door sprayed bubbles toward the kids with a big bubble machine.

The cafeteria was open for kids to eat breakfast before class started. The school nurse greeted parents inside the school and guided them to either the pre-K class or the kindergarten class. Some

children were not too keen on going to class, but the teachers reassured them everything was OK and that they would see their parents again after school.

Most parents brought supplies for the teachers' classrooms such as Kleenexes, disinfectant wipes, paper, crayons, markers and other school supplies.

Many of the students came in wearing clear or mesh backpacks to adhere to Lake Worth's new optional policy created last year that students preferably bring clear, mesh or see-through backpacks to school. However, the clear bag policy is mandatory for all sporting events in Lake Worth ISD.

Many of the students who attend Effie Morris have parents who work for the school district, so those children were very familiar with the place and walked in with

confidence.

One child said to their parents they were "so very happy" to be going to school.

Lake Worth Independent School District Communications Director Noah Ceballos said the theme for this school year is "literacy," with the goal to keep students engaged in reading throughout their scholastic journey.

"We will continue our theme of 'literacy, literacy, literacy' by incorporating reading-focused activities and resources throughout the school year, ensuring that every student thrives in their learning journey," Ceballos said.

For more information about Effie Morris Early Learning Academy or Lake Worth ISD, visit www.lhwisd.org or follow Lake Worth ISD on all social media platforms.

Effie Morris hosts annual Meet the Teacher night to welcome new and returning students

JOLEE SKINNER
jolee@tricityreporter.com

LAKE WORTH — Effie Morris Early Learning Academy had its annual Meet the Teacher night for incoming pre-K and kindergarten students Aug. 9. This is the night parents get the chance to meet their children's teachers and aids for the upcoming school year.

District Communications Coordinator Noah Ceballos said events like this are a great way to kick off the school year.

"Meet the Teacher Night was a fantastic opportunity for our Bullfrog families to connect with our dedicated educators and kick off the new school year with excitement and enthusiasm," Ceballos said. "It's moments

like these that build strong relationships and set the foundation for student success throughout the year."

The retail store "pOpshelf" also was at the event to promote themselves and to give out free candy to the kids.

The night started with parents and guardians being brought into the cafeteria for staff to explain how breakfast and lunches will work for the kids.

The staff kindly asked for parents and guardians not to have lunch with their children for the first six weeks of school to get the child acclimated to the environment and to help them gain a sense of independence.

Along with meeting their kids' primary teacher, parents also got to meet Principal Robbin Church and

Assistant Principal Cynthia Flores.

This is the first year Effie Morris is for pre-K through kindergarten and has a daycare for teachers and faculty. In previous years, Effie Morris was a pre-K through fifth grade elementary school.

Another change at the school is the hallways are now distinguished by colors to denote what area of the school a person might be in, i.e. pre-K or kindergarten area.

Parents and guardians were directed to the class their child is assigned to. Some classrooms are designated as bilingual to help those that are non-English speaking.

The teachers at Effie Morris went above and be-

yond with their decorations.

One of the teachers remarked how nice it is to have the front door of the school covered in signs that say 'hello' in different languages, as the area has had a huge increase in people that speak many other languages.

Another engaging activity the school had for parents and kids to do was a scavenger hunt where they had to find different areas of the school to help them become familiar with the building.

Also, the kids are assigned extracurricular activities during "rotation time" where the kids go to music class, P.E. etc.

The first day of school for Effie Morris is Aug. 13 at 7:30 a.m. For more information about Effie Morris, go to <https://emela.lhwisd.org/>.

Annual Public Notification of Nondiscrimination in Career and Technical Educational Programs

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

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

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

Azle ISD will take steps to assure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all educational and vocational programs.

For information about your rights or grievance procedures, contact the Title IX Coordinator, Jessica Hanson, at jhanson@azleisd.net, (817) 444-2368, and/or the Section 504 Coordinator Krista MacFarlane at kmacfarlane@azleisd.net, (817) 444-2851.

Notificación Pública de No Discriminación en Programas de Educación Técnica y Vocacional

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

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

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

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

Para información sobre sus derechos o procedimientos de quejas, comuníquese con el Coordinador del Título IX, Jessica Hanson en jhanson@azleisd.net, (817) 444-2368, y/o el Coordinador de la Sección 504, Krista MacFarlane en kmacfarlane@azleisd.net, (817) 444-2851.

UTA announces westward expansion

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

WALSH RANCH — This year's Azle High School sophomores may be among the first to get the full college experience just 20 minutes from home.

The University of Texas at Arlington announced Aug. 5 a plan to purchase 51 acres at Walsh Ranch for a new campus has been approved by the University of Texas System board of regents. The site is located less than 17

Pop-up Walsh Ranch community sees major construction project

miles south of Azle's Main Street, northeast of Aledo. The expansion is projected to cost \$150 million and will serve more than 10,000 students starting as early as fall 2028. The campus will be located within Parker County limits just south of the intersection between Walsh Ranch Parkway and Interstate

Highway 30. When completed, the campus, dubbed UTA West, will be the closest four-year university to the Azle area.

At a recent Azle Area Chamber of Commerce meeting, Patrick Lawler of ZacTax Consulting and Chris Strayer of the Parker County Economic Development

Council were the featured speakers. Along with other areas of general economic development, the pair discussed how they had played a role in courting UTA to choose Parker County for its newest proposed campus.

"It's a perfect example of how we do what we do," Strayer said. "We saw a gap. There was a higher education gap in our community. In the growth that we're having, we know that we're going to need to fill that gap. So how do we do that? We go and talk to the UTA or other universities about filling that gap for us. Same thing gets done with businesses. There's a gap here. We need a warehouse or whatever it is, then let's go find the user that we want to partner with. Let's figure out how to make it work, make it a win-win scenario for everybody, and bring that group in so that they can create jobs and create opportunities and stair set for growth for the residents that we already have here."

Strayer and Lawler described how local junior colleges, like Weatherford College, play a role in fulfilling certain job and educational needs for the area. UTA West will be able to soon fill an entirely new niche.

"A really important statement at UTA was for our very first meeting, and I didn't realize this, UTA is the number one supplier of engineers to Lockheed Martin," Lawler

said. Strayer continued, "(with) UTA, now we're talking about engineering, we're talking about physicists, we're talking about the semiconductor industry. There's going to be lots of levels of different job occupations. There's going to be the trainers or the production folks, then there's going to be the engineers and senior level folks. So, we have to partner with all of them to make sure that we're creating a talent pipeline for every level that company needs."

According to the North Central Texas Council of Governments, the area near southwest Fort Worth is expected to lead the D-FW metroplex in population growth over the next two decades. The addition of a university is sure to bring never-before-seen changes for the small community of Walsh Ranch and to surrounding areas such as Aledo, White Settlement, Lake Worth and Azle.

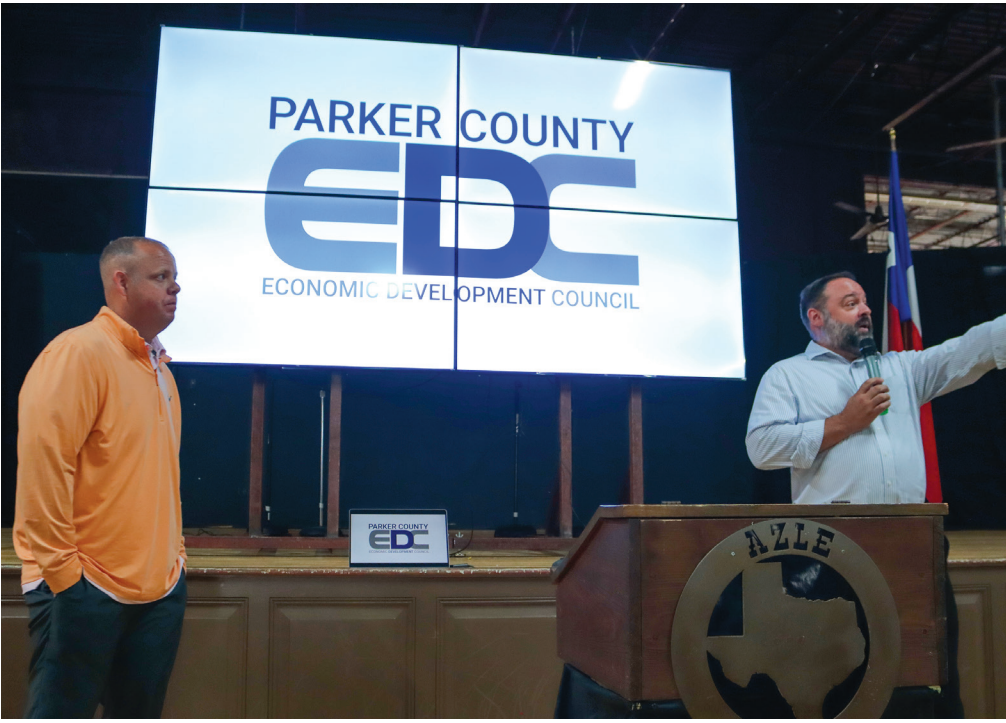
"Multiple sites were given to them for consideration. This is not just UT, this goes for every company that we work for," Strayer said. "There's utility information, there's the proximity of the workforce, there's transportation linkages, there's hundreds of factors that go into them making their decision."

According to the Walsh Ranch website, it began as privately held ranch land in the 1930s. Today, the Walsh family has made a fortune in oil, cattle ranching and

now real estate. The community bearing their name has been the site of a major move-in boom in just the last few years. In the blink of an eye, the area has gone from largely untouched prairie lands, with hardly more than a few hundred people, to a burgeoning Fort Worth suburb. Developers at Dallas-based Republic Property Group predict the land will be home to 50,000 people, roughly the current population of Grapevine, in just a few decades.

In April of 2017, RPG opened the first of its new home developments in the area and many more swiftly followed. In August 2017, a newly constructed Aledo ISD elementary school began classes for the neighborhood's residents and in October 2019, Cook Children's Health Care System opened up a new pediatric care facility across from the proposed UTA West site.

"Years from now when we look back at major milestones in the life of the Fort Worth region and UT Arlington's history, this new campus will rise to be among the top," J.B. Milliken, chancellor of the UT System said in a press release. "As cities prepare for rapid growth, the presence of great universities contributes immensely to their vibrant transformation, and we applaud the very special relationship between UT Arlington and Fort Worth as they plan for the future in such an insightful and strategic way."



(L-R): Patrick Lawler and Chris Strayer discuss economic development at a recent Azle Area Chamber of Commerce Luncheon.



Renderings of the future UTA West site's facilities.

COURTESY UTA

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Lake Worth ISD hosts registration event in local neighborhood

JOLEE SKINNER

lakeworth@tricityreporter.com

LAKE WORTH, TX — Lake Worth Independent School District hosted a back-to-school registration event at Marine Creek Apartments, located off Marine Creek Parkway, to help families register their children for school.

Lake Worth ISD Director of Emergent Bilingual (EB) Teams Arita Aurelia said this event helps reach bilingual or non-English speaking individuals and communities that are new to the area.

Aurelia and her team have been hosting these pop-up events in various other neighborhoods

to help families who may have questions or may come across any difficulties registering their children of all ages. Recently, she and her team were at The Meridian Apartments and the space was completely full of families registering their children.

Aurelia expressed that many families in the Lake Worth area are non-English speaking and speak many other languages.

“In the learning academy alone, there are at least 12 different languages being spoken,” Aurelia said.

Also on display at the Marine Creek Apartments was

Lake Worth ISD’s new library bus, created to engage with children in the community by giving away free books. Earlier in the summer, Lake Worth ISD hosted a summer library bus tour where free books were given to children. Moses Solis drove the library bus around the Marine Creek Apartments to give kids books before school starts.

Aurelia and her EB team had colorful crafts, crayons, markers and flashcards for younger children. Her team consists of five others who also attended the registration event: Norma Yazmin Davila, EB programs instructional coach; Lisa Lineberry, EB lead;



JOLEE SKINNER | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Arita Aurelia and Daron Worrell help a family register their child for school.



JOLEE SKINNER | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

New Lake Worth ISD library bus parked at Marine Creek Apartments.

Dolores Lozano, Language Proficiency Assessment Committee lead; Josephine Razo, English Language lead teacher; and Alisha Valdez, English Second Language (ESL) teacher.

Aurelia said her team is very close with one another. She thanked Daron Worrell, director of federal programs and assessment, for attending the registration event.

“Lake Worth is like a close family, like Daron is here supporting me,” Aurelia said.

According to the Lake Worth ISD website, the vision and mission of the dual language and ESL programs

is to help students achieve high levels of academic proficiency. All students who are placed in Pre-k through five are placed in a dual language immersion program which teaches both English and Spanish within five to seven years.

Cecelia Perez, community manager, and Alejandra Reyes, sales and marketing manager of Exponential Property Group which owns Marine Creek Apartments, sent Tri-County Reporter a statement about the event hosted at the facility, expressing their warm wishes to students this school year and

touting their commitment to helping the community.

“As we approach the start of the 2024-25 school year, Exponential Property Group wants to extend our warmest wishes to all students, teachers and faculty residing in our apartment homes,” Reyes said. “We hope this school year is filled with success, safety and wonderful experiences. We are committed to supporting our community and fostering a positive living environment for everyone.”

For more information about Lake Worth ISD, registration and back-to-school events, visit www.lwisd.org

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LILY HUDMAN
Tri-County Reporter intern

How assistant superintendent Matt Adams found his way back to Azle

AZLE—Assistant Superintendent Matt Adams has worked in five different school districts ranging from 1A to 5A but has found that Azle is where he plans to stay.

Adams moved around a lot as a child, but always found his way back to Azle, where his grandparents resided. His grandfather, Jim Bob Nation, was well-known for his commitment to Azle, which inspired Adams to continue what his grandfather started. "He came back and gave back to the community that helped him grow up," Adams said. "For me personally, it was kind of neat to come back and be a part of the community that he was such a big part of."

Adams attended Tarleton State University and planned to major in accounting. Because athletics had always been a big part of his life, he decided to switch his major to business administration so he could continue coaching.

The year his first child was born, Adams coached a team that made it to the regional and state tournaments, which caused him to miss out on time with his kid. He realized

if he wanted to have a bigger role in his personal life, he would have to quit coaching and move into an administrative position.

"Being a big family person, that kind of hit me pretty hard," Adams said. "I told my wife, 'If I'm not coaching, the district's going to hire somebody else to be a coach, but if I'm not home to be dad, well then there's nobody else home to be dad.'"

Now, as assistant superintendent, Adams has found what he enjoys most. Because of his interest in finance and accounting, Adams said he understands the importance of funds the district is given, recognizing that without them, the district would not be able to grow.

"Every time we make a decision, we consider how it affects taxpayers' dollars and making sure that we're being good stewards of the money we've been given," Adams said. "Every decision we make we think about how it will affect the future of Azle and what kind of impact it has on

people who have been a part of Azle for so many years."

Because of the bond that was passed in the fall of 2023, Adams said he and his colleagues have been focused on accomplishing the goals that come along with it.

"We're replacing Azle Junior High that opened in 1953, so we're right in the middle of that as far as getting construction started," Adams said. "Part of that process is we're redoing grade configurations, which I think goes back to when we're making decisions, we always keep in mind that everything we do is for the benefit of the students."

Adams said the bond has also allowed the district to support its growing population, something he said makes Azle so great.

"I like that Azle's large enough that we can offer a variety of programs," Adams said. "So, no matter what your interest is or what you think you want to do, you probably have the opportunity to experience it at Azle

ISD."

At this time of year when students, teachers and administrators are preparing to return to school, Adams said it is refreshing to know the environment Azle ISD has built is so accepting and effective.

"We have teachers coming in just in the last couple of days who were working in other districts and now, for whatever reason, they're in Azle," Adams said. "They come up to you and they say, 'Hey, we just wanted you to know that I've never been in a district where I've felt so welcome or where the people are so friendly.' We're still one high school and one town so even though we have over 7,200 students now, we still have the benefits and the feel of that small-town environment."

As Adams plans for his sixth year in Azle ISD, he is still sure of one thing. Being an educator and creating better experiences for students is something he finds invaluable.

"I think, to me, education



COURTESY AZLE ISD

Assistant Superintendent Matt Adams. This will be his sixth year in Azle ISD.

is still the one thing that no matter what your background is, no matter where you came from, education can help you get where you want to be and overcome any barriers," Adams said. "I'm a big believer that regardless of your background, especially

in public education, you get exposed to enough different environments or different activities that you realize 'I can be a part of that if I want to.' Being able to provide that opportunity to all kids I think is the best reward you could ask for."



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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 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 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF TEXAS. GRANTEE SHALL HOLD INDEMNITEES HARMLESS AND INDEMNIFY THEM FOR GRANTEE'S PORTION OF ANY DAMAGE, LOSS, EXPENSE, OR LIABILITY RESULTING FROM THE CLAIM, INCLUDING REASONABLE 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 given at least thirty (30) days prior written to the City of any intention to cancel, replace, or materially alter its insurance coverages. Such notice shall be given by registered mail.

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

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

SECTION 5. GAS SERVICE.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SECTION 6. NON-EXCLUSIVE FRANCHISE.

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

SECTION 7. CONSIDERATION AND METHOD OF PAYMENT.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SECTION 8. OTHER TAXES.

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

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

SECTION 9. TERM.

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

SECTION 10. OTHER FRANCHISES.

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

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

SECTION 11. LONG RANGE PLANNING FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS.

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

SECTION 12. CITY RULES AND REGULATIONS.

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

SECTION 13. DOCUMENTS AND REPORTS.

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

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

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

SECTION 14. DEFAULT, REMEDIES, TERMINATION.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SECTION 15. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.

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

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

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

Azle native participates in world's largest international maritime warfare exercise

JOHN OSBORNE

Navy Office of Community Outreach

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii — Ensign Ema Waring, a native of Azle, serves aboard USS Gridley, a U.S. Navy warship operating out of Everett, Washington, and participating in the biennial Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise in and around the Hawaiian Islands.

Waring graduated from Azle High School in 2019. Additionally, Waring earned a bachelor's degree in public relations from the University of Texas in Austin in 2023.

The skills and values needed to succeed in the Navy are similar to those found in Azle.

"I learned early on how important it was to have a good leader and advisor," said Waring. "This has helped tremendously as I now am one of three leaders of 15 sailors in my division."

Waring joined the Navy one year ago. Today, Waring serves as the combat electronics officer.

"I joined the Navy after taking a class in naval science in

college and after that, I joined the ROTC," said Waring. "I enjoyed learning about life as a sailor and thought engineering and combat systems were interesting."

As the world's largest international maritime exercise, approximately 29 nations, 40 surface ships, three submarines, 14 national land forces, over 150 aircraft and more than 25,000 personnel will participate in RIMPAC 2024. This exercise provides a unique training opportunity that helps participants foster and sustain cooperative relationships that are critical to ensuring safety at sea and security on the world's oceans. RIMPAC 2024 marks the 29th exercise in a series that began in 1971.

The theme of RIMPAC 2024 is "Partners: Integrated and Prepared." The participating nations and forces exercise a wide range of capabilities and demonstrate the inherent flexibility of maritime forces. These capabilities range from disaster relief and maritime security operations to sea control and complex war-

fighting. The relevant, realistic training program includes gunnery, missile, anti-submarine and air defense exercises, as well as amphibious, counter-piracy, mine clearance operations, explosive ordnance disposal and diving and salvage operations.

Waring plays an important role in the exercise.

"I love RIMPAC because I'm getting to meet people from foreign navies," said Waring. "(I'm) taking tours of their ships and seeing the differences in their priorities."

Waring serves a Navy that operates far forward, around the world and around the clock, promoting the nation's prosperity and security.

"Serving in the Navy means giving back to the communities that raised me and making sure our country is protected," said Waring. "With everything going on in the world today, having a good defense is important to protecting our freedoms."

Waring is grateful to others for helping make a Navy career possible.

"I would like to thank my high school advisor, Chad

Cooke, who was instrumental in shaping me as a leader," added Waring. "I also want to thank my parents, Lance and Gabriela, for supporting me in my career, even though it takes me far from home. That long-distance support wherever I am in the world means so much."

Waring plans to continue their education and has set goals for their career.

"I'm hoping to go to warfare tactical instructor school and eventually earn a master's degree in global affairs," said Waring. "I plan on serving 20 years and then retiring to Washington, D.C."

Hosted by Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, RIMPAC 2024 will be led by Commander, U.S. 3rd Fleet, Vice Adm. John Wade, who will serve as Combined Task Force (CTF) commander. For the first time in RIMPAC history, a member of the Chilean Navy, Commodore Alberto Guerrero, will serve as deputy commander of the CTF. Rear Adm. Kazushi Yokota of the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force will serve as vice commander. Other key leaders



COURTESY MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 2ND CLASS ISAIAH WILLIAMS
Ema Waring aboard the USS Gridley.

of the multinational force will include Commodore Kristjan Monaghan of Canada, who will command the maritime component, and Air Commodore Louise Desjardins of Australia, who will command the air component.

During RIMPAC, a network of capable, adaptive partners train and operate together in

order to strengthen their collective forces and promote a free and open Indo-Pacific. RIMPAC 2024 contributes to the increased interoperability, resiliency and agility needed by the Joint and Combined Force to deter and defeat aggression by major powers across all domains and levels of conflict.

LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICES

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-15

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE AND MAP OF THE CITY OF AZLE, TEXAS, AS HERETOFORE AMENDED, BY GRANTING A CHANGE IN ZONING FROM INDUSTRIAL (IND) DISTRICT TO A PLANNED DEVELOPMENT (PD) DISTRICT FOR APPROXIMATELY 57 ACRES OF LAND, BEING DESCRIBED AS LOTS 1-3, BLOCK 1, RS3 INDUSTRIAL PARK ADDITION AND A 28.638-ACRE TRACT OF LAND IN THE G.W. ROBBINS SURVEY, ABSTRACT NO. 1155, CITY OF AZLE, PARKER COUNTY, TEXAS; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A PENALTY FOR VIOLATIONS HEREOF; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION IN THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-16 AN

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE COMPREHENSIVE ZONING ORDINANCE AND MAP OF THE CITY OF AZLE, TEXAS, AS HERETOFORE AMENDED, BY GRANTING A SPECIFIC USE PERMIT (SUP) TO ALLOW FOR THE OPERATION OF A TATTOO PARLOR BUSINESS ON THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 629 PROFIT STREET AND ALSO KNOWN AS LOT 2, BLOCK 2, AZLE INDUSTRIAL PARK ADDITION, PARKER COUNTY TEXAS; REVISING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP IN ACCORDANCE THEREWITH; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A PENALTY FOR VIOLATIONS HEREOF; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION IN THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-19

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF AZLE, TEXAS, AMENDING DIVISION 2 OF ARTICLE 1.09, "PARKS AND RECREATION" OF CHAPTER 1, "GENERAL PROVISIONS" OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, CITY OF AZLE, TEXAS, TO INCLUDE THE FEEDLOT FOOD TRUCK PARK IN SECTION 1.09.035, "NOISE AND AMPLIFIERS"; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A PENALTY FOR VIOLATIONS HEREOF; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The complete ordinances can be found on our website www.cityofazle.org and at the City Secretary's Office

505 W. Main St. Azle Texas

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS CITY OF AZLE, TEXAS ELEVATED TANK REHABILITATION

Separate sealed bids for the construction of Elevated Tank Rehabilitation (Azle bid number 2024-009) will be received by the City of Azle, Texas until 3:00 PM on September 12, 2024, at City Hall, 505 W. Main Street, Azle, Texas, 76020, and then at said location publicly opened and read aloud. The project consists of performing a variety of rehabilitation projects on an existing 0.5 MG multi-legged elevated tank including repairing cracking and spalling on the foundations, replacing and/or adding exterior and interior ladders and safety climb devices, upgrading the handrail system, adjusting windage rods, electrically grounding the tank, and recoating the interior and all associated ancillary work and appurtenances. A non-mandatory Pre-Bid conference will be held at 10:00 AM on September 4, 2024, located at Azle City Hall, 505 W. Main Street, Azle, Texas, 76020. The Contract Documents consisting of Advertisement Of Bids, Information for Bidders, Bid Proposal, Bid Bond, Contract, Performance and Payment Bonds, Maintenance Bond, General Conditions, Notice of Award, Notice to proceed, Plans, Specifications, and Addenda (if any) may be examined at the following location: JACOB & MARTIN, LLC 1925 Fort Worth Highway, Weatherford, Texas 76086 The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities and to reject any or all bids. Bids may be held by the Owner for a period not to exceed 60 days from the date of bid opening for the purpose Of reviewing the bids and investigating the qualifications of Bidders prior to awarding the contract. Copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS must be ordered online at www.jacobmartin.com. Orders for CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may include hard copies for pick up, mail out or digital download via www.jacobmartin.com. Upon verification of online payment, hard copies may be picked up at Jacob & Martin, LLC, located at 1925 Fort Worth Highway, Weatherford, TX 76086. Cost for hard copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS will be \$100.00 for 11x17 half size plans. Cost for digital download of CONTRACT DOCUMENTS will be \$0.00. Contractors must purchase a set of CONTRACT DOCUMENTS to be considered a registered plan holder eligible to bid the project. A certified check or bank draft, payable to the order of CITY OF AZLE, TEXAS, negotiable U.S. Governmental bonds (at par value) or a satisfactory Bid Bond executed by the Bidder and an acceptable surety in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the total bid shall be submitted with each bid. City of Azle, Texas Alan Brundrett, Mayor August 15 & 22, 2024

Public Hearing

The City of Reno will be having public hearings for a Rezoning Application applied for property of roughly 367.4 acres total land area, not counting streets or alleys, off of S Reno Road, Springtown, TX 76082, to change from Agricultural zoning to SF-1 zoning. P&Z meeting will be on August 26, 2024, at 6:00 PM. Council Meeting will be September 23, 2024, at 7PM at Reno City Hall is located at 195 W. Reno Road, Azle, Texas 76020. Documents relating to the public hearing will be available for viewing on the City's website or at City Hall during regular business hours. Comments may also be emailed to rebekka.roberts@renotx.gov or mailed to 195 W. Reno Road, Azle, TX 76020. For more information call City Hall at (817) 221-2500. Both meetings will be open to the public for comments.

Public Notice

City of Reno will have plat proposal for Walnut Creek Estates containing Block 1-69 (1420 Residential, 2 Commercial, 34 Private open space lots) including Abstract Numbers 1942, 1421, 2123, 1636, 523, 1612 1377, and 338 (Parker County, Texas). (The property is split between City Limits and ETJ) P&Z meeting will be on August 26, 2024, at 6:00 PM. Council Meeting will be September 23, 2024, at 7PM at Reno City Hall is located at 195 W. Reno Road, Azle, Texas 76020. Documents relating to the public hearing will be available for viewing on the City's website or at City Hall during regular business hours. Comments may also be emailed to rebekka.roberts@renotx.gov or mailed to 195 W. Reno Road, Azle, TX 76020. For more information call City Hall at (817) 221-2500.

City of Reno will have replat proposal for address 550 W White Dove, Azle, Texas 76020. Dove Ranch Estates tract of land containing 51.06 acres, Lots 1-14, in the T.&P. RR. Company Survey, Abstract No. 1374 and the W. Shown Survey, Abstract No. 1894, Parker County Texas, being the same tracts described in deeds to Ralph & Goldie Yates in Volume 1188, Page 355 & Volume 1280, Page 45, Official Public Records of Parker County.

P&Z meeting will be on August 26, 2024, at 6:00 PM. Council Meeting will be September 23, 2024, at 7PM at Reno City Hall is located at 195 W. Reno Road, Azle, Texas 76020. Documents relating to the public hearing will be available for viewing on the City's website or at City Hall during regular business hours. Comments may also be emailed to rebekka.roberts@renotx.gov or mailed to 195 W. Reno Road, Azle, TX 76020. For more information call City Hall at (817) 221-2500.

Notice of Public Meeting to discuss Budget and Proposed Tax Rate

The LAKE WORTH ISD will hold a public meeting at 5:30pm, August 28, 2024 in Lake Worth ISD Administration Building at 6805 Telephone Rd, Lake Worth, TX. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax	\$0.755200/\$100 (proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax Approved by Local Voters	\$0.500000/\$100 (proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories.

Maintenance and operations	-1.33 % decrease
Debt Service	-1.40 % decrease
Total Expenditures	-1.34 % decrease

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value

(as calculated under Section 26.04, Tax Code)

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$2,188,607,756	\$2,395,407,401
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$42,507,898	\$128,912,118
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$1,437,934,885	\$1,648,247,970
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$41,645,953	\$127,432,404

*Appraised value is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code.

** "New property" is defined by Section 26.012(17), Tax Code.

*** "Taxable value" is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$72,406,942

*Outstanding principal.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate	\$0.757500	\$0.500000	\$1.257500	\$6,656	\$7,747
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$0.669970	\$0.405880	\$1.075850	\$6,514	\$7,685
Proposed Rate	\$0.755200	\$0.500000	\$1.255200	\$7,162	\$7,828

*The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$242,347	\$240,141
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$137,786	\$146,710
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$1.257500	\$1.255200
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$1,732.66	\$1,841.50
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$108.84

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.

Notice of Voter-Approval Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is \$1.255200. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the voter-approval rate of \$1.255200.

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment.

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$10,575,056
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$3,068,917

A school district may not increase the district's maintenance and operations tax rate to create a surplus in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the purpose of paying the district's debt service.

Visit 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.

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From hall monitors to health monitors

PCHS donates supplies to Azle school, Liberty nurse speaks on telemedicine partnership

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricityreporter.com

AZLE — Continuing their fruitful partnership into the new school year, Parker County Hospital Systems donated two totes full of school supplies to Liberty Elementary School last month. This gesture means students in need can benefit from extra backpacks, binders, markers, tissues and more throughout the year. This donation is a small part of a bigger philanthropic effort made by the hospital system to local schools in the last five years.

With the donation of MedPod carts and equipment in 2019, PCHS revolutionized nurse visits in the district by allowing a doctor to be virtually present in a school nurse's offices. With the donation, schools can now not only monitor their halls, but also their students' health. School nurses can use the tools provided to examine the ears, nose and throats of students while PCHS doctors watch using a live video feed linked to the monitor. In less than an hour, Azle ISD nurses can test students for strep throat, for example, consult with PCHS staff, administer a more extensive test if needed, receive results and prescribe medication to the student's local pharmacy.

PCHS TELEMEDICINE CAN TEST OR TREAT:

- Cold and flu-like symptoms
- Respiratory syncytial virus
- Allergy symptoms
- Fever
- Sore throat
- Eye redness
- Minor abdominal and gastrointestinal complaints, such as nausea, vomiting and diarrhea
- Rash or skin infection
- Earache

"I guess maybe their board decided to reach out to us because we had, at the time, two campuses that were part of (Parker) County," registered Liberty Elementary nurse Shawna Cloutre said. "That was Cross Timbers and Silver Creek, and so they wanted us to be like an all or none. They weren't going to say, 'oh, only those two campuses get to have telehealth ...' They provide this to us. It's actually funded by the taxpayers of Parker County. It is very fortunate that we get to participate."

Cloutre is also in charge of Azle's School Health Advisory Council and has been with the district for 10 years. With most of her tests only taking between five and 20 minutes, Cloutre said the longest part of the process is often waiting for parents to register their students for

the first time. In order for students to be enrolled in Hornet Care, parents should reach out to their school's nurse, otherwise, they will be asked to complete the registration through the Athena System via text before a student is seen. Students receive these services at little to no cost. Azle ISD staff also receive three free doctor's visits using PCHS MedPods.

"Students can then see what we're seeing as well," Cloutre said. "So, it's really educational. Well, I bet I've had plenty of students say, 'is that my brain?' No, that's your tympanic membrane that we talked about. I like showing the kiddos. I'll send videos. I can record it and send it."

Cloutre recounted her most unusual visit, where a student came in to get their ear checked out only for the nurse to discover a cockroach lodged deep inside.

One doctor and two nurse practitioners are on call at a 1115 Pecan Drive, Weatherford clinic from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. every workday to remotely see patients from a variety of nonprofit and government organizations across the Parker County area. While beginning as a school-based program in 2018, it has since expanded to cover other entities.



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Liberty Elementary staff and a PCHS communications supervisor pose in front of two totes of donated supplies.

Cloutre described a number of benefits to the system, including its ability to save time for parents and students. If a student is found to be contagious, then their parents are called, and they're picked up soon after. Prior to leaving, tele-docs can set up a treatment plan and have students return to school as soon as the next day when possible.

"So, for the parent, if this

wasn't available, they take the day off, (or a) half-day off, then you call the doctor, set up an appointment, and then the doctor sees them and wants them on meds for 24 or 48 hours before they go back to school," Cloutre said. "That parent is missing three-and-a-half, four days of work, whereas this is just so expedited ... It is nice when we're just like maybe wanting a second opinion about

abdominal pain or something because I can flip this around and show my bed and (a PCHS doctor) can watch ... I'm the extension of them, you know, the hands for anything that needs to be palpated. So, if you think you might have a sinus infection, you're tapping around to see if anything hurts and so with that, it's a very comprehensive exam, so it's still accurately diagnosing."



Cloutre checks out a model ear using the MedPod's tools.



Cloutre shows a picture of a cockroach found in a student's ear using the MedPod.

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Reno P&Z hearing, discussion on draft one-unit-per-acre ordinance canceled by chair

MADelyn EDWARDS
springtownreporter@tricountyreporter.com

RENO — A Planning and Zoning Commission meeting to discuss a proposed one-unit-per-acre ordinance in Reno ended before it officially started.

Reno P&Z Chairperson Justin Williams told the audience at the Aug. 5 meeting it would be against the law to pass the ordinance because it doesn't adhere to the city's comprehensive plan. Having a public hearing on the proposed ordinance and then discussing or acting on it were the only agenda items that weren't meeting formalities, so by not holding the public hearing or discussion, Williams effectively canceled the meeting.

"Until we can make the city's comprehensive plan match this ordinance recommendation, there is nothing that we can vote on here today," Williams said to the audience at the Aug. 5 meeting. "I want to, again, thank everyone for taking the time to come up here and show your city support, but unfor-

Williams said agenda items didn't comply with city's comprehensive plan, were against law

tunately, the proper steps have to be taken to get things in the right legal order for us to open a public hearing on this item."

The proposed ordinance would "(provide) for one unit per acre for (Single Family Residential-1) zoning districts," according to the attachment on the P&Z agenda. Reno's zoning ordinance that is detailed in the comprehensive plan on its website allows for no more than four units per acre in Single Family Residential-1 districts. Meanwhile, Single Family Residential District-Estate's density is no more than one home per acre, and Single Family Residential District-2 permits four to six units per acre.

In explaining why the public hearing and discussion on the proposed ordinance were canceled, Williams cited Texas Local Government Code Section 211.004 that states, "Zoning regulations

must be adopted in accordance with a comprehensive plan."

Furthermore, Local Government Code Section 213.002(c) allows cities to "define, in its charter or by ordinance, the relationship between a comprehensive plan and development regulations and may provide standards for determining the consistency required between a plan and development regulations." That chapter of the code concludes by stating it "does not limit the ability of a municipality to prepare other plans, policies or strategies as required."

In a 2023 legal resource document on Texas Municipal League's website, TML Legal Counsel Stephanie Huser answers the question "What is the relationship between a city's comprehensive plan and zoning regulations?" Huser reiterated what the Local Government Code says but also wrote that

courts have differed in their rulings related to this part of the code.

"In instances where there is a conflict between a comprehensive plan and a zoning decision, some courts have found that the comprehensive plan did not have an impact on the zoning decision," Huser said in the Legal Q&A. "Other courts have found that a zoning regulation may be void if not in compliance with the comprehensive plan. ... Because it is not clear whether a city can consider a zoning change use that is not shown on the comprehensive plan, a city considering this issue should consult with local counsel."

Reno's city attorney Dottie Palumbo was not at the P&Z meeting, but she did attend a city council meeting during the previous week when the proposed ordinance came up. When presented with concerns that an ordinance that conflicts with the city's com-

prehensive plan would be illegal, Palumbo said the comprehensive plan would likely need to be amended. She claimed that this would be addressed with P&Z, but that didn't happen at the Aug. 5 meeting, and an amendment to the comprehensive plan wasn't on P&Z's agenda. But the draft ordinance may have alluded to this when it stated, "All ordinances, resolutions, or parts thereof, that are in conflict or inconsistent with any provision of this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict, and the provisions of this ordinance shall be and remain controlling as to the matters regulated herein."

The Tri-County Reporter reached out to Palumbo for clarification on the correct way to interpret the law in this situation. Palumbo relayed the message to The Reporter that she and Bojorquez Law Firm, where she is a partner, are not authorized to speak on this matter, and she directed The Reporter to contact Reno's interim city secretary. However, The Reporter

found a document online titled "Land Use Issues Involving Small Cities" for the 2012 UT Land Use Conference that was credited to Palumbo. The document states, "In Texas it is not mandatory that cities adopt comprehensive plans; however, if one is adopted, Section 211.004 of the Texas Local Government Code provides, in part, that zoning regulations must be adopted in accordance with a comprehensive plan. ... Any city that has a comprehensive plan must zone in accordance with that plan; otherwise, a strong argument may be made that any action not taken in accordance with the comprehensive plan is arbitrary and capricious as well as may violate a zoning applicant's federal and state constitutional rights."

Moving forward, Williams said the plan is to work with Palumbo and ensure that the comprehensive plan will match up with the proposed ordinance if it comes to a vote.

Notice of Public Meeting to discuss Budget and Proposed Tax Rate

The Springtown ISD will hold a public meeting at 6:00 PM, August 26, 2024 in Springtown ISD Administration Building. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax	\$0.755200/\$100 (proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax Approved by Local Voters	\$0.200300/\$100 (proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories.

Maintenance and operations	-5.75 % decrease
Debt Service	-0.10 % decrease
Total Expenditures	-5.30 % decrease

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value

(as calculated under Section 26.04, Tax Code)

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$4,810,360,633	\$4,962,025,001
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$245,060,555	\$139,044,557
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$2,633,288,769	\$2,840,616,682
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$245,060,555	\$139,044,557

*Appraised value is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code.

** "New property" is defined by Section 26.012(17), Tax Code.

*** "Taxable value" is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$55,353,238

*Outstanding principal.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate	\$0.757500	\$0.200300	\$0.957800	\$6,280	\$5,660
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$0.843440	\$0.168780	\$1.012220	\$6,466	\$5,410
Proposed Rate	\$0.755200	\$0.200300	\$0.955500	\$6,406	\$5,412

*The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$340,479	\$321,061
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$340,479	\$321,061
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$0.957800	\$0.955500
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$3,261.11	\$3,067.74
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		-\$193.37

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.

Notice of Voter-Approval Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is \$0.955500. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the voter-approval rate of \$0.955500.

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment.

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$12,572,761
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$675,592

A school district may not increase the district's maintenance and operations tax rate to create a surplus in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the purpose of paying the district's debt service.

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://www.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.

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: Mayor Pro Tem/Place1 Ted Martinez, Councilmember Place 2 Michele Chandler Kelley, Councilmember Place 3 David Martin, Councilmember Place 4 Richelle Pruitt, Councilmember Place 5 Scott Richardson.

AGAINST the proposal: NONE

PRESENT and not voting: Mayor Greg Hood

ABSENT: NONE

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://www.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
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.466087	\$0.506589	increase of 0.040502, or 8.69%
Average homestead taxable value	\$218,288	\$238,753	increase of 20,465, or 9.38%
Tax on average homestead	\$1,017.41	\$1,209.50	increase of 192.09, or 18.88%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$1,997,001	\$2,168,518	increase of 171,517, or 8.59%

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for Springtown at or , or visit . for more information.

Eagle Crest Villa holds resident art show

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricityreporter.com

Local senior citizens know age is no barrier when it comes to making something beautiful.

From 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. July 24-31, Eagle Crest Villa showcased artwork and crafts from talented residents of the eldercare facility. Residents and visitors had a chance to vote for their favorite crafts and artworks with an in-person ballot or through comments on the Azle Residents Facebook page starting Monday.

"No matter their interests, we know how beneficial it is for them to work with their hands for do those things," Eagle Crest Assistant Director Ashley Sands said. "Doing those things that they love

... it stimulates parts of their brains that help with memory, cognition and things of that nature. So, we know how beneficial it is for them to continue to do those things and we absolutely encourage them. Our activity director, she encourages them even if they don't want to come out, you know, she tries to encourage them to come and do the crafts and do the baking and the art and the activities that we have here. We're excited to get to showcase all the residents, items and their talents. I think they're just as excited to get to show off. They've been coming up here and admiring everyone's items. It's been fun getting to coordinate this. I'm excited for the week that we have ahead of us, for this art show and for the public to come out and admire all

these works of art with us." Sands also spoke about the benefit that having a hobby or activity like this provides for the facility's oldest residents. Eagle Crest Villa is home to two centenarians, who you can read about in the March 14 edition of the Tri-County Reporter, both of which were featured in the art show.

"It's a good testament to how much working with your hands like that helps your cognition and just your quality of life overall," Sands said. "Margaret that does the quilting and the crocheting, she just turned 100 last year and then Miss Etta that has the ceramics, she turned 106 this year. So yeah, like I said, it's just a testament to how much doing art like that really helps."

Personal care coordinator

Terrylynn Tidwell even displayed an authenticated quilt

made in 1865 by her great-great-grandmother, Sally M.

Ellis, before she pioneered from Virginia to Texas.



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

One Eagle Crest resident, identified as Bobby, once had a career illustrating different plants and flowers. Now in his mid-90s, he's had to re-learn how to draw with his left hand and continues his passion into retirement.



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Eagle Crest personal care coordinator Terrylynn Tidwell next to the quilt made by her great-great-grandmother.



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

One extra crafty Eagle Crest resident, Reta, made pins, badges and buttons out of metal zippers. Sands remarked about the painstaking effort and fine finger work necessary for this project.



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Eagle Crest resident Ken Mills displayed his intricate wood carvings for the art show. Mills has passed his passion down to his daughter, Julie Clark, who founded Clark's Crosses in Azle and was featured at the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's 2023 Global Consultation on Arts and Music in Missions.

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THE TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

DIVERSIONS

B

THURSDAY, August 15, 2024



SPORTS Roundup

LAYTH TAYLOR | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

The Springtown Lady Porcupines traveled to Granbury High School Friday, Aug. 9, to take on the Lady Pirates in a preseason scrimmage.

Hornets among nation's smartest baseball teams

RICK MAUCH

Special to the Tri-County Reporter

Think about it. Would a coach play an athlete if they only knew 60% of the playbook?

That is certainly not a problem with Azle baseball coach Stephen Smith's Hornets. They were recently awarded the Team Academic Excellence Award by the American Baseball Coaches

Association.

The Hornets are one of only 350 teams across the entire nation to receive this honor, including one of only 24 in Texas. To receive the award, a team must have a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.

It's also the fourth consecutive year in which Azle has been so honored by the ABCA.

"Winning games is great,

but making sure our players do great in the classroom and have an opportunity to go to college is even more important," Smith said. "Baseball will be gone one day, but your education will always be there and will give you so many more opportunities.

"It is a great honor for our program to be one of the best academic programs in the country. There aren't many baseball programs that can

say that in Texas either."

The Hornets had no less than nine players receive academic all-state honors: Ryland Liptow, Cole Webb, Lane Springfield, Chase Loftin, Carter Landon, Jesse Hemmerling, Tyler Vaughn, Brice Watson and Kaitlyn Caffey.

On the field, Azle recorded its seventh consecutive winning season, finishing 14-13 in 2024.

GRAVES AWARDED TWICE BY TSWA

Senior baseball player Garrin Graves of Azle was honored not once, but twice, by the Texas Sports Writers Association as honorable mention all-state in Class 5A. He was selected at both second base and at shortstop.

This comes on the heels of him being named second-team all-state by the Texas

High School Baseball Coaches Association.

JUNIOR GOLF

Ernesto Dallas of Springtown finished tied for third in the North Texas PGA Junior Golf Association Medalist Tour at Waterchase in Fort Worth. Competing in the Boys 15-18 age group, he put together two nine-hole

PLEASE SEE ROUNDUP | B2

Azle Memorial Library concludes summer reading program



ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricityreporter.com

AZLE — The Azle Memorial Library celebrated the end of its summer reading program Aug. 1 with a popsicle party, petting zoo and participation from the Azle Police and Fire

ZACH FREEMAN TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Liberty Elementary student Lacey Saline, age 10, said she read 129 books over the summer. Her favorite books are ones that include nature. Here, Saline learns how to work the controls in an Azle Police vehicle from Cpl. Kevin Nguyen. "We love it when the library does stuff, we always come," her mother Jenni Saline said.

Departments. Each summer the library challenges kids, teens and adults to log their reading hours to earn prizes and entry into the adult and youth finale parties. While all ages are encouraged to read, library staff say it's especially important to incentivize reading for kids while they're away from school.

"I got to personally see the benefits," children's services librarian Ava Bryant said. "I definitely think that it's helped bridge the gap between their school and the summer slide and keeps them reading. For the younger kids that are not reading yet, their parents are reading to them. I know that we had a lot of that. We have good attendance for those ages zero

to 3. I've personally heard from parents about the benefits that they've seen in their kids. The other programs that we've done over the summer have got positive feedback from the kids and from the parents. I think the finale has been great to do something for the kids that did read ... It was a big incentive. I'm so glad that they could come out and have fun, just to have everyone together and to have the community together. I'm really proud of the kids for reading and for all the staff helping put everything together."

Kids and teens who read at least five hours earned a ticket to the finale popsicle

PLEASE SEE READ | B3

Meet the teacher

Parents and students meet and greet Azle ISD teachers before school year begins

ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Incoming sixth grader Annelise Nash is Hoover's student council president. She is scared of her new responsibilities this year but is mostly looking forward to meeting new friends. Hoover STUCO plans school parades, a conference, Veteran's Day activities, a food drive, a Christmas dance, Angel Tree, trash cleanup days, a blanket drive, bingo with seniors and an overnight trip.

SEE MORE PHOTOS | B2





Meet the teacher

Parents and students meet and greet Azle ISD teachers before school year begins

ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER
(L-R): Incoming fifth graders Reese Winter, Marlie Moormon, Kennedy Brown, Ava Gaston and Jeanna Nazareno are excited for new clubs and activities available at Hoover Elementary.



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER
(L-R): Porter twins and incoming fifth graders Paisley and Parker, age 10. Paisley is excited to be in Leslee Conditt's class after hearing good things from a friend. She is excited to run for student council. Her brother is excited to make new friends and have new classes. Dad Nick Porter said it was a little sad to see his kids moving up from Cross Timbers after five years, but he's excited to see them join their friends from sports they've played in Azle.



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER
(L-R): Josh Weston, Hunter Weston, band and choir teacher Heidi Bargsley and Amy Weston. Hunter Weston is nervous to be in a bigger school but excited for the new opportunities.

ROUNDUP

FROM PAGE B1

rounds of 40 each for an 80 total score.

VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENTS THIS WEEKEND

High school volleyball season moved into full swing this week with the start of the regular season. That includes the first tournaments of the season this weekend.

Springtown's Lady Porcupines are competing in the Denton Ryan Tournament Aug. 15-17, with Lake Worth's Lady Bulldogs in the Castleberry Tournament Aug. 15 and 17. Meanwhile, Azle's Lady Hornets are in the Duncanville Tournament.

The Lady Porcupines, with new head coach Abigail Zipoy, have finished second in district in back-to-back

seasons (8-3 last season in league play), advancing to the third round of the Class 4A playoffs each time before being eliminated by Stephenville, which is pre-season ranked No. 6 in the state. Springtown was 24-20 overall last season.

The Lady Bulldogs are coming off a 16-32 season that saw them reach bidistrict following a fourth-place finish in district with a 4-6 mark.

Both Springtown and Lake Worth will compete in District 7-4A this season. The district is all the teams in 8-4A last season, with the addition of Burkburnett (20-18, 6-2, second in 7-4A, bidistrict in 2023) and first-year program Eagle Mountain.

Also in the district are Decatur (23-17, 10-0, 8-4A champions, third round, pre-season No. 9 in state), Krum (29-14, 7-4, third in 8-4A, second round), Bridgeport (9-27, 2-8, fifth in 8-4A) and Castleberry (1-29, 0-10, sixth

in 8-4A).

Azle is coming off an 18-28 season in which the Lady Hornets were 5-7 in District 5-5A and placed fourth. They advanced to the second round of the playoffs.

The Lady Hornets are joined in their league by Aledo (34-9, 11-1, 5-5A champions, third round), Chisholm Trail (25-15, 10-4, second in 3-6A, bidistrict), Granbury (19-23, 9-3 in 5-5A, second round), Brewer (17-15, 4-8, fifth in 5-5A) and Saginaw (11-28, 1-11, seventh in 5-5A).

FOOTBALL SCRIMMAGES

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

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

Springtown: Host 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 Bulldogs 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.

CROSS COUNTRY

The season is underway, and two area teams competed this past weekend: Azle in the Brock 6-Mile Relay and Springtown at the Boyd 6-Mile Relay.

Azle's Lady Hornets had teams place third and fifth in the 10,000-meter

run with times of 38:14.88 and 39:08.61, respectively. Likewise, the Hornets had teams finish third and fifth in the boys 10,000, clocking 32:47.84 and 34:36.28, respectively. In the girls 5K event, Azle was fourth in 22:37.46 and fifth in 22:38.80.

At Boyd, the Springtown Lady Pines placed third in the 10,000 with a time of 41:20.86.

All area teams are competing in the following meets this weekend:

Azle is in the Kennedale Wildcat Run Friday, Aug. 16.

Lake Worth and Springtown are in the Cowtown Challenge, Aug. 17.

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).

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SE HABLA ESPAÑOL

READ
FROM PAGE B1

party in the park with music, a petting zoo, and fire and police vehicles to explore. Adults who read at least five hours had a literary trivia-themed finale party with special door prizes, pizza and refreshments.

By reading and logging their hours, 0-3-year-olds could earn a stuffed animal and "indestructible" book. Kids could create a necklace and add a bead for every hour they read. Teens earned pencils, keychains and stuffed animals. Kids and teens also earned coupons for free food items at area restaurants.

All ages earned raffle tickets starting at 15 hours of reading. Raffle prizes were donated by area businesses or purchased by the Azle Library Trust. They consisted of gift cards, restaurant gift certificates and free entry to area attractions like the zoo and water parks.

Along with reading and prizes, visitors to the library had the chance to participate in 60 unique programs this summer from lectures, to crafts, puppet shows and more.

"It's a way of connecting with other people, seeing different viewpoints and also just showing a good example for your children and younger generations," adult services librarian Rebecca Buchanan said of reading's importance to adults.

TOTAL PARTICIPANTS: 1,563

- Breakdown by age category:
- Littles 0-3: 135
- Children 4-12: 777
- Tween/Teens 12-18: 196
- Adults: 456

TOTAL HOURS READ: 40,362

- Breakdown by age category:
- Littles 0-3: 432
- Children 4-12: 13,655
- Tween/Teens 12-18: 7,240
- Adults: 19,035



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER
Local children enjoy spending time with the animals at BFF's Mobile Petting zoo.



The Underwood siblings (L-R): Harrison, age 9, Anabelle, age 12, and Mabelle, age 6, came from Kansas to volunteer and help their grandmother, Azle library board member Place 7 Jan Ford. "I mean, it's amazing. They had such a great turnout for summer reading," Ford said. "A lot of adults."



Luther Witthaus, age 3, sits in the front seat of an Azle police cruiser with Cpl. Kevin Nguyen.



Lacey Saline is shown a Silkie chicken from BFF's Mobile Petting Zoo owner Tim Bevan.



Summer reading participants wait in line to get popsicles and join the festivities.



Skyla Medina, age 11, said she read too many books to count. Her favorite from the summer was a book called "Camp." Medina laughs with Cpl. Kevin Nguyen in the front seat of his police cruiser. "It was really cool," Medina said. "It was about this lady who was going to camp with her friend Isabella and how they were homesick and stuff and it was like a really cool book ... I like the popsicles; the police car was fun ... reading is great!"

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BIG SAVINGS

Better Business Bureau shares tips for avoiding scams while back-to-school shopping

BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU

Another summer season is winding down to a close as children and parents across the nation prepare themselves for another school year following the summer break. This year, families are expected to spend \$38.8 billion on back-to-school shopping and supplies. More than half (57%) of consumers plan to do most of their shopping online, providing an opportunity for scammers and fraudulent businesses to reach a broad audience. As the beginning of the school year approaches, Better Business Bureau reminds consumers to be wary of online scams while crossing off items on their back-to-school shopping list.

"Online purchase scams are one of the most common types of scam consumers encounter every year," said Heather Massey, vice president of communications and

community relations for BBB serving the Heart of Texas. "Scammers know the shopping habits and trends of consumers, as well as their desire to find the best deal by comparatively shopping online. As the back-to-school shopping season picks up, we encourage online shoppers to take their time and verify deals or promotions to help avoid losing money or putting their banking information at risk."

Of the \$1.5 million Texas consumers reported losing to online purchase scams to BBB Scam Tracker in 2023, 27% of losses came from interacting with an online seller through social media channels and 20% from websites. So far this year, Texas residents have reported \$1.1 million lost to online purchase scams.

Every month, BBB typically receives over a thousand reports of online purchase

scams from consumers across the United States which has contributed to this scam being identified as one of the riskiest in BBB's annual Scam Tracker Risk Report for multiple years.

"Awareness and knowledge of scam tactics are the greatest defenses consumers can utilize against bad actors in the marketplace," Massey said. "Trust your gut, and if something doesn't feel right, the best option is to walk away from the interaction."

To assist back-to-school shoppers this season, Better Business Bureau offers the following tips to save money and avoid scams:

Check around your home. Start back-to-school shopping right at home by making a list of everything you need and then taking stock of everything you may have stored in desks, drawers, closets or storage areas. Some supplies

may still be left over from last year, saving you from purchasing the same item twice.

Research expensive purchases. Before purchasing expensive items such as computers, laptops or a refrigerator for a dorm, be sure to spend some time researching the brand, reviews of the product, warranty and prices at multiple locations. Universities often have rules regarding the size and placement of refrigerators in dorms. Check with the college or university housing office whether an energy-efficient refrigerator is required.

Ask for student discounts. Stores and software companies often offer discounts to students with either a student ID or a valid '.edu' email address. Even if a discount is not advertised, it never hurts to ask.

Shop in bulk. If purchasing standard items that are need-

ed at the beginning of each school year, such as binders, notebooks or writing utensils, buying in bulk is a great way to save money.

Shop safely online. When purchasing school supplies online, verify that the URL starts with "https" and includes a lock symbol. The "s" in "https" stands for secure and includes additional encryption and security measures than an "http" website. BBB strongly discourages inputting bank account information into any website that is not secured.

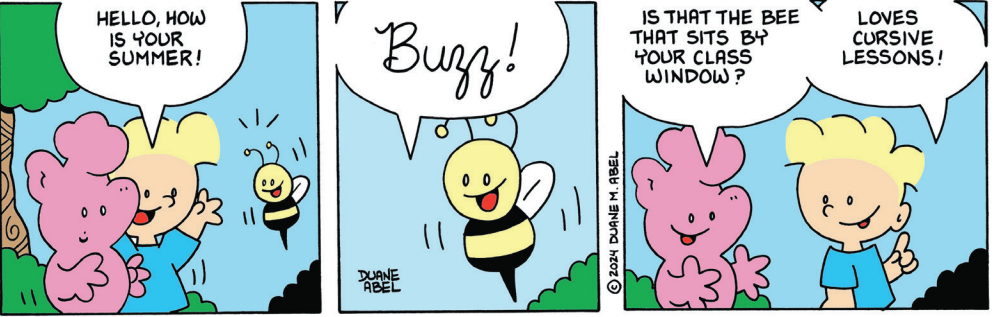
If purchasing from a digital marketplace, take the time to read reviews and feedback from previous customers. The lowest price may not always be the best route. If the company's contact information is not clearly listed, or they only have an email as the point of contact, that is a red flag. You may want to shop

elsewhere.

BBB strongly recommends against using unprotected payment options when interacting with online marketplaces. If the seller insists on payment via wire transfer or a gift card, that is a sign it may not be a legitimate business. Using a credit card is almost always the best option when purchasing online due to the additional protections they have to dispute and resolve charges when purchased products are not received.

For more tips for back-to-school shopping, visit BBB.org/School. If you or someone you know has encountered a scam, report it to BBB Scam Tracker. The information provided may prevent another person from falling victim.

ZED by Duane Abel



Sudoku

AUGUST 15, 2024

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

Level: Beginner

Solution to last week's puzzle

AUGUST 8, 2024

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

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to immunizations.

JITCNE

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

Answer: Inject

CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to the dog days of summer. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 11 = M)

A. 12 8 11 15 10
Clue: Water vapor in the air

B. 3 13 22 6 11 9
Clue: Warm and moist

C. 3 8 11 11 22 5
Clue: Hot season

D. 3 4 9
Clue: Atmosphere seen from earth

Azle School Menu August 19-23, 2024

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

PreK - 4th

BREAKFAST: Everyday - Assorted Fruits and Cereal, Juice, White or Chocolate Milk, Graham Crackers, Toast
Mon Elementary Breakfast Bites (mini pancake with sausage), Red Apple Slices, **Tues** Cinni, Minis, Fruit Cup, **Weds** Banana Chocolate Chip Oatmeal Cookie, Fruit Cup, **Thurs** Honey Bun, Applesauce Cup, **Fri** Cinnamon Toast Crunch, Bananas
LUNCH: Everyday - Variety of milk. Your choice of 1 entree & 1 fruit or juice
Mon Grilled Cheese, Mini Corn Dogs, Green Beans, Sweet Potato Tots, Mixed Fruit **Tues** Buffalo Boneless Wings (SPICY), Chicken Alfredo, Apple, Corn, Steamed Peas **Weds** Chicken and Cheese Quesadilla, Fish Sticks, Apple Sauce, Pinto beans, Steamed Carrots **Thurs** Popcorn Chicken, Sloppy Joe, Bananas, Mashed Potatoes, Mixed Veggies **Fri** Corn Dog, Pepperoni Pizza, Smile Fries, Steamed Broccoli, Peaches

GRADES 5TH - 8TH

BREAKFAST: Everyday - Assorted Fruits and Cereal, Juice, White or Chocolate Milk, Yogurt w/Granola
Mon Breakfast on a stick, Yogurt Parfaits, Banana Muffin, Oranges **Tues** French Toast Sticks, Glazed Donut, Mixed Fruit **Weds** Trix, Cereal, Vanilla Yogurt, Muffin Top, Bananas **Thurs** Banana Chocolate Chip Oatmeal Cookie, Sausage Biscuit, Peaches **Fri** Apple Breakfast Nachos, Lucky Charms, 2oz, Mixed Fruit
LUNCH: Everyday: Variety of milk. Your choice of 1 entree & 1 fruit or juice, rolls, crackers • Salad bar offered daily
Mon Beef Quesadilla Triangles, Breaded Chicken Sandwich, Spaghetti w/ Meatsauce, Garlic Bread Stick, Sweet Potato Tots **Tues** Chicken Nuggets, Grilled Chicken Sandwich, Popcorn Chicken Bowl, Crinkle Fries **Weds** BBQ Chicken Sandwich, Buffalo Boneless Wings, Chicken Alfredo, Green Beans, Homestyle Diced Potatoes **Thurs** Arroz con Pollo Corn Dog, Steak Fingers, Fries Wedges, Pineapples **Fri** Crunchy Tacos, Hamburger Pizza, Spicy Chicken Sandwich, Charro Beans, Steamed Broccoli, Peaches

HIGH SCHOOL

BREAKFAST: Everyday - Assorted Fruits and Cereal, Juice, White or Chocolate Milk, Yogurt w/Granola
Mon Breakfast Bites (mini pancake with sausage), Yogurt Parfaits, Banana Muffin, Pineapples **Tues** French Toast Sticks, Glazed Donut, Mixed Fruit **Weds** Scrambled Eggs, Sausage, and Toast, Vanilla Yogurt, Muffin Top, Bananas **Thurs** Banana Chocolate Chip Oatmeal Cookie, Sausage Biscuit, Peaches **Fri** Apple Breakfast Nachos, Lucky Charms, 2oz, Mixed Fruit
LUNCH: • Everyday: 1% unflavored or non fat chocolate milk & juice • Salad Bar
Mon Chicken Alfredo, Chicken Fried Rice w/ Vegetable Egg Roll, Garlic Bread Stick, Pears Diced, Green Beans, Sweet Potato Tots **Tues** Bistro Box, Bacon Pizza, Cheese Pizza, Sweet Fire Chicken, Apple, Crinkle Fries, Mixed Veggies **Weds** Tater Tot Casserole, 2 Honey Wheat Breadsticks, Homestyle Diced Potatoes, Apple Sauce **Thurs** Cheesy Baked Penne, Garlic Bread Stick, Fries, Wedges, Steamed Medley, Steamed Peas, Pineapples **Fri** Steak Fingers, Cornbread Poppers, Green beans, Mashed Potatoes, Peaches

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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

Students may prepay for their meals.



August 19-23, 2024
PK through 12th Grade

*Menus are subject to change.

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.**

Mon French Toast Sticks, Sliced Pears **Tues** Breakfast Bites, Strawberry Applesauce **Weds** Sausage Biscuit, Mandarin Oranges **Thurs** Cinnamon Roll, Fresh Apple Slices **Fri** Parfait w/Yogurt, Blueberries

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.**

Mon Tangerine Chicken Yogurt & Pretzel Box, Rice, Mandarin Oranges **Tues** Corn Dog, Meaty Spaghetti Sauce, Rotini Spirals, Fresh Orange **Weds** Cheeseburger, Hamburger, Emoticon Potatoes, Fresh Apple **Thurs** Cheese Taquitos, Chicken Nuggets, Roll Refried Beans, Blueberries **Fri** Baked Potato Basket - Entree Only Cheese Pizza, Pepperoni Pizza, Roll, Roasted Cauliflower, Fresh Banana

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.**

Mon General Tso's Chicken, Tangerine Chicken, Rice, Roll, Mandarin Oranges **Tues** BBQ Rib Sandwich, Chicken Sandwich, Roasted Chickpeas, Applesauce Cup **Weds** Chicken Tenders, Spicy Chicken Tenders, Waffles for Chicken & Waffles, Tator Tots, Blueberries **Thurs** Beef Tacos, Chicken Tacos, Nachos, Tacos, Corn, Refried Beans, Sliced Peaches **Fri** Baked Potato Basket - Entree Only, Corn Dog Pulled Pork BBQ Sandwich, Pulled Pork for baked potato, Roll, Fresh Banana

This menu is sponsored by ...



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TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

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

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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
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1405 Reynolds Rd., Reno
817-521-4510

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

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817-304-7443

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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

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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

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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

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ABUNDANT LIFE

CHURCH OF GOD

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

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

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817-444-3527

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817-594-3043

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817-237-1888

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817-596-7476

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

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

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FELLOWSHIP

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

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KINGDOM HALL OF

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

212 Pearson Lane, Azle
817-221-2242

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1313 SE Parkway, Azle
817-237-4822

HOPE LUTHERAN (ELCA)

4795 Hwy. 199, Reno
817-221-HOPE

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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
817-237-5258

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

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

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5315 Boat Club Road, Fort Worth
817-989-9800

ORTHODOX

ARCHANGEL GABRIEL

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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817-752-8255

OTHER

ALIENTO DE DIOS

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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 CR467

THE TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

CLASSIFIEDS

THURSDAY, August 15, 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	

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by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

1 TXism: "up and ___ juice" (coffee)

5 the first Texas ___ phone was in Galveston in 1878

6 TX Strait's "All My ___ Live in Texas"

7 Texans Houston and Bass

8 TX saying: "___ riot, one Ranger"

9 "Honeysuckle Rose" actress Irving

12 TX Hagman film: "Getting Away From ___"

17 ___ Wells, TX

19 TX Ann Miller film: "Sugar ___"

21 "entrance" south of the border

22 Pancho Villa: Doroteo ___

23 TXism: "that dog could ___ a panhandler"

28 San ____, TX

29 TXism: "hen fruit"

30 fisherman

31 glossy fabric

35 "___ con Dios"

36 TX Perot started Electronic ___ company

42 George W. before he was president

44 TXism: "you're buying oats for ___ horse"

46 race at annual Bar-B-Q in Brady, TX: "___ Gallop"

DOWN

1 TXism for "fell" (3 wds.)

2 J. Frank Dobie book: "A ___ England"

3 inclement weather

4 TXism: "a ___ of"

9 Bedouin, e.g.

10 TXism: "___ rooster" (angry)

11 TX group "Little Joe ___ Familia"

12 ex-TCU BB coach Moe

13 sturdy cattle breed

14 TXism: "___ of bones" (skinny)

15 "L" of former Dallas company LTV

16 TXism: "on my last ___" (tired)

18 stat for Astro Justin Verlander

20 TXism: "___ humid my upper lip is mildewing"

23 ex-Oiler coach ___ "Bum" Phillips

24 org. of countries to maintain peace (abbr.)

25 Texas ___ Corp. failed to build the Texas "bullet train"

26 1st woman president of TWU: Mary Evelyn ___ Huey

27 "Winnie the Pooh" donkey

28 TXism: "guilty ___ sin"

33 Heisman QB from Texas, Detmer

34 TXism: "the tail ___ wagging the dog"

36 lineal assoc. about Texas Republic

37 TX Charley Pride's "Kiss An ___ Good Morning"

38 this Pat wrote "On Any Given Sunday"

39 TX Debbie Reynolds first hubby, Fisher ___ detector

41 cut with a saw

43 "Mingo" on "Daniel Boone" (init.)

45 TXism: "that'll ___ nicely"

47 machine pedal

48 saloons

55 TX-born critic Rex

Last Puzzle Solution

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