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TRICOUNTY REPORTER

AZLE, SPRINGTOWN, LAKE WORTH AND SURROUNDING AREAS

THURSDAY, September 12, 2024 • \$1.00

50 years of festivals

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricityreporter.com

AZLE —Sting Fling is the Azle community's largest yearly festival. If it's not rained out, thousands of patrons will visit the city's Main Street this Saturday to celebrate and make merry. The annual parade, vendors, Weiner Dog Derby and other activities are treasured traditions by many local families. As older Azleites may know, many of these institutions predate Sting Fling itself.

The Tri-County Reporter recaps the history of Sting Fling

Since at least 1974, Azle has held a community-wide festival for its residents to enjoy, though this event has not always been called Sting Fling. In the last half century, different Azle fêtes have gone by different names and have occurred at different times of the year.

Starting at the aforementioned point in the '70s, the

Azle Jamboree took place around the Fourth of July each year and, for many years, was held at the now closed Roesser Park. It was hosted by the Azle Sertoma Club each year. It consisted of the Miss Azle Pageant, at times other contests like "ugliest pet," mechanical bulls, local art showcases, vendors, Independence Day activities



FILE PHOTO

(L-R) Organizers Sally Brace, Janie Rector and Rue Ford stand in front of a sign advertising the Azle Days Arts and Crafts Fair.



FILE PHOTO

Statues of Jacky the Jumpin' Jackass, sculpted by Jack Bryant, were sold during the Jumpin' Jack Jamboree to benefit the Azle Area Chamber of Commerce.

and other fun for all ages. Throughout the next decade, the jamboree would move location and dates, eventually settling on the first week of June.

While fondly remembered by many in Azle, the original jamboree would eventually find itself struggling to stay relevant among the competition. The Azle Lake Run started in 1981 and was originally held in May. Throughout the '80s, as the Azle Jamboree shrank in prominence, the Lake Run grew. The last time the Azle Jamboree was billed as such in the Azle News Advertiser was Thursday,

May 31, 1984. The Miss Azle pageant was relegated to a mail-in nomination and interviews in '85 and '86 but returned in-person without the Azle Jamboree association in 1987.

In the interim, local churches and elementary schools

held of their own hootenannies. The City of Azle held a sesquicentennial parade and fair in 1986 in celebration of Texas turning 150 years old. For the late 1980s, Azle residents would make do with

PLEASE SEE HISTORY | A5



Azle Independent School District mascot Buzzy, standing in front of the Azle High School Marching Green Pride during the 2023 Sting Fling.

Azle nonprofits set big goals for North Texas Giving Day

ZACH FREEMAN

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AZLE —North Texas Giving Day, Sept. 19, is a lot like Christmas for nonprofits in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Since its inception in 2009, North Texas Giving Day has raised more than \$566 million for over 3,300 nonprofits. North Texas Giving Day was devised by Dallas-based Communities Foundation of Texas with the goal of promoting philanthropy and building a broad base of support for nonprofits across the region. The foundation encourages prospective do-

nors to open their hearts and wallets to give local nonprofits a boost during the month of September. Starting Sept. 1, participating organizations began receiving early donations.

There are seven organizations participating in North Texas Giving Day that call Azle home in one way or another.

AZLE-BASED NORTH TEXAS GIVING DAY RECIPIENTS INCLUDE:

- Adult & Teen Challenge
- Azle Community Caring Center
- Bark N Rest Retirement

- Center
- Eagle Mountain Pregnancy Help Center
- Mollie's Cat Place
- Reel Recovery — Texas Chapter
- Servolution Network

The Tri-County Reporter reached out to collect responses on each organization's current needs and the impact they hope to have on the community.

Visitors to northtexasgivingday.org can find these organizations by setting their location filter to Azle.

PLEASE SEE GIVING | A7



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Servolution Network's semi-annual Good Neighbors Blitz helps repair homes for locals in need.

SISD board adopts tax rate, budget for 2024-25

MADelyn EDWARDS

springtownreporter@tricityreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — Springtown Independent School District board of trustees managed to adopt a balanced budget and keep the tax rate about the same, despite a lack of action on

public school finance from the state.

The board unanimously approved the 2024-25 budget and tax rate of 95.55 cents per \$100 valuation at its meeting Aug. 26 following a presentation by SISD Assistant Superintendent of Business and Finance Wesley

Thomas. Technically, the new tax rate is lower than the last one by less than a cent, but it won't be enough of a difference for people to notice on their tax bills. Thomas reminded those in attendance at the board meeting that the district is not responsible for determining property

appraisals, only setting the tax rate. Taking in the bigger picture, SISD's tax rate has decreased over the past 20 years.

"Writing a balanced budget right now with the state of school finance, that is a huge, huge win for Springtown ISD," Thomas said during

the meeting. "The board has been very conservative, very good with our tax dollars. Literally, 15 minutes ago, I heard another board is having a board meeting tonight that has historically been in very good financial shape. They're recommending a \$1.3 million deficit tonight. We're

going to be one of the very, very few that do propose a balanced budget this year, so that's a win."

Schools across the state are dealing with the decision the legislature made last year not to address public school

PLEASE SEE TAXES | A10



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INSIDE: **STING FLING SPECIAL SECTION**

Springtown Chamber gears up for another successful Wild West Festival

Event to take place 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 21

MADelyn EDWARDS
springtownreporter@tricountyreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — For the second year in a row, Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce's Wild West Festival is sold out of booths for vendors.

"I've got a waitlist going on," Chamber Executive Director Terri Toone said.

In the future, Toone said the annual festival needs ways to expand, but it's not clear how that will happen yet. To her, the Wild West Festival being sold out is proof of growth. The chamber has been working more on marketing the festival, Toone said, particularly on the chamber's new Instagram page "SpringtownTx ChamberofCommerce" with the help of an ambassador.

"The word is getting out," Toone said. "Maybe Springtown is starting to be on the map now for the Wild West Festival."

This year's festival, which will take place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sept. 21 on the Springtown Square, will feature more than 40 new vendors. In all, the event will have over 100 businesses and organizations in attendance, with some selling art, clothes, accessories, jewelry, toys, handmade goods, crafts and keepsakes. Food and drinks will be on sale at Wild West as well, including carnival classics like funnel cakes, corn dogs and all things fried, plus tacos, burritos and nachos. Some booths will be occupied by local churches or other organizations that supply information to Wild West attendees.

Toone said she will make it her goal for merchants to have a positive experience at the festival and want to return next year.

"I'd like to hear what our

vendors would like to see next year, if they have any improvements that they are willing to share with me that we can work on for next year," Toone said.

Last year, Toone was preparing to take the reins over the chamber and shadowed former Executive Director Amy Walker as she planned for Wild West. Toone made a point to visit every booth during the festival to introduce herself to the vendors. This year, she is fully in charge of the festival, but she has the help of people like chamber administrative assistant Dene Berry and board members Mary Harms and Andrew Alvis. Springtown's city staff has also been available to assist with the event, Toone said.

"We're all a team," she said. "We do it all together."

The kind of work that planning a major festival entails suits Toone's personality. She compared herself to the Energizer Bunny and said she is fueled by the pressure involved in the process. Knowing that all the preparation leads to an event filled with smiling faces is what motivates Toone.

"That's what I crave," she said. "That's what kind of keeps me going, just pushing, pushing, pushing until I see that final product, and then, it's like, oh my gosh, this was so worth it."

However, Toone is planning on taking a break after Wild West is over to celebrate her birthday, which is just a few days before the event.

"I'm going to Cabo, though, right after," she said with a laugh. "We'll celebrate afterwards."

Shopping isn't the only activity available at the Wild West Festival. People tired of walking around can cool their heels in the Tabernacle



Pee-wee athletes ride through Springtown last year during the Wild West Festival parade.

JIM STEVENS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

and listen to live music. In the past, the festival has featured multiple acts during the event, but this year, there will only be one band performing — Neon Playboys. Some locals may remember this group previously playing classic country music at Springtown's RnR Event Center. At Wild West, the Playboys will be making music from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Another Wild West entertainment option is the gunfighting shows that take place next to the Tabernacle. Heroes of the Old West aim to present historically accurate reenactments of gunfights. Shows will take place at 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 1:45 p.m.

Unfortunately, the rodeo that has occurred during Wild West in the park won't be happening this year because of pending park improvements, Toone said.

In honor of this being the 40th anniversary of the festival, a special presentation

will be held in the Tabernacle at noon. What will happen? You'll have to be there to find out. T-shirts commemorating the 40th anniversary will also be on sale for \$20 at the information booth at the festival.

PARADE

Of all the activities available at the Wild West Festival, the parade sticks out as one of the most spectacular. It's also where the community's youth have a chance to shine.

Last year, the procession was filled with floats by Springtown 4-H Club, pee-wee athletes, varsity football players and Springtown FFA as well as Springtown High School cheerleaders, Showstoppers, the Sound of Springtown and the Parker County Young Marines marching on foot. The parade also included classic cars, tractors, the Parker County Sheriff's Posse on horseback and floats helmed by local churches, organizations and the Springtown City Council.

This year's parade will begin at 10 a.m. starting at State Highway 199 and Hilltop Drive. The procession will travel west on SH 199 before turning north on Farm-to-Market Road 51. After passing the square, the parade will go down Second Street by city hall and then finish at Springtown Elementary School.

To enter the parade, applications should be submitted by 5 p.m. Sept. 19. Applications and rules can be found online at springtownchamber.org by hovering over the "Events" drop-down menu and clicking "Wild West Festival."

BARBECUE CONTEST

The 25th annual Wild West Festival State Championship BBQ Cook-off will take place

the day of the festival in the park behind Brookshire's. Teams will have to pay \$200 to enter and compete in four meat categories: chicken, ribs, pork butt and brisket. There will also be a jackpot the Friday before, and the competition categories are steak, dessert and beans. In total, \$10,000 in prizes will be paid out at the contest.

Toone said contestants can register for the cook-off the day of, or they can sign up beforehand.

"We have more spots available, so they can sign up day of," Toone said.

The executive director said the contest also needs judges.

For more information, call the chamber at 817-220-7828.

KIDS' AREA

For younger attendees of the Wild West Festival, there will be plenty for them to do in the children's area, located in the park behind Wells Fargo. Activities include bounce houses, an obstacle course, a rock-climbing wall, a train, horse rides, a petting zoo and a remote-controlled racecar game.

Jennifer Conway, former chamber president and organizer of the children's area, is also hoping that a puppet show performed periodically by Real Family Fellowship can make it to the event.

"They were out at Wild West years ago, but it's been several years," Conway said. "They finally are able to come back."

Other local churches will also have booths in the children's area. Springtown First Baptist Church will host a dunk tank, and Hilltop Family Church usually holds drawings for kids' bikes and a gift card for adults, Conway said.

The radio station 95.9 FM

The Ranch will attend Wild West Festival for a second year and be in the children's area. Conway said Leonardo the Bubbler of Next Level Bubble Parties is also expected to make a few appearances, which she said was a hit with children last year.

"It gave something else for the kids to see and do that they don't always get to," Conway said. "That's kind of like how the horse rides are. You think we live in the country, but a lot of people haven't seen a horse or been on a horse or touched a goat, and they get really excited to do that stuff."

Overall, Conway expects this year's festival in the children's area to be successful and hopes the weather will be nice that day.

"I have to admit, we really have a good time in the children's park," she said. "We have a lot of activities, and the energy is real high."

PARKING

Normally, people visiting the Springtown Square can find parking on the square, but during the Wild West Festival, there will be booths set up in those regular parking spaces.

In this case, festival goers should park near Springtown First Baptist Church (at the corner of FM 51 and Fifth Street) or at Springtown High School (at the corner of SH 199 and Pojo Road). These locations will be utilized as pick-up and drop-off locations for the shuttles to transport people to the festival, free of charge. The shuttles are expected to run from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. According to the map on the chamber's website, the pick-up/drop-off site at the festival will be near Highland Furniture.



JIM STEVENS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

This donkey made an appearance at Springtown's Wild West Festival last year.

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And just like that ... it was fall

As I arrived at the newspaper early Saturday morning and got out of my car, the first crisp breath of autumn swept across the landscape and was inhaled deep into my lungs. The sensation came out of nowhere and that single cool breath told me the world had begun a magical transformation. The sweltering hot days of summer were being pushed into winter hibernation. The summer sounds of boating on the lake, or the revelry heard from the neighborhood swimming pools, were being silenced. A change was underway.

While the process for summer to completely disappear will take weeks, it is inevitable. Of course, in Texas there will always be the late fall dose of "Indian Summer" where the temperatures jump into the high 80s as summer fights to survive for just a few more days. But despite a last minute "hurray," summer's



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

end is as certain as death and taxes. It is part of the natural order of things.

The coming of fall brings a unique sensory experience. The air becomes cooler and carries a distinctive crispness. The smell of fallen leaves and wood smoke fills the atmosphere as people start using their fireplaces or outdoor fire pits. Meanwhile, the ground is often covered in a blanket of fallen leaves, creating a satisfying crunch underfoot. I appreciate the immediate and striking transformation of foliage as trees don their autumn coats of gold, crimson and amber, creating a breathtaking panorama and eliminating any doubt of the

presence of a higher being in our lives.

Autumn's culinary offerings are a highlight of the season. Pumpkin spice, which has become a cultural phenomenon, makes its grand return in everything from lattes to pastries. Apples are in their prime, leading to a resurgence of apple pies, cider and crisp, fresh apple slices. Sweet potatoes and root vegetables start appearing in hearty stews and roasts. These seasonal ingredients not only highlight the flavors of fall but also inspire cozy, comforting recipes. I will wager that 90% of stew and chili is consumed from October through February.

Fall is a time rich with festivals and traditions. Halloween kicks off the season with a celebration of all things spooky and fun. From carving pumpkins to dressing up in costumes and attending haunted houses, Halloween is a time for creativity and community. Shortly after, Thanksgiving offers a moment to gather with loved ones and reflect on gratitude, featuring traditional meals centered around turkey, stuffing and cranberry sauce. These holidays are deeply woven into the fabric of autumn and bring people together in celebration and reflection.

As the temperatures drop, there is a noticeable shift in activities. Outdoor pursuits such as hiking are more popular, with cooler weather making it pleasant to explore trails and enjoy the changing scenery. Football season kicks off, bringing communities together to cheer on their favorite

teams. The shorter days and longer nights also encourage indoor activities like reading, knitting or watching movies by the fireplace.

Fall fashion is characterized by layers and textures. The arrival of cooler weather means swapping out summer wardrobes for cozy sweaters, scarves, and boots. Earthy tones and rich fabrics like wool and flannel come into play. Home decor also undergoes a transformation as people embrace autumn-themed decorations. Wreaths made of leaves, pumpkins and warm-toned candles add a seasonal touch to homes.

Finally, fall serves as a poignant reminder of the passage of time. The shortening of days and lengthening shadows evoke a sense of reflection and transition. It's a period that encourages people to slow down, appreciate the moment and prepare for the coming winter. It makes many of

us stop and think about the "autumn" of our lives and savor the time before the bell tolls.

Fall is a season of transformation and transition. From the spectacular display of nature's colors to the shift in activities, food and fashion, autumn is a time rich with experiences that engage the senses and invite reflection. Whether you're reveling in the seasonal flavors or enjoying the crisp air, fall offers a unique and cherished chapter in the annual cycle of life. Enjoy its while it lasts because just as certain that it is coming, it will soon end.

Thought for the day: There are two types of people in the world: those who enjoy watching football while enjoying a bowl of chili and a cool libation, and those who are wrong and have no sense of taste.

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

Someone call security ...

Stephen Cox is not an imposing figure. Still, he has the countenance and features to be a Clark Kent look-alike, even if considerably smaller in stature.

You remember Clark, right? He's the guy who morphed quickly from his role as a reporter for a large metropolitan newspaper into Superman, the movie and comic book figure who flew around Gotham City beating the daylight out of the bad guys.

Cox, now 30-something, even has eyewear like Kent's. The distinguished San Antonio music educator appears to be much younger than his actual age, but he — like Kent — remains super cool in all circumstances, though never donning a cape, leaping over buildings in a single bound or putting the hurt on anybody ...



THE IDLE AMERICAN

By Dr. Don Newbury

Dr. Don Newbury is a longtime public speaker and former university president who is Texas' longest-running syndicated columnist, writing weekly since 2003. newbury@speakerdoc.com | 817-447-3872

He's so genteel, always careful to give others the benefit of doubts.

Cox has long been known as the kind of mentor whom students remember fondly for the rest of their lives. Beloved by his wife, children and a host of others, he has been a "hit" wherever he has struck up the band. If Mr. Holland had not preceded him, there easily could have been a "Mr. Cox's Opus."

By all measures, he is simply the best ...

Such respect is heaped on him by acclamation; no vote is needed. He's "Mr. Wonder-

ful" — one of the last guys on the planet one would expect to run afoul of airport TSA personnel.

Obviously never having laid eyes on this simple musical instrument, the agent didn't initially believe Cox's explanation about the kazoo in his pocket detected by x-ray. To him, it looked lethal. To Cox, it was a joke, since everyone can play kazooos easily if they have breath and "sing" such syllables as doo, too, who or vrrr into the kazoo.

Unflappable, Cox told the agent about the music con-

vention he'd attended, then details about the simple instrument. He remained calm and wasn't asked to play his kazoo. Isn't there a poem admonishing us to keep our heads about us, when others are losing theirs? Soon, he was allowed to board, his kazoo in hand ...

My, how things have changed, particularly airport security. I recall boarding a plane in Dallas, long before 9-11.

En route to Amarillo for a speaking engagement, I was unaware that pheasant hunting season began with the next sunrise. Dozens of boarders placed their shotguns in overhead bins, counting the hours until dawn.

"Those guns aren't loaded, are they?" flight attendants joked ...

I had a Stephen Cox ex-

perience shortly after 9/11. My wife and I were returning from a trip to Alaska, where she purchased ulu knives to gift our sons-in-law come Christmas. They were miniature versions of ulu knives that are used largely in Alaska.

One might guess them to be "pizza-slicers" if seen on kitchen counters in the US of A.

As we prepared to leave, suitcases filled quickly, so she stuffed the knives into her carry-on bag ...

At security check, a mean-spirited woman who looked capable of playing tackle on an NFL team lectured us sternly about dimensions, weights and what could NOT be included in our carry-ons. I yawned, thinking that no such items were in my pouch.

Wrong! My wife — weary as

her carry-on bag became "too heavy" — innocently extracted the ulu knives and stuck them into my bag, unbeknownst to me. To this day, she swears she considered them to be Christmas gifts, not dangerous weapons.

"What do we have here?" the agent sneered. "They're going to stay with me."

I tried to explain that Brenda thought they'd be nice Christmas gifts. I also failed to feign Cox's innocence, hopeful that the tears streaming down my cheeks would help. The agent, however, wasn't buying it. I could only hope the confiscated knives wound up under Christmas trees of young Eskimos who dreamed that Santa would somehow avoid security checks as his sleigh flew throughout the world on Christmas Eve ...

Meeting the moment with a historic transportation investment

J. BRUCE BUGG

Jr. Chairman, Texas Transportation Commission

Texas is booming. Our state adds a new Texan almost every minute of every day. Our quality of life and vibrant \$2.4 trillion economy make our state an attractive place to live and a compelling destination for future Texans. While growth poses challenges, the Texas Department of Transportation is meeting the moment with a record investment in our transportation system to ensure Texas remains the preferred destination for families and businesses.

Thanks to the vision of Gov. Greg Abbott and the Texas Legislature, the Texas Transportation Commission is up to the task with the adoption of the largest financial commitment to roadway infrastructure ever — \$147.9 billion. This includes \$104.2

billion for TxDOT's 10-year transportation plan known as the Unified Transportation Program (UTP). The \$147.9 billion investment — including development and routine maintenance — marks an increase of \$5.6 billion from last year's previous record.

From 2010 to 2020, Texas' population grew more than any other state. We added nearly four million people — roughly the entire population of Oklahoma. Currently, Texas has eight of the nation's top 10 fastest-growing counties for numeric growth, which are part of our five largest metro districts, and home to 68% of all Texans.

The support of Texans has been central to our continued delivery of new and better roadways, thanks in large measure to voter support of Proposition 1 in 2014 and Proposition 7 in 2015, which is the same year I joined the Commission.

A lot has changed since then. These days, TxDOT has a record \$52.3 billion in projects currently under active construction — more than triple the amount of projects under way in 2014.

TxDOT is keeping pace with Texas' growth and infrastructure needs. Later this year, we will break ground on an \$11 billion project to improve mobility and reduce flooding along a stretch of Houston's Interstate 45 corridor. That stretch of roadway accounts for nine of the Top 25 Most Congested Roadways in Texas — a project supported by \$5 billion from 2023's UTP. Last spring, we also broke out the shovels to expand capacity of Loop 1604 to give San Antonians more travel lanes and better connections to Interstate 10.

Those are just two examples of turning dirt on congestion relief projects as part of the Texas Clear

Lanes initiative. Since 2015, we have dedicated nearly \$35 billion of funding toward \$76 billion worth of projects on Texas' 100 Most Congested Roadways list. The 2025 UTP features an additional \$1.9 billion of funding for these Texas Clear Lanes projects.

Soon, TxDOT will also break ground on the \$4.5 billion Interstate 35 Capital Express Central project to expand and improve an 8-mile stretch in the heart of Austin. In North Texas, the just-approved UTP supports the full funding of the U.S. Highway 380/Spur 399 congestion relief and safety improvement project in Collin County, the second-fastest growing county in the nation.

Improving connectivity for rural areas, which are home to one of every 10 Texans, remains paramount.

To help connect the rural parts of the state, this UTP includes an additional \$1.7

billion in funding for rural corridors and key roadways in economic hubs. Major improvements are occurring in rural Texas, including along U.S. Highway 87 and U.S. Highway 83 in the Panhandle running through Amarillo and Lubbock. This supports the transport of goods in agriculture, oil and gas production, lumber/timber and other products to our population centers. Border transportation also gets a boost with a planned alternate to I-10 and Phase 2 of the Borderland Expressway in El Paso.

Safety is at the heart of every project at TxDOT, and this year's plan reflects that. We will spend \$17.3 billion on safety-focused programs, over and above our efforts to reduce congestion and improve connectivity. We understand that Texans want to make it to work and get their kids to school safely, and on time.

Finally, our commitment to maintenance has not wavered. While the department celebrates a record-breaking UTP for the second year running, we also have established a record investment of \$43.7 billion in development and maintenance funding. When added with the \$104.2 billion UTP, the unprecedented \$147.9 billion total investment will help keep Texans and our economy moving.

I want to thank my fellow commissioners who have helped guide TxDOT as the agency works to improve safety, provide congestion relief, increase statewide connectivity, and enhance the quality of life for all Texans. As our population and economy continue to grow, we are meeting the challenge to provide a robust transportation system that will serve all current and future Texans.

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

“4” the students

Azle ISD to bring Academy 4 program to Cross Timbers, Hilltop

LILY HUDMAN
Tri-County Reporter intern

AZLE — Academy 4, a program which mentors fourth grade students in economically disadvantaged Title I schools, will operate in Cross Timbers and Hilltop Elementaries within the Azle Independent School District starting this school year. Academy 4 focuses on men-

toring students in leadership characteristics rather than academics.

Every school that is a part of the Academy 4 program is partnered with a local church which has a trained site coordinator who helps run the program throughout the year. Cross Timbers is partnered with Revive UMC and Hilltop is partnered with First Baptist Church Lakeside.

“Our church already has a close relationship with Cross Timbers Elementary,” site coordinator at Revive UMC Rev. Jenn Pick said. “Some of our members mentored children last year. Being the site coordinator for Academy 4 seemed like a natural extension of what we were already doing at Cross Timbers.”

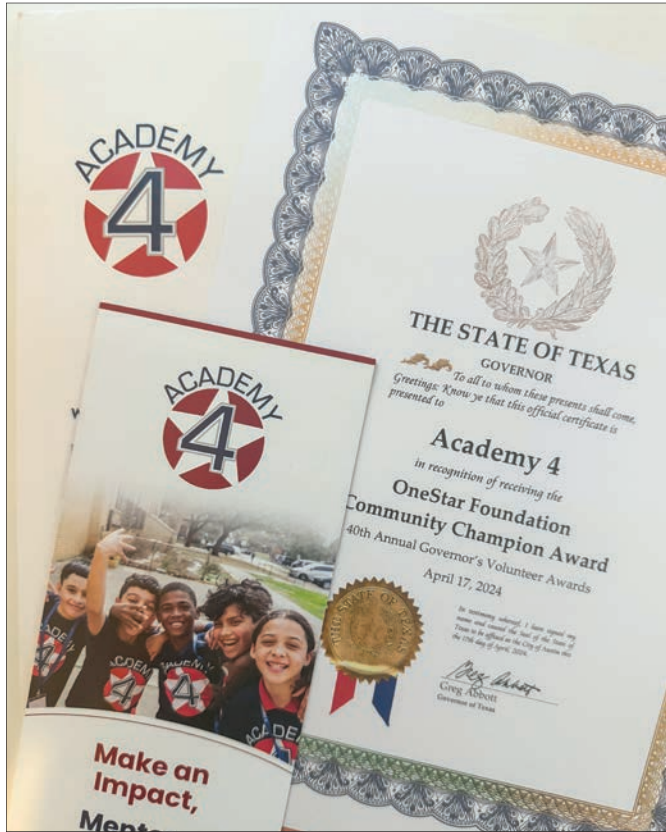
Azle Rotary Club President Bob Buckel presented the Academy 4 program to the elementary school principals last year at one of their monthly meetings. Principals at Cross Timbers and Hilltop Shelly Wynns and Amy Rollmann, respectively, both volunteered their campuses.

“My hope is that the Academy 4 program will strengthen our campus as a whole by providing support to our students, but also teach them how they can be a mentor to others,” Rollmann said. “I am excited to bring community members into the school to work with our amazing students. I think that both the adult and the student will benefit from the time together.”

Throughout the year, Academy 4 mentors will meet with their student once a month for 90 minutes. Each month there is a focus on a different theme word, which spells the acronym, “LEADER.” Wynns said she hopes this method of mentoring will build students’ self-efficacy and confidence. “All students need adults in their lives that care about



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER
Academy 4’s booth at the Azle ISD Vendor Fair, with Jenn Pick, pastor of Revive United Methodist Church in Azle on the left.



LILY HUDMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER
Academy 4 received the OneStar Foundation Community Champion Award in 2024 at the 40th Annual Governor’s Volunteer Awards.

them and are invested in knowing and supporting them while holding them accountable for their success,” Wynns said. “Leadership skills training is something that all students can benefit from.”

According to Pick, Azle ISD is the first school district outside a suburban/urban area to have the Academy 4 program. Buckel said this will show surrounding communities how eager Azle is to serve its schools.

“I think that when we do sign up and show up for these kids, we’re going to be a model for a lot of other communities as their outreach expands,” Buckel said. “We’re able to set a really high bar and we’re able to set a good example for what they’ll be doing in smaller communities.”

Site coordinator at First Baptist Church Lakeside Cynthia Brewer has worked for Academy 4 for about two

months and said she is excited to see how Academy 4 can impact not just students, but mentors and the community as well.

“We have a lot of seniors and a lot of retirees, and getting to know someone in the community that is outside of their circle and spending time with a child when they don’t see children a lot gives them a sense of purpose,” Brewer said. “They will realize that they can still contribute to the community and they still have meaningful gifts to give.”

School districts who welcome the Academy 4 program school also get two other programs. Leaders 5 allows fifth grade students who were previously in Academy 4 to mentor first grade students. Full Circle Scholars gives students a chance to receive a scholarship if they were in Academy 4 as a fourth grader and volunteered for Academy 4 as a

junior or senior.

“(Two high school juniors) still had the photo they took with their mentor all those years later as a high school junior,” Academy 4 Vice President of Development Terrence Butler said. “So that just shows how much (Academy 4) means to the mentors and the mentees.”

Brewer and Buckel both said they strongly encourage members of the community to sign up for Academy 4 because they could strongly influence a child’s life in a positive way that the mentor and child won’t forget.

“Our students are the future of our community and world,” Rollmann said. “With Academy 4, a 90-minute-per-month commitment has the power to impact and change a child’s life. I love that this program brings to life our district motto that, ‘It makes a difference to this one.’”

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412 Commerce, Azle
e-clubhouse.org/sites/azle_tk/
Jamie Westbrook - president
817-550-7625

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

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

See www.azlema.com or email director@azlema.com for additional information.
817-200-4611

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SE HABLA ESPAÑOL

Springtown Police Department wins fifth annual Battle of the Badges

MADELYN EDWARDS

springtownreporter@tricityreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — Springtown-area blood donors backed the blue during this year's Battle of the Badges Blood Drive.

City Administrator and Public Safety Director David Miller cheerfully announced that Springtown Police Department won the competitive drive where donors chose between police and Parker County Emergency Services District 1.

"Now, for the moment I've been waiting for," Miller said during his monthly report to the city council Aug. 22, as

members started a drumroll. "It's been a long battle, but our cops finally beat those firefighters in the Battle of the Badges."

The fifth annual drive was held last month outside the municipal annex building next to city hall. Before this year, ESD 1 was technically ahead in the friendly contest. The agencies were tied last year, and ESD 1 has won the competition twice while the police department has only come out on top once before now. After this year's drive, Springtown Police Department and ESD 1 have an equal number of victories.

Assistant City Administrator Christina Derr

confirmed that 48 pints of blood were donated in total during the two-day drive. According to the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, one blood donation can save up to three lives, and someone in the U.S. needs blood about every two seconds.

As someone who led a career in law enforcement, Miller said he is proud of Springtown Police Department's achievement while stoking the playful rivalry between police officers and firefighters.

"The reality is we finally beat those little rascals," he said.

HISTORY FROM PAGE A1

the Lake Run, Sertoma Club beauty pageant and these other irregular events.

In October 1990, the earliest direct progenitor of Sting Fling would emerge with the verbosely named Eagle Mountain Bike Tour and the Azle Days Arts and Crafts Fair. In its first year, the 25-, 50- and 100-mile bike circuit around North Texas attracted 600-700 cyclists. After two years, the event's organizers and the Azle Area Chamber of Commerce would seek to breathe new life into the event with a new name. Then-president of the chamber, Cyndi Standefer explained the history of the bike tour and craft fair event along with her motivation going forward in a January 1992 Azle News Advertiser article.

"Three years ago, some people were sitting around wondering what we could do to enhance the community," Standefer wrote. "They came up with the bike tour and crafts festival. The idea was that down the road it could be like the Fire Ant Festival in Marshall — a whole weekend of festivities."

Standefer said while the events were successful, their titles continued to grow wordier and more difficult to relate to out-of-town inquiries.

"To do a better job of PR, we have got to name this festival," she had thought.

Standefer described meeting with chamber board members early one morning in 1991 to come up with a title that could encapsulate the proposed range of events. She recalled an anecdote that would stick with the other board members.

"I have an aunt who's German," Standefer said. "When I first told her I was moving to a town named Azle, she giggled."

Esel, she explained, roughly pronounced like Azle means "jackass" or don-

key in German. The name would have some staying power with the board members who heard it and in a January 1992 meeting, they voted to unite events under the "Jackass Jamboree" banner for a fair held in the first week of October.

This moniker wouldn't live to see its first celebration. After enduring complaints for several weeks, the chamber surveyed public opinion through the newspaper and its own bulletin. The results were mixed but most of those that responded favored not using the new name. Two months and a split vote later, the chamber decided to instead dub the happening the Jumpin' Jack Jamboree, a suggestion made in several survey forms. In keeping the donkey motif, the chamber would be able to stick with its planned donkey-centered vision without fear of "being banned in schools when it appears on T-shirts" or "spark fistfights when applied to Azle residents," former Azle News editor Bob Buckel wrote. A bronze statue of the function's proposed mascot, Jacky, and a Jack and Jenny Beauty Contest would be two examples used to tie the city back to its German sound-alike. The statue, created by esteemed local artist Jack Bryant was inscribed with the slogan, "Azle: where the West really begins."

Though without its originally intended name, Standefer was excited to see the unified gathering go forward regardless and even thought the brief controversy would help with its notoriety.

The event, by all metrics, was successful. It featured a carnival with booths, food and entertainment as well as a street dance, a demonstration from a local inventor and his "Little Pop Fly" pitching machine, a performance from the Azle Rhythmettes Drill Team, and a concluding praise service.

The 1992 Jumpin' Jack Jamboree would be the first of many. Azle would hold this fall fest every year for 16

years. While its events, date and location might change from year to year, for a generation of Azleites, the Jumpin' Jack Jamboree meant fun and community-wide celebration when cooler weather came around.

In 2008, the Azle Area Chamber of Commerce decided to revamp the fun fair yet again. According to former Azle News editor Edwin Newton, a new name was crafted to foster community pride and support for the Azle High School Hornet athletic programs; Sting Fling was born.

With concerns that the jamboree had been too spread out along Main Street, the first Sting Fling was largely concentrated around parking lots on Industrial Avenue and Roe Street. Along with new elements, the festival also retained many older traditions.

The parade down Main Street, now a hallmark of the event, only began a year before at the last Jumpin' Jack Jamboree. The Weiner Dog Derby and the annual car show predate Sting Fling, with the two being in their ninth and eighth iterations at the time of the name change. The first Sting Fling showed that its new name and layout would present no problems for organizers, attracting a reported 8,000-10,000 people.

While some of the event's dates and details have since shifted, Sting Fling today remains largely the same with its scope of activities. This year marks Azle's 16th Sting Fling, making this iteration of the celebration tied for the longest lasting to date.

While the Azle Sting Fling may not get as many out-of-towners as the Anahuac Gator Fest or Poteet Strawberry Festival, it remains an important local mainstay and a source of pride for the community. Lifelong residents of the area can only wait and see how it may continue to change and grow into the future.

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.....

NEED A RIDE?

Transportation Options for Azle's Senior Citizens and Disabled

The City of Azle contracts with Fort Worth Transportation Authority (Trinity Metro) to provide transit service within Tarrant County to Azle residents who are 65+ and/or disabled under the Tarrant County Transportation Services (TCTS) program. TCTS provides door-to-door transportation service within Azle city limits and Tarrant County for any purpose including medical, visiting a friend, shopping, going to a movie, etc.

Monday is Azle residents' "guaranteed" ride day. Azle residents can schedule rides to take place Monday through Friday, **but "guaranteed" rides are only available on Mondays.** On other days, rides for Azle residents are subject to availability. Riders are encouraged to schedule important trips such as medical appointments on the "guaranteed" day. Rides are provided by Catholic Charities.

To schedule a ride, call Catholic Charities at 817-336-8714, Monday-Friday, 8 AM - 5 PM.

- Please call two (2) to seven (7) working days in advance of your desired trip. **You must request TCTS service.**
- One-way fare is \$2.50 per person.
- Rides are scheduled from 6 AM - 6 PM. No holiday/weekend service.



For rides into Parker County, Public Transit Services (PTS) provides door-to-door transportation service into Parker County. To schedule a ride, call 940-328-1391 or Toll Free 1-866-521-1391, Monday - Friday, 8 am - 5 pm.

- \$4 one way (\$2 for seniors 60+) anywhere within Parker/Palo Pinto County.
- Rides are scheduled from 6 AM - 6 PM. No holiday/weekend service.

Every Drop Counts Poster Contest

City of Azle's Utility Billing Department invites all K-12 students to showcase their creativity while raising awareness about the importance of water conservation. Let your imagination flow and make a splash with your artwork!



- Create an original 8.5 x 11 poster promoting water conservation with the theme "Every Drop Counts". Use vibrant colors and clear lettering.
- Entry forms available online at www.cityofazle.org or at Azle City Hall. Entries due by November 15, 2024 at Azle City Hall, 505 W. Main Street.
- Original artwork, only - no signatures, copyrighted images, or computer-aided entries.
- Winners will be chosen from each grade K-12 (school year 2024-2025).

If you have questions about the contest, call 817-444-2541 or email the Utility Billing Department at utilitybilling@cityofazle.org.

Conserving water is an environmentally friendly way to protect and save our precious water supply.

September Events at The Feedlot

September at The Feedlot, 225 Church Street, is packed with exciting events for the Azle community!

Friday Night Lights at The Feedlot is the place to be for Azle Hornet football fans. For away games, we're streaming the action on a big screen. For home games, The Feedlot transforms into a pep rally atmosphere with extended hours until 11pm.

- ⇒ September 14, Justin Conteras takes the stage at 6:30 pm.
- ⇒ September 21, Azle Farmers Market is back.
- ⇒ September 28, Dustin Bell will be back performing '90s hits.
- ⇒ October 4, Azle High School Homecoming event.

All our events feature food trucks, so come hungry and stay for the fun! Follow us on Facebook (facebook.com/FeedlotAzle) for event info!

THE CITY OF AZLE PARKS DEPARTMENT PRESENTS:

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Azle Memorial Library News and Free Events

333 W Main St, Azle, TX 76020

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

Full details of our free programs can be found on the library's website, or by visiting the library and picking up our Monthly Newsletter.

Library Closures:

- September 14 - closed due to Sting Fling. We invite you to stop by our booth at the festival and say hello!
- September 30 - the Library will close at 5pm due to the Homecoming Parade on Main Street.

New Fundraising Website! The Azle Library Trust is a non-profit organization that supports the library by funding new books, programs and digital resources. Visit the Trust's new website, Azlelibrarytrust.org, to learn more and make an online donation!

Fresh Start to a Healthier You: Learn ways to eat healthier, cook healthy meals, and reduce grocery budget stress! This 4-part series is free and takes place Thursdays at 6pm on 9/19, 9/26, 10/3 & 10/10.

Last Monday Matinee

Adults are invited to a new release movie in the Community Room with free popcorn on the last Monday of each month at 2pm. No children, please

- 9/30: *The Long Game* (PG)

Nature Storytime! Join Miss Ava for a special storytime for 3-6 years olds and their caregivers at the Ft. Worth Nature Refuge at 10:30am on October 3. Free entry for storytime attendees - please arrive early.

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



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OBITUARIES

Cecil Edward Bracey 1963-2024

Cecil Edward (Eddie) Bracey, Weatherford, 60, was called home to be with the Lord on August 26, 2024, after a lengthy illness. Cecil was born on October 8, 1963, in Wichita Falls, Texas. Cecil was dedicated to his career choices as a Texas Certified Nursery Professional, land surveyor and store manager. He never met a stranger and always offered a helping hand. He enjoyed fishing, gardening, football and caring for animals. Cecil is preceded in death by his parents Cecil and Evelyn Bracey. His memory is cherished by family and friends. Cecil will have a private interment at New Hope Cemetery in Boyd, Texas.



private interment at New Hope Cemetery in Boyd, Texas.

The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday Sept 12, 2024

Shirley Ann Davis 1937-2024

Shirley Ann Davis, known affectionately as Annie, passed away on September 6, 2024, in Weatherford, Texas, at the age of 87. She was a long-time resident of Azle, Texas. Born on August 16, 1937, in Reeds Spring, Missouri. Annie was one of twelve siblings and was cherished as a "little mother" to her brothers and sisters.

Ann is survived by her husband, Bill Davis, and son Joe Pruitt and wife Dana, children Haven and Atticus Pruitt, Daniel, Taylor, and Brooke Castilleja, four great grandchildren, four siblings: Larry Carver, Mrs. Betty Maggard, Mrs. Pat Ray and Mrs. Judy Harvey and numerous nieces and nephews in Missouri. Ann was preceded in death by her daughter, Leah Marie Pruitt.

Annie's grace and warmth



will be deeply missed by all who knew her. Ann's memory will be cherished and kept alive in the hearts of her family and friends.

Grave side services are pending at Yocum Pond Cemetery in Reeds Spring, Missouri

The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday Sept 12, 2024

Elizabeth Dawn Garrett 1987-2024

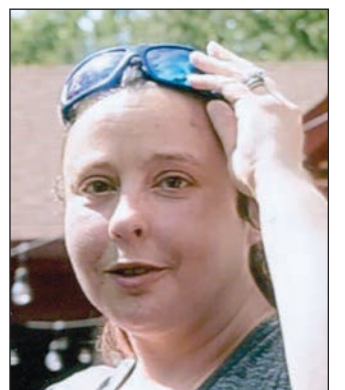
Elizabeth Dawn Garrett, age 37, passed from this life on Wednesday, September 4, 2024, which was the wedding anniversary of her maternal grandparents. Born February 6, 1987, in Weatherford, Texas, to Steven Garrett and Linda (Hall) Garrett.

Elizabeth attended school in Weatherford and graduated from Weatherford High School. She obtained her CNA from Weatherford College, and worked on her Pharmacy Technician Certificate at Cisco Junior College.

Elizabeth passed away at her home surrounded by her loving parents, brother, her nurse, Brandy, and special hair braider (HHA), Stephanie. She enjoyed watching her reality TV shows: Big Brother, Say Yes to the Dress, and Little People, Big World. She also enjoyed Steven Seagal movies, word searches, collecting Barbie Christmas dolls, going to concerts and karaoke with her brother, pedicures, and her five furry dog companions. Liz had a big and innocent heart.

She was preceded in death by her maternal grandparents, Robert and Loveta Hall, of Weatherford, and her paternal grandparents, Clyde and Shirley Garrett, of Springtown.

Liz is survived by her parents, Steven and Linda Garrett; her sister, Amy and



husband, Cody; and her brother, Wyatt. Additional survivors include: aunts, Gayle Hall and Karen Wilson (Ed); uncle, Lamoine Garrett (Donna); two nieces, Baylee and Emerlee; two nephews, Eli and Brantley; and numerous great aunts, uncles, and cousins. She is also remembered by numerous friends, Reliant Hospice Staff, and her church family.

A funeral ceremony will be held at 10:00 a.m., Monday, September 9, 2024, at Galbreath Pickard Funeral Chapel, with interment to follow at East Greenwood Cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., on Sunday, September 8, 2024, at Galbreath Pickard Funeral Chapel.

The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday Sept 12, 2024

Barry Dean Taylor 1963-2024

Barry Dean Taylor, 60, passed away Monday, September 2, 2024 in Fort Worth. He was born November 18, 1963 to Gordon Taylor and Juanita (Hemphill) Smith in Dallas. Barry's father preceded him in death. Barry grew up in Saginaw and attended Boswell High School, class of 1981. He became a Master Plumber after finishing school and worked in that field for over 30 years. He had a strong sense of spirituality. Barry loved guns and going to the shooting range. He also enjoyed a good Margarita. He was a kind and loving man who loved spending time with his family. He was considered the pillar of his family. Barry is survived by his children, Trisha Hughes and husband Cameron, Rebecca Taylor, Barry Dean Taylor Jr., Chelsea Gilley, Britny Drake and husband Coby, and Bailey Reynolds; mother, Juanita Smith; sister Rebeckah Stephens and husband Terry; his other half, Jackie Gilley; grandchildren, Chanlea, Cora, Camella, Bella, Gunnar, Kayden Dean, Shaun, Kayden, Shane, and Braxton along with numerous nieces nephews and extended family. Barry will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved him. A visitation was held at Alexander's Midway Chapel Friday, September 6, 2024.



band Terry; his other half, Jackie Gilley; grandchildren, Chanlea, Cora, Camella, Bella, Gunnar, Kayden Dean, Shaun, Kayden, Shane, and Braxton along with numerous nieces nephews and extended family. Barry will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved him. A visitation was held at Alexander's Midway Chapel Friday, September 6, 2024.

The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday Sept 12, 2024

Mary Ina Newton 1943-2024

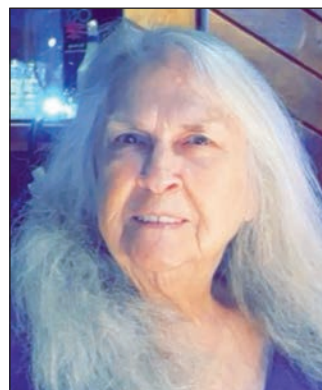
Mary Ina Moreland Newton, 81, of Azle, died peacefully, with family at her side Thursday, Sept. 5, 2024.

A memorial service is scheduled for 2 p.m. Friday, Sept. 20, at White's Azle Funeral Home.

She was born May 12, 1943, to Worth and Francis Mooreland. Mary was a big part of her community and always took pride in her Azle roots. She never met a stranger and welcomed everyone with an open heart. Mary was a devoted mother and gracious grandmother.

She was preceded in death by her parents; and two siblings, Doss and Bob Mooreland.

Mary is survived by her children, Doug (Shorty) Mayfield, Dorrie Mayfield, Robert Rainey, Marc Rainey and Tim



Mayfield; grandchildren, Hannah Sawyer, Nathaniel Rainey, Ashtin Rainey, Will Rainey, DJ Mayfield and Cody Mayfield; and two great-grandchildren, Brookelynn and Scarlett Rainey.

The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday Sept 12, 2024

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Community Groups..... Various Times

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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

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Rev. Joshua Lowrance
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Morning Worship..... 10:30 AM
Wednesday Evening..... 7:00 PM

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1405 Reynolds Rd., Azle
Directions: 730 N. to 1542 .5 mi. right
on Cardinal, left on Reynolds
Sunday Service..... 11:00 AM
Wednesday Evening..... 6:30 PM

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Interim Minister Rev. Russell Clark,
Family Life Minister Emerson Braun
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Morning Worship..... 11:00 AM

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Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM
Wednesday 7:00 PM

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"Love God - Serve Others - Share Jesus"
Traditional Worship..... 9:30 AM
Contemporary Worship..... 11:00 AM

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

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

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

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

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

LEGACY CHURCH
Assembly of God Church
Pastor: Gary D. Veazey
Hwy. 199 & Jaybird Lane 817-221-2983
Morning Worship..... 9:15 & 11:00 AM
Kidz Zone..... 9:15 & 11:00 AM
Weds Evening Legacy Group Legacy Youth, Kids
All Services..... 7:00 PM

THE RANCH CHRISTIAN COWBOY CHURCH
Pastor: Greg Slankard
7955 Reed Rd., Azle 682-327-7082
www.TheRanchCCC.org
Sunday School 9:30 AM • Worship 10:00 AM
Weds 7:00 pm • Thurs Potluck 6:30 pm

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

SILVER CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH
Pastor: Jay Ditty
Minister of Music: David Musick
Corner FM 730 S. & Veal Station Rd.
Church 817-444-2325
www.silvercreekbc.org
Sunday School..... 9:45 AM
Morning Worship..... 10:50 AM
Evening Worship..... 7:00 PM
Wed. Prayer Service..... 6:00 PM

THE WORD@LAKESIDE CHURCH OF GOD
9396 FM 1886 Fort Worth, TX 76135
817-237-5500
thewordatlakeside.com
Pastors: Brandon and Kelly Bohannon
Worship Pastor: Christen Moody
Family Life and Young Adult Pastors: Jodie and Mark James, Kids Pastor: Katie Pearson,
Student Pastors: Taylor and Sheridan Tomlin, Creative Directors: Logan and Carrie Edwards, Connections Coordinators: Preston and Ashley Larrew
Equip Sunday School
at the WORD..... 9:30 AM
Empower Worship
at the WORD..... 10:45 AM
Kids at the WORD..... 10:45 AM
PreK at the WORD..... 10:45 AM
Emanate at the WORD
(Special Needs Ministry) 10:45 AM
Nursery at the WORD 10:45 AM
Young Adults at the WORD 6:00 PM
Wednesdays
Adult Bible Class..... 7:00 PM
The WORD Students
(6th-12th grades)..... 6:30 PM
Awana Kids at the WORD 6:30 PM
Life at the WORD Life Groups Various Times

A church alive is worth the drive! For more information or rates on listing your church, call Jessica at 817-270-3340

GIVING

FROM PAGE A1

ADULT & TEEN CHALLENGE:

Adult & Teen Challenge, Azle branch, was established in 2008 at 1099 Flat Rock Road. Through “the Ultimate Journey,” men and teen boys with a history of substance abuse or other lifelong problems can receive room and board, counseling, parenting classes, spiritual support, relapse prevention, anger management and drug and alcohol education. The organization engages its participants in work and educational training during its 13-week intensive life reconstruction course. Readers can find more information at teenchallenge.org/mens-programs/azle-dallasfort-worth-mens-campus/.

AZLE COMMUNITY CARING CENTER:

The Azle Community Caring Center was established in 1990 and has been feeding local families at its current 317 Commerce St. location for 20 years. In 2023, the center filled and distributed 15,591 food carts to help 3,492 Azle area families with food and household necessities. Over the past year, it has reported a 40% increase in the number of families using its services. In recent years, the CCC founded The Porch Resale Shoppe to bring in more revenues and earlier this year it began a major construction and expansion project.

The Community Caring Center has been participating in North Texas Giving Day since 2021 and reports it has increased the number of donors and dollars raised every year.

“We are very blessed to be part of such a generous and considerate community,” Assistant Executive Director

Bonnie Monninger said in an email to the Tri-County Reporter. “In the previous years we have used the NTX Giving Day as a platform to raise funds for our Annual Christmas Dinner Box Campaign. This year we will be reallocating those financial resources and manpower to further our ongoing efforts to reduce food insecurity in our community. We believe this approach will have a more significant impact, allowing us to support even more individuals and families in need. Regardless of their holiday traditions or personal circumstances, families will have access to the essentials needed to create meaningful meals whenever they need them.”

While the CCC’s new freezer and cooler unit may appear completed from the outside, Monninger reports that electrical, fire suppression and evaporating systems still need work. The organization expects the expansion will be complete by the end of November. Along with monetary donations, the CCC is in-need of cereal, canned proteins, canned veggies and tomato products as soup season draws nearer. Readers can find more information at communitycaringcenter.com.

BARK N REST RETIREMENT CENTER:

Bark N Rest Retirement Center cares for senior and special needs dogs. It pays for the ongoing vet needs, nutrition, grooming and housing of its canine residents. Located at 528 Dylan Court, the organization hopes to give dogs that might otherwise be euthanized a comfortable place to live out their days. The organization can be found on Facebook at www.facebook.com/BarknRest.

EAGLE MOUNTAIN PREGNANCY HELP CENTER:

Eagle Mountain Pregnancy

Help Center is another local institution hoping to make a change in Azle. Located at 10328 Jacksboro Highway, Fort Worth, the organization works to provide women an alternative to abortion and offers resources, counseling and support to struggling mothers with young children.

“We are blessed to participate in the nonprofit fundraiser North Texas Giving Day,” EMPHC Executive Director Karen Ogea said. “We thank the community for their prayers and donations of all kinds. So far in 2024, we have provided over 400 client interactions, hosted over 550 educational and lifestyle classes, enrolled and graduated (with high-school diplomas) three students in the Azle ISD Hornet Academy with two more currently enrolled. Also, we have initiated a new fatherhood mentorship program for the fathers we see, as well as a new in-person English as a Second Language class to those families who want to learn better English ... Having in stock the supplies our families need and earn can make substantial differences in the outcomes of each situation.”

According to Ogea, one of the center’s biggest needs is diapers, sizes 4-7, and pull-ups, sizes 2T-3T, with receipts. Clothing for children over 12 months for all seasons is also in high demand. In lieu of the items themselves, Amazon gift cards and monetary donations are also appreciated. Ogea said to her knowledge, at least three pregnant women seeking abortions have changed their minds after visiting the center in 2024. The mothers and their children are said to be doing well and are receiving ongoing assistance from the center. More information on EMPHC can be found at emphc.org.

MOLLIE’S CAT PLACE:

Mollie’s Cat Place is a sanctuary for senior cats, feral cats and cats with health conditions to live their days in comfort. The shelter provides food, shelter and veterinary care to ensure its feline friends are comfortable and healthy. The organization started work in the Azle area in 2007, and it also acts as a haven for cats other shelters and organizations might opt to euthanize. More information on the sanctuary can be found at www.molliescat-place.org.

The sanctuary currently has just one employee with another set to start soon. “Our single biggest need is funding,” employee Roni Lisenbe said. “Due to their advanced age and health problems, our vet bills are astronomical! I don’t have cancer. We are also in need of volunteers, people to clean the cat cabins and socialize the cats. There are 22 cats here (which may not seem like much), but because we only have two paid employees, we do not always have the time to interact with the cats one-on-one. We greatly appreciate the time our volunteers spend with them! And, of course, we always appreciate it when people donate food, litter, treats, etc. from our Amazon and Chewy wish lists!”

A representative said the organization relies on North Texas Giving Day to provide a large portion of their working budget

“Last year, we came so close to our goal of \$20,000,” Lisenbe said. “We hope this is the year we meet and/or exceed that amount! Our donors are so incredibly generous and kind, and we appreciate every gift, no matter the size. It is very nice to know how many people care about

our cats and want to see Mollie’s Cat Place succeed. We have already received over \$2,500 since Sept. 1, and we are only a week in!”

REEL RECOVERY:

Founded in 2003, Reel Recovery is a nonprofit organization that conducts free fly-fishing retreats for men at any stage after a cancer diagnosis. Mike Emerson, the state coordinator for the group in Texas, is based in Azle but the organization helps individuals across 23 states and four countries.

The Texas chapter of Reel Recovery takes men to retreats in Glen Rose, San Antonio and Houston. During the fishing trip, the organization tailors each trip to the specific health and lifestyle needs of its participants. “In Texas we can take as many as 84 guys a year,” Emerson said. “We’ve actually had guys come as far as Alaska ... They say, ‘when I’m fishing, I don’t have cancer.’ It’s amazing, you know. It gets them out of the house, and they get to be with other men and just enjoy life. We try to give them a respite from what they’re going through. It’s just an amazing, amazing deal.”

According to its website, over 600 people have gone through its Texas program and nearly 5,000 have utilized Reel Recovery nationwide. Despite its reach, Emerson said the operation is small, with only a handful of volunteers and employees and donations from North Texas Giving Day make a difference in providing resources for the program. Readers can find more information at www.reelrecovery.org.

SERVOLUTION NETWORK:

Servolution Network, based at 11698 S. Farm-to-Market Road 730, has been helping Azle area residents with home repairs, free meals and other services for the past 10

years. The group has revitalized more than 300 homes in total and helped an estimated 1,000 families per year with its Good Neighbors and Pay it Forward programs alone.

“We are excited to be participating for the third year in a row with North Texas Giving Day,” Servolution Director Jason Malewiski said. “It’s the largest community-wide giving event in the nation and mobilizes nonprofits and givers to create lasting impact in their communities. Our goal this year is to raise \$10,000 for our Pay it Forward program — the core purpose of this program is to gather gently used furniture, appliances and medical supplies to bless families in need. We pick up items from those who donate, repair and then lovingly gift them to families who are struggling to make ends meet. This program strives to provide a sense of dignity and well-being among those facing challenging circumstances ... The needs are great, and we continue every day to try and be a beacon of God’s love through this program.”

The funds raised during North Texas Giving Day will help Servolution cover the cost of truck repairs, gas, insurance, appliance repairs and buy new climate control infrastructure to keep the program going. Malewiski said it will also provide for support staff who run the program and allow them to serve more.

One notable Servolution Network project, the Good Neighbors Blitz, will take place Oct. 11 and 12 this year. The organization hopes to complete repairs on more than 15 homes. The group held an “All Hands” meeting Sept. 5 for participants to find out where they can help. Those interested in volunteering are encouraged to learn more at servolutionnetwork.com.



JOLEE SKINNER | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Moncrief Cancer Institute’s mobile clinic, designed to offer mammograms and other health related screenings.

Moncrief Cancer Institute hosts free mammogram screening at Lake Worth Library

JOLEE SKINNER

jolee@tricityreporter.com

LAKE WORTH — On Aug. 27, the Lake Worth Public Library hosted a free mammogram screening with the UT Southwestern Moncrief Cancer Institute mobile clinic. The screening was from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the library parking lot.

The Moncrief team brought its 18-wheeler with a 3D mobile mammography clinic, breast cancer screenings, cervical cancer screenings including pap tests, private exam rooms and high-speed telemedicine links that can connect patients with cancer experts immediately.

On that day, Moncrief screened 16 women inside the mobile unit. The screenings were for women ages 40 to 74, and were free for women without insurance and who had not had a mam-

mogram for at least one year. One of the women screened was Sanjuana Sanchez. Sanchez thought the experience was very nice and everyone inside the mobile unit was very sweet.

Sanchez stressed how important it is to get a yearly mammogram done.

“I have friends, they’re fighting breast cancer, I decided to come and get checked,” Sanchez said. “This is my third time because I’m 54 years old.”

Sanchez also expressed how important the free clinics are. “I don’t have health insurance, so for me, finding these places is a blessing,” Sanchez said. “Because a lot of places are very expensive and we cannot afford to pay for it sometimes.”

Sanchez remarked about the clinics not advertising enough in communities about these free services.

“I think that’s why a lot of people don’t do the exam,” Sanchez said. “I think they don’t know that there are free places like this that they can get an exam.”

Moncrief Cancer Institute is a community-based nonprofit organization that helps individuals fight cancer and offers support to cancer patients. The organization currently serves in more than 30 Texas counties.

Moncrief was awarded a \$9 million grant in January 2022 to develop comprehensive cancer screening programs for underserved residents.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, approximately 15% of Texans live in rural areas and there are only 300 rural health clinics. Accordingly, Moncrief Cancer Institute decided to develop a mobile screening clinic that visits more than 30 rural counties in Texas.

LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICES

INVITATION TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the City of Azle, Texas (OWNER) will receive sealed proposals at Azle City Hall until 10:00 a.m. local time on Thursday, September 26, 2024 for Wrecker Services. Sealed proposals will be opened and read aloud publicly following the close of the period. Bidders may receive a copy of Request for Proposals from the City’s website at <http://www.cityofazle.org>. For additional information, please contact: Jennifer Walls/Purchasing Agent at 817-444-7003 or by email at jwalls@cityofazle.org

NOTICE OF SEALED BID FOR SALE OF REAL PROPERTY

The City of Pelican Bay, Texas (the “City”) is accepting sealed bids for the purchase of the following lot of real property (the “Property”) for the purpose of residential development as described in this Notice of Bid Opening. The City will receive responses to this Sealed Bid at the Pelican Bay City Hall to the attention of Cynthia Daniels, City Secretary, at the Hand and Mail Delivery address of 1300 Pelican Circle, Pelican Bay, Texas 76020. The bid documents may be obtained in person at Pelican Bay City Hall or online at www.cityofpelicanbay.com. Bid documents are due to the City Secretary no later than 2:00 p.m. on September 30, 2024. Use of the U.S. Postal Service, private delivery companies, or courier services is undertaken at the sole risk of the bidder. It is the bidder’s sole responsibility to ensure that the bid is in the possession of the issuing office by the deadline. No email or faxed copies will be accepted. Bids received after 2:00 p.m. on September 30, 2024 will not be considered. The City will date and time-stamp each bid upon submission. The bids will be publicly opened and read in the Pelican Bay City Hall, 1300 Pelican Circle, Pelican Bay, Texas 76020 on September 30, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. All bids shall be plainly marked in a sealed envelope “Sealed Bid 2024-01-WS: SEALED BID TO PURCHASE REAL PROPERTY” Description/Location: The property known as the Lakeview Estates Addition Block 6 Lot 5, Address 1333 White Sand Drive, by the Tarrant County Appraisal District, consisting of approximately 0.23 acres of land, as more particularly described, and depicted in Exhibit “A”, attached hereto, and incorporated herein. The property is zoned TF Two Family District. The property is in the City limits and subject to all ordinances, rules, regulations and laws of the City and other application jurisdictions and authorities.

ORDINANCE NO. 24-001

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PELICAN BAY, TEXAS, ADOPTING AN UPDATED DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR THE CITY OF PELICAN BAY, TEXAS TO PROMOTE EFFICIENT USE OF WATER AND ADEQUATELY MANAGE THE CITY’S WATER RESOURCES DURING TIMES OF WATER SHORTAGE, AND TO PROVIDE FOR PENALTIES FOR NON COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN.

THE STATE OF TEXAS CITATION BY PUBLICATION CAUSE NO. 24P234

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JAMES MATTHEW GRIFFITH, DECEASED TO ALL UNKNOWN OR MISSING HEIRS OF THE ESTATE OF JAMES GRIFFITH, DECEASED Tory Lynn Bruny in the above-numbered and entitled estate filed an Amended Application for Letters of Independent Administration and Determination of Heirship on 07/31/2024. In the Estate of James Griffith, Deceased, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of James Griffith, Deceased, and their respective shares and interest in such estate, and appointing Tory Lynn Bruny to serve as the Independent Administrator of said estate and Determined Heirship. The court may act on said application at any call of the docket on or after 10:00 o’clock A.M. on the first Monday next after the expiration of 10 days from the date of publication of this citation, at the Parker County Court, One Courthouse Square, Weatherford, TX 76086 in Parker County, Texas. All persons interested in this case are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court !!,y filing a written contest or answer to said Application before the above stated time and date should you desire to do so. To ensure its consideration, you or your attorney must file any contest, objection, intervention, or response in writing with the County Clerk of Parker County, Texas on or before the above noted date and time. Given under my hand and the seal of said Court of Parker County, Texas at the office of the Parker County Clerk, on this 31st day of July, 2024. Lila Deakle, County Clerk, Parker County Texas. By Sharon Hall, Deputy Clerk. Applicant’s Attorney: Michele Audet 918 S Main ST Weatherford TX 76086.

The Zoning Board of Adjustment for the City of Springtown will hold a public hearing to consider a variance request for the requirements for lot size, building size, setbacks, and lot width for Lot 2 and Part of Lot 3, Block 14, Original Town of Springtown, an addition to the City of Springtown, Parker County, Texas, also known as 212 E. 3rd Street, being a 0.496 acre tract of land. The meeting will take place in City Hall Council Chambers in the Municipal Annex Building at 200 N. Main Street, Springtown, TX 76082, on September 26, 2024, at 7 p.m.

Charity Care Notice

Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Azle is a faith-based, non-profit organization dedicated to improving the health of the people in the communities it serves. Decisions regarding health care treatment will not be based on race, creed, sex, national origin, age, disability, or sources of payment. Uninsured or underinsured patients may be eligible for charity care if their income is below a specific percent of the federal poverty guidelines issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In addition, a patient whose family income exceeds a specific percent of the federal poverty guidelines who has significant medical bills may also be eligible for charity care if the patient lacks sufficient funds to pay the out-of-pocket portion of their hospital bill. For more information on the charity care program at Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Azle, contact the hospital’s admitting or business office.

Musical medalists

SISD board honors band students who won awards at UIL State Solo, Ensemble Contest



MADelyn EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER
Springtown ISD board of trustees recognized the Springtown High School UIL State Solo and Ensemble Contest participants from May at its meeting Aug. 26. For the first time in 20 years, every student earned a medal.

Executive Assistant to the Superintendent Sharon Beckworth hands out certificates to the students who participated in the UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest. Some medalists had already graduated and were not at the school board meeting to be recognized, but students Madison Breighner, Jayson Terrell, Daniel Castaneda, Rylan Dishneau and Abby Kennedy were present.



(L-R): Azle Mayor Alan Brundrett with Jackie Joy.

ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Azle celebrates National Senior Center Month

ZACH FREEMAN
azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

AZLE — Jackie “JJ” Joy, director of the Azle Senior Center, also known as the Azle Adult Activity Center, was recognized Sept. 3 by the Azle City Council with a proclamation declaring September Senior Center Month in the city. The center is located near Ash Creek Park at 601 Southeast Parkway.

Joy spoke about recent and upcoming developments for the center, which provides meals and resources for area residents over the age

of 60. While struggling with decreased attendance after the COVID-19 pandemic, Joy said in recent months the center has seen some steady renewed growth. The center usually holds Bingo games on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and a hot meal at 11:30 a.m. Monday through Friday. It plans to restart regularly scheduled exercise classes beginning Sept. 30 as well.

“We’ve worked for three years to get exercise classes going again,” Joy said. “The city has opened a door that makes it possible for us to have that. So, we’re excited about that. The last week

of September is going to be Fall Prevention Week, and so we’re planning some special activities. The fire department has agreed today to send somebody over to take blood pressures, and we’re going to have some other fun activities that we don’t have all the details on yet, but we’re planning a good time. Shane Wall from Northwest Physical Therapy will be coming over to talk to us about fall prevention on that day. So, we’re excited there’s new things coming down the pike, and we’re just really excited about it.”

Bethurum appointed to CCPD board



Damon Bethurum stands in front of the Azle City Council Sept. 3.

ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

ZACH FREEMAN
azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

AZLE — Azle High School 1991 graduate Damon Bethurum was appointed to Place 7 of the Azle Crime Control and Prevention District board of directors at a Sept. 3 Azle City Council meeting. The council voted unanimously to appoint Bethurum after he filed an application for several po-

tential board positions within the city.

Bethurum worked on the Azle Planning and Zoning Commission in the past and has recently returned to the city, looking for new ways to get involved. During the meeting Bethurum said his vision for the future consisted of finding the opportunities that come as the city changes and grows.

“My experience serving on the zoning boards in the past has honed my ability to lead initiatives,” Bethurum wrote in his application. “I am particularly drawn to this position because of my commitment to the city of Azle which has been my home for over 30 years, and I am eager to contribute my skills and insights to help achieve its goals.”

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PHOTO COURTESY OF RON PEPPERMAN

Springtown resident Ron Pepperman drills holes in pieces of wood for it to be assembled into beds for kids in need. Pepperman found out about the Denton chapter of Sleep in Heavenly Peace and decided to volunteer last month.

Locals volunteer for nonprofit that builds beds for kids

MADelyn EDWARDS
springtownreporter@tricityreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — Springtown resident Ron Pepperman likes working with wood and with people, so volunteering with the national nonprofit Sleep in Heavenly Peace fits him perfectly.

According to its website, Sleep in Heavenly Peace aims to provide beds to kids who otherwise sleep on floors and couches. Volunteers build, assemble and deliver beds to families in need of them.

To Pepperman, it is reasonable to think that if a child is rested, then they will do better in school and have better self-esteem.

“If a kid gets a good night’s sleep and he’s in a safe place, most of the time, he’ll have a good day at school,” he said. “It’s when other things kind of impact your ability to sleep, whether it’s stress or a hungry belly or almost anything else, then school is tougher. And without a good education, life can be tough.”

Pepperman found out about the organization

through his wife’s friend and decided to volunteer with the Denton chapter for the first time last month.

“I go into most things believing that it’s going to be good, and most of the time, I am not disappointed,” he said before volunteering.

Pepperman invited others in his circle to volunteer with him, and one of them was able to attend. In all, he reported that multiple people showed up at Willowood Church of the Nazarene in Denton Aug. 24, and they built 10 beds in about 2 1/2 hours. Delivered beds include a mattress, a quilt and other bedding, he said. Volunteers cut, sanded, stained and branded wood, and drilled holes, among other tasks. Pepperman said he knew the process for the tasks required, but instructions were also given on the day. Any volunteer could work at any of the stations, and there were people on site who could help and make volunteers feel comfortable. Overall, Pepperman said the process of building the beds was efficient and simple.

Pepperman described making something with lasting value as relaxing and rewarding, but more than that, he was interested in volunteering for the fellowship with others.

“I think the camaraderie of being with a group of guys with a noble goal is pretty much the satisfaction I need,” he said.

Depending on the need, Pepperman would like to see another Sleep in Heavenly Peace chapter form somewhere west of Lewisville and south of Denton, perhaps in Springtown or Weatherford.

“I don’t want to pull from their labor pool from Denton, but I think if it were more convenient, less than a half hour travel instead of an hour, that we might find people who would want to do something like that,” he said. “I’m discovering that there are quite a few what we call ‘woodpeckers,’ who are retired, that just like to do these kinds of things.”

Check out <https://shpbeds.org/> for more information about Sleep in Heavenly Peace.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RON PEPPERMAN

Denton resident Sheila Butler volunteers to sand wood to build a bed for a kid in need last month via nonprofit Sleep in Heavenly Peace.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RON PEPPERMAN

Springtown resident John Faber sands a piece of wood used to make a bed for a child in need through the nonprofit Sleep in Heavenly Peace Aug. 24 in Denton.

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Azle hosts X-Treme Green clean-up day Sept. 14

STAFF REPORT

AZLE — Azle residents will have the perfect opportunity to take out the trash after enjoying a day at the Sting Fling Festival. The City of Azle will host the second part of its bi-annual X-Treme Green Event Sept. 14. From 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Azle residents can bring approved items for no-cost disposal at the city garage located at 470 Denver Trail.

DO BRING

- Household hazardous waste (paint, pesticides, fertilizers, motor oil, anti-freeze, gasoline, batteries)
- Documents for on-site shredding (confidential documents, bank statements, old bills)
- Automotive tires (standard passenger, SUV, lawn mower, tractor, 4-wheeler)
- Household metal goods (water heaters, washers/dryers, refrigerators, freezers,

small metal scraps)

- E-waste (computers, cathode-ray tube monitors, plasma and LCD televisions, printers, scanners, copiers, radios, CD players, VCRs, telephones)

The event is a partnership between the City of Azle and Community Waste Disposal. The X-Treme Green Events fill a niche that is sorely lacking in many residential waste and recycling removal programs, CWD said on its website. CWD manages these events and customizes each according to the needs of the city.

The City of Azle asks that residents presort their items before arriving to not create backup and congestion. This event is intended for Azle residents only and participants should be prepared to present a City of Azle water bill including a charge for garbage services and their driver's license as proof of

residence. The city or contractors may reject certain items or charge special handling fees if delivering from a business or if instances where any one material exceeds 500 pounds, one cubic yard or if multiple items have an accumulated volume exceeding four cubic yards.

DO NOT BRING

- Ammunition
- Asbestos
- Building materials
- Butane cylinders
- Explosives
- Medical waste
- PCBs
- Propane cylinders
- Radioactive material
- Smoke detectors
- Any one material where the accumulated weight exceeds 500 pounds
- Any one material where the accumulated volumes exceed 1 cubic yard
- Any multiple items that



COURTESY CWD

CWD employees remove chemicals from a vehicle during a past X-Treme Green event.

accumulated volume exceed 4 cubic yards

- Items brought from a business, even if that business is also a residence.

- If you have questions, contact Jimmy Duvall, storm water manager, at 817-444-4511, or CWD at 972-392-9300. Residents can also

visit www.cityofazle.org/369/X-Treme-Green-Event for more information and to see the X-Treme Green flier.

Weatherford College board approves 2024-25 budget, tax rate

STAFF REPORT

The Weatherford College board of trustees unanimously approved the 2024-25 budget and property tax rate during a special meeting in August.

The approved budget totals just over \$87 million,

with \$28 million allocated from property tax revenue. The board also maintained the Parker County property tax rate at 10.6087 cents per \$100 valuation, the same rate as last year.

The WC board has either lowered or kept the tax rate

flat for seven of the past eight years. In comparison, the 2023 property tax state average among community colleges was 16.0456 cents.

No one spoke during the public hearing on the tax rate that was held before the board acted.

Quilter's Guild of Parker County announces 2024 quilt show

STAFF REPORT

The Quilter's Guild of Parker County will not meet in-person in September. Instead, the guild is hosting the "Don't Worry, Be Scrappy Quilt Show."

The show will take place

from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sept. 20-21 at the Texas Church of God, located at 2240 Fort Worth Highway in Weatherford. Admission is \$10. There will be over 100 quilts on display, a small quilt auction, a country store with handmade items

and numerous vendors. There is also a raffle quilt with drawing at the end of the show.

To learn more about the quilt show or the guild, visit the website quiltersguildofparkercounty.org or find the guild on Facebook.

TAXES

FROM PAGE A1

finance. The state's funding formulas have not changed since 2019, despite education leaders dealing with higher expenses caused by inflation. For instance, the prices SISD pays for property insurance and school buses have gone up.

"Our buses are astronomically high at this point," Thomas said, explaining how bus prices have increased by more than \$60,000 over the past five years. "We got to have buses; we got to get kids to school."

Meanwhile, SISD is receiving less local tax collections because of two decisions the legislature (and constitutional amendment voters) made last year to bring relief to taxpayers. School tax rates have been compressed, and the homestead exemption (the amount of a home's value that can't be taxed by school districts) was increased from \$40,000 to \$100,000. Thomas' presentation showed a decrease in the budgeted amount of tax revenue compared to last year by over one million dollars.

The state's primary source of school funding, Foundation School Program, offsets the local tax loss, but SISD is expecting to have less state funding this fiscal year than was budgeted for last year, Thomas said.

"We are actively monitoring our student enrollment, and we could potentially receive more state aid this year due to enrollment growth," he said. "Even though we are budgeting less state aid, we



MADelyn EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Assistant Superintendent of Business and Finance Wesley Thomas walks the Springtown ISD school board through the 2024-25 budget at the board meeting Aug. 26.

are doing so in order to ensure we place the district in the best fiscal position in the extremely tough times we are experiencing with school funding."

Thomas said one of SISD's goals is to "attack" the district's current debt, which amounts to more than \$55 million in principal and interest.

"Through the advice of our financial advisor, we elected to keep the (interest and sinking) tax rate the same so that we may gain additional funds to pay off our existing debt at a faster rate than originally planned," he said. "This will have long term interest savings on our existing bonds

and will eventually save our taxpayers money."

After the public hearing, Board President Rick Beall reiterated what Thomas said about other districts adopting deficit budgets across the state as the legislature has not increased the public school funding formula.

"Kudos to you and your office and everybody under the admin team to find a way to submit a balanced budget and still pass on raises to our staff," Beall said to Thomas.

The budget is subject to change, and if it does, amendments will be brought before the board, Thomas said.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.615998 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.594465 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.615998 per \$100
DE MINIMIS RATE	\$0.894388 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 Pelican Bay 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 Pelican Bay may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate, unless the de minimis rate for Pelican Bay exceeds the voter-approval rate for Pelican Bay.

The de minimis rate is the rate equal to the sum of the no-new-revenue maintenance and operations rate for Pelican Bay, the rate that will raise \$500,000, and the current debt rate for Pelican Bay.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that Pelican Bay is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2024 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2024, AT 7:00 PM, AT PELICAN BAY CITY HALL, 1300 Pelican Circle, Pelican Bay, TX 76020.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the voter-approval tax rate and not greater than the de minimis rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate by contacting members of the City Council of Pelican Bay or by attending the public hearing mentioned above.

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

- Property tax amount= (rate) x (taxable value of your property)/100
- FOR the proposal:** _____
- AGAINST the proposal:** _____
- PRESENT** and not voting: _____
- ABSENT:** _____

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.

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

	2023	2024	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.596891	\$0.615998	increase of \$0.019107, or 3.2%
Average homestead taxable value	\$148,850	\$157,815	increase of \$8,965, or 6%
Tax on average homestead	\$888.47	\$916.91	increase of \$28.44, or 3%
Total tax levy on properties	\$947,540	\$1,016,231	increase of \$68,731, or 7.254%

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for City of Pelican Bay at 817-884-1100 or taxoffice@tarrantcounty.com, or visit <https://www.tarrantcounty.com/en/tax.html> for more information.



Students and their families attend an event at Effie Morris Early Learning Academy.

JOLEE SKINNER | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Pastries with Grandparents

Grandparents enjoyed donuts at Effie Morris with their grandchildren.



JOLEE SKINNER

jolee@tricityreporter.com

LAKE WORTH — On Friday, Sept. 6, Effie Morris Early Learning Center hosted a 'Pastries with Grandparents' event for grandparents to come and spend time with their grandchildren, while eating delicious donuts.

The event was from 7 to 8 a.m. and was held in the Effie Morris cafeteria with

glazed donuts served up to students and their families.

Students came in with their grandparents and some had parents in tow as well. Grandparents and students checked in before entering cafeteria, slowly forming a line leading all the way outside due to the number of people who showed up.

Effie Morris Principal Robbin Church was at the front desk helping teachers and aids check people in to the event. A teacher re-

marked that so many people showed up, they were worried about seating.

Once everyone was inside the cafeteria, students and family formed an assembly line to get the glazed donuts and whatever refreshments they preferred. In the back of the cafeteria, the sign was still hung that said, 'welcome back to school.'

One parent remarked that their child's great-grandparents were luckily able to come to the event.

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Azle native featured in film

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

AZLE — The Aug. 29 special premier of “You Gotta Believe” at the AMC Palace 9 theater in Sundance Square was also the site of a happy reunion for one Azle family. Azle native Taylor Hunt Wright, 36, was excited to have family in tow to watch him on the big screen during a recently released film about the unlikely success of the 2002 Westside Little League Team.

Wright now lives in Los Angeles but used to call Azle home. In 1994, when Wright was in the first grade, his family moved to Azle. Wright attended Silver Creek Elementary and other local schools until he graduated from Azle High School in 2006.

Wright’s passion has been something of a surprise to those in town who knew him. As a child, Wright’s sister said he didn’t have any interest in theater.

“I will tell you, he was never involved in theater, drama, ever all his education years, never involved at all,” Meshia Neely, who is six years older than her brother, said. “He was (about) soccer his entire

AHS grad Taylor Wright stars alongside Luke Wilson and Greg Kinnear

life, played sports all through school, soccer.”

Seeing his progress today, Neely, who is the administrative assistant to Matt Adams, assistant superintendent of Azle ISD, said she is immensely proud to see Taylor, a heavily involved brother and uncle, succeed.

“I could cry about it,” she said. “Finally, maybe something’s paying off for him, not being around us for 10 years and only getting to share him, you know, on holidays when he comes home. That’s the hard part, is not having him local, but we’re heavily involved in FaceTime and phone calls ... I’m excited to see him on the big screen. More than anything, I just want him home so I can hug him. That’s what I’m looking forward to the most.”

After graduating AHS, Wright studied at Texas Christian University and eventually graduated as a film major in 2010. While in college, he attended an intensive class where he and other

students lived in Los Angeles and attended the University of California at Los Angeles for a time. It was there Wright determined that if he wanted to pursue acting seriously, he’d be best off doing it in the City of Angels. While he was nervous making speeches, Wright found that placing a camera in front of him melted the anxieties away.

So, he packed his bags and in 2011, he moved to the city. While his sister and parents worried for him, he managed to carve out a life for himself and find the time to visit and call often. When not acting, Wright also paints pet portraits for the stars. Wright receives commissions and showcases his painting skills on dirtypawprint.com.

“You learn to be a jack of all trades,” Wright said. “Probably not just L.A., I’d assume anywhere, if you’re in the arts of any kind. On top of that, too, I am an artist. I am a painter. I have also a pet portrait company that people commission me to paint their



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Taylor Wright in front of the Palace 9 theater on Sundance Square just before the premiere.



(L-R) Parker Neely, Taylor Wright’s niece and an AHS sophomore; Taylor Wright; Sawyer Neely, Wright’s niece and a Hoover Elementary sixth grader; and Wright’s sister Meshia Neely.



Wright’s mother in front of a framed poster for the movie. “I’m very proud of him, of all of his accomplishments, all of these people should be proud,” mother Lisa Rettew said.

pets. And then I also am a pet handler for somebody that I have signed a (nondisclosure agreement) with, so that all these things collectively keep you afloat.”

Wright starred in several student films while attending TCU and in his pursuit of acting, he would often find himself back in Texas shooting small budget films in Austin and elsewhere. These movies include 2011’s “Searching for Sonny,” 2013’s “Black & White” and 2014’s “Balls Out” where Wright said he earned the nickname “Sweaty” after having to constantly glue elf ears back on while playing a live action role player in the scorching Texas heat.

Wright earned his most recent acting credit as semi-fictionalized Weatherford coach Ben Williams in “You Gotta Believe,” which came to theaters around the country at the end of August. After making a connection to the film’s producer, Houston Hill, through his wife and Fort Worth Film Commission representative Jessica Hill, Wright was ultimately asked to play the small part of Williams, whose team the Westside Little League players competed against in the film.

While Wright attended Azle schools, he had a Weatherford mailing address and was excited to authentically represent his hometown on the big screen. He was also excited about the prospect of getting to return home again for filming but had his “mind turned upside down” when he learned the studio would instead be recreating the Fort Worth area in a Toronto, Canada film lot. For Wright, seeing his home-away-from-home was an interesting but surreal experience.

“They have the whole baseball field in this tiny, this little city with Texas flags, Fort Worth memorabilia and I was like, ‘this is trippy,’” Wright said. “When you get on set, and you kind of have to take a moment. This is a huge crew. There’s one of your idols. You’re not in Texas, despite how much this feels and looks like Texas, and then action and everything else feels like a blur, until they say ‘Cut!’”

To add to the oddity, Wright said Toronto was battling major wildfires nearby which contributed to a Texas-orange sunset and high humidity. The perfect storm would even come together to produce a tornado nearby, forcing the cast and crew to take shelter.

“You couldn’t get more Texas than that,” Wright

said. “I felt like I was right at home.”

Wright went on to perform a scene alongside Greg Kinnear, whose movies he has enjoyed since he was a child.

“I’m a huge fan of his,” Wright said. “I have been for a long time, and so I was really appreciative that he was very generous and kind and really nice to work with. I will be honest, I was like, ‘oh, this is really happening. I’m getting to act with one of my idols.’ So, it took a quick minute to get the nerves settled but it all ended up great and he’s a very gracious acting partner.”

During an Aug. 29 special screening in Fort Worth for the cast and crew, Wright was excited to be back home for real and to get to see the movie for the first time with his sister’s family and his mother.

“(It’s) surreal,” Wright said on the red carpet. “I’m so glad (my family) could all be here. My mom always said, ‘just please one more or one red carpet before I’m in a wheelchair.’ So, yeah, I guess check that off the list.”

Wright does not know what future projects might await, but he is grateful for the experience and is excited by growth happening in the Fort Worth film scene.

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DIVERSIONS



THURSDAY, September 12, 2024



LAYTH TAYLOR | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER
The Azle Hornets on the sideline during the first quarter. They took on the Weatherford Kangaroos Sept. 6 at Hornet Stadium in Azle. The Hornets beat the Kangaroos 51 to 28.

SPORTS Roundup

Hornets go for first 3-0 start in decade

RICK MAUCH

Special to the Tri-County Reporter

The last time the Azle Hornets began a football season 3-0, players on the current roster were in elementary school. It was 2014 and they went on to one of the best seasons in school history, finishing 11-2.

They can duplicate that start to a season when they host Denton (1-1) Sept. 20 in the Hornets' District 3-5A Division I opener. Denton is opening its league schedule Friday, Sept. 13 at Richland,

ranked No. 7 in the state.

Azle is coming off a 51-28 victory against Weatherford in the Hornets' home opener in which the defense forced six turnovers. It was the first meeting between the teams in 25 years.

Offensive leaders vs. Weatherford: Derrek Vowel 11-of-20, 226 yards, two TD passing; Hagen Hughes 17 carries, 183 yards, two TD (one of 55 yards) rushing; King Stephens 6-70, TD rushing; Cash Moore two catches, 92 yards receiving; Garrett Bailey 3-90 receiving, 53-yard

TD; Aiden Mackey 16-yard TD catch; Joseph Sandoval 2-yard TD run.

Defensive leaders vs. Weatherford: Riley Self 67-yard interception return; fumble recoveries by Cayden Lawson, Joshua Guzman, Jay Glaze and Devin Wingfield. Denton offensive players to watch: RB Jacobi Gladney, WR Cole Sanders, QB Jesiah Marshall.

Denton defensive players to watch: DL Braylon Madison, DL Braylon Young, S Brian Richard.

The Broncos are looking

for their first winning season since 2016, though they did advance to the playoffs last season with a 4-7 record.

Denton leads the all-time series dating to 1998 with Azle 4-2. They last played in 2015 with Denton winning 56-14. Azle's last win in the series was 55-34 in 2014.

LAKE WORTH FOOTBALL

The Bullfrogs, coming off a 51-13 loss at home to Brock, are hoping to avoid their first 0-3 start since 2017 when they host Krum (2-0) Sept. 13. The Bobcats defeated Fort

Worth Western Hills 55-12 last week.

Lake Worth offensive leaders (through one game): Kevin Pointer, 54 yards, TD passing; Jakobe Smith 12-53 yards rushing.

Krum offensive players to watch: QB Ty Bobar 28-of-41, 587 yards, six TD, no interceptions passing, seven carries, 99 yards, four TD rushing; WR Lane Larson nine catches, 284 yards, three TD receiving.

Krum defensive players to watch (stats not available): LB Bridger Murray, DB Will

Holland.

Krum's last winning season was 10-2 in 2016. They started 3-0 in 2021 but finished 4-6.

The Bobcats lead the all-time series, winning 65-7 in 2016 and 41-29 in 2017.

SPRINGTOWN FOOTBALL

The Porcupines evened their record at 1-1 with a 35-21 home win over Graham Sept. 6 as quarterback Kaine Hill accounted for 300 yards and five touchdowns. Now

PLEASE SEE ROUNDUP | B2

Azle Hornet football captains share hopes, friendships

CHASITY VURICH

sports@tricityreporter.com

At Azle High School, the football field is more than just a patch of grass; it is where legends are born.

This year, the team's hopes rest on the shoulders of four exceptional captains: Dylan Maines, Conner Merrill, Case Moore and Ethan Alcalá. Each one has a unique story and a distinct role on the team, yet together they form an unbreakable bond.

Dylan Maines, number 68, plays tackle for the Hornets. The tackle position is pivotal on both offense and defense in football. Maines has been playing football for six years. When football season is over, he plans to compete in powerlifting and plans to play football in college; he has had an offer from Hendrix College. Maines says he really loves coming to football practice and enjoys the hard work

PLEASE SEE HOPES | B4



Case Moore



Conner Merrill



Dylan Maines



Ethan Alcalá

Meet the Porcupines varsity volleyball captains

CHASITY VURICH

sports@tricitynews.com

Volleyball captains are pivotal to a team's success, blending leadership with skill. They inspire and guide their teammates, balancing fierce determination with supportive encouragement. Their roles include motivating players, strategizing plays and embodying teamwork. Through their actions and words, they elevate the

team's performance and foster a cohesive, winning spirit.

Libby Tedder, wearing the number 14 jersey, is the outside hitter for the Springtown Lady Porcupines varsity volleyball team. Her athleticism and powerful spikes make her a formidable presence on the court.

"I love being with my team and playing with the girls," says Tedder, who has played volleyball for nine years. "The connection we have as a

team is really special and we get to have fun off the court together as well," she says. Tedder most looks forward to getting better at the sport and winning many games this season. Tedder wants to play volleyball in college and has had coaches reach out to her asking her to come join their volleyball camps as well. These offers come from Auburn University, Stephen

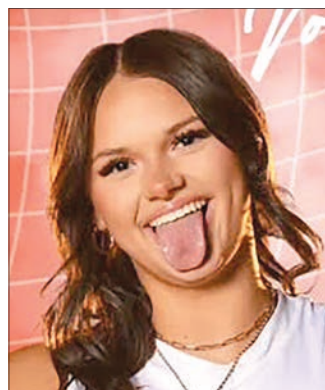
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ROUNDUP

FROM PAGE B1

they travel to perennial power Kennedale Sept. 13, which is off to a surprising 0-2 start after falling 33-7 at Aubrey.

Both teams are regulars in the postseason and they have a long history against each other. The Wildcats lead 12-11-1 in the series dating to 1962 and this will be their first meeting since 2019, a 43-17 Springtown victory.

Offensive leaders vs. Graham: Hill 14-of-17, 190 yards, two TD passing, 15-110, three TD rushing; Ryan Kirk 20-81 rushing; Riley Jackson 2-106 receiving; Chase Thompson 7-57, two TD receiving.

Defensive leaders vs. Graham: Thompson 11 tackles, one for loss; Darren Sweely six tackles, one for loss; Logan Dostie four tackles, fumble recovery.

Kennedale offensive players to watch: Riley Bingham 24-147, TD rushing; Jackson Hammonds 29-146, two TD rushing; Jordan Woodard 26-115 rushing.

Kennedale defensive players to watch: Bingham 15 tackles, three for loss; Gavin Bradley 12 tackles, two for loss; DJ Darjean 11 tackles.

AZLE CHRISTIAN FOOTBALL

A week after opening the season with a 61-14 victory at Greenville Christian, they dropped a 54-7 home contest to Bryson.

Offensive leaders vs. Greenville Christian: Brodie Clark 5-of-6, 90 yards, two TD, no interceptions passing, 17 carries, 223 yards, four TD rushing, three catches, 94 yards, TD receiving; Jaxon Durham 8-of-11, 146 yards, two TD, no interceptions passing, four catches, 87 yards receiving; Gage Anderson two catches, 30 yards, TD receiving.

Defensive leaders vs. Greenville Christian: Jaxon Logan 14 tackles, two for loss; Clark 12 tackles, two for loss, fumble recovery; Peyton Lance 9 tackles, two for loss, fumble recovery.

Offensive leader vs. Bryson: Clark 14-107, TD rushing, 4-46 receiving.

Defensive leaders vs. Bryson: Clark 13 tackles, Logan 10 tackles.

The Fightin' Crusaders will host Garland Christian Academy (0-2) Sept. 13 at 7:30 p.m.

AZLE VOLLEYBALL

The Lady Hornets (15-10) fell 3-1 at All Saints Sept. 3 and won 3-0 at home against Midlothian Heritage Sept. 6.

Leaders vs. All-Saints
Kills: Jacqui McClain 21, Ellie Lund 11
Blocks: Destiny Brune 5
Digs: Lund 17, Heather

Lockridge 17, McClain 13
Assists: Miley Massey 23, Gabby Briseno 11
Receptions: Lund 32, Lockridge 23, McClain 13
Leaders vs. Heritage
Kills: McClain 12, Lund 9
Digs: Lockridge 15, Lund 14
Assists: Massey 20
Receptions: McClain 17
Azle hosts Trinity Valley Sept. 13 and hosts Keller Fossil Ridge in its District 5-5A opener Sept. 17, both at 6 p.m.

LAKE WORTH VOLLEYBALL

The Lady Frogs (6-16) defeated visiting Fort Worth Eastern Hills 3-1 Sept. 3 and lost 3-0 at Benbrook Sept. 6.

Leaders vs. Eastern Hills
Kills: Addyssey Hurrington 10, Danica Long 9
Aces: Esteves 4, Caitlyn Houpt 4
Blocks: Long 4
Digs: Jasmin Martinez 25, Houpt 11
Assists: Houpt 18
Receptions: Karina Velez Esteves 27, Ja. Martinez 16
Lake Worth hosts Castleberry in their district 8-4A opener Sept. 13 at 5:30 p.m. followed by a home match against Bridgeport Sept. 17 at 6 p.m.

SPRINGTOWN VOLLEYBALL

The Lady Pines (16-11) dropped a pair of road matches, 3-0 to Boyd Sept. 3 and 3-2 to Blum Sept. 6.

Leaders vs. Boyd
Kills: Addy Burtnett 9
Blocks: Corrine Hall 3, Natalia Del Valle 3
Digs: Brooklynn Quintanilla 19, Libby Tedder 7
Assists: Bailey Walker 13
Receptions: Quintanilla 23, Aerial Jackson 8
Leaders vs. Blum
Kills: Burtnett 15, Ryleigh Strickland 14
Aces: Kallie Conway 4, Jackson 3
Digs: Quintanilla 25, Walker 19, Jackson 15
Assists: Walker 23, Conway 17
Receptions: Jackson 20, Brylee Pitts 17
The Lady Pines travel to Decatur to open District 8-4A Sept. 13 at 4:30 p.m., then host Krum Sept. 17 at 6 p.m.

AZLE CROSS COUNTRY

The Hornets finished first and Lady Hornets were second at the Lubbock Invitational Sept. 7. The meet was held at Mae Simmons Park, the same site as the Region I Meet in the postseason.

Leading boy runners (2 miles)
8. Parker Huffaker, 17:29.30
13. Pablo Neri, 17:50.60
18. Jose Romero, 18:08.10
22. Riley Roberts, 18:17.60
35. Joaquin Solorzano, 18:56.90
Leading girl runners
10. Reese Jeter, 20:57.10
12. Audrina Montoya,

21:23.00
15. McKenzie Roberts, 21:36.70
17. Yasmeen Tejada, 21:38.10
18. Brooke Maples, 21:39.70

After a week off, Azle will run at the Benbrook Prowl on the Lake Sept. 20.

AZLE CHRISTIAN CROSS COUNTRY

Hallie Collins of the Fightin' Lady Crusaders placed third in the varsity girls 2-mile division at the Assault of Eagle Summit in Decatur Sept. 7. She clocked a time of 12:20.76.

SPRINGTOWN CROSS COUNTRY

The Lady Pines finished third in the Assault of Eagle Summit in Decatur, led by Madelyn Walker, who posted a 10th-place individual finish with a time of 13:15.82. Also for the Lady Pines, Kerrington Edwards was 15th with 13:31.72; Izzy Parker, 18th, 13:40.99; Madison Musselman, 20th, 14:00.67; and Alyson Barco, 23rd, 14:12.26.

The Springtown varsity boys were led by Brayden Levario, who finished eighth with a time of 19:35.20 over the 5K course.

Springtown will compete in the Paschal Invitational at Athletic Performance Ranch in Fort Worth Sept. 13.

LAKE WORTH CROSS COUNTRY

The Bullfrogs and Lady Frogs competed in the Metroplex Invitational in Fort Worth Sept. 6. The Lady Frogs finished seventh as a team.

Leading boy runner (5K course)
73. Carlos Manriquez
Leading boy runners (3.2K course)
6. Feyli Santana, 14:59.09
29. Jocelyn Gallegos, 16:33.35
30. Reanna Arellano, 16:35.36
47. Taylor Pahlen, 17:43.41
63. Geneva Christina, 18:46.09
Lake Worth will compete in the Paschal Invitational next.

AZLE TENNIS

The Hornets/Lady Hornets defeated Brewer 18-1 in a District 5-5A match last week. Standouts were Kobie Torgeson, winning No. 1 boys singles in three sets, and No. 4 girls seed Hudson Carrol winning 6-3, 6-3.

Azle hosts Aledo Sept. 17.

AZLE STUDENT ATHLETES OF THE MONTH

Azle High School named its Student Athletes of the Month for August. They are Heather Lockridge, volleyball; Haylee Hefley, cheerleading; Reese Jeter, girls cross country; and Parker Huffaker, boys cross country.



LAYTH TAYLOR | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

No. 16 Nhoren Cloubou fiercely forces his opponent out of bounds Sept. 6 at Bullfrog Stadium.



No. 22 Gavyn Ford stays strong to defend against his larger opponent Sept. 6 at Porcupine Stadium.



King Stephens runs the ball into the end zone for a Hornet touchdown.

Azle School Menu Sept 16-20, 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 No school **Tues** Soft Filled Cinnamon Toast Crunch, Green Apple Slices **Weds** Bananas, Eggo Bites, Mini French Toast (Chocolate Chip) **Thurs** FUNetti Mini Pancakes, Green Apple Slices **Fri** Orange, Craisins, Animal Crackers, Trix

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

Mon No school **Tues** Buffalo Boneless Wings, Chicken Alfredo, Corn, Green Peas, Apple **Weds** Chicken and Cheese Quesadilla, Fish Sticks, Pinto beans, Steamed Carrots, Apple Sauce **Thurs** Popcorn Chicken, Sloppy Joe, Mashed Potatoes, Mixed Veggies, Bananas **Fri** Corn Dog, Pepperoni Pizza, Smile Fries, Steamed Broccoli, Apple Juice, Peaches

GRADES 5TH - 8TH

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

Mon No school **Tues** French Toast Sticks, Glazed Donut, Mixed Fruit **Weds** Apple Breakfast Nachos, Mixed Fruit **Thurs** Banana Chocolate Chip Oatmeal Cookie, Sausage Biscuit, Peaches **Fri** Vanilla Yogurt, Bananas, Muffin Top

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

Mon No school **Tues** Chicken Nuggets, Grilled Chicken Sandwich, Popcorn Chicken Bowl, Whole Wheat Roll, Crinkle Fries, Mixed Veggies, Apple **Weds** BBQ Chicken Sandwich, Buffalo Boneless Wings, Chicken Alfredo, Green Beans, Homestyle Diced Potatoes, Apple Sauce **Thurs** Arroz con Pollo (Cheesy Chicken & Rice), Corn Dog, Steak Fingers, Fries, Wedges, Steamed Medley, 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 No school **Tues** French Toast Sticks, Glazed Donut, Mixed Fruit **Weds** Apple Breakfast Nachos, Mixed Fruit **Thurs** Banana Chocolate Chip Oatmeal Cookie, Sausage Biscuit, Peaches **Fri** Scrambled Eggs, Sausage, and Toast, Vanilla Yogurt, Bananas

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

Mon No school **Tues** Bistro Box, Bacon Pizza, Cheese Pizza, Walkin' Taco, Sweet Fire Chicken, Hot Dog **Weds** Tater Tot Casserole, Cheese Pizza, Pepperoni Pizza, Chicken and Cheese Quesadilla, Orange Chicken & Rice, BBQ Chicken Sandwich **Thurs** Cheesy Baked Penne, Pepperoni Pizza, Supreme Pizza, Bean and Cheese Burrito, Chicken and Vegetable Dumpling, Corn Dog **Fri** Steak Fingers, Buffalo Chicken Pizza, Veggie Pizza, Picadillo, Teriyaki Chicken, Spicy Chicken Sandwich

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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.

September 16-20, 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** Pancake Sausage Bites, Strawberry Applesauce **Weds** Sausage Biscuit, Mandarin Oranges **Thurs** Cinnamon Roll, Apple Slices **Fri** No school

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, Brown Rice, Oriental Blend Vegetables, Fresh Veggies (Cucumbers, Baby Carrots, Broccoli) Apple Slices or Mandarin Oranges **Tues** Spaghetti/Corn Dog Italian Blend Vegetables, Fresh Veggies (Cucumbers, Baby Carrots, Broccoli) Strawberry Apple Sauce or Orange **Weds** Cheeseburger or Hamburger, Emoticon Potatoes, Fresh Veggies (Cucumbers, Baby Carrots, Broccoli), Apple or Sliced Pears **Thurs** Cheese Taquitos/Chicken Nuggets, Roll, Refried Beans, Fresh Veggies (Cucumbers, Baby Carrots, Broccoli) Apple Slices or Blueberries **Fri** No school

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 Tangerine Chicken/Yogurt & Pretzel Box, Brown Rice, Oriental Blend Vegetables, Fresh Veggies (Cucumbers, Baby Carrots, Broccoli) Apple Slices or Mandarin Oranges **Tues** Spaghetti/Corn Dog, Italian Blend Vegetables, Fresh Veggies (Cucumbers, Baby Carrots, Broccoli) Strawberry Applesauce or Orange **Weds** Cheeseburger or Hamburger, Emoticon Potatoes, Fresh Veggies (Cucumbers, Baby, Carrots, Broccoli) Apple or Sliced Pears **Thurs** Cheese Bites/Popcorn Chicken Roll, Rancho Beans, Fresh Veggies (Fiesta Sticks, Baby Carrots, Salad Cup) Apple Slices or Sliced Strawberries **Fri** No school

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TRI-COUNTY REPORTER 817-270-3340

Fatalities decline despite rise in boating accidents over holiday weekend

STAFF REPORT

Texas Game Wardens patrolling water bodies across the state reported a decline in water-related fatalities but noticed an increase in boating accidents compared to last year's Labor Day holiday weekend.

Wardens patrolling Aug. 31-Sept. 2 reported nine boating accidents — several of which involved personal watercrafts — including one boating-related fatality and one open-water drowning. They also arrested five individuals for boating while intoxicated and one minor for boating under the influence.

During the same weekend in 2023, wardens responded

to five boating accidents, two boating-related fatalities and two open-water drownings. During the holiday weekend in 2022, wardens responded to three boating accidents, no boating-related fatalities and one open-water drowning.

The boating-related fatality occurred at Amistad Reservoir, where a fatality also occurred over Labor Day weekend in 2023. The open-water drowning occurred at Lewisville Lake.

"We are saddened by the loss of life during the holiday weekend and game wardens make every effort to prevent these types of tragedies from occurring," Cody Jones, Texas Game Warden assistant com-

mander for marine enforcement said. "It is concerning that the number of boating accidents increased over the holiday weekend. While the accidents are unfortunate, we hope they'll serve as a reminder of why taking a boater education course is so important."

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Boater Education Team hosted two outreach events over the weekend at Lake Travis in Austin and Lake Ray Hubbard near Dallas. The team partnered with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Colin's Hope, Travis County Parks and Chandler's Landing Marina to remind boaters about safety

requirements, and handed out free life jackets to those who needed them.

Even though Labor Day Weekend typically marks the end of the unofficial boating season and there will likely be a decrease in the number of vessels on Texas' lakes, rivers and coast in the coming weeks, game wardens would like to remind boaters they shouldn't become lax about safety. Wearing life jackets, operating at a safe speed, being aware of passengers and swimmers before starting the motor, avoiding alcohol and following the rules and regulations in the Texas Water Safety Act can save lives and prevent serious injuries.



COURTESY TPWD

A TPWD officer speaks with boaters on Lake Travis.

"Whether they are in the field or on a boat, game wardens will continue to serve the mission of TPWD by help-

ing to conserve the natural resources of the state, and most importantly, keeping Texans safe," Jones said.

Azle vs. Weatherford



DATE	TIME	LOCATION	OPPONENT	SCORE
Aug 22	7:00 PM	Frisco Wakeland	Hornet Stadium	
Aug 30	7:00 PM	Abilene Cooper	Shotwell Stadium	W 41-34
Sep 6	7:00 PM	Weatherford	Hornet Stadium	W 51-28
Sep 20	7:00 PM	Denton High	Hornet Stadium	
Sep 27	7:00 PM	Brewer	Brewer HS	
Oct 4	7:00 PM	Birdville	Hornet Stadium	
Oct 11	7:00 PM	Keller Fossil Ridge	Keller HS	
Oct 18	7:00 PM	Denton Ryan	Hornet Stadium	
Oct 25	7:00 PM	Granbury	Granbury HS	
Nov 1	7:00 PM	Aledo	Hornet Stadium	
Nov 8	7:00 PM	Richland Ath. Complex	Birdville	

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OFFENSIVE



CASH MOORE

DEFENSIVE



RILEY SELF

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Strong mourning and white-winged populations forecast for dove season

STAFF REPORT

A rainy spring and early summer led to a good nesting season through most of the state and near record high populations of mourning and white-wing doves across large portions of Texas. Hunters could encounter significantly increased dove populations in the field when the 2024 season opens Sept. 1.

Spring population surveys conducted by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department staff found an estimated 34.3 million mourning doves in Texas, the third highest estimated population in survey history. White-winged dove populations have increased 4%, becoming the new record high with an estimated 12.8 million this year.

"Given the conditions and the number of birds, as long as the weather holds this month, hunters should expect a very good early season throughout most of the state," Owen Fitzsimmons, TPWD webless migratory game bird program leader said. "Summer rains should also result in a good late crop of native forbs (weeds and flowering plants) seeding out just in time for some

late season hunting for anyone still chasing doves after September."

With food and water still plentiful on the landscape, birds may be scattered in some areas, though as the August heat creates dryer conditions, hunters may still find larger concentrations of birds at watering holes. Doves typically feed and water twice a day, so patterning where doves are going throughout the day is the best recipe for success. Hunters should look for doves feeding in and around agricultural fields, or look for stands of common sunflower, croton and other native annual forbs and grasses. In areas with thick vegetation, hunters should be extra diligent about marking birds they hit and spend extra time looking for downed birds, as necessary.

Texas is home to seven species of native doves and pigeons, including the three legal game species — mourning, white-winged and white-tipped doves. Texas accounts for 30% of the total mourning doves and 85% of the total white-winged doves harvested in the U.S. each year, far

more than any other state.

TPWD officials remind hunters to prepare for the heat and make sure they are packing all the essentials for a day in the field. They should bring plenty of water to stay hydrated and take measures to stay cool in a shaded area. The same is true for canine hunting partners; be sure to have plenty of water for them and make sure they don't overheat early in the season.

THE REGULAR DOVE SEASONS:

• North Zone: Sept. 1-Nov. 10, resuming Dec. 20, 2024-Jan. 7, 2025

• Central Zone: Sept. 1-Oct. 27, resuming Dec. 13, 2024-Jan. 14, 2025

• South Zone: Sept. 14-Oct. 27, resuming Dec. 13, 2024-Jan. 21, 2025

For the third straight year, there will be six Special White-Winged Dove Days and hunters should be aware of the changes in date this year:

• Sunday, Sept. 1-Monday, Sept. 2

• Friday, Sept. 6-Sunday, Sept. 8

• Friday, Sept. 13.

Starting Sept. 14, the aggregated bag limit in South Zone's regular season is 15



COURTESY TPWD

A white-winged dove rests on a branch.

with no more than two white-tipped doves. During the Special White-winged Dove Days in the South Zone, hunting is allowed only from noon to sunset and the daily bag limit is 15 birds, to include not more than two mourning doves and two white-tipped doves.

All updated hunting regulations for this year's hunting season can be found in the Texas Outdoor Annual mobile app or online at

OutdoorAnnual.com.

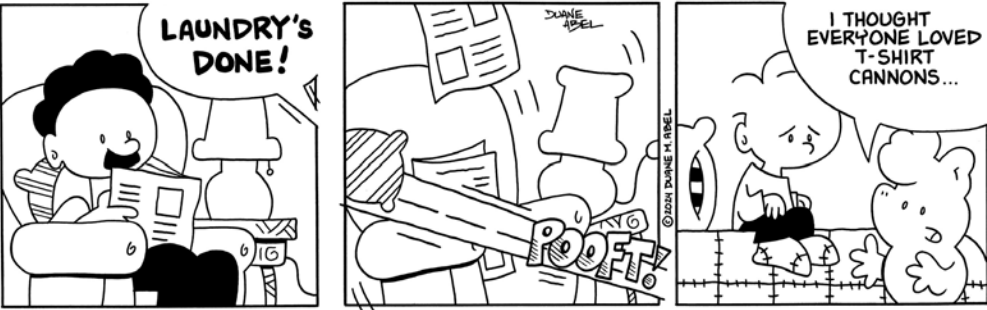
In addition to a hunting license, anyone born after Sept. 1, 1971, must successfully complete a hunter education training course to hunt legally in Texas. The TPWD Hunter Education certification is valid for life and is honored in all other states and provinces. Hunters can find more information or print a replacement at no cost online.

Hunters must also have

a Migratory Game Bird Endorsement (Stamp) and Harvest Information Program (HIP) certification to hunt doves. HIP certification involves a brief survey of previous year's migratory bird hunting success and is conducted at the time licenses are purchased. Lack of certification and the endorsement stamp rank as the two most common hunting violations during dove season.

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Football Contest

WEEK 2

David Shaffer and Eddy and Margaret Swanzy were on fire in week 2, with each of them guessing 13 of 16 winners of local high school football games. That made a three-way tie, and the tiebreaker game between Azle and Weatherford was used to determine the contest winners. The tiebreaker game generated 79 points. Eddy Swanzy was closest with 48 points to win first place and \$20. Margaret Swanzy guessed 42 points, which put her in second place with \$10. And third place went to Schaffer, who guessed 28 points. He won third place and \$5. Congratulations to the winners and good luck in this week's contest.

Sudoku

SEPTEMBER 12, 2024

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

Level: Intermediate

HOPES

FROM PAGE B1

that is required to play this amazing sport.

"The motivation from this team is truly incredible to be a part of, it's awesome being on the field with all of these people" says Maines. Maines also enjoys playing guitar with his teammate and fellow captain Merrill outside of playing football.

Merrill, number 33 and Alcalá, number 57, are both defensive end players. The defensive end is a crucial position in football, tasked with pressuring the quarterback and disrupting the opposing offense. Their performance often dictates the flow of the game.

Both Merrill and Alcalá often like to go fishing together outside of football. They both try to get as much family time as possible with their loved ones. Alcalá has a nephew who is very important to him, and they enjoy playing Xbox together. Merrill enjoys having a good fun jam session

with Maines during their free time as well.

Both Merrill and Alcalá have received college offers from Bethel University as well as other colleges such as McMurry University and Hendrix College.

"I love coming to practice and making memories and building bonds," said Merrill. Merrill plans to continue to stay fit after football season and start focusing hard on his schooling to prepare for college.

Alcalá say "we've had a lot of people quit, a lot of people get injured too, and a lot of people transfer, so everybody that is still here are people who want to be here, we made it very clear with our team that if you don't want to be here then don't be here. So that's why everybody has a chip on their shoulder because we all play for each other."

Case Moore, number 40, plays as a middle linebacker for the Hornet team. The middle linebacker is the defensive backbone, overseeing the field's central area. Its role demands leadership

and versatility, as tactics are adjusted based on offensive movements, making the position crucial to defensive success.

Moore has played football for 13 years, having started at Stinger Field for the Azle Youth Association. "The motivation and drive this team has is something special. We all came from a very successful freshman group out of middle school, so being together this senior year and having the chance to prove people wrong is something special," said Moore. Moore likes to play video games in his free time and claims he's "a nerd at heart."

These young men have many things in common. They agree that Brewer is their favorite team to play against. They appreciate and love the camaraderie and brotherhood that has formed this season. Playoffs are something they all are really looking forward to this year. Last year they went 3 and 7, so this year they feel they have something major to prove and that's exactly what they plan to do.

Solution to last week's puzzle

SEPTEMBER 5, 2024

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

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to mold.

TRWHOG

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

Answer: Growth

CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to camping. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 9 = T)

A. 9 6 7 9
Clue: Camping shelter

B. 8 24 23 2 9 5 24 7
Clue: Spot on map

C. 1 6 2 14
Clue: Equipment

D. 24 13 6 14 7 5 1 3 9
Clue: Lasting one evening

VBALL

FROM PAGE B1

F. Austin University and Abilene Christian University. Tedder enjoys spending time with her friends outside of volleyball any chance she can.

Brooklynn Quintanilla, No. 4, is the libero — a defensive specialist who wears a different jersey color to signify her unique role. Her quick reflexes and impeccable ball control are the backbone of the team's defense. Quintanilla says she likes the strong competition the sport of volleyball delivers. Like Tedder, she has played volleyball for nine years. The large number of teammates she has, for her, are what makes the team special.

"I'm most looking forward to achieving all the goals that have been set this year," says Quintanilla. After vol-

leyball season, Quintanilla will go into basketball while also playing club volleyball for Club Texas. Quintanilla does want to play volleyball in college; the University of Cincinnati and Stanford University have invited her to their volleyball camps. Quintanilla likes to spend time with her family and her friends when she isn't playing the sport.

Bailey Walker, wearing No. 2 jersey, plays at setter. As the orchestrator of the offense, Bailey's role is to deliver accurate sets to her teammates, enabling them to execute their attacks with precision. Her precise sets and strategic play calling make her a key player in the team's offensive strategy. Walker likes the challenge volleyball brings and how it makes her better. Walker has played volleyball for six years.

"The bonds that we grow over time playing together are really special," says Walker. She is particularly looking forward to how far they will go this season and hoping to get some college offers, too. After volleyball season is over, Walker will go into club volleyball with EMV and compete in track as well. She did attend a few college volleyball camps this summer, including one at Arizona State University. In Walker's free time she likes to attend her church and spend time with her friends.

The trio's synergy is essential for their team's success. They all agree Decatur High School is their favorite team to compete against. They are more than just captains; they are the heart of the team, each contributing their unique skills to the collective effort.

Azle vs. Weatherford

The Azle Hornets took on the Weatherford Kangaroos Sept. 6 at Hornet Stadium in Azle. The Hornets beat the Kangaroos 51 to 28.



Quarterback Derrek Vowell throws the ball to a receiver.

LAYTH TAYLOR | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER



The Azle High School Emerald Dazzlers dance team in the stands at Hornet Stadium.



The Emerald Dazzlers perform during the halftime show Sept. 6.



Azle High School band during the halftime performance Sept.6



Azle High School band during the halftime performance Sept.6

Springtown vs. Graham



CHASITY VURICH | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

The Springtown defensive line holds the line for no gain by their opponent Sept. 6 at Porcupine Stadium. They came away victorious with a 35-21 game against Graham.



No. 32 Darren Sweely gains massive yardage for his team Sept. 6 at Porcupine Stadium.



No. 7 Kaine Hill carries the ball down the field for a touchdown Sept. 6 at Porcupine Stadium.

Lake Worth vs. Brock



CHASITY VURICH | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

No. 5 Jeremiah Brown takes down his opponent Sept. 6 at Bullfrog Stadium.



CHASITY VURICH | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

No. 6 Jaden Garrett scores a touchdown Sept. 6 at Bullfrog Stadium.



CHASITY VURICH | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

No. 26 Mctobia Pilot tries to strip the ball from his opponent Sept. 6 at Bullfrog Stadium.



CHASITY VURICH | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

No. 4 Gavin Tovar carries the ball down the middle for a gain of yardage Sept. 6 at Bullfrog Stadium.

Azle Junior Varsity Tennis

The Azle High School junior varsity tennis team took on the Brewer Bears Sept. 5 at Brewer High School.



LIZZY ARDITO | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER



NOVA WANG | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER



LIZZY ARDITO | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER



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2024 OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

Deadline for entries 1 p.m. Friday! No photocopies please!

1. _____	10. _____
2. _____	11. _____
3. _____	12. _____
4. _____	13. _____
5. _____	14. _____
6. _____	15. _____
7. _____	16. _____
8. _____	Tie Breaker - Game 12. _____
9. _____	

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FOOTBALL CONTEST • 2024 •

1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
\$20⁰⁰	\$10⁰⁰	\$5⁰⁰

Winners can pick up their checks at the Tri-County Reporter office after Thursday.

• OFFICIAL RULES •

There are 16 games listed in advertisements on this page. To enter, pick the winner and write the name of that team in the appropriate blank on the official entry form. Mail or deliver the form to the Tri-County Reporter at 321 W. Main St., Azle, Texas 76020, by 1:00 PM FRIDAY. (Limit one entry per person). Entries can also be dropped off at Highland Furniture on the Square in Springtown, 133 E. 1st St.

Entries will be tabulated weekly and the results published in that week's issue of the Tri-County Reporter. The first place winner each week will receive \$20, the second place winner \$10 and the third place winner \$5. The tie breaker will be used to determine placings. In case of a tie, the money will be divided equally. To pick the tie breaker, predict the total number of points in the selected game and enter in the appropriate space on the official entry form. All entries become the property of the Tri-County Reporter. Please write clearly and be sure to enter your pick in the correct blank. Second tiebreaker decided by whoever picks Azle and Springtown games correctly.

Football Contest Week 2 Results on page B4



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Serving the Azle, Texas area*
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817-444-1400

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#13 Little Elm at Berkner



State Farm

Amy Kaplan, Agent
813 E Hwy 199, Springtown, TX 76082
Bus: 817-220-5222
amy@amykaplaninsurance.com

TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

DEVOTIONAL PAGE

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

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

HARVEST TIME APOSTOLIC
1 Black 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

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

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

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

PRIMERA IGLESIA BAUTISTA
300 S. Stewart, Azle
817-500-3641

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

UNION BAPTIST CHURCH
3451 Sarra Lane, Springtown
682-333-1645

WALNUT CREEK BAPTIST
220 W. Reno Rd. in Reno
817-221-2110

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

NORTHWEST BIBLE CHURCH
5025 Jacksboro Hwy., Fort Worth
817-624-2111

SOLID ROCK BIBLE CHURCH
591 S. Reno Rd., Springtown
817-304-7443

CATHOLIC

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC
800 High Crest Dr., Azle
817-444-3063

CHRISTIAN

THE CHURCH AT AZLE
1801 S. Stewart, Azle
817-444-9973

AZLE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
35 West Forty Estates., Azle
817-688-3339

GREATER VISION FELLOWSHIP
1801 S. Stewart St., Azle
817-825-0485

THE ABBEY CHURCH
10400 Jacksboro Hwy., Azle
817-238-1404

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

CHURCH OF CHRIST

AZLE CHURCH of CHRIST
336 NW Parkway
817-444-3268

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

MIDWAY CHURCH of CHRIST
6400 Midway Rd. 817-221-2107

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

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

POOLVILLE CHURCH of CHRIST
West of FM 920 in Poolville
817-594-4182

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

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

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

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Springtown, 817-677-3208

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(FM 1886) 817-237-5500

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817-444-3527

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

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
4th & Main, Paradise

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

PROVIDENCE REFORMED EPISCOPAL
405 Bowie Dr., Weatherford
817-596-7476

ST. ELISABETH EPISCOPAL
5910 Black Oak Lane, River Oaks
817-739-0504

GOSPEL

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

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

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

LUTHERAN

THE EDGE CHURCH - AZLE
1313 SE Parkway, Azle
817-237-4822

HOPE LUTHERAN (ELCA)
4795 Hwy. 199, Reno
817-221-HOPE

METHODIST

BOYD UNITED METHODIST
FM 730 North in Boyd
940-433-5334

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

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

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

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

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

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817-237-5075

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

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606 Mockingbird Lane, Weatherford
817-594-2744

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Meeting at Northwest YMCA
5315 Boat Club Road, Fort Worth
817-989-9800

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

OTHER

ALIENTO DE DIOS
2233 E. Hwy 199, Springtown
817-521-4694

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www.thechurchinpeaster.org
817-596-8805

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

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1227 Old Cottondale Road,
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1064 CR4679, Boyd
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1356 Reno Rd., Springtown
817-221-2551

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1649 S.E. Parkway, Azle
817-319-7364

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

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289-8720

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

LIGHTHOUSE HARBOR CHURCH
1960 Long Circle, Pelican Bay
817-444-3547

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

NEW LIGHTED WAY
624 Harbor Dr. Circle, Azle
817-444-1577

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6781 Jacksboro Hwy., Lake Worth

PRECIOUS FAITH TEMPLE CHURCH
8601 Hwy. 199 @ Vance Godbey's

THE HOUSE OF PRAYER
1356 Reno Rd., Springtown
817-221-2551

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COWBOY CHURCH
7955 Reed Rd., Azle 682-327-7082

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817-677-5963

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11701 Jacksboro Hwy., Azle 817-210-6295

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6577 Old Springtown Rd., Weatherford
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SHEPHERD'S HEART CHURCH
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THE TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

CLASSIFIEDS

THURSDAY, September 12, 2024

AD CLASSIFICATIONS

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

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Yard Sale
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Stuff added. Come buy. Open 9am, rain or shine. Closed Sundays & Mondays.
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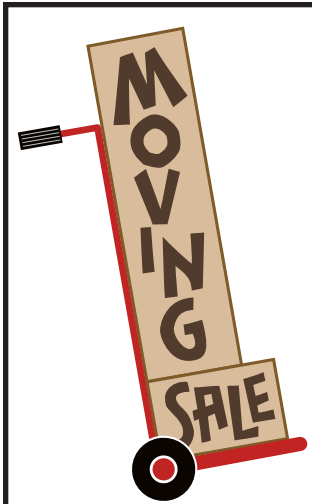
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ACROSS

1 John of 1954 "Shield for Murder" with TX Carolyn Jones

5 Texas-based jeweler "____ Corporation"

6 in Parker and Tarrant Counties on highway 199

7 salacious, smutty

8 Love Field abbr.

9 "Affordable Care _____," (Obamacare)

12 "Texas Health and Services"

17 Mavericks gave fans _____ of excitement by advancing to 2024 NBA finals

19 TXism: "couldn't fight his way out of _____ bag" (weak)

21 officially giving up land by a state

22 in Palo Pinto County on highway 16

23 framework or plan

28 bronzes in the Texas sun

29 TXism: "roosters crow, _____ deliver"

30 Kermit has the last _____ oil derrick

31 member of TX Don Henley's band

35 grungy and dirty

36 TXism: "_____ sunburn a horny toad" (hot)

42 TXism: "brave enough to eat in _____ cafe"

44 "don't split _____" (quibble)

DOWN

1 "Wild _____" trail near Newton

2 Burnet newspaper: "Citizen's _____"

3 some fanny packs fit _____ sizes

4 this TX Jim was married to Belle Starr

9 TXism: for "against"

10 TXism: "_____ government work"

11 XIT stretched thru _____ Texas counties

12 TXism: "he _____ a grip like a snappin' turtle"

13 TXism: "gave _____" (died)

14 female horse

15 used on a stovetop (2 wds.)

16 publication: "Pampa _____"

18 U.S. intelligence agcy.

20 hosp. nurse

23 dir. from Pampa to Canyon

24 gear tooth

25 Jewish circle dance

26 okay to eat

27 TX Jessica Simpson _____: "Open Book"

32 TXism: "bend _____ elbow (drink)"

39 "_____ makes waste"

40 Nissan _____ truck will be discontinued after 2024 model

41 _____ City, TX, in Upshur County

43 TXism: "it belongs to _____ and the bank"

45 TX George H.W. to TX George W. (abbr.)

47 foot-powered lever to drive a machine

48 TXism: "two _____ in a pod" (alike)

55 "three" in cards

Last Puzzle Solution

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Saturday, September 14th



KIM WARE | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Azle's Sting Fling Wiener Dog Derby, 2023

City of Azle: A (Fiscal) Year in Review

As September marks the close of the City's fiscal year, it's an ideal time to reflect on a year filled with remarkable progress and a steadfast commitment to enhancing the quality of life for all Azle residents. Throughout the year, the City of Azle has focused on several key projects, all aimed at improving our community's infrastructure, safety and overall well-being.

One of the most exciting developments this year has been the opening of The FeedLot, the city's new food truck park. This project was born from community feedback expressing a strong desire for a welcoming gathering space. The FeedLot offers a rotating selection of food trucks each week and hosts the Azle Farmers Market ev-

ery first and third Saturday of the month. It has quickly become a local favorite, especially with its array of community-focused events, like live streaming the Azle Hornet varsity football games each Friday night.

"Being the inaugural year for this, we didn't really know what to expect," said City Manager Tom Muir. "Opening night was a wild success, and the momentum hasn't stopped since then."

Beyond The Feedlot, the city has been deeply engaged with local businesses, organizations and citizens in the development of its new Comprehensive Master Plan. This plan is crucial as it provides a framework to guide



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

PLEASE SEE AZLE | C4 Azle's brand new food truck park, The FeedLot, opened on Good Friday, March 29 to large crowds of hungry Azleites.



JOLEE SKINNER | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Whataburger gladly supports the Azle community and will continue to support the people who have supported Whataburger Azle for 25 years. (L-R): Jeryl Harolson, Carissa Row, Candy Rayos, Marsha Cates and Lorena Parker.

Whataburger: Part of Azle's 'hometown feeling'

Whataburger has been serving hot and fresh burgers and other food for people over the last seven decades. Founded in 1950 in Corpus Christi, Whataburger was started by Harmon Dobson, who had one goal in mind: to create a large burger people would have to eat with two hands.

The first Whataburger restaurant was a little burger stand with a drive-in window where burgers were sold for only 25 cents at the time. The burger stand was a major hit and soon acquired a massive

following.

Over time, Whataburger developed into a brand known for its orange-and-white-striped roof and has a very loyal fan base to this day. Today, Whataburger is a billion-dollar company with over 900 locations across more than a dozen states in the U.S. With its massive growth and success, Whataburger is still committed to serving a "bigger, better burger," partnering in local communities, outreaches and schools.

Whataburger's Azle loca-

tion has been here for more than 25 years this year. Sally Roberts gives more perspective and history on this Whataburger location.

"The one thing that makes us so unique in Azle is we have our beautiful painting in our dining room," Roberts said. "These paintings are hand painted by Debbie Blakley out of Austin and have been part of our dining room since 1999. We take pride in our painting because it makes our Whataburger

PLEASE SEE WHATA | C3



CWD's recycling depots will be placed throughout the Sting Fling event. Please put recyclables in these containers.

COURTESY PHOTOS



Community Waste Disposal

Community Waste Disposal, often called CWD for short, is proud to be a partner with the City of Azle and the Azle Chamber of Commerce.

The largest privately owned waste management company in the D-FW metroplex, CWD has been in business since 1984.

Since that time, it has developed a reputation for reliable, on-time service, while offering one of the widest selections of hauling schedules, equipment and recycling programs in the industry.

CWD services Azle residents and businesses with twice-weekly trash collection, curbside pickup of loose brush, and a full recycling program, since 2007.

The brush diversion program diverts more than 20,000 cubic yards of loose brush from landfills annually.

CWD staff partners with City of Azle and implements two X-Treme Green clean-ups, one in the spring and one in the fall.

Citizens are able to dispose

of household hazardous waste, tires, metal goods and used electronics, and have an opportunity to shred confidential documents.

These services have led to the City of Azle winning numerous environmental accolades from state recycling organizations, for example, the 2021 State of Texas Alliance For Recycling, Environmental Leadership Award for their brush diversion program.

Paint collected at X-Treme Green events is used for the city's recycled paint program that provides free recycled paint to residents for use in beautifying Azle neighborhoods.

CWD works with City of Azle staff and other community organizations to make all community events "Green Events." CWD is honored to be Recycling Sponsor for the annual Sting Fling.

For more information about CWD and the ways it continues to serve Azle, visit its website, www.cwd.to, or call 817-795-9300.

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STING FLING

Adult and Teen Challenge of Texas

JOLEE SKINNER
TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Adult and Teen Challenge of Texas' vision is to put hope within reach of every addict. Its mission is to provide youth, adults and families with an effective and comprehensive Christian faith-based solution to life-controlling addictions to become productive members of society. Adult & Teen Challenge of Texas now operates six men's programs, located in Azle, San Antonio, Magnolia, Brenham, Corpus Christi and Deport. The Azle Men's Center was established in 2008 at 1099 Flat Rock Road in Azle. Pictured here are (L-R): Chris Hickman, vocation/admissions coordinator; Greg Ambrosio, executive director; Landon Hawpe, staff; Clay Whitaker, advisor; Long Thai, third phase coordinator; Jason Terral, coordinator; Bobby Trapp, intern; Paige McClure, LCDC, counselor; Heather Joplin, office coordinator; Percine Doris, advisor; Cody Joplin, program coordinator; Randa Hickman, development coordinator; Gary Morris, education coordinator.



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WHATA
FROM PAGE C1

here in Azle one of the most unique Whataburgers in the area."
"Whataburger enjoys being a part of such a great community that has the hometown feeling Azle has," Roberts said. "We see so many faces daily in our restaurant, but loyal customers come to see us daily or sometimes twice a day or more. Whether it's in the drive-thru, the dining room or the curbside we enjoy each one of you and want to say, thank you, Azle."

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AZLE
FROM PAGE C1

the city council and other boards and commissions in making decisions that align with the community's desires as Azle continues to grow.

"Growth is inevitable, but having this plan in place is the first step in ensuring that growth is managed in a way that reflects the desires of the community," Muir explained.

The process for the comprehensive plan began in the spring of 2023 with focus groups and surveys and has included multiple public input opportunities. Final adoption of the plan is anticipated for fall 2024.

Looking ahead, a few major projects are on the horizon, including the Dunaway Lane reconstruction project and the Central Park trail improvement and extension project. Dunaway Lane will be widened to 36 feet, with the

addition of curbs, gutters, storm drain facilities and sidewalks on the south side. This project aims to improve traffic flow, drainage and pedestrian access and was selected by Tarrant County for inclusion in its 2021 bond program, which will help fund construction costs. Meanwhile, the Central Park trail will be widened to 6 feet and extended to reach City Hall, providing an enhanced experience for park visitors.

None of these accomplishments would be possible without the active participation and support of Azle residents. Whether attending city council meetings or sharing your ideas and concerns, residents' voices are at the heart of the city's work.

COURTESY PHOTO

Looking forward to the coming year, the City of Azle remains committed to working together with residents to be the best it can be.



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In addition to keeping readers informed, the newspaper is also an effective advertising medium for local businesses, reaching a broad audience through print, online and on social media platforms. Advertisers find the newspaper is still a powerful ally in spreading their message. To discover how advertising in the Tri-County Reporter can benefit your business or organization, contact Lora Paschal at lora@tricityreporter.com.

Publisher Kim Ware has been with the paper since 1999, and her staff brings experience and expertise to the printed pages and articles on its website. Their guiding principles are rooted in the newspaper's mission of: "independent and impartial presentation of information that educates, enriches and entertains. We are your community newspaper."

If you are interested in a subscription, please contact Julie Ince at julie@tricityreporter.com. For more information about how the Tri-County Reporter can assist your marketing needs call 817-270-3340 or stop by the office at 321 W. Main St. in Azle. You may also visit its website at www.tricityreporter.com.



Tri-County Reporter continues to uphold its commitment to be independent and impartial while supporting the communities in its coverage area. Tri-County Reporter is a proud sponsor of the 2024 Azle Sting Fling.

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STING FLING

Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Azle

COURTESY PHOTO

Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Azle offers convenient, quality care close to home for Northwest Tarrant and Parker counties. The hospital is designated as both a Level IV Trauma Center and Level III Stroke Center. Its long-standing commitment to the community includes the implementation of patient education programs focused on sustainable lifestyle changes and chronic disease management. Located at 108 Denver Trail in Azle, the hospital is a proud sponsor of Sting Fling.

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JOLEE SKINNER | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Kyrstin Daniels State Farm in Azle is a proud sponsor of the 2024 Sting Fling. State Farm is an insurance and financial services company founded in 1922 by George J. Mecherle. State Farm offers a network of agents who cater to every customer's insurance needs. Pictured are (L-R): Jesika, Bobi, Brittney, Cheyenne, Cody and Kyrstin.



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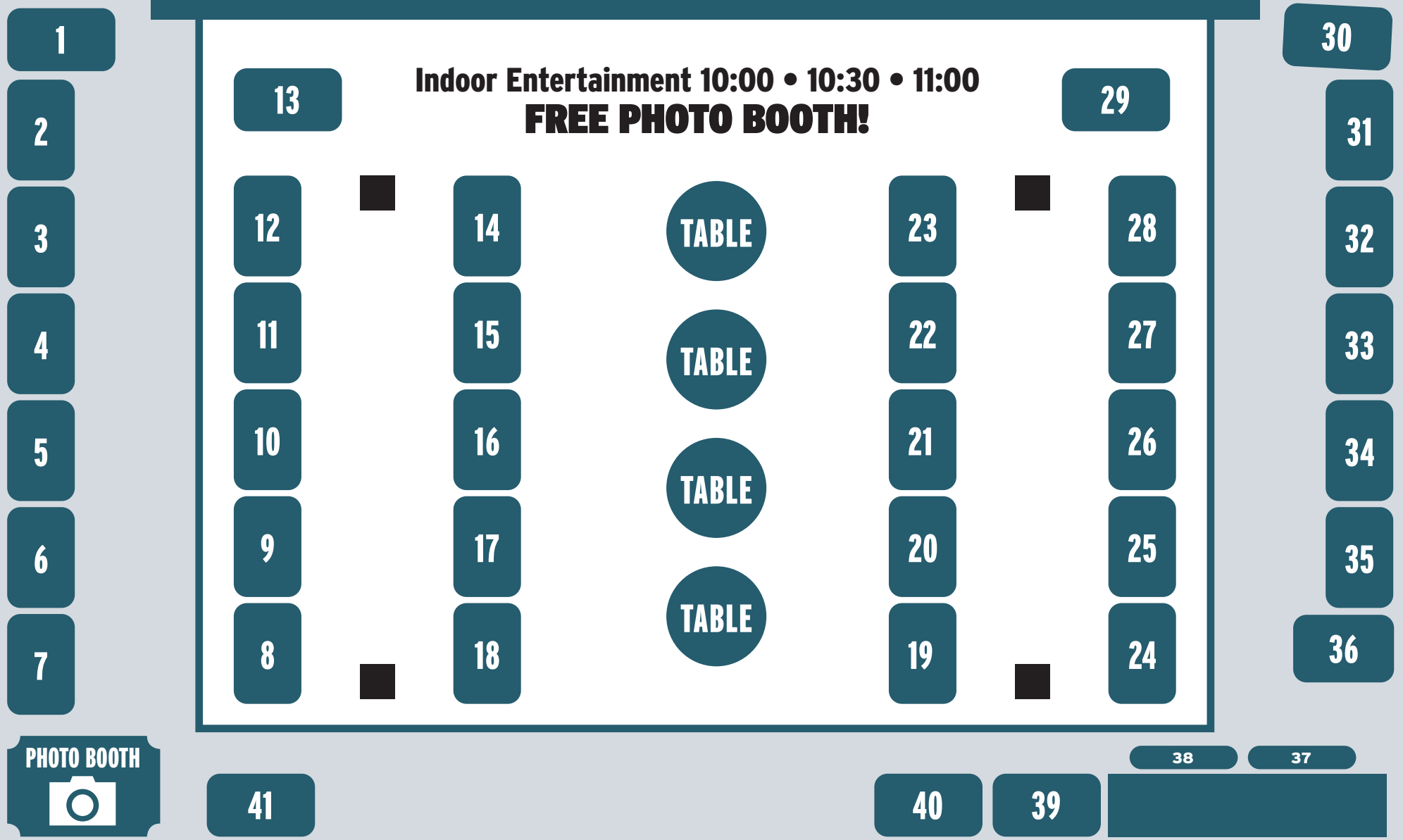
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404 Main St. Indoor Vendors

#	COMPANY	#	COMPANY	#	COMPANY	#	COMPANY
1	Azle TD Club Azle Football Sports Club	12	Velocity Buy origami jewelry and wearables, anime, published author	21	Stafford Place Floor Plans and Pricing- 1 and 2 bedrooms		bracelets/wristlets, earrings, pickle kits w/ mexican candy (all bagged) and hair accessories
2	Hat-itude	13	America's Best Vacuum Service Organization Information	22	Jemolee Fiber Arts	34	A&D Kreations Hand crafted wooden items, laser engraving items, and décor
3	New York Life Stuart Lankford Organization Information	14	Wild Southern Glitz Freshies, mini bling tumblers, key chains, Children's shirts	23	Azle HS FCCLA Culinary Kid activities/baked goods	35	Local Insurance Advisor Organization Information
4	Kreatd by Kymm Homemade Ceramic Housewares	15	Eagle Crest Villa Organization Information	24-25	BC 3D 3D printing demonstrations	36	T-Mobile Organization Information
5	Azle Area Ministerial Alliance Organization Information	16	Dream Vacations Travel Agency	26	Mystical Blades Movie props, Larping Katanas, Cosplay	37	Tarrant County Vietnam Memorial Foundation Foundation Information and Raffle Tickets
6	Urgent Care-TX Healthcare/Medical	17	Pinnacle Bank Pinnacle Banking Services - Temporary tattoos	27	Edward Jones-Scott Stentz Organization Information	38	Azle Composite Squadron-Civil Air Patrol Organization Information
7	Collins Captures Free Photo Booth	18	Diana's Nutt Hutt Resin made items and Paintings	28-28	Hufstedler Home Décor Home Décor	39-40	Oncor Electric Delivery Exhibit featuring electrical safety. Giving away children's items (coloring books, etc.)
8	Maw-Maw's Treats Cookies, cakes and pastries	19	Emmie Rae Co. Girl's Boutique (selling girls clothing up to size 7/8, hair accessories, purses, girls hat bar, bow bar, embellished sunglasses)	30	McDonalds Literature, coupons, etc.	41	Tooties Tumberlz Selling T-shirts, signs and tumblers
9	One Stitch Forward Sewn items	20	Northwest YMCA Organization Information	31	First Methodist Church of Azle Organization Information		
10	Azle Fire Dept.			32	Azle Senior Center Advertising material		
11	My Rainbow Bling Paparazzi \$5 jewelry			33	Pink Glitter Goods Boutique clothing, Tumblers and tumbler tags, purses, men/ women's wallets, phone grips,		

STAGE



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Hogye Hogle

State Rep. Charlie Geren wears many hats

A familiar fixture in Tarrant County for many years, Geren opened Railhead Smokehouse more than 30 years ago, growing the business into one of the area's most popular bar-becue joints.

Aside from his duties running a successful restaurant, Geren also manages a career in commercial real estate, and is currently the vice-president of the Southwestern Exposition and Livestock Show.

However, Geren is probably best known for his history of service as state representative for House District 99, which includes the Tarrant County portion of Azle.

First elected in 2000, Geren has worked to strengthen the local economy and advocate on behalf of Azle's teachers and schools.

In fact, October 2015 was designated "Charlie Geren Appreciation Month" by Azle ISD for his strong support of public education in the Texas Legislature.

Geren has contributed to the Sting Fling for more than a decade-and-a-half, and looks forward to once again celebrating the Azle community.



State Rep. Charlie Geren is an avid supporter of Azle as shown by his annual sponsorship of Sting Fling.

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113

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114

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House

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Wiener Dog Derby

Azle PD Command Center

73

67

66

61

60

54

53

51

50

49

FAYE MURPHREE ATTORNEY

AIN'T THAT SOMETHING

HOUSE

HOUSE

HOUSE

ALAMO TITLE

36

28

27

26

25

12

11

1

Azle City Hall

Outdoor Vendor List

COMPANY	COMPANY	COMPANY	COMPANY
<p>Little Joe's Lemonade Sandy V's Teas n Things Hangry Mama's Kitchen LLC Gil's Chills Shaved ice, funnel cakes, dirty sodas, apple nachos, kettle corn WTF - What To Fry Reds BBQ Old Time Funnel Cakes Tony's Pizza & Pour House Sally's Sweets Ice Cream Truck Little Cotton Cart 3S Ventures, LLC Craft soda, tea, and lemonade. Nothing Bundt Cakes - Lake Worth DonutNV Gordo's Mexican Cocina Food truck w/ generator The Shaken Lemon Lemonade stand Texas Longcorn Roasters Kona Ice Northwest DFW Travelin' Tom's Coffee Truck of Alliance Fort Worth Collins Captures Azle Memorial Library/ Azle Library Trust Kids Crafts Integrated Machinery Solutions, LLC Whataburger, Inc. Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Azle FiberFirst Kyrstin Daniels State Farm Tri-County Electric Cooperative Project Graduation 2027 Adult & Teen Challenge of Texas Azle Animal Shelter Let's Talk Azle Azle Area Chamber of Commerce Classic Pest Control Olphartz Garage Crocheted Cuties</p>	<p>Upcycled Garden Art Azle ISD The Sub Station 2020 Beauty and The Bee Azle I.S.D. Azle ISD information and swag items Haley Carter State Farm Silly Duck Creations Whimsical Watercolors Giclee Watercolor prints framed and unframed (Museum quality) Crossing Fellowship Scentsy with Randi WLCTreasures Home Crafted 3D critters and decor, Crochet critters, decor, & keychains, resin/ epoxy magnets/ decor. Momma Deans Hot Stuff Rooster Exotics 10 Shining Brightly-Color Street Infinity Blessed Gifts by Anna Roses and Feathers Boutique blankets, jewelry, baby stuff, shirts, etc Cricket Wireless Cell phone service, cell phones and accessories Blessings R Us dba Mid-America Sharpening and Sales Laser Savvy Lasers for pain-free hair removal, a laser for tattoo removal, vascular lesions and sunspots. Offering facials and skin care. Ampis Baked Creations Cottage food bakery - selling sourdough bread, challah, and scones BFF's Mobile Petting Zoo All Things Little Pampered Chef Real Family Fellowship Mimi Coffey for Texas State House of Rep Campaign signs and information Keepsake Mums Mums Emerald Dazzlers Emerald Dazzlers car bash BNHOZdesign Loretta's Crafts and Floral Shelley's Wreaths</p>	<p>Cowtown Bling N Things Sarah's Creative Gifts Jehovah's Witnesses Frios Gourmet Pops-Ft. Worth Cathy Swofford Onward Arms Plants by Leva ON-SITE AIR Strickland Heating and Air Fun's Creations Camp Gladiator Fiatrock Real Estate Lizards Yarnables Hand crafted crochet goods such as stuffed toys, hats, dust cloths, etc. Michele's Market Tumblers, T-shirts, and Face Painting Rachel West - Farmers Insurance SporTherapy Azle Sherri's Bake Shop Specializing in decorated sugar cookies, brownies, sweet breads and more. Antiquella Boutique 100% handcrafted products supporting artisans from Colombia. Addy's Bows Craft Junkie Creations llc Azle FCCLA Chunky is Beautiful Bows Legacy Mobile Auto Repair Silver Creek Methodist Church Memaws Traveling Children's Boutique Fat Guy Kustoms Revive United Methodist Church Jenny Stewart State Farm Hortons Bulldogges of the South Spunky Sister Designz Sugar Ants Cottage Texas Hemp and Honey Homegrown - Honey, Tea, Herbal salves, Hemp gummies, etc. Copper Moon Body Essentials Annunziato Jiu Jitsu</p>	<p>Crazy Cosmic Creations It Makes Scents - Scentsy & CiCi Designs Prickly Pineapple Infinity Bookshop CVA PRODUCTS DymondEdgeTurning Legacy Mobile Auto Repair Project Graduation 2025 Wishbone Permanent Jewelry Azle Christian Church Disciples of Christ Azle Swimming Booster Club Phil Mills Jr., Author GracePointe SBC HodgePodge Vinyl Creations Custom Hat Sassy Ash Chick Jason Burgess Daria's Designs The Bread Lady By the Word Baptist Church Parker County Republican Women The Sacred Crystal Key Hannah Blatter Azle Marching Green Pride Boosters Renewal by Andersen Victoria Bischel Elios Solar Sparks Academy Dance Studio classes and season information Robert Rohrbaugh Three Classmates Stitches By Susan Eagle Mountain Outfitters Spt Boutique And Barrels U Moo-dy' Express Yourself Custom hats and shirts, and premade designs ready to grab and go. Your Natural Healer D & J Mobility</p>

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NBT Financial



JOLEE SKINNER | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

NBT Financial is an independent, locally owned community bank that serves the Fort Worth area. NBT was formerly known as The National Bank of Texas at Fort Worth which opened in 1973. NBT Financial has locations in Hurst, Burleson, Fort Worth and Azle. NBT Financial is a bank that works with personal banking, business banking and wealth management. The Azle branch of NBT Financial is located at 405 Commerce St. and can be reached by calling 817-444-4235. NBT Financial proudly sponsors Sting Fling.



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Urgent Care is a local, community-based healthcare provider founded by Dr. Brian Nelson and Dr. Foad Farahmand in Cleburne in 2018. Both doctors are native Texans, each with more than a decade of experience in more than 250 emergency rooms across the state. They recognized the need for accessible, cost-effective medical care in rural communities where hospitals are scarce.

Nelson and Farahmand's vision was to create a clinic that offers high-quality care for nonlife-threatening conditions, aiming to reduce unnecessary emergency room visits and provide a more convenient healthcare option for families and individuals.

Urgent Care prides itself on being community-oriented,

offering same-day appointments and walk-in services. Their walk-in hours are Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Urgent Care also sees children of all ages. From school physicals to sudden illnesses, to vaccinations, the clinic provides most pediatric services available.

With locations in Lancaster, Benbrook, Azle and Cleburne, Urgent Care is dedicated to delivering "acute care" for short-term medical needs that are not life-threatening. Its slogan, "From the room to the tomb," reflects the commitment to comprehensive patient care.

The Azle Urgent Care is located at 601 Northwest Parkway, Suite C. The phone

number is 682-317-1193.

The clinics offer a range of services including treatments for flu, colds, sinus and ear infections, pink eye, bronchitis, strep throat, Lyme disease and more. They also provide Covid-19 antibody RAPID and PCR testing.

Urgent Care accepts Medicaid, Medicare and over 40 different health insurance plans. It is proudly authorized by the VA, offering free services to veteran patients and accepting TriCare and TriWest. Additionally, Urgent Care provides pediatric care for children of all ages, including school physicals, sudden illnesses and most vaccinations.

For more information, visit its website at <http://www.urgentcaretx.com>.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Urgent Care continues to support the community by treating anyone and everyone through the medical services they offer and by supporting the Sting Fling. Colleen Thurman, FNP, is on the left and Baleigh Morgan, lead medical assistant and NCT x-ray technician, is on the right.



STING FLING

Fidelity National Title

COURTESY PHOTO

Fidelity National Title helps buyers, sellers, lenders, home builders and developers close their real estate transactions. Whether it be closing title insurance or escrow, Fidelity National Title is here to help. Located at 224 W. Main St. in Azle, Fidelity National Title is a proud sponsor of the 2024 Sting Fling. Call 817-270-0948.



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