THE SHEETS BIG DADDY IN THE STREETS THE STREETS BIG DADDY IN THE S

E, SPRINGTOWN, LAKE WORTH AND SURROUNDING AREAS

THURSDAY, October 3, 2024 • **\$1.00**

To be Reno or not to be Reno

Pro- and anti-disincorporation conversations happen in city

MADELYN EDWARDS

springtownreporter@tricountyreporter.com

RENO — After a brief hiatus, the disincorporation movement has returned to

In 2022, former Reno Mayor Eric Hunter collected what he thought was enough petition signatures to trigger an election over dissolving the city. However, then-Mayor Sam White disagreed that all the signatures were legitimate and did not put the issue on the ballot. In response, Hunter was part of a lawsuit against White.

In May 2023, Hector Bas Jr. became the city's new mayor, and as such, the lawsuit ended.

"Since we elected a new mayor, our attorney said you probably have to drop the lawsuit because Sam is no longer mayor; he can't call an election," Hunter

The initial reasoning behind disincorporation is because the city does not have the resources or revenue needed to support its infrastructure, Hunter said, and his concerns have not gone away after Bas was elected.

The former mayor has

started collecting signatures again for the new disincorporation petition, and he is confident that he will get the required amount before the deadline. Hunter needs 400 signatures of qualified voters to trigger an election, and he hopes to turn in the petition around late October or November to give enough time for signatures to be counted. Elections for municipal disincorporation are supposed to be held on the same day as the next general mayoral election, according to Texas Local Government Code Chapter 62. Therefore, the next opportunity to vote for disincorporation is May 2025.

"It's going much faster the second time around than it did the first time around, because not only do we have more people that want to sign, we also have everybody on the list that signed last time," Hunter said.

Pushback against disincorporation is also forming. Parker County Judge Pat Deen spoke to locals at Reno Elementary School last month about what may happen if the city disbanded. Deen said he could not

PLEASE SEE **RENO** | A9



ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

AZLE — The Azle High School mascot has been hitting the gym and soon even the football team may start asking for tips.

Azle High School mascot unveils new look

Buzzy unveiled a strong new look at a Sept. 20 pep rally and home game. The new suit is equipped with more muscle and attitude

than its predecessor and has multiple physical upgrades, really letting Buzzy show off his dance skills. In order to fully embody the identity of

Buzzy, the suit's wearer has chosen to remain anonymous until he graduates and will be

PLEASE SEE BUZZY | A8



MADELYN EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

The band See the Day gets ready to perform at Springtown First Baptist Church's anniversary event Sept. 28.

Celebrating 150 years of faithfulness

MADELYN EDWARDS

SPRINGTOWN — The 90-degree weather Saturday made for a warm fall day, particularly for people enjoying a picnic or playing softball.

springtownreporter@tricountyreporter.com

Members of Springtown First Baptist Church didn't seem to mind the heat too

Springtown First Baptist Church reaches sesquicentennial milestone

much as they came together to celebrate their church's sesquicentennial, or 150th anniversary. They gathered at the outdoor worship center at Third Street and Spring Branch Trail during

the afternoon of Sept. 28 and ate together, played softball, and listened to live music. Activities continued Sunday morning as churchgoers met

PLEASE SEE **150** | A10

Springtown Homecoming 2024



JIM STEVENS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Students set the letters on fire during the annual Springtown homecoming tradition Sept. 23.

MORE PHOTOS PAGE A15

Azle Homecoming 2024



PHOTOS PAGE A12

Azle varsity football players get ready to catch a ball thrown from the crowd.



JOIN US FOR ANOTHER k Out Walkathon



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VOLUME 2, NUMBER 18 Local, zone(s) 2 sections, 28 pages **INSIDE**

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Blast from the past: Azle homecoming queen

NOVA WANG

Special to the Tri-County Reporter

With the start of homecoming fast approaching, students at Azle High School are focused on what to wear and bring for the homecoming dance and game. While most students are preparing for homecoming, the king and queen nominees await the game to find out who has been selected for these honors.

While many eyes are focused on the upcoming homecoming king and queen, homecoming coronations of the past are sometimes forgotten, along with their story.



COURTESY THE HORNET YEARBOOK Pam Madlock in her 1981 homecoming queen yearbook

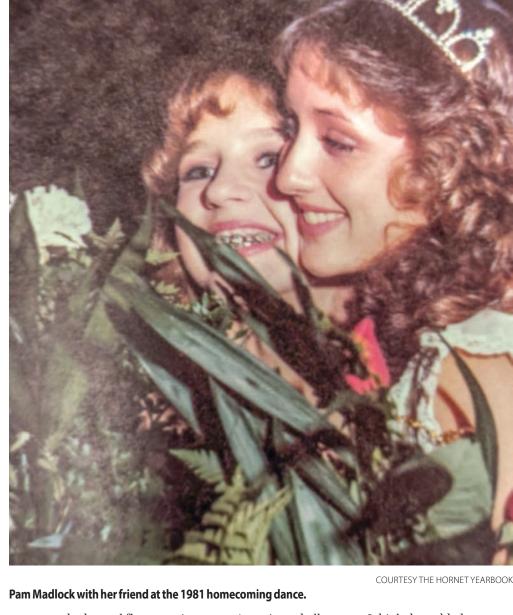
Pam Madlock — the former Pam Robinson — the 1981 homecoming queen at Azle High School, discussed her experience with homecoming as a student at Azle and as a homecoming queen.

"We used to make the floats and you had to meet for several nights and everybody worked on the floats,' Madlock said. "We would make the flowers for the floats and use wire. It was very labor intensive."

Madlock points out the many changes that have taken place since she was in school in regard to

homecoming. "When we were in school,

NOVA WANG | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER



our mums had actual flowers, and afterward you would put them in something and let them dry and keep them," Madlock said. "It also seemed like we used to do (homecoming) later in the fall but it seems earlier now."

When asked how students would cast votes and when the results were announced, Madlock expressed that she did not fully remember the

"I'm pretty sure (the vot-

ing system) was just a ballot with representatives from each class," Madlock said. "I'm sure (the results) were announced, maybe at the pep rally or something like that."

Madlock mentioned that one of the major life skills she got from high school in relation to homecoming was talking to different kinds of people. "I was in band, so I knew a lot of the band people and I was in athletics, so I knew a lot of athletics people,

so I think that added to my knowing of a lot of people, so I wasn't in a clique," Madlock said. "This gave me a better feel for different people because people in band, a lot of the times, were not like the people in athletics and these people in athletics didn't understand why people in band were how they were."

Madlock now works in the health care industry as a nurse anesthetist to provide relief when needed.



Pam Madlock poses Sept. 15 for a photo.

HELP US FILL THE PANTRY

This holiday season, we're shifting our focus to make an even greater impact in our community. Rather than assembling Christmas boxes, we'll be redirecting those resources—both funds and volunteer hours—toward our ongoing efforts to fight food insecurity.

In August alone, our food pantry served a record number of families—1,804, marking a 33% increase from the previous year. The costs of purchasing, assembling, and storing 1,800 Christmas boxes would reduce our ability to serve those who rely on us regularly. By refocusing, we can continue to meet the growing demand and provide essential supplies year-round.

With your support, we can provide items that families of all cultures can enjoy throughout the year, such as canned vegetables, beans, pasta, rice, and proteins like chicken, pork, beef, and fish. These staples can be used in both traditional holiday meals and everyday dishes, allowing families to celebrate in their own special way.

Our hope is not to diminish the joy of the season, but to ensure families have the resources they need to create meaningful meals every day.

As we continue to work toward this goal, we're excited to announce the 3rd Annual Fill the Pantry Challenge, hosted by the Tri-County Reporter. This community-wide food drive runs from October 1st to October 25th and encourages local organizations to compete in donating the most food to our pantry. The donations will help us prepare for the increased

demand around the holidays, when many families turn to us for assistance.

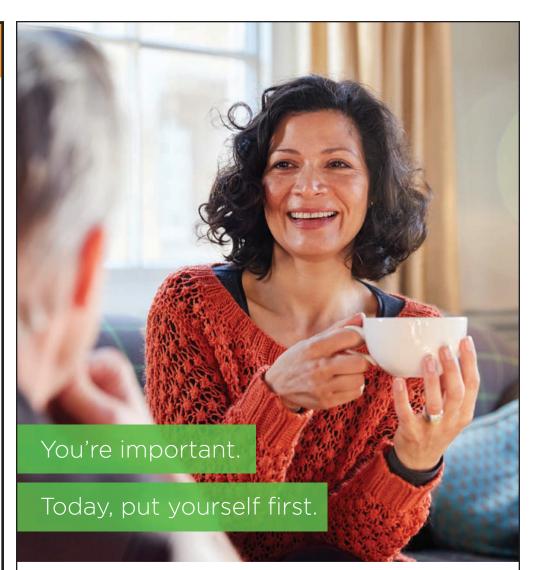
The holiday season often brings heightened need, and your support is more important than ever. Together, we can make a lasting difference in the lives of those who need it most. Thank you for standing with us as we continue to serve our community!





317 Commerce Street, Azle TX 76020 communitycaringcenter.com

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You can never wade into the same stream twice

Something I rarely do is take time off from work. The past few weeks I could tell my tank was running out of gas, and I decided to "disappear" for about three days. Nothing was wrong; I simply needed some alone time where I could think through some issues which had been weighing on me and set some goals for the next six months. I needed a change of scenery and an opportunity to recharge my batteries. The first question was

where I wanted to go. This was not a "get on the plane and go to Vegas" kind of trip. I wasn't seeking time to go have fun or blow a bunch of money on the dice tables. I contemplated all sorts of destinations including traveling to where I grew up, but it was simply too far away. I did not want to be sitting in the car for 10 hours a day for two of the three days. Such a long trip would sort of defeat the whole purpose of trying to



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

refresh.

After careful consideration, I chose to go to Oklahoma City. It was the first place I lived when I graduated college and where I moved into my first apartment. It was my home base when I worked in the oilfield during the day and went to post graduate school at night. Once I moved away, I still regularly visited to conduct business. I have fond memories of the time spent in Okla City - it is relatively close by, and it seemed like a good place to go.

My taste buds have a keen memory, and there were restaurants in Oklahoma which I longed to revisit such as Chileno's Mexican, Cattleman's Steakhouse, and

JW's Onion Hamburgers. I also wanted to spend some time reminiscing and stopping by some of my old haunts. Not sure anything conjures up memories and emotions like going to see places which were once important to you.

During my drive to get there, I crossed over the Arbuckle Mountains and revisited the open prairie of the Sooner state. I began reflecting on the first time I drove into Okla City. That would have been 1978, and the oil boom was in full force. The economy was hot, and the city was growing but it was not sure of how it wanted to grow, or in what direction. Good paying jobs were plentiful, and the average working man was doing well. It was a time of prosperity. Over the next 40 years, I was in Oklahoma City at least once a year. On this trip, I came to realize I had not been there but once in the last four years and maybe only twice in six or seven years. Sadly, when I arrived last week, things really seemed to have changed and not for the better.

The clean, cute neighborhood where I rented my first apartment for the enormous price of \$175 a month (fully furnished) did not look the same. It had been surrounded by well-kept workingclass homes. The yards were maintained, the houses were painted, and people waved to one another. Now, there were weeds in the cracks of the sidewalk, the yards were unkept, and the neighborhood seemed to be overtaken by quick loan shops, tattoo parlors, vape shops, and tire repair places.

I did go to some of my old favorite restaurants, and the food was pretty good - maybe not as good as I remembered it - but good. I was sad to see Jimmy's Egg on May Avenue gone. I had eaten a thousand breakfasts there over a lot of years, but now it was knocked down, and the only thing which remained was an empty lot.

I drove down to the Oklahoma City Bombing Memorial and remembered how years ago the many times I had been in and out of the Murrah building and the folks lost that fateful day. And, I remembered being at the site two or three days after the bombing to get a "looksee." There were hundreds of people on the sidewalk trying to get a glimpse of the damage, and each time a fireman or policeman walked by and crossed the barrier leaving the bombing site, people would spontaneously applaud and cheer. I

might fault "Okies' for a lot of things, but I will flat out tell you they showed me a lot of class that day.

The trip did not last as long as I planned. I left a day early and headed home. It was good to cross that old Red River and know I was back in God's country. I was back to the place where I had lived the bulk of my life and made my home. When I had left a few days before, I thought I needed a change of scenery to get my thoughts together. What I learned is that memories are precious, but the world never stands still, and things seldom stay the way you remember them. The trip also confirmed there is no place like home.

Thought for the day: Going home is what everybody is trying to do from the day they are born to the day they

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

Who Gave Him a Walkie Talkie?

I thoroughly enjoy community festivals, and our area chambers of commerce provide some of the best, including Decatur's food festivals, Weatherford's Parker County Peach Festival, Azle's Sting Fling Festival, Springtown's Wild West Festival, and numerous Christmas festivals.

For several years, I have served as a volunteer for Sting Fling. My role is minor compared to many, but my assignments fit me well, and I enjoy every minute. This past Sept. 14 was the biggest I remember, with the community showing up for an incredible

My first Sting Fling task begins each year about 6:30 a.m. on one end of Main Street, Azle ISD Superintendent Todd Smith takes the other end of the street. Alongside Azle Police officers, we welcome the mul-



HOPE MATTERS

By David Shaffer

Dr. David Shaffer and his wife, Daniele, are Azle-area residents. David is the director of Son Shine Ministries (equipfamilies.org) and serves on the Azle Area Chamber Ambassador (azlechamber.com) david@equipfamilies.org | 817-444-3777

titude of vendors, checking them in and informing them of their spots, helped by other volunteers. Enthusiasm over the day ahead is the common characteristic among those coming to Sting Fling.

What makes the festivals so special? First, there is a parade, which always warms my heart. As I watched this year standing with friends, I looked at people who have worked hard in the community showing up again to participate in this local event. The Azle High School Band, Dazzlers, Cheer, and Hornet

Muscle provided a beautiful slice of Americana, filling me with memories of when our two boys were Azle Hornets. One year, my wife, Daniele, and I enjoyed riding in a supercharged, super-large Brookshires shopping cart, which was clearly one of our bucket list items.

There is a lot to experience, including car shows, wiener dog races, petting zoos, performances, festival foods, homemade crafts, kids' areas and train rides. Vendor spots are also filled by local churches, schools, businesses, initiatives, and nonprofits.

Those who worked with me at Sting Fling will be amazed to realize I am well into this article before mentioning the fact that the Azle Chamber still gives me a walkie talkie to use, which turns me into an 8-year-old all over again, making jokes and enjoying others knowingly rolling their

My later task takes me to each of the vendors to thank them for their participation on behalf of the Azle Chamber. What a joy it is to celebrate their success and contribution to the festival!

Local festivals allow people the opportunity to slow down, catch up, and enjoy being among their neighbors. The events are a lot of fun, but they are never perfect; in many ways, they mimic our community - people having diverse viewpoints finding a way to unite and enjoy one

another.

The Bible's Old Testament is packed with annual festivals. In fact, there is a section of 15 psalms known as Psalms of Ascent. These were sung by Jewish pilgrims as they traveled up to Jerusalem for the annual festivals. The first line of one of these psalms, written by King David, reads, "How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!' (Psalm 133, NIV).

The late Luci Swindoll, a devotional author and popular speaker known for her joy (and the sister of Chuck Swindoll), said, "Life is a happy thing, a festival to be enjoyed rather than a drudgery to be endured."

Of the hundreds of volunteers, first responders, parade participants, vendors, contestants, and car show enthusiasts, the amount of

work required to pull off a festival is significant for most everyone. Still, we all show up because it is a day to be enjoyed, and the work required is always worth it. No one knows this better than Azle Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jennifer Herrington, who did a phenomenal job and put in the most hours and had the excellent support of her team member, Jessica McKinney.

A wise African proverb says, "If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." This is my hope for our local communities. We have such bright futures, and to borrow a tagline from the Azle Area Ministerial Alliance, "We are better together."

Thank you, local chambers, for regularly bringing the community together!

Letter to the Editor

Texan's Rights to free speech under attack....again!

Americans' right to speak their minds is considered sacred, which is why we must fight to protect the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and the Texas Citizens Participation Act. Both measures were carefully written with protection of the individual — the "little guy" in mind. They're designed to give a David a fighting chance if he finds himself in a

legal duel with a Goliath. Unfortunately, the Texas Citizens Participation Act is under attack once again. The Legislature is being lobbied fiercely by well-heeled business interests and law firms who want the law either repealed or gutted. On Wednesday, Oct. 2, the Texas House Committee on Judiciary and Civil

Jurisprudence will conduct a hearing to consider whether to gut the TCPA or stand up for a good law that's been giving David a fair shot since legislators passed it 13 years

It appears that Committee Chairman Jeff Leach, R-Plano, who has taken aim at the TCPA over the last several legislative sessions, wants to make sure Goliath's side gets multiple shots at David. The panel of witnesses Leach invited to testify at his Wednesday hearing includes three witnesses from business and legal interests (who have been opposed to the TCPA) and one lonely First Amendment attorney.

Ironically, that same First Amendment attorney is also representing Leach in a lawsuit in which Leach is accused of defamation, and Leach has used the TCPA as part of his defense. It seems that even the chair of one of the most powerful committees in the Texas House finds himself feeling like David at times.

When they were omitted from Leach's invitation list, at least eight organizations who support the TCPA requested the opportunity to testify. They were all turned down. Among those denied the opportunity to testify are Texas Right to Life, the Young Republicans of Texas, the General Counsel for the Tarrant County Republican Party, and the Protect Free Speech Coalition.

Regardless of his political persuasion, few things are more dangerous to a David

than a defamation lawsuit filed against him by an angry Goliath with deep pockets. David may have the truth, the law, and the man upstairs on his side, but Goliath can afford an army of lawyers to fight all the way to the Supreme Court. In the process, he can be bled to death financially from the thousand cuts of discovery and depositions that come with a lawsuit.

If he can get the court to grant a motion to dismiss the suit, David is off the hook. The odds of David winning a motion to dismiss a nuisance suit are higher in an appeals court than they are at the local trial court level, however. Without the current stay in the TCPA, David would have to pay lawyers to appeal his

denied motion while simultaneously paying lawyers to handle the discovery and deposition tasks that are necessary before trial. With the TCPA in place, the discovery and depositions come to a halt until the appeals related to the motion are exhausted. This makes it faster and less expensive for David to win, which is why the angry plaintiffs who sue their Davids don't like the law.

Here's a fringe benefit that often goes unmentioned but should not be: The dismissal of a groundless suit not only helps the defendant but removes a case from the perennially overcrowded court docket. That makes it a win not just for David, but for judges and taxpayers.

The bottom line: The TCPA

protects Texans from lawsuits designed to chill their First Amendment rights. It makes our court system more efficient. And, most importantly, it assures that while free speech may not always be free, it should never be something that the Davids among us - which is most of us - cannot afford.

The Texas House Committee on the Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence would do well to remember that - so would the entire Texas House, the entire Texas Senate, and the Governor of

Signed, Texas Press Association

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KIM WARE publisher@tricountvreporter.com

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Office Administrato KIMBERLY DORADO Copy Editor CARLA STUTSMAN

JENNIFER HARRISON Bookkeene

JULIE INCE

Staff Writer Staff Writer **ZACH FREEMAN**

Staff Writer JOLEE SKINNER

USPS 546-920 321 West Main Street, Azle, Texas 76020 Phone: (817) 270-3340

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Azle Optimist Club showcases September students

Carlson, Maines recognized by Optimists for academics and extracurriculars

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

AZLE — At a Sept. 20 meeting, the Optimist Club of Azle recognized two Azle High School seniors, Dylan Maines and Klaire Carlson, as its Young Texan and Young Texanne for the month of September.

KLAIRE CARLSON:

Klaire Carlson is the daughter of Mary and Michael Carlson. She is ranked 12th in her class with a grade point average of 102.83. After high school, Carlson is interested in pursuing a career in nursing or architecture. She is proud of her good grades and consistent attendance record.

"I am proud of all these things because I have been working hard all year," Carlson said. "Over the past years, especially junior year, times have gotten hard and stressed with school and in those moments, I kept my head up and kept pushing through. I know I may not be the smartest person in the world, but I have been working hard because I want to have a bright future, and I

want good grades in order to help pay for college."

Carlson said her success is the result of the high standards she places on herself. She is grateful that her parents have taught her to be accountable and a hard worker. She admits that one of her weaknesses is her aversion to change which she is working to overcome. Carlson describes herself as driven, reliable and respectful. One unique thing about the AHS student is that she's a triplet. She is involved in the National Honor Society, Rowdies, is part of the leadership council with Azle's bi-district champion softball team, was voted best teammate and received the mostoffensive award in junior varsity basketball.

Carlson enjoys reading, crocheting, painting, baking, hiking, softball, listening to music and arts and crafts. She works as a babysitter and is a regular volunteer at community events.

DYLAN MAINES:

Dylan Maines is the son of Bo Maines and Leah Maines. He is ranked ninth in his class



COURTESY JESSICA MCKINNEY

Principal Nate Driver with Klaire Carlson, Dylan Maines and Azle Optimist Club President Tyler Harden.

with a GPA of 103.1. He does not yet know which colleges or career fields he'd like to pursue. Maines is proud of maintaining a spot on the honor roll and staying in the academic top 10 throughout high school. He considers math and chemistry to be his best academic strengths. He considers his work ethic to be the biggest contributor to

his success. Maines considers impatience to be one of his weaknesses.

"I work to overcome this by reminding myself that patience is an important part of life," Maines said.

He considers himself to be a committed hard worker, always giving any task his best effort and seeing things through to completion. He

also said that he is honest. Maines wrote that his hobbies include playing the guitar, playing bass in his church's band, spending time with family, camping, and

fishing. He has worked at Reeves Azle Hardware as a store associate since November 2023. He has volunteered with house repairs and yard work

for Servolution Network for four years.

Maines is highly involved in sports including powerlifting, track and field, wrestling and football where he is team captain and on the leadership council. He is also involved in NHS, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Peer Assistance and Leadership.

Library to hold water quality workshop

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

AZLE — For those wanting to learn more about water quality in Azle, free resources are soon to come.

Last week, TRWD sprayed for weeds near Eagle Mountain Dam, prompting one citizen to call in to the Tri-County Reporter with concerns about the runoff of herbicide into the lake. TRWD news and media relations manager Chad Lorance confirmed that, in performing routine maintenance, the organization adheres to state regulations and implements additional precautions to ensure the spray does not contact the reservoir water.

Coincidentally, the Azle Memorial library will be hosting a workshop focused on improving water quality in the Eagle Mountain Lake watershed Oct. 15. The event will be held at 333 W. Main St., from 12:30 - 4:30 p.m. and is open to everyone for no cost. Doors will open at noon, and Tarrant Regional Water District will provide a free lunch for those who register by Oct. 13.

The workshop, presented by the TRWD, the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, and the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board,

will include a discussion on watershed systems, sources of water pollution, and community-driven watershed protection. Attendees will receive a copy of the Texas Watershed Steward Handbook and are eligible to earn a certificate of

"This workshop is designed to help watershed residents learn about their water resources and how they may become involved in local watershed protection and management activities," AgriLife Extension program specialist and Texas Watershed Steward coordinator, Michael

He continued, saying the public is encouraged to atwater quality management, but also how they may become involved in improving and maintaining the water quality of Eagle Mountain Lake through best management practices. Though the es, the information should be applicable to all waters

The Texas Watershed Steward program offers continuing education units, with varying hours, for multiple professional disciplines. Readers can register online at

completion.

Kuitu, said in a press release.

tend and learn not only about workshop will provide an emphasis on local water resourcthroughout the region.



tx.ag/WatershedStewardAzle or by calling 979-321-5935. Additional meeting information will be provided once registration is completed.

The library hosted a similar training on the Eagle Mountain Watershed riparian and stream ecosystems presented by experts from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Texas A&M Forest Service, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, and TRWD on May 14.

Funding for this effort is

provided through a federal Clean Water Act nonpoint source grant administered by the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

For more information on the Texas Watershed Steward program, contact Kuitu at 979-321-5935 or michael.kuitu@ag.tamu.edu, or Charlie Martin at 817-598-6168, or cpmartin@ag.tamu.edu.

For more information on Eagle Mountain Lake, contact Katie Myers at 817-720-4419 or katie.myers@trwd.com.



FILE PHOTO An instructor speaks with attendees of a similar workshop concerning creeks and streams last spring.

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LEGAL NOTICE

Application has been made with the **Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commis**sion for a Wine and Malt Beverage Retailer's On-Premise Permit by Sushi On The Square LLC dba Senshi Grill & Sushi, to be located at 101 E 1st St, Springtown, Parker County, Texas. Owner of said corporation is Clifton Kelley.





Popcorn Players pull off bewitching performance

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

AZLE — Theater appreciators had a witching good time with the most recent Azle Arts Association performance. "Two Witches, No Waiting" finished its twoweek run at Popcorn Players Theater on Sunday, Sept. 29.

Directed by Carol Braden and written by Pat Cook, the show featured a more, at-times, subtle approach to Popcorn Players typical no holds barred humor and slapstick while still managing to elicit a cacophony of cackling from the crowd. In act one, Canton Brenneman and other actors were able to stir up a genuine tingle of unease and uncertainty, making the show a great spooky opener to the Halloween season.

The theater's stage was transformed into the interior of Coventry House, the

ancient abode of Flat Rock, Texas' local sorceress sisters at large. With more costume changes than you can shake a broomstick at, an enchanting set design, and twists that no one could see coming, Azle Arts again delivered on a great show for audiences to enjoy.

THE PRODUCTION'S CAST **INCLUDES:**

- · Cynthia Hall as Arlene
- Marcus · Canton Brenneman as
- Elzbeth Coventry · Sandy Nienaber as Opal
- · Jacob Heath as Jeremy
- Marcus
- · Emily Ball as Bonnie Web-
- · Josh Holden as Sheriff Jeb Abercrombie
- · Hannah Nurmela as Kit Sternwood
- · Chris Pidgeon as Eustace Sternwood



Sternwood, played by Pidgeon, and his daughter Kit, played by Hannah Nurmela, get more than they bargained for when trying to buy Coventry House out from under the two witchy sisters.



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

"Licensed phrenologist" Aunt Elzbeth, played by Canton Brenneman, feels for lumps of truth on the head of local moneybags Eustace Sternwood, played by Chris Pidgeon.



A housekeeper with attitude, Bonnie Webster, played by Emily Ball, shows that not everything is always as it seems.

· Elvira Gentry as Lila Dunn The next Azle Arts Association show "The Butler Did It" will be a satiric spin on the classic murder mystery formula and will run Nov. 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, and 24. Popcorn Players Theater is located at 1012 Southeast Parkway in Azle, and tickets will be available in-person. online at www.azlearts.org, or by phone at 817-238-PLAY. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors and students, and \$10 for the Sunday matinee.

The theater's resident improv trove, the Corney Kernels, will hold a performance this Saturday, Oct. 5 at 7:30 p.m.

The family of longtime Popcorn Player performer Rita Davis will have a memorial service on Sunday, Oct. 6 at 1 p.m. to honor her life. The memorial service will be held at the Azle Arts Popcorn Player Theater from 1 - 2 p.m. and a visitation with family and friends until 4 p.m.



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OBITUARIES

Jim Bob Fain 1963-2024

Jim Bob Fain, 61, of Springtown, passed away Sept. 26, 2024, after battling complications from a stroke and heart failure.

He rode off into the sunset, to be reunited with those who have gone before him. A celebration of Jim Bob's life was held Oct. 2, at 11 a.m. at the Cooke County Cowboy Church located at 8207 U.S. Highway 82 East, in Gainesville, followed by a meal. The family kindly requests that donations be made to the Cowboy Church in his honor, in lieu of flowers.

Born in Clay County Aug. 18, 1963, Jim Bob Fain was born to Charles Alfred Fain and Gloria Ann Grav. He was the oldest of seven children. He is survived by his only son, Casey Fain, and Casey's wife, Jenny Fain. He was a proud grandfather to his five grandsons: Knox, Fritz, Theo, Othniel and Veran.

Jim Bob was known as a hard worker and a reliable friend to many. His easygoing nature and gift for conver-

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sation were legendary — he could strike up a chat with just about anyone, anytime. He had a love for country life, horses and classic country music. He also had a reputation for being incredibly frugal, often joking that he was so tight he squeaked when he walked. His knack for finding a deal was unmatched, and it became a trait his family and friends fondly remember with a smile.

> The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday October 3, 2024

Rita Virginia Davis

The community has lost a joyful light. Rita Davis never failed to meet someone she couldn't make smile and will be dearly missed. She was the first US born in her family and lived in Azle for all of her adult life. She was proceeded in death by her son Joseph Davis. Survived by children Jessica Davis and Bobby Davis and partner Patricia Cornwell. Sister Lillian McIntire and brother-in-law Roger McIntire, nephew Kurt McIntire. Sister Ula White and brother-in-law Ron White. Daughter-in-law AnnMarie Davis and granddaughter

AnnaBelle Davis. There will be a celebration of life service open to the public on October 6 held at the Azle Arts Association Popcorn Players Theatre at 1012 Southeast Parkway, Azle, Texas 76020. Service



will start at 1pm and there will be visitation with friends and family with light refreshments from 2-4.

> The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday October 3, 2024

Sharon Loue Vickers 1950 - 2024

Sharon Loue Vickers of Azle, Texas passed away at home on August 29, 2024. She was 74 years old. She was born in Fort Worth, Texas on Ianuary 11th, 1950 to Sybil Ienkins.

Sharon was married to her best friend and love of her life of over 55 years, John A. Vickers II.

Sharon was a Real Estate agent for 45 years. She was your 'Realtor for Life', and she meant it!

Sharon is survived by her Husband John, daughter Tammy M. Vickers, her son Jerry M. Vickers; grandchildren Tanner Green, Kellee Wolff and her Husband Sean, Ellyce Justice and her Husband Kennedy, Sterling Vickers, Bryson Vickers, and Emmylia Vickers; greatgrandchildren Remington Green, Brantlee Wolff,

Edward Jones



Kamden (KJ) Wolff, River Wolff, Lennox Justice, Colsen Wolff, and Estela Justice; sister Carla Blackketter, and Joanna Caddell.

She was preceded in death by her mom Sybil Jenkins, her brothers Danny, and Jimmy, and her sister Janice.

> The Tri-County Reporter. Thursday October 3, 2024

> edwardjones.com | Member SIPC

Lake Worth voter's guide to early voting and election day

JOLEE SKINNER

jolee@tricountyreporter.com

LAKE WORTH — The fall season is upon us as kids are back at school, the pumpkin decor is out, and football is ever-present on the tv screen. But there is another season upon us that many folks are gearing up for, which is election season.

Bloomberg Economics calculated that 41% of the world's population will be voting this year. In March of 2020, 16.2 million Texans were registered to vote. According to the Texas Secretary of State, 17.9 million Texans are now registered to vote. Needless to say, this is a big election year.

With early voting starting in a few weeks, here is some general election information for Lake Worth voters.

Election day this year is Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2024, and early voting starts Monday, Oct. 21, 2024 and ends Friday, Nov. 1, 2024. The last day to register to vote is Monday, Oct. 7, 2024, and the last day to register for ballot by mail is Friday, Oct. 25, 2024.

Voters may vote by mail but must meet eligibility cri-

teria, which includes being 65 years of age or older, disabled, expected to give birth within three weeks before or after election day, expected absence from the county during both the early voting period, and, on election day, confined in jail or involuntary commitment.

There will be approximately 51 locations across Tarrant County open for early voting. The Sheriff's Office North Patrol Division in Lake Worth will be available for early voting located at 6651 Lake Worth Boulevard. Voters must bring an approved form of identification to vote and must be registered within their county. Make sure your voter registration is up to date by using the Tarrant County voter lookup website to review your profile (Tarrant County Voter Lookup).

To register to vote, complete a voter registration application found on your county's website and return it to your county's office at least 30 days before election

For more information on election day within Tarrant County, visit www.tarrantcountytx.gov/elections

Lake Worth City Council approves budget for 2024-25 fiscal year and raises property taxes

JOLEE SKINNER

jolee@tricountyreporter.com

LAKE WORTH — Lake Worth City Council approved the city's fiscal year budget at its Sept. 17 meeting. The city's 2024-2025 fiscal year begins Oct. 1, 2024, and ends Sept. 30, 2025.

The council approved the proposed budget that is supported by a \$0.485420/\$100 tax rate. Before the council approved the budget, two recommended motions were given. The first motion was

more total property taxes than last year's budget by \$1,020,856 or 37.28% and of that amount \$234,293 is tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year," a statement contained in the proposed budget says.

Since the city will raise more revenue from property taxes than in the fiscal previous year, section 102.007 (c), Local Government Code requires a separate vote of the governing body to approve the property tax revenue increase reflected in the budget.

Chapter 26 of the Property Tax Code requires that municipalities comply with truth-in-taxation laws in adopting tax rates. The laws are created to make taxpayers aware of tax rate proposals.



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THE ABBEY CHURCH

Pastor: Paul Brownback

AZLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

Interim Minister Rev. Russell Clark, Family Life Minister Emerson Braun 117 Church St. • 817-444-3527 Sunday School......10:00 AM

Morning Worship......11:00 AM **CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH** 2233 Hwy 199 E., Springtown

817-221-LIFE (5433) Sunday Worship Service10:00 AM Wednesday......7:00 PM

CROSSROADS BAPTIST CHURCH Pastor - Jon Baker Corner FM 730S & FM 1886 817-755-0279 Transportation Available

Worship Service......10:30 AM Wed. Prayer Service......7:00 PM THE EDGE CHURCH - AZLE 1313 S.E. Pkwy, Azle 817-237-4822

Missouri Synod "Love God - Serve Others - Share Jesus" Traditional Worship9:30 AM Contemporary Worship......11:00 AM

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH OF AZLE Pastor: Rev. Raymond Gilman 200 Church St., Azle 817-444-3323 Morn. Worship8:30 & 10:45 AM

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 Study6:00 PM

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH 800 Highcrest Dr. - Azle 817-444-3063 Saturday......5:00 PM Sunday9:00 AM Sunday11 AM (Spanish) Daily Mass (M, T, Th, F)8:00 AM Wednesday Mass Religious ED 6:30 PM

ConfessionsSat 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 Service10:00 AM **SOLID ROCK BIBLE CHURCH**

591 S. Reno Rd, , Springtown, Texas 76082 Pastor - Bill Gay - 817-304-7443 Coffee and Donuts9:00 AM Sunday School......9:30 AM Morning Worship......10:30 AM Children's Church After Music Service

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

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**

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

Pastor: Jay Ditty

www.silvercreekbc.org Sunday School......9:45 AM

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9396 FM 1886 Fort Worth, TX 76135 817-237-5500 thewordatlakeside.com

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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 Morning Worship.......10:50 AM (6th-12th grades)................................ 6:30 PM Evening Worship6:00 PM Awana Kids at the WORD6:30 PM

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

Azle chamber seeking board nominations

STAFF REPORT

AZLE — The Azle Area Chamber of Commerce seeks nominations for three positions on its board of directors. The directors will serve a consecutive three-year term from January 2025 to December 2027. A nominee must be an active chamber member in good standing who is willing to commit for the full length of the term. Nominations will only be accepted in written or electronic form. Multiple submissions will be accepted, as will selfnominations. The nomination time frame is Oct. 1 through

Please forward nominations by mail to Azle Area Chamber of Commerce, Jennifer Herrington,

Executive Director, 404 W. Main Street, Suite 102, Azle, Tx, 76020 or email info@ AzleChamber.com. To obtain a nomination form, reach out to Herrington at the above email address.

THE CURRENT BOARD OF **DIRECTORS INCLUDES:**

- · Jim Stevens
- David Shaffer · Chris Wynn
- · Michael Wright
- · Joe Hamilton
- Debbie Bunero
- · Shaye Hogle
- · Dena Hall
- · Ryan Nelson (Nelson was appointed to fill an unexpired term and can be nominated for the 2025-2027 term.)

Rolling Ranch LLC



Rolling Ranch LLC, a mobile bar and event rental company currently based in Fort Worth, celebrated a ribbon cutting ceremony Sept. 20, hosted by The Azle Area Chamber of Commerce. The mother-and-son team has refurbished a two-horse trailer into a mobile bar that is perfect for any event, from family reunions to weddings. For more information about Rolling Ranch and how you can book them for your upcoming event, email RollingRanch.TX@gmail.com, or call 817-308-0137.

The Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce Thanks You!

40th Annual



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Wild West Coffee Shop - Julie Lambert

Thank you to our many volunteers who helped make 2024's Wild West Festival a huge success!

BUZZY FROM PAGE A1

referred to as Buzzy for the purpose of this story.

Buzzy believes the prior design had been in use since at least the mid-1990s. In an April 14 board of trustees meeting, Azle ISD Superintendent Todd Smith said the costume itself was between 12 and 15 years old.

"The last couple of years they've even had challenges finding students to be Buzzy," Smith said. "You can only imagine, we clean it a lot, but that suit is pretty stinky. It's not the most comfortable suit on a September ball game when it's 105 degrees and mascots have changed ... (The new suit will be) a mirror of the Buzzy that we have on the gym and everywhere else and it'll allow the mascot to be more involved in the cheers."

Buzzy thinks the new look will help build school spirit. The costume was introduced alongside the prior costume and a re-created retro Buzzy. Azle ISD unveiled the original "applehead" design in 1966. On social media, @buzzy_ the_hornet, Buzzy has showcased the new look and recreated old photos using the old school costume. He plans to continue bringing back the old costumes for future skits. AHS Principal Nate Driver also thinks it will be a great way for the school to honor its past.

"I'm super proud of our mascot, super proud of Buzzy," Driver said. "We're grateful for the man behind the mask, the man behind the suit, and he cares tremendously. We're excited about the things that he's going to bring to the school and to the community and just the Hornet Pride that he'll help us with."

Buzzy played a big role in his own design, bringing the idea up to former athletic director Becky Spurlock. He'd later wow Assistant Superintendent Matt Adams and current athletic director Michael Sain with a PowerPoint presentation on the merits of his reimagined Buzzy. With everyone on board, and Buzzy having done his research, the school chose to contact Alinco Costumes Incorporated for the custom costume and the rest is history.

Along with being more breathable and allowing a greater range of motion, Buzzy thinks his new logo-accurate look will help set him apart from other mascots.

"The old Buzzy is used by a bunch of other schools," he said. "I think Boyd (High School) has the same costume just a different color. but they look the exact same. No one else has this. This is custom for Azle ... Buzzy is not anyone but himself. So Buzzy has his walk, kind of the same dance moves, gestures, everything like that. It's kind of like Mickey Mouse at Disney World. Mickey Mouse

has to look the same every single time."

The student's favorite thing about maintaining the mantle is Buzzy's celebrity status and how everyone knows the character. Buzzy hopes to expand outside the world of Friday night football and better represent school spirit at more sporting events and the community in general. Going forward, he hopes to attend every sport at least once in the school year and feature in more videos to help build hype among Azle staff, students and fans.

"I would like Buzzy to be more daring," he said. "During every quarter or like a timeout, Buzzy could go on the field and do a dance or something."

Two students who stick with Buzzy through thick or thin commented on the value he has for the student body and Azle youth. Senior Hanna Goodrich and junior Carly Cooper, "Buzzy's bodyguards," said they keep Buzzy from being mauled, torn or otherwise damaged by little kids. They also keep him well-stocked in water and ensure he is at his best while performing.

"It's cool to see how much he impacts the little kids, and just the audience in general, the hype he brings up," Goodrich said. "A lot of times in games, not only is he taking pictures, but he's with our student section, and it kind of shows a lot of, I know it's cliche, but a lot of the school spirit that goes into it. So, it's



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Buzzy shows off his range of motion with a dance.

cool to see the impact that he is exciting for them," Cooper brings to our environment."

Cooper agreed and expanded on the reaction that small children usually have to Buzzy.

"Just for them to see him

said. "They freak out. We had the minicamp game last week, and we were almost encouraging them, like, 'oh, well, if you do really good, you'll get to go see Buzzy.'

They get so excited."

Buzzy hopes to show off his improved look for the community and continue the school's great season at the homecoming game against Birdville ISD Friday.



Buzzy tries to steal a cheerleader's lunch.



AHS student Harley Smith and Buzzy



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RENO FROM PAGE A1

tell Reno residents how they should vote but spoke negatively about disincorporation. He said people in abolished cities lose protection that local ordinances provide, like rules about how a place should be developed, which can impact property values. He also said the city's water system would be privatized, leading to much higher rates.

The audience laughed and groaned when Deen brought up Reno's current water system, which is said to need infrastructure upgrades.

"It can be fixed," Deen said about Reno water. "If there's something wrong with it, it can be fixed, but if you de-incorporate, it goes privatized, and you have no say whatsoever in that. The ownership of it is private, and your rates will at least triple.'

Deen said he would start attending some Reno City Council meetings and working with the mayor to find solutions and resources for the city's water issues.

"You have a city right now with good leaders that can work with you and deal with these issues, whereas if you don't have that, then there's nothing there," he said. "There's nobody going to come to your rescue if you don't have a city."

As far as roads in Reno, Deen said disincorporation would put the roads under the county's control. Specifically, they would be the responsibility of Precinct 1 Commissioner George Conley, who already has about 310 miles of roadways to maintain currently.

"If you do this, Commissioner Conley has 60 more road miles to maintain,' Deen said at the meeting. "I can guarantee you now, he doesn't get enough money for the roads he has.'

If disincorporation happens, Conley said he will have to take care of Reno roads like he does for others in his precinct.

"I've got the worst roads in Parker County, so Reno will fit right in," Conley said, sparking laughter from the audience. "We'll do what we can do, if that's the way the voters vote.'

Police services in Reno would be provided by Parker County Sheriff's Office if the city was to disincorporate.

Though county response times have decreased, Deen said the county's deputies wouldn't arrive as fast as city officers would.

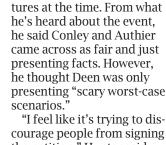
"You're probably going from about a four to six-minute response time to maybe 10 at best, maybe nine or 10 to 12," Deen said. "That's a big deal. You're talking life and death here.'

Parker County Sheriff Russ Authier specified that the sheriff's office has a 9 ½-minute response time on average for priority one calls across the county's 900 square miles. If a deputy were to be stationed in Reno, the response time would be comparable to Reno Police Department's time, but Authier said it's not likely that a deputy would be kept in Reno.

"I'm not saying that we won't get there. We will,' Authier said. "It's just probably going to take us a little bit longer, but we'll come running.

Also, there's a chance that Reno could be annexed into another city's boundaries or extraterritorial jurisdiction if residents choose to disincorporate, Deen said.

Hunter did not attend this meeting and said he was



out getting petition signa-

the petition," Hunter said. "Everybody else that wants the right to vote - he's trying to suppress that right." Hunter added that some

residents are signing the petition because they believe that locals should've been given the opportunity to vote on the disincorporation issue last year. Also, plenty of signers just want the city to "go away.'

"That's been a large percentage of the consensus of people," Hunter said. "They're not worried about losing zoning. They're not worried about the county taking over, which I'm not worried about the county taking over."

Hunter added it's possible that Parker County's tax rate may go up a few cents to cover a disincorporated Reno, but he doesn't think that would be nearly as expensive as the city's property tax.

Reno residents and officials packed Reno Elementary School's cafeteria to hear information from Parker

County Judge Pat Deen, Precinct 1 Commissioner George Conley, and Sheriff Russ Authier.

During the meeting, Deen confirmed that the county tax rate would likely have to increase to cover public safety and road maintenance in an unincorporated Reno.

Former mayor and longtime Reno resident Lynda Stokes helped organize the meeting with Parker County officials and moderated the event. Stokes was surprised by the high turnout of people that filled up the cafeteria at Reno Elementary School. She set up the meeting after hearing that the pro-disincorporation folks were starting to meet again.

"Finally, I called a friend of mine, and I said, we have to do this," Stokes said. "If we don't do it, we're going to wake up not in a city one

Stokes was especially appreciative of Deen, Authier, and Conley for coming to the meeting to give their two

"We needed to hear from them, because people are being told, 'Oh, the county will take care of you. The county is going to do all this stuff for you. Oh, it's no problem," she said. "I think the sheriff was real generous about his timing (on) getting here, but actually, before we had a police department, we'd wait 45 minutes to two or three hours for a sheriff to show up, but

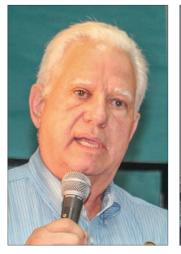
MADELYN EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Moving forward, Stokes wants to see leaders in Reno who will work for the city's best interests. For her, Reno is home. She loves her neighborhood and wants the city to get back to being a community.

then again, we were a city, and we should have had our

own police department."

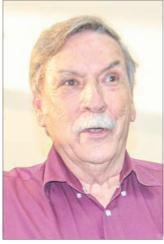
"We got to start getting people in here who really love the city and will make decisions for the city based on what's best for the city and the citizens in general, and not what's best for me or what's best for you," she said.



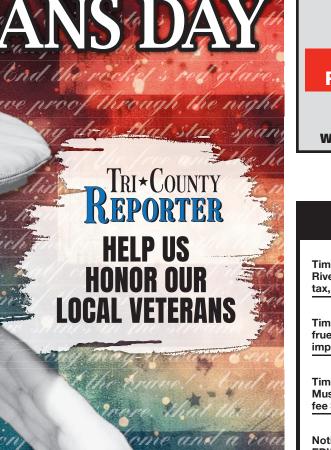
Parker County Sheriff Russ Authier talks about what response times may be for police service if the city of Reno disincorporates.



Former mayor and longtime Reno resident Lynda Stokes helped organize the meeting with Parker County officials last month and moderated the



If the city of Reno disincorporates, the city's roads would be the responsibility of Precinct 1 Commissioner George Conley, who already has about 310 miles of roadways to maintain currently.



We're running a special section in November to honor our local veterans.

HURRY! Deadline to submit is Monday, October 14th.

Submit your veteran's photo to our website:

www.tricountyreporter.com

Include name of veteran, branch of service, years served, and a photo.









LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICES

TIM'S TOWING FIRST NOTICE STORAGE LIEN

Tims Towing 399 Newfield Ln Springtown, TX 76082 817-441-2166 0633650VSF 2015 Forest River Cherokee VIN 4X4TCKB22FX118480 Charges \$272 towing, storage daily \$22.85 plus tax, impoundment fee \$22.85, notification fee \$50 https://www.tdlr.texas.gov

TIM'S TOWING FIRST NOTICE STORAGE LIEN

Tims Towing 399 Newfield Ln Springtown, TX 76082 817-441-2166 0633650VSF 1985 fruehauf trailer VIN 1H5V0281XFM028303 Charges \$489 towing, storage daily \$39.99plus tax, impoundment fee \$22.85, notification fee \$50 https://www.tdlr.texas.gov

TIM'S TOWING FIRST NOTICE STORAGE LIEN

Tims Towing 399 Newfield Ln Springtown, TX 76082 817-441-2166 0633650VSF 1965 Ford Mustang VIN 5f07u167304 Charges \$272 towing, storage daily \$22.85 plus tax, impoundment fee \$22.85, notification fee \$50 https://www.tdlr.texas.gov

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of MICHAEL EDWARD JETT, Deceased, were issued on September 11, 2024 in Cause No. 24P338 pending in the County Court of Parker County, Texas, to: Donna C. Jett. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. c/o: Donna C. Jett 902 Newell Dr. Hudson Oaks, Texas 76087 Michele Audet, Attorney for Donna C. Jett State Bar No.: 00792338 918 S. Main St. Weatherford, TX 76086 Telephone: (817) 341-0088 Facsimile: (817) 341-0090 Email: micheleaudet@sbcglobal.net

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of Hugh E. Waddle, Deceased Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Hugh E. Waddle, also known as Hugh Eldridge Waddle, Deceased, were issued on September 25, 2024, in Cause No. 24P316, pending in the County Court of Parker County, Texas, to: Laura L. Waddle, Independent Executor. Claims may be mailed in care of the Estate as follows: Laura L. Waddle, Independent Executor c/o Wendi E. Andino, Attorney Ruelas Andino Law, PLLC 1020 Fort Worth Highway., Ste. 500 Weatherford, Texas 76086 All persons having claims against said Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Respectfully submitted, By: Wendi E. Andino Wendi E. Andino State Bar No. 20486674 Ruelas Andino Law, PLLC 1020 Fort Worth Highway, Suite 500 Weatherford, Texas 76086 Tel: (817) 609-8935 Fax: (817) 550-6020 wendi@ruelasandinolaw. com Attorney for Laura L. Waddle

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The City Council and Planning and Zoning Commission of the City of Azle will conduct a joint meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 29, 2024 at the Azle Christian Church, located at 117 Church Street, Azle, TX, 76020 to conduct a public hearing and consider approving an ordinance regarding the adoption of a new Comprehensive Master Plan for the City of Azle.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of Michael C. Jackson, Jr., Deceased Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Michael C. Jackson, Jr., Deceased, were issued on September 25, 2024, in Cause No. 24P291, pending in the County Court of Parker County, Texas, to: Patricia Jackson, Independent Executor. Claims may be mailed in care of the Estate as follows: Patricia Jackson, Independent Executor c/o Wendi E. Andino, Attorney Ruelas Andino Law, PLLC 1020 Fort Worth Highway., Ste. 500 Weatherford, Texas 76086 All persons having claims against said Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Respectfully submitted, Wendi E. Andino. By Wendi E. Andino State Bar No. 20486674 Ruelas Andino Law, PLLC 1020 Fort Worth Highway, Suite 500 Weatherford, Texas 76086 Tel: (817) 609-8935 Fax: (817) 550-6020 wendi@ruelasandinolaw.com Attorney for Patricia



Springtown First Baptist Church Pastor Bobby Cates serves as pitcher and umpire during the softball game at the church's 150th anniversary Sept. 28.

"If God continues to bless us, we'll still be here chugging along"

Bobby Cates

Springtown First Baptist Church Pastor

150 FROM PAGE A1

for breakfast and worship. "We're here because God's been faithful," First Baptist Church Pastor Bobby Cates said. "We're not perfect people who have done everything right. God is kind and faithful, and we're just going to focus on the good work that He began, and one day, it'll be completed. But 150 years in, there's no end in sight, so the goal is just going to be to rely on God's faithfulness and humbly follow Him and serve here." Him and be good neighbors and love people well and tell them the truth about Jesus."

Springtown First Baptist Church's minutes indicate that the church was started in 1874 by Rev. J.C. Power with 25 charter members. According to the book "History of Springtown — Parker County and the Tale of Two Schools," the church had 94 parishioners by 1877. The church has been located on the corner of Main Street and Fifth Street since 1901, and because of growth, a new building was erected in the early 1950s. More space for Sunday school and a fellowship hall was built in 1960, and a youth building was established in 1978.

Springtown First Baptist Church has multiple members who have attended services for over 50 years. Some longtime parishioners interviewed by The Tri-County Reporter had memories of being part of church activities as children, while a couple of others were plugged in as adults. Church is more than a religious experience for the group but a social one as well as they made friends and saw their kids make friends at Springtown First Baptist.

"It's a lot of good memories, a lot of friends still here and gone," said Rhonda White, who has been a member for 68 years. "You get rooted somewhere, and that's where you stay."

Longtime members had several memories of the church back in the day — the trees around the building that had to be cut down to build a parking lot, how the sanctuary didn't have air conditioning, heat, or speakers.

"You could hear the church bell all over town, which is a good memory to me," said Jeannie Bedford, who has attended the church for her whole life, 78 years. "I've taught Sunday school now for 50 years here, started out with young people. We were young then, and we've just aged."

Of course, the church has seen changes over the years, including societal developments in attire and music.

"What's remained the same is the Bible teaching," said Linda Gilley, who has attended the church for 53 years. "I've seen in our lifetime the results of faithful giving of the saints of this church. They have given their tithes and offerings and made sacrifices to build the kingdom here"

Bedford appreciates the pastors who have led the church throughout the years and the fact that the church is "the closest thing to a Biblical church there is," in her opinion. She has visited other churches before but considers herself committed to Springtown First Baptist.

"For me, my relationship with the church is kind of like a marriage," Bedford said. "You make a commitment in the good times and the bad times, and this church has gone through good times and bad times. I've always lived here and my husband, too, in Springtown, so I figured unless we got a preacher that didn't preach the Word, I would be here."

Another longtime member Kathy Sherrill also has never felt a need to leave the church.

"It's just been our rock when things were going bad," Sherrill said. "It's always here."

Springtown First Baptist Church has engaged in mission and service work over the years as well, including helping to establish other churches, providing aid during natural disasters, and donating toys and supplies to children.

As the longtime members alluded to, Springtown First Baptist Church has also had its share of troubles. At one point, a pastor had to be dismissed for improper behavior, and there were financial issues when people weren't giving as much.

"We called a pastor one time that just came to heal the church because we were having so much trouble," Sherrill said. "He stayed for over a year."

The parishioners credited former Pastor Hal Kinkeade for instilling order and stability within the church during his 30-year tenure.



Longtime Springtown First Baptist Church members Garry Hammond, Kathy Sherrill, Jeannie Bedford, Linda Gilley, and Rhonda White stand next to one of the photo displays made in honor of the church's 150th anniversary.



MADELYN EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Springtown First Baptist Church members assembled a display of pictures depicting how the church building has changed over the past 150 years.

"He was a great mediator and very Biblically sound," Gilley said. "He was a great leader that was called specifically for that purpose."

Longtime members also spoke positively about Cates.

"He preaches Jesus every week," Bedford said. "That's what we're about."

Cates became the pastor of Springtown First Baptist Church last year, following Kinkeade's retirement. Cates started attending the Baptist Church in his youth and enjoyed watching his former Sunday school teachers and coaches gather to celebrate the church's 150th

anniversary.

"It warms my heart to see them sitting around and taking trips down memory lane," he said. "It's incredibly humbling that I get to be here and be a part of this and what God's doing. I'm thankful. I wouldn't want to be doing anything else, anywhere else."

The longtime parishioners interviewed by The Reporter confirmed that they liked looking at old pictures and reminiscing about the past while preparing for the sesquicentennial.

"I think it's fun," White said. "I think it's fun," White said. "I think it's a great thing for the kids coming up, the young people coming up to hear memories and pictures and things that they wouldn't have known otherwise. It'd be stuck in a book somewhere, and they would have never seen it."

Cates joked that his diet might not allow him to be around for the next five years at the church, let alone the next 150 years. Pending the Christian rapture, the pastor foresees that church members will still be around in the next century leading humble, faithful, and patient lives while showing love to others in the community.

"If God continues to bless us, we'll still be here chugging along," he said.



Paisyn Hartley, 13, reaches out her glove to make a catch while practicing for the softball game during Springtown First Baptist Church's sesquicentennial celebration Saturday.



MADELYN EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Jeremiah Cates picks up some sweets during Springtown First Baptist Church's picnic last week, while Don McKee handed out plastic utensils.



A dad and son fish from the shore.

TPWD promotes conservation efforts amid decline in hunting, fishing

STAFF REPORT

According to a 2022 study, the total economic impact of hunting, fishing, and sport shooting activities in Texas totaled \$27.6 billion. Hunters and anglers primarily fund the state's wildlife management programs through the purchase of hunting and fishing licenses, stamps and endorsements, as well as through taxes paid on hunting and fishing equipment, motorboat fuel, firearms, and ammunition. These purchases generate critical funds for conservation programs that benefit both game and nongame species across the state.

"The significant contribution made by Texas' outdoors women and men toward research and species management is one of the reasons why the tradition of hunting and fishing in Texas has endured for generations," TPWD Executive Director David Yoskowitz said. "Without the help of Texas' hunters, anglers, and landowners, biologists would not be able to complete critical projects aimed at preserving and maintaining the state's natural spaces and wildlife population. This year, in honor of National Hunting and Fishing Day, I invite all Texans to take a hunter education course, attend a neighborhood fishing event, and learn how participating in these activities aids in conserving the environment and our native

While the COVID-19 pandemic influenced a surge in outdoor recreation, it hasn't created a significant long-term increase in the total number of people participating in hunting and fishing. For many years, the proportion of people who

hunt and fish in Texas has lagged behind huge increases in the state population. Experts worry this could endanger future funding for

conservation. In 2021, TPWD launched the Texas Recruitment, Retention, and Reactivation Strategic Plan to connect more Texans to outdoor recreation and carry forward these time-honored traditions to future generations. Continued participation in fishing, boating, hunting, and shooting sports helps fund efforts such as fish stocking, access and habitat improvements, and mentored hunting programs, which introduce new hunters to the sport in a safe environment.

As part of on-going conservation efforts, congress launched National Hunting and Fishing Day in 1971 to recognize hunters and anglers for their leadership in wildlife and conservation. In 1972, Richard Nixon signed the first presidential proclamation to hold it on the fourth Saturday in September every year to celebrate the rich tradition of hunting, target shooting, and fishing.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department invited Texas outdoors to celebrate National Hunting and Fishing Day last Saturday, Sept. 28.

The annual holiday, celebrated on the fourth Saturday of September, recognizes hunters and anglers for their contributions to wildlife and conservation. Gov. Greg Abbott issued a proclamation supporting the special day.

"Hunting and fishing offer a variety of individual, as well as collective, benefits," Abbott said. "Being able to

provide for yourselves and your loved ones is an innate drive, and to this end, hunting and fishing are unrivaled. These activities also deepen relationships with loved ones and with nature itself, boosting one's mental and emotional wellness. Moreover, there are numerous economic and ecological benefits that these activities provide to a state that prides itself on its robust economy."

In addition to conservation, TPWD endeavors to foster lifelong participants in hunting, fishing, boating, and shooting sports and create a better-informed public with more interest in conserving wild things and wild places in Texas and beyond.

To learn about hunting, TPWD encourages readers to take an online or in-person hunter education course. Hunter education certification is required for anyone born on or after Sept. 2, 1971, and equips them with the necessary tools and information they need to be safe in the field: basics about firearm safety, species identification, zones of fire, and

Texans who want to learn to fish can also find many resources on the TPWD Fishing for Beginners webpage: How to get started, safety, basic gear assembly, tackle boxes and supplies, bait and lures, how to cast, and more.

Individuals interested in becoming a volunteer fishing instructor can visit the TPWD angler education instructor website. Fishing listed on the online event page, and no license is required to fish from the shore or dock at a Texas State

Azle recognizes employees for service

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

AZLE — Each quarter the city of Azle recognizes milestones for their employees with a free breakfast and passing out of certificates.

While not all were present or pictured at the event, all those who were recognized included: police Sgt. Patrick Bovea for 20 years of service, Jessie Williams, animal control supervisor, for 15 years of service, Kim Silas, city accountant, for five years of service, police officer Brock Royal for five years of service, police officer Atilano Arreola for five years of service, Brandon Bowling, city mechanic, for five years of service.



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Brandon Bowling receives a certificate from city manager Tom Muir.



Animal control supervisor Jessie Williams is presented with a certificate from city manager Tom Muir for 15 years of dedicated service.



Muir with city accountant Kim Silas



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AZLE LAKE RUN



UPCOMING

EVENTS 2024-25



AAMA BLOOD DRIVE

First Methodist Church Azle 2024: Oct 7. Dec. 2 2025: February 3, April 7, June 2, August 4, October 6, December 1





NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER THURSDAY MAY 12025







October 4-5, 2024

First Methodist Church of Azle 200 Church Street, Azle

Big Tent Sale

Silent Auction Sat 8 AM 12:30 PM

Friday 8 AM - 6 PM Saturday 8 AM - 11 AM



Sweet Shoppe, **Frozen Foods**

Friday 12 PM - 6 PM Saturday 8 AM - 11 AM



Azle Homecoming Parade



Buzzy shows off his new look in the parade.



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER



Local youth cheer leaders fire confetti from their Hollywood themed home coming float.



Azle youth sports players catch candy and have a blast at the parade. \\



AHS the atter students get fired up promoting their upcoming shows and improv performances.



 $\label{lem:Azle youth cheer leaders blast Main Street with bubbles. \\$



Azles Zath Annual GREAT CAMPY ROUNDUP

Friday, Nov 1st • 2:30 pm - 5:30 pm • Sponsored by Azle Dental Care

Kids wear your Halloween costumes one more time & get dough back for your candy!

DROP YOUR CANDY OFF AT

For each pound of Halloween candy, you bring into Azle Dental Care you will receive one dollar. Plus, the ADC team will donate an additional dollar to the Azle Community Caring Center.*

Azle Dental Care 912 Boyd Rd, across from Subway

Call 817-444-1763 for more details.

REGISTER TO WIN A

\$100 GIFT

Need not be present to win. Drawing held 11-01-24 at 5:45 pm.
Winner notified by phone 11-04-24. *Cash back is for kids only.
Limit of up to ten pounds for each child. Collected candy will be donated to Azle Community Caring Center.

State seeking fishy artists

STAFF REPORT

The Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center opened the Texas division of Wildlife Forever's 2025 Fish Art Contest for entries on Sept. 30.

The Fish Art Contest, accepting entries until Feb. 28, is part of an international conservation education program designed to foster youth interest in fish, fisheries, and fishing. It is open to all primary and secondary school students.

"The Fish Art Contest does a tremendous job of exposing students across Texas to the wonders of fish and fisheries resources through the nexus of art," Tom Lang, TFFC director said in a press release. "We always look forward to this time of year when we are once again amazed by the outstanding work and artistic interpretations of these young Texans."

Participants must submit a completed entry form and an original illustration of a wild fish found in Texas. Applicants in the fourth grade or higher are also required to submit a one-page creative writing piece. Once the entrance form is submitted, applicants must mail their artwork to TFFC, 5550 FM 2495, Athens, TX, 75752. The physical artwork must have a landscape orientation between 8X10 inches and

2025 Texas Fish Art Contest Opens for entries

9X12 inches and be postmarked no later than Feb. 28.

The Texas Fish Art
Contest's new category this
year is the Special Species
Award, which will showcase
a focused species or set of
species each year. One winner will be chosen from all
entries and spotlighted at the
TFFC. Students must correctly label their artwork and be
identifiable as the correct focus species, but do not need
to submit additional paperwork for consideration.

For the 2024-2025 contest year, the focus species is the Guadalupe Bass, the state fish of Texas.

This year's award honors Shirley Watson and her third-grade class at Decatur Elementary School, which, in 1989, realized Texas had no official state fish. They traveled to Austin and testified in front of lawmakers about why a fish found "only in Texas" was the right fish for the job and their efforts paid off.

Texas winners are recognized in the Texas Fish Art calendar, win scholarships, are featured in TPWD's Fish Art Contest Flickr album and invited to a family fishing celebration to recognize their achievements.

Additionally, winners will earn automatic entry to Wildlife Forever's national contest. Texas students may choose to enter national specialty awards with fish not found in Texas, however, they will not be eligible for Texas state awards due to the one entry per student limit.

"We have a unique opportunity to celebrate the talents of our Texas students, and the beauty of our diverse fish found in Texas," Kate Barkalow, Education and Interpretation Coordinator at TFFC said. "In doing so, we also recognize the amazing efforts of our teachers and biologists who support them. To complete their piece of art, students research their fish, its habitat, and conservation efforts being made to protect the species, forging a connection between the student and fish.'

Educators who wish to have their students enter the 2025 contest can find entry forms, rules, guidelines, and more online. A lesson plan offers interdisciplinary curriculum including lessons and activities, a species identification section profiling each state fish, a glossary, and student worksheets.



COURTESY TFFC

A painting of a crappie used as an example of the contest's past entries.

The Fish Art Contest is sponsored by Wildlife Forever, Bass Pro Shops, Rapala, U.S. Forest Service, Wonders of Wildlife, Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation, National Fish Habitat Partnership, U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Adventure

Keen, International Game

and Fish Association, REPYOURWATER, and Western Native Trout Initiative.

Located in White Bear Lake, Minn., Wildlife Forever is a nonprofit multispecies conservation organization dedicated to conserving America's wildlife heritage. Working at the grassroots level, Wildlife Forever has funded conservation projects in all 50 states, committing millions of dollars to "on-the-ground" efforts. Wildlife Forever supports habitat restoration and enhancement, land acquisition, research and management of fish and wildlife populations.

For more information, visit the *TFFC Texas Fish Art Contest* website and the Texas Fish Art Program Facebook page.

Tyler Harden, Alamo Title



Local attorney Tyler Harden celebrated his new partnership with Alamo Title Sept. 24 with a ribbon cutting ceremony hosted by the Azle Area Chamber of Commerce. Harden has served the Azle community for more than a decade. With his thorough knowledge of probate and estate planning, real estate and business law, Harden works hard to protect each client's interests. Tyler Harden — Alamo Title is at 415 W. Main St. in Azle. For more information about how Tyler Harden and Alamo Title can serve you, call 817-444-9024.

Library claims squirrel as new mascot

STAFF REPORT

AZLE — To spread awareness and to make its patrons smile, the Azle Memorial Library has adopted a local golden squirrel as its new mascot. The unusually colored squirrel, who librarians have dubbed Hazelnut, was introduced in a Facebook video post on Sept. 27. The library has made bookmarks featuring the animal and says it has been living in trees near the library for years. AML staff urge visitors to keep an eye out for Hazelnut anytime they visit the area.

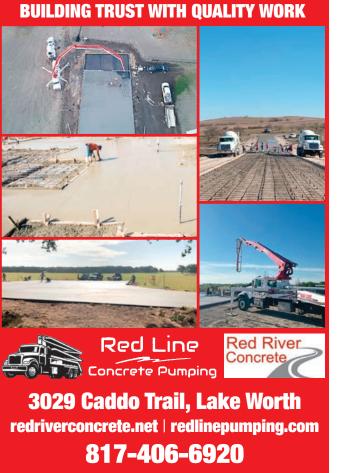


COURTESY AMIL

Candid photos of the squirrel in nature



Bookmarks featuring Hazelnut the golden squirrel





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Archery season tips from Texas game wardens

COURTESY TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

Texas' 2024 archery-only hunting season for whitetailed deer, wild turkey and mule deer began Sept. 28 and will run through Nov. 1. Before Texans start filling their freezers, Texas game wardens have some tips for hunters to keep in mind before they hit the woods, high plains or fields.

SAFETY IS PARAMOUNT

Hunters should always make safety a top priority, no matter the season.

While bows and crossbows are not firearms, they should still be treated like they are when an arrow is on the bow's string, or a bolt is cocked on a crossbow. Always keep them pointed in a safe direction and remember while handling that arrow broadheads are very sharp.

"The number one injury we see with archery hunters is people falling out of tree stands," said Kurt Kelley, Wood County game warden. "I recommend anyone hunting off the ground wear a safety harness, use a safety line while climbing and maintain three points of contact."

LICENSING, HUNTER **EDUCATION AND ARCHERY-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS**

In addition to having a valid hunting license, hunters must have an archery endorsement to hunt during the archery-only season. Hunters 17 years old or older must have completed their hunter education certification, unless they have elected to participate in the one-time deferral or were born before Sept. 2, 1971. Hunters under the age of 17 may hunt alone if they have completed their hunter education certification. If not, they and anyone using the deferral must be accompanied by a licensed adult who is hunter educa-

tion certified or exempt. Hunters must have proof of a valid hunting license and hunter education while hunting.

SPECIES IDENTIFICATION AND ANTLER RESTRICTIONS

If hunting in an area where mule deer and white-tail deer are present, species identification and knowledge of regulations for each is very important. Some Texas counties have antler restrictions while others don't (13-inch spread or wider for white-tail deer: 20-inch spread or wider for mule deer). Hunters may also harvest antlerless white-tail deer during the archery-only season but may not harvest antlerless mule deer.

"Mule deer in some areas of the Panhandle offer hunters a pretty high percentage of success due to lack of pressure," said Ryan Hunter, Potter and Randall County game warden. "With them being fairly common to see, I encourage hunters to do their research ahead of time. Know the bag limits, restrictions and be able to distinguish between the two deer species open for hunting."

PUBLIC LAND HUNTING

There are multiple types of public land available for archery hunters. The managing authority for each property sets specific requirements, so be aware of those before going hunting.

To hunt on property owned or leased by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), an Annual Public Hunting Permit is required in addition to standard licensing requirements.

Those hunting on TPWD property are required to wear at least 400 square inches of hunter orange material, including orange headwear and at least 144 square inches appearing on both chest and back during daylight hours. Even if hunter orange is not required to hunt other public property, it can be beneficial to wear as other seasons can run concurrent with archery season and additional hunters can be in the woods.

Hunters should also be aware of other regulations surrounding baiting, hunting blinds, alcohol consumption and more.

ARCHERY-ONLY COUNTIES AND COUNTY-SPECIFIC **ORDINANCES**

Hunters need to know which county they are hunting in and follow all state, local and federal regulations.

Texas has four archeryonly counties: Collin, Dallas, Grayson and Rockwall. These counties allow crossbows to be used during the general white-tailed deer season, Nov. 2 to Jan. 5, but hunters may only use a compound, recurve or longbow during the archery-only season.

Hunters should also keep in mind that county and city municipalities may set their own ordinances such as no archery hunting within city limits or on property smaller than 10 acres.

"Regulations are updated from time to time and can sometimes be complex, especially in counties with unique requirements," said Daron Blackerby, Grayson County game warden. "If there's anything you're unclear on after reviewing the regulations in the Texas Outdoor Annual, call the game warden for the county you will be hunting in. We're here to help."

PREPARATION AND EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE

It's a good idea to carry basic survival gear like a firstaid kit, tourniquet, GPS, com-

pass, zip ties, rain gear and enough water and food to get you through a day or two in case you get lost.

Know your equipment and practice with it regularly. Wardens recommend keeping bows in good working order and wearing proper safety equipment like arm guards.

"Don't buy a new bow at the beginning of September and then hunt with it opening morning," said Randy Stovall, Nacogdoches County game warden. "Practicing with it regularly will not only improve accuracy but can also help prevent accidents.'

ETHICAL HUNTING PRACTICES

Ethical hunting should be the goal of every hunter. This includes knowing the target and the area around it, avoiding rushed shots or shots outside effective range, knowing equipment and ensuring quick, humane kills. Waiting at least 30 minutes before tracking a deer is also recommended.

"While we know hunters always try to do their best, sometimes things happen and a shot doesn't turn out as intended," said Zack Fisher, Childress and Hall County game warden. "In those cases, it's a good idea to have contact information for someone with a blood tracking dog. That way, if a deer runs far and you need help tracking it, you are prepared and will stand a greater chance of recovering the animal."

WEATHER AND TERRAIN CHALLENGES

Texas weather is often unpredictable, especially during archery season. Some parts of the state may still be hot while others could experience unexpected cold snaps. Temperature swings can happen quickly, so don't be caught unaware and without proper gear. Warmer temperatures can also be a concern post-harvest. Have a processing plan in place ahead of time to prevent meat

Additionally, if participating in a spot-and-stalk style hunt, do your research ahead of time and familiarize yourself with the terrain and challenges that may arise.

RETRIEVING AN ANIMAL

It is not uncommon for deer shot with a bow to travel which can mean leaving the property you have permission to hunt. Going onto someone else's property without permission from the landowner is trespassing, even if it is to retrieve your deer. If the deer crosses multiple properties, permission is needed from each landowner before entering the property.

"It's a misconception that game wardens can go onto



A hunter concealed and waiting.

private property to retrieve a deer for you," said Ryan McGinley, Comal County game warden. "I suggest hunters mark the fence or property line where the deer crossed and then use one of the outdoor apps that provide property owner information or go knock on the door of a house if you see one to ask for permission. Getting to know neighboring landowners preseason is also helpful."

HARVEST REPORTING, CHECK STATIONS AND CARCASS DISPOSAL

In certain counties, whitetail deer must be tagged and reported within 24 hours of harvest via the Texas Hunt & Fish app or online. For digital license holders, execution of a digital tag serves as completion of mandatory harvest

reporting in applicable counties.

Hunters who harvest whitetail or mule deer within designated Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) areas must comply with mandatory testing requirements at a TPWD designated check station within 48 hours of harvest. Hunters that are within the voluntary testing areas are strongly encouraged to have their harvest tested so biologists can monitor the potential presence or spread of

Statewide carcass disposal requirements must also be followed to help reduce the risk of unintentional transmission of CWD.

GET OUTSIDE

All in all, archery hunting is a unique challenge that the

whole family can participate in while spending time outdoors, something game wardens also enjoy.

"I hope hunters know that as game wardens, we aren't out to get them and are here to help," Kelley said. "If you blatantly do something wrong on purpose, we will address that, but if you're trying to do the right thing, we want to help educate you and help you enjoy the outdoors just like we do."

Many of the tips above focus on regulations and the issues wardens commonly come across in the field. All hunting regulations for this year's hunting season can be found in the Texas Outdoor Annual mobile app or at OutdoorAnnual.com.



A hunter fills out a deer harvest log.



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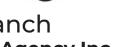


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Springtown football players ride on a float during the annual homecoming parade last week. Later, they helped light the letters "SHS" after a community pep rally.





waves to the crowd during the homecoming parade Sept. 23.

Springtown High School Homecoming court member Kalynn Caswell The Sound of Springtown's drumline marched in the homecoming parade last week.



Springtown football players smile and pose for the camera during last week's community homecoming



Springtown cheerleaders perform during the community homecoming pep rally Sept. 23.



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THURSDAY, October 3, 2024



Hornets 4-0 for first time in long time

RICK MAUCH

Special to the Tri-County Reporter

For the first time in many years, the Azle Hornets are celebrating four consecutive victories to start a season. In fact, the last time this happened all the players on the current roster were still quite a few years away from even being born.

They improved to 4-0 overall and 2-0 in District 3-5A

Porcupines open league play with rout

Division I with a 42-21 win at Brewer (0-5) on Friday, Sept. 27. Now, they go for a perfect first half of the season when they host Birdville (2-3, 1-2) Friday, Oct. 4 at 7 p.m.

The Hawks are coming off a 62-34 loss at home to

Richland. Offensive leaders vs.

Brewer: Derrek Vowel 14-of-

23, 187 yards, 3 TD passing; Hagen Hughes 18 carries, 168 yards, 2 TD; King Stephens 14-144, TD rushing; Aiden Mackey 5-98, 3 TD receiving.

Defensive leaders vs. Brewer: Jay Glaze 13 tackles, 1 for loss; Hayden Cassady 9 tackles; Joshua Guzman 9

tackles; Devin Wingfield sack. Season offensive leaders:

Vowel 65% completions, 915 vards. 9 TD. 1 interception: Hughes 605 rushing yards, 8 TD; Stephens 338 rushing yards, 5 TD; Mackey 18-306, 6 TD receiving; Brayden Combs 19-281, 2 TD receiving.

Season defensive leaders: Riley Self 31 tackles, interception; Bryan Moya 28 tackles; Cassady 26 tackles, 2 for loss;

Glaze 25 tackles, 2 for loss, 2 sacks; Wingfield 19 tackles, 5 for loss, 3 sacks.

Birdville offensive players to watch: Zach Wells 63% completions, Lamar Leggins 82 yards per game rushing.

Birdville defensive players to watch: Hunter Grant 9.5 tackles per game, 2 sacks; Jacob Martinez 7.5 tackles per game.

This will be the first meet-

ing between the Hornets and Hawks since 2011, with Birdville leading the all-time series 5-0.

LAKE WORTH FOOTBALL

The Bullfrogs' (0-5) struggles continued with a 55-0 home loss to Graham on Friday, Sept. 27. Now, after a bye week, something will give when they return to

PLEASE SEE ROUNDUP | B4

Cans For the Crown

Special to the Tri-County Reporter

LUKE PETERSEN

Each year, a group of eight seniors, four boys and four girls, work to gather votes in the hope of winning the title of Homecoming King or Oueen respectively. However, in recent years, the AHS Student Council has given nominees a chance to raise votes in a new way — donations of canned and boxed

goods. "Five years ago, the number of homecoming votes kept getting smaller and smaller each year, and it didn't seem right to crown a king and queen when less than a fourth of the school was voting," student council adviser Chad Cooke said. "So, student council thought we should try to make some Donations Help Seniors Win Homecoming Royalty



NOVA WANG | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Homecoming queen nominee Brooklyn Young's donation pile

good out of this tradition and leave a positive impact on our community."

The goods, which end up going to Community Caring Center, allow for students and families to help contribute to giving back to the



NOVA WANG | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Homecoming king nominee Braden Sirkel's donation pile

greater Azle population. "I'm more focused on

the collections, even if they don't bring me to win," Saez said. "I just want to be able to have these to give to our Community Caring Center in order to provide them with

enough to continue providing for the people here in Azle."

The donations can come from anyone in the community and aren't restricted to just the high school students.

PLEASE SEE CROWN | B3

Dynamic Duo Twins sisters share a unique

connection on and off the court



Breanna Arellano

CHASITY VURICH



Reanna Arellano

Tragedy led to new outlook for Hornets kicker

RICK MAUCH

Special to the Tri-County Reporter

Azle Hornets football coach Devon Dorris remembered watching a documentary on the 2015 earthquake that rocked Nepal, India, China, and Bangladesh. Then, as one of his new players was telling his story to the rest of the team, the coach came to a stunning realization.

That player, kicker Utkarsh Bhandari, survived that

"I thought, my gosh, I couldn't believe it," Dorris said. "He talked about how he went without food for several days and how hard it was.'

Utkarsh, now 17 and a senior at Azle High School, was only a young boy when the earthquake with a magnitude of around 8.1 hit, killing almost 9,000 people and injuring almost 22,000. Miraculously, despite being on the top floor of his house at the time of the event, he survived.

"I remember everything vividly. I was on the sixth

PLEASE SEE OUTLOOK | B3 Devon Dorris, left, with Utkarsh Bhandari



PHOTO COURTESY UTKARSH BHANDARI

sports@tricountyreporter.com Breanna and Reanna Arellano, fraternal twin sisters, are a remarkable duo navigating their sophomore year of high school. Although they share the same birthday and surname, the two sisters have forged different paths, each with a distinct personality and athletic identity. Their bond, however, is deepened by the sports they play together, their mutual respect, and a unique connection some might describe as "twin

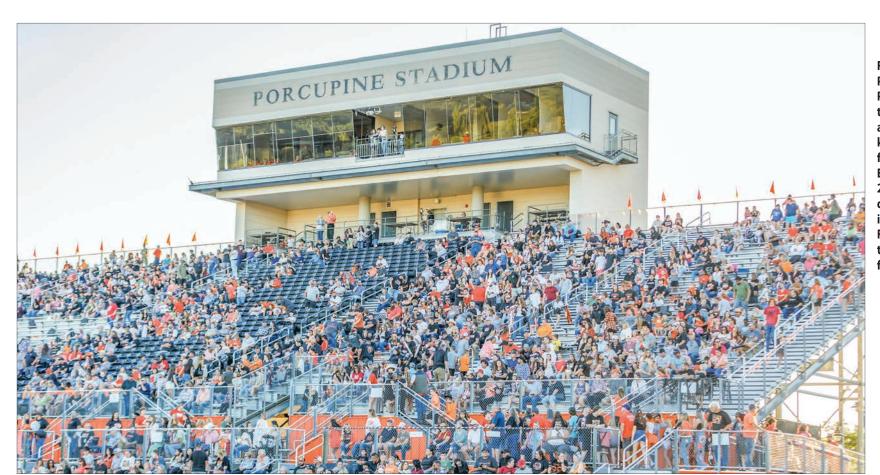
telepathy." Breanna wears the number 11 on her volleyball jersey with pride. She has been passionate about the sport since her days in middle school. It was there that she found her rhythm in the game, quickly mastering the intricacies of tips, spiking, blocks, and digging. As soon as Breanna

entered high school, she knew volleyball was her calling, but her coach did approach her asking if she would like to try out for the soccer team. Sure enough, she is now a great defender for their varsity soccer team as well. Her determination is clear—Breanna plans to play volleyball at the collegiate level and has been relentless in pursuing that dream. Whether it's through rigorous team practices or extra time spent honing her skills at the local rec center, Breanna's focus on volleyball is unwavering.

In contrast, her twin sister Reanna—wearing number 12—is a former soccer star turned volleyball sensation. Reanna's athletic journey took a surprising twist when she entered high school. Back in middle school, her talents on the soccer field

were undeniable. She was PLEASE SEE **DUO** | B7

Springtown Homecoming 2024



STEVEN MARTER
TRI COUNTY REPORTER

Friday Sept. 28, Springtown's
Porcupine Stadium was full of
Porcupines young and old. As
the 2024 Homecoming game
against the Southwest Raiders
kicked off with a performance
from the drill team and band.
Emma Moore was named the
2024 Homecoming Queen
during half time. Ultimately
it was good to be a Porcupine
Friday night with a 68-0 blowout
to end the 2024 homecoming
festivities.













Delores Applewhite gives blood at the "Help Terry Give Back" blood drive at the Mary Lou Reddick Public Library.

Lake Worth local hosts blood drive at public library

JOLEE SKINNER

jolee@tricountyreporter.com

LAKE WORTH —On Saturday Sept. 21, Terry Purdom hosted a blood drive called "Help Terry Give Back" at the Mary Lou Reddick Public Library from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The reason Purdom wanted to host a blood drive is because he expressed feelings of guilt for receiving blood transfusions for his leukemia treatments.

"I'm dealing with leukemia and its required me over the last several months to have quite a few blood transfusions and I'm laying there one day thinking, as I was getting the blood, I started feeling guilty cause I'm taking all this blood," Purdom said. "I wanted to do something."

Purdom said he reached out to a contact he had at Carter BloodCare and came up with the idea for the event. The City of Lake Worth let Purdom use its library and even a local QuikTrip helped by giving him goodie bags and cups to give out.

Purdom said his doctor told him he is not alone feeling guilt over taking blood transfusions. According to the American Red Cross, every two seconds someone needs blood or platelets and the average red blood cell transfusion is three units.

Delores Applewhite is a friend of Purdom's who donated blood at the event. Applewhite said Purdom

called to see if she and her husband would donate blood and said they yes with no hesitation.

"We only got one call and it was 'would y'all mind?' and I thought well what all he's gone through, for God's sake, for 15 years fighting cancer, yeah I can do this,' Applewhite said.

The event had 24 total participants, with 19 whole blood units collected and a grand total of 25 pints of lifesaving blood.

The American Red Cross is currently experiencing a blood shortage across North Texas and the nation. For more information on where to donate blood, visit www. redcross.org or www.carterbloodcare.org

ROUNDUP

play and the start of District 6-4A Division I, hosting 0-5 Waxahachie Life, which is coming off a 48-27 home loss to Wills Point.

Offensive leader vs. Graham: Eddie Paige 2 catches, 23 yards.

Season offensive leaders: Kevin Pointer 753 yards, 6 TD, 5 interceptions passing; Jakobe Smith 34-476, 3 TD receiving; Paige 16-176, TD receiving.

SPRINGTOWN FOOTBALL

The Porcupines (4-1, 1-0)in District 7-4A Division I) made short work of visiting Fort Worth Southwest in their league opener, winning 68-0 on Friday, Sept. 27. Next up is a trip to Fort Worth Carter Riverside (1-4, 0-1) on Thursday, Oct. 3 at 7 p.m.

The Eagles fell 70-0 at home to Decatur this past week.

Offensive leaders vs. Southwest: Kaine Hill 6-of-15, 210 yards, 3 TD passing, 4 carries, 59 yards, TD; Dylan Crutchfield 2-67 rushing; Traeshune Elam 11-64 yards, TD rushing; Ryan Kirk 7-57, TD rushing; Darren Sweely 28-yard rushing TD; Chase Thompson 37-yard TD catch; Bryce Smith 23-yard field goal.

Defensive leaders vs. Southwest: Gage Cantrell fumble recovery for TD; Landon Towns 7 tackles, 1 for loss, sack, fumble recovery; Brett Cannon 6 tackles, 1 for loss; Julio Hernandez 5 tackles, 1 for loss; Devan Hair 5 tackles.

Season offensive leaders: Hill 63% completion, 776 yards, 4 TD, 1 interception passing, 412 yards, 7 TD rushing; Kirk 408 yards, TD rushing; Thompson 12-120, 3 TD receiving.

Season defensive leaders: Thompson 45 tackles, 1 for loss; Sweely 35 tackles, 2 for loss; Hair 34 tackles, 4 for loss, 2 sacks.

Carter Riverside offensive players to watch: Ryan Walters 96 yards per game, 9 TD rushing; Cole Hamilton 63 yards per game, 3 TD receiving.

Carter Riverside defensive players to watch: Alex Ramirez 8.5 tackles per game, sack; Nathaniel Rodriguez 6 tackles per game.

The Porcupines have been playoff regulars for many years, while the Eagles last reached the postseason in 2006 and last had a winning season in the mid-1990s.

This is only the second meeting between the teams, with Springtown winning the first 46-9 in 2005.

AZLE VOLLEYBALL

The Lady Hornets (20-11, 3-1 in District 5-5A) split a pair of matches this past week, falling 3-0 at Aledo on Tuesday, Sept. 24 and winning 3-2 at Chisholm Trail on Friday, Sept. 27 as they rallied from 2-1 down to take the fifth game 15-11.

Leaders vs. Aledo Kills: Jacqui McClain 12. Digs: Heather Lockridge 14, McClain 10.

Assists: Miley Massey 15. Receptions: McClain 30,

Lockridge 14. Leaders vs. Chisholm

Kills: McClain 21, Elizabeth

Kate Lund 15. Blocks: Destiny Brune 5,

Addison Dorris 4. Digs: Lockridge 32, McClain

21. Assists: Massey 22, Gabby

Briseno 21.

Receptions: McClain 29, Lockridge 24.

The Lady Hornets play Saginaw on Friday, Oct. 4 and travel to Keller Fossil Ridge on Friday, Oct. 11. Both matches starting at 6 p.m.

LAKE WORTH VOLLEYBALL

The Lady Frogs (9-20, 2-3 in District 7-4A) dropped a pair of matches by 3-0 scores, at home against Decatur on Tuesday, Sept. 24 and at Krum on Friday, Sept. 27.

No statistics were available at press time.

The Lady Frogs travel to Springtown on Friday, Oct. 4 for a 5:30 p.m. match, followed by a trip to Castleberry on Tuesday, Oct. 8 at 6 p.m.

SPRINGTOWN VOLLEYBALL

The Lady Pines (21-12, 4-1 in District 7-4A) won a pair of 3-0 matches at Burkburnett on Tuesday, Sept. 24 and at home against Castleberry on Friday, Sept. 27, in which Springtown servers delivered 19 aces.

Leaders vs. Burkburnett Kills: Libby Tedder 17,

Addy Burtnett 6. Aces: Bailey Walker 4, Brylee Pitts 3.

Blocks: Natalia Del Valle 2. Digs: Brooklynn Quintanilla 10.

Assists: Kallie Conway 18, Walker 13.

Receptions: Tedder 11, Aerial Jackson 9.

Leaders vs. Castleberry Kills: Burtnett 9, Tedder 8. Aces: Tedder 9, Quintanilla

Blocks: Del Valle 2. Digs: Quintanilla 10. Assists: Conway 9, Walker

Receptions: Quintanilla 6. Following their match at Lake Worth, the Lady Pines host Decatur in a key match on Tuesday, Oct. 8 at 6 p.m. Springtown fell 3-0 at Decatur on Sept. 13.

AZLE CROSS COUNTRY

The Lady Hornets bested the field in winning the 5A-6A division at the Decatur Reunion Run on Thursday, Sept. 26, having five runners in the top 15 individually.

Varsity girls 5K 5. Audrina Montoya,

19:58.10.

5. Reese Jeter, 20:00.70. 11. Azucena Neri, 20:17.31.

12. McKenzee Roberts, 20:27.22.

15. Lily Hudman, 20:34.13. Varsity boys 5K

Team, fifth.

5. Parker Huffaker, 16:56.07.

7. Pablo Neri, 17:01.70. Junior varsity girls 5K

Team, third.

2. Daelynn Young, 21:12.20. 5. Noah Kovach, 21:57.53.

IV boys 5K Team, third.

13. Paul Robinson,

18:44.10. 14. Eli Waller, 18:46.93.

Azle will compete at the Brewer Invitational held at Central Park in White Settlement on Friday, Oct. 4. It is the same course on which the District 5-5A Meet will be run a week later on Friday, Oct. 11.

LAKE WORTH CROSS COUNTRY

The Bullfrogs and Lady Frogs were also among the field at the Reunion Run.

The varsity boys were led by Charles Msenga, who was 49th with a time of 22:23.26 over 5K. The varsity girls were paced by Jacksiry Perez, who was 34th on the 2-mile course with a time of 14:52.31.

Lake Worth will next compete in the District 7-4A Meet, also in Decatur, on Thursday, Oct. 10.

SPRINGTOWN CROSS COUNTRY

The Lady Pines placed second in the 4A-and-below division in the Reunion Run. Five varsity runners were in the top 20.

Varsity girls 2-mile 2. Madelyn Walker, 12:54.12.

10. Kerrington Edwards, 13:20.52. 16. Alyson Barco, 13:56.05.

17. Izzy Parker, 13:59.72. 19. Madison Musselman, 14:00.35. Varsity boys 5K

16. Brayden Levario, 18:22.41.

JV girls 2-mile Team, second. 4. Gracelyn Graham,

6. Bella Wahler, 15:00.47. 7. Kennedy Edwards, 15:07.74.

8. Caroline Trevino, 15:13.14.

JV boys 5K Team, second 6. Ethan Conaway,

20:41.86. 7. Lincoln Copley, 20:44.35. 10. Jordan Cervantes, 21:06.99.

Springtown will run next in the District 7-4A Meet.

AZLE TENNIS

The Hornets/Lady Hornets defeated Saginaw 14-5 on Tuesday, Sept. 24. Standouts were Brandon Zhao and Story

Hilliard for key singles wins. Azle was playing at Keller Fossil Ridge at press time with a playoff berth on the

AZLE GIRLS GOLF

The Lady Hornets had two teams compete in the Argyle Invitational at Champions Circle on Sept. 24, placing second and fifth. Mady Flowers led Azle, posting a

score of 88. The Lady Hornets will next compete at Squaw Creek in Willow Park on Thursday, Oct. 10.

AZLE BOYS GOLF

The Hornets also competed in the Argyle Invitational, placing fourth with a score of 334.

Ethan Bartlett and Tyler Diffie set the pace for the Hornets with a pair of 81s, tying for ninth individually.

Also, Jacob Williams and Lucas Maschmeier both fired 86s, and Konner Hayes shot 87. Jacob Moreno played in his first tournament ever, shot 92.

The four lowest individual scores in each round comprise the team score.

The Hornets will compete in the Briggs Berry Memorial in Granbury on Oct. 7.





Lake Worth library continues 25-year long tradition of preschool story time

Library director talks about the importance of early reading

JOLEE SKINNER

jolee@tricountyreporter.com

LAKE WORTH — The Mary Lou Reddick Public Library continues its 25-year tradition of story time with local preschool children and a free program to promote kids' reading before they enter

Director of Library and Community Services Lara Strother emphasized the importance of early reading.

"The most important predictor of school success is being read to at home during early childhood," Strother said. "Early literacy skills have a lifelong impact on educational and occupational success.'

Story time has been going on for 25 years at the Mary Lou Reddick Public Library in Lake Worth. Strother reads to preschool-age children every Wednesday morning at 10:30 a.m. and picks out books based on a theme for the kids to learn about

"I look for themes to match the library's picture storybook collection," Strother said. "The best books to read

to preschoolers are simple stories with colorful, bold illustrations and interactive elements.'

Tri-County Reporter was invited to come to story time Sept. 25 and the theme for that day was space. The kids read two books that went along with the space theme called "Penguinaut" by Marcie Colleen and "Snail in Space" by Rachel Bright.

Strother decided to use the space theme after coming across a creative craft idea that could work for the little kids.

"Today's space theme was inspired by a craft idea I came across for glow-inthe-dark puffy paint moon art," Strother said. "You can make your own puffy paint at home by mixing together shaving cream, food coloring and glow in the dark Elmer's

Another program the library conducts is called "1,000 Books Before Kindergarten." This is a free program designed to promote early reading before kids enter school.

"1,000 Books Before



JOLEE SKINNER | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Director of Library and Community Services Lara Strother reads the kids books about space at the Mary Lou Reddick Public Library.

Kindergarten" is a program designed to help parents prepare their children for one of life's big milestones, kindergarten," Strother said. "We invite families to participate in this free program with the goal of reading 1,000 books with their newborn, infant, toddler or preschooler before he or she starts kindergarten.'

Strother emphasized the importance libraries have on our communities, to this

"Libraries are sometimes thought of as a thing of the past, usually by people who don't take advantage of the many free resources we offer to the community, Strother said. "We provide a lot more than just books,

although books are more popular than ever. We also offer free eBooks, magazines, audiobooks, databases, Wi-Fi, study and collaboration rooms, hotspots for checkout and year-round programs, events and classes.





OUTLOOK

floor in my room watching

TV," he said. "I remember walking out of the building. and everyone stared at me; some said I should have been

Utkarsh noted that many homes in Nepal are several stories tall, something that made the earthquake even more dangerous.

"Kind of like a Jenga game," he said with a smile. "Our house wasn't destroyed, but there was some damage. It was built well structurally."

More important, all of his family members in the house survived.

"I lost some distant cousins, but I didn't really know them," he said. "But I'm sad for all the families who had people die."

The ordeal left a lasting impression on the youngster. "I realized how easily I

could have lost my life," he said. "Now, if I find myself interested in something, I just

grab onto it and try it."

JOINING THE FOOTBALL TEAM

That new outlook led Utkarsh to try something he'd only previously heard about and knew nothing about - American football. Being a lifelong soccer player, he was asked by an assistant coach to give kicking a try.

Utkarsh, in fact, only recently saw his first American football game.

"I never really planned on playing American football, then coach (Jason) Vines asked some people to kick, so I tried out," Utkarsh said. "I tried from the 30 (a 40-yard field goal) and made it.

"I pondered it and decided I'd play."

He was given a roster spot

as a backup kicker. **COMING TO AMERICA**

Utkarsh and his mother he's an only child - came to the United States in 2018. His father had already been here for about a decade, preparing a new life for them.

His father owns a filling station. He would make regular visits back to Nepal to see his family until they were able to join him in America, settling in Azle.

"I'd never been to America before, but I love it here," Utkarsh said. "The timing was right in 2018. I got my citizenship, and we were able to join him. My dad said Azle is a great place with lots of friendly people, and he was

right.
"Now, most of my family is here, but have some family, grandparents, back in Nepal."

Utkarsh said he has been back to Nepal twice since moving to the U.S. His most recent visit was the summer of 2023.

Among the many things he likes about living in America, he said, is the food - one in particular.

"I really love Chick-fil-A," he said with a chuckle.

COLLEGE

Utkarsh said he plans to live the rest of his life in America. He wants to study law in college, either criminal or immigration.

He's narrowed down his four favorite schools, Baylor, Texas A&M, Texas Tech, and the University of Texas in

He's active in high school outside of sports also. Among his extracurriculars are competing in University Interscholastic League academics and being on the school newspaper, 'The Sting.'

"I'm used to being on the other side of the interview," he said with a chuckle.

INSPIRATION

Dorris implements a program called "heroes, highlights, and hardships." It's an opportunity for players on the team to share personal stories with each other.

"A team that knows and respects each other will play harder for each other," he

Then, of course, came Utkarsh's story.

"It gave our team a perspective," Dorris said. "You never know where someone has been or where they came

Football Contest

WEEK 5

In week 5, we had a three-way tie; all three picked 12 out of 16 games. The tie breaker was game 16 with a 51-point spread. The winner of the football contest is a familiar name due to her previous displays of accurate predictions. Margaret Swanzy picked 56 points in the tie breaker game, earning her first place and \$20. Second place winning \$10 went to Wade Daniels with 60, then Eddy Swanzy earned third, winning \$5 with 66. Looks to me like celebratory drinks are on the Swanzys.

FROM PAGE B1

These donations are collected throughout the month of September and are then tallied and comprise 10% of the total vote for the king and

queen. "It started with my grand-

parents being like 'Oh my gosh, you're on the court, we're gonna go donate 90 cans for you," queen nominee Brooklyn Young said. "The donations are mostly from family and friends I've made through church or outside of school. They can't directly vote for me, but they still want me to win, so they

donate lots of canned beans." The nominees can make posters and social media posts to encourage students

not only to vote for them, as is traditional homecoming fashion, but also to donate these goods by simply placing them on the nominee's designated square in front of the library.

"I have flyers up at two of my family's businesses and I'm collecting donations over there," king nominee Jayden Saez said. "I also have social media flyers out and I'm thinking of making some more and asking around local businesses to put them up."

In addition to the canned and boxed goods, the homecoming flashback court composed of six AHS staff members — raises money that student council will donate to the American Cancer Society, in hope of winning the Flashback Queen or King titles all while gathering funds to support people less fortunate than them.

"A lot of my classes are

competitive, so we have a contest going among them to see who can raise the most money," flashback nominee Kristen Cook said. "My dad has cancer, so I really like that the money is going toward a good cause, and I will continue to encourage my students to donate if they

AHS recognized as top blood donor

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

AZLE — During a school board meeting Sept. 16, Azle High School was recognized by Carter BloodCare and awarded a \$2,000 grant for donating more blood than any other 5A high school in North Texas. CBC representative Yolanda Alsides presented the check to the AHS student council president and vice president, saying she was proud of the students for their efforts.

"It always amazes me the amount of high school students, especially at Azle High School, that (give blood) every year. (AHS is) always a leader there."

Alsides said CBC collected 438 units of blood from AHS during the last school year, saving up to 1,082 lives. She

said the school also had 236 first time blood donors. The school has been recognized for similar accomplishments several times in the recent past. Local high schools contribute about a quarter of the blood donated locally and are an invaluable part of the blood supply for patients in Texas, according to CBC. AHS has held one blood drive so far this school year which was organized by student council members.

"Usually we'll be at school, like, 6:30 a.m. and we pull out all the tables and chairs that they'll need to set up," student council President Chloe Hennessy said in an interview with the Tri-County Reporter. Hennessy said the council is responsible for setting up sign-in and check-out tables, placing arrows to give students directions, giving out



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

CBC representative Yolanda Alsides, stuco Vice President Jayden Saenz, stuco President Chloe Hennessy and advisor Chad Cooke.

passes and hanging posters to spread awareness for the event.

"We feel very honored, because there's a lot of schools that we go against," Hennessy said of the recognition. "There's usually a ceremony held at the end of the year and there's always so many schools, so we feel honored to be able to be at

4th Grade

the top. I think what makes us number one is maybe our drive to want to help others. Everybody here knows that it's for a good cause. We're doing it to help save lives and

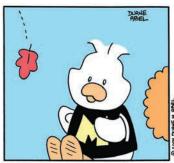
Springtown School Menu

help people. So, I think that's probably our biggest drive ... It just shows how well our

community can come togeth-

er and do something good."

ZED by Duane Abel



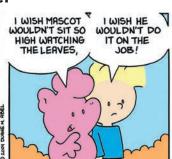
Sudoku

5

3

9

3



6

6

5

6



6

6

9

8

Level: Beginner

3

า-8th Grade Oct 4-11, 2024 educed. PK through 12th Grade *Menus are subject to change Students may prepay for their meals

BREAKFAST PRICES

LUNCH PRICES

BREAKFAST: Everyday - Various Juices & Cereals, Toast, Milk Variety, Fruit, Jelly, Assortment, Buttermilk Biscuit, Variety of milk is offered every day for breakfast and lunch. PK - 12th Breakfast Mon Mini Maple Pancakes, Applesauce Tues Egg & Sausage Biscuit Pineapple Chunks

Weds EggStravaganza, Sliced Pears Thurs No school Fri No school

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. K - 4th Lunch

Mon Steak Fingers, Popcorn Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Fresh Veggies (Fiesta Sticks,, Baby Carrots, Salad Cup), Apple or Mixed Fruit Tues Chicken Fried Steak Sandwich, Chicken Nuggets, Steamed Broccoli, Fresh Veggies (Fiesta Sticks,, Baby Carrots, Salad Cup), Watermelon Craisin or Orange Weds Chicken & Waffles, Tator Tots, Fresh Veggies (Fiesta Sticks,, Baby Carrots, Salad Cup), Apple-sauce or Sliced Strawberries Variety of Milk Thurs No school Fri No school

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. 5th - 12th Lunch

Mon Eggstravaganza, Chicken or Sausage Biscuit, Hash Brown Rounds, Fresh Veggies (Baby Carrots,, Fiesta Sticks, Salad Cup), Apple Slices, Sliced Peaches Tues Chicken Fried Steak Sandwich, Mac n Cheese, Steamed Broccoli, Fresh Veggies (Fiesta Sticks,, Baby Carrots, Salad Cup), Strawberry Applesauce, Orange Weds Cheeseburger or Hamburger, French Fries, Fresh Veggies (Fiesta Sticks,, Baby Carrots, Salad Cup), Apple, Watermelon Craisins Thurs No school Fri No school

AZLE DENTAL CARE

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Azle School Menu

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



Oct 7-11, 2024



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

Mon Banana Chocolate Chip Oatmeal Cookie Pancake Sausage Breakfast Sandwich Tues Breakfast Bagel Strawberry Yogurt w/ Blueberry Muffin Weds Pancakes Thurs Breakfast Taco Egg, Sausage, Cheese Fri Dutch Waffle

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

Mon Cheesy Chicken and Rice Casserole Steak Fingers Tues Popcorn Chicken Wrap Walkin' Taco Weds Beef Quesadilla Triangles Mac and Cheese w/Whole Wheat Roll, Thurs Chicken Nuggets, Maxstixs Fri Cheese Pizza, Cheeseburger

GRADES 5TH - 8TH

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

Mon Banana Chocolate Chip Oatmeal Cookie Pancake Sausage Breakfast Sandwich Tues Breakfast Bagel Strawberry Yogurt w/ Blueberry Muffin Weds Pancakes Thurs Breakfast Taco Egg, Sausage, Cheese Fri Dutch Waffle

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

Mon Mini Corn Dogs Sloppy Joe Soft Tacos Tues BBQ Pork Rib Sandwich w/pickles Chicken Nuggets Sun Butter and Jellv Sandwich w/String Cheese Weds Cheeseburger Corn Dog Mac and Cheese w/Roll Thurs Chicken Alfredo w/Breadstick Maxstixs w/Marinara Spicy Chicken Sandwich Fri Cheese Pizza Mini Corn Dogs Walkin' Taco

HIGH SCHOOL

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

Mon Egg and Cheese on a Bun, Bacon, Green Apple Slices Tues Pancakes, Yogurt Parfaits, Bacon, Pears Diced, Muffin, Blueberry Weds Homestyle Diced Potatoes, Bananas, Biscuit Thurs Eggogi Waffles, Bacon, Apple Sauce, Fri No School

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

Mon Sweet and Sour Chicken, Mini Corn Dogs, Green Chile Enchiladas, Cheese Pizza, Hamburger Pizza, Tues Spicy Sichuan BBQ Chicken W/Brown Rice, Frito Chili Pie, Walkin' Taco, Bacon Pizza, Cheese Pizza Weds Orange Chicken and Rice, Cheeseburger, Chicken and Cheese Quesadilla, Cheese Pizza, Pepperoni Pizza, Popcorn Chicken Bowl w/Whole Wheat Roll Thurs Chicken Ramen, Buffalo Chicken Sandwich, Bean and Cheese Burrito Pepperoni Pizza, Supreme Pizza, BBQ Pork Rib Sandwich, Fri TSO Chicken w/Noodles, Mini Corn Dogs, Picadillo Buffalo Chicken Pizza, Veggie Pizza, Sloppy Joe

AZLE DENTAL CARE

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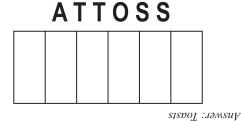


Solution to last week's puzzle

SEPTEMBER 26, 2024

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

WORD SCRAMBLE Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to New Year's Eve.







The Marching Green Pride performing their piano key themed show in Bedford

Azle MGP starts contest season

STAFF REPORT

AZLE — The Azle High School Marching Green Pride attended their first contest of the season at Pennington Field, Bedford where they ultimately tied with Haltom City for ninth out of 12th. The annual HEB Marching Contest hosted 14 marching bands from the North Texas region in the preliminary rounds with only 12 moving forward, Saturday, Sept. 28. In the final round, Azle earned a total score of 75.20.

Azle tied for seventh place in music performance and also earned seventh in the percussion caption award category with scores of 15.45 and 16.6, respectively, but lagged behind in the other categories.

MGP leadership named Marlee Hendrix marcher of the week, Kiera Halyard freshman of the week, Emma Brentz percussion of the week, and Morgan Kittrell color guard member of the

The band's next competi-

tion is Saturday, Oct. 5, at the Bands of America Dallas-Fort Worth Regional at 1:30 p.m. Parents and spectators are invited to come and watch the performance and cheer on the MGP. On Oct. 12, the band will perform at the Bands of America North Texas Regional in Prosper ISD's Children's Health Stadium. On Oct. 26, the band will perform at the UIL 5A Area Marching Contest in Birdville

Azle vs. Brewer



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	W 52-14
Sep 27	7:00 PM	Brewer	Brewer HS	W 42-21
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



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DUO FROM PAGE B1

known for her speed, powerful kicks, and competitive edge. But her coach, Alex Oppenborn, saw something more in her. She encouraged Reanna to try out for the volleyball team, planting a seed of doubt and curiosity in her mind. At first, Reanna wasn't sure she could transition into a completely different sport. The fear of failure loomed over her, but her coach was determined to nurture her raw potential. "I learned that the two sports do have similarities such as the running part, but also ball placement and being tactful in the kills, whether its scoring on the field or scoring in the gym," said Reanna.

Through patient guidance, endless drills, and a belief in her ability, Coach Oppenborn helped Reanna develop her volleyball skills. She practiced relentlessly, and over time, the fear began to fade. Her confidence grew with every spike, block, and serve. By the time she was a sophomore, Reanna felt unstoppable on the volleyball court, just as she had once felt on the soccer field. Her transformation from soccer standout to a dual-sport athlete is a testament to her resilience, adaptability, and work ethic. She still loves soccer and hopes to continue playing both sports in college, but volleyball has carved out a special place in her heart.

Together, Breanna and Reanna form a formidable duo on the volleyball team, each complementing the other in ways that only twins can. Their deep understanding of each other's strengths

their teammates often marvel at. Without exchanging words, they anticipate one another's moves, sometimes as if they're reading each other's minds. Reanna, with her quick reflexes and strategic thinking, often sets up the perfect opportunity for Breanna to make a gamechanging play. And when the pressure mounts, they are each other's greatest sources of support. A shared glance between them can offer reassurance, and a simple gesture can communicate volumes.

Their unique bond goes beyond the court. Off the court, the sisters push each other to excel in everything they do. Sports have been an anchor for them through the ups and downs of life, helping them develop resilience, discipline, and a strong sense of teamwork. They've faced challenges, but whether it's bouncing back from a tough loss or overcoming personal struggles, they've always leaned on each other and their shared love of athletics. If one sister falters, the other is there to lift her up, ensuring that neither of them stays down for long. This connection extends beyond sports, too—they share study habits, offer academic encouragement, and keep each other grounded in the face of school pressures.

Though both sisters are multi-sport athletes—dabbling in basketball, cross country, and track and fieldit's clear they have their personal favorites. For Breanna, volleyball is the sport that makes her heart race and gives her purpose. She's already setting her sights on college volleyball, fully committed to making that dream

and weaknesses is something a reality. For Reanna, soccer holds a special place as her first love. She envisions a future where she can balance both soccer and volleyball, excelling in both fields at the collegiate level.

The Arellano twins' story is one of resilience, adaptation, and the power of sibling support. Their love for sports is matched only by their commitment to their academics. As driven as they are on the field and court, they are equally determined in the classroom, taking full advantage of extra tutoring sessions, study halls, and staying on top of their schoolwork. They know that excelling academically is just as important as athletic achievement, and they make sure to give both areas the attention they deserve.

What truly sets Breanna and Reanna apart is their positivity and faith. They maintain a strong, positive mindset, even in the face of adversity, often turning to prayer to keep them centered. Whether they are praying before a big game or for clarity during challenging times, their faith is an integral part of who they are as athletes and individuals.

As sophomores, the Arellano sisters are just beginning to make their mark, but their future is bright. Breanna's unwavering dedication to volleyball and Reanna's passion for both soccer and volleyball suggest that great things lie ahead for these twins. Whether they're passing a volleyball back and forth on the street, like they did as kids, or training intensely at a rec center, one thing is certain: These sisters will always have each other's backs, on and off the court.

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Cheneverts Plumbing Repair is a family-owned business that combines expert plumbing with a personal touch. Founded by a passionate plumber with more than 20 years of experience, CPR celebrated its new location with a ribbon cutting ceremony hosted by Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce. With a dedication to quality, Cheneverts Plumbing Repair can be trusted to make plumbing great again, one neighbor at a time. Join its growing family of satisfied customers by calling 940-577-4980.

•2024•

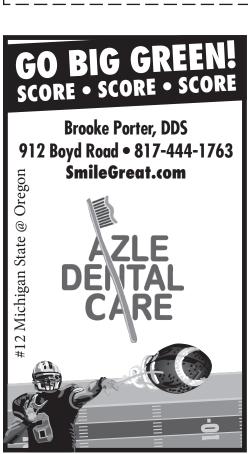
1st Place

2nd Place

3rd Place

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

2024 OFFI	CIAL ENTRY FORM					
Deadline for entries 1 p.m. Friday! No photocopies please!						
1	10					
2	11					
3	12					
4	17					
J	1 <u>/</u>					
l 6						
7 8						
9						
Name:	City:					
Address:	Phone:					





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1st Place

2nd Place

3rd Place

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 5 Results on page B4





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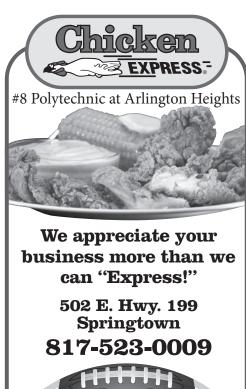
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TRI+COUNTY REPORTER DEVOTIONAL PAGE

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AGNES INDEPENDENT BAPTIST 350 Agnes N., Springtown 817-523-7271

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817-220-4238 **AZLE AVENUE BAPTIST**

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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**

817-220-9133 or 817-220-3581 **CLEAR FORK BAPTIST** Corner of FM 730 & Ragle Rd.,

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FIRST BAPTIST CASTLE HILLS 401 Beverly Rd., Azle 817-797-4706

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817-237-8113 FIRST BAPTIST COTTONDALE

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

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FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST 801 Friendship Rd., 91/2 miles S. of Springtown off Hwy. 51 S. 817-594-5940 or 817-599-4917

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IGLESIA BAUTISTA Nueva Jerusalen 6640 Midway Rd., Springtown

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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 3605 Jacksboro Hwy., Azle 817-707-2741

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

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

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

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

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

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THE CHURCH OF

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

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GRACE CHAPEL UNITED PENTECOSTAL

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OCAL

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033

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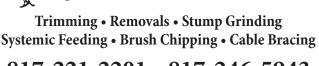
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ACROSS

- 1 TXism: "jumpy as on ice"
- 5 an Astro evading a tag at second base
- 6 in Fort Worth: "_
- Carter Museum of American Art"
- ___ of Kin" (1989)
- 8 in Amarillo: "_
- Rodeo" 17 TX George W. to
- TX George H.W. 18 sunglasses that go to the sides too
- 21 TX Willie Nelson's
- _ the Road Again" 22 praise in public
- 23 TXism: "wouldn't cut warm _" (dull) 24 a Christmas game
- uses Wrap ball
- 29 TX Dennis Quaid 2023 film: "On a and a Prayer"
- 30 TX Christopher Rich sitcom (2001-07) 31 dir. from Seymour
- to Dublin, TX
- 32 singing under the window of a girl 34 Drake of 1953 film
- "Down Laredo Way" 35 org. for one country
- music award show 36 TXism: " whipped pup"
- 37 Dak knows how to _ a football
- 38 TXism: "_ ___ to" (intend)

- 39 symptoms of people with the flu (2 wds.)
- 41 TXism: "he's new to
 - these 42 TXism: "worn
 - frazzle" (tired) 43 TX Sam Rayburn was
 - in Congress 48
- 7 late TX Swayze film: 44 country singer, Hill 45 TXism: "blister
 - (handle) 46 drink slowly
 - 26
 - 47 Buna and Linden, e.g. 48 TXism: "that
 - float" (disagree) 50 Duncanville MLB
 - pitcher, David
 - 51 TXism: "___ enjoyed all this I can stand"
 - 52 Shrimp catcher 53 negative vote

DOWN

- 1 TXism: "numerous
- _ worm" 2 Milam County seat 3 TXism: "active as
- house" 4 camping shelters
- 9 Texas tone 10 TXism: "snug as a
- bug in _ 11 small amount 12 "The Pelvis" init
- a Girl Can Get" 25 TXism: "it ain't ____ in cement"

13 in El Paso County

14 Caribbean island

16 TXism: "he's lower

in a wheel ____

19 Texas "Monkee,"

22 first Texas Lottery

Commission

director, Nora

24 TX Strait's "Gone

Michael 20 TX Roy Orbison's

than a snake's belly

__" (1963)

on I-10

15 tiny bit

_ stove" ___-washy" 30 TX Perot who twice 44 Tex-Mex, e.g. ran for president

27 TV controller 28 TXism: "she could

talk the legs off

52

53

33 New Orleans Saints, "Who 34 movie chewies 26 Greek given name

- P-1709
- 35 transports for amateur golfers 37 historic Port Aransas hotel (2 wds.)
- 38 song written by TX Rodney Crowell: Living
- Long Like This" 40 TX "Bum" Phillips real first name
- 41 least valuable chess piece
- 47 Baylor basketballer _" Carter 49 TXism: "_ holler" (call me)



