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# TRICOUNTY REPORTER

SPRINGTOWN, LAKE WORTH AND SURROUNDING AREAS

THURSDAY, November 7, 2024 • \$1.00

## Halloween in Azlewood

Azle police block off Timberoaks Drive for trick or treaters, Halloween night



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

"Friday the 13th" killer Jason Voorhees and a Camp Crystal Lake counselor rest near the entrance of their home.

**MORE HALLOWEEN PHOTOS**  
PAGE A11, A12



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Granger Reeves runs the Azle Lake Run in front of Eagle Crest Villa. Eleven-year-old Davis Reeves and 15-year-old Granger Reeves dressed in 1980s themed attire on a whim during race day.

## Lake Run fun

ZACH FREEMAN  
azlereporter@tricityreporter.com

AZLE — The Azle Lake Run has zipped through the community once again. The race is presented annually by the Azle Area Ministerial Alliance, was held Saturday, Nov. 2 at Ash Creek Park and surrounding neighbor-

hoods. A total of 327 people signed up to race, with more than 200 people from across North Texas participating in the 5K and around 100 more taking part in the color fun run.

Larry Davis, pastor of Grace and Faith Center, started the

PLEASE SEE LAKE | A7

## Revitalizing history

JOLEE SKINNER  
jolee@tricityreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — Since 1856, Springtown has cultivated a rich history which is now on display as the Springtown Legends Museum is open once again.

Springtown Legends Museum has been revamped thanks to Museum Coordinator Amy Hedges.

Hedges spoke about the historic museum and how it's been a long-standing staple in the Springtown community. The museum is in the historic Hutcheson house at 839 N Main St. and has been closed

### Springtown Legends Museum celebrates grand reopening

since 2020. The museum was originally opened 23 years ago by a couple who were historians and educators.

Assistant City Manager and City Secretary Christina Derr said she's proud of this endeavor and wants the community to be involved in this project.

"This is a project I'm extremely proud of and that we hope the community will just be as proud of," Derr said.

"We really want this to be the

community's museum. The city is overseeing it, but we want everybody who would like to be a part of it to play a role."

The museum opened Friday Nov. 1, when Hedges hosted a come-and-go reception at the museum from 4 to 6 p.m.

"We are preserving the legacy of Springtown communities while maintaining a

PLEASE SEE LEGENDS | A4



JOLEE SKINNER | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Springtown Museum Coordinator Amy Hedges' children look at artifacts at the museum.



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Azle resident Jim Magnuson collects his tree during the giveaway.

## City of Azle gives away celebrity inspired trees for Arbor Day

ZACH FREEMAN  
azlereporter@tricityreporter.com

AZLE — For the third year in a row, the city of Azle has given away trees to its citizens for free. The city continues this tradition as part of its Tree City USA designation which it earned last year. The city gave away 150 trees at The Feedlot Saturday Nov. 2. Unlike prior years, city officials had a professional arborist speak at the event and added a little extra fun

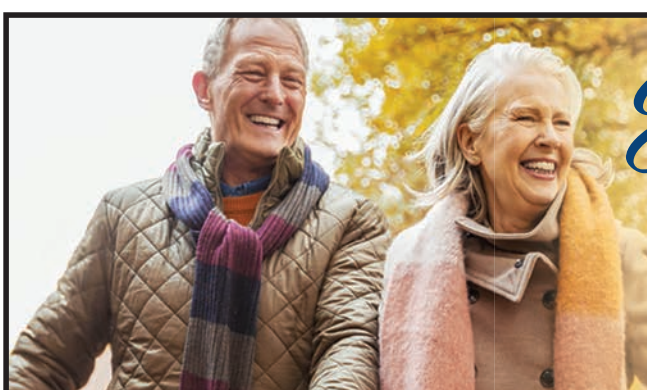
by giving each tree a unique name like Stick Cheney, Spruce Willis, Bark Simpson, Shady Gaga, Twiggy Smalls, Treeoncé and many more.

"I would like to take credit for the name idea. It was not mine, but the names we tried to play off rhyming with the tree names," city Community and Marking Specialist Kristen Pegues said. "So far, it's been a hit. One of the first ones to go strictly based on the name was Bark Griswold. We also wanted to hand out

some information this year. We haven't done that in the past, and people have asked, 'what do you know about this tree.' We're not arborists, so we tell them, 'I don't know.' We do have an arborist here this year, and he did some tree talk, which is great. I think a lot of people learned that we have been planting trees wrong."

A.J. Thibodeaux with Save a Tree spoke at the event, giving

PLEASE SEE TREES | A5



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VETERANS DAY 2024



# Library holds biennial gala

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

AZLE — On Saturday, Nov. 2, the Azle Memorial Library celebrated 15 years of serving the community with its biennial gala at the Orchard Event Venue. The event typically raises between \$90,000 to \$100,000 for the Azle Memorial Library. The library raised funds through a raffle, silent auction, live auction and a chance to buy a leaf on the library's Heritage Oak. The theme for this year's gala was "Wild About Reading." Jane Rector was the gala's biggest sponsor, with other individuals following.

Library staff, members of the Azle Library Trust board, members of the city of Azle library advisory board and others spoke in support of the library and encouraged donors to support the library financially in the programs and resources that it has offered to two million visitors since its opening.

Through funds raised at the event, the library can continue to provide performances, new books, electronic databases, study resources, arts and crafts programs and a wide variety of other benefits at no cost to the community.

In promotional material for the event, Azle Library Trust

members wrote that AML has offered 214 programs with an attendance of 10,744 in the last 12 months alone, and that more than 250,000 physical and digital items have been checked out.

While the net funds raised during the event were not yet available by press deadline, gala chair and Azle Library Trust Chairman Debra Jenkins was thrilled with the outpour of community support.

"I can say it was a very successful event," Jenkins said. "The trust will be able to fund the special programs for the library for the next two years, which is always our goal!"



JIM STEVENS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

The Orchard Event Venue seated dozens of library supporters from across the community.



Curren McLane, library director, shows off glow rings sold at the event.



Gala chair and Azle Library Trust Chairman Debra Jenkins speaks at the gala.



City council member and library advisory board member, Rouel Rothenberger, speaks at the gala.

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# It takes two wings for an eagle to soar

By the time this column hits the newsstands, the election will be over. The winning candidates will be busy working on how to fill their staff and take office, while the losers will be grumbling and complaining. It would seem the days of gracious concession speeches are gone, perhaps forever.

Like many others, I will be glad the process is over. Finally, there will be no more political ads or commercials running around the clock — most of them not telling the viewers anything of substance, only who to hate and blame for their plight in life. Recently, I watched a political ad, waiting for it to tell me something meaningful about a candidate and their plans for governing, but unfortunately the goal of the message was to blame the opposition and strike fear in the



## 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

electorate. It was not about why to vote “for” a candidate, it was all about why to vote “against” another candidate. The communication did not have to be factual, nor inspirational, nor forward thinking; simply divisive and mean spirited. To be clear, both major parties are guilty of this same practice.

Many times, I have expressed my concerns about the election process and how election season starts too early, is too expensive, and lasts too long. Why on God’s green earth does a presidential election cycle take nearly

two years before voters get a chance to choose? Surely the time and money would be better spent on feeding the poor, housing veterans or decreasing our national debt. How much money is spent on elections? Some recent estimates say as much as 16 billion was spent this election cycle on the totality of elections across the country. Does all this campaigning and all the time expended really make us more informed and educated voters, or simply more confused?

Then of course there are the donors. Some individu-

als and the companies they control individually donated as much as \$100 million to campaigns. I wonder what a donor receives for that sort of financial commitment. Common sense says it is more than a lunch with the candidate or a night in the Lincoln bedroom. Am I the only one who finds this concerning?

Looking at the last few national elections, the margin of difference between the two major parties was very small. My guess is that less than 5% of the people in America truly decide who is elected because everyone else is bound to one camp or the other, and no facts, evidence, campaign or information is going to get them to reconsider their position. Maybe it is out of frustration, or simply a lust for power and control, that politicians demonize their

opposition, resulting in voters speaking of the opposing party with complete disdain, hate and vitriol. Remember, the nation is pretty much split down the middle. No party has a clear ruling majority. But instead of forming a coalition to work together and act in the best interest of all of us, the minority side will stonewall, obstruct and undercut any action which might be positive, especially if the majority side stands to get any credit. The majority will disregard the slim margin by which they have power and act as if Americans overwhelmingly support their actions, and take advantage of their position at every turn. Bipartisanship is a relic of the past. What is best for the American people, and I mean all the people — not just some special interest group — seems to be irrelevant.

It will take us all to right this ship. Our “eagle” cannot fly if one of its wings will not work in conjunction with the other to elevate and make it soar. We will only spin out of control and eventually crash on the shores of political ruin. Stop the hate. Stop the blame. Stop the vitriol. Solve the problems our nation faces and be so fearless and driven that you do not care who gets the credit. Time is running out.

Thought for the day: “People who work together will win, whether it be against complex football defenses, or the problems of a modern society.” — Vince Lombardi, Super Bowl winning coach

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

# More than halfway through the fall semester

As we kick off the month of November, a month of giving thanks, I want to take a moment to reflect on and be thankful for the past few months of our school year. Our students have shown incredible dedication, and our staff continues to work tirelessly to ensure a positive and productive environment for everyone.

Academically, we completed our first nine-week grading period, celebrating students’ hard work and growth, and are now well into our second nine-week grading period. It’s hard to believe we are more than halfway through the fall semester. Congratulations to AHS student Katalina Brunetti for



## AZLE ISD

By Todd Smith, M.Ed., Superintendent of Schools - Azle ISD

Mr. Smith started his career in education in July of 1994 right here in Azle ISD. He taught agricultural science at Azle High School, served as a high school assistant principal, principal of Walnut Creek Elementary, director of district operations, assistant superintendent, and interim superintendent from March 7, 2020, until becoming Superintendent in June of 2020. He is thankful for the passion and dedication exhibited by Azle ISD faculty and staff and is extremely proud of the work Azle ISD has accomplished and the impact they will continue to make on the lives of our students.

being named a 2025 National Merit Scholar Semifinalist.

Our students continue to shine outside of the classroom as well. AHS Cross County and Tennis both qualified for post-season competition, showcasing their commitment and dedication. Football and volleyball have

both secured play-off spots. We are extremely proud of their hard work on the court and field. Our AHS Marching Green Pride put on outstanding performances throughout the season, qualifying for the highly competitive Area contest and narrowly missing a spot at the state level. Their

talent, discipline and teamwork are a source of pride for our school.

Another highlight includes Red Ribbon Week activities and dress-up days, which are always a huge success, highlighting the importance of making healthy and safe choices. The enthusiasm and creativity of students and staff in promoting a drug-free lifestyle are extremely important.

Behind all these accomplishments are our dedicated teachers, coaches and staff who support our students every step of the way. Their commitment to excellence is what drives our success as a district, along with you, a

supportive community.

As we are at the one-year mark of approval of the November 2023 bond, I would like to take the opportunity to provide a quick update. First and foremost, so far, all projects are on budget. Construction has started for the new Azle Junior High campus and the new Azle ISD maintenance warehouse and Azle ISD police station upgrade projects. Plans for the Forte Junior High addition and renovations and the science lab/maker space renovations at other campuses are being finalized. A reminder, the completion of all these projects, along with the changes in our grade

level configurations to preK through fifth grade and sixth through eighth grade will not be until the fall of 2026.

I hope our students and families enjoyed the recent short fall break and had a safe and enjoyable Halloween. As we approach Thanksgiving, let’s continue to embrace the season with upcoming fall activities and events that bring our school community together.

Thank you for your ongoing support. Happy fall and here’s to a successful and fun-filled rest of the semester!

We Are Azle!  
Todd Smith  
Superintendent

## SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

# A place to meet new people or gather with old friends

### JACKIE “JJ” JOY

jackie@mealsonwheels.org

AZLE — Halloween was a fun time here at the Azle Adult Activity Center. Fifteen people participated in the annual costume contest. If you had been here, you would have seen The Scream, a baby doll, a hobo and many other original costumes. Elvira Pettis (Wicked Witch of the West) and Mike Talmont (in a uniform) were voted the winners, becoming Mr. and Mrs. Halloween.

Costumes were just part of our fun. The monthly produce boxes were delivered and handed out. Meals on Wheels has made it possible to provide this advantage to those who come to the center to eat at least four times during the month. Each box contains a variety of produce such as potatoes, avocados, tomatoes, cucumbers and seasonal items as well.

A special thank you to the local merchants and restaurants who have so graciously provided gift cards/certificates for our bingo blackout

prizes. Recently, Fred Harris won a \$50 gift certificate for Italiano Capriccio. Bingo is Tuesday and Thursday each week at noon.

Though we are still waiting for the “go ahead” to start the exercise classes, we are happy to let you know Joyce Spikes — a licensed insurance advisor with MSA — is coming the first Thursday of each month to lead some exercises. The next class will be Nov. 7 at 10 a.m. All are welcome to participate.

Here at the center, we love and appreciate all veterans, and we take every opportunity to recognize and honor them. Therefore, we will be also recognizing them on the first Thursday of each month as well.

Our birthday/anniversary celebration for November will be the second Thursday. Nov. 14. Cake and ice cream will be provided by our friend Greg Runnenbaugh with Mutual of Omaha Reverse Mortgage. This month we celebrate nine birthdays and two anniversaries.

If you are looking for a



COURTESY PHOTO

Azle seniors show off their scary costumes for Halloween.

place to meet new people or gather with old friends, we are the place for you. Open 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, the Azle Adult Activity Center is available for fun, games and fellowship.

Something new for musi-

cians is the monthly Music Jam. Gathering on the third Friday of each month, a group meets at 10 a.m. to play their stringed instruments and have an old fashioned “jam session.” There is no preregistration to join this group of talented folks.

Do not forget the nutritious meals served here at the Azle Adult Activity Center. Prepared in the kitchen of Meals On Wheels Inc. of Tarrant County, all meals meet the requirements of the Older Americans Act nutritional program. Please call by

9:30 a.m. the day before you plan to eat with us. We offer two entrée options, and you can find our menu on the City of Azle website at [www.cityofazle.org](http://www.cityofazle.org). Or call us at 817-444-0070 to place your order. Meals are a recommended donation of \$2 each.

## TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

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Publisher

**KIM WARE**

[publisher@tricityreporter.com](mailto:publisher@tricityreporter.com)

Office Administrator

**KIMBERLY DORADO**

[kimberly@tricityreporter.com](mailto:kimberly@tricityreporter.com)

Copy Editor

**CARLA STUTSMAN**

[carla@tricityreporter.com](mailto:carla@tricityreporter.com)

Graphics

**JENNIFER HARRISON**

[adcomp@tricityreporter.com](mailto:adcomp@tricityreporter.com)

Bookkeeper

**YVETTE MARIN**

Staff Writer

**ZACH FREEMAN**

[azlereporter@tricityreporter.com](mailto:azlereporter@tricityreporter.com)

Staff Writer

**JOLEE SKINNER**

[jolee@tricityreporter.com](mailto:jolee@tricityreporter.com)

Webmaster/Designer

**JULIE INCE**

[webmaster@tricityreporter.com](mailto:webmaster@tricityreporter.com)

USPS 546-920

321 West Main Street, Azle, Texas 76020

Phone: (817) 270-3340

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

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# Springtown Education Foundation builds partnerships, endowment program

JOLEE SKINNER

jolee@tricountyreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — The Springtown Education Foundation is continuing its goal to support the growing Springtown Independent School District through partnerships with businesses and building its endowment program to fund future projects for the school district.

Board Chair Vicky Trichel says a key goal of the foundation is to expand financially to support the students in Springtown ISD.

"Our key goals are to grow financially to support our expanding district, form new partnerships with local businesses, and continue building our endowment program," Trichel said. "This will allow us to fund more projects and provide additional scholarships as our student population grows."

The Springtown Education Foundation was started in 1992 to support education programs in the district. The foundation was created with the purpose of providing funds beyond the normal operating budget for education-

## Directors talk goals and fostering educational programs

al programs and activities. The approach has evolved over time to meet the needs of students and staff.

For example, the foundation recently incorporated a gala into its list of fundraising activities.

"I think the greatest recent addition is the SEF Gala," Trichel said. "It has made a tremendous impact for our organization, not just because of the funds it has raised, but it has increased community involvement and participation."

The foundation has three main ways of raising money that goes toward scholarships and to the students.

"Currently, we raise funds through three major events annually: the SEF Golf Tournament, spirit shirt sales and our largest fundraiser, the SEF Gala," Trichel said.

"Additionally, we offer an endowment program, allowing individuals to support scholarships in memory or honor of loved ones, ensuring

long-term sustainability. For example, in response to an increase in interest in Career and Technical Education, we now offer scholarships for students pursuing CTE certifications, as well as two and four-year college degrees."

Director of Communications and Marketing Kendra Hutchison mentioned SEF's gratitude for the close relationship between the foundation and other entities throughout Springtown.

"We are fortunate to have close relationships with Springtown ISD, local businesses and the chamber of commerce, all of whom help us achieve our goals through generous support and collaboration," Hutchison said.

The foundation also emphasizes its support for Springtown teachers and loves to see them return to their alma maters to make an impact on students. Director for Innovative Teaching Grants Andrea Hungerford



PHOTO COURTESY VICKY TRICHEL

Springtown Education Foundation members pictured together, including (L-R): Mike Kelley, chairman of budgeting; Marcia Garcia and Mistie Rivera, Gala co-chairs; Tootie Hall, golf tournament chair; Kendra Hutchison, director of communications and marketing; Allyson Butler spirit shirt chair; Amy Walker vice chair; Rick Beall, SISD board president; Cally Winstead; Andrea Hungerford, director for innovative teaching grants; Ashley Gilley; Shane Strickland, SISD superintendent; Melissa Wells, treasurer; Vicky Trichel, chair; Carolyn Rocha; Cindy Haugen; and Dr. Mauro Ganzon. Not in attendance was Tammy Shaw, chairman of scholarships.

steers the grants for these individuals.

"The foundation wants teachers and staff members to know they are valued, supported and appreciated," Hungerford said. "It's incredibly rewarding when

we see former scholarship recipients return as teachers in Springtown. Additionally, presenting a 'new to the classroom' grant to a former scholarship recipient shows how our support comes full circle."

The Springtown Education Foundation believes the greatest long-term impact it can have is to encourage a passion for learning among students and teachers and to ensure they are supported in their educational journeys.

## LEGENDS

FROM PAGE A1

focus on education and community innovation," Hedges said. "Legends envisions a future that has learned from

the past in order to develop a community built upon innovation, creativity and cultural growth. What that means is that within the museum, we are hoping to set up programs in order for all of those opportunities for our

people within the Springtown community."

Hedges went on to say the museum will have five collections displayed inside, including natural history, furnishings, archival history and military history.

The museum used to have collections of items scattered all over the building. Hedges said it will now have a schedule where people can come at certain times and will have certain collections displayed throughout the year. The mu-

seum will also have programs for kids to participate in like story time and STEM time.

Hedges said she also hopes for Springtown citizens to donate items, pictures or artifacts for the museum. For more information on the

Springtown Legends Museum or the Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce, go to [www.springtownchamber.org](http://www.springtownchamber.org).



JOLEE SKINNER | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Springtown Museum Coordinator Amy Hedges talking to Gene Spokes at the grand reopening.



Various rooms at the museum filled with Springtown history.



Assistant City Administrator Christina Derr and Springtown Museum Coordinator Amy Hedges at the grand reopening of the Springtown Legends Museum.

### LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICES

**American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)  
Cover Letter/Notice**

Request for Proposals (RFP) - Construction Services 11/1/2024 Re: Solicitation of Construction Services for the Drainage Improvements project funded with Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) allocated under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) City of Pelican Bay has received an allocation of Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and is issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) to solicit responses for a construction contract. The RFP solicitation is to assist the City of Pelican Bay in providing construction services for projects funded with its allocation of ARPA funds. The Sole Point of Contact for this solicitation may provide information regarding this RFP. Refer to the Schedule of Events and Selection Summary in Section 1 of this document for response details. Respondent is responsible to ensure that their RFP response is received in a timely manner and that it contains all elements of the RFP including all required forms and any addendums issued. Respondent should complete the Solicitation Response Cover Sheet/Acknowledgement of Addenda/ Submission Checklist contained in Attachment A and all other requirements identified in the RFP. RFP responses received after the deadline will not be opened and therefore not evaluated or considered for award, regardless of whether or not the delay was outside the control of the submitting provider. City of Pelican Bay reserves the right to negotiate with any and all service providers submitting timely responses, to reject any and all bids, and to select multiple respondents if it deems and/or desires to do so. City of Pelican Bay is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Minority Business Enterprises, Small Business Enterprises, Women Business Enterprises, and Labor Surplus Area firms are encouraged to submit proposals. Please contact Cynthia Daniels at [cdaniels@pelicanbaytx.gov](mailto:cdaniels@pelicanbaytx.gov) for the bid documents.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE**

To satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale to be held at Azle Southeast Storage, 1004 Southeast Parkway, Azle, TX at 10:30am 11-15-2024 Property to be sold to the highest bidder for CASH. Property includes contents of the following tenants: Thomas Gwin: Household Items, Noe Rodriguez: Household items, Duane Brookins: Boat

Public boat sale to satisfy storage lien. Up for bids LEGALLY BELONGING TO: Kenneth J Toups II & Bill Harriman TX #6900CA1971 31' Uiflite Ser# B201806152320. The sale will be held on November 2, 2024 1:00 PM, West Bay Marina, 6925 Liberty School Tap Rd, Azle, TX 76020 (817)444-1622. Terms are cash/cashier's check at time of sale.

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# Lake Worth ISD adds new recognition that supports students

**JOLEE SKINNER**  
jolee@tricityreporter.com

LAKE WORTH — The Lake Worth ISD school board recognized lots of teachers, coaches and principals during its Oct. 21 meeting.

Board President Armando Velazquez presented a new recognition that LWISD will be awarding individuals and groups in the future called the community recognition award.

The first to receive this award was the Lake Worth Education Foundation. The foundation was founded 10 years ago and put together events like "casino night" and donated various classroom items to teachers over the years.

"The education foundation has actually had recent success that has allowed us to be able to do things such as honor our top 10 graduates and their families, which is a life changing moment for a lot of these families," Velazquez said. "When you see the validation, all of the investment in kids' education, these families are able to sit with community mem-

bers for a nice meal, paid for by the Lake Worth Education Foundation. It's a good time all around."

The first group of individuals to be recognized were fifth grade teacher Heather Brumbalow and paraprofessional LaKristiana Britain. Both work at Miller Language Academy and their certificates were presented by Miller Language Academy Principal Jennifer Smith.

"Miss Brumbalow has a remarkable ability to make complex concepts accessible and engaging for her students," Smith said. "She has also helped found the Bullfrog Running Squad, a program designed to encourage the love of fitness and teamwork among her students. With her hard-working spirit and commitment to her students' growth, both academically and personally, Miss Brumbalow is not only shaping the future of her students but fostering a vibrant school community."

Then, Smith introduced coach Britain to the board and audience.

"Coach Britain believes that every student has unique



**(L-R):** Miller Language Academy Principal Jennifer Smith, Lucyle Collins Middle School Principal Antonio Tijerina, Marine Creek Leadership Academy Principal Cedrick Miller, DAEP and Student Services Administrator Gary Dix, Effie Morris Early Learning Academy Principal Robbin Church, Howry STEAM Academy Assistant Principal Mark McAlister and Lake Worth High School Assistant Principal Alaina Dearman.

JOLEE SKINNER | TRICOUNTY REPORTER

strengths and potential and she dedicates herself to highlighting and nurturing those qualities," Smith said. "Her unwavering support and genuine care make a lasting impact, empowering our students to reach their goals and

develop a love for physical activity that extends beyond the classroom. We thank you, Coach Britain."

The next round of recognition was the human resources department and all LWISD principals. Texas Gov.

Greg Abbott declared Oct. 9, as Texas Education Human Resources Day, a day set aside to recognize and honor the important contributions made by school staff who work in human resources.

"I can't tell you how pivotal

HR is to any organization, but more importantly, a school organization," Velazquez said. "Even though today is not Oct. 9, we are still honoring our human resources staff."



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Mayor Pro Tem Randa Goode, A.J. Thibodeaux, council member Stacy Peek and city Director of Economic Planning David Hawkins.

## TREES

FROM PAGE #

ing advice and guidance on tree planting and care. Save a Tree is a full service commercial and residential tree care company. Thibodeaux is also on the board of directors for the Texas chapter of the International Society of

Arboriculture and a certified arborist. Thibodeaux said trees have been his single source of income for the past 41 years.

"Anything that can raise awareness to tree planting and sustainability going forward is a good thing," Thibodeaux said of the event. "So, you know, obviously the International Society of

Arboriculture is a huge supporter of Arbor Day, the state Arbor Day for Texas was actually yesterday. Anything that communities can do like this to raise awareness to sustainability and tree planting, we lose way more trees every year than are getting replanted. So, I believe it's great thing... It's only a renewable resource if we make it."

## Heartland Payment Systems, LLC



The Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce hosted a ribbon cutting for Heartland Thursday, Oct. 24. Heartland is a business solutions company that saves businesses money on credit card processing, PGGGS, upgrades point of sale, handles payroll needs plus many other options to help businesses run more smoothly. Heartland is located at 416 Herb Stephens Jr. Way, Springtown, Texas 76082. Give Mark Stringer a call at 817-583-0533 or email mark.stringer@e-hps.com and visit www.heartland.us.



  
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# OBITUARIES

## Wade Allen Rittenbury 1985-2024

Wade Allen Rittenbury, aged 39, passed away Oct. 26, 2024, in Burleson. Born April 19, 1985, Wade grew up in Azle, where he attended Azle Elementary and Azle High School.

Known for his kindhearted and hardworking nature, Wade dedicated much of his time to caring for his family, including his parents and grandparents. He was the reliable figure in many lives, always ready to lend a hand whenever called upon. Wade's career in construction allowed him to touch many lives.

Wade attended Retta Baptist Church, where he found a spiritual community and fellowship.

He is survived by his mother, Donna Christenberry; father, Ken Rittenbury; grandparents, Earl and Marsha Rittenbury; siblings Kenny



Slack, Charlie Marts, Rowdy Woolsey, Todd Rittenbury and Katie Cathey; and numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends who will miss him dearly.

A service to celebrate Wade's life will be held at Retta Baptist Church at 10 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 7.

*The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday Nov 7, 2024*

## Ronald David Thomas 1940-2024

Ronald David Thomas, 84, passed away, Thursday, October 31, 2024 in Azle. Memorial: 4 p.m., Friday, November 15, 2024 at Deer Cove. He was born June 20, 1940 in Waco to Bran and Nannie (McAdams) Thomas. They both preceded him in death along with his siblings, Bennie, Mattie Pearl, Virginia, Joyce, Elouise, Gloria "Honey", Thresia and Florence; he was also preceded by his stepson, Paul Thomas, sister-in-law, Marcy Thomas, son-in-law, Robert Groom and brother-in-law, R.B. Brooker. He grew up in Waco and was a truck driver by trade. He worked for Trinity Industries for 30 years. Survivors: daughters, Suzanne (Steve) Wilson, and Sandra Groom; brother, Bud Thomas; sister, Darlene Brooker; grandchildren, Magan, Reese,



Scotty, Owen, Drew, Dakota and Chrystal; great grandchildren, Luke, Emma, Tyler, Greyson, Kaori and Anastasia; his faithful canine companion, Ted. and extended family and friends.

*The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday Nov 7, 2024*



JOLEE SKINNER | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Parker County Center of Hope.

## Center of Hope announces new location in Springtown

JOLEE SKINNER  
jolee@tricountyreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — Parker County Center of Hope announces the opening of its new location at 112 Optimist Road at the Springtown square. The newly renovated facility will provide a range of services to the community and includes a lobby, a food pantry, dining room and kitchen. The center will also provide life coaching and advising offices, a medical clinic, classrooms for adult education and career development programs.

For the past four years, Center of Hope has been operating out of Agnes Baptist Church. This larger space will allow the Center of Hope to reach more people plus introduce more services.

Center of Hope CEO Staci Markwardt expressed her excitement and says she is

thankful for the support. "We started small, but God has continued to bless our work, and we are excited to expand our reach with this new location to serve more families in the Springtown area," Markwardt said. "The support we have received has been overwhelming and is a true testament of the heart of the people in this community."

Center of Hope will host a grand opening event Thursday, Nov. 14, from 4 p.m. until 5 p.m. The celebration will feature a ribbon-cutting ceremony, tours of the new facility and opportunities to meet Center of Hope staff and volunteers.

The center will be open Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information about Center of Hope in Springtown, go to [www.centerofhopetx.com/serving-in-springtown/](http://www.centerofhopetx.com/serving-in-springtown/).

## Sydney Lauren Davis 1995-2024

Sydney Lauren Davis went to be with her Lord and Savior Oct. 21, 2024 in Fort Worth.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, Nov. 9 at 11 a.m. at Ash Creek Baptist Church in Azle.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that donations be made to Teen Challenge of Azle or Union Gospel Mission of Tarrant County in memory of Sydney Davis.

Sydney was born in Fort Worth to Daryl and Tami Davis Jan. 30, 1995. She loved people from all walks of life and desired to reach out to encourage others with a ready smile and a kind word. She enjoyed a good book, snuggling with her cat, Clarabelle, spending time with family and new adventures.

Sydney faced many challenges and hardships in her short life with courage and hope. Despite her pain she never became bitter. Instead, she was an overcomer who worked hard to restore relationships and gain independence.

We are eternally thankful to our Lord for his mercy and grace in bringing her home to us. She has been a blessing



to her family in immeasurable ways. Sydney lived with her arms wide open and will be remembered for her loyalty, wisdom, perseverance and tender heart. She was cherished and will be deeply missed.

Sydney was preceded in death by her father, Daryl Davis and her grandparents, Delila McPherson and Charlie and Grace Davis.

She is survived by her mother, Tami Davis; sisters, Lindsey Womack (Jedidiah) and Amanda Dulong (Levi); grandfather, Ray McPherson; and numerous nieces and nephews as well many other family members.

*The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday Nov 7, 2024*

## Kimberly Ann Sutton 1962-2024

From the first breath of Kimberly Ann Sutton's life (February 1st, 1962) adventure was in her blood. From a very young age, bicycles, mini bikes, football, baseball and any other physical activity were part of her life. The older she got, the jokes, making people laugh and outdoor adventures were her passion along scuba diving, motorcycles and more adventures came into the picture, including a passion for photography along with her absolute devotion to music and most of all drumming. Her love for all of her fur babies throughout her whole adult life was one of the most important things to her, treating each and every one as she had given birth herself from treats to specific foods and always including them in all conversations.

A life long resident of Ft. Worth (and surrounding areas) she is the oldest of 5 children and an incredibly protective big sister of her younger brothers (Darren and Don) and sisters (Shana and Shelley), willing to clip those long nails



of hers and put that long wavy dark hair of hers in a ponytail at a moments notice if needed (and yes, there were a few of those instances!). She never backed down from anything people told her she couldn't do, that only made her more ambitious to conquer.

Visitation 5pm to 8pm, Thursday, November 7, 2024. Service 11:30 am, Friday, November 8, 2024 Laurel Land Funeral Home, 7100 Crowley Road 76134

*The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday Nov 7, 2024*

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

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# Woman killed in auto-pedestrian accident

## STAFF REPORT

AZLE — A woman walking in the 500 block of Boyd Road was struck by a vehicle and killed at approximately 6:41 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 29, according to the Azle Police Department.

Based on a preliminary investigation performed by Azle police accident investigators, a Ford F-150, occupied by one adult male, was merging onto Boyd Road from Northeast Parkway when the vehicle struck a pedestrian, an adult female, who was crossing the road. The female sustained serious injuries and was transported by medics to a local hospital, where she later died from her injuries. The Tarrant County Medical Examiner identified the victim as 70-year-old Fatima Colic. According to the report, Colic died at John Peter Smith Hospital at around 9 a.m.

Known as "Ka Ma" by family, Colic was eulogized by her son-in-law, Jay Fishel, in a Facebook post Tuesday

evening.

"We lost the greatest mother, grandmother, and mother-in-law one could possibly ask for," Fishel posted. "It has been a very difficult day, full of disbelief and tears, but we know that heaven has gained an unbelievable angel today."

According to Fishel, Colic was a survivor of the ethnic conflicts following the breakup of Yugoslavia. She immigrated to the United States in 1997. Fishel expressed that Colic would be deeply missed and that her love for her family, positive outlook and hard work ethic have made a lasting impact on friends and family.

According to comments from community members, Colic may have worked at the Azle Albertsons near the accident.

The driver of the Ford F-150 remained at the scene and was cooperative throughout the investigation. At press time, Azle police did not expect charges to be filed against the driver.

# Azle ISD PD demos lockdown drill at board meeting

## ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricityreporter.com

AZLE — During an Oct. 21 Azle ISD board of trustees meeting, Azle ISD Police Chief Darren Brockway presented an overview of safety software Centegix and Raptor and demonstrated what staff and students would see during a lockdown drill. Brockway said there are now three things that need to be done during lockdown.

First, Centegix automatically calls 911 and sends a notification to campus staff to inform them of any potential security situation using colors designated by standard response protocol. The standard response protocol used by Azle schools details how personnel should act during any potential emergency and is endorsed as best practice by the Texas School Safety Center. With Centegix, staff members each have their own mobile panic buttons, which can be kept on the back of their school identification cards. Substitute teachers will be assigned one when they're given keys for their

classrooms. Centegix can also be accessed through a phone or computer. Each button can track its user's exact location and allows them to enter information about which students are accounted for and if anyone is injured. Staff can indicate the severity of the security threat based on the number of times they press the button. Along with an announcement over the intercom system, red lights inside and outside the campus will begin to flash to indicate an emergency.

"That's very important," Brockway said. "We really harp on the teachers. If you're having recess, please have your cell phones on you for this very reason, because you might have to go to a different location ... Campuses have an EOP (emergency operations plan) and where they would take the kids," Brockway said. For example, at Azle Elementary there's a pedestrian gate that goes back to that Village Garden area. They can account for all their students, go to that location and put their location as the 500 block of Village



**ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER**  
Chief Brockway speaks at a meeting of the Azle ISD board of trustees.

Garden and that would tell me and other first responders that we got some kids and staff that are staging in a neighborhood somewhere that we know where they are and if they're injured."

The Raptor system then sends out a secondary notification and will give parents instructions on how to

reunite with their students later.

The third step, the red button, is located in the front office area of each school. After notifications are sent out and the button is pressed, any magnetic fire doors will be sealed shut and will disable card readers for everyone but first responders.

## LAKE

FROM PAGE A1

morning with a prayer, then Don and John Webster sang the national anthem.

Gannon Dolan, a 16-year-old from Granbury, was the overall winner of the 5K with a chip time of 16 minutes and 29 seconds. Parker Huffaker, an 18-year-old from Weatherford, has placed highly in past Lake Runs and won second place in the 2024 bout. Angelle Turner, a 24-year-old woman from Fort Worth, won third place.

Last to be recognized, but certainly not least, was Joe McCreary. At the age of 90, McCreary was the Azle Lake Run's oldest participant this year. He also has a special connection to the race through its founder, his wife.

Linda McCreary, who passed away in 2017, devised the Azle Lake Run 43 years ago to raise money for the Azle Pastoral Counseling

Center. Always a family of avid runners, Joe McCreary still belongs to running clubs across the D-FW metroplex. Many of the McCreary kids and grandkids participate in the Azle Lake Run and are also runners. Linda McCreary liked to incorporate sea motifs in the trophies and always organized a great race. Joe McCreary said it was voted among the best by the Fort Worth Runners Club.

Jessica Brace Payne, an organizer for the event, said more than 90% of those that signed up for the race actually ran. She said the number usually sits closer to 75%. This year, the event dropped the half-marathon and 10K races it has organized in the past.

"Everything went off really smooth, especially for offering only two races," Brace said. "I think that the half marathon is intimidating to some people, and so it kind of prevents them from coming where we're more of a fun community 5K and fun run."

Brace said she is grateful to the Hayley Carter State Farm crew for continuing to be the race's pickle juice sponsor and the other businesses, organizations and individuals that have been putting in work since June to make sure the race was successful. Proceeds from the Azle Lake Run benefit the Eagle Mountain Pregnancy Help Center, the Community Caring Center, Azle High School's Marching Green Pride, and other initiatives of the Azle Area Ministerial Alliance.

"There's a lot of planning and stuff that goes in into it, but it's a whole lot easier when you've got a community that really embraces the event and looks forward to it every year," AAMA member and organizer Alton Davis said. "They're very supportive. We couldn't do it without all our volunteers and our committee. We're very thankful and very proud of this event."



**ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER**  
Joe McCreary walks forward to accept recognition for winning first place in the 90 and older age category.

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# Springtown chamber brings Christmas cheer to senior citizens

## Executive director talks senior angel project and Springtown community

**JOLEE SKINNER**  
jolee@tricountyreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — The Springtown Chamber of Commerce is bringing seniors some Christmas spirit this year with the annual "Senior Angel Project."

This Santa-inspired project is something the chamber has been doing for 15 years, where citizens, businesses or anyone can adopt a senior who is in need of essentials like food, kitchen items and hygiene products.

Executive Director Terri Toone says the chamber just wants to ensure that the seniors of Springtown have a good Christmas morning.

"We just want to make sure our seniors are taken care of," Toone said. "We want to ensure that everyone that applies does have a good Christmas and a merry Christmas and get what they need and just give them something to look forward to on Christmas morning."

Applications may be submitted by seniors, or by anyone who knows of a senior who needs assistance during the holiday season. The application deadline is Nov. 14 but Toone says the

chamber will accept submissions after the deadline to make sure no one is left behind.

Once an application is submitted, the chamber verifies the senior's income, residency and what they need. Once that is complete, the senior's information will be placed on the Angel Tree in the Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce office and citizens can come by, pick them off the tree and provide the items for that senior. The project caters to seniors 65 and older that fall in the lower income bracket.

Toone is the one who calls the seniors and tells them they will be taken care of this holiday season.

"They sometimes, I just feel like they haven't talked to anyone since we made the phone call last year," Toone said. "Some don't have any family. Some just want to talk to you about their pets, their medical appointment, you know, just to have that other person on the line. And I give them all the time they need. I don't rush them off the phone, if they want to chat to me about a grandbaby that was just born or just issues that they're hav-

ing that I can just be able to listen."

All personal information of seniors and the citizens who take care of them is kept confidential. The week before Christmas is typically when Toone and volunteers from the chamber put all the gifts together and deliver them.

Toone says about 40 seniors are signed up for the Angel Tree right now and the chamber would love to have more. Toone also said it's really the citizens of Springtown who step up and take on this initiative to help the seniors.

"I would say 90% of those people are just average citizens," Toone said. "It brings tears in my eyes. We're such a loving community. And we just fall right in line when we're needed without the blink of an eye. And some people will come in and take two or three angels off the tree."

For more information about the 2024 Senior Angel Project, go to the [www.springtownchamber.org](http://www.springtownchamber.org)

The 2024 Senior Angel Tree is located at the Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce at 112 S. Main St. in Springtown.



The 2024 Senior Angel Tree is located at the Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce at 112 S. Main St. in Springtown.

JOLEE SKINNER | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

# FOOTBALL CONTEST • 2024 •

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**2nd Place**  
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**3rd Place**  
**\$5<sup>00</sup>**

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

## 2024 OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

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

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

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# FOOTBALL CONTEST • 2024 •

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| <b>\$20<sup>00</sup></b> | <b>\$10<sup>00</sup></b> | <b>\$5<sup>00</sup></b> |

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 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 10 Results on page B4

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# Azle sets 20-year plan

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

AZLE — The Azle City Council and planning and zoning commission held a special joint meeting Oct. 29 to approve the final draft for the city's comprehensive master plan and parks and recreation master plan. The plan, titled "Azle: On the Horizon," sets a vision, guidelines and a flexible framework for the city until 2045.

For about 18 months, the

city and its advisor on the project, Halff, have been working to develop this plan with feedback from community members. Numerous public workshops and meetings were held in that period to gather such input. The plans covers land use, throughfares, parks, downtown and the implementation of the ideas presented in each category.

The comprehensive plan emphasizes safe mobility, with a focus on downtown

development and maintaining small-town character. The parks master plan highlights the need for expanded neighborhood parkland and improvements to existing parks. Specific metrics discussed at the meeting showed a deficit in neighborhood parkland, but that Azle met and exceeded recommendations for community parkland set by the state. The discussion also touched on future transportation corridors and the importance of long-range planning.

Approximately 40,000 people are expected to live in Azle by the time a new plan is needed 20 years from now. The plan guides the creation of future infrastructure needed for a Haltom City-sized population including designated bus lanes, transit stops, sidewalks and bike-ways in downtown Azle. This area includes Main Street and surrounding areas.

Azle resident Pamela Lindsey brought up concerns about limited parking on Main Street and at the Azle Memorial Library with an increase in activities as the community has grown. Azle Mayor Alan Brundrett and Halff representative Brad Johnson reassured Lindsay



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

**Azle City Council members and planning and zoning commissioners met at the Azle Christian Church to adopt the final draft of the city's comprehensive master plan Oct. 29.**



**Brad Johnson answers questions and presents to those at the meeting.**

that the plan does emphasize more parking on parts of Main Street. On page 156 of the plan's final draft, it calls on the city to conduct a parking audit in the downtown area in order to better address these needs.

Commissioners Leonard

Wheeler and Ricky Simmons mentioned that the plan needs to address any possible major highway expansions that have been discussed in the past. The mayor and Johnson said any such long-term projects could be accounted for as the plan is

updated every five years.

The council and commissioners unanimously voted to approve both plans at the meeting. The full plan can be found online at [issuu.com/azlelibrary/docs/10.03.2024\\_draft\\_azle\\_comprehensive\\_plan](http://issuu.com/azlelibrary/docs/10.03.2024_draft_azle_comprehensive_plan).

# AEF awards \$36,000 to Azle teachers, schools

STAFF REPORT

AZLE — On Friday, Oct. 25, the Azle Education Foundation, district administrators, the Azle High School band, cheerleaders and Buzzy visited campuses across the district to surprise teachers and campuses with grant awards. More than \$36,300 in innovative teaching grants and \$8,700 in campus grants were awarded by the foundation for 2024.



**Breanna Reed and Rebecca Windham, teachers for the district's Gifted and Talented Program, received the sum of \$3,536 for projects across eight campuses.**

COURTESY PHOTO



**Fourth grade teachers at Hilltop Elementary are presented with a check from the AEF in front of students.**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS 2024 SCHOOL FIRST RATING**

The Lake Worth Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 7:00 pm, November 18, 2024, at the Lake Worth ISD Administration Building, 6805 Telephone Road, Lake Worth, TX 76135. This is a regularly scheduled meeting at which we will discuss the school district's performance under the School FIRST (Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas). A financial management report will be available and public participation in the discussion is invited.

**LEGAL NOTICE**

Application has been made with the TEXAS ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE COMMISSION for WINE ONLY PACKAGE STORE (Q PERMIT) by TEXAS CONVENIENCE STORES #3 LLC DBA TEXAS CONVENIENCE STORES #3 LLC, to be located at 3290 S GREAT SOUTHWEST PKWY GRAND PRAIRIE (TARRANT COUNTY), TX 75052. The principal of said Company are TANVEERALI MAREDDIA, MANAGING MEMBER; MANSOOR PIRMOHAMMED, MANAGING MEMBER.

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**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS SPRINGTOWN ISD'S State Financial Accountability Rating**

Springtown ISD will hold a public meeting at 6:00 p.m., Monday, November 18, 2024 in the Springtown ISD Board Room located at SISD Administration 301 E. 5th Street Springtown, Texas 76082 The purpose of this meeting is to discuss Springtown ISD's rating as determined by the state's financial accountability system.

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# Halloween in Azlewood

*Azle police block off Timberoaks Drive for trick or treaters, Halloween night*



**ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER**  
Homeowner Justin Hutto spooks kids visiting his house with a remote-controlled spider.



One family turned their front yard into a dark carnival for Halloween night.



Marley Spencer, Maverick Davis, Hayden Davis, Cortland Davis, Sutherland Anders, Charlie Davis and Dallas Davis trick or treat on Timberoaks Drive as an extended family.



Elijah Sotelo and Bentlee Frame ran into each other while trick or treating after both coincidentally chose the unconventional costume of McDonald's mascot Grimace.



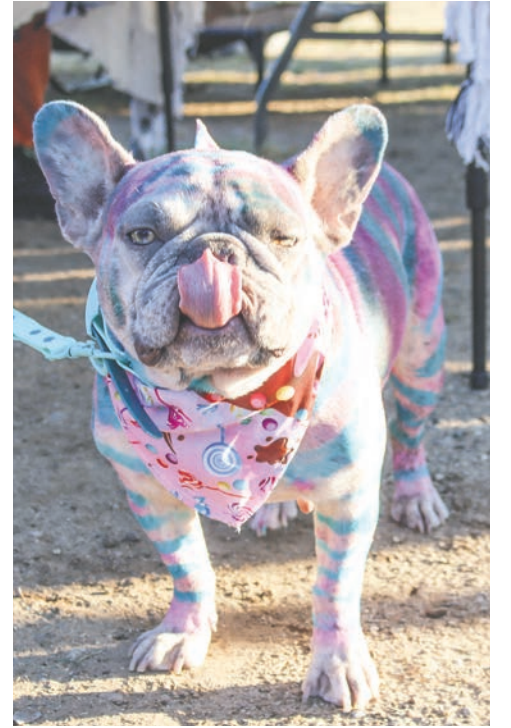
**ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER**  
Knox, a rottweiler mix, was part of the team representing the Community Caring Center at a Feedlot Halloween event.

# Cuddly colorful canines

*Dogs and owners dress up for Halloween at The Feedlot*



Mary Swindell and River Song, her Doberman pinscher, celebrated Oct. 31 at The Feedlot food truck park and farmers market venue.



Bulldog Yula was on her best behavior and in her brightest colors for trunk or treat at The Feedlot.

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# Springtown Howl-O-Ween Boo Bash



PHOTOS COURTESY CHRISTINA DERR

Springtown police officers take their kids trick-or-treating at Boo Bash.



PHOTOS COURTESY CHRISTINA DERR

Springtown children dress up and receive candy during the Springtown Howl-O-Ween Boo Bash.



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Peyton Riley Band Ty Smith & The Minor Offenses!

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# THE TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

# DIVERSIONS



THURSDAY, November 7, 2024



## Porcupines capture district championship

STEVEN MARTER | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

After a muddy game Friday, Nov. 1, at Decatur's Eagle Stadium, the Springtown Porcupines were named district champions after defeating the Decatur Eagles 41-38.

*First outright league title since 1998*

**RICK MAUCH**

*Special to the Tri-County Reporter*

Folks in Springtown have waited a long time to say this. The Porcupines are sole possessors of the district football championship.

The last time those words

could be uttered in the north Parker County burg, Google was still in its infancy. Michael Jordan was leading the Chicago Bulls to their (and his) last NBA championship. Apple was still three years away from introducing the iPod.

It was 1998.

For the first time in this century the Porcupines (9-1, 6-0 in District 5-4A Division I) are outright district champions. It's hard to imagine the title coming in a more exciting fashion.

Springtown defeated long-

time nemesis Decatur (5-4, 4-1) on the Eagles' own turf, 41-38 in double overtime Friday, Nov. 1.

"As a coach you want to prepare each week, and then win every game and also think/know that every game is of equal importance,

because without them all, you don't get 'this' one," Porcupines coach Brian Hulett said. "But, with that being said, you had the feeling that when the schedule came out, and based on the

PLEASE SEE **DISTRICT** | B3



## Lady Pines advance again in VB playoffs

*Area runners compete at state CC*

**RICK MAUCH**

*Special to the Tri-County Reporter*

For a fifth straight season, the Springtown Lady Pines (29-14, 11-3 in District 7-4A) have advanced in the Class 4A volleyball playoffs. They moved to the second round with their 3-0 bidistrict victory against Fort Worth Eastern Hills (17-15) Monday, Nov. 4 at Billingsley Field House in Fort Worth.

The Lady Pines are the No. 2 seed in Division I from district.

Springtown ended the regu-

lar season with a 3-0 win at Lake Worth (11-27, 4-10) Oct. 29.

**Leaders vs. Lake Worth**  
Kills: Libby Tedder 12, Addy Burtnett 10  
Aces: Bailey Walker 3, Gracie Carter 3  
Digs: Tedder 23  
Assists: Walker 13  
Receptions: Yantzy Martinez 8

**Leaders vs. Eastern Hills**  
Kills: Tedder 12, Burtnett 7  
Aces: Walker 6, Kallie Conway 3

PLEASE SEE **ROUNDUP** | B2

*Girls basketball previews*

## Lady Pines out to rekindle Thompson magic

**RICK MAUCH**

*Special to the Tri-County Reporter*

The last time the Springtown Lady Pines won a district basketball championship, Ken Thompson was the head coach.

Their new head coach as they enter the 2024-25 season is ... Thompson.

Hopes are he can rekindle the success from when he was at the helm before from 2008-12. In that span, the Lady Pines reached the

postseason all four seasons, winning back-to-back district championships in 2009 and 2010. They advanced with bidistrict championships in three of those seasons, including an area championship and third-round appearance in 2010 in a 28-7 season.

Thompson was 89-43 in his time at the head of the program recently.

"I really enjoyed my time coaching at Springtown and

PLEASE SEE **PREVIEWS** | B4



COURTESY PHOTO

First-year starting quarterback Derrek Vowell, a junior, is having a standout season for Azle as the Hornets are off to a 6-0 start, one of the best in the history of the program.

## Born to be a QB

*Azle's Vowell knew from the start*

**RICK MAUCH**

*Special to the Tri-County Reporter*

It didn't take Derrek Vowell long before he knew which sport was for him and what position he wanted to play.

He started playing football in the seventh grade and has only played one position from then until now. He is the starting quarterback on the Azle Hornets undefeated (6-0) football team.

It all started when he was playing catch with his dad. Derrek soon realized he was pretty good — and accurate — at throwing a football, so to him it only seemed natural what he should play.

"Being a quarterback just looked so awesome to me. I've never thought of playing

any other position and I never have," he said. "If I wasn't a quarterback, I'd be a manager, I guess. I just can't imagine myself being anything other than a quarterback."

"Everything just fell into place. The Lord just put me at quarterback and I love being one."

Hornets coaches, players and fans are loving it also. Vowell, a junior, is in his first season as the starting signal caller and he has led Azle to its best start in decades.

The Hornets have scored at least 41 points in every game this season. Vowell is completing 70% of his passes for 1,474 yards with 15 touchdowns and two interceptions.

PLEASE SEE **QB** | B2



# ROUNDUP

FROM PAGE B1

Blocks: Corinne Hall 3, Olivia Williams 3  
Digs: Brooklynn Quintanilla 18, Tedder 9  
Assists: Conway 13, Walker 11

Receptions: Quintanilla 16  
The Lady Pines will next face Stephenville (23-14) or Big Spring (5-21) in the area round at a site and time being decided at press time. Stephenville has been a nemesis of late, knocking the Lady Pines out of the playoffs each of the past four seasons.

## AZLE CHRISTIAN CROSS COUNTRY

Sophomore Halle Collins concluded the cross country season with a second-place finish in the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools Class 1A State Meet at Cottonwood Creek Golf Club in Waco Oct. 28.

Collins posted a time of 13 minutes, 23.04 seconds over the 2-mile course.

## SPRINGTOWN CROSS COUNTRY

Madelyn Walker competed for the Lady Pines in the Class 4A State Meet at Old Settlers Park in Round Rock Nov. 1. The freshman finished 74th, clocking a time of 12 minutes, 45.10 seconds over the 2-mile course.

## AZLE FOOTBALL

The Hornets (7-2, 5-2 in District 3-5A Division I) will end the regular season with a trip to Richland (7-2, 5-2) at 7 p.m. to decide third place in the league Friday, Nov. 8. The Royals had a bye this past Friday, while the Hornets fell 77-14 at home to Aledo (8-1, 7-0), which is No. 1 in the state and seeking a third consecutive state championship, Nov. 1.

Richland is ranked No. 10 in the state and, like the Hornets, has losses to district runner-up Denton Ryan (8-1, 6-1) and league champion Aledo, taking the Bearcats to overtime before losing 49-42 in Aledo Oct. 25.

Azle offensive leaders vs. Aledo: Hagen Hughes 17 carries, 130 yards, 75-yard TD

run; Austin Morgan 4-of-4, 92 yards, TD passing; Hylon Hughes 11 carries, 49 yards; Aiden Mackey five catches, 109 yards, TD.

Azle defensive leaders vs. Aledo: Jakob Montelongo seven tackles, Bryan Moya five tackles.

Hagen Hughes has 1,479 yards and 19 rushing TD this season. He is averaging nine yards per carry.

Richland offensive players to watch: QB Drew Kates 69% completions, 2,320 yards, 24 TD, three interceptions, 469 yards, five TD rushing; WR Xavier Johnson 40 catches, 894 yards, nine TD; WR Deon James 36 catches, 738 yards, seven TD.

Richland defensive players to watch: LB Rodrick Roberts 89 tackles, 14 for loss, four sacks, interception; DB Sean Wright 63 tackles.

The game with the Royals has the potential to be high scoring. Richland is averaging 47 points and Azle is averaging 39.

Richland leads the all-time series with Azle 3-0. Their last meeting was 2012, a 55-45 Royals victory.

The Hornets are back in the playoffs for the first time since 2021. They will face either the first place (9-0 Saginaw) or second place (8-1 Fort Worth Arlington Heights or 7-2 Fort Worth Paschal) team from District 4-5A Division I in bidistrict late next week.

## LAKE WORTH FOOTBALL

The Bullfrogs (2-7, 2-2 in District 6-4A Division I) enter the final week of the season looking for a win and a 13th consecutive playoff berth as they host Carrollton Ranchview (4-5, 1-3) Nov. 8 at 7:30 p.m.

The Bullfrogs are coming off a 34-0 loss at Kennedale (5-4, 3-2) Nov. 1, while Ranchview (4-5, 1-3) defeated Waxahachie Life (0-9, 0-5) 60-0.

Leader vs. Kennedale: Jaden Garrett nine catches, 59 yards.

Ranchview offensive player to watch: WR Terry Shelton.

Ranchview defensive player to watch: CB Jason Samuel.

The Wolves are seeking their first playoff appearance since 2019, when they

finished 9-2. They are 8-37 since.

The all-time series favors Lake Worth 4-1. This is their first meeting since a 53-30 Bullfrogs win in 2009.

## AZLE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL FOOTBALL

The Fighting Crusaders (5-4) dropped a 53-6 home contest to Wichita Christian (9-0) Nov. 1. They end the regular season at home against Perrin Grace Christian (3-2) Nov. 7 at 7:30 p.m.

Offensive leaders vs. Wichita: Jaxon Durham 9-of-15, 122 yards, TD, interception; Brodie Clark six carries, 43 yards, five catches, 51 yards; Grayson Smith three catches, 63 yards, TD.

Defensive leaders vs. Wichita: Gage Anderson fumble recovery.

## AZLE VOLLEYBALL

The Lady Hornets (26-14, 9-4 in District 5-5A) entered the playoffs as the top seed in Division II from district after 3-1 win in a seeding match against Chisholm Trail. The teams ended district in a tie for second behind league champion Aledo, which went Division I, along with Granbury.

The Lady Hornets were facing Grapevine (11-23) from District 6-5A at press time.

The winner advances to play Fort Worth Trimble Tech (8-24) or Mansfield Timberview (11-23) in the area round.

Azle ended the regular season with a 3-0 win at Saginaw Oct. 29.

## Leaders vs. Saginaw

Kills: Jacqui McClain 19, Elizabeth Kate Lund 19  
Aces: Miley Massey 3  
Blocks: Kami Swain 5, Addison Dorris 3  
Digs: Heather Lockridge 23, McClain 11, Lund 11  
Assists: Massey 33  
Receptions: Lockridge 15, Lund 11

## Leaders vs. Chisholm Trail

Kills: McClain 23, Lund 14  
Blocks: Swain 5, Dorris 3  
Digs: Lockridge 33, Lund 19, Massey 16, Paisley Jeter 12, McClain 10  
Assists: Massey 40  
Receptions: Lockridge 40, McClain 18



SAMANTHA FORD | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

On Friday, Nov. 1, the Azle Hornets took on the Aledo Bearcats at home. After a hard-fought four quarters, the Hornets lost to the Bearcats 14-77.

## LAKE WORTH VOLLEYBALL

### Leaders vs. Springtown

Digs: Aliyah Salas 10, Jasmin Martinez 10  
Assists: Sophia Ayala 9  
Receptions: Jasmin Martinez 18, Karina Velez Esteves 17, Salas 15

## AZLE GIRLS BASKETBALL

The Lady Hornets began the season with a 42-35 loss at Krum Nov. 1. Keagan Stuart led Azle with 8 points and a dozen rebounds, including six offensive.

Azle was playing at Weatherford at press time. The Lady Hornets host Abilene Cooper Nov. 8 at 6:30 p.m. and travel to Mineral Wells at 6:15 p.m. Nov. 12.

## LAKE WORTH GIRLS BASKETBALL

### Leaders vs. Springtown

The Lady Frogs got the season underway with a 52-8 win at Fort Worth Young Women's Leadership Academy Nov. 1. Leaders were Jackie Cleveland, 13 points; Aliyah Salas, 8 points; Kyla Nabors, 8 points; and Vanessa William, 7 points.

Lake was playing at Fort Worth O.D. Wyatt at press time. They host Fort Worth Western Hills Nov. 8 at 6:15 p.m. and travel to play Fort Worth Polytechnic Nov. 12 at 7:30 p.m.

## AZLE TENNIS

Hudson Carroll of the Hornets was named the Freshman of the Year in District 5-5A by the league's

coaches. Also receiving all-district accolades from Azle were:

Girls doubles: Madison Hamilton/Aspen Castanada, second team; Story Hilliard/Violet Isom, second team; Emily O'Neill/Addie Torgeson, honorable mention.

Girls singles: Torgeson, second team; Hamilton, second team; O'Neill, honorable mention; Juree Byrd, honorable mention.

Academic all-district girls: Byrd, Carroll, Hamilton, Hilliard, Isom, O'Neill, A. Torgeson, Rebecca Trammell, Jayden Saenz.

Academic all-district boys: Nathan Dyck, Cullen Hoyt, Luke Peterson, Christian Tomlinson, Brandon Zahn, Kobie Torgeson.

# QB

FROM PAGE B1

He's also scored a rushing touchdown, though he's more of a passer.

After leading the freshmen team to a 7-3 record two seasons ago, Vowell saw action in four varsity games as a sophomore. Still, he completed almost 60% of his passes with six touchdowns and three interceptions, providing a glimpse of what might be coming.

In addition to standing out on the field, Azle head coach Devon Dorris praised Vowell

for being an all-around leader, something expected of a starting quarterback.

"Derrek is the type of kid that everyone respects because of the way he treats others," Dorris said. "There is not a person in our locker room that could say a negative thing about Derrek.

"He is intentional with his interactions with his teammates. He goes out of his way to say hi and interact with the offensive line and other players.

"He's a really good quarterback, but an even better person because of the way he treats others in the school building every day."

## STEPPING RIGHT IN

After the 2023 season, senior Austin May graduated and junior Canaan Kaznowski transferred to Willow Park Trinity Christian. So, instead of having a battle for the starting quarterback position, the job suddenly became Vowell's to lose.

He didn't lose it and the Hornets have also not lost a game this season.

Vowell attended some quarterback camps at the University of North Texas and Stephen F. Austin. He also played 7-on-7 to help prepare for this season.

"Seven-on-7 really helped,

understanding what plays work against what defense. It helps with the chemistry, knowing who to throw to," he said. "But I love throwing to every single one of them (receivers)."

It shows as he has spread the ball around this season, with seven receivers having caught a pass. The top four (Brayden Combs, 24; Aiden Mackey, 19; Garrett Bailey, 13; Cash Moore, 12) have combined for 68 catches, more than 1,000 yards and a dozen touchdowns.

"Derrek has always had the ability to throw the ball, but it's his drive and off the field stuff that sets him

apart," Dorris said. "He stays after (practice) every day to watch additional film. He is always searching for ways to improve."

## THANKS DC

Vowell said something that inspired him and his teammates was "Dave Campbell's Texas Football" magazine and its preseason predictions for District 3-5A Division I. They had the Hornets picked eighth in the nine-team district, ahead of only Granbury, despite having a solid amount of returning talent.

"It made us very angry. When I saw that I laughed," he said. "We're trying to make

a statement."

Instead, the Hornets seem likely to reach the playoffs for the first time since 2021. Their remaining schedule is their toughest stretch of the season, however. They host Denton Ryan, formerly No. 1 in the state (now No. 4), Oct. 18; travel to Granbury Oct. 25; host No. 1 Aledo on Nov. 1; and finish the regular season at No. 10 Richland Nov. 8.

"We're just confident enough we know we can hang with them," Vowell said. "We're beating teams people thought would beat us."

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# DISTRICT

FROM PAGE B1

knowledge that there would be a great chance that this would be for the title, it has really been building for quite some time.”

## THRILLING CONTEST

The game certainly lived up to expectations.

The teams ended regulation tied at 28. After exchanging touchdowns in the first overtime, the Eagles took the lead with a field goal to start the second. The Porcupines responded with a touchdown to claim the victory.

It was the Porcupines' ninth straight win since being upset 21-20 in their season opener at Joshua.

Springtown twice had two-

touchdown leads, jumping out to a 14-0 early lead. After Decatur rallied to tie the game, the Porcupines again went up by two scores, 28-14 in the second half.

“From my perspective, the greatest part of the win is watching the pure child-like joy and excitement from, not only the players, but also from everyone in attendance,” Hulett said. “It is such a team, school and whole community coming together moment that only happens in certain situations, and this is one of those times.”

Making the championship even more impressive is the Porcupines having to overcome another opponent earlier in the week. The team was hit with an outbreak of the flu, which greatly hindered their opportunities to

practice.

“We did get to practice every day. However, it was very limited on Monday, and close to not much on Tuesday,” Hulett said. “We were able to do very little of any phase on Monday, zero special teams or offense on Tuesday, but by Wednesday we were able to do them all.”

“Thursday was the only day of the week where we were at full strength.”

Now the Porcupines have a bye this week before beginning the postseason against the fourth-place team from District 6-4A Division I late next week. Lake Worth (2-7, 2-2), Fort Worth Castleberry (4-5, 1-3) and Carrollton Ranchview (4-5, 1-3) are all vying for that position in the regular season's final week. Lake Worth will host

Ranchview Friday, Nov. 8 at 7:30 p.m. and defeated Castleberry 42-30 Oct. 25 at home. Castleberry defeated Ranchview 39-29 at home Oct. 18.

Porcupine leaders in the win over Decatur were:

Offensive — Quarterback Kaine Hill 12-of-21, 170 yards, three TD passing, 13 carries, 46 yards, TD rushing; running back Ryan Kirk 19 carries, 166 yards; running back Darren Sweely rushing TD; wide receiver Brayden Butler four catches, 78 yards, TD; tight end Karson Ferguson four catches, 74 yards, two TD.

Defensive — Middle linebacker Rome Ewell 19 tackles, one for loss; free safety Chase Thompson 16 tackles, one for loss; strong safety Aiden Adams 12 tackles;

strong safety Sweely two interceptions returned for 64 yards total.

Hill has 26 touchdown passes opposite a single interception this season. Kirk has 832 yards and a handful of rushing TD.

The Springtown defense was impenetrable before the Decatur contest. The Porcupines outscored their first five league opponents 265-0.

## STATE RANKING

In addition to the district championship, the Porcupines made their debut in the state's top 10 this week. They are ranked No. 10 in 'Dave Campbell's Texas Football' Class 4A Division I poll.

Outside of district, ironically, their lone loss of the sea-

son came to a Joshua team that will miss the postseason. However, at 5-4 overall, the Owls are playing Burleson Centennial for their first winning season since 1996.

Springtown also handed Graham, No. 3 in Class 4A Division II, its only loss of the season, 35-21 in Springtown Sept. 6. They also defeated perennial playoff team — including this season — Kennedale 34-17 in a road game Sept. 13.

This is the most regular-season victories for the Porcupines since 2019, when they were also 9-1 in the regular season and finished 13-2 with a state semifinals appearance.

The Porcupines are in the playoffs for a 13th straight season.

# Azle vs. Aledo



| 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   | W 48-43 |
| Oct 11 | 7:00 PM | Keller Fossil Ridge   | Keller HS        | W 54-43 |
| Oct 18 | 7:00 PM | Denton Ryan           | Hornet Stadium   | L 62-26 |
| Oct 25 | 7:00 PM | Granbury              | Granbury HS      | W 28-14 |
| Nov 1  | 7:00 PM | Aledo                 | Hornet Stadium   | L 77-14 |
| Nov 8  | 7:00 PM | Richland Ath. Complex | Birdville        |         |

# Players Of The Week

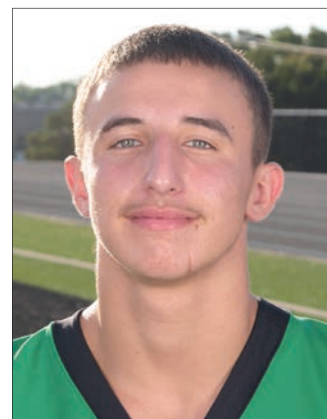
OFFENSIVE

DEFENSIVE

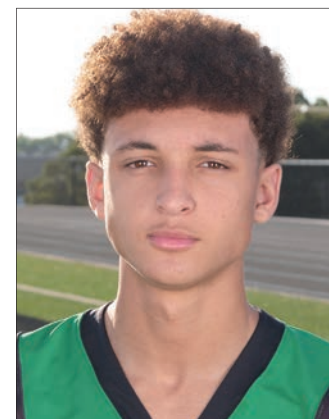
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# PREVIEWS

FROM PAGE B1

it's exciting to be back coaching the girls again," Thompson said.

Thompson inherits a team that finished 19-18, the most victories for the program since 2010 (yep, Thompson was the head coach) and reached bidistrict for a second straight season. There are three returners from last season: senior Esther Balado (7.7 points per game, 4.9 rebounds per game, 2.4 steals per game), junior Dawson Doggett (14.8 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 2.9 assists per game, 4.5 spg) and sophomore Brylynn Bazzell (4.9 ppg, 9.1 rpg, 2.3 spg).

Balado was a first-team all-district selection last season, while Bazzell was named second team. Doggett, who only played a dozen games before being injured, was all-district as a freshman.

"She was a big contributor and we can't wait to get her back on the floor this year," Thompson said.

The Lady Pines will be competing in District 7-4A this season alongside Bridgeport, Burkburnett, Decatur, newly opened Eagle Mountain in Saginaw, Krum, Lake Worth and Fort Worth Castleberry. Decatur is ranked fourth in the state.

"The district is going to be really tough. Decatur, Bridgeport, Burkburnett and Krum should be the favorites," Thompson said. "We are looking forward to getting started."

## LADY HORNETS, NEW COACH SEEK RETURN TO PLAYOFFS

The Azle Lady Hornets took a step back to go forward last season. After back-to-back 21-win seasons with no playoff berths (they were fifth in district each season), they finished 15-17, but advanced to bidistrict last season.

They enter the 2024-25 season with a new head coach, Kassie Urban. She's hoping to take the Lady Hornets back to the success they last enjoyed a decade ago when they placed second in district and reached the third round of the postseason.

Leading that charge will senior guard Abbey Natusch, who is the lone returning starter. She was named second team all-district last season.

Also returning looking to battle their way into the starting lineup are junior guards Emersyn Anderson and Keagan Stuart, along with senior guard Brooklyn Young.

Another highlight of last season was the Lady Hornets winning the Castleberry Holiday Tournament.

The Lady Hornets will play

in District 5-5A with Aledo, Saginaw Chisholm Trail, Granbury, Keller Fossil Ridge, Saginaw and White Settlement Brewer.

"The competition is elite with highly respected coaches," Urban said. "I'm blessed to have the opportunity to coach these hard-working young ladies alongside great coaches. We are looking forward to competing day-in and day-out this season."

## LADY FROGS LOOKING FOR MORE

The Lake Worth Lady Frogs had their most victories since 2019 last season, finishing 15-20. However, they fell short of the postseason for a fourth straight year.

Lake Worth has four varsity returners coach John Ladd is counting on to lead the way with continued progress. They are seniors Jackie Cleveland, Kyla Nabors and Kalise Ivory, along with sophomore Aliyah Salas.

"We will look to this group to provide leadership and guide the team. Jackie was our leading scorer last year. She is an inside-out player and has improved over the summer. We look for her to be a big part of our success," Ladd said. "Kyla and Aliyah were our No. 2 and No. 3 scorers on any given night."

"These guards will be a big part of our success this year. They have all improved their 3-point shooting and are capable of getting to the rim. Defensively, they are aggressive and know where to be on the floor."

Ladd said there are several bright spots coming in to fill the void left by last season's seniors.

"Bailey Jones (sophomore) is a shooter and very intelligent ball player. She is adapting to her role on the varsity team," he said. "Vanessa William is a lanky post player who will shore up our inside on defense. She can shoot the 3 and her length makes her a tough matchup for opposing teams. Zion Allen (junior), Cherysh Luiv (sophomore) and Breanna Arellano (sophomore) will be our toughness players. We look for them to rebound and make the effort plays to help us win ballgames."

"We are poised to make some people know Lake Worth will be a contender for the playoffs this year. We are in a tough district, but confident we can meet the challenges that lie ahead."

The Lady Frogs' last postseason appearance was in the 2019-20 season, when they finished 25-11, third in district and reached the second round of the playoffs. The coach then was also Ladd.

# Football Contest

## WEEK 10

The Tri-County Reporter apologizes for the mistake in last week's Football Contest ad on line 10. We will only count 15 games this week.

Let's all congratulate Bobby Boyd, who correctly guessed 14 of 15 games making him the first-place winner of \$20. Second place goes to Boyd's wife Anna Boyd, who predicted 12 of 15 games for a cool \$10. Amy Collins and Kyle Gathright tied for third place, with each correctly guessing 11 of 15 games. The tiebreaker game was Dallas at Atlanta, which accumulated 48 points. Collins guessed 47 points, while Gathright guessed 49 points — each just one point from the target. We will split the third-place winnings of \$5 between them. Congratulations to the winners!

## ZED by Duane Abel



# Springtown Athletic Booster Club

JOLEE SKINNER

jolee@tricountyreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — The Springtown Athletic Booster Club is a driving force for supporting Springtown ISD student-athletes. It does so by providing equipment and supporting every athletic program in Springtown, from football to cheerleading.

Since the revitalization of the club, its mission is to help all athletes by organizing fundraisers, acquiring sponsorships and drawing community support.

The club is primarily run by parents of athletes — operating solely through volunteers — and does not require membership fees, making it available to anyone passionate about local athletics.

Springtown Athletic Booster Club President Will Lewis says this year was quite a good year in terms of fundraising.

"We do fundraise throughout the year to support various athletic events," Lewis said. "We actually raised more money than what we thought we would. We grossed \$51,000. We gave directly back to our trainers."

Each sport has representation within the booster club, ensuring that every team receives support.

Volunteer roles range from setting up concessions to advertising at events and venues. With over 100 partnerships with local businesses, the club's sponsorships and donations benefit student-athletes.

Just recently, the club was

able to provide state-of-the-art VertiMax boards for volleyball players and a new lineman's sled for football, which all the coaches were very thankful for.

Lewis said this wouldn't have been able to happen without the support of businesses and describes the booster club as a great group of people.

"All of the coaches have been very thankful," Lewis said. "They did a fantastic job as far as the local business owners. It's a fun group of people. Everybody, as they say, pulls the rope in the same direction and continues to move forward."

The club also organizes community events, such as the upcoming "Springtown Showdown" basketball tournament in early spring.

This event is open to younger students and draws teams from neighboring areas. The event aims to involve younger athletes in community sports and raise funds for Springtown's athletic programs.

Before COVID, Project Celebration and the Springtown Education Foundation held the event for years. After COVID, the event was put on halt, but this year the booster club is bringing it back.

With plans to expand fundraising in the future, including potential galas and golf tournaments, the booster club is setting ambitious goals.

Something that sets the club apart is the student engagement the club has.

Lewis

said a lot of athletes, during their off-season, will help out the booster club with events and volunteering.

"They volunteer their time and they give back," Lewis said. "If you're a football player and you're not in season, then the coaches will have them helping us. I have a group of young men from the freshman football team that help with reserve parking. They help sell programs. The freshman and JV football teams sold programs. The volleyball girls on both sides, when they weren't in the stands, they were helping sell programs. Anybody not in season, they help out and they do community service."

Springtown ISD Athletic Director Brian Hulett said the club has been a big support for athletes and he is very thankful for all they do.

"Over the years as we have grown as a school district, so have our needs," Hulett said. "The Springtown Athletic Booster Club has also grown and been there to assist our kids and coaches in any way needed. They have done a super job in supporting all of our young men and women in all of the sports we play. We are so thankful for them and couldn't survive without them."

The Springtown Athletic Booster Club remains committed to enhancing the experience and opportunities for Springtown athletes. For more information or to volunteer, visit its Facebook page.

# Sudoku

NOVEMBER 7, 2024

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

Level: Advanced

# Solution to last week's puzzle

OCTOBER 31, 2024

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



COURTESY PHOTO

The Springtown volleyball team booster club



COURTESY PHOTO

The Springtown powerlifting team booster club

## WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to breakfast.

ATTODES

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|

Answer: Toasted

## CRYPTO FUN

Solve the code to discover words related to organization. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 12 = E)

- A. 4 19 14 24 18 2 22 12  
Clue: Put into an order
- B. 5 4 19 20  
Clue: Cull
- C. 3 2 26 12 5  
Clue: Storage devices
- D. 18 12 24 20  
Clue: Orderly



# TRI-COUNTY REPORTER DEVOTIONAL PAGE

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

- APOSTOLIC**  
**CORNERSTONE APOSTOLIC CHURCH**  
 1801 FM 730 N., Azle  
 817-400-0612  
**HARVEST TIME APOSTOLIC**  
 1 Block N. FM 2048 in Keeter  
 817-433-8220  
**ASSEMBLY OF GOD**  
**FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD**  
 1020 S.E. Pkwy, Azle  
 817-237-4903  
**FELLOWSHIP OF LAKE WORTH**  
 4024 Dakota Trail, Lake Worth  
 817-237-9433  
**NEW BEGINNINGS CHURCH**  
 810 Goshen Rd, Springtown  
 817-523-4462  
**LEGACY CHURCH**  
 Hwy. 199 W. at FM 2257, Azle  
 817-221-2983 / 817-221-5760  
**VICTORY CHRISTIAN CENTER**  
 737 Boyd Rd., Azle  
 817-444-LOVE  
**BAPTIST**  
**ASH CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**  
 300 South Stewart, Azle  
 817-444-3219  
**AGNES INDEPENDENT BAPTIST**  
 350 Agnes N., Springtown  
 817-523-7271  
**BETHEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST**  
 408 S. Ash St., Springtown  
 817-220-4238  
**AZLE AVENUE BAPTIST**  
 2901 Azle Ave., Fort Worth  
 817-626-5556  
**BY THE WORD BAPTIST**  
 West of FM 730 N. at sign, Briar  
 817-444-3484  
**CALVARY HEIGHTS BAPTIST**  
 1 block off Hwy. 199, east of David's Patio, Springtown, 817-221-2241  
**CENTRAL BAPTIST**  
 4290 Old Agnes Road  
 817-594-5918  
**CHURCH ON THE HILL**  
 836 NW Parkway, Azle  
 817-444-3752  
**CHRISTWAY BAPTIST**  
 7673 West Hwy. 199, Agnes  
 817-220-9133 or 817-220-3581  
**CLEAR FORK BAPTIST**  
 Corner of FM 730 & Ragle Rd., Weatherford, 817-594-1154  
**EAGLE MOUNTAIN BAPTIST**  
 8780 Eagle Mtn. Circle, Azle  
 817-237-4135  
**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF AZLE**  
 1017 Boyd Road  
 817-444-4828  
**FIRST BAPTIST CASTLE HILLS**  
 401 Beverly Rd., Azle  
 817-797-4706  
**FIRST BAPTIST LAKE WORTH**  
 700 Charbonneau Tr., west side of Effie Morris Elementary • 817-237-2624  
**FIRST BAPTIST LAKESIDE**  
 8801 Jacksboro Hwy., Lakeside  
 817-237-8113  
**FIRST BAPTIST COTTONDALE**  
 1 block N. of FM 2123, Cottondale  
 940-433-5539  
**FIRST BAPTIST POOLVILLE**  
 1 block W. of FM 920, Poolville  
 817-594-3916  
**FIRST BAPTIST SPRINGTOWN**  
 5th & Main Street, Springtown  
 817-220-5229  
**FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST**  
 801 Friendship Rd., 9½ miles S. of Springtown off Hwy. 51 S.  
 817-594-5940 or 817-599-4917  
**FUNDAMENTAL BAPTIST**  
 5th & Main in Springtown  
 817-523-5477  
**GRACE BAPTIST**  
 3 miles N. of Springtown on Hwy. 51 across from Radio Tower  
**GRACE POINTE CHURCH**  
 4110 E. Hwy. 199, Springtown  
 817-221-5683  
**HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
 3577 FM 51 N., Weatherford  
 817-564-3946  
**IGLESIA BAUTISTA**  
 Nueva Jerusalem  
 6640 Midway Rd., Springtown  
 817-694-0444  
**INDIAN OAKS PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
 3229 Shawnee Trail, Lake Worth  
 817-237-8441  
**LAKE WORTH BAPTIST**  
 4445 Hodgkins, Lake Worth  
 817-237-4163  
**METROPOLITAN BAPTIST**  
 6051 Azle Ave., Fort Worth  
 817-237-2201  
**NEW HOPE BAPTIST**  
 782 New Hope Rd., Reno area  
 817-221-2184  
**NORTHWEST BAPTIST**  
 5500 Boat Club Rd., Lake Worth  
 817-237-6063 or 817-270-8476  
**SANDY BEACH ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH**  
 Don Webster, Pastor  
 1006 Sandy Beach Rd., Azle, TX 76020 • 817-565-8904  
 sandybeachroad.org  
 Sunday Service 11 am  
**SILVER CREEK BAPTIST**  
 730 S. & Veal Station Rd., Azle  
 817-444-2325  
**NEW BEGINNINGS BAPTIST CHURCH**  
 3605 Jacksboro Hwy., Azle  
 817-707-2741  
**PRIMERA IGLESIA BAUTISTA**  
 300 S. Stewart, Azle  
 817-500-3641  
**SPRINGTOWN BAPTIST TEMPLE**  
 201 J. E. Woody Rd., Springtown  
 817-523-0376  
**UNION BAPTIST CHURCH**  
 3451 Sarra Lane, Springtown  
 682-333-1645  
**WALNUT CREEK BAPTIST**  
 220 W. Reno Rd. in Reno  
 817-221-2110  
**BIBLE COMMUNITY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP**  
 1405 Reynolds Rd., Reno  
 817-521-4510  
**NORTHWEST BIBLE CHURCH**  
 5025 Jacksboro Hwy., Fort Worth  
 817-624-2111  
**SOLID ROCK BIBLE CHURCH**  
 591 S. Reno Rd., Springtown  
 817-304-7443  
**CATHOLIC**  
**HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC**  
 800 High Crest Dr., Azle  
 817-444-3063  
**CHRISTIAN**  
**THE CHURCH AT AZLE**  
 1801 S. Stewart, Azle  
 817-444-9973  
**AZLE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**  
 35 West Forty Estates., Azle  
 817-688-3339  
**GREATER VISION FELLOWSHIP**  
 1801 S. Stewart St., Azle  
 817-825-0485  
**THE ABBEY CHURCH**  
 10400 Jacksboro Hwy., Azle  
 817-238-1404  
**CROSSING FELLOWSHIP**  
 120 E. Main St., Azle  
 817-406-4577  
**CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**AZLE CHURCH of CHRIST**  
 336 NW Parkway  
 817-444-3268  
**BRIAR CHURCH of CHRIST**  
 109 W.N. Woody Rd.  
 (½ block west of FM 730 N. in Briar)  
 817-444-7102  
**MIDWAY CHURCH of CHRIST**  
 6400 Midway Rd. 817-221-2107  
**NEWSOME MOUND ROAD CHURCH of CHRIST**  
 1460 Newsome Mound Rd.  
 817-677-3290  
**NORTHWEST CHURCH of CHRIST**  
 6059 Azle Ave., Fort Worth  
 817-237-1205  
**POOLVILLE CHURCH of CHRIST**  
 West of FM 920 in Poolville  
 817-594-4182  
**SOUTHSIDE CHURCH of CHRIST**  
 130 W. Bradshaw Lane, Springtown  
 817-221-2799  
**SPRINGTOWN CHURCH of CHRIST**  
 Just west of Hwy. 51 North  
 817-523-4419  
**TRI-COUNTY CHURCH of CHRIST**  
 525 Hwy. 199 W., Springtown  
 817-980-8156  
**CHURCH OF GOD**  
**ABUNDANT LIFE CHURCH of GOD**  
 4800 East Hwy. 199, Suite 7  
 Springtown, 817-677-3208  
**LAKESIDE CHURCH OF GOD THE WORD@LAKESIDE**  
 9396 Confederate Park Rd. (FM 1886) 817-237-5500  
**DISCIPLES OF CHRIST**  
**AZLE CHRISTIAN**  
 117 Church St., Azle  
 817-444-3527  
**CENTRAL CHRISTIAN**  
 1602 S. Main St., Weatherford  
 817-594-3043  
**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
 4th & Main, Paradise  
**EPISCOPAL**  
**ST. ANNE'S ANGLICAN EPISCOPAL**  
 6055 Azle Ave., Fort Worth  
 817-237-1888  
**PROVIDENCE REFORMED EPISCOPAL**  
 405 Bowie Dr., Weatherford  
 817-596-7476  
**ST. ELISABETH EPISCOPAL**  
 5910 Black Oak Lane, River Oaks  
 817-739-0504  
**GOSPEL**  
**CENTRAL FULL GOSPEL FELLOWSHIP**  
 3009 Delaware Tr., Lake Worth  
 817-237-7919  
**GOSPEL GATHERING FELLOWSHIP**  
 7315 Silver Creek Rd., Azle, TX 76020  
 832-289-8720  
**JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES**  
**KINGDOM HALL OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES**  
 212 Pearson Lane, Azle  
 817-221-2242  
**LUTHERAN**  
**THE EDGE CHURCH - AZLE**  
 1313 SE Parkway, Azle  
 817-237-4822  
**HOPE LUTHERAN (ELCA)**  
 4795 Hwy. 199, Reno  
 817-221-HOPE  
**METHODIST**  
**BOYD UNITED METHODIST**  
 FM 730 North in Boyd  
 940-433-5334  
**FIRST METHODIST CHURCH OF AZLE**  
 200 Church St., Azle  
 817-444-3323  
**LIGHTHOUSE FELLOWSHIP**  
 7200 Robertson Rd., Fort Worth  
 817-237-2758  
**SILVER CREEK METHODIST CHURCH**  
 2200 Church Rd., Azle  
 817-444-1382  
**FIRST UNITED METHODIST**  
 Hwy. 51 N & 3rd Street, Springtown  
 817-523-7874  
**POOLVILLE GLOBAL METHODIST**  
 1 block W. of FM 920 (behind Poolville Post Office)  
 817-599-3601  
**THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS**  
**THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS**  
 1010 Timberoaks, Azle  
 817-237-5075  
**PENTECOSTAL**  
**GRACE CHAPEL UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH**  
 3508 Shawnee Trail, Lake Worth  
 817-237-4844  
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 5315 Boat Club Road, Fort Worth  
 817-989-9800  
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**ARCHANGEL GABRIEL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
 1157 S. E. Parkway (Jacksboro Highway), Azle  
 817-752-8255  
**OTHER**  
**ALIENTO DE DIOS**  
 2233 E. Hwy 199, Springtown  
 817-521-4694  
**THE CHURCH IN PEASTER**  
 www.thechurchinpeaster.org  
 817-596-8805  
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 2233 Hwy 199 East, Springtown  
 817-221-LIFE (5433)  
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 940-969-2427  
**HILLTOP FAMILY CHURCH**  
 1227 Old Cottondale Road, Springtown, 817-220-7177  
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 1064 CR4679, Boyd  
 940-999-8210  
**THE HOUSE OF PRAYER**  
 1356 Reno Rd., Springtown  
 817-221-2551  
**POWERHOUSE OF PRAISE CHURCH**  
 1649 S.E. Parkway, Azle  
 817-319-7364  
**BRANDED CROSS COWBOY CHURCH**  
 3282 FM 2048, Boyd 76023  
 817-755-7021  
**SECRET PLACE MINISTRIES**  
 112 Optimist Rd., Springtown  
 682-229-1433  
**GOSPEL GATHERING FELLOWSHIP**  
 7315 Silver Creek Rd at Flatrock Rd, Azle • 832-289-8720  
**LIGHTHOUSE CHURCH**  
 6409 FM 730 S., Azle  
 817-444-4311  
**LIGHTHOUSE HARBOR CHURCH**  
 1960 Long Circle, Pelican Bay  
 817-444-3547  
**THE LIVING WORD COUNTRY CHURCH OF TEXAS**  
 1240 E. Hwy 199, Springtown  
 817-913-2717  
**NEW LIGHTED WAY**  
 624 Harbor Dr. Circle, Azle  
 817-444-1577  
**NORTHWEST TEMPLE OF PRAISE**  
 6781 Jacksboro Hwy., Lake Worth  
**PRECIOUS FAITH TEMPLE CHURCH**  
 8601 Hwy. 199 @ Vance Godbey's  
**THE HOUSE OF PRAYER**  
 1356 Reno Rd., Springtown  
 817-221-2551  
**THE RANCH CHRISTIAN COWBOY CHURCH**  
 7955 Reed Rd., Azle 682-327-7082  
**REAL FAMILY FELLOWSHIP**  
 202 Pearson Lane, Azle  
 817-677-5963  
**GRACE & FAITH CENTER**  
 11701 Jacksboro Hwy., Azle 817-210-6295  
**WESTERN HARVEST FELLOWSHIP CENTER**  
 6577 Old Springtown Rd., Weatherford  
 817-523-2855 or 817-995-9087  
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 817-444-7777  
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 THE NEWS OF AZLE, SPRINGTOWN, AND SURROUNDING AREAS  
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# THE TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

# CLASSIFIEDS

THURSDAY, November 7, 2024

## AD CLASSIFICATIONS

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

## RATES

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- Extras such as Bold, Center & Border are available for a small fee
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Asphalt Repairs & Sealcoating  
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### 017 Carpet Service

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### 019 Cement Work

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- Haul Off
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- Houses
- Bobcat Service
- Dirt/Gravel Spreading

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### 024 Electrician

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### 026 Excavating

**REED EXCAVATING**  
• SITE PREPARATION  
• LOT CLEARING  
• LEVELING  
• FINAL GRADE  
• LAND EROSION  
• GRAVEL ROADS  
• PARKING LOTS  
• DEMOLITION  
• STOCK TANKS  
Dump Truck Hauling 817-919-3696

### 029 Fencing

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### 030 Firewood

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### 034 Garage & Estate Sales

Estate Sale  
205 Cardinal Ct, Weatherford.  
Antiques+ Furniture, glassware, Carhart, tools, shed, WD, and so much more. Thurs, Fri, Sat 8-5:00, Sun 8-12:00

Fall Back Clearance Sale Storewide  
Cheap prices. Come buy. Needful Things 463 Deer Butte Closed Sunday & Monday, 9am 817-525-3923

Yard Sale  
Lots of everything! Saturday Only 8-5, 209 N. Ash, Azle

### Garage Sale

November 8 and 9, 797 Feather Edge Dr. in Holbrook Farms, Springtown. Baby girl and adult clothes, antiques, fishing, and numerous odds and ends.

### 035 Garden/Mowing Service

COWBOY LAWN CARE. Handyman services, residential, farm, landscaping, tree trimming. Free Estimates. 817-271-0450. Spring Specials.

### CAMPISI GARDENING & LANDSCAPING

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### LEON'S TREE SERVICE

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### 039 Help Wanted

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## TEXAS CROSSWORD

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**ACROSS**

1 home of the Dr. Pepper Museum

5 TXism: "mean \_\_\_ old range cow"

6 TX Don Henley co-wrote "Life in the Fast \_\_\_"

7 religious FM in McCook, TX

8 TXism: "if a hog \_\_\_ wings he'd be an eagle"

9 George H.W.'s \_\_\_ Avenger was shot down in WWII

12 1st pres. of Rice: Edgar \_\_\_ Lovett

17 TXism: "\_\_\_ \_\_\_ been a snake it would have bit you"

19 Texas rancher Chuck Norris film: "\_\_\_ Silence"

21 TXism: "\_\_\_ \_\_\_ caged cougar"

22 C&W singer, Conway

23 TX Roy Orbison hit: "In \_\_\_"

28 former Cowboy lineman, Newton

29 TXism: "bid \_\_\_"

30 naval construction worker

31 TXism: "a \_\_\_ bones" (skinny)

35 \_\_\_ phone

36 San Antonio's "Tower of \_\_\_"

42 TXism: "opossum on the \_\_\_" (armadillo)

**DOWN**

1 TXism: "he'd \_\_\_ death in a revolving door" (inept)

2 TXism: "hot \_\_\_ griddle"

3 seat of Hemphill County

4 wallet stuffers

9 TXism: "\_\_\_ dog won't hunt"

10 Astro or Ranger equipment (2 wds.)

11 agcy. that regulates prescription drugs

12 State Fair mo.

13 Texas-based Pillowtex made \_\_\_ pillows

14 actress Adams of "Racquet" with TX Lynda Day George

15 Nocona Boot slogan: "\_\_\_ Rodeo!"

16 TXism: "\_\_\_ of breathing room"

18 assn. for Texas care providers (abbr.)

20 "Hello Walls" singer Faron (init.)

23 former Cowboy, "Prime Time" (init.)

24 concerning

25 apiece

26 TXism: "made my heart skip \_\_\_"

27 "\_\_\_ out"

32 Texas WWII hero, Audie (init.)

33 appliance maker

34 TXism: "come hell \_\_\_ high water"

36 film: "\_\_\_ Alamo"

37 cuts with an ax

38 Confederate general Robert \_\_\_

39 starred with TX Martin in "Dirty Rotten Scoundrels"

40 Santa Anna ruse at San Jacinto (2 wds.)

41 TX Hyer film: "The \_\_\_ of Katie Elder"

43 TX Kenny Rogers' "\_\_\_ Believes in Me"

45 Sinatra in film "Four for Texas" (init.)

47 med. testing (2 wds.)

48 imitates

55 TXism: "\_\_\_ a soul" (no one)

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# VETERANS DAY

**HONORING**  
*those who*  
**SERVED**

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2024

## THE ORIGINS OF VETERANS DAY

By The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

In 1921, an unknown World War I American soldier was buried in Arlington National Cemetery. This site, on a hillside overlooking the Potomac River and the city of Washington, D.C., became the focal point of reverence for America's veterans.

Similar ceremonies occurred earlier in England and France, where an unknown soldier was buried in each nation's highest place of honor (in England, Westminster Abbey; in France, the Arc de Triomphe). These memorial gestures all took place on Nov. 11, giving universal recognition to the celebrated ending of World War I fighting at 11 a.m., Nov. 11, 1918 (the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month). The day became known as "Armistice Day."

Armistice Day officially received its name in America in 1926 through a Congressional resolution. It became a national holiday 12 years later by similar Congressional action. If the idealistic hope had been realized that World War I was "the War to end all wars," Nov. 11 might still be called Armistice

Day. But only a few years after the holiday was proclaimed, war broke out in Europe. Sixteen and one-half million Americans took part. Four hundred seven thousand of them died in service, more than 292,000 in battle.

### ARMISTICE DAY CHANGED TO HONOR ALL VETERANS

The first celebration using the term Veterans Day occurred in Birmingham, Alabama, in 1947. Raymond Weeks, a World War II veteran, organized "National Veterans Day," which included a parade and other festivities, to honor all veterans. The event was held on Nov. 11, then designated Armistice Day. Later, U.S. Representative Edward Rees of Kansas proposed a bill that would change Armistice Day to Veterans Day. In 1954, Congress passed

the bill that President Eisenhower signed proclaiming Nov. 11 as Veterans Day. Raymond Weeks received the Presidential Citizens Medal from President Reagan in Nov. 1982. Weeks' local parade and ceremonies are now an annual event celebrated nationwide.

On Memorial Day 1958, two more unidentified American war dead were brought from overseas and interred in the plaza beside the unknown soldier of World War I. One was killed in World War II, the other in the Korean War. In 1984, an unknown serviceman from the Vietnam War was placed alongside the others. The remains from Vietnam were exhumed May 14, 1998, identified as Air Force 1st Lt. Michael Joseph Blassie, and removed for burial. To honor these men, symbolic of all Americans who gave their lives in all wars, an Army honor guard, the 3rd U.S. Infantry (The Old Guard), keeps day and night vigil.

A law passed in 1968 changed the national commemoration of Veterans Day to the fourth Monday in October. It soon became apparent, however, that Nov. 11 was a date of historic significance to many Americans. Therefore, in

1978 Congress returned the observance to its traditional date.

### NATIONAL CEREMONIES HELD AT ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

The focal point for official, national ceremonies for Veterans Day continues to be the memorial amphitheater built around the Tomb of the Unknowns. At 11 a.m. on Nov. 11, a combined color guard representing all military services executes "Present Arms" at the tomb. The nation's tribute to its war dead is symbolized by the laying of a presidential wreath. The bugler plays "taps." The rest of the ceremony takes place in the amphitheater. Veterans Day ceremonies at Arlington and elsewhere are coordinated by the President's Veterans Day National Committee. Chaired by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the committee represents national veterans organizations. Governors of many states and U.S. territories appoint Veterans Day chairpersons who, in cooperation with the National Committee and the Department of Defense, arrange and promote local ceremonies.

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Maines on the sideline coaching his team.

LUKE PETERSEN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

# Flexibility in the military

*Unexpected passion for healthcare shifted to teaching*

LILY HUDMAN

Aspiring to be a police officer, Azle High School medical terminology and principles of health science teacher Emily Conger decided to join the military directly after high school as the area in Rhode Island she lived in requires candidates to be at least 21 years of age to become a police officer.

Conger entered the Air Force in 2011 and worked as an aerospace medical technician at the Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio. She worked three years at an inpatient pediatric ward and then worked at an OB/GYN clinic until 2017.

"As a technician, I would check the AED (automated external defibrillator) at the beginning of my shift, and as a lead I would assign patients to other technicians," Conger said. "Daily, I would do things like take vital signs, give IVs, get blood work and help with any procedure that a doctor or nurse was doing."

While in the Air Force, Conger said she got to see a variety of peoples' backgrounds, which taught her lessons she uses today.

"It exposed me to a lot of different people and made me more understanding of people and where they come from," Conger said. "It taught me to be very patient, tolerant and flexible, because you have to be willing to be flexible in the military."

After completing eight-and-a-half weeks of basic training, Conger wanted to be military police, but was instead getting assigned to medical, which she was not interested in.

"It's funny, because when



COURTESY PHOTO

Conger smiles in her uniform.

I was in high school picking my career, I was like the last thing I want to do is be in the medical field, or be a teacher," Conger said. "So, when they told me I was medical, I just thought, 'Oh wow, this will be interesting,' but that's where I got my passion for healthcare."

While it was not what she expected, Conger said it was a great phase of her life and allowed her to gain new experiences.

"I went through the training, and it was hard and really fast-paced, but it was good," Conger said. "I will always recommend that anybody go into the military."

Now, she remembers her commitment to America and the impact she made.

"It's just a remembrance for me because it's like, 'Hey, I did something that was cool and for my country,'" Conger said. "And I always think about my time in the military on Veterans Day and all of the people that I served with and what they're doing today."

# Defending America's endzone

LUKE PETERSEN

In the late '90s, amid the ongoing conflict in Iraq, an HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter performed several combat rescues of injured American soldiers. Manning the chopper was none other than Azle High School's very own social studies teacher, Bo Maines.



COURTESY PHOTO

Bo Maines poses for a photo in his Air Force uniform roughly 20 years ago.

*Azle coach served in military before taking up new career*

"I was stationed at Nellis Air Force Base in Las Vegas," Maines said. "But we were gone all the time, most of the time overseas. We served in northern Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and around those areas."

Maines, who is also the defensive coordinator for the varsity football team, served from 1995-2000 after he graduated from high school and married his wife, Leah.

According to Maines, he had been eager to join the Air Force after he had been working toward it throughout high school.

"I grew up with my uncle and he took me to a lot of air shows," Maines said. "I've just always had an interest in aircraft and knew that I wanted to work on or around them."

Making his way up to the rank of senior airman E-4, Maines said was able to continue to build relationships with not only his fellow airmen but also people from around the globe.

"My unit was over in the Middle East a lot, and all over Europe, so I got to meet a lot of different people and a lot of different cultures," Maines said. "I think it's helped teach me to just be open to everybody and everything and know that there's different lifestyles and opinions, but ultimately, everybody's a good person."

Ultimately, after five years of service, Maines took a step back from the Air Force and went on to pursue his aspirations of teaching and coaching. However, he said the lessons the Air Force taught

him continue to influence his current career.

"I think the camaraderie of being with the guys that were over there during that time, the friends that I made, and the bonds that we made is a lot like football," Maines said. "There are times where it's not fun and it's not glorious and it's not glamorous, but you bond with the people that are sort of commiserating with you in that situation."

Despite Maines leaving the Air Force roughly 24 years ago, he still continues to encourage his students with a passion for serving their country.

"It really is a fun experience if you do it right," Maines said. "I try to talk to kids that are going in now and just give them the best advice on how to get everything out of it for themselves. It's a phenomenal experience and it really is something I would do again."



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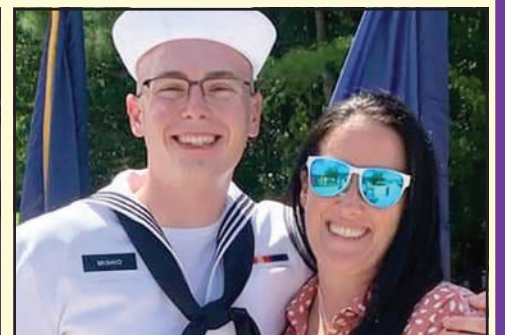
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Ben Mishio (second from right)



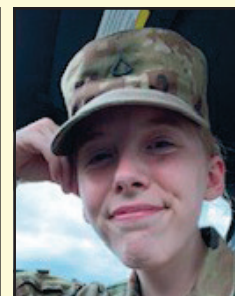
Chase and Angie Mishio



Ben Mishio



Matt Mishio



Catherine Mishio



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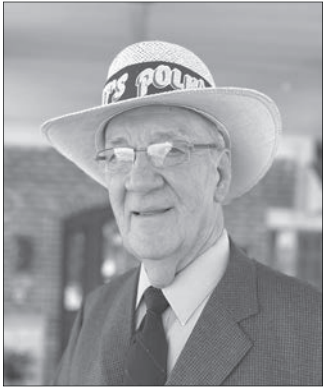
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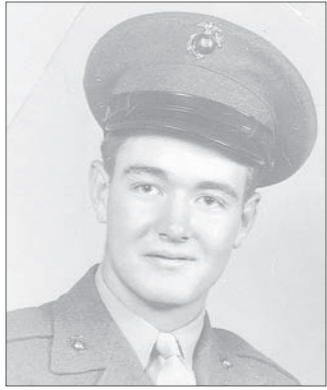
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Air Force  
1997-2006



**BILLIE ALTOM**  
U.S. Army  
1943-1945, Normandy  
Invasion



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U.S. Army • 2nd Class  
10 Years



**DAVID AUVENSHINE**  
U.S. Navy  
3 Years, 1996 Azle Graduate



**GEORGE AYALA**  
U.S. Air Force  
1976-1982



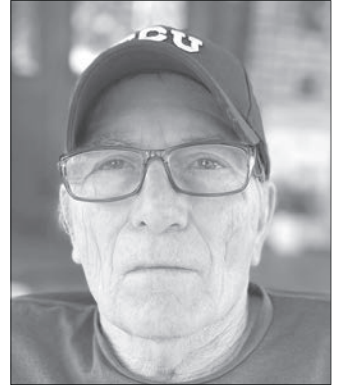
**CHRISTOPHER BACHELOR**  
U.S. Air Force  
2005-Present



**KEN BACHELOR**  
U.S. Air Force  
1981-2011



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**BRANDON BARNETT**  
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Sergeant  
2007-2013



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U.S. Navy  
5 years



**RICK BEALL**  
U.S. Army • Sergeant  
1998-2003



**FRANK BEATY III**  
U.S. Army • Captain  
2006 -



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1967- 1970



**AARON BEDFORD**  
U.S. Army  
1964-1966



**TIM BISHOP**  
U.S. Navy  
1972-1977



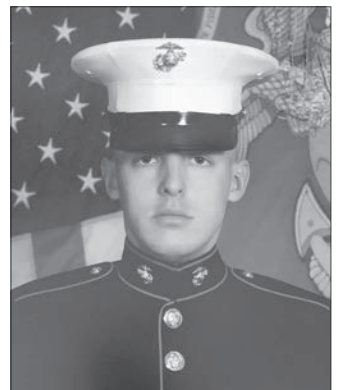
**DAVID BLACKWELL**  
U.S. Navy



**SCOTT BOIVIN**  
U.S. Marine Corps  
24 years



**TERA BRADSHAW**  
U.S. Navy



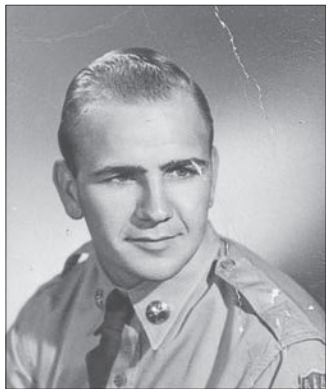
**AARON BRAZELL**  
U.S. Marine Corps  
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U.S. Air Force Reserves  
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Staff Sergeant  
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U.S. Army  
1967-1969



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U.S. Marine Corps  
1967-1969, Vietnam



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**JAMES W. DAVIS**  
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1970-April 1971



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**JOHN DOSS**  
U.S. Marine Corps • Sergeant  
1988-1998



**RONALD DOSS**  
U.S. Air Force  
Airman 2<sup>nd</sup> Class  
1954-1957



**TOBY DOSS**  
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# Billy Wilson: A life at sea

JOLEE SKINNER

jolee@tricountyreporter.com

LAKE WORTH — Not many people in life get to live on a ship and travel the world for two years straight. But Billy Wilson got to experience that and live life out at sea.

Wilson, born in Comanche in 1934, is a veteran of the Navy Reserve.

Wilson grew up in Comanche, graduated high school there and got a scholarship to run track at Texas A&M in 1954.

But Wilson made a life-altering decision to leave school, leave track and enlist in the Navy, where he served from 1955 to 1957.

Wilson joined the Navy Reserve and was an E5, which is an enlisted rank. Wilson skipped boot camp, boarded a cargo ship in California and sailed to Kingston, Jamaica. Wilson was a ship serviceman who traveled to the Philippines, Hong Kong, Sydney, Australia and many more destinations.

One of Wilson's first jobs involved practicing how fast his unit could get the smaller mag boats off the ship.

"My first job was to let that door down," Wilson said. "At four o'clock in the morning, we practiced how quick we could take the boats off of that ship in the dark. But I never did have to go out with them. What they did during the war, they'd go out and open that door and then they'd go in with the Marines or the Army boys."

On the ship, Wilson had many different jobs and became rather popular with everyone.

"I was the ice cream man, I made ice cream on the ship," Wilson said. "They all knew me because I ran the ship store and made ice cream. And I kept the coat machines going."

Wilson recalls when his ship got to go to Nagasaki, Japan where 10 years earlier the United States dropped the atomic bomb Aug. 9, 1945 — the first use of atom-

ic weapons in war.

Wilson traveled all over Japan on that trip and excitedly said he got to experience something he had never done before. "I got to ride the bullet train and go into Tokyo one time," Wilson said.

Thinking back on his time on the ship, Wilson said the fog made the trips dangerous.

"Those ships, you know, would anchor out in the ocean," Wilson said. "The fog would come in every night and you'd have to take a small boat to get over. You couldn't hardly see in front of you. They rang a little bell. That's how dangerous it was. But we never had an accident."

Wilson said the biggest lesson he learned while being out at sea was to watch out and be careful.

"Well, if you're out at that sea, you better be careful," Wilson said. "That ship was 550 feet long and I've seen it jump out of the water. You know, it's so rough when we



Billy Wilson at the Lake Worth Senior Center.

JOLEE SKINNER | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

had a bad storm. So, you better watch out for that ocean because you never know what's going to happen out there."

After serving in the Navy

Reserve for two years, Wilson was discharged in Seattle, Washington, and started his career as a builder. He married his wife, Charlotte Rose, in 1963 and had three kids.

Wilson went on to build many homes, even some in Lake Worth. Wilson Court, located north of Azle Avenue in Lake Worth, is named after him.



PHOTO COURTESY TERE BRADSHAW

Photos and memorabilia spread around showing Tera Bradshaw's time in the Navy.

# Former Navy petty officer turned to education

NOVA WANG

AZLE — Honoring her country and wanting to pursue a degree in college with no debt were reasons that helped Tera Bradshaw make her decision to join the U.S. Navy when she was 18.

Through the GI Bill, Bradshaw was able to pursue her education after her service, leading her to become a teacher at Azle High School after finishing her degree.

"I come from a family of teachers and my major in college was Spanish so that career was my first go-to," Bradshaw said.

## AHS teacher speaks about serving in Navy and what she does now

Bradshaw first began her service in 1994 and was on a crew that helped with issues that occurred on the Navy vessel USS McKee (AS-41).

"When I served, I worked as an electrician," Bradshaw said. "I also was ranked as a petty officer third class during my time of service."

Navy electricians typically calibrate, repair and maintain all the electronic equipment that is used in a Navy vessel.

With the duties given to her, Bradshaw believes the Navy truly helped her in different ways, whether it is financially or internally.

"(The Navy) provided the opportunity and funding for me to go to college," Bradshaw said. "And (it) taught me responsibility and discipline, even though I was already disciplined prior because of my dad, who was my coach in high school."

When reflecting on her past service, Bradshaw mentioned her mixed opinions about going into the Navy again if she had the option.

"I'm not really sure the answer, it depends on the society that we live in," Bradshaw said. "The present, is a different society than the one I grew up in. So I'm not really sure if I would do it again."

After Bradshaw left the Navy, she went into education which eventually led her to Azle, where she is still teaching at the high school and has been for over a decade.



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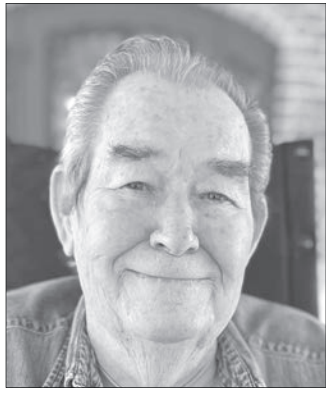
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U.S. Marine Corps  
1966-1970, Vietnam



**RENE ESTEVES**  
U.S. Navy  
2003-2008



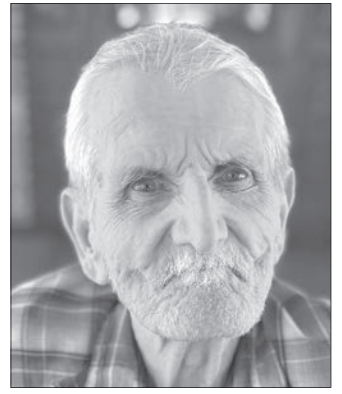
**KENNETH FAIR**  
U.S. Navy E3,  
U.S. Air Force E6



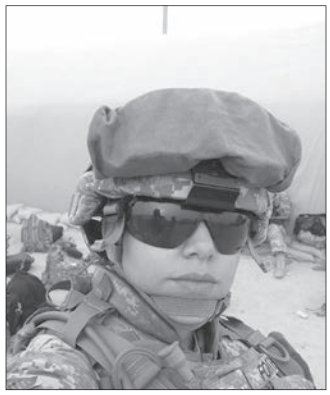
**CURTIS FAIR**  
U.S. Army  
1964-1970 • 6 Years



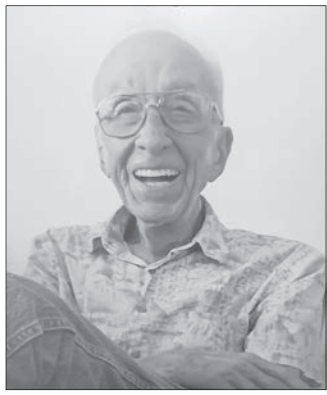
**APRIL EVERSOLE FALLECKER**  
U.S. Air Force • 1stSgt,  
Master Sergeant  
22 Years, 1995 Azle Graduate



**CARMON FINNEY**  
U.S. Navy Medic E5, U.S.  
Army National Guard Medic



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U.S. Army 2006-2010  
Army National Guard  
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U.S. Air Force  
1951-1955, Korea



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U.S. Marine Corps  
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**DONALD FOX**  
U.S. Army  
Specialist 5th Class  
1966-1968



**STEPHEN FREEMAN**  
U.S. Marine Corps  
2003-2010, Iraq



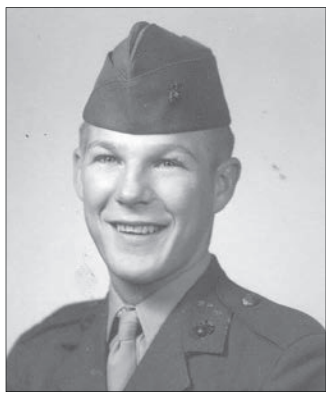
**JOEL FRISKE**  
U.S. Army  
10 Years



**LEON FOSTER**  
U.S. Army Reserves 1988-1993  
U.A. Navy 1993-1997



**RICK FOSTER**  
U.S. Army  
1967-1972, Vietnam



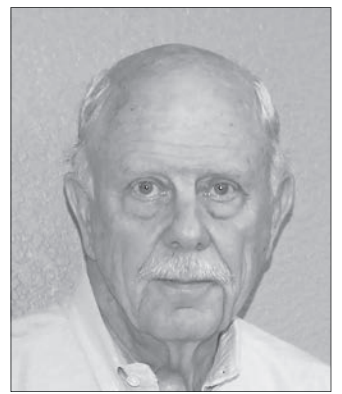
**ROY FOSTER**  
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**JAMES GIEB**  
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1970-1972, Vietnam



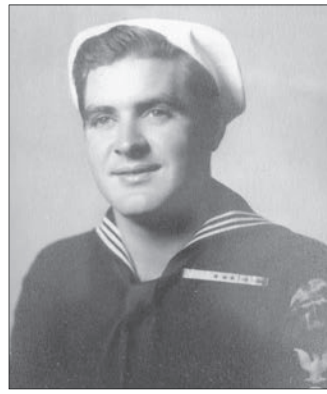
**CHRISTOPHER GILLILAND**  
U.S. Army  
1997-2016



**GRANT GIBBONS**  
U.S. Air National Guard  
2017-Present



**TODD GIBBONS**  
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WWII



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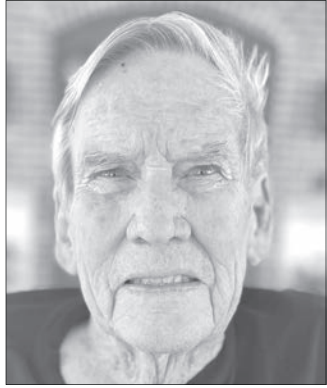
**ROBERT M. GUNN**  
U.S. Air Force 1954-1962  
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**ANDREW HOWARD**  
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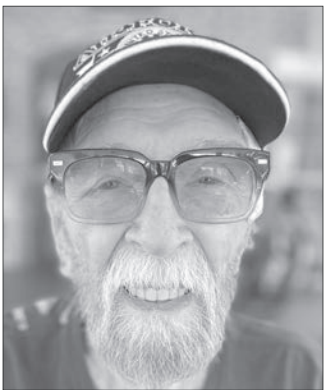
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U.S. Marine Corps  
4 Years



**JEFF HUBENAK**  
U.S. Navy  
26 Years



**DON HUGGINS**  
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Airman 2nd Lt



**GEORGE HUTTON**  
U.S. Army  
1962-1970, Vietnam



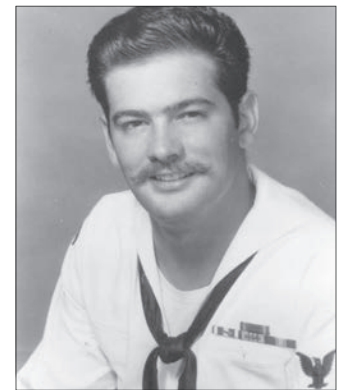
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1954-1958 • 4 Years



**RAY IVEY**  
U.S. Army • Colonel  
30 Years, Vietnam



**MATTHEW JACKSON**  
U.S. Army  
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U.S. Navy  
1966-1969

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1965-1968



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4 Years, Vietnam



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**STEPHANIE KING**  
U.S. Air Force  
1989-1995



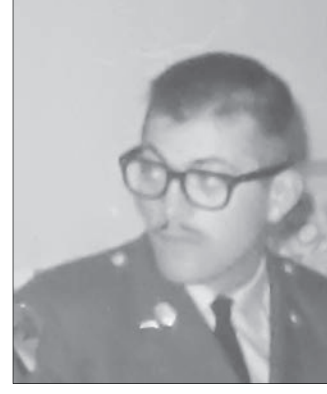
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**RON LENNING**  
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US Army Texas  
National Guard  
22 Years



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U.S. Air Force • Strategic Air  
Command  
1957-1962



**ZACHARY DEAN LUND**  
Army Reserves  
2014-2020, 2014 Springtown  
Graduate



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U.S. Navy  
1966-1968



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U.S. Air Force • E4  
1995-1999



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U.S. Air Force  
1952 - 1956



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U.S. Marine Corps  
2002-2008 • 6 Years



**RONNIE MCDOYLE**  
U.S. Army  
2008-2013



**JERRY MCNUTT**  
U.S. Marine Corps  
2001-2005



**JOHN MARTIN**  
U.S. Army  
1974-1996



**RYAN P. MARTIN**  
U.S. Navy  
2001-2011, Springtown  
Graduate



**JASON MALEWISKI**  
U.S. Navy • 1995-2002  
U.S. Air Force • 2002-2015



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2001-2009



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U.S. Army National Guard  
2008-2016



**VERONICA K. MEDERIOS**  
U.S. Air Force  
2012-Present



**DENNIS W. MEREDITH**  
U.S. Army • Major  
1967-1993



**MATTHEW MISHIO**  
U.S. Army  
8 Years



**JIM MITCHELL**  
U.S. Army  
Airborne Sgt 1st Class  
1966-1982



**BOBBIE MOORE**  
U.S. Air Force  
1995-2016



**DONALD MOORE**  
U.S. Air Force  
1992-2012



**ALFREDO MORALES**  
U.S. Army  
Specialist 4th Class  
1965-1967



**SAM MORELOCK**  
U.S. Army • Pvt. 1st Class  
1969-1971, 1970-1971 Vietnam



**STEPHEN MORRIS**  
U.S. Navy • FMF Corpsman  
2016 Azle Graduate



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U.S. Air Force  
1950-1970 • 20 Years



**KRISTIN MYERS**  
U.S. Army  
2005-2012



**JEREMY MOORE**  
U.S. Army  
1999-2007 • 7 Years



**MONTE W. MOORE**  
U.S. Army  
2 Years



**BARRY NEFF**  
U.S. Air Force  
Sr. Master Sergeant  
1979-1999



**CLYDE NOAKES**  
Air Force Reserves  
1967-1973



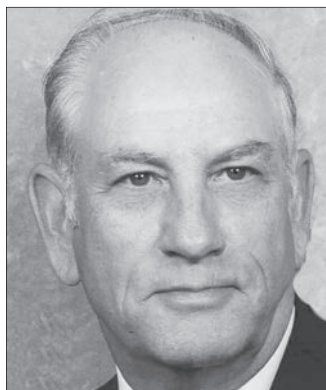
**ROGER OWENS**  
U.S. Army  
1967-1968, Vietnam



**TOBY PALITTI**  
U.S. Navy  
1970-1981



**HAROLD PANKEY**  
U.S. Air Force • Lt Colonel  
1948-1974



**A.J. "TONY" PAPPAS**  
U.S. Air Force  
Master Sergeant  
25 Years, Retired



**CARL E. PAPPAS**  
U.S. Marine Corps  
1977-1981



**TODD PARKER**  
U.S. Navy  
2005-2009



**ERIC PARRISH**  
U.S. Air Force 2010-2016  
Air Force Reserves  
2016-Present



**PHILLIP COLE PAYNE**  
U.S. Air Force • Staff Sgt.  
1999-2006



**CYNTHIA PAYNE**  
U.S. Army  
1991-2002, Gulf War



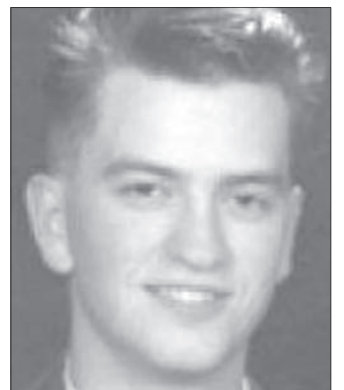
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U.S. Air Force  
4 Years



**JOHN PECK**  
U.S. Army • Corporal



**JEROME PILGRIM**  
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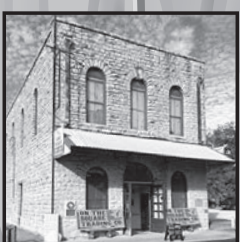
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# Rebecca Bare

*From country girl to top secret military typist*

**JOLEE SKINNER**  
jolee@tricountyreporter.com

LAKE WORTH — Rebecca Bare was a little farm girl in Bair, Pennsylvania. Her mother gave birth to her not at a hospital, but at home. Bare said back in the day, rural women didn't really go to the hospital to give birth.

Born Jan. 4, 1936, Bare lived in the countryside her whole childhood and then joined the Air Force in 1957. Bare laughed as she told the story of how she and her friend joined the military.

"A girl three years younger than me, she was 18 and she had a boyfriend she wanted to get away from," Bare said. "She told me, 'I hear you wanted to join the Air Force?'"

and I said, 'Yes.'"

Bare enlisted and flew to Lakeland Air Force Base in San Antonio for basic training. After completing basic training, Bare transferred to Carswell Air Force Base, now known as Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth.

"When I came to Fort Worth, it was the biggest thrill for me," Bare said. "I came on that train and here was this big building in downtown Fort Worth that had a clock on top. The minute I saw that building, I thought, 'I'm in the big city.'"

Bare became a clerk typist at the base. She shared that to get the job, she had to have a top secret clearance.

"My boss was the comptroller," Bare said. "I had to get a



COURTESY PHOTO

**Rebecca Bare basic training photo in the York Dispatch newspaper.**

top secret clearance because I handled secret documents. My boss reported straight to the base commander. And what we reported to the base commander was the status of the aircraft."

Bare spoke about what she wrote on and what tools typists used back then. "I used to write on this white board, it was like a blackboard but

white, with what was called a grease pen," Bare said. "But it was a long pencil that was wrapped in black in the middle, wrapped with paper and peeled off."

Bare said she had the lowest rank and job on the base, but clerk typists were very important in the day-to-day operations on the base. Women often filled these positions to free more men to fight on the frontlines, especially during war times.

Bare was in the Air Force for only two years, marking her exit in 1959. She said the Air Force taught the little, shy country girl in her how to put yourself out there and make new friends.

Bare went on to marry her husband, J.W. Stevens. They have three children, two granddaughters and three great-grandchildren. Bare retired 22 years ago at the age of 66 from being an administrative assistant in the biomedical engineering department at the University of North Texas.

**JOLEE SKINNER | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER**  
Rebecca Bare, 88, reflects on her time in the Air Force.



**TONY PORTER**  
U.S. Marine Corps • Corporal  
1976-1981



**ALEJANDRO RAMIREZ**  
U.S. Marine Corps • Corporal  
2017-2023



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Master Sergeant  
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U.S. Army  
1971-1974, Vietnam



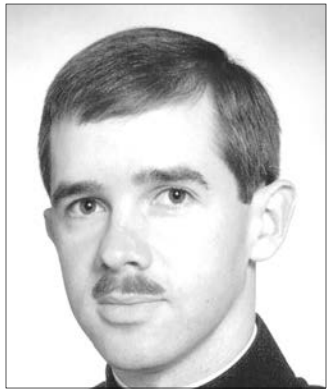
**OTTO ROESICKE**  
U.S. Army Air Corp  
WWII



**JOSEPH ROGERS**  
U.S. Air Force • Captain 4  
Years



**FRANKLIN ROUP**  
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**DENNIS W. RILEY**  
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**DONALD E. ROSE JR.**  
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1970-1976



**JOSHUA RENO**  
U.S. Army  
2003-2006, 3 Years 6 Months



**PENNY ROBINSON RILEY**  
U.S. Navy  
1978-1984



**JOANIE ORŁOWSKI ROPER**  
U.S. Navy, 4 years  
U.S. Army, 10 years



**ROUEL F. ROTHENBERGER, JR.**  
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U.S. Navy  
21 years



**GUY SHEPPARD**  
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1944-1946 • WWII



**GERALD SHUTTER**  
U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Army  
1954-1975



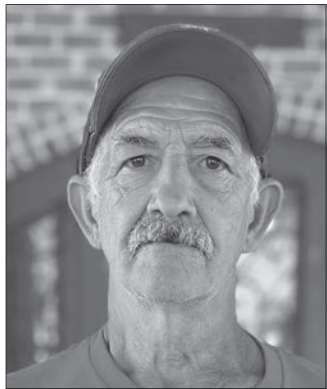
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U.S. Navy  
WWII



**JEREMY T. SHERIFF**  
U.S. Army • Paratrooper  
4 Years



**DENNIS SHERRILL**  
U.S. Navy  
1965-1969



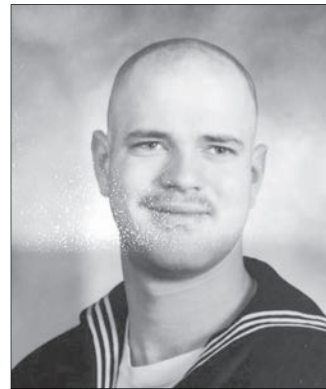
**MARK SHRUM**  
U.S. Air Force • E3



**JULIE SHRAKE**  
U.S. Air Force • SRA  
1995-1999



**DWAYNE D. SIMON**  
U.S. Army  
Cpl. Band 179th & 5th  
1952-1954



**MATTHEW SINDLINGER**  
U.S. Navy  
4 years



**GARY S. SMITH**  
U.S. Marine Corps • 1st Sgt.  
1981-2001



**RICHARD SMILEY**  
U.S. Navy • E5



**DAVID SMITH**  
US Air Force • Colonel  
28 Years, Vietnam, Silver  
Cross



**JACKIE SMITH**  
U.S. Air Force • Staff  
Sergeant



**BRYAN SPHARLER**  
U.S. Navy  
2011-201, Azle Graduate



**JACK STEVENS**  
U.S. Air Force • Sergeant  
1963-1967 • 4 Years



**DAVID SNEED**  
U.S. Navy  
1967



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1966-1969



**JOHN SUTTON**  
U.S. Navy  
Active Duty • 4 Years



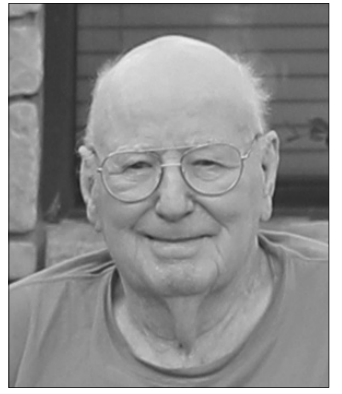
**STEVEN STUTSMAN**  
U.S. Air Force • Master  
Sergeant 1976-1991  
U.S. Navy Reserve • Petty  
Officer 1996-2004



**WILLIAM WESLEY SHORES**  
U.S. Army  
1942-1945 • WWII



**JAMES SWAN**  
Army



**FRANKLIN TAYLOR**  
U.S. Navy • Sergeant



**HOUSTON M. TAYLOR**  
U.S. Army SFC  
6 Years, 2005 Azle Graduate  
KIA Oct 12, 2011, Kunar  
Province, Afghanistan



**DENNIS THOMPSON**  
U.S. Army  
1968 - 1971



**GATLIN CARTER THOMAS**  
U.S. Air Force  
Airman 1st Class  
2019-Present



**GABRIEL TORRES**  
U.S. Marine Corps • E4  
2008-2012



**JAMES TIDWELL**  
U.S. Marine Corps  
1961-1967



**CLIFFORD W. TEAGUE**  
U.S. Army  
1956-1958



**RICH TERRETT**  
U.S. Navy LCDR  
1990-2014



**ARTHUR SCOTT TURNER**  
U.S. Air Force • Lt. Colonel  
1945-1978



**TERRY R. THORPE**  
U.S. Air Force  
1962-1982, Vietnam  
Bronze Star



**DAVID UTTER**  
U.S. Air Force • Sgt



**VISTINE, TIM**  
US AIR FORCE Sgt E4  
1979-1983



**SHAUN WAITS**  
U.S. Marine Corp  
1988-1992



**JERRY WALDEN**  
U.S. Air Force  
1965-1969, Vietnam



**JERRY E. WALSTON**  
U.S. Marine Corps  
Lance Corporal  
1960-1966



**ROBERT WARREN**  
U.S. Navy • E5  
1996-2001



**DON WEBB**  
U.S. Army  
Specialist E4



**JACK WELCH**  
U.S. Army



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1961-1966

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# Marine mom serves Springtown ISD

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN —From serving her country to serving her students, Shirley Cole has traveled the world to get where she is today.

Cole grew up in Houston and joined the United States Marine Corps right out of high school in 1986. She said she didn't feel she was ready for college yet, but a phone call and challenge from a military recruiter shaped the rest of her life.

"He told me, 'I've never had a woman Marine graduate from boot camp. You'll be my first one,'" Cole recalled.

With the challenge issued, Cole said she jumped into it without looking back, excited for the new experience ahead of her. Despite her recruiter even urging her to watch some videos and do research before attending boot camp, she was determined to do it her way and come into service with her fresh perspective. While the yelling from drill instructors was initially a shock, she said she adjusted fine after realizing they couldn't touch her.

The most difficult part of the experience was undergoing simulated gas attacks using 2-chlorobenzylidene malononitrile, a type of tear gas, and trying not to flinch with Parris Island sand fleas in her ears.

"It was a good place to start learning more discipline," Cole said of her South Carolina boot camp experience.

Cole attended boot camp with four other girls from her high school. After completing training, they all hoped to be sent overseas together.



COURTESY PHOTO

A photo of Shirley Cole during her service in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Ultimately, Cole was sent to Oahu, Hawaii for her first duty station while the other girls were sent to Japan. At the time she was disappointed but, by chance, the rest of her life was again shaped by the assignment.

Cole met her husband, who served as a small arms repair specialist, while on active duty in Hawaii. She went on to have two children while on active duty, later serving at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina and re-enlisting to serve in Quantico, Virginia as well. Cole advanced to the rank of sergeant and filled a leadership role training others entering the service.

Eventually, with the growing responsibilities of being a mom, Cole decided to conclude her service in 1993 after seven years.

"I loved it," Cole said. "I really enjoyed being around. I was very proud to wear the uniform, and I enjoyed it. It's just that I think my kids became my priority ... For

my children, it hasn't been as easy for them because they haven't been around family. I think that's the biggest, probably, I guess, disadvantage of the military is, you know, you have to leave family, and you don't see family as much. So for them, they have the sense of, hey, we never really grew up around our grandparents or our uncles and aunts."

Cole's favorite memories from her service include the sense of teamwork she felt in uniform.

"Everybody's important, everybody's job is important. You're counting on one another. We needed good morale, everybody just staying motivated and things like that ... There's a bond there. I have to go somewhere in a war with this person. I've got to be able to trust this person."

Her husband stayed on active duty, so the pair continued to travel, finally going to Japan. Cole discovered a love of education when volunteering at her children's school and earned a bachelor's degree online from the University of Maryland. Cole said she always had a heart for literacy and became a para-educator for several years. When she found out her youngest son was dyslexic, she set off on yet another path.

"I'd been wanting to learn more about it ever since he was diagnosed," Cole said. "I just was to the point that I wanted to specialize in reading. I want to teach students how to read and help them to be successful readers, because without that, they're not going to be successful in life."

Meanwhile, her husband eventually retired from the



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Shirley Cole

military and the two began looking for somewhere quiet to settle down, outside of the city. After moving around North Texas, the Coles ended up in Springtown, where they continue to live to this day.

Cole continues her dream of being an advocate for kids like her son as a dyslexia interventionist for Springtown Independent School District.

While she is very happy with how her life has turned

out, Cole said she does miss traveling for the military and looks back fondly on her service. She is thankful for Veterans Day and grateful any time someone thanks her for her service.

"I'm honored by their gratitude — that shows me that they appreciate the sacrifices — because it really is a sacrifice, and then the service for the country. So that means a lot to me, for them to take the

moment to acknowledge that. It actually has been an honor. It's just been a fun time for us to both serve as veterans. We are very both proud to have served our country and be veterans. I just hope that the military always remembers our veterans. I hope that both our veterans, and men and women that are active duty, know that we are always praying and thinking of them, because they're special."



MAYLYNN HURD WHITLOCK  
U.S. Navy  
4 Years



BILL WHITE  
U.S. Air Force  
1959-1963



DAVID WHITE  
U.S. Marine Corps  
1962-1966



RICK WHITE  
U.S. Air Force  
1988-1992



CHARLES WHITLOCK  
U.S. Navy • 4 Years  
U.S. Marine Corps • 4 Years



RUSTY WHITT  
U.S. Army • Special Forces  
2003-2009



JIMMY C. WILEY  
U.S. Air Force  
1951-1971, 20 Years



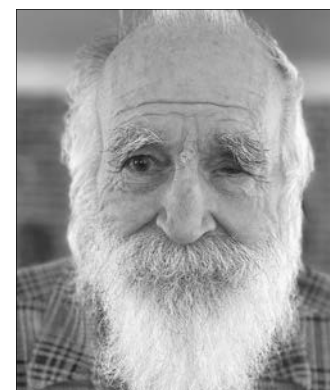
BILLY WILSON  
U.S. Navy  
1955-1957



KIMBERLY WINSTON  
U.S. Army • Specialist  
2007-2012



DAVID L. WOOD  
U.S. Army  
1967-1977, Vietnam



MARVIN WYLEY  
U.S. Army • Private



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# Civic-minded serviceman speaks about three decades as Marine

**ZACH FREEMAN**

azlereporter@tricityreporter.com

**AZLE** — Whether it's inside or outside the military, Stuart Lankford has dedicated his life to serving his country and community.

Lankford grew up in Dallas, but now calls Azle home. As a child, Lankford's maternal grandfather was an early Navy pilot who eventually became a captain in World War II. Lankford and his brothers were always enraptured by his grandfather's war tales.

"When we were kids growing up, every time that we visited Grandpa, he had the most amazing stories, and we all wanted to fly airplanes in the Navy," Lankford said.

Combined with the influence of "Top Gun," Lankford developed deep-seated dreams of being an ace pilot, though as he grew older, Lankford eventually found himself drawn more to the Marine Corps. Ultimately, his oldest brother became a Navy pilot like his grandfather. Another brother joined the

Army, and he joined the U.S. Marine Corps.

"Service to the country and patriotism was just a thing in our family," Lankford said. "(The Marines) were smaller than everybody else, but they were tougher than everybody else. It was just this aura, you know, around the Marines, the Iwo Jima Memorial, and just in the valor in history and all of those things."

In college, Lankford started talking to recruiters and between his freshman and sophomore years, he went to an officer candidate school where he said he found his life's purpose. At Baylor University he was referred to as "the Marine" because he always wore camouflage, combat boots and his officer candidate school shirt. "I was on a mission," Lankford said. "It just became like a calling, I guess, and just it was a very clear goal for me to pursue."

He completed his senior session at the officer candidate school where he did very well and graduated with

honors. After six months of basic training he joined the infantry. Lankford was very happy for his assignment, calling it the heart and soul of the Marine Corps. His first deployment as an officer sent him to a dry, craterous desert more than a thousand miles from his home: Palm Springs, California.

"It's a great place to cut your teeth, because you can go anywhere and you can fire any weapons system and one of our challenges is not can you employ a weapons system, but how do you integrate all of them in a combined and synergistic approach? So that's where I really learned my craft and weapons was my forte."

Early in his career as a young lieutenant, Lankford said he was shaped by spectacular leaders including General James N. Mattis. He went on to have a fruitful military career, serving 24 years and eventually reaching the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Lankford was deployed to the Pacific after Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein threatened to invade Kuwait again in 1994. He was eventually deployed to the Kuwaiti border as part of a "show of force" unit. Lankford later joined an anti-terrorism unit and was on deployment in Hawaii during 9/11. After the tragedy, Lankford spent the next four years reinforcing other bases in India, Sri Lanka, the Philippines, Korea and Japan because of concerns that more attacks could be coming. He was then promoted to major and came back to the United States to go to school. From there he deployed to Afghanistan where he and 16 other combat advisors helped train local soldiers to fight the Taliban.

"That was definitely a shaping experience for me, because you see combat operations from a very different perspective," Lankford said, "When you roll in as the Marine Corps, you have

lots of expensive equipment, and you have lots of highly trained individuals, and you have access to lots of really cool gadgets across all the services. When you're embedded with some Afghan commandos, you're eating goat, if you can find a farmer that's going to sell you goats, and then the soldiers cook up the goats. If not, you're foraging. It was a very different experience, but it allowed me to kind of look at the might of America from the other lens. It gives you perspective when you're in somebody else's backyard. When you walk around like you're the biggest thing since sliced bread, it's no wonder people don't like you, and so it was also a very humbling experience."

After Afghanistan, Lankford spent two years at the Pentagon, advising officers on operations, tactics and response options. He said one interesting experience from that time was getting to advise the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who was getting ready to go brief the president.

Lankford went back to Afghanistan in 2011 for a year, performing a myriad of different duties, then returned to the United States after being assigned to train new combat advisors. By this point he was a lieutenant colonel and served the last two years of his service as executive officer for The School of Infantry — East.

Even retirement didn't stop Lankford from serving. After 24 years of active duty, he continued to teach doctrine, tactics, problem solving and leadership to young officers at the Marine Corps University in North Carolina for another six years.

Lankford said the time has flown by since his retirement ceremony Sept. 30 eight years ago. Wanting to stay out of the big cities, Lankford chose Azle in July 2022 to give his children a more grounded, humble upbringing. In the



COURTESY PHOTO

Wife, Kymm Lankford with Lt. Col. Stuart Lankford, in full regalia.

short time he's lived here, Lankford has been heavily involved in the Azle Optimist Club, 4H, Scouts and other local endeavors, even being named Optimist of the Year in October. Lankford said the military has instilled a heart for service in him which he has carried into his civilian life and his occupation at New York Life Insurance Company.

"I'm too old and broken to serve my country anymore, but that doesn't mean you can't serve your community," Lankford said. "You still can scratch that itch and serve. The cool thing is you get to see the impact. When you go to a foreign country and you try to help them or empower their capabilities, or whatever the case is, you don't necessarily know what the true impact is. In your local community, you get to see the change. You get to see the difference, whether that's with a family or a small business. So, it's still very rewarding and it's still something that you can get excited about."

One vital skill Lankford said he has gained from his service is learning to work toward a common goal with

others, regardless of any differences they may have.

"You have brothers of all nationalities and creeds and races and those types of things," Lankford said. "You're able to develop this trust, and this rapport, and this respect, because they are willing to put down their personal desires and their selfish wants in order to do something for the common good."

One of the adjustments Lankford said he has learned to make in his civilian life is learning to ask questions, adapt to life outside a strict regiment and hear other people's side of the story. Lankford would like to see more opportunities in Azle for veterans to meet, gather and make connections. He said his feelings for his time in the armed forces are still very deep and meaningful, and he genuinely appreciates being thanked for his service.

"I think that it's wonderful that there is a federal holiday to recognize veterans of all shapes and size, whether their sacrifice was four years or whether it was 40 years, you made a choice to be unselfish," Lankford said.



COURTESY STAFF SGT. MARK MORROW

Lt. Col. Stuart Lankford marches with the color guard at the School of Infantry — East in 2015.

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service and sacrifice.

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