

INTY KEPORTER

RINGTOWN, LAKE WORTH AND SURROUNDING AREAS

THURSDAY, December 5, 2024 • ***1.00**

Wapiti winter wonderland

ZACH FREEMAN azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

AZLE — On Wapiti Drive, it's beginning to look a lot like Christmas.

Terry Free invited spectators from across Azle to visit a winter wonderland at 256 Wapiti Drive in the Deer Ridge Estates addition to see a dazzling and dizzying

array of lights and decorations. Pop-ups, displays and trinkets are placed in five sections throughout two properties, including an airport where Santa Claus made

touchdown the evening of Nov. 30. Along with amazing sights, Free met visitors to the event with complimentary cookies, hot cocoa and the chance to get pictures with

the elf himself.

Many of Free's neighbors pitch in and others have been motivated to decorate their own houses. One neighbor, Shelly Sturgill, has let Free's

ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER Terry Free's home just after the Nov. 30 lighting.

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displays cover part of her yard and said it's been a treat to have Free next door. In years past, she joined in the

PLEASE SEE WAPITI | A12



Springtown church draws in community with free meal

JOLEE SKINNER jolee@tricountyreporter.com

Pastor talks about future of event and community reach

2024 Parade of Lights participants navigate the lake Nov. 30.

JIM MAGNUSON | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Decks bedecked with boughs of holly

Annual Parade of Lights circles Eagle Mountain Lake

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

EAGLE MOUNTAIN LAKE – Nonprofit Save Eagle Mountain Lake held its annual Christmas Parade of Lights the evening of Nov. 30.

Due to lower lake levels, SEML devised an alternative route beginning at Fort Worth Boat Club and proceeding toward the Azle side of the lake. Participating boats and other water vehicles lined up for the enjoyment of spectators with their decks decked out in lights and regalia.

"We're excited to kickoff the holidays with this cherished tradition," SEML President Cary Lewis said. "The Parade of Lights is a testament to the spirit of Eagle Mountain Lake, and

we're thrilled to offer a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone, despite the lower water levels."

SEML also partnered with The Lakehouse restaurant at 9307 Boat Club Road, Fort Worth to create a winter wonderland following the event. The Tarrant Regional Water District opened up key points, such as Twin **Points Park**

SPRINGTOWN - Sunset Church of Springtown decided to feed the residents around them by hosting a free community meal Nov. 23 at the church's kitchen in the back of the church.

Located off Sunset Drive, this was the first time this small church decided to start this Thanksgiving tradition. Pastor Damien Miller of Sunset Church is just happy to serve Springtown and spoke to what the foundation for events, like a community meal event, should look like.

"We are just grate-

ful to serve this side of Springtown," Miller said. "The foundations of any church should be the word of God, fellowship, reaching the community and prayer."

The church spent two days preparing and cooking the community meal. Pastor Miller said they cooked enough food for over 200 people. One of the main forces behind this event is Diane Blair, president of the board of directors.

Blair has been attending the church for two years



"It was the Lord that put this on my heart," Blair said. "And everything that I envisioned, happened. I cannot express my thankfulness to all the workers. This is such an important part about being a Christian and our

PLEASE SEE MEAL | A9



JOLEE SKINNER | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER Locals flocked to the event to share a free Thanksgiving meal with family and friends.



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VOLUME 2, NUMBER 27 Local, zone(s) 2 sections, 20 pages

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Christmas on Main Street, a community tradition

ZACH FREEMAN

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AZLE - In Azle,Christmastime is full of rich traditions stretching back to the limits of living memory. This is especially true for the city's Main Street, which has long been the site of festivals, parades and other holiday activities for participants to enjoy. Based on past news articles, the works of local historian and former columnist J'Nell Pate and the Optimist Club of Azle, the Tri-County Reporter has assembled a rough history of Christmas goings-on in the community.

Since at least the 1930s, Azle has celebrated Christmas with a community tree. Back then, the tree would cycle between the

all ages in 2023.

three of the major churches in the area: Christian, Baptist and Methodist. It was up to parents and residents to ensure that each one of the town's children would have a present and a sack of fruit waiting for them under the tree on Christmas morning. This was possible with the city only having a few hundred residents at the time.

Today, Azle's Optimist Club echoes that tradition by lighting a Christmas tree outside of the Azle Historical Museum every year in December, in a convention that has lasted over 40 years. According to The Azle News-Advertiser in 1982, the Optimist Club began holding its yearly tree lighting after six Azle students presented the idea to the city's Parks

Board. Board members approved of the idea and along with the Optimist Club made the proposal a reality Dec. 11, 1982, by erecting a 30-foot fir tree in front of the Azle Historical Museum. The ceremony also saw a performance from the Azle High School Choir, a display created by the high school's art department and a skit featuring Santa put on by the drama department.

The Optimist Club of Azle claims that not long after its founding in 1979, Jackie Carpenter, who went on to be an Azle city council member, and other founding members of the club, brought Christmas cheer into their own hands. With funds being short in the organization's early days, they picked out the largest cedar tree they could remove from Carpenter's property and decided the Azle Historical Museum would be the perfect place for it, the club alleges. The Optimist Club also credits Helen Conwell Short, a longtime Azle resident, with expanding the tree-lighting event to include a parade and visits from Santa in 1995.

In the early 1980s, the Azle Chamber of Commerce celebrated Christmas with a Festival of Values and visits from Santa, who even arrived by helicopter in the parking lot of the old Mitchell's and Mvers on Industrial Avenue in one instance. In 1983, chamber members and Azle residents Lucille Maybery and Herman Younger worked together to organize Azle's first Christmas parade. The parade consisted of 30 entries, including a wagon pulled by



FILE PHOTO Right: This photo of a photo shows the one-ton oxen that were part of Azle's first Christmas parade in 1983.

a team of 10 one-ton steers that would later feature in Fort Worth's Fat Stock Show. A merchant contest drawing and an opportunity to meet Santa followed.

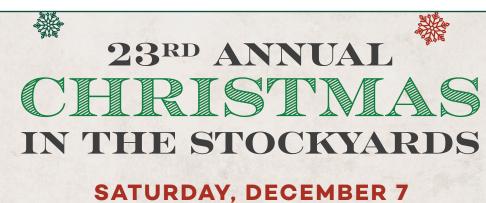
For their first few years, the Optimist Club tree lighting and the chamber of commerce parade often took place on different weekends in December. In the mid-'80s, the parade would sometimes be a part of the "Christmas in Azle, Yule Love It!" promotion put on by the



chamber and the Azle City Council. As late as 1987, the Optimist Club tree lighting would converge with "Yule Love It!" and the two organizations' Christmas activities have been closely intertwined since. In 2012, the Optimist Club again expanded the scope of the event by introducing a bicycle giveaway and kid activities at 404 Main Place.

This year, Azle Christmas on Main Street organizers plan to uphold new and old

traditions to spread holiday cheer Dec. 7. A variety of activities for families will be available on Main Street from noon to 7 p.m. Sponsored by the Optimist Club of Azle, the Azle Area Chamber of Commerce, the Azle Lions Club and the Tri-County Reporter, this year's theme is "Nutcracker Christmas." In the evening, dual Christmas tree lightings will be held at City Hall and the Azle Historical Museum.



KIM WARE | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER



The Optimist Club of Azle was pleased to donate 120 bikes to kids of



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Doesn't everybody collect something?

Seems like almost everyone collects something of some sort or another. My wife has a giant container full of old matchbooks she has been collecting for years, though since smoking has declined in popularity, it is harder and harder to find new additions. The matchbooks pretty much stay stored in the closet, but her collection of seashells is proudly displayed on the wall of our master bathroom. Her departed father helped her find most of the seashells, so I do understand why they are important to her.

My mother collected a type of antique glassware called Flow Blue. There is no telling how many dollars or how many miles she traveled seeking pieces to add to her treasure trove. It was a passion for her. Funny, she



was notoriously tight-fisted but when it came to Flow Blue, her pocketbook opened somewhat magically.

My Uncle John collected coins. My brother-in-law Steve collects Springfield rifles. Uncle Rich collected metal replicas of tractors. My Miss Jayne collected souvenir shot glasses. My colleague Paul Hyde collects Star Wars memorabilia. Others collect items as varied as old dental equipment, antique cookie cutters, gas station memorabilia or stuffed animals.

FROM MY FRONT PORCH By Sam Houston

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> It wasn't until I began researching in anticipation of writing this column that I learned there are people collecting some mighty strange stuff. One hospital I ran across has a collection of unusual items which have been removed from patients' throats and lungs. That collection includes dried beans, buttons, wooden matches, marbles, tiny toys and a host of other miscellaneous items.

I found another person who collects used concert ticket stubs. That music

lover has the ticket stub for every concert he has ever attended in his 71 years of life and now his collection tallies over 3,339 stubs. Anyone who went to that many concerts is certainly a genuine music aficionado! His collection is without a doubt a survey of how that collector spent his life.

When I was young, I collected baseball cards. I spent every nickel I could come across to buy baseball cards to get my "checklist" filled. To acquire more cards without spending money, neighborhood boys would "flip" baseball cards. This was a game attempting to match team colors of the various players. The winner got to take the pile of cards that had been put into play. It was a quick way to expand a collection. I kept my cards safely

of old, good for nothing baseball cards" and the cards ended up in the trash. I wondered what the box would be worth today. So why do people collect? Psychologists believe humans utilize collectables to connect to their childhood and the good memories that

reside in the past. Some want to gain knowledge and learn something new, yet others want the collection to be an investment that pays a dividend. I have never met a collector who did not seek that one item, overlooked by the rest of the world, that is worth tens of thousands of

dollars. It is the thrill of the

tucked into a couple of

old Styrofoam ice chests.

Somewhere along the line my

folks got tired of their stor-

age space being consumed

by what they called "a bunch

hunt; it is the ability to have something unique that other people are envious of.

As an adult, I do not believe I maintain any sort of collection. nor do I have any interest to start one. At this point, I have already collected a thousand memories. hundreds of disappointments, a couple of successes, and a few failures. I cherish them all and when I sit on my deck with drink in hand, watching as the sun goes down, my mind sometimes lingers on the memories and I realize living life is better than collecting it. And it takes up a whole lot less room in the house!

Thought for the day: Life consists not in holding good cards, but in playing well whatever cards you hold. Until next time...I will keep

ridin' the storm out!

A Couple of Good 'Uns ...

They are a lovable couple - Dr. Chris Liebrum and his wife, Cindy – known for quickly-triggered smiles, positive attitudes, deep faith and commitment to closeknit families.

Married for 52 years, they have reached highest peaks and navigated life's storms - shortening them when possible – confident of a safe arrival on the other side. They're the kind of folks whose company is treasured.

Cindy has earned "life of the party" status, laughing even cackling - all the way, sometimes way out on limbs. Comparatively, Chris is content in the shade of trees, maybe planting something to bloom later. In short, they personify the expression heard during long ago cattle drives: "They'll do to ride the river with." ...

They're proud of their sons, Cory and Clay, their



THE IDLE AMERICAN By Dr. Don Newbury

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daughters-in-law and their four grandchildren. Chris and Cindy, who met as students at Howard Payne University, carve out "family time" admirably. This was difficult to accomplish during Chris's schedule-packed profession al years of denominational leadership.

Even with their mid-70s now at hand, they press on, barely slowed in "semi-retirement." Chris works parttime for his alma mater. and still preaches often on Sundays throughout Texas.

former university president who is Texas' longest-running

They are beloved by every-

one, even friends with other religious beliefs or political leanings. I deeply value their friendship, these thoughtful, caring Christians. He is studied, his words carefully chosen when serious topics are broached. Cindy can be serious, too, but most friends can't remember the last time she was. She's always "at the ready" to snap pictures. Fact is, the camera strap marks formerly marking the back of her neck are slowly disappearing. Now, she values her smartphone, handy not only for "yakking" but also for

photography. Grandchildren are favorite targets, as are much else that moves, or for that matter — stands still

I joke with them endlessly, sometimes even jabbing a bit, and they jab back, particularly Cindy. She's a joyful soul, but probably would be a lousy poker player.

Chris, with quiet reserve and contemplation, can steer around most workaday challenges, two of which will be addressed in this column. To most people, they'll fit in the "minutia box," probably even at the very bottom.

Neither is mentioned critically, and typically broached jokingly. He can't pronounce "New Braunfels," and he's colorblind. (I don't intend to joke about his visual condition, but he does.).

First things first. Like television newsmen who never knew they'd need to pronounce "Uvalde" often until the shootings there, Chris never thought he'd need to pronounce - or try to pronounce — "New Braunfels" on a regular basis.

Not so fast! HPU has a branch campus there, so he's often involved in discussions that include the community's name. In the past, he's been able to "mumble through it,' or simply go ahead and pronounce it "New Braunsfel" or "New Braunsfels," like many others do. I have tried endlessly to help him conquer this slight pronunciational flaw, but so far have been unsuccessful. It's his "blind spot," so to speak, similar to my failure to understand the difference in "imply" and "infer."

Trying to do so makes my hair hurt .

Now, let's jump into his world which often isn't "black and white," but various other

shades and hues, most of which he has learned to live with.

He and Cindy are theatergoers, treasuring attendance at live productions like "Wicked," a Broadway hit that opened in 2003. They've seen it at least a half-dozen times on various stages, most recently at Dallas Summer Musicals. At intermission, he heard a lady seated behind him mention the green-colored witch, Elphaba. Puzzled, he turned to Cindy, expressing that he'd never realized the witch's greenish hue.

Chris is doubly careful at traffic lights, too. "I try to go with the flow," he says, "And I've learned that the shortest measurement of time is that brief moment between the light turning green and the horn honking behind me. Remember, I told you their

faults are few ...

City employees celebrate silver jubilees

ZACH FREEMAN

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AZLE — At a Nov. 19 Azle City Council meeting, Mayor Alan Brundrett recognized three city employees for 25 years of employment and dedication to Azle.

Azle firefighter/paramedic Cliff Porch was the first to be recognized for 25 years of employment with the city that evening. Notably, Porch

was a volunteer with the Azle Fire Department for about five years before he took a paid position.

"He's basically been here for 30 years, and that's just super special to us." Brundrett said. "I'm sure this guy can tell you all kinds of stories. The city hasn't always been in the shape that it is now. There were times that they were worried that the paychecks wouldn't clear, not a fantastic job.

on my watch, obviously, but you know, before me ... They stuck through it all, and this is us just showing our great appreciation."

Lt. John Behm was recognized for 25 years of employment with the city. Behm started out working in dispatch and now heads the city's emergency medical services where Will Scott, fire department chief, said he does

"John's not a stranger to leaky roofs and trash cans on desks, along with the old consoles, which were boxes instead of computers back in the day," Scott said. "Then pen and paper, also when the boxes didn't work, right? So, he's had lots of challenges to go with that. John actually started his career in the Colleyville area, and then transitioned over days of public safety and fortunate

enough for us, he was able to stick it out."

Described as the glue that holds the city of Azle together, Susie Hiles, assistant to the city manager, was recognized for 25 years of employment with the city.

"This person kind of holds everything together," Brundrett said. "Even though they might not have the title of city manager, if you talk to anybody here, they manage

the city."

Hiles started her career as an administrative assistant with the Azle Police Department. When Craig Lemin, former police chief then city manager, shifted into the administrative side of things, he brought Hiles with him and there she stayed even after Lemin's 2016 retirement.



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER Alan Brundrett with Susie Hiles at the Nov. 19 meeting.



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER Will Scott, Alan Brundrett and John Behm.



Will Scott, Alan Brundrett and Cliff Porch.

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SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Meals on Wheels expands kitchen at Azle AAC

JACKIE "JJ" JOY

Special to the Tri-County Reporter

AZLE — Did you know the City of Azle is contracted with Meals On Wheels to manage the Azle Adult Activity Center? Located in the B.J. Clark Community Center inside Ash Creek Park at 601 Southeast Parkway, programs, activities, socialization, bingo and special celebrations are planned throughout each month. Meals are served Monday through Friday and are prepared at the MOW central location in Haltom City. Delivered in insulated containers, meals are kept in a special "hot box" until the 11:30 a.m. serving time. Each meal meets the requirements set forth by the American Older American Act for nutrition.

In the last four years, Meals On Wheels has grown by 75% and currently provides



Staff members Colette Ashworth and Rebecca Lemuz inside the new AAC department of Meals On Wheels.

more than 2,000 meals a day to participants all around Tarrant County. Due to the growing need, a recent expansion of an additional 18,000 square feet was completed to the facility. This includes dedicated office space for the Adult Activity Centers operation.

Jackie Joy, director, attended the special ribbon cutting ceremony held Wednesday, Nov. 20. Many city and county officials and representatives from funding agencies were present along with the recently retired CEO Carla Justin, and many staff and volunteers. Tours were conducted through each area to see the impact this expansion will have on the operations.

In the kitchen, a muchneeded expansion was made with the addition of the freezer and cooler areas. Now, the kitchen staff will be making changes and move into their additional area Monday, Dec. 9. With this and other moves happening, MOW will be closed and there will be no meals on that day. Because of this closure, the

Azle Adult Activity Center will not be open for any activities or meals Dec. 9. Anyone wishing to order a meal for Tuesday, Dec. 10 is asked to let us know by 9:30 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 6. Just call 817-444-0070 or come by the center.

Thursday, Nov. 21 was Thanksgiving at the center. Meals On Wheels' menu was one of the people's favorite, hamburgers. Instead of having the announced potluck, Building for the F

COURTESY PHOTO

In center: Marcus Rockwell, recently retired President and CEO Carla Justin, and cutting the ribbon is new President and CEO Alissa Deaton.

it was decided folks would bring chips, dip/salsa, desserts or any other item they wanted to go with the burgers. There were puzzles and games to generate conversation at each table and of course, bingo!

Joyce Spikes with MSA Insurance Advisors comes once a month to do some exercises for us on the first Thursday of each month. In December, she will also be doing music bingo and providing prizes. This is a fun time you will not want to miss.

We at the Azle AAC are excited to announce the new leaders of our weekly Bible Study. Teresa Davis and Sharon Taylor are go-teachers of this nondenominational study. Using the Bible as their text and welcoming open discussion, this is one of the more popular activities. Meeting in the "common room," men and women are welcome to join at 10 a.m. Tuesdays. Coffee is provided and sometimes snacks.

The 2024 Christmas Party is scheduled to start at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 11. There will be "Singing with Santa" karaoke, a potluck meal and photos with Santa. Everyone wanting to participate in the gift exchange is asked to bring a gift of \$7 or less. Thank you to the Mears family for providing the music.

All people aged 60 or older are welcome to come be a part of the Azle Adult Activity Center. Active members benefit from services offered by Meals On Wheels. For further information, please feel free to contact us at 817-444-0070 or come by the center at 601 Southeast Parkway. Or go to cityofazle. org to see our schedule of activities and menu.

Please note: the Ash Creek Park address is 605 Southeast Parkway,as noted on the sign. However, the Azle AAC is at 601 Southeast Parkway in the B.J. Clark Community Center building inside the park.

COURTESY PHOTO

November Young Texans named by Optimists

STAFF REPORT

AZLE — During a Nov. 22 meeting, the Optimist Club of Azle introduced its Young Texan and Young Texanne for the month of November: Mason Jennings and Monica responsible. She is involved in varsity cheerleading and will participate in this year's University Interscholastic League's Spirit competition. Martinez enjoys reading and music and she has worked as standing and making the varsity baseball team as a junior last year. Jennings describes himself as compassionate, persistent and fit.

"I work to find the truth behind everything that I am



Martinez.

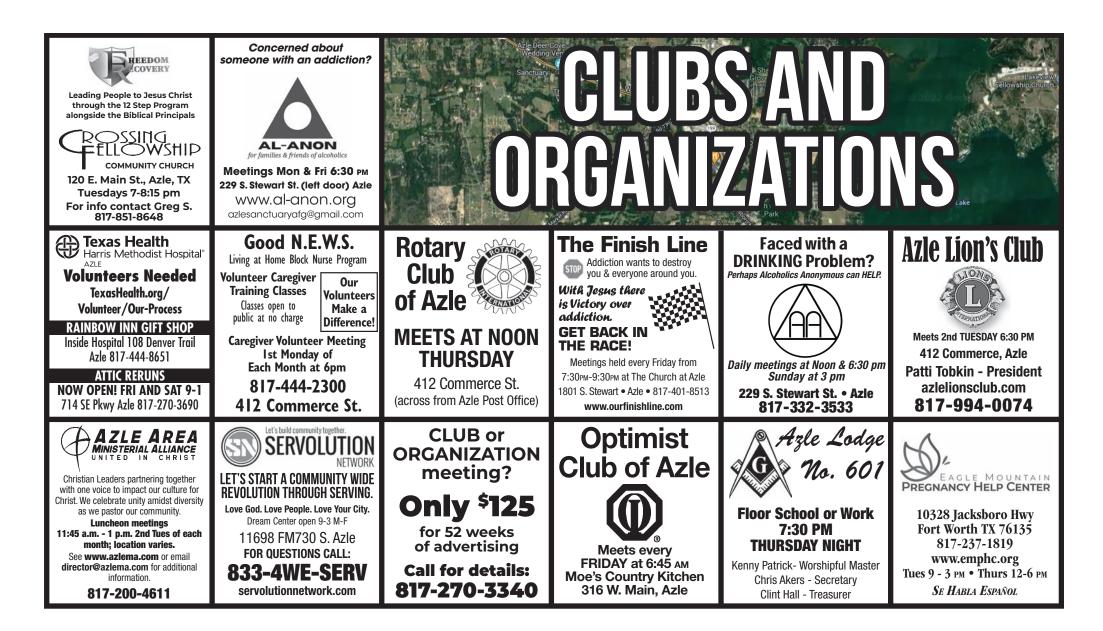
Monica Martinez is the daughter of Sandra Rangel and Eric Rangel. She is ranked 19th in the Azle High School Senior class with a grade point average of 101.85. After high school, Martinez hopes to pursue careers in real estate, business or as a radiology technologist. She is proud of her academic standing which she attributes to being good at learning and retaining information. Martinez describes herself as passionate, independent and

a barista, hostess, babysitter and has done social media for Stella Jets.

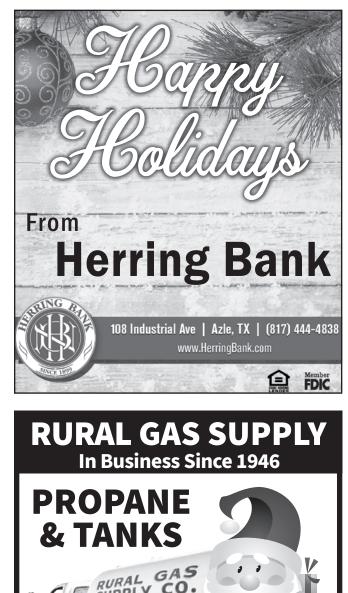
Mason Jennings is the son of Corbett and Elizabeth Jennings. He is ranked 20th in his class with a GPA of 101.84. Jennings hopes to attend Abilene Christian University, East Texas Baptist University or John Brown University for degrees in management, administration or theology to pursue a career in business, church leadership or government. He is proud of his academic presented," Jennings wrote in a recommendation form. "A weakness that I have is sometimes I have trouble getting across my thoughts or ideas without seeming blunt."

Jennings is involved in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and is on the All-Academic Team for baseball. Along with sports and church, he is involved in volunteering with Servolution Network, enjoys traveling and working on his family's farm during the summer.

AHS Principal Nate Driver, Monica Martinez, Mason Jennings and Optimist Club of Azle President Chance Kidd.









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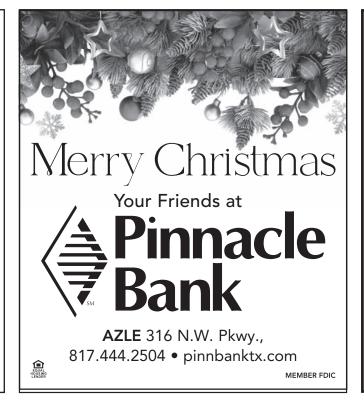
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OBITUARIES

Peggy Ruth Carpenter 1942 - 2024

Our beloved Peggy Ruth Carpenter passed away peacefully at her home in Azle Saturday, Nov. 23, 2024, surrounded by her loving family.

Visitation was from 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 26 at White's Funeral Home, 105 Denver Trail, Azle.

A graveside service to celebrate Peggy's life was at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 27 at Veal Station Cemetery.

Peggy was born Dec. 3, 1942 in Fort Worth, daughter of Jimmy Mitchell and Maurine Evelyn (Tucker) Dalton. Peggy lived a remarkable life filled with grace, love and dedication to her family and community.

Peggy was married to the love of her life, Jackie Carpenter, for 60 wonderful years. Together, they built a legacy of faith, love and hard work that continues to inspire all who knew them. Peggy was the proud and devoted mother of four beautiful children: John, Jim, Tim and Christy.

Her life was a testament to selflessness and creativity. Peggy dedicated herself to her family, her community, and her cherished Sunday school class, which she faithfully taught for more than 50 years at Ash Creek Baptist Church. A gifted artist, Peggy expressed her vibrant spirit through her paintings and creative works. She also played an integral role in the family business, Rural Gas Supply, contributing her time and talents since the



mid-1970s.

Peggy shared a lifelong bond with her best friends, Brenda, Scottie and Sammie, whose friendship brought her so much joy and laughter over the years.

Peggy was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Jackie Carpenter.

She is survived by her children, John Carpenter and his wife, Kim, Jim Carpenter and his wife, Lynne, Tim Carpenter and his wife, Kathy, and Christy Ross and her husband, John; sister, Betsy, and her husband, Wayne; nine grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and her nieces and nephews, all of whom brought her immense pride and joy. Her love, faith and wisdom will continue to guide them for generations to come.

Peggy's legacy of love, creativity and devotion will forever live in the hearts of all who had the privilege of knowing her.

> The Tri-County Reporter, *Thursday Dec. 5, 2024*

James "Kirk" Edwards 1955 - 2024

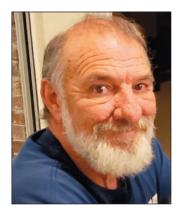
James "Kirk" Edwards, a man of immense kindness, patience and devotion, passed away Nov. 26, 2024, surrounded by family. His legacy lives on in the love he gave, the lives he touched. and the values he instilled. He will be missed tremendously.

Visitation will be 1-2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 6, at Azle & Lake Worth Funeral Home Chapel, 850 N. Cardinal Road, Azle, TX 76060. Funeral service will follow at 2 p.m. More information may be available at azlefuneralhome.com.

Kirk was born Nov. 13, 1955, in Abilene.

He was preceded in death by his parents, daughter Shannon, son David Pearson Sr., and granddaughter Kenna Lane.

Kirk is survived by his loving wife of 37 years, Cheryle Edwards; his sons, Michael Lane and wife Angie, Dan Pearson Jr. and wife



Stephanie, Chris Edwards and wife Erin, Dustin Pearson and wife Leah, and Jeremy Edwards; sister Sherri Spindor and husband James: brother Ken Edwards and wife Lynn; eight grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and countless family and friends.

> The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday Dec. 5, 2024



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Lake Worth robber sentenced to 15 years in prison

JOLEE SKINNER

jolee@tricountyreporter.com

LAKE WORTH — On Nov. 21, Dayton Gannon, 26, was sentenced to 15 years in prison for aggravated robbery, a felony in the first degree.

The aggravated robbery took place July 10, 2023, when Gannon walked into Quick Wash Laundromat and proceeded to steal Eduardo Vazquez' clothes and wear them. When Vazquez noticed Gannon doing this, he tried to confront him but was quickly threatened with a knife.

"We would like to thank the Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney's Office for their support of our zerotolerance policy on violent crime," Lake Worth PRO team said. "Crimes like this are very rare in our community, but when they happen, we take swift and decisive action to ensure those responsible are arrested and held accountable for their actions."

"We would like to thank our officers and detectives who put together a solid case and did a fantastic job providing their testimony during trial," Lake Worth PRO team said. "Our mission presiding as judge.



PHOTO COURTESY TARRANT COUNTY **Dayton Gannon**

is to create a safe environment where life and commerce thrive. Our community is safer following this conviction and sentence."

When Gannon was originally indicted, he pleaded not guilty. He was found guilty at trial and sentenced by a Tarrant County jury. Following his conviction, Gannon is currently appealing the jury's findings. Gannon is a repeat offender with this case being his second felony. The prosecution of this case was administrated by Assistant District Attorneys Neal Marranto and John Kleinwachter with the honorable George Gallagher

Clark appointed to parks and rec board

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

AZLE - David "Mickey" Clark was unanimously appointed to the Azle Parks and Recreation board Place 4 during a Nov. 19 Azle City Council meeting. Clark is a longtime Azle resident and was already well known by many of the councilmembers.

"I am interested in serving on the City of Azle's Parks and Recreation Board to support the enhancement of our community's recreational spaces and programs, making them accessible, enjoyable and reflective of Azle's unique character," Clark said in an application for the board seat. "With a commitment to fostering a healthy, vibrant community, I hope to contribute my skills and insight to strengthen our parks,



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER David "Mickey" Clark at the Nov. 19 meeting.

promote outdoor activities, and ensure that these spaces serve the needs of all residents. Serving in this role would be a valuable way to give back to the city and help shape Azle's natural and recreational resources for future generations. I have over 20 years of experience in construction management/design focused on electrical services. I'm also familiar with the community and its needs as I've been a longtime Azle resident."





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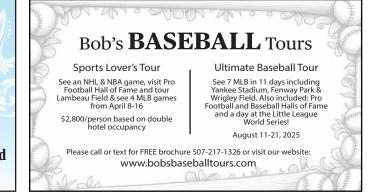




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THE ABBEY CHURCH Pastor: Paul Brownback 10400 Jacksboro Hwy 817-238-1404 www.TheAbbeyChurch.com Morning Worship...... 10:30 AM Community Groups Various Times **ASH CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**

Pastor: Dr. G. Wesley Shotwell 300 South Stewart St. 817-444-3219

www.ashcreekbc.org

Sunday School 9:30 A	١M
Contemporary Worship-TMP 10:45 #	٩M
Traditional Worship10:45 #	٩M
Evening Worship/Youth Refuge 6:00 F	М
Wednesday Evening6:15 F	PM

A7I F FIRST ASSEMBLY of GOD

AZLE FINƏT AƏƏEINIDLI ULUUD					
Rev. Joshua Lowrance					
1020 S.E. Parkway, Azle 817-237-4903					
Sunday School9:30 AM					
Morning Worship10:30 AM					
Wednesday Evening7:00 PM					
COMMUNITY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH					
Pastor - Alton Davis 817-521-4510					
cbfazle.org					
1405 Reynolds Rd., Azle					
Directions: 730 N. to 1542 .5 mi. right					
on Cardinal, left on Reynolds					
Sunday Service11:00 AM					
Wednesday Evening6:30 PM					

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST Interim Minister Rev. Russell Clark, Family Life Minister Emerson Braun 117 Church St. • 817-444-3527 Sunday School.....10:00 AM Morning Worship......11:00 AM **CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH** 2233 Hwy 199 E., Springtown 817-221-LIFE (5433) Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM Wednesday......7:00 рм **CROSSROADS BAPTIST CHURCH** Pastor - Jon Baker Corner FM 730S & FM 1886 817-755-0279 Transportation Available

Worship Service......10:30 AM Wed. Prayer Service......7:00 PM

THE EDGE CHURCH - AZLE 1313 S.E. Pkwy, Azle 817-237-4822

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

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

GRACEPOINTE CHURCH 4110 E. Hwy 199, Springtown Pastor: Timothy McKeown 817-221-5683 gracepointesbc.org Sunday School9:45 am Sunday Service......11:00 AM

Wednesday Bible Study6:00 PM HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH 800 Highcrest Dr. - Azle 817-444-3063 Saturday......5:00 PM Sunday9:00 AM Sunday11 AM (Spanish)

Daily Mass (M, T, Th, F)8:00 AM Wednesday Mass Religious ED 6:30 PM Confessions Sat 4 рм

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

4795 E. Hwy 199 - Reno 817-221-HOPE Follow us on Facebook for streaming services Sunday School......9:00 AM Traditional Service 10:00 AM

SOLID BOCK BIBLE CHURCH

JULID NUUK DIDLE UI	IUNCA
591 S. Reno Rd, , Springtown,	Texas 76082
Pastor - Bill Gay - 817-3	04-7443
Coffee and Donuts	9:00 ам
Sunday School	9:30 ам
Morning Worship	10:30 ам
Children's Church After Mu	sic Service
Wed. Prayer Meeting	6:30 рм
Wed Rible Study	7.00 pm

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

THE RANCH CHRISTIAN COWBOY CHURCH Pastor: Greg Slankard 7955 Reed Rd., Azle 682-327-7082

www.TheRanchCCC.org Sunday School 9:30 AM • Worship 10:00 AM Weds 7:00 pm • Thurs Potluck 6:30 pm **SILVER CREEK METHODIST CHURCH** Pastor: Bill Killough 2200 Church Rd., Azle 817-444-1382 www.silvercreekmc.org Sunday School 9:30 AM • Worship 10:30 AM SILVER CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH Pastor: Jay Ditty Minister of Music: David Musick

Corner FM 730 S. & Veal Station Rd. Church 817-444-2325 www.silvercreekbc.org Sunday School

Morning Worship10:50 AM	(6th-12th grades) 6:30 PM
Evening Worship6:00 PM	Awana Kids at the WORD 6:30 PM
Wed. Prayer Service7:00 PM	Life at the WORD Life Groups Various Times

THE WORD@LAKESIDE CHURCH OF GOD 9396 FM 1886 Fort Worth, TX 76135 817-237-5500 thewordatlakeside.com Pastors: Brandon and Kelly Bohannon Worship Pastor: Christen Moody Family Life and Young Adult Pastors: Jodie and Mark James, Kids Pastor: Katie Pearson, Student Pastors: Taylor and Sheridan Tomlin, Creative Directors: Logan and Carrie Edwards, Connections Coordinators: Preston and Ashley Larrew Equip Sunday School at the WORD 9:30 AM Empower Worship at the WORD 10:45 AM Kids at the WORD..... 10:45 AM PreK at the WORD 10:45 AM Emanate at the WORD (Special Needs Ministry) 10:45 AM Nursery at the WORD 10:45 AM Young Adults at the WORD 6:00 PM Wednesdays 9.45 AM The WORD Students des)..... 6:30 PM

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

AZLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

A Cowboy Christmas in Springtown



Last year's Western Star Cowboy Church Christmas Maze event. Pictured are Tracie Lovett, left, and Lori Joyal.

Western Star Cowboy Church holds annual giant maze event this Christmas

JOLEE SKINNER jolee@tricountyreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN -- The Western Star Cowboy Church is set to host its fifth annual western Christmas-themed event this Sunday off County Road 3696. The objective is to celebrate the story of Christ and the event has become a memorable event for the cowboy community.

The event, created by horse rider Renee Loper, is about a maze designed to narrate the story of Jesus Christ's birth, ending in a live nativity scene. Nita King is the activities coordinator who helps construct the entirety of the event.

"She (Renee) had this mission that she wanted to construct a maze that told the story of Christ," King said. "And at each turn of the maze, that's what this is. It is you walk the maze and it is the story of Christ. And the at the end of the maze is the live nativity."

This Christmas event shows the church's commitment to the community. Although it's organized by the Western Star Cowboy Church, the goal is to share the story of Christ rather

than solely promoting the church.

"This event is about more than just our church," King said. "It's about fellowship, family and sharing the story of Christ."

The event will have a range of activities for people of all ages. King has organized games such as a "cake walk," now known as musical chairs, for the kids by using saddles instead of chairs. There will be scavenger hunts using tokens, face painting and other cowboy-themed activities.

For all the horse owners in Springtown, this event is also catered to them as well.

"The (way the) first two hours are designed, we have it set up for people that have horses," King said. "They can bring their horses and they go through an obstacle course. And they can also go through the maze. We set it up to where it's horse friendly.

The time slot for horses will be from 2:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m.

This western event will also have a hayride across the church's seven-acre property and the church's brand-new cafe that will have baked

goods and free refreshments.

"We want people to feel the spirit of Christ through this event," King said. "It's about coming together in fellowship, whether you're a member of our church or not. It's not about the number of people who come, it's about the impact it has on their hearts."

Despite the challenges from the pandemic, the Western Star Cowboy Church has continued to grow under the leadership of Pastor Bobby Bowden. Bowden is known as the "miracle man" for his perseverance in battling cancer. Bowden was also a founding member of the church in 2010.

And when the holidays are over, this church is already thinking about how to top it next year.

"We started putting things into action in October," King said. "But for the most part," we start thinking about next year as soon as this one's over and we get it cleaned up."

The fifth annual Christmas Maze will be held Dec. 8 with free admission. For more information, go to www.westernstarcowboychurch.com or visit its Facebook page.

Springtown's Old-Fashioned Christmas due Dec. 14

City administrator gives background and updates on the anticipated Christmas event

JOLEE SKINNER

jolee@tricountyreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — For years now, the City of Springtown has hosted its annual Old-Fashioned Christmas. This cherished event brings the Springtown community together and offers a festive, family-friendly, Christmas atmosphere. As Springtown grows, Assistant City Administrator Christina Derr says the town is committed to keeping that small-town feel, while providing an event our animal control officers,

together the community for the holidays.

"Our events committee, which includes employees from various departments across the city, works together to ensure everything runs smoothly," Derr said. "Committee members include our library director, our public works coordinator and public works director as well as other public works staff, our human resources plus finance manager, me and (City Administrator) David Miller, that residents can enjoy every police officers, court person nel, our museum coordinator, to 2,000 people with similar utility billing staff and our development staff." This year's Old-Fashioned Christmas is set to be another exciting event for the whole family with activities like ice skating, a 16-foot double slide, an alpine inflatable slide and a petting zoo. For younger children, there will be a gingerbread bounce house, face painting plus arts and crafts. Santa will arrive

from the North Pole for photos and performances will take place on the Tabernacle stage.

"This year we are adding a feature that will be available from the night of the parade daily until the new year," Derr said. "The gazebo at Optimist Park will be decorated and be free to use as a backdrop for family Christmas photos."

The event will also include 100 vendors, a wide variety of food and holiday-themed goods.

The Christmas event is expected to bring in 1,500



Christmas.

"The main objective is to foster a sense of community and give back to our residents," Derr said. "It's a wonderful way to keep our homey, small-town feel alive and thriving."

While the original founder of the event is unknown, Derr spoke to the driving force behind the festivities, with each year's planning committee having the goal of bringing

numbers anticipated for the parade. The city measures the success of the event by the continued growth each year.

"We're proud that the event continues to grow year after year," Derr said. "It's a sign that it's become a beloved tradition for the community." Feedback from past attend-

ees has been very positive over the years with many lo-

MADELYN EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER Santa Claus takes a picture with 9-month-old Emberlee Davis and multiple other children during Old-Fashioned Christmas Dec. 9, 2023 in the Springtown Square.

cals showing gratitude for the memories for families in our city's commitment to putting on holiday events.

"The smiles on the faces of the kids are worth all the hard work," Derr said. "It's truly heartwarming to know that we're creating lasting

community. We want people to come together, enjoy each other's company and create lasting memories with their families. It's what makes our community special." **Old-Fashioned Christmas**

will be Dec. 14 at the Springtown Square and Optimist Park from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. Admission is free; to learn about opportunities to volunteer or sponsor, contact Rachele Ortega at rortega@cityofspringtown.com



Motorcycle ride honors daughter, spreads fentanyl awareness

JOLEE SKINNER

jolee@tricountyreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — Springtown local Brad Baltzell hosted the first annual "Alyssa's Ride," part of The Alyssa Project, Saturday, Nov. 30 to honor all those lost to fentanyl and to raise awareness of growing numbers of deaths related to fentanyl.

Baltzell recently started a nonprofit organization called The Alyssa Project, named after his daughter who tragically passed away Nov. 29, 2020, at 19 years old from fentanyl poisoning. The Alyssa Project

Father shares jarring statistics

works in conjunction with We Are Our Brother's Keeper, another nonprofit started by Jessica Castro bringing awareness to drug addiction and overdose prevention.

The reason behind the motorcycle ride is a couple of months before Alyssa passed away, Baltzell had bought a Harley-Davidson motorcycle after not having ridden one in 30 years. Alyssa wanted to ride the motorcycle with her dad, but Baltzell wanted to

get used it riding the bike before he let his daughter on it. "I didn't get to give her that

ride," Baltzell said. "That's how this came about. I thought, 'Why not put together a motorcycle ride?' This raises awareness about the fentanyl crisis in this country. It is the number one leading killer of kids in this country. And it's killing off our kids at epidemic rate."

The bike ride started at Prodigy Cycles off State



Baltzell talking to the big group of people that showed up for Alyssa's Ride.

Highway 199 at 11:45 a.m. The bikers rode to Weatherford, then Mineral Wells and then back to Springtown. An old friend of Alyssa's, Kinnedy Walker, showed up to the event wearing Alyssa's high school band jacket in support of the motorcycle ride. Baltzell also shared that he puts a little guardian bell on his bike that Alyssa had purchased for him just before she died.

"That's why I named this Alyssa's Ride, because Alyssa gets to ride with me on this every year," Baltzell said. "I'm wearing her banner jacket every time. Her guardian bell is on my bike. But it's not about bringing recognition and glory to my daughter. It's about bringing awareness of the fentanyl crisis."

Baltzell said all the money from the ride will go toward drug awareness groups and he hopes that one day, Alyssa's Ride will start a trend.

"The money that's raised from Alyssa's Ride will all go to nonprofit drug awareness groups or drug rehab groups," Baltzell said. "And, if this thing went national, it would be so awesome to see different chapters Nov. 30 every year, doing a ride." Baltzell reflected on his

daughter's passing, saying he misses her every day. "I can't believe four years

have already gone by, but



JOLEE SKINNER | TRI-COUNTY REPORTED Brad Baltzell and Kinnedy Walker in front of Baltzell's motorcycle.



The Harley-Davidson motorcycle Brad Baltzell bought a few months before his daughter, Alyssa, passed away.

it seems like an eternity since I've got to talk to her," Baltzell said. "I miss her, but I'm proud of what she's achieving through her life for a short time." Since The Alyssa Project is in the early stages of development, follow We Are Our Brother's Keeper on Facebook for more updates. If you are struggling or know anyone struggling with addiction, call 313-217-3081.

LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the City of Pelican Bay, Texas Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on December 18, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall, 1300 Pelican Circle, Pelican Bay, Texas to consider the following: Preliminary Plat Application No. 2024-01, by Friendly Acres Quality Homes, LLC to plat a development of 57 lots for residential located at 149 Richard Lane and 1 lot for commercial located at 10925 to 10945 Liberty School Road on a 12.479 acre parcel of land. Property is within the corporate limits of Pelican Bay, Texas, being part of the Jacob Wilcox Survey, Abstract 1713 in the City of Pelican Bay, Tarrant County, Texas. Public Comment: All interested parties are invited to attend the public hearing and provide comments regarding the proposed preliminary plat. Written comments may be submitted to Cynthia Daniels at cdaniels@pelicanbaytx.gov prior to the hearing.

Review Documents: The preliminary plat application and supporting documents are available for review at 1300 Pelican Circle, Pelican Bay, Texas during regular business hours. Contact Information: For further information, please contact Cynthia Daniels, City Secretary, at 817-444-1234 or cdaniels@pelicanbaytx.gov

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the City of Pelican Bay, Texas Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on December 18, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall, 1300 Pelican Circle, Pelican Bay, Texas to consider a proposed zoning change for the property located at 10925 to 10945 Liberty School Road, currently zoned as Single-Family 2 (SF-2), to Commercial 1 (C-1). All interested parties are invited to attend and provide comments. For further information, please contact Cynthia Daniels, City Secretary at 817-444-1234 or by email at cdaniels@ pelicanbaytx.gov.

Fentanyl kingpin arrested after SPD-involved investigation

and federal law enforcement

STAFF REPORT

SPRINGTOWN — Sergio Valente Snider, a confirmed Crips gang member, was arrested by Parker County Sheriff's Special Crimes Unit following up on a case where the Springtown Police Department seized 20 grams of fentanyl. According to a Dec. 3 press release, SCU investigators were able to identify the supplier and source of the seized fentanyl who is also known for his drug distribution operation in the Fort Worth area. As the case investigation developed, SCU investigators collaborated with Homeland Security Investigations Fort Worth Gangs and Violent Crimes, Fort Worth Police, Texas Department of Public Safety and Mid Cities Narcotics Task Force targeting Snider's drug trafficking organization. Over the past several months, city, county, state

investigators were able to facilitate multiple undercover purchases of suspected fentanyl pills directly from Snider's organization resulting in the seizure of 350 grams of suspected fentanyl or a combined total of about 3,500 pills. On Oct. 16, local and federal authorities conducted an enforcement operation resulting in the arrest of Snider regarding violations of federal law concerning illegal fentanyl distribution. "The success of this operation is a direct result of our partnership with multijurisdictional agencies including Homeland Security Investigations Task Force," Parker County Sheriff Russ Authier said. "This operation required months of cooperative efforts with several local agencies. We would like to extend our gratitude for these partnerships to the Texas



THE STATE OF TEXAS CITATION BY PUBLICATION CAUSE NO. 24P456

In the Matter of the Estate of Christopher Austin Zachary aka Chris Austin Zachary, Deceased TO ALL UNKNOWN OR MISSING HEIRS OF THE ESTATE OF

CHRISTOPHER AUSTIN ZACHARY AKA CHRIS AUSTIN ZACHARY, DECEASED Clinton Heath Carlisle in the above-numbered and entitled estate filed an Application to Determine Heirship and for Independent Administration and Letters of Administration Pursuant to Section 401.003 of the Texas Estates Code on 11/15/2024 In the Estate of Christopher Austin Zachary aka Chris Austin Zachary, Deceased, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of Christopher Austin Zachary aka Chris Austin Zachary, Deceased, and their respective shares and interest in such estate, and appointing Clinton Heath Carlisle to serve as the Independent Administrator of said estate and Determined Heirship.

The court may act on said application at any call of the docket on or after 10:00 o'clock A.M. on the first Monday next after the expiration of 10 days from the date of publication of this citation, at the Parker County Court, One Courthouse Square, Weatherford, TX 76086 in Parker County, Texas.

All persons interested in this case are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court by filing a written contest or answer to said Application before the above stated time and date should you desire to do so. To ensure its consideration, you or your attorney must file any contest, objection, intervention, or response in writing with the County Clerk of Parker County, Texas on or before the above noted date and time.

Given under my hand and the seal of said Court of Parker County, Texas at the office of the Parker County Clerk, on this 15th day of November, 2024.

LILA DEAKLE County Clerk, Parker County Texas Jennifer S. Ruelas 1020 Fort Worth HWY STE 500 Weatherford TX 76086

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE:

On December 20th at 8:00 am, A&A Mobile Homes Transport Inc. will be holding a public auction on the home listed below. Any persons with any interest in this home needs to contact our office at 817-237-1370. The sale will be held at 12125 Jacksboro Hwy. Fort Worth, TX. 76135.2000 CMH MANUFACTURING INC. 16X68 HUD #HWC0295963 SERIAL #CBH0008953TX FRANCISCO RESENDIZ TENNANT IN HOME LETRINA ROUTT AND ALL OTHER OCCUPANTS

Miriah Elizabeth Crenshaw is the legal and equitable owner of the property 4201 Glengate Ct, Arlington, Texas 76016. All sales of said property are null and void and subject to adverse claim. Contact Miriah at 972-802-2416

PUBLIC NOTICE TEXAS HEALTH HARRIS METHODIST HOSPITAL AZLE NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF HILL BURTON UNCOMPENSATED SERVICES

Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Azle, Azle, Texas will provide from January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025 at least \$100,000 of Hill Burton uncompensated services. Inpatient services of the facility will be available on a first request, first served basis to eligible persons who are unable to pay for hospital services until this hospital's annual compliance level is met. Eligibility for uncompensated services will be limited to persons whose family income is not more than (Category A) of the current poverty income guidelines established by the Department of Health and Human Services. A person whose family income is above, but less than double the poverty guidelines (Category B) will be eligible for a 50% reduction from the usual Inpatient hospital services. This notice is in accordance with 42 CFR 124.504 Notice of Availability of Uncompensated Services. We invite interested parties to comment on the allocation plan; 108 Denver Trail, Azle, Texas 76020. 817-444-8600.

TRI+COUNTY **Reporter**

COURTESY PHOTO Sergio Valente Snider, age 37.

Department of Public Safety, Mid Cities Narcotics Task Force, Springtown and Fort Worth Police Departments."

Snider remains in federal custody in the Johnson County Jail. The case has been filed federally and is pending federal prosecution under the northern district.

Weatherford

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Hamming it up

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

AZLE — For the second year in a row, the Azle High School FFA gifted hams to local first responders for Thanksgiving. On Wednesday, Nov. 20, FFA officers and advisors distributed 103 hams to the Azle Fire Department, Azle Police Department, Tarrant County Sheriff's Office and Azle Independent School District Police Department.

"It's just nice to do this for our community," junior and Azle FFA President Drake Chavez said. "It only helps. It doesn't really take that much away from our chapter. It's just a nice thank you thing to our community. We're thank-

Azle FFA gifts meats to Azle Fire and Police departments

ing them for all the hard work more Caine Stepich, vice they put in. I know, especially, like these firefighters, they risk their lives a lot to go save people from burning buildings and not just burning buildings. I know they go to a lot of other things, too, like car crashes and stuff, but they risk their lives every day. So, it's a good thank you, definitely. And I'm sure they'll appreciate it."

The hams were sourced through Seitz, which the FFA uses to sell meats, sweets and more for its annual fundraiser. Chavez, along with sophopresident, sophomore Chloe Wimbish, reporter, sophomore Jeariel Arroyo Martinez, sentinel, junior Caden Coyx, freshman Tucker Merck, sophomore Brylee Kittrell, and advisors Courtney Weeks, Bradley Merck and Elizabeth Slough visited locations throughout Azle and Lake Worth to make the deliveries. "It feels great," said Azle

Police Officer Paul Booker. "I thank you all for taking the time out to donate this. This is, I believe, the second year that y'all have done that, and



Azle firefighters pose with FFA officers and their hams Nov. 20.

it's, it's really appreciated. We department, and we appreciappreciate what the school ate all the students that Azle district is doing for the police has in the district. We're always appreciative for every gift that we get around this time of year."

MEAL FROM PAGE A1

church."

Pastor Miller gave a little bit of his background and how he got started. He's originally from Amarillo and has been pastoring Sunset Church for a year-and-a-half. Miller said moving to the area and seeing the fellowship in this small town has been amazing.

"I just love the community of this small town, it's just beautiful." Miller said. "Our team just loves the community and our motto is 'come as you are when you're here in your family."

The menu for this meal was deep fried turkey with stuffing, green beans and all the loved thanksgiving classics. Miller also shared that the leftover food would go to the food bank that the church started. This is a mission the church invests in and actively participates in every week.

Miller shared his vision for the future of Springtown and how the area is going to become more diverse.

"My goal and my hope are that anybody that moves to this area can know that they can find a church where they will be welcomed," Miller said. "And we're going to give the truth of God's word, but this area is going to become



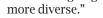
Locals flocked to the event to share a free Thanksgiving meal with family and friends.



Plates of food were distributed to guests who came to the event.







Diane Blair and her husband Chuck Blair.

Pastor Damien Miller talking with folks who came to the community meal event.



In need of stuffing



Volunteers prepack carts for easier distribution.

LILY HUDMAN |TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

The impacts of growing demand at the *Community Caring Center*

LUKE PETERSEN

On Commerce Street, tucked in near the U.S. Post Office, the Community Caring Center hands out food to those around Azle who need it.

"We're open Monday through Friday, and families that come through our line are able to come once a month," CCC Director Kristie Cooper said. "We know that what we give them at pickup is not enough to last a whole month, but the goal is to supplement what they might spend in a week and give them a little relief during their grocery shopping."

Recently though, the food supplies are struggling to keep up with the growing demand as more people require the extra help that the CCC provides. Cooper

and the CCC used to make special packages for families throughout the holiday season, but because of these ongoing shortages, now the center can only offer regular services.

"So far in 2024 our consistent average is over 1,700 people," Cooper said. "Our busiest times are always November and December. And of course, it's hard this year telling them we're not doing a Christmas box or anything extra."

During the last couple of years, inflation rates have continued to rise and, according to Cooper, so has the amount of people utilizing the CCC to help ease the stress of food insecurity.

"We didn't see this record amount of growth during COVID," Cooper said.

"Groceries are expensive. Gas is more. Every bill that our families pay costs more right now, so I think that's why we're seeing that growth."

The CCC isn't alone in its struggle; several small businesses and nonprofit organizations have begun shutting down or rolling back programs in order to survive. With a small staff of roughly eight people, the CCC itself is forced to rely on the help of a team of volunteers.

"I have always loved nonprofits," Cooper said. "I think you've just got to have a heart to want to serve, it's meaningful work. Most of our volunteers here would say the same thing, they enjoy giving back and feeling like they served a purpose."

Four AHS students honored by Azle Rotary Club

STAFF REPORT

AZLE — Four Azle High School seniors were recognized for their academic and extracurricular accomplishments at the Nov. 7 luncheon meeting of the Rotary Club of Azle. Addison Mistic, Brooke Maples, Eviana Quillin and Madison Martin-Wallace were selected as Rotary's November students of the month.

BROOKE MAPLES

Brooke Maples is the daughter of Nicole Maples. She is ranked 17th in her class with a grade point average of 102.37. Maples is interested in attending Brigham Young University to study fields related to human services, childcare, dental care and healthcare.

She lists the grades she made in her OnRamps classes last year and in her AP test scores and extracurricular achievements as some of her greatest academic accomplishments.

"I finished all my OnRamps classes with 90% and above on the college side and I earned my second 4 on an AP test (I've only taken two),"

eldest of six children, she said she has developed a lot of patience. She has participated in track, cross country, the VASE art competition and plans to join the National Honor Society. Maples is also involved in clubs such as Interact and Bridges. She is a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints where she volunteers for the community.

MADISON MARTIN-WALLACE

Madison Martin-Wallace is the daughter of Carter Martin. She is ranked 16th in her class with a GPA of 102.42. She hopes to pursue a career in dentistry after high school. She is proud of having four certifications including a being a certified nursing assistant. Martin-Wallace is also proud of being the high school swim team's manager, doing well academically and her volunteer work. Regarding her greatest personal qualities, Martin-Wallace said she used to be shy but has become more outgoing after working in customer service. She describes herself as intelligent, kind and open, saying that



Rotary president Bob Buckel along with Azle High School seniors Addison Mistic, Brooke Maples, Eviana Quillin, Madison Martin-Wallace and Principal Nate Driver at a Nov. 7 Rotary Club of Azle luncheon.

Maples said. "I am also proud of my progress in track and cross country, I broke my mile and two-mile records last track season and was able to run a mile under 6 minutes and a two-mile under 13 minutes. I am also proud of many of my art projects and the medal I earned for one of them in an art competition."

Maples said her test taking skills are one of her greatest strengths, along with her logic and writing skills.

She considers her endurance to be her best personal quality and her struggle with time management to be a weakness. Maples described herself as compassionate, patient and striving. As the

she loves to help others. Martin-Wallace enjoys swimming, chess, reading, writing and skateboarding.

She volunteered at the Abilene Zoo where she presented animals to children, taught looked after children, did zoo tours and cleaned up after animals. She has also volunteered with her grandmother at the City Lights soup kitchen in Abilene where she spent time prepping food, sanitizing counters and serving the homeless.

ADDISON MISTIC

Addison Mistic is the daughter of Julie Mistic and Jesse Mistic. She is ranked 14th in her class with a GPA of 102.57. Mistic is interested in attending the University of Arkansas, Texas A&M University or University of North Texas to pursue a degree in biomedical engineering or pediatrics.

She is particularly proud of her Taekwondo accolades which include attaining her third-degree black belt, being the sparring district champion in Taekwondo for Texas. Arkansas, Louisiana and Oklahoma in 2022 and being team sparring state champion in Taekwondo in 2023. Mistic said she is always able to fulfil responsibilities because of her dedication and focus on academics.

"My greatest personal qual-

ity is that I am always ready and willing to do whatever is needed," she said. "For example, when some asks for my help, without hesitation, I always agree and help out. My weakness is that I tend to spend too much time perfecting useless details. One example is when I spent four hours drawing a one-pager for one of my classes, when I could have easily gotten the same grade spending an hour on it, and I would have been able to study more for a test had I not spent so much time on the art."

She describes herself as determined, considerate and responsible. Mistic is involved

in NHS, AVID, PALS, track and cross country. She enjoys Taekwondo, gymnastics, Karate, swimming and trivia.

EVIANA QUILLIN

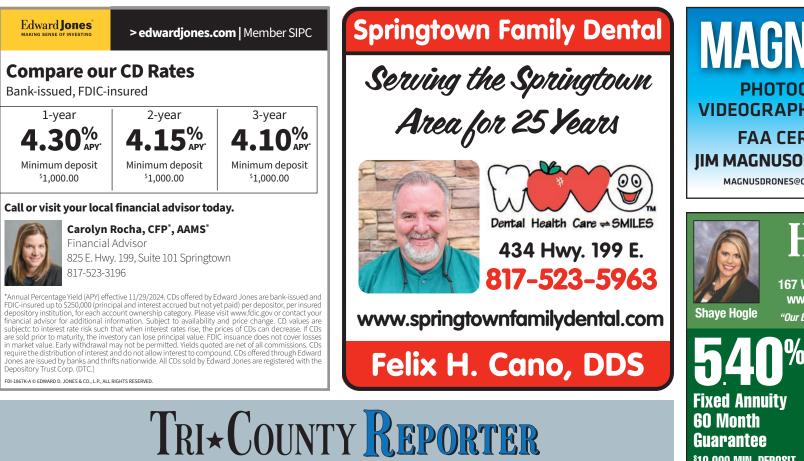
Eviana Quillin is the daughter of Trisha Ouillin. She is ranked 13th in her class with a GPA of 102.67. She is interested in pursuing a career in physical therapy, kinesiology or healthcare. Quillin is proud of making varsity cross country and being ranked ninth in her class last year. Quillin loves science, hands-on activities and being creative.

'My greatest personal quality is my drive, work ethic

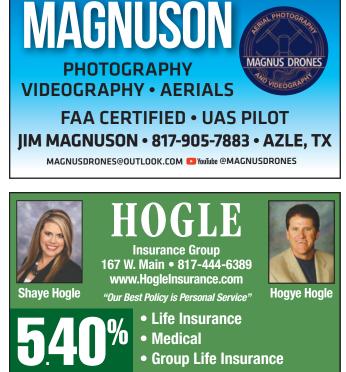
and my compassion towards others," Quillin said. "My greatest weakness is that I overthink everything and tend to look at the negative of a situation instead of the positive."

COURTESY PHOTO

Quillin describes herself as hardworking, determined and compassionate. She is involved in cross country, basketball, track and NHS. She enjoys painting, hiking, swimming, running, traveling and going on spontaneous trips to new places. Quillin also likes to shop, walk around downtown areas and visit historic spots.



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Reverent riders rally

Bikers for Life organization holds worship service at Eagle Mountain Plaza

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

AZLE — Whenever you go out fishing you always have bait, and according to Bill "Pastor Moe" Moore, motorcycles are excellent bait.

Pastor Moe, age 70, and his Christian organization, Bikers for Life, met at Eagle Mountain Plaza in Azle Nov. 12 for a worship service and fellowship, with guest Pastor Mike Finn also preaching. The organization supports six prolife ministries across Texas and beyond, with around 800 reported members. Bikers for Life is most active in the Dallas-Fort Worth area where members engage in outreach

activities, including distributing food and water to the homeless. The group uses motorcycles as tools to attract congregants. One attendee also described their motorcycle as a gift for and reminder of their sobriety. Pastor Moe emphasized that their work is not for financial gain but for spreading the word of Jesus, to "save babies and save souls."

Pastor Moe took over the ministry, based out of Rhome, about five years ago; it has followers throughout the U.S. and Canada.

"The Lord drew us (to Eagle Mountain Plaza) because after the first time we checked it out, we were like, 'man, it's

perfect," Pastor Moe said. 'We don't have a real large group that comes with us all the time. Sometimes it's small, sometimes it's bigger." The venue held an interesting cast of characters that

night including Finn, who has been involved in prison ministry for 25 years. The pair believe they originally met at a "biker church" in Las Vegas. Others in attendance were actor Randall Reeder,

"Deadpool" franchise, "21

attendance.

Pastor Moe can be found on Facebook as Bill Moe Moore. The organization can also be reached at 940-399-9679 or ridingfortheunborn@gmail.com.

ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER



Mike Finn and Randall Reeder share a laugh as the actor pretends to strangle the pastor.



Pastor Bill "Moe" Moore, Pastor Mike Finn, and bandmate Alan Akard just before a Nov. 12 musical performance and worship service at Eagle Mountain Plaza, 300 E. Main St., Azle.



Attendees of the worship service sway, fist bump and sing along to praise songs.

who has played roles in the Jump Street," "Idiocracy,'

"King of the Hill" and the on-going series "Sons of Thunder." Christian rapper "Brother T" was also in

Christmas criters

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Submit your Christmas Critter at tricountyreporter.com or by scanning the QR code. The sillier the better!

A winner will be picked from the photos submitted to receive \$100 from Tri-County Reporter, a one-year subscription to the newspaper, and a gift from the sponsor worth \$100.

The winning photo will also be run on the front page of the Jan. 8 edition of Tri-County Reporter and on our website with an article about the winning pet.

Contest is open Dec. 2 - Dec. 30







Glowing green lights, flying pigs and other festive decorations turn Free's yard into a winter wonderland Nov. 30.

ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

WAPITI FROM PAGE A1

fun by erecting a "ditto" sign pointing to Free's property in lieu of her own decorations. Sturgill's grandsons, Dylan and Darrell helped Free hang lights over some of the more hard-to-reach places on Free's property.

After a brief message from Free, thanking his loved ones and neighbors, the landscape was washed in the green glow of the Christmas season while inflatable characters slowly filled with new life. Soon after, Free invited dozens of guests into his home to witness the miniature villages and model train sets he had chugging along through most of his kitchen and living room.

For Free, this has been a

lifelong passion. Some of his earliest memories of the holidays include waking up on Christmas morning to see his living room transform overnight with extravagant decorations and a toy train set circling the tree. His Azle home was built with this endeavor in mind with a total of 24 circuits installed across the property in order serve his power needs. While Free changes things up each year he reuses many of the same decorations with some being well over 20 years old. This year, Free and his neighbors have put in countless hours of preparation since August. The faux snow and dirt made from laundry detergent and coffee grounds - covering Free's train platform was meticulously applied in spoonfuls. While living at his current home, Free has

only missed out on hosting the event once, when he was out of state for medical treatment.

Free and his girlfriend Cynthia Dora love to involve the community in their hobby and look forward to spreading Christmas cheer to local kids and parents alike. From now until the new year, Free's home will shine brightly for all who make the journey to see it. The pair will leave candy outside for passersby and will continue to welcome strangers into their home who wish to see the platform. Free does not expect to begin taking down his displays until January and once that time comes, he'll soon be hard at work planning how to outdo himself next year.



This year, Free's son, daughter-in-law and grandson Zachary, pictured with Huggie Bear, made the trip from California in order to celebrate the lighting ceremony.



Darrel Sturgill, age 13, Dylan Sturgill, age 17, and Cole Sturgill, age 7, helped Free set up a winter wonderland in his front yard.



Santa Claus and Terry Free in front of one of his platforms.



TRI*COUNTY **Reporter** DIVERSIONS THURSDAY, December 5, 2024



On Tuesday, Nov 19, the Azle Hornets varsity boys basketball team lost to the Joshua Owls 37-65.

SAMANTHA FORD | TRI COUNTY REPORTER

B

Azle, Springtown VB players garner all-district

Lake Worth's Cleveland passes milestone

RICK MAUCH Special to the Tri-County Reporter

Following their best season in more than a quarter century, the Azle Lady Hornets placed 10 players on the All-District 5-5A Volleyball Team selected by the league's

coaches. This included two superlative honors.

Jacqui McClain was named the Offensive Player of the Year and Ellie Lund was tabbed Utility Player of the Year.

First-team accolades went to Addison Dorris, Heather

Lockridge and Miley Massey. Second-team picks were Destiny Brune and Gabby

Briseno. Honorable mentions went to Lyric Mize, Kami Swain and

Paisley Jeter. The Lady Hornets finished with a 28-15 record and ad-

vanced to the third round of the Class 5A Division II playoffs. It's their deepest playoff run since 1998.

"I am very proud of the grit and hard work my players put into this season. We all decided very early on in the offseason that this season we wanted to do something that hadn't been done in a long time in Azle," Lady Hornets coach Kenley Buckholt said. "We were determined to break through that second round of playoffs. My girls

PLEASE SEE ROUNDUP | B2



The Azle Hornets 2024 football season concluded Friday, Nov. 15, in the bidistrict round of the state playoffs. The Hornets fell to the Saginaw

Hornets made return to postseason

RICK MAUCH

Special to the Tri-County Reporter

It has been a little bit since the Azle Hornets football team and their fans could talk about the postseason, but that is no longer the case. For the first time since 2021 the Hornets reached the playoffs, finishing with a 7-4 record.

Playing in arguably the toughest high school football district in the state, the

Hornets finished fourth in District 3-5A Division I. The league included 12-time (and two-time defending) state champion Aledo, Denton Ryan and Richland, all ranked in the top 10 in the state and all still playing in the third round of the playoffs.

"Our kids have worked extremely hard for the last 12 months and it's great to see that show up on the score-

PLEASE SEE HORNETS | B3

Season was memorable in several ways for Porcupines

Plenty of talent returning

RICK MAUCH

Special to the Tri-County Reporter

The 2024 football season provided some special memories for the Springtown Porcupines and their faithful. It also gave them some positive vibes looking ahead.

Sure, they'd love to still be playing, but at 10-2 and a district championship the first of their own since 1998 — there was plenty to celebrate.

The Porcupines, playoff regulars for 13 straight years, advanced in the postseason for the sixth time in eight seasons, defeating Fort Worth Castleberry 52-16 in bi-district before falling 56-39 in

a shootout against Sulphur Springs in the second round. Springtown is 14-8 in the

Rough Riders in a close 41-39 game, with Saginaw scoring the decisive points in the final moments.

postseason since 2017. This was also the 11th straight postseason appearance in the 11 seasons Brian Hulett has been head coach.

This was the fourth time they have won 10 or more games since 2019, going 13-2 in 2019, followed by seasons of 11-3 and 10-4. They also finished 9-4 in 2023.

However, injuries made an impact on the Porcupines at the wrong time in 2024, which helped with their sooner-than-expected playoff exit.

"It's never easy or fun to



STEVEN MARTER | TRI COUNTY REPORTER

The Springtown Porcupines' season came to a close Friday, Nov. 22, in the Area round of the 2024 state playoffs. Facing the Sulphur Springs PLEASE SEE SEASON | B2 Wildcats at Prosper, the Porcupines fell 56-36, marking the end of their playoff run.

SAMANTHA FORD | TRI COUNTY REPORTER

ROUNDUP **FROM PAGE B1**

put in the time and work to make that happen — from summer workouts to battling high caliber 6A teams in preseason — they gave me their all week after week.

"Each year we are going to work to keep pushing farther until we get to the top. Next year I'm returning 10 players and nine of those will be seniors with vast varsity experience."

Academic all-district honors went to Jeter, Lockridge, Dorris, Mize, Briseno, Brune, McClain, Lund, Swain, Massey, Sophie Weger, Macie Baker, Arely Licerio, Cienna Feldman and Savannah Walsh.

SPRINGTOWN VOLLEYBALL

Libby Tedder was named league MVP and led nine Lady Pines who were named to the All-District 7-4A Volleyball Team.

Named to the first team were Bailey Walker, Brooklynn Quintanilla and Addy Burtnett. Ryleigh Strickland, Kallie Conway and Natalia Del Valle received second-team honors and Aerial Jackson and Olivia Lake Worth defeated South Williams garnered honorable mentions.

Academic all-district

was garnered by Walker, Quintanilla, Burtnett, Strickland, Conway, Williams, Del Valle, Gracie Carter, Mackenzie Flaugher, Gracyn Lea, Corrine Hall, Yantzy Martinez and Mackenzie Schumaker.

Springtown posted a 29-15 record and reached the second round of the Class 4A Division I playoffs.

LAKE WORTH GIRLS BASKETBALL

The Lady Frogs (10-4) won two of three games in their Lady Frogs Classic, finishing second. In the process, Jacqui Cleveland surpassed 1,000 points in her high school career.

They defeated Fort Worth Poly 54-19 and Diamond Hill-Jarvis 53-17, but fell 24-22 to Arlington, their second loss to the Lady Colts this season by a total of three points. Leaders were:

Vs. Poly: Cleveland 30 points; Kylah Nabors 9 points; Aliyah Salas 8 points, six steals.

Vs. Diamond Hill-Jarvis 21 points, Bailey Jones 12 points, Cleveland 9 points.

Vs. Arlington: Cleveland 12 points, 11 rebounds; Nabors 5 points.

Following the tournament, Hills 39-14 and Benbrook 52-32, both at home. Leaders were:



Vs. Benbrook: Cleveland 23 points, five steals; Vanessa William 9 points; Salas 9 points; Kalise Ivory seven rebounds.

At press time the Lady Frogs were playing at Diamond Hill-Jarvis. They are in the Venus Tournament Dec. 5-7 and return home to open District 7-4A against Decatur at 6:15 p.m. Dec. 10.

AZLE GIRLS BASKETBALL

The Lady Hornets (4-7) defeated Fort Worth Paschal 53-49 at home Nov. 22 but fell to visiting Springtown 44-39 Nov. 25. Scoring leaders were: Vs. Paschal: Angel Sifuentes 16, Abbey Natusch 9, Eviana Quillin 8.

Vs. Springtown" Sifuentes 14, Quinnin 8, Keagan Stuart 7, Natusch 7.

The Lady Hornets were hosting Northwest at press time, are playing in the Van Griffith Kia Classic in Granbury this weekend and host Poolville Dec. 10 at 6:15 p.m.

SPRINGTOWN GIRLS BASKETBALL

The Lady Pines (6-7) have bounced back from a 1-5 start to the season. They finished third in the Keene Invitational Nov. 21-23, winning four of five games, and then defeated Azle.

In a scheduling quirk to start the season, Springtown will not play a home game until Dec. 13 against Burkburnett, their second District 7-4A game.

In the tournament, the Lady Pines defeated Life Oak Cliff 52-16, Rio Vista 48-21, Fort Worth Eastern Hills 39-36 and Keene 54-49, falling only to Sulphur Springs 45-23. Scoring leaders were:

Vs. Life Oak Cliff: Esther Balado 12, Brylynn Bazzell 12, Madison Mussulman 8.

Vs. Rio Vista: Addy Burtnett 16, Balado 12, Kylie Russell 5. Vs. Eastern Hills: Balado 12, Bazzell 10, Burtnett 6,

Russell 6. Vs. Sulphur Springs:

Bazzell 8, Burtnett 6, Balado 5. Vs. Keene: Balado 23, Russell 9, Bazzell 9.

Balado was named to the all-tournament team. Leaders vs. Azle: Balado 19,

Bazzell 11, Williams 9. The Lady Pines were play-

ing at Saginaw at press time and travel to Denton Dec. 6 at

AZLE WRESTLING

The Hornets and Lady Hornets hosted the Nest Invitational recently. Several wrestlers from Azle had top finishes in the tournament, including: Varsity girls 114-pound division: 1. Kaylie Groot 120: 1. Mariah Dillard 165: 1. Elly Yelle 100: 4. Ryan Hance Varsity boys 215: 1. Roman Fraser 106: 2. Mark O'Neil 144: 2. Chase Yancey 175: 2. Elijah Bryan 138: 3. Camron Latham 150: 3. Wyatt Hicks 190: 3. JW Gilbreath 113: 4. Kolby Moreland 120: 4. Pedro Ramirez 175: 4. Tye O'Neal JV boys 138: 1. Noah Swint 144: 1. Preston Deas 157: 1. Korbin Hance 138: 2. Cory Gray 150: 2. Trevor Douthitt 285: 2. Jordan Durrett 132: 3. Connor Crary 120: 4. Paul Robinson 150: 4. Landon Waltz 157: 4. Tyler Hicks 165: 4. Aiden Metheny 215: 4. Christian Dehoyos Prior to the tournament, the boys swept Paschal and Chisholm Trail by scores of

70-12 and 68-11. The girls defeated Paschal 36-22 and fell in a tiebreaker to Chisholm Trail by 31-30. The Lady Hornets will next compete in the Texan

Tussle Duals at Arlington Sam Houston Friday, April 6, while the Hornets Azle will compete in the War Games in Frisco the next day.

AZLE BOYS BASKETBALL

The Hornets (3-7) defeated visiting Fort Worth South Hills 64-57 Nov. 26, ending the game with a 17-9 run. It ended a six-game losing streak as Jaydon Taylor scored 21, Cason Cook tallied 16 and Britt Haaz added 11.

They had previously played in the Cleburne Tournament Nov. 21-23, falling 64-51 to Cleburne, 53-37 to Vandegrift, 71-56 to Midlothian Heritage, 70-56 to Everan and 72-67 to North Crowley. They then dropped a 58-32 decision at Fort Worth Paschal Nov. 25. Scoring leaders were: Vs. Cleburne: Cook 16, Taylor 15, Bryce Robinson 7, Haas 7.

Vs. Vandegraft: Taylor 11, Cook 8, Robinson 8. Vs. Heritage: Cook 18, Haas

13, Robinson 12. Vs. Everyman: Taylor 14,



PHOTO COURTESY KEN THOMPSON

Esther Balado of the Springtown Lady Pines was named to the alltournament team in the Keene Invitational.

Taylor 5.

The Hornets were hosting Aubrey at press time. They are in the Decatur Tournament Dec. 5-7 and travel to Dallas Spruce Dec. 10 at 7:30 p.m.

SPRINGTOWN BOYS BASKETBALL

The Porcupines (1-4) broke into the win column at Holliday, 50-44, Nov. 26. They fell 60-29 at Paradise Nov. 25. Leaders were:

Vs. Holliday: Ayden Lugo 13 points, seven rebounds, two steals; Grayson Brooks 13 points, four rebounds; Keagan Guiterrez: 10 points, four rebounds. Ethan Graham 7 points, five rebounds.

Vs. Paradise: Guiterrez 7 points, four rebounds; Dylan Crutchfield 6 points, six rebounds; Lugo 5 points two steals.

The Porcupines were playing at Gainesville at press time and are in the Brock Tournament Dec. 5-7. They return home to host Aledo Dec. 10 at 7:30 p.m. LAKE WORTH BOYS

BASKETBALL The Bullfrogs (3-1) fell 68-48 to Gainesville at home Nov. 30. Leaders were Braylen Fridia 17 points, Eddie Page 8 points, Favian Lopez 6 points and Ayden Brooks with 6

Kolache Tournament Dec. 5-7 and host their own Bullfrog Classic Dec. 12-14.

RODEO

Cade Walker of Springtown is third in the boys all-around standings of the North Texas High School Rodeo Association, while Hevenli Scribner of Azle is fourth among the girls. In the team standings, Springtown is second with 2,950 points, while Lipan leads with 3,171. Azle is fifth with 2,026.50.

Individual leaders among the top five in their respective events from the area are:

Barrel racing: 1. Scribner, 4. Logan Phillips, Springtown. Bull riding: 1. Colton

Phillips, Springtown. Chute dogging: 1. Cade

Walker, Springtown.

Goat tying/horse: 5. Andrea Allred, Azle.

Poles: 1. Scribner. Steer wrestling: 1. Walker. Team roping-heeler: 1.

Marshall Dowdy, Springtown. The NTHSRA season resumes this weekend with a rodeo in Granbury Dec. 6. Then, there is another holiday break until the rodeo at the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo Feb. 8, with all the remaining rodeos being at the NTHSRA Arena in Saginaw.

Once the regular-season ro-

AKE WORTH

PHOTO COURTESY FACEBOOK

Jacqui Cleveland of the Lake Worth Lady Frogs recently celebrated scoring the 1,000th point of her high school career.

5:45 before starting district at Krum on Dec. 10 at 6:15 p.m.

Zion Ross 10, Robinson 10. Vs. North Crowley: Haas 26, Robinson 18, Cook 11. Vs. Paschal: Robinson 8,

2,347 yards, 31 TD, one

Rushing: RB Ryan Kirk, ju-

nior, 930 yards, six TD; Hill

720 yards, 13 TD; RB Darren

Sweely 264 yards, three TD.

Receiving: WR Braydon

Karson Ferguson 24 catches,

Crutchfield 25 catches, 351

yards, three TD; WR Chase

Thompson 25 catches, 292

Tackles: FS Thompson

Ewell, soph., 65; SS Landon

95; SS Sweely 74; MLB Rome

yards, seven TD.

Defensive leaders

372 yards, four TD; WR Dylan

Butler, senior, 22 catches,

513 yards, eight TD; TE

interception.

points and six rebounds. Lake Worth was hosting Fort Worth North Side at press time. They are in the

deos are finished, the top 15 performers in each individual event will advance to the NTHSRA Finals in mid-May.

SEASON FROM PAGE B1

lose your last game of the season and for it to end, especially when you weren't able to perform at full strength," Hulett said. "For the second year in a row, late-season injuries really hampered us at the most inopportune time, and it really stinks for our kids, coaches and program. We had planned on so much more, so it just stings and sticks with you.

"On the other hand, we have so many wonderful things that happened and moments to be thankful for that we can look back on and still call the season a very successful one. One of the highlights as a coach in a year like this is to just see the hard work that so many put in for so long, and for so many to come together and blend and mesh into roles and responsibilities that makes success possible.

"This is particularly gratifying to me as you get to watch young men grow and mature and I'm able to be confident that my message of what can be learned through football, can then be taken into their adult lives and help them be the great fathers and husbands they will be."

'UNDER' ACHIEVERS

The Porcupines' roster featured a lot of underclassmen, several of whom put up spectacular seasons. Not the least of these was sophomore quarterback Kaine Hill.

Hill completed 67% of his passes for 2,347 yards. He threw 31 touchdowns opposite a single interception, which came in the seasonopening 21-20 upset loss at Joshua.

In addition, Hill rushed for 720 yards and 13 more touchdowns.

Junior Ryan Kirk was the team's leading rusher with 930 yards and six touchdowns. In all, the Pines had four runners gain more than 200 yards rushing.

Junior Karson Ferguson hauled in 24 catches for 372 yards and four scores.

Seven receivers hauled in passes for 100 or more yards.

On defense, sophomore linebacker Rome Ewell posted 65 tackles and junior strong safety Devan Hair registered 61. Of those, Hair had four for a loss, as did junior defensive end Julio Hernandez.

"My immediate thoughts in respect to the next season – are what they always are at this time: no time to waste, we are two weeks behind, and we have so far to go," Hulett said. "Yes, we do have some quality kids/pieces/parts/ groups back, but we also lose the same.

"We have multiple position groups where we graduated all, or almost all, of the kids in that group. So where we might start out stronger next year, we also might start out – and end? — weaker. That's what makes this such a long, take one day at a time and get better each day, journey. Focus on what you can control, be better at the end of the day, stack good days on good days, and then see what happens."

MAKING HISTORY

The Porcupines have accomplished many things over the years, but it had been a long time since they won an

outright district championship. This season they went 6-0 in District 5-4A Division I.

Along the way, they posted five consecutive shutouts to set up a showdown with an old nemesis on the road. The Porcupines traveled to rival Decatur to end the regular season and it was one of the most exciting contests in vear.

Springtown led 21-14 entering the final quarter before the teams ended regulation tied at 28. Then, after a touchdown for each team in the first overtime, they advanced to a second.

The Eagles took the lead on a field goal in the second extra period. The Porcupines answered with a touchdown and came away with a 41-38 victory.

"On the field, having 10 wins, making the playoffs, beating quality opponents, and of course being district champions, are some of the best things from this year that will never be taken away from the 2024 Springtown Porcupine football team," Hulett said.

RECAPPING THE 2024 PORCUPINES

Overall record: 10-2 District 4-5A Division I record: 6-0, champions, first outright district title since 1998

State ranking: No. 9 Playoffs: Defeated Fort Worth Castleberry 52-16 in bi-district, lost 56-39 in the area round to Sulphur Springs

Offense-defense: Outscored opponents 514-192, an average of 43-16 per game

Offensive leaders



Passing: QB Kaine Hill, Downes, senior, 61; SS Devan soph., 67% completions, Hair, junior, 61.

Tackles for loss: Downes 9; Thompson 6; Sweely 6; DE Julio Hernandez, junior, 4; Hair 4; MLB Gavyn Ford, senior, 4.

Sacks: Downs 2, Hair 2. Interceptions: FS Riley

Jackson, soph., 2; Sweely 2. Fumble recoveries: SS Brennan Smith, senior, 2. The team scored four TD off fumble recoveries by Hair, senior strong safety Gage Cantrell, Ewell and Sweely.

Season results

At Joshua 21, Springtown 20 Springtown 35, Graham 21 Springtown 34, at Kennedale 17

Springtown 28, China Spring 23 District 4-5A Division I Springtown 68, FW Southwest 0 Springtown 58, at FW Carter Riverside 0 Springtown 35, FW Eastern Hills 0 Springtown 56, at Diamond Hill-Jarvis 0 Springtown 48, FW Western Hills 0 Springtown 41, at Decatur 38 Postseason

Springtown 52, FW Castleberry 16 Sulphur Springs 56, Springtown 39

HORNETS **FROM PAGE B1**

board," head coach Devon Dorris said.

THE SEASON

The Hornets proved the pundits wrong by reaching the playoffs. When the preseason predictions came out, Azle was picked eighth in the nine-team district only ahead of Granbury.

However, the fastest start to a season in decades got folks realizing the Hornets were indeed a playoff contender. They started 6-0, scoring at least 41 points in all six games.

Then came the most challenging part of their season, with losses to Aledo, Ryan and Richland among their final four games.

But the most heartbreaking part of the season was in bidistrict. The Hornets led undefeated Saginaw 39-28 with three minutes to play and appeared on their way to the second round of the playoffs for the first time since 2020.

However, two late touchdowns by the Rough Riders saw them escape with a 41-39 victory, spoiling the Hornets' hopes.

YOUTHFUL SUCCESS

Led by junior quarterback Derrek Vowell, several underclassmen had solid seasons for the Hornets. Vowell completed 61% of his passes for 2,141 yards with 22 touchdowns and nine interceptions.

Junior Aiden Mackey led the team in receiving yards with 657 and 13 touchdowns on 40 catches. Sophomore Brayden Combs was next with 45 catches for 596 yards and a half dozen TD.

At running back, freshman King Stephens, in only seven games, gained 406 yards and scored six times.

On defense, junior free safety Riley Self posted 57 tackles and returned an interception for a touchdown, while junior outside linebacker Jay Glaze led the team in fumble recoveries with three. Junior athlete Cayden Lawson also returned an interception for a touchdown.

"As it is in every offseason, we are returning some key players and losing some key players," Dorris said. "The time has started to develop

the 25 team and leaders." **END OF HERALDED CAREER**

Senior running back Hagen Hughes bid farewell with one of the top rushing seasons in North Texas. He rushed for a career-best 1,836 yards and 24 touchdowns. He also caught 10 passes for 186 yards and another score, putting him over 2,000 yards of total offense.

In his three seasons on the Hornets varsity, Hughes rushed for 3,082 yards and 29 TD. He also caught 21 passes for 263 yards and two TD.

Hagen is expected to play in college somewhere. Dorris said he anticipates he will be one of several.

"We will have some kids go on to play at the next level, but that will play out over the next two or three months," he said.

RECAPPING THE 2024 HORNETS

Overall record: 7-4 District 3-5A Division I record: 5-3, fourth place Postseason: Lost 41-39 to

Saginaw in bi-district Offense: Averaged 38 points per game

Defense: Six different play-

ers had an interception, including returns for a TD by junior free safety Riley Self and junior athlete Cayden Lawson. Eight players combined to recover 13 fumbles, including three by junior outside linebacker Jay Glaze.

Offensive leaders Passing: QB Derrek Vowell, junior, 61% completions, 2,141 yards, 22 TD, 9 interceptions

Rushing: RB Hagen Hughes 1,836 yards, 24 TD; RB King Stephens, freshman, 406 yards, six TD

Receiving: WR Aiden Mackey, junior, 40 catches, 657 yards, 13 TD; ATH Brayden Combs, soph., 45 catches, 596 yards, six TD; WR Garrett Bailey, senior, 23 catches, 389 yards, four TD; WR Cash Moore, senior, 30 catches, 383 yards, TD.

Defensive leaders Tackles: S Bryan Moyam senior, 82; MLB Case Moore, senior, 77; OLB Joshua Guzman, senior, 60; FS Riley Self, junior, 57

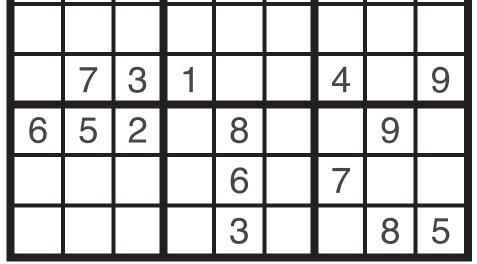
Tackles for loss: Moore 12; DE Ethan Alcala, senior, 12; MLB Cash Hunter, senior, 10; Guzman 10 Sacks: NG Devin Wingfield,

senior, 4; Alcala 3



SAMANTHA FORD | TRI COUNTY REPORTER

ZED by Duane Abel Azle School Menu www.corkycomics.com Dec 9-13, 2024 This is our box of christmas WHAT IS ALL OF MOM'S STORIES I REMEMBER BREAKFAST: DUANE LUNCH: PreK-4th Grade, 7-12th Grade \$1.55 5-6th Grade FREE 2nd Meal \$2.00 PreK-4th Grade \$2.55 5-6th Grade \$2.75 7-12th Grade \$2.55 2nd Meal \$3.20 ORNAMENTS BOX 7 ABOUT EACH THIS ONE! ORNAMENT Visitors/Employees \$2.75 Visitors & Employees \$3.75 PreK BREAKFAST: Everyday - Assorted Fruits and Cereal, Juice, White or Chocolate Milk, Graham Crackers, Toast Mon Breakfast Burrito, Vanilla Yogurt w/Honey 'n Oats Granola Tues Cinnamon Toast Crunch, Pancake Sausage Breakfast Sandwich Weds Breakfast Bagel, Strawberry Yogurt w/Blueberry Muffin Thurs Lucky Charms, All-Star Breakfast Fri Sausage Egg and Cheese Breakfast Taco, Cocoa Puffs LUNCH: Everyday - Variety of milk. Your choice of 1 entree & 1 fruit or juice Mon Breakfast for Lunch, Grilled Cheese Sandwich Tues Cheeseburger Mac, Mini Corndogs Weds Popcorn Chicken, Walkin' Taco Thurs Beef Quesadilla Triangles, Mac and Cheese w/Roll Fri Chicken Nuggets, Maxstixs w/Marinara GRADES 5TH - 8TH BREAKFAST: Everyday - Assorted Fruits and Cereal, Juice, White or Chocolate Milk, Yogurt w/Granola Sudoku Mon Breakfast Burrito, Vanilla Yogurt w/Honey 'n Oats Granola Tues Cinnamon Toast Crunch, Pancake Sausage Breakfast Sandwich Weds Breakfast Bagel, Strawberry Yogurt w/Blueberry Muffin Thurs Lucky Charms, All-Star Breakfast Fri Sausage Egg and Cheese Breakfast Taco, Cocoa Puffs **DECEMBER 5, 2024** LUNCH: Everyday: Variety of milk. Your choice of 1 entree & 1 fruit or juice, rolls, crackers • Salad bar offered daily Mon Chicken Alfredo Maxstixs, Spicy Chicken Sandwich Tues Mini Corndogs, Sloppy Joe, Soft Tacos Weds BBQ Pork Rib Sandwich, Cheeseburger, Popcorn Chicken Wrap Thurs Cheeseburger, Corndog, Mac and Cheese w/ Roll 8 Fri Cheese Pizza, Hot Dog, Pizza Pocket **HIGH SCHOOL** BREAKFAST: Everyday - Assorted Fruits and Cereal, Juice, White or Chocolate Milk, Yogurt w/Granola 2 Mon Breakfast Burrito, Vanilla Yoourt w/Honey 'n Oats Granola Tues Cinnamon Toast Crunch, Pancake Sausaoe Breakfast Sandwich Weds Breakfast Bagel, Strawberry Yogurt w/Blueberry Muffin Thurs Lucky Charms, All-Star Breakfast Fri Sausage Egg and Cheese Breakfast Taco, Cocoa Puffs LUNCH: • Everyday: 1% unflavored or non fat chocolate milk & juice • Salad Bar 3 9 Mon Pizza Grilled Cheese, BBQ Chicken Pizza, Pepperoni Pizza Pocket, Chicken and Cheese Quesadilla, Chili Cheese Dog, Teriyaki Chicken w/ Rice Tues Cheeseburger Mac, Cheese Pizza, Hamburger Pizza, Beef Enchiladas, Mini Corn Dogs, Sweet and Sour Chicken w/ Noodles Weds Nacho Fries, Bacon Pizza, Cheese Pizza, Walkin' Taco, Frito Chili Pie, Spicy Sichuan BBQ Chicken w/Rice Thurs Popcorn Chicken Bowl w/ Gravy and Roll, Mozzarella Sticks, Pepperoni Pizza, Taco Salad w/ Chips, 9 5 Cheese Burger, Orange Chicken and Rice Fri BBQ Pork Rib Sandwich, Pizza Pocket, Supreme Pizza, Bean and Cheese Burrito, Buffalo Boneless Wings, Chicken Ramen w/Crispy Chow Mein Noodles

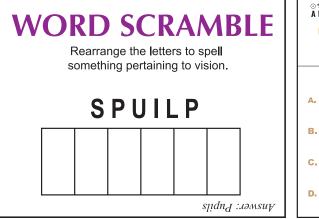


Level: Intermediate

Solution to last week's puzzle

NOVEMBER 28, 2024

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







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

Springtown School Menu

BREAKFAST PRICES		
EC-12th Grade	\$ 1. 7	'5
EC-12th Reduced		0
Adult	\$2.2	25
LUNCH PRICES		
PK-4th Grade	\$3.C	0
5th-8th Grade	\$3.2	25
High School	\$3.0)Ó
Reduced	\$0.4	0
Adult	\$4.2	25
Students may prepay for their meals.		

SPONSORED BY

Dec 9-13, 2024 PK through 12th Grade

*Menus are subject to change.

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

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

K - 4th Lunch

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

Mon General Tso's Chicken, Tangerine Chicken, Rice, Cucumbers w/Tajin, Oriental Blend Tues Chicken Sandwich, Macaroni & Cheese, Southwest Salad, Cucumbers w/Tajin, Fresh Baby Carrots, Steamed broccoli Weds Cheeseburger, Hamburger, Cucumbers w/Tajin, French Fries, Thurs Beef Tacos, Chicken Tacos, Tacos, Corn, Refried Beans Fri Baked Potato Basket - Entree Only, Cheese Pizza, Pepperoni Pizza, Pulled Pork for Baked Potato, Roll, Cucumbers w/Tajin, Glazed carrots

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

Mon General Tso's Chicken, Tangerine Chicken Roll Fresh Baby Carrots, Fresh Broccoli, Oriental Blend s Tues BBQ Rib Sandwich, Chicken Sandwich , Cucumbers w/Tajin, Fresh Baby Carrots, Fresh Broccoli, Roasted Chickpeas Weds Chicken Tenders, Spicy Chicken Tenders Waffles for Chicken & Waffles Tator Tots Thurs Beef Tacos, Chicken Tacos Nachos, Tacos Corn, Refried Beans Fri Baked Potato Basket - Entree Only, Corn Dog, Pulled Pork BBQ Sandwich, Pulled Pork for Baked Potato Roll Coleslaw, Cucumbers w/Tajin, Fresh Baby Carrots, Fresh Broccoli, Roasted Broccoli

This menu is sponsored by ...



Congratulations, Porcupines!

Thank you for the greatest football season in Springtown in a quarter century! Your community could not be prouder and this team will not be forgotten!



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500 N. Main - Springtown - 817-220-5229 firstbaptistspringtown.com

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ProMax Power Sports

123 Hwy. 199 E. - Springtown - 817-220-2453 promaxpowersports.com

Springtown Family Dental

434 Hwy. 199 E. - Springtown - 817-523-5963 springtownfamilydental.com

Springtown Family Health Center

499 E. Hwy. 199 - Springtown - 817-523-5402 springtownclinic.com

Amy Kaplan State Farm

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418 Hwy. 199 E. - Springtown - 817-220-2101 suttonprintingco.com

The Lube Center

324 Hwy. 199 - Springtown - 817-523-3151

Tri-County Reporter

321 W. Main St. - Azle -817-270-3340 tricountyreporter.com

The merchants on this page support our youth in all their activities. Support them by shopping at home - every chance you get.

TRI+COUNTY REPORTER DEVOTIONAL PAGE

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

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CORNERSTONE APOSTOLIC CHURCH 1801 FM 730 N., Azle 817-400-0612

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

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

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

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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

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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

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

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

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

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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

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

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

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FIRST BAPTIST POOLVILLE 1 block W. of FM 920, Poolville 817-594-3916 UNION BAPTIST CHURCH 3451 Sarra Lane, Springtown 682-333-1645

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

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

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH 4th & Main, Paradise

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

ORTHODOX

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

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SHEPHERD'S HEART CHURCH 14435 FM 730 N • Azle 817-444-7777

WESTERN STAR COWBOY CHURCH 790 CR 3696, Paradise TX 76073 817-688-6887



TRI + COUNTY REPORTER CLASSIFIEDS

THURSDAY, December 5, 2024

AD CLASSIFICATIONS

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

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039

RATES

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019

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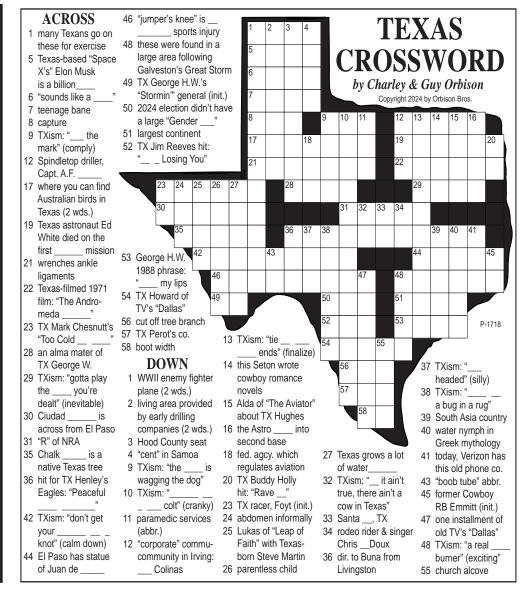


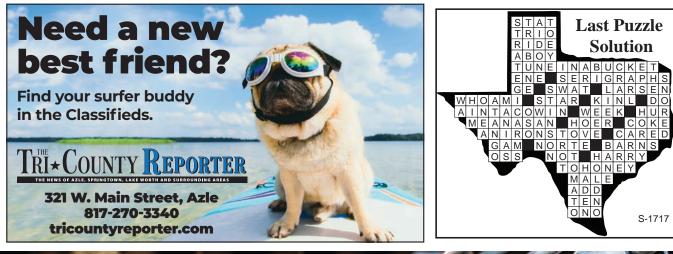
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