

UNTY REPORTER

SPRINGTOWN, LAKE WORTH AND SURROUNDING AREAS

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Wreaths Across America pays respects at Azleland

ZACH FREEMAN

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RENO — Wreaths Across America Day is an annual day of respect for U.S. military service members across the

nation. During this year's Dec. 14 event around 3 million wreaths were placed on the graves of deceased veterans in ceremonies taking place in 4,909 locations, including Azleland Memorial Park. This local event was led by United States Deputy Commander of the 315th Airlift Wing Col. Steven Priest, who recognized and hon-

PLEASE SEE WREATHS | A2



The Nissan Altima embedded in the wall of a Lake Crest home, Dec. 17.

COURTESY AZLE PD

Home-wrecker

Stolen vehicle pursuit ends in Azle garage

STAFF REPORT

AZLE — An Azle teen was arrested after a car chase ended in the side of a Lake Crest Parkway garage.

At approximately 3:48 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 17, an Azle police officer attempted to conduct a traffic stop on a stolen Nissan Altima in

the 900 block of Lake Crest Parkway. The driver failed to stop and attempted to evade detention, prompting a short vehicle pursuit. The driver, and sole occupant of the fleeing vehicle, lost control and collided with a residence in the 600 block of Lake Crest Parkway, causing

significant property damage. Fortunately, there were no injuries reported as a result of

the incident. The driver, identified as 17-year-old Ezekiel Grant, was arrested for unauthorized use of Vehicle and **Evading Arrest or Detention** with a Vehicle.

Springtown ISD teachers, staff payment approved

JOLEE SKINNER

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 ${\rm SPRINGTOWN-On}$ Dec. 12, the Springtown Independent School District approved a one-time retention payment for all district employees. These payments,

One-time retention payment conveys gratitude for hard work

which were finalized at the board meeting, are to show appreciation for the contributions of all staff members.

The payments are an extra \$500 for full-time employ-

PLEASE SEE **PAYMENT** | A2



Up to his old tricks, The Grinch attempts to steal presents from a protesting pachycephalosaurus.

CRETACEOUS CHRISTMAS PAGE A2

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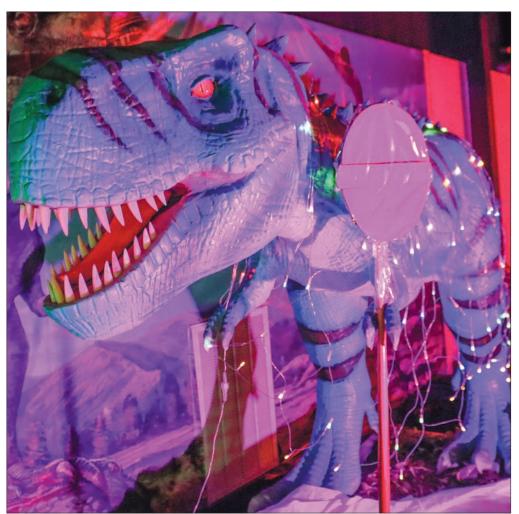


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Dinoland presents a Cretaceous Christmas



The tyrant lizard king surveys his winter wonderland, lollipop in hand.



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

The Grinch comes face-to-face with a real living dinosaur, cleverly distracting the emu with a shiny object Dec. 14.

ZACH FREEMAN

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FORT WORTH — Unlike its attractions, Christmas cheer is not extinct at Dinosaur Land. Through the month of December, the children's museum at 12175 Jacksboro Highway went all out for the holidays with Christmas lights, decorations and festivi-

Azle food truck park and farmers market holds community

Christmas, Notes to Recovery raises funds for Azle officer

ties. The Grinch even took up residence each weekend in a bid to out-green and out-mean the park's regular denizens.

Since opening in November 2023, Dinosaur Land has made continuous efforts to grow and expand. Several months ago, the park introduced live animals, including a wide assortment of chickens, goats and even emus.

For the Christmas season, Dinosaur Land has collected children's toys to donate to local hospitals.

Dinosaur Land co-owner Sarah Cantu is excited to announce the opening of a new princess and fantasy themed section of the park, with hopes that it may see its first visitors in about three months.

FeedLot finale

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AZLE — For one last time this year, vendors brought their wares down to the FeedLot food truck park in Azle. This event marks the last for the venue's first inaugural season.

Along with being a community Christmas celebration, it was also used to drum up support for a cause close to the community's heart. Local nonprofit Notes to Recovery raised \$2,000 for Azle police

officer Jason Castro with a kids' art corner, cake walk and raffle table. Castro has become the subject of much community support following a February cancer

"Officer Castro is one of our best officers in the city and when he heard that he was in need we wanted to do something and time just afforded us to be able to do it today in conjunction with the community Christmas,' Notes to Recovery founder Terressa Nordstrom said. "So, it was really nice."

Vendor Breanna Anglin of Anglin Creations was glad to be a part of the effort supporting Castro and one of the season's last vendors. Anglin and her family were just one of many in North Texas who have begun to count on the Azle Farmers Market to share their passions and make money doing it.

The FeedLot, located at 225 Church St., first opened for business March 29. It was the culmination of at least one year's worth of plan-



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

A child approaches Will Norman, as Santa Claus, at the community Christmas event at The FeedLot.

Breanna Anglin and her children Isaiah, age 12, and Johanna, age 9, sell soaps, lotions and lip care products they made at their home in Poolville.

ning and work put forward by city council members and city employees. Less than two months after opening, the site began to host regular farmers markets in a partnership with nonprofit Community Link Mission. With the hiring of a new coordinator, the scope of the FeedLot has only continued

growing. In the fall, the venue began to hold watch parties for Azle football games, night markets, animal shelter adoption events and more. With cold weather swiftly approaching, The FeedLot is scheduled to go on hiatus until March, with a tentative possibility for additional special events in January or

February.

"I think last year was successful, especially for the first year, and we've learned a lot," Special Events Coordinator Amanda Scott said. "We're going to tweak some stuff, and I hope the community is looking forward to it, because I know we



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Happy New Year to one and all!

This time of year, lots of folks make New Year's resolutions as a tool to motivate themselves into some sort of positive change. It might be to quit smoking, or perhaps to exercise more, or even to be more dedicated to spending time with family and friends. All of these are noble pursuits, but research shows that 90% of New Year's resolutions are thrown out the window and forgotten about within the first 60 days of the new year. Does this mean it would be wise to make a resolution to keep our resolutions? Wait a minute, wouldn't we break that resolution, too?

Most resolutions are a commitment to something we know we should already be



FROM MY FRONT PORCH

By Sam Houston

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doing. I am pretty sure we all know smoking is bad for our health. So why do we need to wait until a new year to make an expression of commitment to doing better? Why don't we just go ahead and act? Is it by waiting until the new year we can put off the uneasiness we will experience in fulfilling the resolution?

A wise man once told me there are two types of pain in the world. There is the pain of disappointment we have in in their marriage, and with

ourselves for not doing what we already know we need to do, and there is the pain in actually performing what needs to be done. We each make a choice as to which one of those pains we want to live with.

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to look in the mirror and know when someone needs to lose weight. People know if they are not making a real commitment in their job,

their families. They know what they should be doing, and when they fail, they suffer in anguish because they understand they could be better; they let themselves down. So why don't we simply do

what we know we should do? For whatever reason, humans do not wish to push themselves out of their comfort zone. They know they shouldn't grab that extra piece of pie, or have a fast-food burger instead of a salad, but they want the instant gratification that the pie provides. It would take a sacrifice to make a change for the better.

It would be easy for me to get off the sofa and go and walk 45 minutes every night

after my evening meal. It is simply a matter of making myself get off my behind and go do it. There will be pain as my out-of-shape body adjusts to the newfound exercise program, and I will be uncomfortable because my brain will whisper in my ear, "the sofa is very comfortable, and the Mavs game is coming on in a few minutes." My brain will rationalize it is too cool outside; it was such a long exhaustive day, and I am too pooped to walk, or I can catch up tomorrow. Each time we allow ourselves to be talked into abandoning what we already know we need to be doing, we place ourselves in a position to suffer the pain of failure and of disappointing ourselves and others.

There is certainly pain in fulfilling a resolution. If the goal is to quit smoking, the road to accomplishment may bring irritability or weight gain. Exercise will take time out of your schedule; weight loss may require a different diet and saying goodbye to certain foods. Spending more time with your kids might require spending less time fishing, on the golf course or at work. There will be a sacrifice and the pain which comes with it. It is up to you which pain you want to live with.

Choose wisely! Thought for day: The future depends on what you do

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

WREATHS

ored veterans, both living and dead, for their contributions to the country. Priest spoke, introduced veterans, and led

the crowd in prayer. Priest and other speakers emphasized the importance of remembering the sacrifices made by these individuals, highlighting the freedoms they protect. Heard throughout cemeteries across the nation, seven tolls of a bell symbolized different aspects of service, such as camaraderie, patriotism and respect. Priest introduced active and retired

veterans who laid a wreath for members of each branch of the military and the 93,129 servicemen and women who are missing in action or were last known as prisoners of

Participants, including Cub Scout Pack 303 from Springtown and Longhorn Council 435 from Eagle

Mountain, were instructed to place wreaths on graves, ensuring each veteran's name was spoken aloud and thanked. The event underscored the significance of continuing to honor and teach future generations about the cost of freedom.

"Everybody should do this," BSA Tenderfoot Izabella

Nanni, age 11, said. "It is very respectful, and it is a great way to remember the veterans who have served us."

Nanni's scoutmaster and father Eric Nanni, who is an Air Force veteran, said Wreaths Across America Day offers a great opportunity to teach youths about honor and respect.

Students from Azle High School's Civil Air Patrol, the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force and a volunteer nonprofit student organization were major contributors to the event, placing the bulk of the wreaths on the hundreds of veteran's graves marked with red flags in Azleland.



Retired Master Sqt. Ross Renfrow walks with a wreath to honor U.S. Army service members Dec. 14.



Springtown scouts and their scoutmaster salute the grave of a veteran after placing a wreath at Azleland Memorial Park.

PAYMENT

ees, including bus drivers and cafeteria staff who work a full schedule, and \$250 for parttime employees. Employees who work more than 13 hours per week but less than part-time will receive onethird of the full-time amount.

Superintendent Shane Strickland thanked the school board, saying he appreciates the recognition of all staff.

"A huge thank you to our board of trustees and

Assistant Superintendent of Business Wesley Thomas, along with his incredible business office team, for making this possible for our staff," Strickland said. "The board's hard work and commitment to supporting our employees is truly appreciated."

Board President Rick Beall also thanked the district and acknowledged the hard work all staff members put into their work.

"To every member of the Springtown ISD family, thank you for all that you do.," Beall said. "Your dedication, hard work and care make a difference in the lives of our students every day and we are so grateful for each of you. This retention payment is just one way we can show our appreciation for everything they do. Springtown ISD remains committed to recognizing and supporting its employees, who play a vital role in the success of its students

and the district as a whole." The next Springtown ISD board meeting will be Jan. 21 at the district administration building.



JOLEE SKINNER | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Representatives from the Citizens Facilities Advisory Committee speaks to the Springtown ISD school board. Pictured are (L-R) Arena Blake and Aubrey Moses.



Academy 4

Academy 4, a nonprofit organization that partners with elementary campuses to provide mentors for every fourth-grade student, celebrated a ribbon-cutting ceremony Tuesday, Nov. 19 at Hilltop Elementary School, hosted by the Azle Area Chamber of Commerce. Academy 4 is active at Hilltop Elementary and Cross Timbers Elementary in Azle ISD. The program is volunteer-based and community members are encouraged to take part in this rewarding program. For more information about how you can get involved, visit its website at www.academy4.com.



Texas Drip

Texas Drip, located inside 404 Main Place in Azle, celebrated a ribbon cutting ceremony hosted by the Azle Area Chamber of Commerce Dec. 12. The coffee shop offers custom coffees, protein shakes and energy drinks, plus healthy breakfast options for the morning crowds. Its homemade pastries shouldn't be missed either. The shop also carries some sandwiches for a quick lunch to go with your midday coffee fix. Stop in and see what's brewing at Texas Drip, located at 404 Main St., Suite 104. It's open Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

TRI*COUNTY REP

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PCHD Citizen EMS program seeks support for AED program

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SPRINGTOWN - OnDec. 12, the Parker County Hospital District gave an update to the Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce about its program to place automated external defibrillators, or AEDs, throughout the county. The county-wide incentive is aimed to save lives by significantly reducing the response time to cardiac emergencies.

Parker County Hospital District EMS Director Jim Backus explained to the chamber the importance of community involvement in achieving the goal of becoming a "four-minute community," meaning to be able to reach anyone in an emergency within four minutes.

"On average, it takes about 10 minutes for an ambulance to reach a location in Parker County," Backus said. "That's just too long for someone in cardiac arrest. We need to engage the community to ensure hands-on-chest CPR and AED use can happen quickly. This is not just a fire department or EMS problem. It's a community problem."

The Citizen EMS program, led by Chris Hummel, is trying to place 216 AEDs across Parker County's 920 square miles. This program is focused on providing every family or business with access to the devices.

"AEDs cost around \$1,700 each, not including activation fees, but their value is immeasurable," Hummel said.

"The first four to five minutes of a cardiac event are critical. Having an AED nearby could mean the difference between life and death."

Right now, 13 AEDs have been bought through donations. Seven were purchased last week and six more are on the way.

To support the program, the nonprofit Citizen EMS group is hosting its first big event Feb. 1 at Weatherford High School called "The Parker County Chocolate Festival." All donations from the event will go toward the purchase of AEDs.

Hummel asked the chamber tough questions to generate urgency as to how important this program is. "How much is your daughter's life worth? Your son's? Your own?" Hummel said.



JOLEE SKINNER | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Jim Backus, Chris Hummel and John Martin talk to the Springtown Chamber of Commerce about the importance of AEDs.

Community involvement is important to the program's success and residents are encouraged to participate in AED training and CPR certification classes that the Parker County Hospital District offers. The next class is scheduled for Jan. 18.

"This is about building a stronger, united Parker County," Hummel said.

"Together, we can save lives and become a model for the rest of Texas.'

To sign up for the training, visit the Parker County Hospital District website at pchdtx.gov. For more information on the AED initiative or to donate, visit the Parker County Hospital District website.

TX WIC launches campaign to help mothers and pregnant women in need

STAFF REPORTS

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission's Texas WIC program, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, is launching an awareness campaign this holiday season to encourage eligible pregnant women and breastfeeding moms. Families with children up to age 5 are welcome to apply for the program and its many benefits as well.

If accepted to the WIC program, Texas families will likely see their benefits in early 2025.

The approaching holidays highlight the continued role WIC plays in helping families enjoy nutritious meals.

"During the holidays, children and families are home more, and it can be a challenge to have nutritious and healthy meals and snacks at the table," Amanda Hovis, nutrition education and clinic services director for Texas WIC ,said. "Texas WIC assists families with nutritious food so families can focus on purchasing the other items that they need."

Program benefits include monthly healthy food packages which include fruits and vegetables, milk, eggs, and

cheese, nutrition counseling, live and self-paced breastfeeding and nutrition classes, and expert breastfeeding support.

WIC sets a nutritional foundation for Texas families and children by providing education, support, and inspiration they are already seeking to eat well, have safe pregnancies, breastfeed successfully, and raise healthy families.

The federally funded initiative ensures that families who might otherwise struggle to meet the nutritional needs necessary resources to thrive

and have peace of mind. WIC leads to healthier

pregnancies and babies. Participation in WIC during pregnancy is associated with a decreased risk of low birth weight, preterm birth and lower risk of infants needing care in a neonatal intensive

Anyone with children under the age of 5 can apply for the program, including dads, foster parents, guardians or grandparents. Pregnant women can apply for the program as soon as they learn they are expecting.

WIC recently updated its income guidelines to allow more Texas families to participate. Eligibility for the WIC program depends on your

income and the number of people in your household.

This year, WIC reached the 50-year milestone of helping Texas families access healthy food, not just during the holidays, but year-round. Since 1974, Texas WIC has provided assistance to more than 7 million women. Today, the program serves more than 800,000 women, infants and children each month.

"When I became a WIC mom, I was able to get a free breast pump when my insurance wasn't able to provide one," Ashley Castro, Texas WIC recipient and Austin mother of two said. "I was also able to get free fruits and

vegetables, milk, eggs, pasta, tortillas; everything that made it possible for me to have a healthy diet. I was able to meet with a nutritionist that was able to help me plan healthy foods for my family. I was able to speak with a breastfeeding peer counselor and she answered any questions that I had."

For more information or to apply to the WIC program, visit TexasWIC.org/applyor call 800-942-3678. Find more information on WIC benefits and eligibility at TexasWIC.



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Pelican Bay holds Christmas parade

Bringing a little Christmas joy to the 'Bay.

ZACH FREEMAN

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PELICAN BAY — On the afternoon of Dec. 14, Pelican Bay residents were greeted with a Christmas parade just feet from their doorsteps. The annual event saw nearly a dozen entries with many area residents taking part in bringing a little Christmas joy to the 'Bay.

Pelican Bay Mayor Tamra Olague expressed pride in this year's efforts and looked forward to bringing the people of Pelican Bay closer for the holiday season.

"We're super excited to be able to bring Santa Claus and the event to the community," Olague said. "We worked really hard in the last three years establishing more of a community feel here in our city, and we hope that this parade brings us all together so that

we can celebrate Christmas as a family and as a city."

The route began at Positive Impact Ministries and weaved through the city's streets, going from Pelican Drive to Sandy Beach Road and back, giving residents an opportunity to see the convoy from the comfort of their homes.

The two-hour trek ended about 5 p.m. at Pelican Bay City Hall, where a community Christmas party was held. The city raffled away about 18 bicycles to local children and set up a backdrop for photos with Santa, providing hot chocolate and cookies. With the help of toy drives held by Pelican Bay businesses like Gym 150, about 157 bags of gifts were also distributed. During the course of the parade, teen volunteers hopped off the lead float to make home deliveries of



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

The big elf himself, Christmas tree in tow, ditched the reindeer and opted for a truck and trailer for his visit to Pelican Bay Dec. 14.



First responders and parade participants threw candy to excited and waiting children of Pelican Bay.



 $The \,parade\,makes\,a\,loop\,in\,front\,of\,Eagle\,Mountain\,Lake\,on\,its\,way\,to\,spread\,Christmas\,cheer.$



 $Mayor Tamra\ Olague, Pelican\ Bay\ kids\ and\ other\ residents\ stand\ in\ front\ of\ the\ Polar\ Express\ float.$



Mayor Tamra Olague, Pelican Bay kids and other residents took a trip in a Polar Express themed float.

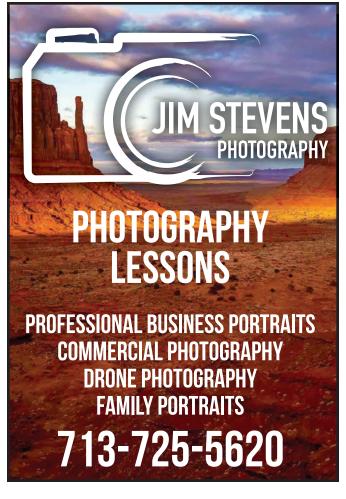


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Season for giving

Church allocates funds to local nonprofits

ZACH FREEMAN

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AZLE — It takes a lot of hard work and helping hands to make Azle the community

First Methodist Church of Azle recognized and rewarded some of the helpers, Wednesday, Dec. 11. Using funds raised at its annual Lord's Acre, the FMC made a combined donation of \$11,177 to local nonprofits: the Community Caring Center, Good N.E.W.S Living at Home/Block Nurse Program, Safe Harbor and Eagle Mountain Pregnancy Help Center.

"We appreciate First Methodist for this donation today, because it does enable us to continue providing the technology, the resources, the supplies, both physical and material, to the clients that come to us in most need," EMPHC Director Karen Ogea said. "So, we're very grateful for this congregation and the outpouring and the community to support the Lord's Acre and make this possible for us and for the people that we help."

Leaders of the four organizations met with church leaders Pastor Ray Gilman, Stacy Johnson, B.J. Collins and Pat Noe, to receive their checks and discuss the future of charitable organizations in Azle. Each year the church chooses the recipients for its Lord's Acre funds, with the same four Azle-based organizations having received \$14,934.16 last year and \$11,737.38 the year before that.

"Like many of the other nonprofits in the area, we've seen record growth this year, and just a huge increase in the number of families needing assistance of any kind," CCC director Kristie Cooper said. "So, donations like this, to be able to count on it every year, year after year, means so much to us. It helps us plan for the future. It helps us fulfill our mission, and we know we have work to do, and we want to be the best that we can be at that mission. So, every year, the donation that comes in just helps us get one step closer to where we want to be and to do the job we want to do. So, we thank them. We know it takes a lot of effort and a lot of time to put on the event, so we appreciate it."

Others in attendance agreed that the annual donation makes a major difference for their organizations. Terri Bartlett, who has headed up Good N.E.W.S. since 2000, recalls having received funds from the church every year of her tenure and in some critical instances, the amounts given have been just what was needed to keep the nonprofit afloat.

"It's just very touching, really, the people who are so willing to do the work and the planning and everything that goes into this donation so that we can help the seniors in the area and on the Good N.E.W.S. program," Bartlett said. "It's just, it's incredible. It's unique to our community, and it's very touching, and we appreciate it very much."

Daniel Tiblets, a biblical counselor with Safe Harbor Counseling Center, said his organization will similarly use the funds to provide crisis counseling to rural residents and others who may have a difficult time receiving



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Kristie Cooper smiles and receives a check from FMC member Stacy Johnson while other nonprofit leaders look on Dec. 11.



B.J. Collins, Daniels Tiblets, Terri Bartlett, Kristie Cooper, Karen Ogea and Pastor Ray Gilman hold up a symbolic giant check in the FMC sanctuary.

counseling resources.

"Any support helps us be able to reach out to those who need that extra love during the toughest times in life," Tiblets said.

In order to establish clearer groups' leaders discussed communication of needs and responsibilities for local nonprofits and getting over shared problems like a lack of transportation, these

getting together and meeting more frequently in the future. Cooper remarked it would be useful to be able to share each other's struggles, create

lists and better organize to address community needs. Congregants of the building on 200 Church Street

have held a Lord's Acre festi-

val for about 55 years.

Springtown ISD hears update on internalization program

JOLEE SKINNER

jolee@tricountyreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — Assistant Superintendent Tiffany Cano updated the Springtown ISD board about the newly implemented internalization process showing positive results in improving student performance across the district.

At the Dec. 16 school board meeting, Cano explained that the internalization process focuses on faculty working with professional learning communities (PLC) with highquality instruction materials

and instructional leadership

development. "Things have shifted in the world of education, especially in Texas," Cano said. "Going from lesson planning to lesson internalization has become such a theme this vear. Even the T-test domain rubric, they have created an alternate rubric this year for internalization because usually it addresses lesson planning."

Cano showed that last year's STAAR test results for fifth-grade math showed students underperforming with only 59% of students achieving "approaches grade level," 33% achieving "meets grade level" and 13% achieving "masters grade level," which was the lowest it has been in a long time.

To combat this issue, the district implemented STEMscopes, which is quality instructional material provided to faculty along with the internalization process. According to Cano, this change made a huge difference.

"On our last CBA (curriculum-based assessments),

92% of students reached 'approaches grade level,' 53% reached 'meets grade level' and 17% reached 'masters," Cano said

Fifth grade reading and language arts are also showing signs of improvement.

"At the beginning of the year, teachers were hesitant to embrace the changes, but they are now seeing the benefits," Cano said.

Board trustee Cody Bryant spoke during Cano's presentation and said he has even seen improvement in his own child who attends Goshen

Elementary.

"It might just be pure luck, but both in math and reading, his growth percentile shows he's in the 99 percentile. Call me lucky, but it's working," Bryant said.

While the results on fifth grade reading improvements are still to be determined, early results are showing positive numbers with special education students

While most elementary schools have embraced the internalization process, upper grade level schools have had some reservations. Some

of the middle schools have had scheduling conflicts regarding the PLC meetings, but administrators are currently working on future collaborations.

"What I see is we're going to see much more success there with our kids moving up," Cano said.

Springtown ISD is optimistic about the long-term impact of internalization. The district plans to provide additional updates in the spring, including survey results and more analysis on student performance.

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TRI* COUNTY REPORTER

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OBITUARIES

Gwendolyn Ann Frierson

Gwendolyn Ann Frierson passed away peacefully with her children by her side Saturday, Dec. 14, 2024, in Fort Worth. She was born Oct. 13, 1945, in Tampa, Florida. Gwen was an Azle resident since 1971 and was loved by many.

A celebration of life will be held in the spring.

She was preceded in death by her brother, Boyce Belcher, her father Burnett Belcher, her mother, Jacqueline Smith and stepfather Arden Smith.

She is survived by daughter Laura Frierson; son
Daniel Frierson and wife
Debby; granddaughter Maci

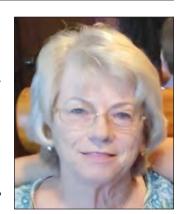
or email us at:

James R. Plowman Norma Plowman 913 N. Elm St. Weatherford, TX 76086

www.galbreaithpickard.com

To place an obituary Call 817-270-3340

info@tricountyreporter.com



Keener; and numerous family members.

The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday October 10, 2024



JIM STEVENS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

The Azle Independent School District hosted an open house at its administration building Dec. 16, where choir students performed for

Azle ISD celebrates with holiday open house

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

AZLE — Azle schools showed off their best during a holiday open house Dec. 16. The come-and-go event featured free food and refreshments prepared by Azle High School culinary arts students and musical performances from the AHS choir, Hoover Elementary choir and AHS jazz band. Gifts were given out to the first 100 guests and merriment was had by all students, parents and staff ahead of Christmas break.



The Grinch dropped by for a visit to the delight of Azle students.



817-594-2747 • FAX 817-596-7803



 $Visitors\,ate\,a\,meal, so cialized\,and\,learned\,about\,the\,district\,during\,a\,Dec.\,16\,open\,house.$

... ATTEND THE CHURCH OF YOUR CHOICE THIS SUNDAY **GRACEPOINTE CHURCH THE ABBEY CHURCH AZLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH LEGACY CHURCH** THE WORD@LAKESIDE CHURCH OF GOD **DISCIPLES OF CHRIST** Assembly of God Church Pastor: Paul Brownback 4110 E. Hwy 199, Springtown 9396 FM 1886 Fort Worth, TX 76135 Interim Minister Rev. Russell Clark, 10400 Jacksboro Hwy 817-238-1404 Pastor: Gary D. Veazey Pastor: Timothy McKeown 817-237-5500 Family Life Minister Emerson Braun Hwy. 199 & Jaybird Lane 817-221-2983 www.TheAbbeyChurch.com 817-221-5683 gracepointesbc.org thewordatlakeside.com Morning Worship......10:30 AM 117 Church St. • **817-444-3527** Morning Worship......9:15 & 11:00 AM **Pastors**: Brandon and Kelly Bohannon Sunday School......9:45 am Sunday School......10:00 AM Community Groups Various Times Kidz Zone.....9:15 & 11:00 AM **Worship Pastor**: Christen Moody Sunday Service.....11:00 AM Morning Worship......11:00 AM Weds Evening Legacy Group Legacy Youth, Kids **ASH CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH** Family Life and Young Adult Pastors: Jodie Wednesday Bible Study6:00 PM **CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH** All Services.......7:00 PM Pastor: Dr. G. Wesley Shotwell and Mark James, Kids Pastor: Katie Pearson, HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH 2233 Hwy 199 E., Springtown 300 South Stewart St. 817-444-3219 THE RANCH CHRISTIAN COWBOY CHURCH **Student Pastors**: Taylor and Sheridan 800 Highcrest Dr. - Azle **817-444-3063** 817-221-LIFE (5433) www.ashcreekbc.org Pastor: Greg Slankard Tomlin, Creative Directors: Logan and Carrie Sunday Worship Service10:00 AM Saturday......5:00 PM Sunday School......9:30 AM 7955 Reed Rd., Azle **682-327-7082** Edwards, **Connections Coordinators**: Sunday 9:00 AM Wednesday......7:00 PM www.TheRanchCCC.org Contemporary Worship-TMP 10:45 AM Preston and Ashley Larrew Sunday11 AM (Spanish) **CROSSROADS BAPTIST CHURCH** Traditional Worship10:45 AM Sunday School 9:30 AM • Worship 10:00 AM Daily Mass (M, T, Th, F)8:00 AM Equip Sunday School Pastor - Jon Baker Evening Worship/Youth Refuge......6:00 PM Weds 7:00 pm • Thurs Potluck 6:30 pm Wednesday Mass Religious ED 6:30 PM Corner FM 730S & FM 1886 817-755-0279 at the WORD 9:30 AM Wednesday Evening......6:15 PM SILVER CREEK METHODIST CHURCH Confessions Sat 4 PM Transportation Available Empower Worship **AZLE FIRST ASSEMBLY of GOD** Pastor: Bill Killough at the WORD 10:45 AM **HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA** Worship Service......10:30 AM Rev. Joshua Lowrance 2200 Church Rd., Azle 817-444-1382 4795 E. Hwy 199 - Reno 817-221-HOPE Wed. Prayer Service......7:00 PM Kids at the WORD...... 10:45 AM 1020 S.E. Parkway, Azle 817-237-4903 www.silvercreekmc.org Follow us on Facebook for streaming services THE EDGE CHURCH - AZLE PreK at the WORD...... 10:45 AM Sunday School......9:30 AM Sunday School 9:30 AM • Worship 10:30 AM Sunday School......9:00 AM 1313 S.E. Pkwy, Azle 817-237-4822 Emanate at the WORD Morning Worship......10:30 AM Traditional Service10:00 AM **SILVER CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH** Missouri Synod (Special Needs Ministry) 10:45 AM Wednesday Evening......7:00 PM Pastor: Jay Ditty "Love God - Serve Others - Share Jesus" **SOLID ROCK BIBLE CHURCH** Nursery at the WORD 10:45 AM **COMMUNITY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH** Minister of Music: David Musick Traditional Worship9:30 AM 591 S. Reno Rd, , Springtown, Texas 76082 Young Adults at the WORD 6:00 PM Pastor - Alton Davis 817-521-4510 Contemporary Worship......11:00 AM Pastor - Bill Gay - 817-304-7443 Corner FM 730 S. & Veal Station Rd. Wednesdays cbfazle.org FIRST METHODIST CHURCH OF AZLE Coffee and Donuts9:00 AM Church 817-444-2325 Adult Bible Class......7:00 PM 1405 Reynolds Rd., Azle www.silvercreekbc.org Sunday School......9:30 AM Pastor: Rev. Raymond Gilman The WORD Students Sunday School......9:45 AM Directions: 730 N. to 1542 .5 mi. right 200 Church St., Azle 817-444-3323 Morning Worship......10:30 AM Morning Worship......10:50 AM (6th-12th grades)...... 6:30 PM on Cardinal, left on Reynolds Morn. Worship8:30 & 10:45 AM Children's Church After Music Service Evening Worship6:00 PM Awana Kids at the WORD 6:30 PM Sunday Service.................11:00 AM Sunday School.................9:45 AM Wed. Prayer Meeting.............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

TRI+COUNTY REPORTER

COMMUNITY

THURSDAY, December 26, 2024



HOTOS BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEW

The Springtown Porcupines and Lady Pines basketball teams traveled to Lake Worth High School Dec. 17 to face the Bullfrogs and Lady Bullfrogs. The Porcupines defeated the Bullfrogs 51-45, while the Lady Pines topped the Lady Bullfrogs 51-37.

Area athletes named TGCA all-state

RICK MAUCH

Special to the Tri-County Reporter

Jacqui McClain of the Azle Lady Hornets and Libby Tedder of the Springtown Lady Pines were named to the Texas Girls Coaches Association All-State Volleyball Team in their respective classifications.

McClain, a junior, was named to the Class 5A team. She played a major role in the Lady Hornets posting a 28-15 record and advancing to the third round of the Class 5A Division II playoffs, their deepest playoff run since 1998. She led the team in kills (554), kills per set (4.5), hitting percentage (.251), along with serving 28 aces and having 342 defensive digs.

Tedder, a sophomore, was honored on the 4A squad. She led Springtown in kills (505), kills per set (4.4), hitting percentage (.242) and aces per set (0.6), along with serving 28 aces, 381 digs and 483 receptions. The Lady Pines were 29-15 and reached the second round of the Class 4A

Division I playoffs.

AZLE FOOTBALL

Eleven members of the Hornets were named to the All-District 3-5A Division I Team by the coaches in the district.

Named to the first team offense were senior running back Hagen Hughes and wide receiver junior Aiden Mackey. Hughes was one of the top running backs in North Texas, finishing with 1,836 yards and 24 touchdowns, along with catching 10 passes for 186 yards and another score.

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

Mackey led the team in receiving yards with 657 and 13

touchdowns on 40 catches. Picked for the first team defense were senior tackle Devin Wingfield (four sacks) and junior safety Riley Self

(57 tackles). Second team offensive honors went to junior quarterback Derrek Vowell (2,141 yards, 22 TD, nine interceptions), senior guard Leavy Owens and senior tackle Dylan Maines.

Offensive honorable mentions are sophomore wide receiver Brayden Combs, senior wide receiver Garrett Bailey, senior wide receiver Cash Moore, junior center Cole Johnson and freshman running back King Stephens.

Defensive honorable mentions are senior safety Bryan Moya and junior outside linebacker Jay Glaze.

Garnering academic alldistrict accolades were Mackey, Bailey, Cash Moore, Vowell, Owens, Johnson, Wingfield, Maines, Combs, seniors Moose Jenkins, Utkarsh Bhandari, Christopher Voelkel, Jaime Ramirez, Cayden Lawson, Anthony Hollingshead, Matthew Frank, Joshua Guzman, Conner Merrill, Cash Hunter, Case Moore, Giovanni Gonzalez, Davis Lokey, D'Lathian Young, Carsyn Syrus, Ethan Alcala, Zachary Randle and Kasenn Thomas; juniors Michael Gault, Landon Adam, Luke Tupper, Hayden Haider, Jase Lahue and Jordan Durrett; sophomores Colton Cook, Boston Ooten and Gage Murphy; and freshman Auston Morgan.

LAKE WORTH FOOTBALL

The Bullfrogs landed 20 players on the All-District 6-4A Division I Team as chosen by the league's coaches. First team accolades went

Seniors: Jaden Garrett, wide receiver; Anthony Johnson, wide receiver; Noah Washington, guard; Jeremiah Gordon, defensive end; Javion Jackson, linebacker; Jose Gloria, tackle.

Juniors: Christian Satcher, defensive tackle; Daniel Rubio, kicker

Sophomore: Eddie Paige, punter

Freshman: Brayon McLendon, nose tackle Second team honorees are: Seniors: Michael Andrade, guard; Eli Lopez, center; Abdala Songolo, center

Juniors: Gavin Tovar, running back; Lewis Garcia, tight end; Nicholas Gonzalez, tackle; Sarcoise Kabila, safety Sophomores: McTobia Pilot,

inside linebacker; Kingston Davis, defensive tackle

Freshman: Jaedon Garcia, tight end

Academic all-district honors were earned by Davis, Garcia, Garrett, Gonzalez, Gordon, Jackson, Kabila, Lopez, Rubio, Satcher, Tovar, along with seniors Rowshaun Armour, Johnnie Brown, Alvin Carter and Arron Escobar; juniors Nhoren Cloubou, Jamal Jones, Jalence Kirven, Kevin Leon, Garian Peoples, Brandon Perez, Reiko Reed and Jakobe Smith; and sophomore Stones

Landa.
The Bullfrogs finished 2-8
but were in the postseason
hunt through the final game
of the season. They were 2-3
in league play and missed the

playoffs on a tiebreaker. **AZLE BOYS BASKETBALL**

The Hornets (9-12) return to action following the holiday break Friday, Dec. 27 with a home game against Justin Northwest at 1 p.m. They end 2024 with a trip to Granbury Tuesday, Dec. 31 at 1:15 p.m., also their District 5-5A opener.

That's followed by a home contest against Brewer Jan. 7 at 7:30 p.m.

AZLE GIRLS BASKETBALL

The Lady Hornets (5-14, 0-2 in district) fell 63-38 at home against Keller Fossil Ridge Tuesday, Dec. 17. Leaders were Emerson Anderson and Abby Natusch with 11 points each, with Keagan Stuart adding 8.

The Lady Hornets were hosting Saginaw at press time and are in the College Station Tournament Dec. 26-28. They travel to Granbury Dec. 31 at 11:45 a.m. for a return to league play and host Brewer Jan. 7 at 6:15 p.m.

SPRINGTOWN/LAKE WORTH BOYS BASKETBALL

The Porcupines (3-11 overall) began District 7-4A play the road against the Bullfrogs (9-4 overall) Dec. 17, winning 51-45. The game was tied at 37 after three quarters before Springtown ended with a 14-8 run in the final period.

Ayden Lugo of the Porcupines led all scorers



COURTESY PHOTO

Jacqueline McClain

with 29 points. Teammate Ethan Graham added 10 and Kane Grubbs contributed 6.

Leading for the Bullfrogs were Braylen Fridia with 14 points and Favian Lopez with 12 points. Ayden Brooks and Anthony Green each scored 6, with Brooks also grabbing 13 rebounds.

At press time, Springtown was hosting Bridgeport and Lake Worth was playing at Burkburnett. After the holiday break, both teams will play in the Ponder Tournament Dec. 27-28.

The Bullfrogs will travel to Stephenville New Year's Eve for a 2:30 p.m. game and get back into league play Jan. 3 at home against Krum at 3:30 p.m.

Springtown will open the new year back in district at Castleberry Jan. 3 at 12:30

SPRINGTOWN/LAKE WORTH GIRLS BASKETBALL

The Lady Pines (7-11, 1-2 in District 5-5A) visited the Lady Frogs (14-8, 0-3) Dec. 17 with Springtown winning 51-37.

The Lady Pines were led by Esther Balado, who scored 21 points. Kaylee Falcon scored 8, with Olivia Williams and

Evelyn Herrera each adding 6. Leading the way for Lake Worth were Aliyah Salas with 10 points, Bailey Jones with 8 points and Kylah Nabors

scored 7.
At press time, Springtown was hosting Bridgeport and Lake Worth was at Burkburnett. Then, the Lady Pines will compete in the Carter Riverside/Western Hills Classic Dec. 27-28 before traveling to Castleberry Jan. 3 at 6:15 p.m. to return

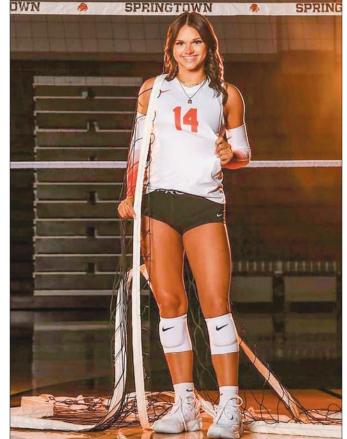
to district play.

The Lady Frogs will take an extended break before hosting Krum Jan. 3 at 2:15 p.m. in a return to league competition.

SPRINGTOWN WRESTLING

The Porcupines and Lady Pines competed in the Eagle Mountain-Saginaw Tournament recently and two members of the varsity boys placed in the top four of their weight classes. Zariah Nelson finished third in the 165 division and Devin Bell was

fourth in the 157 category.
Also, in a recent quad
match, the Porcupines defeated Little Elm, Frisco
Panther Creek and Pilot
Point. Wrestlers who went
undefeated in the competition were Wyatt Blount, 106;
Bode Green, 126; Dominic
Contreras, 138; Daniel
Wilson, 144; Ethan Weitzman,
144; and James Snyder,
heavyweight.



COURTESY PHOTO

LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICES

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

INVITATION TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS NOTICE Notice is hereby given that the City of Azle, Texas (OWNER) will receive sealed proposals at Azle City Hall until 2:00 p.m. local time on Friday, January 3, 2025 for EMS Billing Services and In-Field Patient Care Reporting for the Fire Department. Sealed proposals will be opened and read aloud publicly following the close of the period.Bidders may receive a copy of Request for Proposals from the City's website at http://www.cityofazle.org. For additional information, please contact: Jennifer Walls/Purchasing Agent at 817-444-7003 or by email at jwalls@cityofazle.org

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS CITY OF AZLE, TEXAS WALNUT CREEK LIFT STATION Separate sealed bids for the construction of WALNUT CREEK LIFT STATION (Azle No. 2025-002) will be received by the City of Azle, Texas until 2:00 PM on January 23, 2025, at City Hall, 505 W. Main Street, Azle, Texas, 76020, and then at said location publicly opened and read aloud. This project includes furnishing and installing a new package wastewater lift station, a generator, blower system, and all ancillary piping, conduit, and equipment to complete the installation and make it operational. The Contract Documents consisting of Advertisement of Bids, Information for Bidders, Bid Proposal, Bid Bond, Contract, Performance and Payment Bonds, Maintenance Bond, General Conditions, Notice of Award, Notice to Proceed, Plans, Specifications, and Addenda (if any) may be examined at the following location: JACOB & MARTIN, LLC 1925 Fort Worth Highway, Weatherford, Texas 76086 The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities and to reject any or all bids. Bids may be held by the Owner for a period not to exceed 60 days from the date of bid opening for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the qualifications of Bidders prior to awarding of the contract. Contractors must obtain a set of CONTRACT DOCUMENTS online at www.jacobmartin.com by digital download or hard copy to be considered a registered plan holder eligible to bid the project. Cost for digital download of CONTRACT DOCUMENTS will be \$0.00. Hard copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS will be \$100.00 All Copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS must be ordered online and are available for pick up, mail out or digital download via www. jacobmartin.com. Upon verification of online payment, hard copies may be picked up at Jacob & Martin, LLC, located at 1925 Fort Worth Highway, Weatherford, Texas 76086. A certified check or bank draft, payable to the order of CITY OF AZLE, TEXAS, negotiable U.S. Governmental bonds (at par value) or a satisfactory Bid Bond executed by the Bidder and an acceptable surety in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the total bid shall be submitted with each bid. City of Azle, Texas Alan Brundrett, Mayor December 26, 2024 & January 2,

NOTICE TO BIDDERS SEALED PROPOSALS addressed to the City Council of the City of Springtown, Texas will be received at the City Hall Annex, 200 N. Main Street, Springtown, Texas 76082, until 3:00 PM on Thursday, January 16, 2025 for the purpose of furnishing all plant, labor, materials and equipment and the performing of all work required in the Avenue "A" Street and Sewer Improvements / Hilltop Drive Street Improvements and other improvements incidental thereto, at which time and place the proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud in the City Hall Annex and retained by the city for tabulation, checking and evaluation. BIDS shall be submitted in sealed envelopes upon the blank Bid Form in the Contract Documents booklet. The entire Contract Documents' booklet must be returned in a sealed envelope with the following forms filled out and signed; Bid Form, Disadvantaged Business Enterprises Form, Conflict of Interest Questionnaire, Local Government Officer Conflicts Disclosure Statement, Vendor Compliance to State Law form, Contractor Compliance to Texas Sales Tax Code form. The Bid Bond for five (5%) percent of the total bid must be included in the sealed envelope with the bid. The sealed envelope shall be marked Avenue "A" Street and Sewer Improvements / Hilltop Drive Street Improvements - DO NOT OPEN UNTIL 3:00 PM on Thursday, January 16, 2025. A non-mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at 3:00 PM on Thursday, January 9, 2025 at the City Hall Annex, 200 N. Main Street. Representatives of the Owner and Engineer will be present to discuss the project and answer any questions. The Engineer will distribute to prospective bidders of record such Addenda, as the Engineer considers necessary in response to discussions or inquiries arising at the conference. PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS and contract documents may be examined and obtained without charge at the Springtown City Hall, 102 E. Second Street, Springtown, TX 76082. No hard copies of the Bidding Documents will be made available at City Hall. It is the responsibility of the interested party to print the Bidding Documents. Neither the Owner nor the Engineer will be responsible for full or partial sets of Bidding Documents, including any addenda, obtained from other sources. Each Bid must be submitted on the prescribed Bid Form and accompanied by Bid security as prescribed in the Instructions to Bidders. The Successful Bidder will be required to furnish the additional bond(s) prescribed in the Bidding Documents. In case of ambiguity or lack of clearness in stating proposal prices, the Owner reserves the right to adopt the most advantageous construction thereof, or to reject any or all bids. No bid may be withdrawn within fortyfive (45) days after date on which bids are opened. CITY OF SPRINGTOWN, TEXAS ADVERTISEMENT DATES: December 19, 2024 December 26, 2024

CITY OF LAKE WORTH ORDINANCE NO. 1294 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 1169. THE COMPREHENSIVE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LAKE WORTH, BY CHANGING THE ZONING DESIGNATION FROM "PC" PLANNED COMMERCIAL TO "HC" HIGHWAY CORRIDOR FOR APPROXIMATELY 1.205-ACRES OF LAND DESCRIBED HEREIN AS BLOCK 1, LOT 6R, LAKE WORTH TOWNE CROSSING ADDITION, AND COMMONLY KNOWN AS 6556 LAKE WORTH BLVD., LAKE WORTH, TEXAS AND BY AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP TO REFLECT SUCH CHANGE; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A PENALTY CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR SAVINGS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR ENGROSSMENT AND ENROLLMENT; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION IN THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER; AND NAMING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. SECTION 6. PENALTY CLAUSE. Any person, firm or corporation who violates, disobeys, omits, neglects or refuses to comply with or who resists the enforcement of any of the provisions of this Ordinance shall be fined not more than Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) for each offense. Each day that a violation is permitted to exist shall constitute a separate offense. SECTION 10. PUBLICATION CLAUSE. The City Secretary of the City of Lake Worth is hereby directed to publish in the official newspaper of the City of Lake Worth, the caption, the penalty clause, publication clause, and effective date clause of this ordinance two (2) days as authorized by Section 52.013 of the Local Government Code. SECTION 11. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication as required by law, and it is so ordained. PASSED AND APPROVED on the 17th day of December 2024. CITY OF LAKE WORTH /s/Walter Bowen Walter Bowen - Mayor ATTEST: /s/Holly Fimbres Holly Fimbres - City Secretary

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE Pursuant to Chapter 59, Texas Property Code, Trinity Self Storage which is located at 200 Walnut Creek Drive Azle, TX 76020 will hold a public auction of property being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale will be at 10 o'clock a.m. on January 16th, 2025 at 200 Walnut Creek Drive Azle, TX 76020. Property will be sold to highest bidder for cash. Deposit for removal and cleanup may be temporarily required. Seller reserves the right to not accept any bid and to withdraw property from sale. Property in each space may be sold item-by-item, in batches, or by the space. Property being sold includes contents in space(s) of the tenant listed below, with brief description of contents in the space(s). TENANT'S COMPLETE NAME as shown on rental agreement: Scott Bolin. General description of property: Misc.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE Pursuant to Chapter 59, Texas Property Code, Trinity Self Storage which is located at 200 Walnut Creek Drive Azle, TX 76020 will hold a public auction of property being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale will be at 10 o'clock a.m. on January 16th, 2025 at 200 Walnut Creek Drive Azle, TX 76020. Property will be sold to highest bidder for cash. Deposit for removal and cleanup may be temporarily required. Seller reserves the right to not accept any bid and to withdraw property from sale. Property in each space may be sold item-by-item, in batches, or by the space. Property being sold includes contents in space(s) of the tenant listed below, with brief description of contents in the space(s). TENANT'S COMPLETE NAME as shown on rental agreement: Daryl Jones. General description of property: Misc.

CITY OF LAKE WORTH NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION AND CITY COUNCIL CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT REQUEST PLANNING & ZONING CASE #PZ-2024-24 The Planning and Zoning Commission of the City of Lake Worth, Texas, will conduct the first of two public hearings at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 14, 2025, at the Lake Worth City Council Chambers, 3805 Adam Grubb, Lake Worth, Texas 76135 to hear public comment and consider recommendations to the City Council regarding an ordinance requesting a Conditional Use Permit to operate a Minor Auto Service/Repair Shop in the "HC" Highway Corridor zoning district for approximately 0.8728-acres of land described as Block 1, Lot 2, Lake Worth Dadre Addition and more commonly known as 6734 Lake Worth Blvd, Lake Worth, Texas. The City Council will conduct a second public hearing at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 21, 2025, at the Lake Worth City Council Chambers, 3805 Adam Grubb, Lake Worth, Texas 76135 to hear public comment and consider an ordinance requesting a Conditional Use Permit to operate a Minor Auto Service/Repair Shop in the "HC" Highway Corridor zoning district for approximately 0.8728-acres of land described as Block 1, Lot 2, Lake Worth Dadre Addition and more commonly known as 6734 Lake Worth Blvd, Lake Worth, Texas. All interested parties are encouraged to attend.



ZED by Duane Abel







Sudoku

DECEMBER 26, 2024

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

Level: Beginner

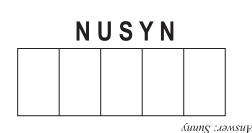
Solution to last week's puzzle

DECEMBER 19, 2024

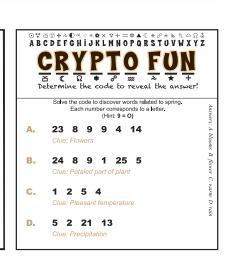
4	1	8	6	3	7	5	2	9
3	6	2	8	5	9	1	7	4
7	9	5	1	2	4	8	6	3
2	8	1	7	9	5	3	4	6
5	7	3	4	8	6	9	1	2
6	4	9	2	1	3	7	5	8
8	3	7	5	4	2	6	9	1
1	5	4	9	6	8	2	3	7
9	2	6	3	7	1	4	8	5

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to spring.



BEGIN JANUARY 13



817-594-5471 | WC.EDU

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/EQUAL ACCESS INSTITUTION



Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce names students of the month

JOLEE SKINNER

jolee@tricountyreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — On Dec. 12 Springtown High School Principal Andrew Hohman presented the November and December students of the month to the Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce board of directors and ambassadors.

Riley Tidwell was the first to be named December student of the month. Tidwell is a senior and is considering attending Texas Christian University as her college of

Next, Senior Dawson Ferris was named. Ferris was not there in person to receive his

award as he was at a basketball tournament. Hohman said Ferris is looking forward to being an auto mechanic after graduation.

Jamie Mueller and Jacqueline Aranda were named the chamber's November students of the month. Mueller is excited to attend Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls for mechanical engineering.

Aranda is an office aide at Springtown High School and she plans to attend Wade College in Dallas to learn about design consulting.

Principal Hohman congratulated the students and wished them well.



Students of the month receive their awards. Pictured are (L-R) Principal Andrew Hohman, Riley Tidwell, Jamie Mueller, Jacqueline Aranda, and Mary Jo Harms and Terri Toone, representing the Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce.



Jacqueline Aranda accepts her award from Mary Jo Harms.



Jamie Mueller accepts his award from Mary Jo Harms.



Riley Tidwell accepts her award from Mary Jo Harms.

Rotary recognizes students for December

Sarah Dustin, Kevin Hinojosa, Katlyn Johnson and Ryan Lowe named students of the month

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

AZLE — Four Azle High School seniors were recognized for academic and extracurricular achievements by the Azle Rotary Club of Azle during a Dec. 5 meeting.

Sarah Dustin is the daughter of Randi Dustin and Ed Dustin, Dustin is ranked 24th in her class with a grade point average of 101.47. She is interested in going to Weatherford College or Tarleton State University to major in nursing. She is proud of being in the top 10% of her class, gaining college credit, and making the top band her senior year. She describes herself as kind, caring, passionate, well-organized and emotional. In her free time, she enjoys building with Legos. Dustin said one interesting thing about her is that she was born with holes in her heart and had open heart surgery at age 3.

Kevin Hinojosa is the son of Lorinda Hemby. He is ranked 23rd in his class with a GPA of 101.58. After high school, Hinojosa is interested in pursuing a career as a physician assistant, nurse, physical therapist or biomedical engineer. He is proud of maintaining good grades while also working at a Azle Manor to become a certified nursing

assistant. Hinojosa considers his confidence, time management and stress management to be his greatest skills. He describes himself as compassionate, generous and smart. Hinojosa is involved in HOSA — Future Health Professionals and the National Honor Society. His special interests include cooking, gaming and caring

for others. Katlyn Johnson is the daughter of Jennifer Russell and Adam Johnson. She is ranked 22nd in her class with a GPA of 101.79. Johnson hopes to attend Oklahoma University or Texas Tech for computer science, computer engineering or astronomy. She is proud of her high Advanced Placement test scores and maintaining high grades. She considers math and science to be some of her greatest academic strengths. Johnson described herself as trustworthy, determined and relentless.

"I stay on top of schoolwork and am not late," Johnson said in a recommendation form. "One weakness I had was that I struggled with writing cohesive essays under pressure. To fix this I would practice writing and ask trusted friends to critique

She is involved in marching band, concert band and



Pictured (L-R) are Azle Rotary Club President Bob Buckel, AHS students Ryan Lowe, Katlyn Johnson, Sarah Dustin and Kevin Hinojosa, and **AHS Principal Nate Driver.**

indoor drumline. Johnson is audio section leader for the band and has gone to UIL state solo and ensemble for three years. She also plays piano and competes for the Burch School of Music.

Ryan Lowe is the son of Michelle Lowe and Adrian Lowe. He is ranked 21st in his class with a GPA of 101.80. Lowe hopes to attend the University of Texas for computer science to pursue

entrepreneurial or academic interests. He is proud that he has learned how to use the Godot game engine and the Rust programming language. Lowe likes to learn and think critically. He enjoys listening to and creating music. He has been involved in band and Interact Club. Lowe's special interests include programming, music, art, photo editing, video editing, sound design and mathematics.



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Optimists recognize Azle youths for December

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

AZLE — The Optimist Club of Azle recognized two high school seniors as its Young Texanne and Young Texan for December during its Dec. 13 meeting: Kendyl Bush and Grayson Allen.

Kendyl Bush is the daughter of Heather and Brian Bush. She is ranked 25th in her class with a grade point average of 101.35. Bush is interested in attending Baylor University, Northwestern State University of Louisiana

or the University of Texas at Austin to study orthopedics or pediatrics. She considers time management, critical thinking and listening to be some of her greatest academic strengths. Bush is involved in the National Honor Society, Peer Assisted Student Learning, HOSA — Future

Health Professionals, varsity soccer and coaching youth soccer. She considers herself optimistic, adaptable and persistent. Bush enjoys horse riding, painting, reading and coaching

Grayson Allen is the son of Amy and Michael Allen. He is ranked 28th in his class with a GPA of 101.25. After high school, Allen is interested in

studying medicine, psychology and philosophy. He is proud of maintaining high grades while also working. He considers reading and writing to be his greatest academic strengths.

Kendyl Bush and Grayson Allen recognized as Young Texanne and Young Texan

"I think my greatest quality is my ability to learn," Allen said in a recommendation form. "I think it is one of the things that has allowed

me to do so much outside of school and do so well in my classes. It's also made it easy for me to try so many things and have so many hobbies. I think my biggest weakness is being unable to stay focused on things for a long time, it is something I've struggled with in school being easily distracted, but through working on bettering myself I have

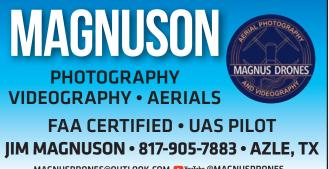
been able to overcome that weakness and I think I'm a stronger student for it."

He considers himself hardworking, dedicated and passionate. Allen is involved in UIL social studies, debate, band, chess club and NHS. Allen enjoys hiking, reading, tennis, pickleball, watch collecting, piano, violin and trumpet.



(L-R): Azle High School Principal Nate Driver, Grayson Allen, Kendyl Bush and Azle Optimist President Chance Kidd.





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Christmas fun at Eagle Mountain Plaza





Brooks, who is 7 months old, sits on Santa's lap Dec. 14.



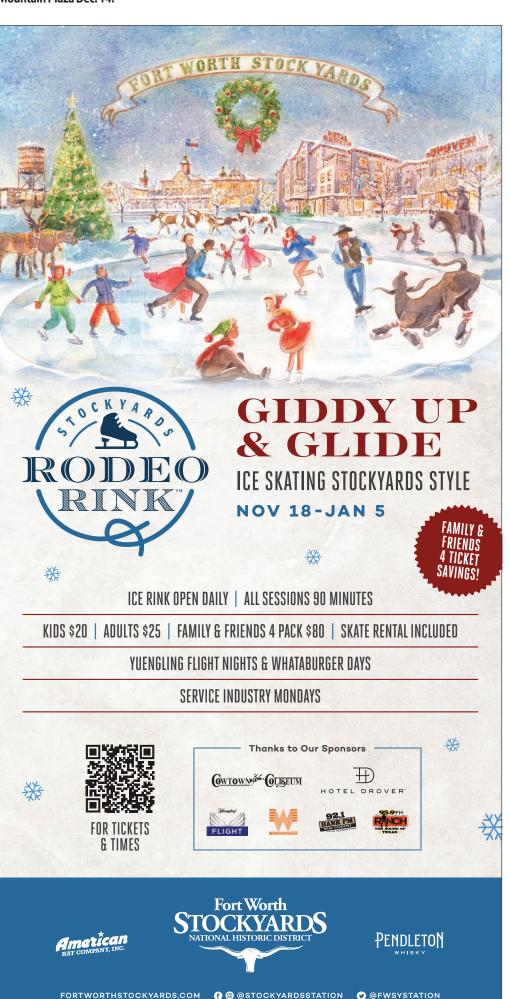


Jackie "JJ" Joy plays with a befuddled Santa's beard while husband Steve looks on.

Pearl Herman, age 88, sits on Santa's lap during her visit to Eagle Mountain Plaza Dec. 14.



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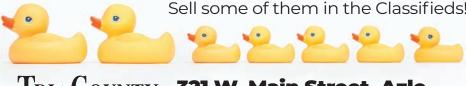
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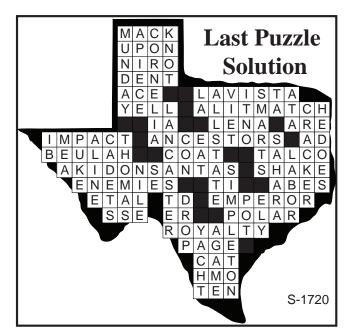
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ACROSS

- 1 in Wilson County on U.S. 181
- 5 TXism: "___ says giddyup, you better
- go" (mean man) 6 TXism: "fought
- tooth and _ 7 Houston FM radio
- 8 Mitchell County seat 17 Dublin High class 18 Los Ebanos was
- named for these (2 wds.) 21 former Seahawk LB from UT: _ _ Lewis
- 22 TXism: "who put _
- _ in her bonnet?" 23 spotted deer found
- in Texas 24 a base that
- dissolves in water 29 TX Swayze 1989
- film: "____ House" 30 applaud
- 31 TXism: "__ humid my upper lip is mildewing"
- 32 TX Janis band "Big Brother and _ Company" 34 lost blood
- 35 Texas' Dr. Pepper was named after this Charles (init.)
- 36 Faith Hill's "The Way _
- 37 iced Texas drinks 38 cabbage-like vegetable 39 Houston Indian wife
- 40 TXism: "I_
- (I declare) 41 Santa

people mover 44 TXism: "

42 department store

- counter" (bookkeeper) 45 this Blank made two
- documentaries about Texas blues musician "Lightnin" Hopkins
- 46 former home of Texas' Confederate Air Force
- 48 Benji, et al.
- in Harlingen (2 wds.) 26 27
- 49 the rodeo 3 days
- 50 former tech. inst. in Texas 51 Dallas Stars leag.
- 52 TXism: "take a look **DOWN**
- 1 rides for Mary Kay top sales (2 wds.) 2 TXism: "he's a few bricks shy ___
- " (dimwitted) 3 Dolly's character in "Wild Texas Wind"
- 4 TX Willie wrote ___ Walls"
- 9 put the groceries back in a sack 10 TXism: "hot as _
- of mesquite coals"
- 11 female deer
- 12 TXism: "cooking _ the front burner"
- 13 bikes 14 TXism: "if _ been a snake it
- would have bit you" 15 TXism: "boring as a fishing ____ with
- a game warden" 16 nevertheless
- 19 55 miles east of Abilene
- 20 ski hill 22 TXism: "busy as ___-armed
- paper hanger" 24 TXism: "try your
- hand _
- 25 TX Hagman (init.) 26 TXism: "church
- " (bottle opener)
- 27 TXism: "busier than _ _

52

49

- a boomtown" 28 a TX Mandrell
- 29 Eagles are a big
- of Cowboys 30 big TX family
- 33 actress Drake of
- of a tree" 43 gallery display
- "legal eagle" compensation (2 wds.) "Down Laredo Way" 47 TXism: "itty-bitty"

34 TXism: "gave his

slip" (recovered)

37 TX Martin film "The

40 TXism: "got a mind

like a _____ trap"
41 TXism: "she could

charm _ __

Man with ___

pall

35 dental root

38 leg joints

P-1721



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