

Looking back on 2024



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

The world-famous Blue Angels performed fantastic feats of aerial acrobatics over Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth over the April 13, 2024 weekend.

ZACH FREEMAN
azlereporter@tricityreporter.com

JOLEE SKINNER
Jolee@tricityreporter.com

This year there was no shortage of new happenings in the tri-county area. Azle, Springtown, Lake Worth and surrounding areas continue to grow and change at an astounding rate. Longtime community leaders left and new ones stepped in to fill their shoes. New projects were started, and some were completed. 2024 was a year of historic firsts and achieving new heights. To celebrate all that has happened, the Tri-County Reporter has collected some of the year's most notable stories and will present them, along with a brief synopsis, in two parts, beginning with the first half of the year in approximate chronological order.

FIRE MARSHAL RETIRES

The Azle Fire Department hosted a going-away party in honor of Kenny Wilson, longtime Azle fire marshal, Jan. 2. Wilson joined the department Feb. 10, 2000, and has served as fire marshal since

PLEASE SEE 2024 | A5

Local congresswoman faces struggle with dementia

STAFF REPORT

FORT WORTH — Friday, Dec. 20, The Dallas Express published a news article investigating the whereabouts of Congressional District 12 Representative Kay Granger. According to the newspaper, Granger was found living in a Fort Worth assisted living facility.

CD 12 covers Azle, Springtown, Lake Worth, Weatherford, much of Parker County and western Tarrant. According to GovTrack.us, Granger was not present for

nearly half of her eligible votes in Washington, D.C. between April and June. The site shows a further decline in Granger's record with zero votes having been cast by the congresswoman in the last month. The Dallas Express reported that according to Granger's roll call vote page, which now directs to an error page, Granger's last vote was July 24, 2024. Granger's ability to represent her constituency became a major topic of discussion nationwide after initial reports broke.



COURTESY PHOTO

Kay Granger

The Dallas Morning News spoke with Granger's son

who confirmed she is living at the facility and that she was "having some dementia issues late in the year."

In light of the news, Granger's office released a statement Sunday Dec. 22.

"As many of my family, friends, and colleagues have known, I have been navigating some unforeseen health challenges over the past year," the statement said. "However, since early September, my health challenges have progressed, making frequent travel to

Washington both difficult and unpredictable. During this time, my incredible staff has remained steadfast, continuing to deliver exceptional constituent services as they have for the past 27 years."

Granger has held CD 12 since 1997 and was the first Republican congresswoman to represent a Texas district. Granger did not run for reelection this year. In March, she stepped down as the chair of the House Appropriations Committee and announced she would

retire at the end of her term in January.

Granger did return to the nation's capital as recently as November when she oversaw the closure of her office and attended a ceremony where her portrait was unveiled in a celebration of her 25-year tenure on the aforementioned House Appropriations Committee.

Republican congressional candidate Craig Goldman won the race for CD 12 in November and will begin his term Jan. 3.

Lost and found

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricityreporter.com

SANCTUARY — Three Sanctuary boys who were reported missing Wednesday night were recovered safe and sound early Thursday morning.

At approximately 8:30 p.m. Dec. 18, the Parker County Sheriff's Office was notified of three boys, aged 9, 10, and 11, reported missing around the 1000 block of Deere Lane in Sanctuary. The department issued an alert and was subsequently joined by the Briar-Reno Fire Department and various other agencies in a search of the area.

"We received the report and took immediate action knowing the juveniles were on foot, without cell communications, that nightfall had already set in and temperatures were dropping to concerning levels," Parker County Sheriff Russ Authier said.

According to a press re-

Multiple agencies search for three missing boys in Sanctuary

lease, parents of the children reported the boys got off a school bus together and went to the home of one of the boys. They were last seen together on foot, between 5:30 and 6 p.m.; the families told deputies it was unusual for the boys to wander off without returning.

Law enforcement officers and emergency personnel met sheriff's deputies to canvass the neighborhoods, going door-to-door, searching businesses, woods, creeks, property, buildings and surrounding areas.

Sheriff's deputies reported the terrain was rough and did not allow for equipment to continue into the depth of the woods. Tarrant County Sheriff's Office also lent its drone to cover the area where four-wheelers were unable to continue and Texas DPS

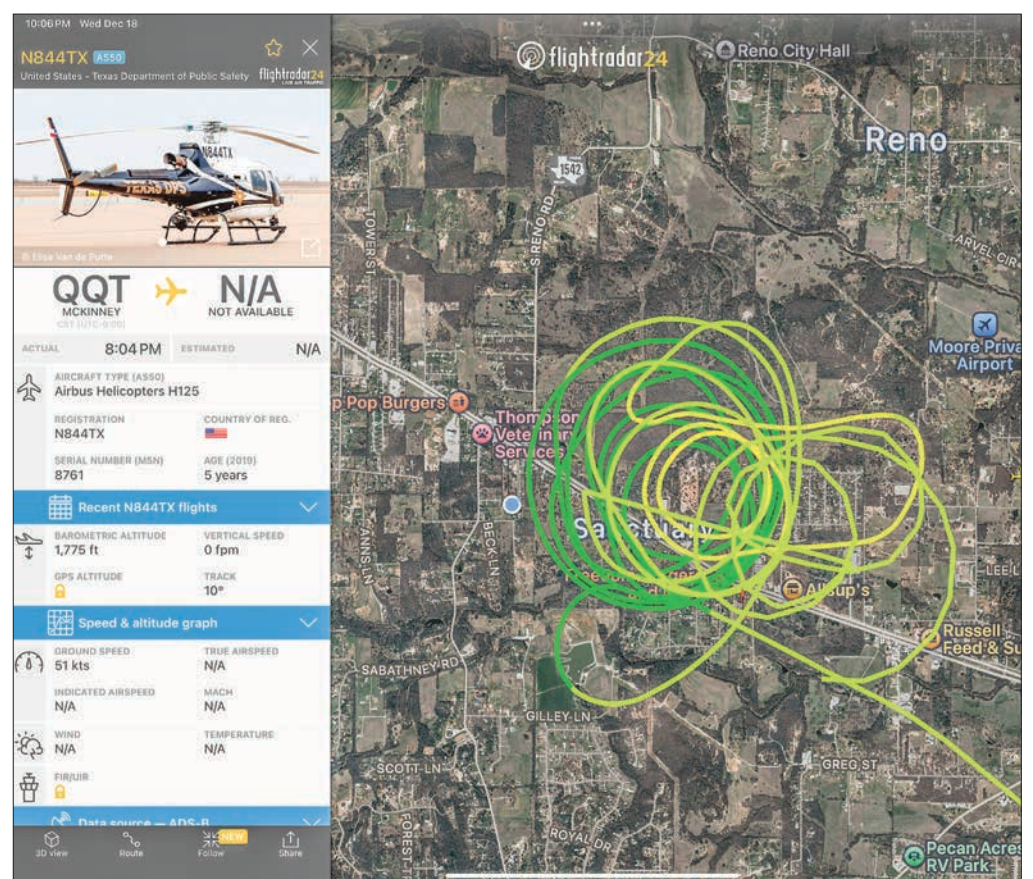
launched its helicopter, using infrared technology to canvass the area by air.

Authier said without their assistance, the search would have taken much longer, and resources could have very well been depleted. He also attributed the collective response from surrounding agencies to the safe recovery of the juveniles within hours.

"The helicopter pilot and crew relayed constant radio communications with the drone, K-9 unit and ground team," Authier said.

The boys were found cold and with minor scratches, but otherwise unharmed, at 3:06 a.m. They were located about a mile from their home within deep woods on the 1000 block of South Reno Road and extracted by a

PLEASE SEE LOST | A3



COURTESY PHOTO

This screenshot from the Flightradar24 app depicts the path of a Texas DPS helicopter during the search for three missing Sanctuary boys Wednesday night, Dec. 18. After searching the area for more than an hour, the helicopter refueled at Fort Worth Meacham Airport before returning to the area and searching into the early morning hours. The helicopter crew was instrumental in locating the boys, who were cold and received some scratches, but otherwise safe.



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ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Azle Finance Director Stephen Barnes at a Dec. 17 Azle City Council meeting.

Azle introduces new finance director

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

AZLE — During a Dec. 17 Azle City Council meeting, City Manager Tom Muir introduced Stephen Barnes as the city's incoming finance director to council members and attendees. Barnes replaces Martin Avila, who served as finance director since December 2023.

Barnes has a master's degree in accounting from the University of Texas at Arlington and more than 20 years' experi-

ence in municipal government finance, including seven years as a finance director. He is a Certified Government Finance Officer and has worked in areas of finance for cities such as St. Petersburg, Florida, Phoenix, Arizona and various agencies within the state of Texas.

"I am very excited to have been chosen to join the City of Azle Team and looking forward to assisting the City to achieve its goals," Barnes said in an email to the Tri-County Reporter.

Recognizing excellence

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

AZLE — Silver Creek Elementary School kindergarten teacher Kacie Krneta was awarded some long overdue recognition at a Dec. 16 Azle Independent School District board of trustees meeting. Chris Akers, past master and current secretary of Azle Masonic Lodge 601, recognized Krneta for being selected for the group's Lamar Award of Excellence in June. Krneta was away on vacation at the time and was unable to attend the initial ceremony. The award is named after the second president of the Republic of Texas, Mirabeau B. Lamar, who is also known as the state's father of public education. Each year, it is awarded to Texas teachers to celebrate educators, teachers and administrators who demonstrate dedication to student success, educational innovation and commitment and community involvement.

"This recognition honors her many years of devoted service to kindergarten students in the Azle school district," Akers said. "She's widely admired for her passion and unwavering commitment to early childhood education. Through her dedication, she has built a strong foundation for her young students, inspiring a love for learning that will guide them throughout their educational journeys and my daughter's one of them, I'll just say that this is going to go off script. That isn't the only reason you got the award, but she did not want to go to kindergarten. Now she loves the first grade and I think it was 100% because of what was done in kindergarten."

Silver Creek teacher presented prestigious award from Masonic Lodge 601



Chris Akers and Kacie Krneta shake hands with Azle ISD trustees.



Chris Akers, Kacie Krneta and Silver Creek Principal Aubri Deheck in front of the Azle ISD board of trustees Dec. 16.

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The impact of legends

Growing up I was, an avid fan of the St. Louis Cardinals. Many a night I would stay awake, lying under the covers, listening to my transistor radio as Hall of Fame announcer Jack Buck would call the game. I had been instructed by my mother to be sleeping and getting my rest for school the next day, but I could not help but lay there in anticipation of the last out of the game and Jack Buck saying his immortal call: "That's a winner!" Those are very poignant and precious youthful memories to me. Recently, Hall of Famers



FROM MY FRONT PORCH

By Sam Houston

Sam Houston is the publisher of the Hood County News. He is also an actor, author, playwright, performer and entertainment producer/promoter. sam@hcnews.com | 817-573-7066, ext. 260

Lou Brock and Bob Gibson passed on; two Cardinals legends who were some of my favorite childhood heroes. I watched or listened to them play hundreds of games and took from them their competitive spirit under pressure, their desire to win, and their commitment for excel-

lence. They were my "friends" (at least in my heart) and I learned a lot about how to go through life by watching them play. Knowing they have now passed on makes me feel a profound loss: a sense that something is gone that will never be replaced. They were two men of color

in a time when color mattered, but it did not for me. To me they were simply great men and I wanted to play like them, be like them and win like they did.

Now that they are gone, it makes me wonder and reflect about the other people who impacted me. My folks and grandparents of course, but the teachers, coaches, youth leaders, Sunday School teachers, neighbors and friends who helped to formulate who I am, how I think, and what I value. As I think about all the influences I have had and the impres-

sion they had upon me, I am thankful for their willingness to shape me and formulate me into all I have become.

So, who looks up to you? Have you considered who your actions and words impress and what type of impression you are making? We all have a responsibility and a duty to our community and our world to help those who come behind us, and to be the type of example so when our time comes to "cross that river" they will know our impact was for all things good, decent and respectful. As you go forward this week,

stop and think what sort of example you are making for your children, grandchildren, neighbors and friends. We all need to do our part just like Sweet Lou Brock and Bob "Hoot" Gibson did for me. Sometimes legends are wearing a uniform and playing on a ball diamond, but more times they are mothers, fathers, neighbors, teachers and friends.

Thought for the day: The quickest way to double your money is to fold it over and put it in your back pocket!

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

Life simplified ...

It's seasonal for most of us, of course. Our memories kick into overdrive, dredging up details of long-ago holidays.

In my case, Christmas Days of yore were as predictable as the sunrise. After "Santa gifts" were opened, we'd scurry across the county to Granny's house (Pawpaw's, too) for lunch and more gift openings with our extended family.

There, we'd typically exchange simple items, such as socks, hankies, neckties and cheap perfume. We all thought the "tree" — fashioned from a mesquite tree limb, adorned with strings of popcorn and construction paper ornaments — was plenty good. Most memorable, though, was a menu side dish, thoughts of which today cause immediate salivation ...

Grandmother Newbury had a way with fried pies —



THE IDLE AMERICAN

By Dr. Don Newbury

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

peach, apricot, mincemeat and apple — cooked on a wood stove during my early years.

Never have I tasted their equal, and the aroma wafting from the kitchen around 11 a.m. beckoned us to move closer, if only to get "stronger sniffs."

As these words are typed, a miniature flood is forming 'tween my teeth and tonsils ...

Back then, radio provided home entertainment. On cold winter evenings, we'd

gather around to listen while scarfing down frozen radio dinners. Commercials were simple and easily memorized. Buster Brown Shoes, for example, opened its weekly shows with a youngster saying, "My name's Buster Brown; I live in a shoe. That's my dog, Tige. He lives in there, too." Shredded Ralston Cereal sponsored cowboy Tom Mix, urging listeners to "take a tip from Tom, go and tell your mom, Shredded Ralston can't be beat." TV didn't show up until the

mid-1950s, with most ads still simple, but often more instructive.

One keenly remembered was an instant hit, particularly during the holidays. Alka-Seltzer came up with "I can't believe I ate the whole thing." Heeding such advice was — and still is — helpful ...

Many current TV ads induce groans and make my hair hurt. They insult, demean and offend, often defying the limits of innuendo.

A few are, uh, stupid, even if clever and smile-inducing.

I'll point out a couple — Charmin and General Motors. The former features happy bears who "enjoy the go," dipping their toes into questionable dialog swirling in the tricky waters of bathroom humor ...

For the third straight year, we've endured the snowy scene with dialog

beginning, "I have a gift for you," followed by "I have a gift for you, too." The handsome guy hands a puppy to a beautiful girl whose whistle signals the arrival of a shiny new GM pick-up truck from atop a snow-capped hill.

He is in awe, collapsing with a lingering kiss on the front fender. (In weather like this, maybe they had a tea kettle of hot water nearby to loosen his tongue frozen to the metal.) Some men might know which breed of puppy to select for their true loves, but I doubt it. Further, I can't imagine a woman with the enough courage to purchase the "right" pick-up truck her guy'd give a "fender-kiss." Don't tell me this is "real life America" for Christmas gifting ...

The foregoing may add evidence to my being both old and eccentric. I admit to

eccentricity decades before bales of AARP materials choked my mailbox.

Odds are, I'll remain resolute on some ads, perhaps as "dead certain" as Dr. Todd Still's late mother-in-law.

Late in life, she posed a serious question to Still, who is Dean of the George W. Truett Theological Seminary. Did Jesus, in fact, drink real wine? Without hesitation, he said it was likely that he did. "He wouldn't in my house," she countered. Closing seriously, may God's peace and grace abide with you and those you love. May you live with the undergirding assurance that the same God who has intervened in the affairs of humankind throughout history is still in charge. And may you and yours enjoy good health, good fortune and much happiness in 2025.

Road closures

STAFF REPORT

AZLE — Roads leading to Azle are expected to see closures starting in the new year. Texas Department of Transportation crews are scheduled to begin work reclaiming and overlaying portions of the State Highway 199 service roads, also known as Northwest Parkway and Southeast Parkway, the Stewart Street bridge and Spur 344 bridge, colloquially known as the "Ski Jump." The estimated project time frame is Jan. 5-24, weather permitting.

The project will have day and night work beginning Jan. 5 with nighttime operations for State Highway 199 westbound service road north of Denver Trail. The project will be done in sections, continuously to completion. The schedule is subject to change, barring any potential impacts, major weather or unforeseen events. Night work hours are 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. from Jan. 5-19. Daytime work hours will be 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. from Jan. 13-24.

COURTESY GOOGLE EARTH PRO

The Stewart Street Bridge, Ski Jump and Northwest Parkway, Southeast Parkway and State Highway 199 north of Denver Trail as seen from Google Earth.



Lake Worth armed robber still at large

JOLEE SKINNER
jolee@tricityreporter.com

LAKE WORTH — The suspect in an aggravated robbery in Lake Worth remained at large at press time, five days after robbing VIP Vapors located off Lake Worth Boulevard.

On Dec. 18 at 7 p.m. the suspect entered VIP Vapors with a pistol and demanded cash from an employee. The suspect is a black male and was wearing a black sweatshirt, a ski mask, jeans and sunglasses. The suspect was

able to obtain \$200 in cash and did not hurt any individuals during the robbery.

The armed robber then fled the vape shop on foot toward the intersection of IH-820 and Quebec Street. The officers who responded to the call saw the suspect in the distance near Shady Oaks Manor.

Shortly after the chase began, the Lake Worth police department took to social media to gain the public's help. Lake Worth PD posted on its X account about the robbery and asked anyone who may have seen the sus-

pect to call 911 and not to approach the suspect.

After two hours of an extensive search with help from multiple law enforcement departments, the search was called off at 9:20 p.m.

The Lake Worth PD received help from the Fort Worth PD, a Texas DPS helicopter and Lake Worth PD K-9 units.

Lake Worth PD is asking anyone with information about this robbery or the suspect's identity to please contact detectives at LWPD at LWCID@lakeworthtx.org or call 817-237-1224.

LOST

FROM PAGE A1

BRFD vehicle. When the BRFD Chief Moses Druxman asked the boys what happened they reportedly said, "we just went on an adventure."

The boys told law enforcement officers they were exploring a nearby creek and were unfamiliar with the wooded area when they became lost, but they kept together.

Once the pilot spotted the boys with his on-board infra-

red systems he directed sheriff's deputies to their location through the brush via radio communications. Emergency medical service crews with BRFD and Parker County Hospital District evaluated the children, who were then released to their parents.

"We would like to thank every agency, telecommunicator and team member who responded to assist in the search," Authier said. "Multi-agency cooperative response and effort are required, particularly in search-and-rescue missions which are of such

vital standing."

Texas Department of Public Safety Capt. Saben Emery also commended the law enforcement officers and first responders involved in the search efforts for the juveniles.

"There's no greater reward in this job than finding missing children," Emery said in an e-mail to Authier. "And with temperatures near freezing, minutes matter. Your expert ability to use the onboard equipment is what brought these kids home safe."

TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

A Hyde Media Group, LLC Company

Publisher
SAM HOUSTON
publisher@tricityreporter.com

Office Administrator
TONI MOORE
toni@tricityreporter.com

Copy Editor
CARLA STUTSMAN
carla@tricityreporter.com

Graphics
JENNIFER HARRISON
adcomp@tricityreporter.com

Staff Writer
ZACH FREEMAN
azlereporter@tricityreporter.com

Staff Writer
JOLEE SKINNER
jolee@tricityreporter.com

Webmaster/Designer
JULIE INCE
webmaster@tricityreporter.com

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

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Generations together

Building a legacy of love and connection

What would you do if you emotionally connected with another person and vulnerably shared, "I feel we are going to be great friends," only to be spat upon by her?

That was my experience over the holidays, and it was wonderful because it was our 4-month-old granddaughter. Perhaps in some countries that would be a sign of a life-long agreement.

We enjoyed quantity and quality time with our sons and their families as well as other relatives and friends. My mother, who is 84, was right in the middle of the fun and was the oldest person present. The youngest was the aforementioned spitter. Four generations united as family and savored important time together.

My wife, Daniele, and I have three granddaughters, and everything we heard about the role of a grandparent now rings true. Our hearts are incredibly touched by the love of these wonderful children! Another aspect of this is the joy we have watching our sons and their wives as parents. We could

not be prouder of the love and care they provide!

As someone who works with others on relational matters, I find myself often thinking through how I should be with my family members at their current life stages.

For my mother and those in her age group, I am mindful of the Golden Rule of "do to others what you would have them do to you." How will I want to be treated in my old age? I would want to be included, engaged, heard and loved. I value my mother's stories, and Daniele and

I are blessed to be a part of the team that offers practical support without overstepping. At our Christmas celebration, her seat was exactly in the middle of the room.

Of course, our wants and needs vary as we face different life stages and circumstances. My wife and I are seeking to communicate more about the things that matter, including health issues, finances and areas of stress. When we can be open and honest with each other, knowing it's a space where we're both supported and respected, it helps us stay

united and work through things as a team.

With our grown children, we have learned to be available while respecting their boundaries. It helps me to remember how I felt as a newlywed and then as a new parent. I actually moved 5,200 miles away from my parents soon after my wedding. It was nothing against my parents, but I wanted to focus hard on getting to know my wife and her culture, so we moved to Germany.

This helps me recognize our sons' independence and respect it. Early on, I offered advice because I felt like I had already walked their path, and I had something to contribute that would be helpful. What I needed to remember, though, was that the learning process of life was sometimes better than being given an answer. When we are invited to collaborate on things, it is such a joy. A huge blessing to us is

the open communication we regularly have with our sons and their families. As our sons saw that we respected their boundaries, it allowed them to relax and feel more comfortable when visiting us. They fill me with hope for the future.

This leaves the youngest generation. I appreciate my wife's example with our grandchildren. She is a source of joy and loves supporting them and staying involved in their lives. I learn a lot from her, and I find the role of grandfather to be one of the most special in life.

The pioneering American philosopher and psychologist William James wrote, "The best use of life is to spend it for something that outlasts it." Every minute with younger generations is a great investment.

Naturally, life is often messy and challenging. My recent holiday experience may not resonate with you at

all. The warmth and joy I've experienced with my family over the holidays remind me of the importance of connection — not just within families, but also within the broader community.

For those who may not have close family nearby, building meaningful relationships within the community can make all the difference. I am grateful that our community fosters friendship and is ready to support and include you. Our churches, nonprofit organizations and Chamber of Commerce luncheons are great places to connect. I hope 2025 is a year of strengthened relationships for us all.

Life is certainly not always picture-perfect, but every effort to connect leaves a legacy of love and resilience. Here's to building bonds that transcend generations in the year ahead!

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Lake Worth council appoints committee members, outfits new fire station

JOLEE SKINNER
jolee@tricountyreporter.com

LAKE WORTH — In a Dec. 17 meeting, the Lake Worth City Council approved new members of multiple city boards and committees and approved purchases for the city's new fire station.

A number of items were approved as part of the consent agenda, including:

Felicia Hernandez was re-appointed to Place 2 on the animal shelter advisory committee. Her term will expire Dec. 31, 2026.

Yvonne "Bonnie" Amick was appointed to Place 2 on the board of adjustment. The board of adjustment is a judicial body responsible for reviewing and deciding

on requests for variances or special exceptions to the city's zoning ordinances.

Richard Walker in Place 2 and Patty Biggers in Place 4 were each re-appointed to serve another term on the city's planning and zoning commission.

The council also approved the purchase of fitness and exercise equipment as well as furniture for the new Lake Worth Fire Station.

The fitness and exercise equipment will be purchased from Comm-Fit Holdings at a cost not to exceed \$58,000. Most of the cost is to update individual weights and other outdated equipment; the fire department's existing cardio equipment will be

relocated to the new station since most of those items were purchased in 2020 and continue to function as expected.

The council also authorized spending up to \$104,000 for the purchase of furnishings for all areas of the new station, including offices, living room, conference room, training room, workrooms and bathrooms. The furnishings will be purchased from GL Seaman & Company and is expected to be delivered in June 2025.

For more information on Lake Worth city council meetings, go to the city of Lake Worth's official website.

LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICES

The City Council of the City of Azle will conduct a public hearing at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 21, 2025 in the City Council Chambers at City Hall, located at 505 West Main Street to consider a proposed zoning change request from Single Family Four (SF-4) and Commercial (C) Districts to a Planned Development (PD) District for approximately 1.93 acres of land out of a 2.56-acre property situated in the Spenser Townsend Survey, Abstract No. 1553, City of Azle, Tarrant County, Texas, and being described as Tracts 1A2, 1A2A, 3H, 3H1, 3K, 3K1, 3K2, Spenser Townsend Survey, Abstract No. 1553, Tarrant County, Texas. The property is generally located on the west side of Southeast Parkway (Hwy. 199) approximately 260 feet south of Gipson Road. The purpose of this Planned Development is to consider allowing a stone countertop fabrication business at this location.

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 GROSSMENT 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.**

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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, 2025

Azle School Menu Jan 6-10, 2025

BREAKFAST:
PreK-4th Grade, 7-12th Grade \$1.55
5-6th Grade FREE 2nd Meal \$2.00
Visitors/Employees \$2.75

LUNCH:
PreK-4th Grade \$2.55 5-6th Grade \$2.75
7-12th Grade \$2.55 2nd Meal \$3.20
Visitors & Employees \$3.75



PreK - 4th

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

Mon No school **Tues** Apple Frudel, Apple Juice **Weds** Cinni, Minis, Apple Juice, Fruit Cup
Thurs Sausage Breakfast Pizza, Apple Juice, Fruit Cup **Fri** Froot Loop Waffles, Apple Juice, Fruit Cup

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

Mon No school **Tues** Chicken Nuggets, Maxstixs, Buttery Mashed Potatoes, Marinara, Peaches **Weds** Grilled Cheese Sandwich, Mini Corn Dogs, Crinkle Fries, Steamed Carrots, Tomato Soup **Thurs** Cheeseburger, Meatball Sub Sandwich, Emoji Fries, Green Peas, Peaches **Fri** Pizza Pocket (calzone), Sloppy Joe, Mixed Veggies, Sweet Potato Waffle Fries, Pineapples

GRADES 5TH - 8TH

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

Mon No school **Tues** Breakfast on a Stick, French Toast Sticks **Weds** Cocoa Puffs, Egg and Cheese on a Bun
Thurs Cinnamon Toast Crunch, Pancake Sausage Breakfast Sandwich
Fri All-Star Breakfast Combo, Lucky Charms

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

Mon No school **Tues** Buffalo Boneless Wings (SPICY), Cheesy Nachos, Chicken Alfredo, Whole Wheat Roll, Green Beans, Salsa, Mild, Sweet Potato Waffle Fries **Weds** Cheese Pizza, Hot Dog, Pizza Pocket (calzone), Crinkle Fries, Steamed Broccoli
Thurs Mini Corn Dogs, Sloppy Joe, Soft Tacos, Green Beans, Sweet Potato Tots
Fri Cheeseburger, Chicken Tenders, Popcorn Chicken Bowl, Whole Wheat Roll, Crinkle Fries, Mixed Veggies

HIGH SCHOOL

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

Mon Cinnamon Toast Crunch, Reduced Sugar, 2 oz, Dutch Waffle, Apple Juice, Oranges, Hashbrown
Tues Breakfast Bites (mini pancake with sausage), Yogurt Parfaits, Banana Muffin, Apple, Apple Juice
Weds French Toast Sticks, Glazed Donut, Apple Juice, Mixed Fruit **Thurs** No school **Fri** No school

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

Mon No school **Tues** Cheeseburger Mac, Spicy Chicken Sandwich, Mozzarella Sticks, Pepperoni Pizza, Chicken Burrito, Orange Chicken & Rice, Cheeseburger Mac, Spicy Chicken Sandwich **Weds** Beef & Cheese Nachos, Meatball Sub Sandwich, Pizza Pocket (calzone), Supreme Pizza, Beef Quesadilla Triangles, Chicken Ramen, Beef & Cheese Nachos, Meatball Sub Sandwich **Thurs** Corn Dog, Popcorn Chicken Bowl, Meatlovers Pizza, Pepperoni Pizza Pocket, Arroz con Pollo (Cheesy Chicken & Rice), TSO Chicken w/ Noodles, Corn Dog, Popcorn Chicken Bowl **Fri** Cheeseburger, Tater Tot Casserole, Cheese Pizza, Hamburger Pizza, Tostada (Mexican pizza), Chicken Fried Rice w/ Chicken Egg Roll, Cheeseburger, Tater Tot Casserole

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2024
FROM PAGE A1

June 3, 2004. Wilson left the role to serve as deputy fire marshal for Tarrant County. Over Wilson's tenure, he investigated countless fires and helped educate a generation of Azleites about fire safety. Melvin Wilson, no relation, was hired as the new fire marshal by the city Sept. 23.

MILLER UNSEATS INCUMBENT ON TRI-COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE BOARD

Springtown City Administrator David Miller won the Jan. 3 runoff election for Tri-County Electric Cooperative's District 4. Miller unseated longtime board member Jerry Walden. Miller ran on a platform of transparency, term limits and audits. His campaign was driven by concerns over the co-op's closed board meetings and the impact of the Brazos Financing Utility Plan Rider which raised electric bills. Miller's victory was supported by grassroots efforts and he aims to improve communication plus bring fresh perspectives to the board.

COMMUNITY CARING CENTER BEGINS MAJOR EXPANSION

The Community Caring Center began laying foundations for the future in January last year. The non-profit began construction on a new 3,800 square-foot cooler and freezer space as the second part of a three-phase expansion. The \$1 million campaign is expected to be in use by January 2025. The new freezer and cooler will allow the CCC to better utilize the space and serve the increasing number of community members who rely on its

resources.

NO DAY LIKE A SNOW DAY

Cold temperatures left a light dusting of snow on Monday, Jan. 15, as temperatures dropped to 10° F throughout the tri-county area.

SAIN NAMED ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Michael Sain was named athletic director for the Azle Independent School District during a meeting of the district's board of trustees Monday, Jan. 22. Sain replaced Becky Spurlock, who retired at the end of the school year. Spurlock had been with AISD for eight years and in education for 41. Sain came to Azle after having been the assistant athletic director in Prosper since March 2020. He is a third-generation educator and has worked in education for 18 years.

SPRINGTOWN COUNCIL OKS DEMOLISHING SPLASH PAD

A local water park's fate was decided after the Springtown City Council voted during its Jan. 25 meeting to permanently close and demolish the city's splash pad. Built in 2013 without a recirculatory system, the splash pad wasted large amounts of water, leading to high costs for the city. Council members discussed options such as turning it into a fountain park or adding features like pickleball courts or a community garden. However, the cost of maintaining a water feature was the council's biggest concern and all agreed that demolition was the best option.

AZLE MAN ARRESTED IN TARRANT'S FIRST FENTANYL MURDER

Kaeden Farish, a 19-year-



Brothers Tate and Tucker Landers came out to a frozen Shady Grove Park shore, Jan. 15, with their mom to spend time with some of their favorite geese.

ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

old Azle resident, was among the first Texans to be arrested for murder under a new Texas law Feb. 2. The prior year's House Bill 6 created a new penalty in instances where supplying fentanyl to an individual results in their death. Texas is just one of the more than 30 states that now have laws in place connecting narcotics distribution and homicide. Police reported Farish sold fentanyl-laced "benzo-dope" pills to 17-year-old Bedford resident Dustin Anderton prior to his Jan. 21 overdose death. On Tuesday, Oct. 22, Farish pleaded guilty to murder and

was sentenced to 19 years in a Texas penitentiary.

LOCAL YOUNG DRAG RACER NAMED JUNIOR SPORTSMAN CHAMPION

Paradise dragway racer Lane Swift, 9, won the 2024 award for Junior Sportsman Champion at the Feb. 3 Ardmore Dragway Racer appreciation banquet in Sulphur, Oklahoma. Swift had the most points in the 6- to 9-year-old division. He received a trophy, a jacket with his name embroidered on it, a hat and a \$500 check. He also won a gold card, which covers all entry fees in 2024 at

Ardmore Dragway and is estimated to be valued at about \$300 to \$350.

SPRINGTOWN STARBUCKS OPENS

On Feb. 20, a new Starbucks opened in Springtown, located on State Highway 199 at Westover Lane. The store features café seating, an outdoor patio and a drive-thru. The Springtown City Council approved the site plan in late 2022 with the building to be around 2,200 square feet, including parking spots. The location, just south of SH 199 and west of Walnut Creek Veterinary Hospital, aims to better serve Springtown through coffee and community.

HORNET ACADEMY TOPS RECORDS WITH FEBRUARY GRADUATION

Since 2008, Azle ISD has allowed individuals without a high school diploma a second chance at graduation. The February 2024 graduating class was the academy's largest to date, with 52 students at the Feb. 26 ceremony. In its 16 years, Hornet Academy has graduated around 800 students.

CUB SCOUTS PACK 22, SCOUTS BSA TROOPS 22B, G CLOSE BECAUSE OF ADULT LEADERS' SHORTAGE

In January, Springtown Cub Scouts Pack 22 and Scouts BSA Troops 22B (boys) and 22G (girls) temporarily closed operations due to a shortage of adult leaders. The units were unable to recharter after running out of leaders, and members are encouraged to join other units or become lone scouts. Some parents, like Kay Hunnicutt, are seeking different troops for their kids while others, like Christy Stegman, are continuing as lone scouts.

RENO RESTRICTS FIREWORKS USAGE TO CERTAIN DAYS

The Reno City Council approved a new ordinance in late February regulating fireworks use in the city. Fireworks can be discharged from June 24 to July 5 for the Fourth of July, Dec. 20 to Jan. 1 for the New Year holiday and other specific holidays. The ordinance permits fireworks from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 1 p.m. to 11 p.m. on Sundays with extended hours New Year's Eve and July 4. Sky lanterns and bottle rockets are banned in the city in accordance with state laws. The council voted 4 to 3, passing the ordinance, but some members expressed worry over limiting citizens' rights.

SHS VOLLEYBALL HEAD COACH STEPS DOWN

In March, Leighann Strickland announced her retirement from coaching. Strickland spent 21 years at Springtown High School and 17 years as the head volleyball coach. While she remained at SHS as a full-time teacher, she stepped down from coaching to focus on her family. SHS Principal Melissa Hutchison and Athletic Director Brian Hulet thanked Strickland for her impact on the program.

KIM WARE NAMED AS SPRINGTOWN CHAMBER PRESIDENT

Kim Ware, publisher of the Tri-County Reporter, was named 2024 president of the Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce's board of directors. In March, Ware replaced Jennifer Conway, who stepped down after three years due to schedule conflicts and other commitments

PLEASE SEE 2024 | A7



COURTESY SOPHIE DOUSAY

During a 4-H bee keeping project in April students and parents added a new hive to the Azle Community Garden. "The bees are so cute, I love them," seventh grader Sophie Dousay said. "They're good bees."

FREEDOM RECOVERY

Leading People to Jesus Christ through the 12 Step Program alongside the Biblical Principals

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Patti Tobkin - President

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Chris Akers - Secretary

Clint Hall - Treasurer

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SE HABLA ESPAÑOL

OBITUARIES

Donald "Don" Hatten 1930 — 2024

Donald (Don) George Hatten, age 94, of Stacyville, Iowa, died peacefully Sept. 27, 2024, in Fort Worth. Mass of Christian Burial for Donald G. Hatten will be at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, June 7, 2025, at Visitation Catholic Church in Stacyville, Iowa. The burial will follow in Visitation Catholic Cemetery with Stacyville American Legion Post 569 providing military honors. Don was born June 4, 1930 in Stacyville, Iowa to parents Edward Paul and Clara (Schilz) Hatten and enjoyed childhood with two older brothers and one older sister. The family lived in Stacyville, where Don grew up working in the family hardware store and playing American Legion and high school baseball. After graduation from Visitation High School, Don earned a Bachelor of Science degree at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska while enrolled in Reserve Officer Training Corps. After graduating Creighton in 1952, Don was commissioned a U.S. Army second lieutenant of infantry at Fort Benning, Georgia. In September 1953, Don was shipped out to serve in the Korean war and served through the end of the war in various distinguished assignments. Don returned to the U.S. and served in the Army

Reserve for 12 years, attaining the rank of major. In 1957, Don earned a Bachelor of Science degree in industrial engineering at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa. After graduation, Don began an accomplished 30-year career with IBM, where he rose to become director of manufacturing for IBM's General Products Division. Don's leadership and accomplishments at IBM had worldwide economic and social impact. While attending Creighton University, Don married Mildred (Hemrich) Hatten of Osage, Iowa on March 26, 1951. The couple divorced in 1971 on amicable terms and Don went on to remarry Betsy (Christie) Hatten in 1977. Don was preceded in death by his parents, his first wife Mildred, his second wife Betsy, his two brothers, Cletus and Edward, and his sister, Ramona. Don is survived by children, Greg Hatten of Rochester, Minnesota, Renee Hatten Montagne of Boise, Idaho, Mark Hatten of Fort Worth, Colette Maher of Melrose, Massachusetts, and stepchild, Scott Christie of South Venice, Florida. He is also survived by six grandchildren.

The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday Jan 2, 2025

Claytha Ann Bartlett 1963 — 2024

Claytha was born May 15, 1963, to Richard and Carol Shewmake of Azle. She passed away Dec. 17, 2024, in a Fort Worth hospital surrounded by her loved ones. Claytha will be cremated and a Celebration of Life ceremony will be held at First Baptist Church of Castle Hills in Azle sometime in January. Claytha grew up and remained in Azle her whole life. She was the oldest of three girls. Her remaining sisters reside in Azle as well. She was preceded in death by her husband Myron "Butch" Bartlett. She is survived by daughters Amy Kaley and Christin Bartlett; grandchildren Jayme

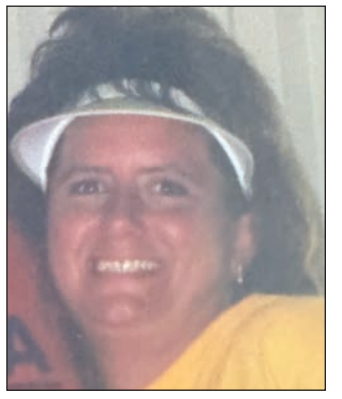


Elliott and Klayton Elliott; and sisters, Dona Boone and Gena Dolen.

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

Mitzi Lynn Williams 1961 — 2024

Mitzi Lynn Williams, 63, entered eternal life Sunday, Dec. 22, 2024, in Springtown. Visitation was at 11 a.m. Friday, Dec. 27, at Alexander's Midway Funeral Home in Springtown, followed by a funeral service at noon, also at the funeral home. Interment was in Opal Cemetery. Mitzi was born Sept. 6, 1961, in Mesquite to E.L. Jones and Betty Frank (Burton) Jones. Mitzi loved life and family. She was a proud mother and grandmother. She was an excellent cook who enjoyed cooking for her family. Mitzi loved to give hugs and enjoyed a cold Miller Light occasionally. She was a loving wife, daughter mother and grandmother. She will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved her. Mitzi is preceded in death by her father; son, Jason Williams, and brother, Larry Jones.



Mitzi is survived by her husband of 30-plus years, J.B. Williams; mother, Betty Jones; brothers, Steve Jones and wife Vanessa and Rusty Jones and wife Tracie; children, Ashley Foster and Shae McDonald and husband Bobby; daughter-in-law, Shakota Williams; grandchildren, Sydney, Dawson, Brady, Lanee, Jett and Jada.

The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday Jan 2, 2025

Elizabeth Ann Miles 1939 — 2024

Elizabeth Ann (Hale) Miles, 85, went to be with the Lord Dec. 22, 2024. She was a resident of Springtown for 53 years. Visitation was from 1-2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 27, at The Church at Azle. A funeral service followed at 2 p.m., also at The Church at Azle. Interment was in Springtown Cemetery. Ann was born Oct. 5, 1939, to Nannie Lou and Wiley Ward Hale in Decatur. Ann met the love of her life, Kelvin Charles Miles, when she was just 15 years old and he was 18. They fell in love and married three months later and have been inseparable since. They would have been married 70 years May 27, 2025. Ann was very involved in church her whole life, taught Sunday school for many, many years and sang in the church choir. She was a member of The Church at Azle and before that Fundamental Baptist Church in Springtown for many years. She loved Jesus and was the shining example of a good and faithful servant. She not only loved God, but she loved her family so much and made sure we knew it. She was the first one to sit with sick family members for nights on end and made sure they were cared for and loved. She was a mother figure and Meme to many people... she loved her family and was so proud of her babies. All of them. She loved them well and they loved her. Elizabeth Ann has gained her heavenly reward for a life well lived. To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. Mom would always tell us to make precious memories and we have so many of her. We will continue to make precious memories knowing she's keeping watch over



us all. She is preceded in death by her parents, Nannie Lou Hale and Wiley Ward Hale; brothers, Jimmy Hale and Charlie Hale; sisters, Francis Jackson and Hazel Sherwood; and great-grandson, Lincoln Miles. She is survived by her sweetheart, K.C. Miles, who she lovingly called "Red;" sons, Kelvin Miles and wife Charlotte, Tommy Miles and wife Tamara, Bobby Miles and wife Deborah; daughters, Debra Miles, Deionne Miles and fiancé Shawn Samples; grandchildren Charlie, Clay, Trace, Derek, Dewley, Dusty, Jessica, Jacob, Seth, Kali, Shane, KaCee, Luke and Khloe; great-grandchildren, Raley, Landon, Brody, Tate, Tanner, Paisley, Presley, Brylee, Carsyn, Audrie, Collins, Elliott, Hadley, Preston, Dillon, Logan, Haylen, Praizlee, KC Barrett, Cooper, Maddox, Remi, Bellamy, Mori, Harrison, Nash, Norah, Hollin, Henry and Sunee; great-great-grandchildren Locklyn, Letty, and one on the way; sisters, Nancy Withers and husband Travis, Betty Bentley and husband Davis; brother, Dale Hale and wife Hattie; numerous nieces and nephews and a host of extended family members and friends.

The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday Jan 2, 2025

Robert Lee Thomason Sr. 1955 — 2024

Robert Lee Thomason Sr., 69, passed away Dec. 22, 2024, at his home in Azle with his wife by his side. Visitation was 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 27, 2024, at Alexander's Midway Funeral Home. He was born Jan. 27, 1955, to William Alfred and Louella (Chambless) Thomason in Mineral Wells. They both preceded him in death along with his sons, Terry Lee and Robert "Bobby" Lee Jr., and brother, Jerry Lee Thomason. Robert worked in the oil and gas industry for many years. He loved his family and his work. Robert made friends all over the country while on the road. He would stop at every Harley Davidson shop he saw and get T-shirts from all of them. He would also pick up anything pink that he saw; a flower, key ring, or anything he thought Janice would enjoy. Robert loved the outdoors, visiting family and friends, Bingo, casinos, old movies and his Dallas Cowboys. When he was asked when he was married, he would say "The Friday after Thanksgiving." Even though that day would



change he and Janice celebrate their anniversary the Friday after Thanksgiving. Robert is survived by his wife of 27 years, Janice Thomason; sons, Marshall Lytle and wife Alicia and Josh Lively and wife Providence; daughter-in-law, Kimberly Springer; sister, Natha Taylor and husband Doug; grandchildren, Skylar, Selena, Alexis, Tremayne, Tyler, Leann, Riley, Autumn, Dillon, Levi and Dawson; great-grandchildren, Jaxon and Raelynn. He will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved him.

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

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<p>THE ABBEY CHURCH Pastor: Paul Brownback 10400 Jacksboro Hwy 817-238-1404 www.TheAbbeyChurch.com Morning Worship..... 10:30 AM Community Groups..... Various Times</p> <p>ASH CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH Pastor: Dr. G. Wesley Shotwell 300 South Stewart St. 817-444-3219 www.ashcreekbc.org Sunday School..... 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship-TMP..... 10:45 AM Traditional Worship..... 10:45 AM Evening Worship/Youth Refuge..... 6:00 PM Wednesday Evening..... 6:15 PM</p> <p>AZLE FIRST ASSEMBLY of GOD Rev. Joshua Lowrance 1020 S.E. Parkway, Azle 817-237-4903 Sunday School..... 9:30 AM Morning Worship..... 10:30 AM Wednesday Evening..... 7:00 PM</p> <p>COMMUNITY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH Pastor - Alton Davis 817-521-4510 cbfaze.org 1405 Reynolds Rd., Azle Directions: 730 N. to 1542 .5 mi. right on Cardinal, left on Reynolds Sunday Service..... 11:00 AM Wednesday Evening..... 6:30 PM</p>	<p>AZLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH DISCIPLES OF CHRIST Interim Minister Rev. Russell Clark, Family Life Minister Emerson Braun 117 Church St. • 817-444-3527 Sunday School..... 10:00 AM Morning Worship..... 11:00 AM</p> <p>CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH 2233 Hwy 199 E., Springtown 817-221-LIFE (5433) Sunday Worship Service..... 10:00 AM Wednesday..... 7:00 PM</p> <p>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</p> <p>THE EDGE CHURCH - AZLE 1313 S.E. Pkwy, Azle 817-237-4822 Missouri Synod "Love God - Serve Others - Share Jesus" Traditional Worship..... 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship..... 11:00 AM</p> <p>FIRST METHODIST CHURCH OF AZLE Pastor: Rev. Raymond Gilman 200 Church St., Azle 817-444-3323 Morn. Worship..... 8:30 & 10:45 AM Sunday School..... 9:45 AM Youth..... 5:00 PM Sun & 6:30 PM Wed</p>	<p>GRACEPOINTE CHURCH 4110 E. Hwy 199, Springtown Pastor: Timothy McKeown 817-221-5683 gracepointesbc.org Sunday School..... 9:45 am Sunday Service..... 11:00 am Wednesday Bible Study..... 6:00 PM</p> <p>HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH 800 Highcrest Dr. - Azle 817-444-3063 Saturday..... 5:00 PM Sunday..... 9:00 AM Sunday..... 11 AM (Spanish) Daily Mass (M, T, Th, F)..... 8:00 AM Wednesday Mass Religious ED..... 6:30 PM Confessions..... Sat 4 PM</p> <p>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</p> <p>SOLID ROCK BIBLE CHURCH 591 S. Reno Rd., Springtown, Texas 76082 Pastor - Bill Gay - 817-304-7443 Coffee and Donuts..... 9:00 AM Sunday School..... 9:30 AM Morning Worship..... 10:30 AM Children's Church After Music Service Wed. Prayer Meeting..... 6:30 PM Wed. Bible Study..... 7:00 PM</p>	<p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>SILVER CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH Pastor: Jay Ditty Minister of Music: David Musick Corner FM 730 S. & Veal Station Rd. Church 817-444-2325 www.silvercreekbc.org Sunday School..... 9:45 AM Morning Worship..... 10:50 AM Evening Worship..... 7:00 PM Wed. Prayer Service..... 6:00 PM</p>	<p>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</p> <p>Equip Sunday School at the WORD..... 9:30 AM Empower Worship at the WORD..... 10:45 AM Kids at the WORD..... 10:45 AM PreK at the WORD..... 10:45 AM Emanate at the WORD (Special Needs Ministry)..... 10:45 AM Nursery at the WORD..... 10:45 AM Young Adults at the WORD..... 6:00 PM Wednesdays Adult Bible Class..... 7:00 PM The WORD Students (6th-12th grades)..... 6:30 PM Awana Kids at the WORD..... 6:30 PM Life at the WORD Life Groups Various Times</p>
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A church alive is worth the drive! For more information or rates on listing your church, call Toni at 817-270-3340

OBITUARIES

Marian Vandergriff 1927 — 2024

Marian Donnell Vandergriff passed peacefully Dec. 18, 2024.

A funeral service was Thursday, Dec. 26 at Ash Creek Baptist Church under the direction of White's Funeral Home with burial in Ash Creek Cemetery.

Marian was born to Kate Spann and William "Bill" Eli Donnell in Matador Dec. 27, 1929. After spending her early years in West Texas, including happy days on her Grandmother Donnell's farm in Throckmorton and a time in Bryson where her parents built, owned and operated the Marian Hotel, her family moved east. Moving first to Springtown, then to Azle, she was a 1948 graduate of Azle High School.

She married Ernest Cherry, the father of her children, in 1951. Family was the center of Marian's life. She doted on her children, siblings, mother, nieces and nephews, but her dearest title was Grandmother to her five grandchildren. She had a special way of lavishing love and meeting every grandchild where they were. They called her Grand, and each will assure you they were her favorite.

She had a 50-year career as a bookkeeper and office manager, whether working downtown for Dean Bros Oil Company, on Main Street at her own bookkeeping and answering service, or with and for her sister and brother-in-law, Jane and Gene Stevenson. Marian was an artist at heart; happiest when creating and sharing the fruits of her labor. She designed and sewed clothing for herself and her family, once personally complimented by Jackie Kennedy on the flightline at Carswell Air Force Base for the suit Marian had designed, sewn and worn for the occasion. She taught her granddaughters to sew simple dresses for an African outreach ministry. Most recently, she designed and sewed masks during the COVID isolation period.

An oil painter, she favored



subjects like her own father and uncles who cowboied on the open range, and wild-life, especially birds. She recently illustrated a book written by a dear friend. Marian was a baker and candy maker, renowned for her Waldorf Red Cake and dipped chocolate candies and saw her cake ministry as a way to reach those in need of comfort. However, accepting Christ as her Lord and Savior as an adult marked the seminal moment in her life, and her quiet, diligent prayer life sustained and supported so many in need.

Marian is preceded in death by her parents; former husbands, Ernest Cherry and Johnnie Vandergriff; sisters, Katherine Webb Kramer, Geraldine Raper, Pauline Owens, Naomi Hearrell Stewart; brother, Charles Donnell, and several nieces and nephews.

Survivors include daughters, Janet Byars and husband, Mark, and Elizabeth Wagstaff and husband, Robert; grandchildren, Cole Byars and wife, Brittany, Kate Verhulst and husband, Otto, Dr. Rachel Warner and husband, Alex, Caroline Wagstaff and John Miles Wagstaff; great-grandchildren, Margretta and August Verhulst and Jack Warner; sister, Jane Stevenson and husband, Gene; brother, Tom Donnell and wife, Regina; niece, Lauren Stevenson and many more nieces and nephews; her caregivers and friends.

*The Tri-County Reporter,
Thursday Jan 2, 2025*

2024 FROM PAGE A5

in Weatherford.

ROGERS AND HARDY GET PRIMARIED

Primary Election Day, March 5, revealed a couple of big upsets in local races. Incumbent State Rep. Glenn Rogers was defeated by challenger Mike Olcott in the race for Texas House of Representatives District 60, which covers Parker, Palo Pinto and Stephens counties. Olcott's victory was resounding as he won with more than 63% of the vote. Rogers had held the seat since 2021. The other upset from Super Tuesday took place in the race for State Board of Education District 11, which includes all of Parker, Hood and Somervell counties, part of Tarrant and Johnson counties and just a smidge of Dallas County. Springtown pastor Brandon Hall defeated longtime board member Patricia "Pat" Hardy by just over 53% of the vote. Both Olcott and Hall went on to win their races in the November general election.

INTEGRATED MACHINERY SOLUTIONS FINISHES WORK ON KINGS BAY PROJECT

IMS in Azle finished and shipped off mechanisms critical to national security March 8. Two 120-ton, custom-built, overhead hoists left the facility for Explosive Handling Wharf One or EHW-1 at Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay on the Georgia-Florida border. The Azle-built machines are now used to load or unload nuclear ordnance into submarines waiting in the drydock's water below. Kings Bay is a critical location for America's nuclear arsenal and military infrastructure on the East Coast. The base's previous equipment was built around 1970 during the height of the Cold War. The machine built by IMS is not expected to need replacing for another 50 years.

AZLE MAN SENTENCED TO 60 YEARS

Azle resident Donald Read was sentenced to 60 years in prison after a felony conviction hearing March 20. Read has been arrested for driving while under the influence six separate times since 1988.

Read, age 64, has previously been booked by local police for marijuana possession, public intoxication, disorderly conduct, unlawfully carrying a weapon and driving with a suspended license. The 60-year sentence was issued after Read's most recent DWI and arrest by Azle Police officers which occurred August 25, 2023. In Texas, DWIs are classified as misdemeanors until the third repeated instance.



MADELYN EDWARDS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Students at Reno Elementary School use their special glasses to view the eclipse April 8, 2024. The school celebrated the occasion in style by handing out themed snacks like Sun Chips, Capri Sun and Lone Stars crackers.

EIGHT STUDENTS GRADUATE FROM PORCUPINE ACADEMY'S FIRST CLASS

Eight students graduated from Springtown ISD's Porcupine Academy. The first graduating class included Nico Bonfiglio, Landen Earle, Brecklyn Norris, Gracie Roberts, Skylar Hewitt, Savanna Bandy, Angelina Ray and Katrina Ray. Six of the graduates attended the March 25 ceremony. Principal Andrew Horis praised the graduates for their hard work and dedication. SISD Superintendent Shane Strickland celebrated the success of the academy, which gives students the opportunity to graduate at their own pace.

THE FEEDLOT

On March 29, the city opened its long-anticipated food truck park at 225 Church St. Dubbed "The FeedLot," the park now serves as a space for people to eat and socialize in a casual outdoor setting. The city of Azle has been planning the major undertaking since spring of 2023. During its debut, the site ran out of parking before its 5 p.m. opening time, with cars lining up and down Church Street and in the nearby First Methodist Church Azle parking lot. Community Link Mission approached the City of Azle in January with a proposal to include a farmers market at the venue which the nonprofit now manages. The Azle Farmers Market became a regular feature of The FeedLot starting June 1.

SOLAR ECLIPSE 2024

Azle and surrounding areas experienced a near total eclipse April 8. Local schools and the Azle Memorial Library hosted viewing parties where residents experienced dusky darkness at about 1:40 p.m.

AZLE 4-H ADDS SECOND HIVE TO AZLE COMMUNITY GARDEN

In early April, members of the Azle 4-H bee program added an additional hive to the local community garden. The group's initial intention was to replace its old hive, which was believed to possibly be dying; upon further inspection, the hive was found to be healthier than expected. The decision was made to introduce the recently acquired new queen into a nearby additional hive.

WINGS OVER COWTOWN AIRSHOW RETURNS TO NAS JRB

For the first time in eight years, the Navy's famed Blue Angels graced the skies over the Azle and Lake Worth areas. The 2024 Wings Over Cowtown Airshow was held April 13-14 at the nearby Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base in Westworth Village.

SHS TRACK COACH RUNS IN BOSTON MARATHON

On April 15, Springtown High School Coach Raul Guerrero completed the 2024 Boston Marathon. Guerrero worked his way up to marathons and qualified for the prestigious Boston race with a time of 2:46 in the 2023 Austin Marathon. Guerrero finished in just under three hours, nearly an hour faster than the average time. He was welcomed home by proud family, friends and students. Guerrero hopes to run more major marathons in New York and Tokyo.

HOSPITAL AUXILIARY CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

For half a century, dedicated auxiliary volunteers have helped serve Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital in Azle. While the auxiliary was founded Feb. 27, 1974, the group celebrated its 50th anniversary during an April 19

meeting. Longtime auxiliary members spoke and were thanked by hospital staff at First Methodist Church in Azle.

SPRINGTOWN ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL RETIRES

Springtown Elementary School Principal Pearl Russell retired in May after a decade long career in education. Russell started teaching at Watson Elementary and later moved to Springtown Elementary, where she became principal around 2011. Assistant Principal Amberlie Thomas was named principal upon Russell's retirement.

GREEN, ROESICKE ELECTED TO WALNUT CREEK SUD BOARD

In the May 4 election, Mark Green and Bill Roesicke won the two spots for the Walnut Creek Special Utility District board of directors. Following the decisions of Vice President Al Garrett and Frank Henderson not to seek re-election, Green received 180 votes while Roesicke received 146 votes.

LOCAL PASTOR WINS SEAT ON AISD BOARD

With the retirement of former Azle ISD superintendent and trustee member Ray Lea, families within the district were guaranteed to see a new face in office after May 4 elections. Former educator and stay-at-home mom Kelsey Massey and Merge Community Church Pastor Brandon Geary faced off for Lea's open seat. Geary won the seat handily and continues to serve on the district's school board.

PARKER AND TARRANT RESIDENTS ELECT NEW TAX APPRAISERS

In a historic first, Parker and Tarrant County residents had the chance to elect new directors to their respective tax appraisal districts.

PLEASE SEE 2024 | A8

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BIG SAVINGS

Book Review

What the Chicken Knows: A good old-fashioned hen party

TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER
Special to the Tri-County Reporter

Every day, you and your closest lady-friends have a good old-fashioned hen party.

It's never too formal. You're happy just winging it as you gather and gossip, squawking about this subject and pecking at that one. Life ruffles your feathers a whole lot less after you've cackled at each other's jokes and crowded at your triumphs. As in "What the Chicken Knows" by Sy Montgomery, time with your ladies is pretty clucking great.

It's not often that it happens, but when Sy Montgomery needed a rooster expert, she was happy to find one almost right next door.

The problem was that Montgomery's pet rooster had gotten aggressive. Ashley, the expert, advised Montgomery to do the unthinkable: pick up the creature with scimitar-like claws and cuddle him.

Montgomery, an animal lover from way back, had wanted chickens before the pandemic, but she wasn't sure how to go about it until she met a woman who promised that the birds would be

a "most incredible gift ..." And so Montgomery spent a dreamy few days with a chick catalog, finally ordering flufflings through the mail, then she waited until a peeping box came to her local post office. She kept the fluffy babies in her office until it was time to transfer them to a coop; she didn't name them, but she let the neighbor's daughters do it.

She became immersed in "the Chicken Universe."

At least once a day, Montgomery spent time playing with her "ladies," bringing them treats, teaching them tricks, and kissing their little red combs. Her husband caught her cooing loving sentiments to them; she knew their individual personalities, their voices and their pecking order.

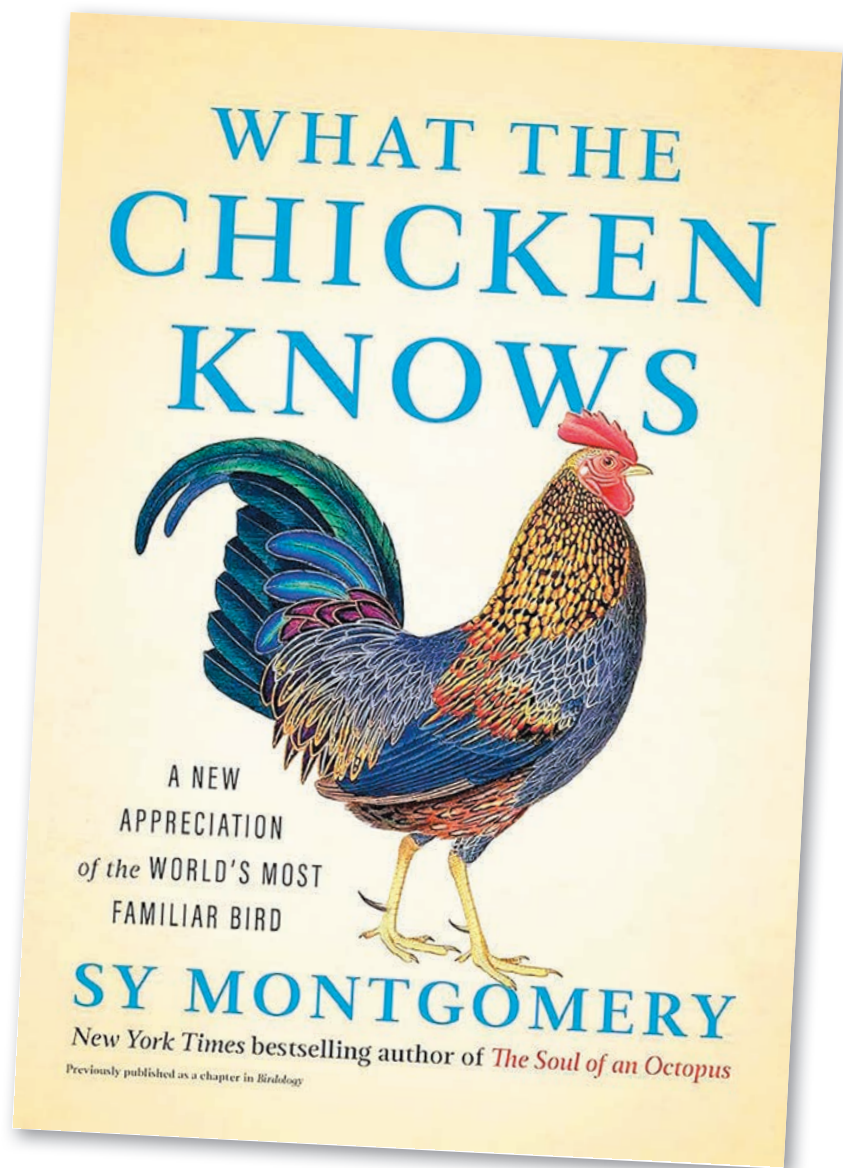
But alas, as the human population in their area changed the landscape, a surge of predators decimated Montgomery's flock, until there was just one animal left. Montgomery found the hen a home and closed her coop for good. She still has access to chickens and "... when I am just visiting," she says, "they feel like family to me ..."

No doubt, you know somebody

who has chickens in their backyard or is seriously thinking about where a coop will fit. Maybe that "somebody" is you, which is why "What the Chicken Knows" is such a delight.

Author Sy Montgomery titled her book aptly: what the chicken knows is more than most humans give them credit for, and she weaves necessary and relevant education in with stories that'll speak to chicken-hearted readers everywhere. There's also a sensibility to this book: Montgomery is a vegetarian but she doesn't preach; furthermore, she's calmly honest with the less desirable aspects of chicken-keeping, the facts of chicken-eating, and a surprisingly Zen-like forgiveness for predators. That leaves readers feeling as though they've stepped into Montgomery's "Chicken Universe," too.

The only complaint you may have about this book is that, at less than 100 pages and light as a feather, it's too slim and needs more stories! If you're a chicken lover, especially, "What the Chicken Knows" is egg-zactly the book you need.



"What the Chicken Knows: A New Appreciation of the World's Most Familiar Bird" by Sy Montgomery, c.2024, Atria Books \$22.99, 71 pages

2024 FROM PAGE A7

Previously, these boards were composed of five members elected by local taxing entities like cities and school districts and an elected tax-assessor collector. After the passage of November's Proposition 4, three new members were elected by popular vote during the May 4 election to appraisal districts in counties exceeding a population of 75,000. During the recent election for the Tarrant Appraisal District, Eric Morris, a Haltom City council member, won the race for Place 1 with 53.9% of the vote. TAD's Place 2 was won by Colleyville's Mayor Pro-Tem Callie Rigney with 62.15% of the vote. Real estate investor Matt Bryant narrowly avoided a runoff election for the TAD Place 3 seat with 50.50% of the vote.

In Parker County, Donna Dickinson ran for the uncontested Tax Appraisal District Place 1 and won unanimously. William S. Shatford ran for the uncontested PCAD Place 2 and won unanimously. Joe Tison won the PCAD Place 3 seat with 66.63% of the vote against Monica Grizzard.

SPRINGTOWN STORMS CAUSE SEWER LEAK

A sewer leak occurred in Springtown May 6 after heavy rainfall caused stormwater debris, including a large tree, to break a wastewater transmission main. The leak, which discharged an estimated 350,000 gallons of wastewater into Browders Creek, was discovered and

repaired the same day. City officials said the leak would not impact the city's water supply, as the supply is located 13 miles east. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality issued guidelines for those with wells within a half-mile of the spill to boil water and advised people to avoid contact with contaminated water or soil.

RENO MAN SENTENCED TO 26 YEARS IN PRISON

A Reno man pleaded guilty to possession of child pornography, aggravated assault of a public servant and tampering with evidence. In October 2022, Reno officers arrested Steven Harsch, who was accused of possessing several hundred child pornography images that were found on his phone. While executing a search warrant at Harsch's home, Harsch pointed his gun at officers after they knocked down Harsch's door after no answer. Thankfully, Harsch did not fire his gun and officers were able to disarm and arrest him.

LONGTIME AHS AUTO TEACHER RETIRES

On May 23, the same day as the Azle ISD's retirement and awards ceremony, Azle High School auto tech teacher of 39 years Robert Herring sent an email to all his colleagues at AHS announcing he would not be returning to the school in the fall. The beloved auto tech teacher sent in his resignation unexpectedly after being urged by his doctor to slow down and take care of himself amid unforeseen health issues. Herring

said walking away from his career is the hardest thing he has ever had to do, but he believes it's a necessary step in God's plan and his recovery.

FOUR DEAD AFTER WRECK ON FM 51

A tragic crash May 26 on FM Road 51 resulted in the deaths of two children and two adults. A white Subaru Legacy, driven by 29-year-old Kathryn Lain of Boyd, traveled into the wrong lane and collided head-on with a black Ford F-150. Lain and three passengers in the Ford, two 9-year-old girls and 66-year-old Gregory Schilb, all from Springtown, died in the crash. The only survivor was 43-year-old Autumn Reed, who was seriously injured and taken to Harris Methodist Hospital.

LOCAL POLICE OFFICER RECEIVES COMMUNITY SUPPORT AMID CANCER BATTLE

Through local fundraisers and efforts online, the Azle Police Department is helping raise money for a cherished officer with cancer. In one fundraiser June 1 at the Azle Walmart, community members donated more than \$8,000 to help offset Officer Jason Castro's medical and living expenses — an amount matched by a generous, anonymous donor.

MURDER SUSPECT CHARGED AFTER BODY OF MISSING PERSON DISCOVERED

Just two days after the body of Heather Treibly was found, 52-year-old Lake Worth resident Shane Breshers was arrested and

charged with her murder. Treibly, a 43-year-old Azle resident, was reported missing by a concerned family member June 1. Treibly was last seen May 27 around 11 a.m. near the 100 block of Ty Lane in Azle. Her body was ultimately found in a nearby backyard. Preliminary investigations revealed the two may have been doing methamphetamine together when a dispute was sparked.

TXDOT PROPOSES PLANS FOR NEW HOSPITAL OFF-RAMP

After more than a decade, Azle residents can hope to soon drive a quicker route to Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Azle after the Texas Department of Transportation unveiled designs for a new exit ramp from state Highway 199. TxDOT officials met with the public June 4 at the Azle ISD administration building to discuss the construction of a northbound exit ramp from SH 199 between Denver Trail and Skylark Drive. The goal of the proposed project, according to TxDOT officials, is to provide immediate access to Texas Health Azle from the northbound lanes of SH 199.

RENO MOVES TO STAGE 3 WATER USAGE RESTRICTIONS

On June 18, the City of Reno entered Stage 3 water usage restrictions due to critically low levels in its main water storage tanks. Mayor Hector Bas Jr. announced the new restrictions June 17, urging citizens to limit water use. Under Stage 3 guidelines, residents with even-numbered addresses can water lawns from 6-10



COURTESY

Jordan Pope and Grace Adams pose for promotional photos ahead of filming the short, silent film "Timeless" together. In the movie, Pope and Adams played married couple Pearce and Marjorie, respectively.

a.m. Mondays and those with odd-numbered addresses can water Thursdays. Washing vehicles, filling pools and watering paved areas were prohibited.

COLLEGE STORYTELLER TO SHOW OFF SPRINGTOWN'S BEAUTY IN UPCOMING FILM

Young filmmaker Emma Sumlin shot her upcoming silent short film "Timeless" at her grandparents' home in Springtown. The 1940s love story follows Pearce and Marjorie, whose romance

is interrupted by World War II. Inspired by classic films like "It's a Wonderful Life," Sumlin hopes to evoke emotions and gratitude for family in her audience. The film, co-directed with Jonathan Collins, features Grace Adams as Marjorie and Jordan Pope as Pearce. Next week, we'll tell you about the biggest stories that occurred in the area from July through December, 2024. We'll be hard at work bringing you all the news in your community in 2025, as well.

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Library promotes reading, family time through winter

Visitors encouraged to experience the library - it's more than books

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricityreporter.com

AZLE — The Azle Memorial Library welcomed readers of all ages to participate in its winter reading program starting Jan. 2. No sign-up is required, but those who are interested can pick up a gamecard at 333 W. Main St. and log their hours through Feb. 14. Readers who fill any five squares on the card and turn it in by 5:55 p.m. on the due date will earn a prize. The two grand prize winners will be awarded a \$25 Amazon gift card.

There will be different gamecards separated by age groups: 0 to 3, 4 to 10, 11 to 17 and 18 plus. The card will consist of 25 spaces, each with a task or winter activity to complete. If players are able to fill out any five spaces, they can turn it in to the library for a prize. Not only will there be book and reading-related tasks listed

on the game cards, but also other activities like try out a new hobby, feed the birds or tidy up your room.

"Personally, I have always seen libraries as a place to learn, grow, stay connected, build community, and discover," AML Assistant Director Victor Gonzales said. "I hope patrons stay engaged with the library and see the Azle Memorial Library in their day to day lives as they partake in reading activities, family-oriented activities, and or activities meant to dabble in a new book, hobby, skill, or habit."

Ava Bryant, children's librarian, added that she believes the game cards will encourage consistent reading habits, incentivize all ages to try new authors and genres, foster a sense of community through a shared activity while also giving families an opportunity to bond, foster a lifelong love of reading and combat the "winter blues."



A statue of a little girl reading, with a light coating of snow, in front of the Azle Memorial Library.

ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Dec. 17 Springtown city council meeting cut short

JOLEE SKINNER

jolee@tricityreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — On Dec. 17, the Springtown City Council meeting was cut short after council member Scott Richardson was notified of a family emergency and had to leave the meeting. Because council member Richelle Pruitt was absent

from the meeting as well, the council no longer had a quorum when Richardson left. Therefore, the meeting had to adjourn before all items on the agenda could be addressed.

The council, acting as the zoning board of adjustment, was considering a request for a variance from the minimum setback for Lots 81

and 82, Mulberry Addition, also known as 620 E. Sixth St. at the time of Richardson's phone call.

The applicant, Marcelina Dominguez, told the council she wants to expand the primary bedroom of her home. The property is zoned SF-2 and requires a minimum 8-yard setback for the side yard. Dominguez requested a

variance to be able to extend her existing home to within five feet of the side property line. If granted the variance, she would be able to move forward with the proposed addition which is intended to create more living space.

Richardson received an emergency phone call before the decision was made about this action item and stepped

out of the room after Mayor Greg Hood called a recess. Following the recess, the zoning board of adjustment reconvened and approved the variance item by a vote of 3-1 before Richardson left the meeting.

City Administrator David Miller explained to those in attendance why the meeting had to be adjourned and as-

sured them all unaddressed items on the agenda will be moved to a regular council meeting or a special meeting in January, if the city council decides to call one.

For more information about the Springtown city council, go to the official city of Springtown website.

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Reduced	\$0.40
Adult	\$4.25

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Jan 6-10, 2025
PK through 12th Grade
*Menus are subject to change.

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Mon No school Tues No school Weds Sausage Biscuit, Mandarin Oranges Thurs Cinnamon Roll, Apple Slices Fri Yogurt Parfait, 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 No school Tues No school Weds Cheeseburger or Hamburger, Emoticon Potatoes, Fresh Veggies (Cucumbers, Baby Carrots, Broccoli), Apple or Sliced Pears Thurs Chicken Nuggets, Grilled Cheese, Refried Beans, Roll, Fresh Veggies (Cucumbers, Baby Carrots, Broccoli), Apple Slices or Blueberries Fri Baked Potato, Pizza (Cheese or Pepperoni), Roasted Cauliflower, Roll, Fresh Veggies (Cucumbers, Baby Carrots, Broccoli), Banana or Watermelon Craisins

5th - 12th Lunch Lunch: Everyday - Choice of one meat, two vegetables, and one grain/bread with milk, Variety of milk is offered every day for breakfast and lunch.
Mon No School Tues No school Weds Regular or Spicy Tenders, Waffles, Tator Tots, Fresh Veggies (Cucumbers w/Tajin, Baby Carrots, Broccoli), Apple, Blueberries Thurs Beef or Chicken Tacos, Beef or Chicken Nachos, Refried Beans, Corn, Apple Slices, Sliced Peaches Fri Baked Potato w/Pulled Pork, Pulled Pork Sandwich, Roasted Broccoli, Coleslaw, Roll, Fresh Veggies (Cucumbers, w/Tajin, Baby Carrots, Broccoli), Banana, Sliced Strawberries

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AZLE DENTAL CARE

Springtown rising volleyball star named to All-State team as a sophomore

JOLEE SKINNER
jolee@tricityreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — For Libby Tedder, playing volleyball has been a passion since she was 6 years old. Inspired by her father, who was a coach, Tedder has become one of North Texas' rising volleyball stars.

This year, Tedder was selected for the Texas Girls Coaches Association All-State 4A team. Tedder has been looking forward to this and is excited to see what could come of this accomplishment.

"I've been looking forward to this moment for years," Tedder said. "It's exciting and feels like a huge eye-opener for what could come in the future."

Tedder's love for volleyball began at an early age. Her father coached her older sisters, and she often watched her sisters and would play with them.

"My dad coached at the Lions Club when I was little,"

Tedder said. "I would always play around with them at practice. Eventually, my parents signed me up for a club team and I just fell in love with it."

By the time she turned 10, Tedder took that love for the sport and turned it into serious dedication. As she kept playing and advancing, Tedder realized that volleyball could be more than just a hobby.

"It became clear this could be my future," she said.

But as she started playing both for her school team and a competitive club team, Tedder found it difficult to find balance.

"Club volleyball is a lot faster-paced, while school volleyball is a bit slower," Tedder said. "Adjusting to those differences has been challenging but also fun."

This season, Tedder suffered a shoulder injury but pushed through to help her team succeed. Her passion and

dedication were recognized as she was named the district MVP. Springtown High School head volleyball coach Abigail Zipoy said she is proud to see Tedder be honored.

"She battled through a lot of challenges this year," Zipoy said. "To see her get recognized, especially as a sophomore, is incredible. It's a testament to how hard she works."

As for being named to the All-State team, Tedder's training is to just keep playing.

Tedder has very specific goals when it comes to playing volleyball and her future; to improve, earn more awards and grab the attention of college recruiters. She doesn't have a specific college in mind yet but continues to work at it.

"I don't have a specific school in mind yet, but TCU's got a good volleyball team," Tedder said. "But I'm working hard to get to that next level." Tedder practices three days

a week and plays in weekend tournaments. When she's not playing, she focuses on recovering which includes stretching and icing to prevent injuries.

For all the aspiring athletes wanting to play like Tedder, she strongly emphasizes the importance of working hard and being determined to succeed.

"Practice as much as you can, stay focused and believe in your goals," she said. "Set big dreams for yourself and go get them."

A favorite memory from this season for Tedder was defeating rival Decatur in an intense and hard-fought match.

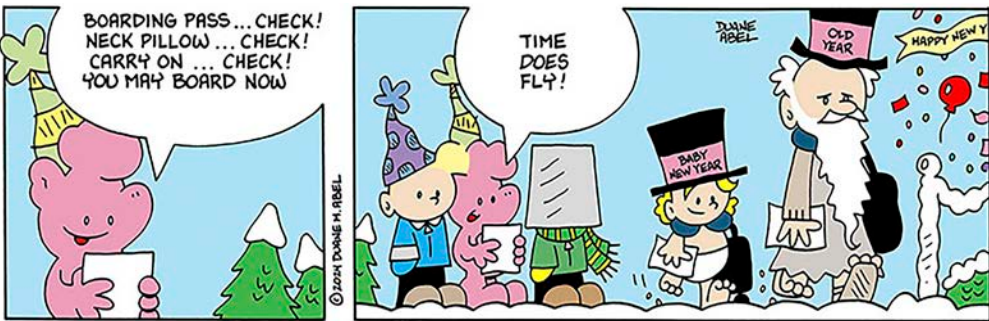
"We were all excited and played together as a team that night," she said. "It was such a fun game."

As Tedder continues to climb her way up, she serves as an inspiration for young athletes in Springtown and beyond.



JOLEE SKINNER | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER
Libby Tedder was selected for the Texas Girls Coaches Association All-State 4A team.

ZED by Duane Abel



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER
Jacquie McClain shakes hands with Sarah Bennett, board secretary.

Azle volleyball recognized by school board

ZACH FREEMAN
azlereporter@tricityreporter.com

AZLE — This year's volleyball team was among the best in Azle history, head coach Kenley Buckholt said at a Dec. 16 board of trustees meeting.

While introducing the team and recognizing members for their accomplishments in front of parents, teachers and board members, Buckholt said that as district runners-up with a record of 28 and 14 the girls were "the most winningest team in Azle history to date." She continued, saying this year's players were only one of three to ever make it past the area round of playoffs and were the first in the program's history to make it to the regional semifinal match.

Individual players have been showered with recent

accolades for their outstanding performances, with Jacqueline McClain winning Offensive Player of the Year for the district superlative team, captain Ellie Lund winning Utility Player of the Year and others being granted the first team distinction. McClain was also selected for the Texas Girls Coaches Association 5A All-State Team while Ellie Lund and Gabby Briseno were named to the TGCA Academic All-State Team.

Buckholt is in her seventh year in Azle and her second year as head coach. She is aided by Dusty Crafton, assistant varsity coach.

"I am so very proud of all of these girls' hard work, and we did some really awesome things in the season," Buckholt said. "These girls paved a new way for Azle vol-

leyball and I'm really excited to see what they keep doing and the legacy that our seniors leave behind ... We had some incredible support this season, and we have the best village around and that really contributed to our success. I love working here. It's a very special place."

2024 VARSITY ROSTER

- Paisley Jeter
- Sophie Weger
- Heather Lockridge
- Addison Dorris
- Macie Baker
- Lyric Mize
- Abbie Yochum
- Arely Licerio
- Cienna Feldman
- Gabby Briseno
- Destiny Brune
- Jacquie McClain
- Elizabeth Kate Lund
- Kami Swain
- Miley Massey



The Azle High School Varsity Volleyball Team is recognized by the board of trustees at a Dec. 16 meeting.

Sudoku

JANUARY 2, 2025

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

Level: Intermediate

Solution to last week's puzzle

DECEMBER 26, 2024

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

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to fall.

ARONEG

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

Answer: Orange

CRYPTO FUN

Solve the code to discover words related to fall. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 13-1)

- A. 15 14 8 14 9 10**
Clue: Another name for "fall"
- B. 13 19 15 4 19 3**
Clue: Parts of trees
- C. 20 2 13 2 11 23 14 13**
Clue: Vivid
- D. 20 1 24 13 13**
Clue: Feels cool

Answers: A. Autumn, B. Brown, C. colorful, D. cool

THE TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

COMMUNITY

THURSDAY, January 2, 2025

Area athletes among smartest in state

Hornets, Lady Hornets shine in wrestling tournaments

RICK MAUCH

Special to the Tri-County Reporter

Several senior athletes from the area were honored recently when the Texas High School Coaches Association and Texas Girls Coaches Association released their academic all-state selections for the fall sports.

To qualify for the THSCA award, athletes/student trainers/managers must be seniors in good standing with the team, of good moral character and have a grade point average of 92 or above (including courses from grades 9-11 and courses completed from grade 12). Weighted GPAs are accepted.

To qualify for the TGCA, athletes must be a graduating senior with a GPA of 94 or higher for grades 9-11 up to now, be of good moral character and be a varsity participant or support staff member in good standing.

THSCA HONOREES ARE:

Team tennis
Azle: Luke Petersen, elite; Addie Torgesen, first team; Jayden Saez, second team
Girls cross country
Springtown: London Smith, second team; Kylie Russell, honorable mention
Volleyball
Springtown: Corinne Hall, second team
Azle: Dylan Maines, first team; Cayden Lawson, second team; Chloe Jones, second team; Matthew Frank, second team; Christopher Voelkel, second team; Ethan Alcala, second team; Travis Kidd, honorable mention; Leavy Owens, honorable mention; Conner Merrill, honorable mention; Kasenn Thomas, honorable mention; Cash Moore, honorable mention; Case Moore, honorable mention.
Lake Worth: Arron Escobar, second team; Alvin Carter, honorable mention

TGCA ACCOLADES WENT TO:

Volleyball
Azle: Gabrielle Briseno, Elizabeth Lund
Springtown: Corinne Hall

AZLE WRESTLING

The Hornets and Lady Hornets traveled in different directions and both came home with much success. The Hornets improved to 9-0 in dual matches by winning all seven of their matches in the Ultimate Warrior Duals in San Antonio.

The Hornets won their first five matches in dominating style by scores of 78-6, 76-5, 64-9, 81-0 and 62-13. In the semifinals they won 46-27 and in the finals they defeated Converse Judson 47-31.

The Lady Hornets competed in the Texas Women's Classic in Lewisville. Mariah Dillard remained undefeated on the season, winning the

114-pound division and being named the tournament's most outstanding wrestler. Also, Noah Kovach was second at 100 pounds and Elly Yelle was third at 165.

As a team, the Lady Hornets were eighth out of 59.

In junior varsity action, Vanessa O'Neill of the Lady Hornets won the 100-pound division at the Eagle Mountain-Saginaw ISD Tournament and Ryan Hance was second in the same division. Naveah Altringer was third at 138.

For the boys, Tye O'Neal was fourth at 175.

RODEO

The North Texas High School Rodeo Association has reached its midpoint. In the team standings, Springtown is second with 3,665 points and Azle is fifth with 2,336. Lipan leads with 3,885.

Azle's Hevenli Scribner is third in the girls all-around standings. Cade Walker of Springtown is fifth among the boys all-around and his teammate Colton Phillips is ninth.

Area leaders in individual events include:
Barrel racing: 1. Scribner, 451.50; 5. Logan Phillips, Springtown, 311.50; 7. Brinley Howard, Springtown, 280

Bull riding: 1. C. Phillips, 644.50
Chute dogging: 2. Walker, 483 (511 leads)

Goat tying-horse: 7. Andrea Allred, Azle, 322 (658 leads); 10. L. Phillips, 287

Goat tying-walkup: 7. Allred, 322 (714 leads)

Poles: 1. Scribner, 672; 9. Aubrey Lawrence, Azle, 217
Ribbon roping: 5. Paige Bunero, Springtown, 294 (728 leads)

Steer wrestling: 2. Walker, 504 (532 leads)

Team roping-header: 1. Marshall Dowdy, Springtown, 476

The top 15 in each event will advance to the NTHSRA Finals in May.

Competition in the NTHSRA resumes for qualifiers in the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo event Feb. 8. The next rodeo in the association will be Feb. 14 in Saginaw.

AZLE BOYS BASKETBALL

The Hornets (9-13, 0-1 in District 5-5A) dropped their district opener at home to Saginaw, 64-50, recently. Bryce Robinson led Azle with 24 points, while Britt Haas scored 12 and Jayden Taylor added 10.

The Hornets (9-12) were playing a home game against Justin Northwest, followed by a trip to Granbury, both at press time. They host Brewer Jan. 7 at 7:30 p.m.

AZLE GIRLS BASKETBALL

The Lady Hornets (6-14, 1-2 in District 5-5A) overcame



SPORTS Roundup

LAYTH TAYLOR | TRI-COUNTY NEWS

Abbey Natusch goes for the rebound against Mansfield Timberview on Nov. 7. The Lady Hornets volleyball team (28-14) defeated Mansfield Timberview (12-24) 3-1 to clinch the area championship in the Class 3A Division II playoffs Thursday, Nov. 7 at Birdville's W.G. Thomas Coliseum.

a six-point halftime deficit to edge Saginaw at home, 30-29, in league play recently. Azle trailed 19-13 at the half before outscoring the Lady Rough Riders 5-1 in the third quarter and 12-9 in the fourth.

Azle was led by Abbey Natusch with 9 points, while Emersyn Anderson added 6.

The Lady Hornets were playing in the College Station Tournament at press time before traveling to Granbury to end 2024. They host Brewer Jan. 7 at 6:15 p.m.

SPRINGTOWN BOYS BASKETBALL

The Porcupines (4-11

overall) improved to 2-0 in District 7-4A with a 54-40 win at home over Bridgeport recently. Ayden Lugo paced Springtown with 23 points, Dylan Crutchfield scored 13, Grayson Brooks tallied 8 and Ethan Graham dished out 10 assists.

Springtown was playing in the Ponder Tournament at press time and will open the new year back in district at Castleberry on Jan. 3 at 12:30 p.m.

SPRINGTOWN GIRLS BASKETBALL

The Lady Pines (7-12, 1-3 in District 5-5A) fell 66-28 to Bridgeport recently.

Individual statistics were not available at press time.

The Lady Pines were competing in the Carter Riverside/Western Hills Classic at press time before traveling to Castleberry Jan. 3 at 6:15 p.m. to return to district play.

LAKE WORTH BOYS BASKETBALL

The Bullfrogs (9-5, 0-2 in District 7-4A) fell 74-48 on the road at Burkburnett in league play recently. Braylen Fridia topped Lake Worth with 16 points, with Ayden Brooks scoring 8 and grabbing 10 rebounds, while Ivan Sanchez scored 7 with five

boards.

The Bullfrogs were playing in the Ponder Tournament at press time and were visiting Stephenville New Year's Eve. They get back into district play Jan. 3 at home against Krum at 3:30 p.m.

LAKE WORTH GIRLS BASKETBALL

The Lady Frogs (14-9, 0-4 in District 7-4A) dropped a 68-36 contest at Burkburnett recently. Individual statistics were not available at press time.

The Lady Frogs will travel to Krum Jan. 3 at 2:15 p.m. in a return to league competition.



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THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 2025

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- 004 Business Opportunity
- 005 Cleaning Services
- 006 Construction/Contractors
- 007 Demolition
- 008 Electrician
- 009 Excavating
- 010 Fencing
- 011 Firewood
- 012 For Sale
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17 Word War II glider pilots trained at ___ Field in Denton
19 beehive collection
21 TXism: "hot ___ griddle"
22 TX-born Chill Willis was in "___ in St. Louis" (1944)
23 repeated?
28 choreographer from Texas, Tommy
29 this Burke III played for the Mavericks in 2019
30 clean up a Texas harbor
31 a rodeo cowboy who uses a lasso
35 TXism: "feel like I had ___ drop on a short rope" (sore throat)
36 aerodynamic cars
42 Trump, now that he's no longer a New Yorker
44 thigh bone
46 tall, steep cliff
DOWN
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3 Weatherford newspaper
4 in Concho County on U.S. 83/87
9 Texas moonwalker, Bean
10 a Texas minister composed "The Scofield ___" (1909)
11 golf ball support
12 Heisman & NFL QB Newton
13 TXism: "confused as a woodpecker in ___ forest"
14 bleacher row or level in west and central Texas
15 Texas actress Sharon who was murdered by the Manson Family
16 Von ___ TX
18 Fort Worth univ.
20 "___ Olde Shoppe"
23 TX Joaquin Jackson was in "Wild Horses" with this Duvall (init.)
24 historical period
25 TX Dan Jenkins book "Life Its Own ___"
26 dictator Hitler
27 TXism: "pay it no never mind"
32 old Oilers coach: ___ "Bum" Phillips
33 afternoon/evening time (abbr.)
34 Tex-Mex chain started in Texas: ___ Chico
36 Reagan's "Star Wars" defense system (abbr.)
37 "thank you" to a "menu mama"
38 versatile recording artist, Bonnie
39 TXism: "when pigs fly"
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43 critical unit (abbr.)
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47 describe
48 Mardi ___
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Azle FFA makes big donation



COURTESY PHOTO

Azle High School Future Farmers of America officers sit in front of nearly 5,000 pounds of donated food delivered to the Community Caring Center Dec. 19.

Fast facts about Azle economic development for 2024

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricityreporter.com

AZLE — Last year was a big one for economic development in Azle.

In a Dec. 17 Azle City Council meeting, Economic Development and Planning Director David Hawkins presented an overview of business and community growth in the city. The Texas Economic Development Council presented Azle with the Economic Excellence Award for its third consecutive year. Azle is one of 72 cities in the state to be recognized with this distinction. The city also received the Texas Chapter Planning Excellence Award for the second time in three years. Azle is one of 53 cities to receive that award. For its second year, Azle also received the Tree City USA designation and planted 169 trees in 2024.

Among the biggest achievements of the year, Hawkins said, was the adoption of a

new comprehensive master plan and increased development activities. In line with the plan, Azle saw continued growth and an increase in residential and commercial buildings coming to the community. This year, 195 new residential permits and eight commercial permits were issued, while only 112 and two, respectively, were issued in the prior year.

In 2024, the city issued and completed four façade grants, funding \$17,866.12 to beautify local storefronts. It also amended its Facade and Signage Improvement Program Grant Policy to loosen requirements and increase accessibility to these funds.

The city registered 24 new mobile food vendors with the introduction of The FeedLot, making 30 in total that can operate in the city. In 2023 the city had 16. Sales tax collections saw an increase of \$270,000 from last year, and the top sales taxpayers in alphabetical order for the city were Albertson's,

Amazon, McDonald's, Walmart and Whataburger. The city made business retention and expansion a priority. The 8,500-square-foot Hornets Plaza retail space at 1000 Boyd Road was completed with the city funding \$219,765 of the project's cost.

"One of the changes that we made to make the increase in this number is we have Kristen (Pegues) actually deliver the certificate of occupancy," Hawkins said. "It's a great way to introduce our department and make sure we make that connection."

Azle made numerous amendments to its codes and ordinances during 2024, including those regarding donation bins, food truck parks, tattoo parlors in commercial business district and wineries. There were 43 total development applications, including variance requests, plats, site plans, zoning changes and the like, while there were 33 the prior year.



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

David Hawkins stands and is recognized for his birthday during a Dec. 3 Azle City Council meeting.

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Center of Hope volunteer Lisa Coker helps out in the kitchen and passes out meals.

JOLEE SKINNER | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Parker County Center of Hope Springtown hosts first Christmas outreach

JOLEE SKINNER
jolee@tricountyreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN —The Parker County Center of Hope Springtown location held a Christmas outreach event Dec. 18 for the surrounding community, helping families in need for the holidays.

Since opening a second location at the beginning of November, the Center of Hope Springtown location has been offering programs to help individuals in poverty and have been working with local churches to reach the community.

Parker County Center of Hope CEO Staci Markwardt said the importance of shar-

ing love and hope with others during the Christmas season is crucial.

“During the Christmas season, even the smallest acts of kindness can spark hope and remind us that no one has to face their struggles alone,” Markwardt said. “Our Christmas of Hope event brought together countless community members, all coming together to share the love and joy of the season. From Christmas meals and blankets to toys and treats, this event was a beautiful reminder of the love and support the Springtown community has for its neighbors in need.”

Each Christmas, the Center

of Hope hosts a holiday outreach to help those getting toys for their children and provides meals to families who stopped by for the gifts. For this event, the center was decked out in Christmas decorations to spread holiday cheer for those who walked in. The Toys for Tots gifts were sponsored by Cook Children’s Medical Center in Fort Worth. The center had its food pantry open as well for people to shop for groceries.

The biggest Christmas outreach event is at the Center of Hope Weatherford location.

At the Springtown location, volunteers helped make this event extra special by having Santa Claus visit with the



Santa Claus visits with the children who came to the outreach.

JOLEE SKINNER | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER



The Parker County Center of Hope official truck.

JOLEE SKINNER | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

children and ask them what they want for Christmas. Volunteers passed out barbecue sandwiches along with warm blankets and other items for those who signed up prior to the event.

One volunteer was Shelly Cannon from the Springtown

Area Chamber of Commerce and she was so happy to help Center of Hope with this event and see the love of Christ shared among others.

“My heart is overjoyed to partner with Center of Hope and Toys for Tots in providing gifts for the children and

meals for the families, but most of all witnessing the renewed hope and joy that their hearts receive,” Cannon said. “We pray that every family in our community experiences the love of Christ that is celebrated this and every season.”

TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

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