

ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER
Pastor Wesley Shotwell looks up in awe at the inner mechanisms of Ash Creek Baptist Church's new pipe organ Jan. 2.

Longtime Ash Creek Baptist pastor to retire

Shotwell to conduct final service followed by reception at church Jan. 26

ZACH FREEMAN
azlereporter@tricityreporter.com

AZLE — Dr. Wesley Shotwell has been at Ash Creek Baptist Church long enough that he's officiated weddings for people who he baptized as babies. For 27 years, he has led services at

300 South Stewart St., and at the end of this month he's retiring.

Shotwell was born in Dallas but moved to Tennessee with his family in high school. Growing up, Shotwell said the faith of his family — his father was minister of education at numerous churches —

was influential in guiding him to ministry and leadership. When he was just a teenager, he said he already felt God calling him to some sort of ministry.

"I wasn't sure exactly why, but when I was 17 years old is when I really kind of made a commitment that this is what

I wanted to do for my career and for my life."

He began to prepare and study for this future role, moving back to Texas to attend Baylor University and then Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. While going to school, he was a youth and music minister

for about a year and was a college minister in Waco for several years. After finishing seminary, he returned to Tennessee in order to obtain his Doctor of Ministry and pastor at churches in Clarksville and Nashville.

PLEASE SEE **SHOTWELL** | A9



Andrew Greer celebrates with the Carter family at a birthday party.

COURTESY PHOTO

"Plainspoken"

ZACH FREEMAN
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Jimmy Carter was many things: America's 39th president, its most famous centenarian, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, and for one Azle native, a good friend. In a phone call with the Tri-County Reporter, singer-songwriter, author and now documentarian Andrew Greer reflected

Azle native speaks about friendship with Jimmy Carter

on his friendship with the former president.

Greer's family lived in Azle when he was born in 1982; he grew up and attended school in the city. His father was executive director of the Azle Pastoral Counseling Center,

and his mother is the organist at Ash Creek Baptist Church. After graduating from Azle High School in 2000, Greer pursued his dreams of being a professional musician by

PLEASE SEE **CARTER** | A5

400-plus residents sign Reno petition

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RENO — Some residents of Reno are trying to let their voices be heard by signing a new petition asking for the disincorporation of the city to be placed on the ballot for the May election. The petition cites concerns about governance and a desire for greater accountability under Parker County oversight.

The latest petition — the second in as many years — spearheaded by former Reno mayor Eric Hunter, has collected more than 400 signatures, which is more than enough to meet the legal threshold under Texas Local Government Code 62.002. Hunter says he wants the residents' voices to be heard in this new petition.

"At this point, it's really basically about the right to vote and the fact that our right to vote on this matter, yay or nay, we want both

The petition has sparked debate over governance and voter rights

sides to be heard," Hunter said. "And actually, several people who signed the petition both times said, 'I'm going to vote against it, but I think everybody has the right to vote.' That's basically our position at this point and so that's what we're fighting for — our right to vote."

The reasoning behind the petition includes concerns over the city's ability to manage budgets and the lack of infrastructure support.

This second disincorporation effort follows a previous petition filed in 2022, which was disqualified by the Reno City Council due to a controversy regarding signature verification.

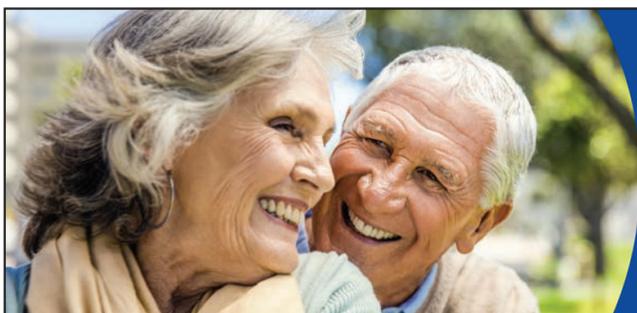
"And it's sad, in 2025, in the United States of America that we have to fight so hard

to get our right to vote. We were very transparent in our process. We told them that we were going to ask Parker County Elections to count the signatures. They said that there were 440 good signatures on this one."

Hunter alleges that the current Reno mayor, Hector Bas Jr., has been delaying the process of the putting the disincorporation question on the ballot.

"Bas has been very non-transparent, using scare tactics to delay this," Hunter said. "He said, in a text, he responded to a petitioner. He said, 'I have up to 78 days to make up my mind and we are going to go over every line of this petition.' We, the citizens, don't know

PLEASE SEE **RENO** | A7



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Blazing new trails

ZACH FREEMAN

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AZLE — Regular walkers at Azle Central Park may soon

need to blaze new trails in light of concrete plans for new path improvements. The current asphalt walking path was originally con-

structed in 2008. Over the years, the path has developed cracks and uneven areas. City of Azle Parks Director Kyle Culwell said this has increased the risk of trips and falls, particularly for children, the elderly and individuals with mobility challenges.

“To address these issues, we are replacing the asphalt with four inches of durable concrete, which will have a significantly longer lifespan,” Culwell said. “Once completed, the new concrete surface will enhance accessibility for individuals using wheelchairs, strollers or other mobility aids, ensuring inclusivity. The smoother paths will also minimize potential accidents, providing a safer environment for everyone, especially vulnerable groups such as children, the elderly and people with disabilities.”

Culwell said the city is currently seeking bids from contractors to form and pour the concrete, with the goal of completing the project before the start of spring. In the interim, the parks department plans to soon mill the existing asphalt, compact it and use it as a subgrade for a temporary fix. The city does not have the equipment to begin milling in the next two weeks. This step will tempo-



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Regular walkers of Azle Central Park may experience problems with uneven elevation. Right: Large potholes and cracks can be found throughout the walking path.



COURTESY

A map showing the highlighted section of Azle Central Park's soon-to-be renovated walking path.

rarily smooth the surface and address the cracks and unevenness. Once started, the temporary walkway should be completed within a few days. This work, which will focus on the circular path in the park's center, is Phase 1 in a two-year project to renovate the entire walking

path at the park. Culwell said Phase 1 has been recently expedited after several people called in to the city to report that they had tripped while walking during the holidays.



JIM STEVENS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

An outrageous game of heads or tails was held for attendees at last year's Red Solo Cup with coach Sam Carter acting as coin flipper and Meg Arnold acting as announcer.

AEF's 13th annual Red Solo Cup BBQ Bash on tap Jan. 25

Funds raised help schools, teachers, students

ZACH FREEMAN

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AZLE — Now, a red solo cup is the best receptacle for barbecues, tailgates, fairs and festivals, and the Azle Education Foundation hopes to host a spectacle when it celebrates the 13th annual Red Solo Cup BBQ Bash Jan. 25, to raise money for teachers and students around the district. The event, which will be held at The Orchard Event Venue at 1421 Northwest Parkway from 7-11 p.m., will feature food, dancing and a live auction for a variety of exciting items and opportunities.

The AEF provides scholarships, teacher grants, campus grants and new teacher gift cards to the tune of about \$80,000 most years. AEF Event Chair Meg Arnold has

been a part of the organization since 2017 and cannot wait for the fun and funding that comes with the event. Last year's Red Solo Cup was a big hit and managed to sell about 275 seats.

This year will be the second time the Distinguished Alumni and Distinguished Citizen awards will be presented. For the first time, there will be a wine pull as well. The AEF has continued to add new ways to support the district in recent years like the graduate studies grants and Academy 4.

“We are just hoping to have a great time and raise the money to continue all the great programs we have,” Arnold said.

Every year the table centerpieces are made by the AHS floral design classes, and the

desserts are made by the AHS culinary students. Many of the auction items are unique to Azle ISD such as the football skybox or reserved parking, and this is your only chance to purchase them, Arnold said. Individual tickets may be purchased for \$50 each.

“Mark your calendars now for Jan. 25, and make your reservations early,” the district urged in an article released to its website. “This quickly becomes a ‘SOLD OUT’ event!”

For information about individual tickets, table sponsorships and donations, contact Meg Arnold at AzleRedSoloCup@gmail.com or 682-478-9613. A sponsorship and ticket form can also be found at the bottom of www.azleisd.net/o/aisd/page/aeF-annual-fundraiser.

Azle chamber bids ‘adieu’ to Wright, reflects on 2024

ZACH FREEMAN

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AZLE — The Azle Area Chamber of Commerce presented its Year In Review at its January monthly luncheon.

Michael Wright, the outgoing board president, spoke about the chamber's successes, such as hosting 62 events, 32 ribbon cuttings, welcoming 82 new members, and raising 29% of the \$950,000

goal for a new office building. The meeting also featured door prizes, new member introductions and a Q&A with Wright, where he reflected on the year's successes as well as challenges — such as rain canceling Christmas on Main Street. Incoming President David Shaffer was introduced and once again took the reins, having served in the position in the past. The luncheon concluded with a reminder of the upcoming annual awards

banquet and clay shoot.

“It was my honor to serve as president of the board of directors and to work alongside such a remarkable chamber, board and team who have put together so many fantastic events,” Wright said. “First, I want to express a deep gratitude to all of our members. Your enthusiasm in our chamber brings us so much joy. Your involvement is the heartbeat of what makes everything possible.”



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David Shaffer asks Michael Wright questions at the Jan. 7 chamber lunch.

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Are we defenseless against this “foreign aggression”?

In these troubling times, a wise man can certainly develop a case of anxiety about the security of our state. Going back to her birth, Texas has had a seemingly endless number of enemies from which it had to defend itself. There were the Tonkawa, Apache and Kiowa tribes and well as the legendary Comanche. They were the original inhabitants of the land which would become the Lone Star state. Their threat to the safety of the earliest Anglo inhabitants of Texas was not imagined. The tribes were a formidable enemy and inflicted innumerable hardships upon the frontiersmen trying to make Texas a home. Even before the Native American population could be controlled, the nation of Mexico had laid claim to Tejas, and its attempt to enforce its right of ownership would lead to the Alamo, San Jacinto, and the rise to fame of Texans like David Crockett, Jim Bowie, and my



FROM MY FRONT PORCH

By Sam Houston

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namesake, Sam Houston. Unfortunately, Texans fighting with Mexico did not end with the Battle for Texas' independence but continued with multiple conflicts throughout the balance of the 19th century. For the past 20 years or so we have seen a mass invasion from our neighbors to the south, as Mexicans seeking a better standard of living have crossed the Rio Grande and taken up residency in the Lone Star state. Illegal immigration continues to grow and is more and more troublesome, straining resources and increasing security concerns. As of yet, a certain resolution is not at hand. Then there are the “im-

migrants' from California. Frustrated with paying exorbitant taxes, fighting wildfires, droughts and pollution, thousands upon thousands of the residents of the “left coast” have moved to Texas, buying up what they consider to be “cheap” land and housing and wanting to bring the California philosophy to Texas. All the above certainly present security risks to the traditional Texas we all love and enjoy. But this past week I witnessed a security risk which far exceeds the threat of all other sources combined. I am convinced that Texas cannot survive this enemy. We cannot withstand the invasion that surely will

one day arrive at our doorstep, and we are seemingly helpless to defend ourselves. The enemy I am referring to is a true “snowstorm.” Starting Sunday night this past week, the weather forecasters began hinting that there would be a cold front sweep across Texas. Having a cold front come from the north in the middle of winter is not exactly news, but over the next few days local weather and news would break into programming and report on every detail of the perceived chance that it might snow a couple of inches. My wife became furious because the local weather kept interrupting her daily viewing of “General Hospital” because the network wanted to make sure that everybody was aware of the huge breaking news that it might get cold in January. I could be mistaken but the weather turning colder in January is tantamount to the beach being warm at Galveston in July.

It is perfectly normal. Upon learning of the news of the oncoming weather invasion, grocery stores were assaulted with the fervor of a mound of red ants seeking food at a Baptist Church Sunday picnic. Store shelves were emptied of bread and milk, and aisles were filled with shoppers hoping to stock up before the “snow-mageddon” hit. Firewood was selling like hotcakes, roads were salted, and emergency preparation began. Businesses were asked by their employees two and three days before the “storm” if they could work from home, take the day off, or flat declared “I won't be in if the weather is bad.” Schools were closed, businesses sent staff home early, appointments were canceled. The world as we know it shifted to full out emergency. I can see a bunch of folks in Ottumwa, Iowa, or Lake Point, Wisconsin, or Ludington, Michigan giggling as they wit-

ness so much concern on our part over the possibility of a few inches of snow. The cold front did come through. Where I live the temperature hovered around 32 and we had a lot more rain than we ever had sleet or snow. Weather reports say the temperature is going to be near 40 the next couple of days and our long Texas nightmare should be over. I am concerned that if a foreign adversary ever wants to attack us, they need not worry if they have a bigger or better equipped army, they need only to attack during a snowstorm. There is no way we can handle two such disasters at one time. Thought for day: The weather is like eating some bad seafood; this, too, will pass. Until next time ... I will keep ridin' the storm out.

Happy New Year to the Azle community!

Happy New Year to our students, staff, families and community. I hope families are well-rested after the holiday break. The recent winter weather brought its challenges, especially having to close schools only two days after returning from the break. I trust everyone stayed safe and warm during the week-long cold weather, topped off with the snowfall. We are now at the halfway mark of the school year, a milestone that brings reflection on our achievements thus far and a renewed focus on the goals that lie ahead. The dedication of our educators, the enthusiasm of our students, and the unwavering support of our families



AZLE ISD

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

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

and community have helped us remain on course for an exceptional school year. Together, as an Azle ISD community, we have continued to foster a learning environment that prioritizes excellence and opportunities for all students, continuing to exemplify WE ARE AZLE.

We are preparing for the 89th Texas Legislative session, which promises to once again be pivotal for public education. Our district has developed a comprehensive list of legislative priorities that reflect the needs of our community. These priorities include securing increased

funding for public schools, ensuring competitive compensation for our educators and support staff, expanding access to mental health resources for students, and advocating for policies that support equity and local control. I encourage you to visit our website for a full list of legislative priorities and reach out to those representing you at the state level. January marks School Board Recognition Month, a time to recognize and celebrate a group of volunteers who are truly committed to the success of our students and schools. Our school board members dedicate countless hours to ensuring that our district remains a

place of opportunity, growth and excellence for our 7,300 students. Their vision, leadership, support and commitment to working together as a team is a true asset to our district and community. I am pleased to share updates on our bond projects. Thanks to the support of you, our voters, we continue to make significant progress on initiatives aimed at enhancing our facilities. Bond projects under construction include the new Azle Junior High campus on the same site of the existing campus and construction of the new maintenance warehouse and Azle ISD Police Department improvements on Sandy Beach Road. The Forte Junior

High expansion will begin this spring. The expected completion of all November 2023 Bond Projects, including the changes in our grade level configurations, is August 2026. I encourage everyone to stay engaged and informed about the work happening in our schools and the decisions being made at the state level. Together, we must advocate for the best possible educational opportunities for our students and uphold the values of Azle ISD. Thank you for your support and partnership. Here's to a successful and inspiring 2025 and spring semester for all members of our Azle ISD community.

Rambos back when ...

To most Texans, the name “Rambo” may mean little, but to Todd Compton it evokes memories from his childhood, when kinfolk spoke of 17th century ancestors who lived in what is now Philadelphia. Peter Gunnarson Rambo (1611-1698) was most discussed, and Compton, now 52, remembers the accounts he heard in his grandmother's kitchen. His genealogical interest ignited, he didn't realize the discussions would lead to a divine familial appointment in the summer of 2024. Division director of geo-environmental services for Colliers Engineering and Design, he veered off course last spring during a tour of the company's area offices. He stopped at the Gloria Dei Episcopal Church, on whose grounds Rambo was buried ... He easily located the brick church, built between 1698-1703 — the oldest brick structure in Philadelphia. Previously, it was a log cabin



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

church for 20 years. He wandered around the cemetery, hoping to find a grave marker for Peter Gunnarson Rambo. Soon, he saw a lady working in a flower bed. She, along with other Historic Gloria Dei Preservation Corporation volunteers, do what they can to maintain the church and cemetery. The location reeks of history. (Betsy Ross, the flag-maker, had a church wedding there in 1777.) ... With limited time and resources, they have never-give-up attitudes, having just begun a campaign to fund further grave identification. She confirmed that Peter — and other Rambos — were buried there, him likely near the front door which now is a

side entry. Todd and his associates — “all in” for the pro bono project — went to work in September. Gloria Dei would benefit, and the initiative could be helpful in training new hires for the 40-year-old company that has 3,200 employees in 78 locations, including one near the cemetery ... Todd was on fire with interest, connecting facts with legends and hearsay. He learned that his 10th great-grandfather was a respected visionary and resolute colonist. Rambo's ship — navigating the Atlantic Ocean in 1640 — had to return to Sweden twice for repairs, 136 years before there was a USA. The grave is in a “promi-

nent place,” as had been heard, near the original front door that now is a side entry. Thanks to Colliers' ground penetrating radar, an emotional moment loomed. Todd stuck his fingers into the soil, perhaps two feet above the casket, saying, “I found you, man ... It's important for us to know that you are here, that you're still loved by your descendants, and that we're proud to have come from you.” Peter would father eight children who'd give him 37 grandchildren, and his accomplishments in what was called “New Sweden” are staggering. During his 60 years there, he helped William Penn found Philadelphia. He planted apple seeds brought from his homeland, thus explaining today's “Rambo” apples, and providing seeds for scattering by Johnny Appleseed. Rambo ultimately owned large land tracts that are now part of west and south Philadelphia. Yes, movie star Sylvester Stallone — who played

“Rambo” on the silver screen — was named for the colorful pioneers long before there was a Philadelphia Museum of Art, where Stallone later scaled the front steps triumphantly in the “Rocky” movies ... Too bad they didn't have the Rambo facts at hand 55 years ago, when Todd's father, Mike, played professional baseball for the Philadelphia Phillies. With a “Rambo” nickname, he'd have been a crowd favorite. In 1970, the team counted greatly on catchers Mike Ryan and Tim McCarver, who sustained broken hands in the same game. Enter young Compton to catch during most of the remaining games. Once, he literally “ripped his britches,” quickly donning another pair found in the club house. Turns out, they were Philly star Johnny Callison's pants, a “fun fact” that didn't make the stats. Mike was in professional baseball for 44 years, but injuries — including 14 surgeries — ended his playing ca-

reer after nine seasons. With the Phillies for 34 years, he filled numerous off-the-field roles before retiring in 2015. A highlight of the Comptons' lives has been helping dozens of Latino players learn English as a second language, with many of them earning GEDs ... I've known Mike and Jeanie — both campus favorites — since their college years. Mike was catcher for the vaunted Lobo baseballers who played at historic Kokernot Field, as did the Detroit Tigers' Norm Cash, the only other Sul Ross graduate with a career in the majors. As Sul Ross PR director, I was on the trip when the Lobos toppled nationally-ranked Arizona State University in Tempe in 1964. It was a David and Goliath day! Unquestionably, this Tampa, Florida couple has “swung the fences” in life, with many “grand slams.” They look forward to their 60th wedding anniversary come September ...

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SEF announces grant recipients

Educators express appreciation for opportunity to enhance their classrooms and programs

JOLEE SKINNER
jolee@tricountyreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — The Springtown Education Foundation awarded grants to Springtown ISD teachers and staff as a show of appreciation to local educators. Springtown ISD Director of Communications and Marketing Kendra Hutchison said this would not be possible without community members supporting the school district.

"These grants are made possible thanks in large part to our amazing business and community partners, as well as our dedicated staff members who contribute to SEF," Hutchison said. "Their support has a far-reaching impact on classrooms throughout the district, providing innovative resources and opportunities for our teachers and students. The awarded grants are not just investments in our teachers; they are life-changing opportunities for our students."

These grants will equip teachers with the proper tools to educate their students in a unique way that benefits overall their learning.

"By equipping educators with tools and resources like advanced technology, creative learning aids and vital classroom equipment, these grants empower our teachers to bring learning to life in ways that inspire, engage and

transform," Hutchison said.

Springtown ISD Superintendent Shane Strickland expressed his appreciation to everyone that is a part of the SEF who donated toward the grants.

"The support from the Springtown Education Foundation is a testament to the heart of our Porcupine community," Strickland said. "These grants directly enhance the educational experiences of our students, sparking innovation in the classroom. We are so grateful for SEF, our local businesses and every individual who pours into this district. Together, we are creating opportunities that will leave a lasting impact on generations of students."

The grants given to the recipients were for the purchasing of tools that spanned from innovative projects, to coding robots for early learners to 3D printing technology, EKG machines and even a pollinator garden.

From Springtown High School, Darci Cosentino received \$3,500 from the foundation for the purchasing of two industry standard EKG machines and four privacy curtains to enhance the hands-on learning experience in the health science programs. Cosentino says the students are very happy about the new machines coming to their class and thanked the foundation.

"The health science stu-

dents are over the moon about the new EKG machines coming to our classroom," Cosentino said. "The new machines are industry standard and since there are two machines coming, we can utilize our skills class time so much better. Thank you, Springtown Education Foundation, for helping us improve our hands-on experience in our classroom."

Sports trainer Austen Hutchison received \$3,750 for sports medicine acute injury lab materials. Hutchison said this will help students learn to address sports-related acute injuries effectively.

"I and the sports medicine students are incredibly thankful and hopeful for years to come because of this grant," Hutchison said. "It will allow not only for our students to develop skills they may not get at any other high school, but it allows for our program to grow. We cannot wait to use our joint dislocation simulators and CPR dummies."

HERE IS A LIST OF THE SPRINGTOWN EDUCATION FOUNDATION GRANT RECIPIENTS:

- Trisha Weaver — \$2,493.92 to enhance music education through orff xylophone instruments
- Christopher Walker — \$849 to teach AI programming
- Lucy McPherson — \$1,000 for a Membean vocabulary



PHOTOS COURTESY KENDRA HUTCHISON

Darci Cosentino receives \$3,500 for the purchasing of two Industry Standard EKG machines



Austen Hutchison receives \$3,750 for sports medicine acute injury lab materials.



Kevin Van Rite receives \$3,675 for engineering design process and speed/braking distance labs.



Trisha Weaver receives \$2,493.92 for enhancing music education through orff xylophone instruments.

- Roy Stephens — \$800 for welding hoods for ag mechanics.
- Kevin Van Rite — \$3,675 for the engineering design process and speed/braking distance labs
- Margaret Bryant — \$400 for a kiln for 6th grade art class
- Brittany Cole — \$350 for coding robots for pre-K to

- first grade
- Whitney Killingsworth — \$1,339.50 for 3D printing project
- Sally McPhetridge — \$400 to strike up the band: Purchase of unpitched percussion instruments
- Jessica Tucker — \$350 for a pollinator garden: A new outdoor classroom and pollinator habitat
- Jacquelyn Patino — \$635.80

- for a care closet initiative for second grade: This will create a classroom resource hub providing items like clothing, hygiene products and snacks for students in need
- Kacie Woods — \$300 for Tonies for teaching; Funds will be used to implement Tonies audio players; a screen-free learning tool that supports reading and literacy

Azle School Menu Jan 21-24, 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 s and Cereal, Juice, White or Chocolate Milk, Graham Crackers, Toast

Mon No school **Tues** Powdered Sugar Donut, Apple Juice, Apple Sauce **Weds** Cinnamon Toast Crunch, Apple, Apple Juice
Thurs Bacon Scramble Pizza, Apple Juice, Fruit Cup **Fri** Strawberry Cream Cheese Mini Bagels, Apple Juice, Oranges

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

Mon No school **Tues** Loaded Baked Potato, Soft Chicken Tacos, Garlic Bread Stick, Black Beans, Salsa, Mild, Oranges **Weds** Pizza Pocket (calzone), Sloppy Joe, Crinkle Fries, Paradise Punch Juice **Thurs** Chicken Bacon Ranch Wrap, Meatball Sub Sandwich, Green Peas, Sweet Potato Waffle Fries **Fri** Corn Dog, Hamburger Pizza, Smile Fries, Steamed Broccoli, Bananas

GRADES 5TH - 8TH

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

Mon No school **Tues** Froot Loop Waffles, Sausage Biscuit **Weds** Cinnamon Toast w/ Oatmeal, Lucky Charms
Thurs Lucky Charms, Biscuit and Jelly **Fri** Cocoa Puffs, Yogurt Parfaits, Apple Juice, Oranges

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

Mon No School **Tues** Arroz con Pollo, Corn Dog, Steakfinger Bowl w/ Roll
Weds Bean and Cheese Burrito, Cheeseburger, Chicken Spaghetti **Thurs** Cheeseburger Mac Fish Sticks, Meatball Sub
Fri Crunchy Tacos, Hamburger Pizza, Spicy Chicken Sandwich

HIGH SCHOOL

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

Mon No school **Tues** Breakfast on a Stick, Sausage Biscuit
Weds Apple Breakfast Nachos, Lucky Charms **Thurs** Lucky Charms, Biscuit and Jelly
Fri Cinnamon Toast w/Oatmeal, Cocoa Puffs

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

Mon No school **Tues** Breakfast for Lunch, Cheeseburger, Orange Chicken and Rice, Crunchy Tacos, Mozzarella Sticks
Weds Pepperoni Pizza **Thurs** Corn Dog, Loaded Baked Potato, Chicken and Vegetable Dumpling, Bean and Cheese Burrito, Pizza Pocket, Supreme Pizza, **Thurs** Chicken Spaghetti, Spicy Chicken Spaghetti, Teriyaki Chicken, Chicken and Cheese Quesadilla, BBQ Chicken Pizza, Pepperoni Pizza Pocket **Fri** Buffalo Boneless Wings, Meatball Sub, Sweet and Sour Chicken w/Noodles, Beef Enchiladas, Cheese Pizza, Hamburger Pizza

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Anybody Out There?

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricityreporter.com

AZLE — The Azle Arts Association is back for 2025 and ready to present its first show of the year. “Anybody Out There,” was written and published by acclaimed dramatist John Patrick Goggin in 1972. It will be co-directed by Rozanne Gann and Emily Ball. “I have never directed it before but am a fan of the writer — John Patrick. I read the script and then passed it to Emily Ball and she found

a passion for it,” Gann said. “The humor in this play is great. I think the audience will really like it. Rehearsals have been really good — we have a very mixed cast of young adults to the tried-and-true older cast members. I hope (the audience) comes away with a really fun night! They should also see that an unusual mistake can lead to a happy ending.”

Some people have the worst luck, and that includes the play’s protagonist, Oliver Pankey. When anything goes

awry, the finger always mistakenly points to Pankey. Misunderstandings and misidentification lead to misfortune, misadventure and metamorphosis in this farcical comedy.

“With this play, I’m most excited about having such an amazing cast and crew that really brings the energy to every scene,” Ball said. “I wanted to be a director because I like telling people what to do, and this way I can put that into something good! This is my third show

Popcorn Players kick off 2025 with farcical comedy

to direct. I think every production I direct strengthens me as a director whether I realize it in the moment or not. Rehearsals have been going amazing. I could not ask for a better co-director than Rozanne Gann. I hope the audience gets to laugh and walk away with a new appreciation for life!”

“ANYBODY OUT THERE?” CAST WILL INCLUDE:

- Oliver Pankey — Jacob Heath
- Sophia Goggan — Lisha

- Nurmela
 - Millie Milhaus — Rebecca Crabtree
 - Thief — Joshua Holden Jr.
 - Herbie Henderson — Steve Sandfort
 - Officer — Scott Nurmela
 - Anita Wrenn — Carol Braden
 - Doctor Dickey — Boyd C. Mooney
 - Bill McSwain — Jerry Hall
 - Stranger — James Kelly
- Popcorn Players Theater is located at 1012 Southeast Parkway in Azle, and tickets are available in-person, on-

line at www.azlearts.org, or by phone at 817-238-PLAY. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors and students, and \$10 for the Sunday matinee.

PRODUCTION DATES:

- Friday, Jan. 24 at 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, Jan. 25 at 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday, Jan. 26 at 2:30 p.m.
- Friday, Jan. 31 at 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, Feb. 1 at 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday, Feb. 2 at 2:30 p.m.

CARTER

FROM PAGE A1

attending Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee. He went on to be an eight-time Dove Award nominee, author and now documentarian.

It was in the latter role that Greer wound up making an unlikely friend in former President Jimmy Carter. Greer first met Carter while visiting him in his hometown of Plains, Georgia, for filming and interviews for the Georgia Public Broadcasting produced documentary, “Plainspoken,” which dives into the topic of race relations in the small town of 700. Greer created, wrote and directed the documentary.

Even though Greer was born in the Reagan era, after the Carters had left the White House, he developed a fascination with the peanut farmer president after reading his book “An Hour Before Daylight” while in college. He said Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter soon became heroes in his mind and he endeavored to learn more about them.

Greer visited Plains and Carter’s Sunday school class at Maranatha Baptist Church as a tourist in 2007. He returned for filming in 2019 and really got to know the Carters and the community. When principal filming was finished, a thought remained in his mind, “How am I going to see my friends again?” When the opportunity to buy a small house in the area came up, he followed his heart and listened to the encouragement of friends and family, buying the property with plans to make Plains his new home. Greer began attending Maranatha Baptist Church where he started playing the piano and further integrating himself into the humble small town. He became a close friend to the Carter family, co-writing and performing songs for Rosalynn Carter’s 95th birthday and Jimmy Carter’s 100th.

Life in Plains reminded Greer of his childhood, growing up in Azle. His hometown remains not only a part of his history, but also his ongoing story and it is woven into the fabric of who he is today. After living in Nashville and traveling the world, Greer felt drawn to the authenticity and intimacy of small-town life.

“There was this compartment or a space in my heart that was named Plains, and I just didn’t know it until I met (Carter),” Greer said. “It’s a little bit mystical how we relate to one another and how we gravitate toward certain people and places ... In Plains, I have found my soul can be at rest to some degree, in a way that reminds me of growing up in Azle, growing up in a community where we can know our neighbors because of the size of it, where we can know each other’s needs and help meet each other’s needs, walk with each other through life’s various circumstances, good and bad. That’s what I crave.”

For former President Carter, Greer said the end of the line wasn’t becoming the most powerful person in the world. His goal was to lift others high, by bending down low. Through his experiences, he would come to learn that Carter was an extraordinary yet ordinary man. He was neighborly, humble and not afraid of failure. In one of his last formal interviews, Carter told Greer that one of his final wishes was for the world to adopt the teachings of Jesus as an example of how to live, and that people would treat each other with equality, respect and honor others the way we would want to be honored.

“It was just everyday experiences, their unsung activities in town, visiting people, rich, poor, Black, white, doesn’t matter, who truly were their neighbors and their friends,” Greer said. “Whether they were sick in the hospital, whether they needed food, whether they just needed company, wheth-



Andrew Greer with Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter at Maranatha Baptist Church in Plains, Georgia.

COURTESY PHOTO

er the grass needed mowing at the church, I mean, there was nothing that they exempted themselves from. They were truly full-bodied human beings, which I love, and also people with their own peculiar preferences ... They’re just folksy people who didn’t delineate from others, or distance from others or keep themselves above anyone else. So, there’s a lot to learn in that. I think humility is really difficult to come by in modern day America, and I think that’s as much true for me as anybody else.”

Greer said even a nearly 60-year difference in their ages did not deter the Carters from

seeking out his friendship and that the former president held a genuine open-mindedness, desire to learn and respect for everyone that others ought to learn from.

“I do think when a pillar of peace, when an example of service and humility passes away from this life, like President Carter, that is a challenge or a call to action for the rest of us to pick up the baton,” Greer said. “There’s now a space to run with it and fill up that space and even expand that space to serve more people and to submit ourselves to the service of an even greater circle of people, starting with our

neighbor next door.”

In his life and travels, Greer said one of the lessons he’s learned is the impact that anyone can have on others even after they’re gone. Ultimately, former President Jimmy Carter occupies the same level of importance as his influential high school teacher and friend, the late Jan Johnson, for example.

“They all hold the same space in my heart,” Greer said. “I was deeply moved by how much I will miss her, which is linked to how much she impacted me. So that is the beauty of coming from a place like Azle is, and I would say President Carter would

say that’s the beauty of coming from a place like Plains is — that we stay connected for life, and those connections provide the foundation to do the things that we do around the world.”

After Jimmy Carter’s passing, Greer sang in the choir at Carter’s second private funeral service at Maranatha Baptist Church. “Plainspoken” features one of Carter’s last interviews and came out this past fall on PBS. He’s also currently working on a book for Mercer University Press about President Carter’s Sunday school lessons that’ll come out at the end of this year.

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EC-12th Grade	\$1.75
EC-12th Reduced	\$0.30
Adult	\$2.25
LUNCH PRICES	
PK-4th Grade	\$3.00
5th-8th Grade	\$3.25
High School	\$3.00
Reduced	\$0.40
Adult	\$4.25

Students may prepay for their meals.

Jan 21-24, 2025
PK through 12th Grade
**Menus are subject to change.*

Grade	Day	Menu
PK - 12th Breakfast	Everyday	Various Juices & Cereals, Toast, Milk Variety, Fruit, Jelly, Assortment, Buttermilk Biscuit, Variety of milk is offered every day for breakfast and lunch.
	Mon	No school
	Tues	Breakfast Bites, Strawberry Applesauce
	Weds	Sausage Biscuit, Mandarin Oranges
	Thurs	Cinnamon Roll, Fresh Apple Slices
Fri	Yogurt Parfait, Granola, Blueberries	
K - 4th 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	Chicken Alfredo with a Twist, Chicken Nuggets, Roll, Cucumbers, Fresh Baby Carrots, Fresh Broccoli, Italian Blend Vegetables	
Weds	Cheeseburger, Hamburger, Cucumbers, Emoticon Potatoes, Fresh Baby Carrots, Fresh Broccoli	
Thurs	Cheese Pizzadilla, Chicken Sandwich, Cuban Black Beans, Cucumbers, Fresh Baby Carrots, Fresh Broccoli	
Fri	Baked Potato Basket, Cheese Pizza, Pepperoni Pizza Roll, Cucumbers, Fresh Baby Carrots, Roasted Broccoli	
5th - 12th 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	Meatball Sub, Meaty Spaghetti Sauce, Roll, Rotini Spirals, Cucumbers w/Tajin, Fresh Baby Carrots, Fresh Broccoli, Italian Blend Vegetables
Weds	Chicken & Waffles with spicy or regular chicken, Cucumbers w/Tajin, Fresh Baby Carrots, Fresh Broccoli, Tator Tots	
Thurs	Beef Tacos, Chicken Tacos, Nachos, Tacos, Corn, Refried Beans	
Fri	Baked Potato Basket - Entree Only, Cheese Pizzadilla, Chicken Sandwich, Pulled Pork for Baked Potato, Cucumbers w/Tajin, Fresh Baby Carrots, Fresh Broccoli, Glazed carrots	

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OBITUARIES

Doris Ann Hollyfield 1934 — 2025

Doris Ann (Tindle) Hollyfield, age 90, passed from this life Sunday, Jan. 12, 2025. Doris was born May 27, 1934, in Fort Worth to the late Orville Ray Tindle and Wilma Jo (Choate) Tindle.

A graveside service to honor her memory will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, Jan. 17 at Azleland Memorial Park.

Doris dedicated her career to Community Water Supply, where she served as a manager, embodying diligence and commitment. Beyond her professional life, she found joy in the great outdoors, gardening and traveling with her beloved husband of 69 years, Charles Hollyfield. Her active participation in her church and the precious moments she spent with her family were a testament to her loving and generous spirit.

Doris will be deeply missed, but her legacy of love, kindness and dedication will forever live on in the hearts of those who knew and cherished her.

She leaves behind a de-



voted family: her husband, Charles Hollyfield; her children, Lee Ann (Hollyfield) Marsh and her husband, Philip, and Russell D. Hollyfield; her grandchildren, Holly (Marsh) Bowman and her husband, Trey, and Hunter Lee Marsh and his wife, Megan; and her great-grandchildren, Haley Doyle, Harper Bowman, Teddy Bowman, James Marsh and Julia Marsh.

The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday Jan 16, 2025

Kenneth Max Lawson 1956 — 2025

Kenneth Max Lawson passed away peacefully after a decades-long battle with chronic illness, finding rest in the arms of the Lord. He was born in Lubbock to Donald "Don" Lawson and Emma "Sue" Lawson and spent much of his childhood in Springtown. Max graduated from Crosbyton High School in 1975.

A memorial service will be held at 10 a.m. Jan. 25, at Indian Oaks Primitive Baptist Church in Lake Worth.

A private man with many hidden talents, Max was a skilled machinist who took pride in his craft. He also possessed a beautiful tenor voice that brought joy to those fortunate enough to hear him sing. Max found happiness in life's simple pleasures — he enjoyed football, fishing and camping in the mountains, where he felt at peace surrounded by nature. He shared a special bond with his beloved dog, Bob, whose companionship brought him great comfort.

Max was preceded in death by his wife, Bennie, and his



father, Don.

He is lovingly remembered by his mother, Sue; his son Joe Wear and wife Tanya; his daughter Brandy Ince and husband Josh; and his sisters Pam Keegans, Gale Scarborough and husband Reg, and Susie Schneider and husband Tom. Max's legacy lives on through his grandchildren: Kylie, Kinley, Brody, Ellee, Khloe and Harper. He will also be fondly remembered by numerous nieces and nephews.

The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday Jan 16, 2025

Jessica Lynn Mills 1985 — 2025

Jessica Lynn Mills (née Farmer), lovingly known as Jessie, passed away Jan. 1, 2025, at the age of 39, in Azle, after a courageous year-long battle with cancer. Born Aug. 9, 1985, in Toledo, Ohio, Jessie was the cherished daughter of Matthew Singleton Farmer and Mary Keller-Farmer.

A memorial service to celebrate Jessie's life will be held Saturday, Jan. 18 at 2 p.m. at the Azle Funeral Chapel located on the grounds of Azleland Cemetery, 850 N. Cardinal Road, Azle, Texas.

In lieu of or in addition to flowers, the family kindly requests donations be made in Jessie's honor to Big Bones Canine Rescue, an organization dear to her heart. Donations can be shared at <https://www.facebook.com/share/15jVGZKWKa3>.

Jessie grew up with a love for life and creativity that inspired all who knew her. A woman of extraordinary talent, she dedicated her life to celebrating beauty in its many forms. As the owner of Penny and Leo's LLC, a thriving wedding floral design business, she transformed countless celebrations into unforgettable masterpieces. Jessie's artistic gifts extended beyond flowers; she was a passionate dance instructor and an expert in fashion, interior decorating and event planning. Her work was not merely a profession but an act of love that touched thousands of lives across Colorado and Texas.

Jessie's life was a vibrant tapestry of love, beauty, and joy. Her legacy will continue to bloom in the hearts of all



who knew her.

"May God bless and keep you always. May your heart always be joyful. May your song always be sung. May you stay forever young."

Above all, Jessie was a devoted wife, mother and friend. Her fierce and unwavering love for her family was the cornerstone of her life. She is survived by her beloved husband, Spencer Mills, and their two beautiful daughters, Emerson Luna and Violette Seren, who were the light of her life.

Jessie also leaves behind her mother and stepfather, Mary and Jim Finkler; her father and stepmother, Matthew and Jean G. Farmer; her brothers, Samuel Farmer and his wife Katie, and Jon Farmer; and her step-brothers, Patrick Finkler (Edith), David Finkler (Kim), Christopher Finkler (Jayme), and Donnie Finkler (Kaitlyn). Her extended family and countless friends will forever remember her radiant smile, her kind heart, and her extraordinary ability to bring people together.

The Tri-County Reporter, Thursday Jan 16, 2025

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LEGAL NOTICE
Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for Mixed Beverage Permit and Food Beverage Certificate by Sushi on the Square LLC dba Senshi Grill & Sushi, to be located at 101 E. 1st Street, Springtown, Parker County, Texas. Owner of said corporation is Clifton Kelley.

LEGAL NOTICE:
Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a wine and malt beverage retailer's off-premise permit (BQ) by Rashbir Parners Inc dba Energy Stop, to be located at 11202 S FM 730 Azle, Parker County, Texas – 76020. The owners and directors of the said company are Rashmi K. Surani and Rahul Ganji.

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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 cbfazele.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 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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LWPD reveals holiday retail theft operation

JOLEE SKINNER
jolee@tricityreporter.com

LAKE WORTH — On Jan. 6, the Lake Worth Police Department announced on all its social media accounts an undercover operation, cleverly named Operation Claus and Effect, that was conducted Dec. 9-20 to combat retail theft in the Lake Worth area.

“During the busy holiday shopping season, our de-

partment collaborated with numerous local businesses and @TxDPSS to conduct Operation Claus and Effect — a strategic operation to deter and address retail theft,” the posts said.

During the operation, Lake Worth PD conducted 24 arrests and about half of them were repeated offenders, meaning they had two or more prior convictions for retail theft, or a crime related to theft.

Among those arrests, officials said none were Lake Worth residents. The department thanked the community, the businesses in Lake Worth and the Texas Department of Public Safety for their cooperation.

“We would like to thank our business community for partnering with us to ensure Lake Worth remains a safe place where life and commerce thrive,” the department said. “Because of the

partnership we enjoy with our business community, this operation was successful. We would also like to thank the Texas Department of Public Safety for their assistance.”

Lake Worth PD also shared final numbers from the operation. During the 12-day operation, there were 722 calls for service, 29 calls specifically related to retail theft, 24 arrests, 21 felony charges, 14 misdemeanor charges,

\$2,000 in total merchandise recovered; three handguns were also recovered.

Lake Worth PD also wants to assure residents and shoppers that their mission to keep customers safe is a commitment the department holds itself to.

“We also want to assure our community that we remain committed to ensuring Lake Worth remains a safe, comfortable and convenient place to shop,” the depart-

ment said.

In the past, Lake Worth PD has conducted roundtable conversations with local retailers and bigger retail stores to come up with ideas and solutions to address this recurring issue. Lake Worth PD did also recently release its 2024 crime statistics which showed a 22% decrease in burglaries, a 13% decrease in thefts offenses and a 4.5% decrease in overall crime.

RENO FROM PAGE A1

who he’s referring to. We feel like there’s a definite conflict of interest with him and any other city official being involved in the verification process, whereas our third party, which is County Elections (Office), they have no opinion, one way or the other about disincorporation.”

In a letter published on the City of Reno’s website, Bas stated the council received the petition Dec. 18 and says results may be expected in early February. Hunter says having 400 signatures on the petition immediately triggers the disincorporation to be on the ballot in May.

“I think it clearly shows that he (Bas) is intentionally delaying this, because the city has demonstrated it’s capable of expeditiously processing a petition, when it choos-

es to do so,” Hunter said. “A lot of people are frustrated and angry that they did not get the right to vote. I’m a veteran — I’m pretty passionate about this. And when the (former) mayor came out last time and said, ‘No, I’m not calling the election,’ it was an insult, to not necessarily my service but the service of those before me.”

Bas also claims the city received complaints about misleading practices by petition circulators, though Hunter maintains that circulators were fully transparent about the petition.

“We were very direct and very specific,” Hunter said. “And letting people know that the petition only got the issue on the ballot and then you would have to come and vote the way that you wanted to vote.”

Mayor Bas responded to the newest petition by alleging that Hunter practiced the

very actions he cites as reasoning for the petition.

“Disincorporating Reno would profoundly impact every resident, creating challenges beyond what we can fully anticipate,” Bas said. “Hunter frequently claims that his petition is solely about giving citizens the right to vote. However, during his tenure as mayor, he acted against the will of the voters by taking out a \$1 million loan to cover his administration’s financial shortfalls. This loan has cost the city approximately \$250,000 annually, severely restricting future mayors from addressing the very issues Hunter now criticizes.”

Hunter’s response to Bas’ claims is that the \$1 million loan went toward badly-needed road repairs and new equipment that the Reno Police Department needed, and not to cover any shortfall. Hunter also said his

recollection is that the loan payment is about \$159,000 annually — not 250,000.

Supporters of disincorporation argue that Parker County would manage resources more effectively than the city government, particularly when it comes to road maintenance and law enforcement. Bas disagrees with that point of view.

“Our current fire department could cease to exist unless an Emergency Service District is established,” Bas said. “The police department, already operating with limited resources, faces recruitment challenges amid the possibility of disincorporation this May. If the city dissolves, law enforcement duties would shift to the county, likely causing delayed response times. The water department is dealing with significant infrastructure issues and it remains unclear who would assume responsibility.

Taxpayers would most likely bear the cost of any required improvements.”

Bas also says he feels the supporters of disincorporation and Hunter have not answered several looming questions about public safety and infrastructure maintenance.

“To date, neither Eric Hunter nor the other petition circulators have been able to answer basic questions about what will happen if the City of Reno is abolished,” Bas said. “These unanswered questions include what will happen to the water department and who will manage it? What construction ordinances will govern new developments? What level of service will Parker County provide for Reno’s existing roads and police services? How will public safety and infrastructure maintenance be managed moving forward?”

Hunter says the county would oversee these opera-

tions if disincorporation were approved by residents.

“I believe the level of service that we’ll get from the county will greatly exceed the level of service on these issues that we get from the city currently,” Hunter said. “And how will public infrastructure maintenance be managed moving forward? That’s going to be managed, like the rest of the county, by Precinct One, the commissioner’s court and Parker County Sheriff’s Office. They’ll do the management of that.”

As tensions between city officials and residents continue to grow, both sides are preparing for what could be a pivotal moment in Reno’s history. The next city council meeting will be Jan. 20 at 7 p.m. To read Bas’ full letter to Reno citizens regarding the issue, go to the city of Reno’s website under city documents, subsection “archived newsletters.”



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News from Azle City Hall

We welcome your comments or suggestions on information you would like to see reported on this page, please call Azle City Hall, 817-444-2541, or email Susie Hiles at shiles@cityofazle.org. Until next month.....

Filing period open for places on Azle City Council MAY 3, 2025 GENERAL ELECTION

The City of Azle will hold a General Election on May 3, 2025 for the purpose of electing a Mayor and three Council Members to Places 3, 4 and 6 for a two-year term expiring May 2027. Azle City Council members are elected at-large for two-year terms.

Those interested in running for a place on the Azle City Council have until **February 14, 2025** at 5:00 pm to file for candidacy. Candidates can file in the City Secretary's office, 8 am - 5 pm, Mon - Fri, at Azle City Hall, 505 W. Main Street.

For more election information contact City Secretary Yael Hoffman at 817-444-7101, email at yhoffman@cityofazle.org, or visit the city website at www.cityofazle.org/723/MAY-3-2025-GENERAL-ELECTION.



Texas Coalition for Animal Protection Low Cost Vaccine Clinics

LOCATION: Old Azle Library, 609 SE Parkway, Azle TX
(Not at the Azle Animal Shelter)

No appointment necessary for vaccinations which will be given from 10 a.m. to 12 noon on these dates for 2025. First come, first serve basis.

February 8 May 10 August 9 November 8

Vaccines & Testing

Cats

Rabies	\$5
FeLV	\$10
FHCPCh	\$10
FeLV/FIV Test	\$20
Fecal Test	\$25

Dogs

Rabies	\$5
DAPPv	\$10
Bordetella	\$10
Lepto	\$10
Lyme	\$15
Canine Influenza (H3N8/H3N2)	\$20
Heartworm Test	\$20
Fecal Test	\$25

Wellness Services

General Dewormer (Strongid-T)	\$5
Tapeworm Dewormer (Droncit)	\$15
TriHeart Plus (6 month supply)	\$30-\$40
Trifexis (6 month supply)	\$115
Flea/Tick Preventative (1 month)	\$12
Flea/Tick Preventative (3 month)	\$30
Bravecto 12 week Flea/Tick Control	\$50
Home Again Microchip	\$30
*Nail Trim	\$15

*Pets must have a current rabies vaccination given at least 7 days before receiving a nail trim. Proof is required.

- We accept Visa, Mastercard, Discover and Cash
- Dogs must be on a leash or in a carrier
- Cats must be in a hard-sided carrier
- Heartworm prevention can only be prescribed after the pet receives a negative heartworm test administered by TCAP.

TCAP exists to end animal overpopulation and to improve community animal welfare by providing low-cost preventative services throughout North Texas. For additional information, please visit www.texasforthem.org or call 940-566-5551.

Leaf Removal

Just a reminder - CWD will collect no more than 10 bags of leaves on your second collection day. Any amount of bagged leaves over 10 will be collected on your next week's second collection day. If you have questions, please call CWD at 972-392-9300 option 2.



Blow leaves into the street. It is prohibited by City Ordinance 13.10.006(c5).

Burn leaves. City of Azle Ordinance 13.08.016 prohibits open burning in Azle without approval from the Fire Marshal's office. Contact the Fire Marshal by calling 817-444-7051.

DO dispose of your leaves properly by bagging them, mulching them into your lawn, or composting them for healthier soil.

Azle Memorial Library News and Free Events

333 W Main St, Azle, TX 76020

817-752-2682 - www.azlelibrary.org - facebook.com/azlelibrary

Book Sale-Save the Date!

Gently used books and movies for kids and adults will be on sale in the Azle Library Community Room on Friday 1/31 from 12-6pm and Saturday 2/1 from 10am-4pm. Everything \$1 or less! Cash preferred. Cards accepted with purchase of \$5+. All proceeds benefit the library.

Winter Reading for All Ages

Stop by the library during open hours to grab a free gamecard for littles, kids, teens and adults! Complete any five activity squares on the gamecard and return it by February 14th to receive a prize!

AARP Free Tax-Aide

AARP Tax-Aide service will be on hand, by appointment, beginning 2/3/25, to offer free tax preparation to adults of any age or income. Call the library at 817-752-2682 for an appointment.

FREE In-Person Programs

Additional free programs can be found on the library's website and Facebook page! All events take place in the Library Community Room.

- Children's Yoga - 1/24/25 @ 2PM: Children ages 3-6 and their caregivers are invited to a child friendly yoga session with registered yoga instructor, Jan Ford.
- Garden Pruning - 1/25/25 @ 10:30AM: Learn about pruning your North Texas yard and garden from a Tarrant County Master Gardener. No registration required!
- Last Monday Matinee - 1/27/25 @ 2PM: Free new-release movie for adults with freshly made popcorn. January Movie is "Thelma" rated PG-13.
- Pajama Storytime - 1/28/25 @ 6PM: Children ages 2-6 and their caregivers are invited to pajama Storytime. Enjoy bedtime stories, songs, and rhymes.
- Make Your Own Hand Warmers - 2/4/25 @ 6PM: Adults 18+ are invited to make reusable flannel hand warmers. Registration required. To register, call 817-752-2682.

Scan for more information on what's happening in the City of Azle or visit us at www.cityofazle.org



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER
Executive Director Trey Harper, Community Mission Link, pitches freight farming to council members Jan. 7.

FeedLot funds freight farm

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

AZLE — Even in its off-season, the Azle Farmers Market promises exciting new prospects for growth. The farmers market and food truck park, dubbed The FeedLot, just finished its first operating season and is scheduled to return in the spring. Nonprofit Community Mission Link, which manages the farmers market, hopes to make next season even better by growing fresh vegetables on-site in a decked-out shipping container.

Executive Director Trey Harper of Community Mission Link spoke at the Jan. 7 Azle City Council meeting to explain the project. Harper said to start out, the freight will mostly be used to grow lettuce, but it will be capable of growing over 500 different varieties of crops. Each week, Harper expects the operation to be able to produce around 990 heads of leafy greens.

"We had a challenge in our food pantry program of having a lot of fresh produce and we found this product called Freight Farms, which is, in fact, a shipping container that is a hydroponic farm," Harper said. "The closest one to us that we know of is at UNT. So, we toured UNT's freight farm. It's all controlled on the iPad. It's very innovative and forward thinking."

The lettuce will be sold at the farmers market, sold to Texas Health Resources, the project's biggest funder, and provided to local nonprofits like the Azle Community Caring Center. Using a shipping container and advanced hydroponic system, Community Mission Link hopes to grow about four acres worth of produce in a much smaller amount of space. This is the first use of Farm Freights by a nonprofit in the area that he knows of. The project was jumpstarted after Texas Health Resources

offered to enter an agreement providing the \$220,000 needed to start the project. Harper said the container could be up and running by the time the farmers market reopens for its second season in March 2025.

Though there is still much planning and work to be done, Harper informed the council that the container will be attractive, use relatively little water and will likely be staffed part-time with volunteer opportunities available. Among the many benefits touted by Harper and the council is the possibility for the setup to be a good educational experience for local school students.

The city council unanimously voted to allow the city manager to execute an agreement allowing Community Mission Link to pursue the project. The nonprofit will be required to procure all the project's funding, while the city will provide water and electricity.



The FeedLot site, early in the previous season.

LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO ISSUE CITY OF SPRINGTOWN, TEXAS CERTIFICATES OF OBLIGATION TAKE NOTICE that the City Council of the City of Springtown, Texas, shall convene at 7:00 o'clock P.M. on February 27, 2025, at the Court Annex Building, 200 N. Main Street, Springtown, Texas, and, during such meeting, the City Council will consider the passage of one or more ordinances authorizing the issuance of one or more series of certificates of obligation in an amount not to exceed \$4,910,000 for the purpose of paying contractual obligations to be incurred for (i) designing, acquiring, constructing, resurfacing, improving, equipping, and maintaining City streets, roads, overpasses, and intersections, including curbs, gutters, sidewalks, trails, traffic signalization and signage, lighting, ADA accessibility, traffic management equipment, utility relocations, drainage and irrigation, and landscaping related thereto, and the acquisition of easements, rights-of-way, and other real property interests necessary therefor, (ii) designing, constructing, acquiring, equipping, and improving the City's water treatment plant, (iii) renovating, improving, enlarging, and equipping the City's water system, (iv) designing, constructing, acquiring, and improving one or more City drainage projects, (v) acquiring land, easements, rights-of-way, and other real property interests for an administrative office building housing the governmental functions of the City, including the Public Works Department, (vi) purchasing a vehicle for the City's Public Works Department, (vii) acquiring and installing equipment for City Hall, the Municipal Annex Building, City water and sewer system facilities, and the animal shelter, (viii) designing, constructing, improving, and equipping park or recreation facilities that are generally accessible to the public and are part of the City's park system, and (ix) professional services rendered in relation to such projects and the financing thereof; such certificates to be payable from ad valorem taxes and a limited pledge of the net revenues of the City's combined Waterworks and Sewer System. In accordance with Texas Local Government Code Section 271.049, (i) the current principal amount of all of the City's outstanding public securities secured by and payable from ad valorem taxes is \$21,100,000; (ii) the current combined principal and interest required to pay all of the City's outstanding public securities secured by and payable from ad valorem taxes on time and in full is \$29,058,988; (iii) the estimated combined principal and interest required to pay the certificates of obligation to be authorized on time and in full is \$8,964,255; (iv) the maximum interest rate for the certificates may not exceed the maximum legal interest rate; and (v) the maximum maturity date of the certificates to be authorized is August 15, 2050. The certificates are to be issued, and this notice is given, under and pursuant to the provisions of Texas Local Government Code, Subchapter C of Chapter 271

THE STATE OF TEXAS CITATION BY PUBLICATION CAUSE NO. 24P433 In the Matter of the Estate of Dolphus Claude Berry, Deceased TO ALL UNKNOWN OR MISSING HEIRS OF THE ESTATE OF DOLPHUS CLAUDE BERRY, DECEASED Jon William Berry in the above-numbered and entitled estate filed an Application for Letters of Independent Administration and Determination of Heirship on 10/28/2024, In the Estate of Dolphus Claude Berry, Deceased, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of Dolphus Claude Berry, Deceased, and their respective shares and interest in such estate, and appointing Jon William Berry to serve as the Independent Administrator of said estate and Determined Heirship. The court may act on said application at any call of the docket on or after 10:00 o'clock A.M. on the first Monday next after the expiration of 10 days from the date of publication of this citation, at the Parker County Court, One Courthouse Square, Weatherford, TX 76086 in Parker County, Texas. All persons interested in this case are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court QY filing a written contest or answer to said Application before the above stated time and date should you desire to do so. To ensure its consideration, you or your attorney must file any contest, objection, intervention, or response in writing with the County Clerk of Parker County, Texas on or before the above noted date and time. Given under my hand and the seal of said Court of Parker County, Texas at the office of the Parker County Clerk, on this 31st day of October, 2024.

SHOTWELL

FROM PAGE A1

When recalling where he truly got his start, Shotwell goes back to the summers of his early college years when he went to work for the California Baptist Convention, doing youth evangelism.

"That's kind of when I think about my start, and I guess that's the first time I actually got paid for ministry," Shotwell said. "That was 42 and a half years ago."

In the late 1990s, Ash Creek Baptist Church found itself without consistent leadership after Gerald Cornelius left to re-enter the mission field. After a year with no pastor, the church's search committee ultimately found Shotwell. Feeling that Azle was a good fit, he returned to Texas to give his first sermon in Azle Jan. 4, 1998. In the 27 years since, has overseen at least three major building projects and has guided the church longer than any other pastor in its 153-year history. Shotwell was also one of three local pastors to help revive the Community Caring Center, ensuring its future at a new location on Commerce Street. He has also been a key figure in "Let's Talk Azle," the Azle Area Ministerial Alliance and other local efforts. Shotwell said he has enjoyed being there for thousands of moments and major events in his congregation's lives,

from births to deaths, and every sorrow and every joy in between.

"My favorite memories of being pastor here are the people that I've been able to be a part of their life," Shotwell said. "I've been so fortunate to just know so many wonderful people who have become my friends. A lot of them are not here now. They've gone on before us and I've had the privilege to be with them at the end of their lives and to minister to their families, as I've done their funerals. So, I've known lots of people that aren't here anymore, and I miss them, but I've loved knowing people. I've loved being able to be in a relationship with these people for a long period of time, to I guess, grow old with them, to see babies be born, and then I helped raise those babies and baptized them, and then married them."

Shotwell is excited for the church to unveil a new pipe organ in the next few months, which will be the largest in town. While he hopes it may be played on his last day as pastor, he suspects an official dedication ceremony may not be held for another few months. While Shotwell and the church have spent years planning the instrument's construction, much of the major work coincided with a recent multimillion-dollar remodeling project. With just a few final touches now left and much of the remodeling paid off, Shotwell said he has done what he can in build-

ing a brighter future for Ash Creek Baptist Church.

Shotwell said that while Ash Creek Baptist has been a joy to pastor, decades of being in charge and caring for others has resulted in a lot of built-up stress. Retirement has been on the horizon for some time but recent health issues have confirmed for Shotwell that it is his time to slow down. Shotwell is glad to have left the church in good shape for a new generation of leaders and worshippers. Now 63 years old, Shotwell said it's time to finish his work and allow someone else to take the reins.

"I'm not quitting ministry, but I have finished this role," Shotwell said. "There's other things to do. When you're finished, you ought to be done and move on to the next thing because otherwise you're just wasting your time and you're wasting the time of the people that you're serving. I'm tired, and I don't have the energy that I had 20 years ago and there's a lot of things that still need to happen here in our church. I have vision for what needs to happen here, but I don't have the energy to pull it off and it's not fair to the church for them to have a pastor that does not have the energy to do what needs to be done. So, we need somebody that has that kind of energy to do what needs to be done."

Following his last service Sunday, Jan. 26 and the 3-5 p.m. reception, Shotwell hopes to take a few months



Pastor Wesley Shotwell, his wife Margie and their sons William and Jason in a 1997 photo taken before moving to Azle.

COURTESY



Pastor Wesley Shotwell stands on stage at Ash Creek Baptist Church.

ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

off from the church in order to let his congregants and staff adapt to life without him. When he does return, he said it will likely be strange to sit in the pews and listen to someone else preach. Eventually, Shotwell hopes to be an interim pastor at local churches when needed, teach young pastors, go on mission trips and travel.

While it will be difficult, Shotwell said he is confident this transition will ultimately be best for the nearly 300 who regularly attend the church and others who may do so in the future. He has spent many of the best years of his life at Ash Creek Baptist Church, but when it's all said and done, he describes himself as one fish in a long stream.

"If church becomes about the pastor, you're in big trouble," Shotwell said. "Pastors

are not going to be here forever; they're not really the one in charge. Pastors, anything can happen to them. They can get hit by a bus, they can have a heart attack, they can quit, they can retire. You know, bad things happen and they do bad things sometimes. If it is about the pastor, when the pastor goes down, or when the pastor retires, or when the pastor gets hit by a bus, then the church can't survive that. The local church can't survive that. So, it's not about the pastor, and it's not about me at all. Number one, it's about Jesus, but institutionally, it's about this body of people that exist throughout the years and the decades and the centuries, in this case, that provides a light of hope to a local community. We, who are here for a little while, get a chance to be part of that."

"It's just such a privilege to be able to live with people for a long time and to live with them through the best days of their lives and the worst days of their lives. "

DR. WESLEY SHOTWELL

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Property taxes due Jan. 31

STAFF REPORT

If they are not paid by the end of the month, current property taxes will become delinquent and incur penalties and interest. Payments must be received or post-marked by the Jan. 31 deadline to avoid added costs.

PARKER

Parker County taxpayers can visit www.parkercad.org to pay using eCheck free of charge; a debit card with a \$2.95 flat processing fee; or a credit card with a 2.15% processing fee. Payments, by mail or in-person, can be made at the Parker County Appraisal District office at 1108 Santa Fe Drive, Weatherford, TX 76086. The office features a drive-thru and after-hours drop boxes

located in the front vestibule and the drive-thru area for added convenience.

WISE

The Wise County Tax Office accepts cash, check, debit and credit cards for tax and auto transactions. Wise County taxpayers can visit tax.co.wise.tx.us or their local office in person at 125 Farm-to-Market Road 730 North, Boyd. There is also a convenience fee of 2.35% or a minimum of \$1 with a debit or credit card. Tax payments can be mailed to Wise County Tax Assessor-Collector Monte Shaw at 404 West Walnut, Decatur, TX 76234-1372.

TARRANT

Tarrant County taxpayers can visit taxonline.tarrantcounty.com/TaxPayer/Search/. Taxpayers can pay in person at their local office, 6713 Telephone Road, Room 101, Lake Worth. Tax payments may be mailed to Rick D. Barnes, Tax Assessor-Collector, PO Box 96101, Fort Worth, TX 76161-0018.

Tarrant County property taxes can also be paid over the phone with an e-check, debit or credit card, through a third-party processor at 817-884-1110. There are no fees for e-checks.

Credit card payments are subject to an additional 2.15% cost with a \$2.50 minimum. In-person debit card payments will be subject to a \$2.50 fee. Online or phone debit card payments will be charged an additional \$2.95.



TCR Christmas Critter Photo Contest winner

JOLEE SKINNER | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Sallie Hamilton won the 2024 Tri-County Reporter Christmas Critter Photo Contest. Prizes included a \$100 Amazon gift card, a \$100 check and a \$100 gift certificate to Eagle Mountain Veterinary Clinic.

Springtown launches youth diversion program to help young offenders

JOLEE SKINNER

jolee@tricountyreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — On Monday, Dec. 30, the City of Springtown Municipal Court announced the launch of its new Youth Diversion Program which will provide young offenders with opportunities for rehabilitation and personal growth, rather than relying on financial penalties.

Springtown City Secretary Christina Derr announced the program in a press re-

lease and spoke to the city's commitment to providing a constructive yet educational space for the young offenders to make better choices.

"The Youth Diversion Program is a testament to Springtown's commitment to fostering a supportive and constructive environment for its young residents," Derr said. "By focusing on education and community involvement, this program aims to equip youth with the tools they need to make better

choices and avoid future legal issues."

The diversion program, which began Jan. 1, is for juveniles between the ages of 10 and 16 who are cited for nontraffic Class C misdemeanor offenses, such as theft under \$100, possession of drug paraphernalia, simple assault and minor in possession of alcohol or tobacco. The program also offers educational, preventive and community service-oriented alternatives instead of fines.

"When it comes to juvenile defendants, the objective of court is not to inflict punitive measures against the defendant, but rather to redirect their behavior and prevent a recurrence or an escalation of behaviors that may result in higher level offenses which can be extremely detrimental to the future of young people," Derr said. "This program will offer alternatives to financial penalties which will be more beneficial to the defendant overall and which are

likely to reduce recidivism."

The key components of the youth diversion plan include:

Preventative measures: The program offers counseling and drug testing options to address underlying causes of offenses.

Educational opportunities: Participants will have access to educational resources and programs that reinforce responsible behavior and personal development. This includes life skills courses, career counseling and aware-

ness classes to guide youth toward a productive future.

Community service: Instead of financial penalties, youth defendants may be required to participate in community service projects. These projects will instill a sense of civic duty in participants.

"This program is designed to be more beneficial than financial penalties, reducing the likelihood of reoffending," Derr added.



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Texas Health Azle honored for excellent patient care

STAFF REPORT

AZLE — Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Azle was one of three hospitals recently recognized for its excellence with the 2024 Press Ganey Human Experience Awards. Other nearby hospitals, Texas Harris Methodist Hospital Southlake and Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Southwest Fort Worth also earned the award.

Press Ganey, a global leader in healthcare experience solutions and services, annually ranks the top hospitals and health systems in the country according to performance in patient experience, employee experience, physician experience, clinical quality performance and consumer experience.

"We are honored to receive these awards as recognition of the safe, high-quality and reliable care we provide to millions of North Texans," Kirk King, Hospital Channel chief operating officer said. "At Texas Health, we are committed to putting the consumer at the center of all we do and improving the health of the people in the communities we serve."

Two categories of recognition were announced: the Human Experience Guardian of Excellence Award and the Human Experience Pinnacle of Excellence Award. For going above and beyond in patient comfort and care, Texas Health Azle was named 2024's Guardian of Excellence for Patient Experience, outpatient services.

"One of the greatest impacts we can make on the patient experience is being purposeful in every interaction," Bianca Radney, vice president, Patient and Family Experience said. "Every care team member at Texas Health makes an impact, whether talking to a consumer on the phone, greeting them at a practice, providing instructions at an event, caring for them in a hospital bed or passing them in a hallway."

Radney said quarterly best practices meetings and the system's Words Matter initiative also contributed to Texas Health earning these awards. Words Matter materials help care team members intentionally talk with patients and family members to use bias-free language.

Resources focus on using inclusive language and showing compassionate support for patients and consumers of all backgrounds.

The Press Ganey awards recognize how excellent patient care is being delivered at Texas Health Azle, Texas Health Southlake and Texas Health Southwest. That focus starts with hiring care team members who are passionate about healthcare and includes creating a positive, compassionate environment in which patients come first.

For example, at Texas Health Azle, patients are escorted to radiology appointments. Once the procedure is complete, patients are accompanied until their rides arrive. At Texas Health Southlake, employees are encouraged to share ideas to help improve patient care.

Texas Health Southwest has refined the system's collaborative process, High Reliability Rounding. Every day, leaders visit departments across Texas Health Southwest with a focus on intentionally connecting, checking-in, addressing concerns, and committing to following-up on information gathered.



A nurse manager consults with a patient.

COURTESY PHOTO

Folks around town

High on life

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricityreporter.com

AZLE — Every group needs someone who can make them laugh. For Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital in Azle, that person is Kevin High. High is the hospital's director of plan operations and safety. Along with ensuring the welfare of patients and staff, he spends his days joking, smiling and photobombing when and where he can.

High joined the hospital on the recommendation of Cathy Grantham, program manager for quality improvement and risk, after the two temporarily worked together last year. In the last year, High, Grantham, and Grantham's husband Shannon have since become close friends as well as coworkers.

"I was like, 'oh my gosh, we need to get him out here full time.' He's got that contagious energy. He's always in a great mood and if he's not, you can't tell," Grantham said.

While not an Azle resident himself, he said he feels blessed to have the opportunity to work in the city and he enjoys being able to meet with community members while out and about at local restaurants or businesses. High said he and hospital staff work together as a cohesive team by focusing on a singular goal of patient satisfaction.

"It goes a long way outside of just coming in, getting seen, there's a lot of working

pieces behind everything that we do here," High said.

For High, a self-professed lover of life and people, business is fun and fun can be business. When traveling throughout the hospital, High said he tries to interact with at least two patients every day, say hello and thank them for the opportunity to help care for them.

"I live by the rules live, laugh and love, and I try to show that just by the way I am," High said. "I love seeing people enjoy life. I love seeing people laugh. And that's just kind of where I kind of exude that energy coming off."



Kevin High with a friend and coworker, Cathy Grantham.

ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER



The Azle Harris Methodist plan operations team at a recent Christmas party with Kevin High in the middle.

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Snow place like home

Wintry weather brings still, quiet contrast to Azle and Springtown Jan. 9 and 10



PHOTO COURTESY DENISE MCWILLIAMS

Snowfall covers the Springtown Veterans Memorial Park Jan. 10.



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Possumhaw holly trees near the Azle Central Park entrance contrast against the white snow.



Snow on the stage of the Azle Central Park amphitheater received cold reviews from an audience of no one.

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B

THURSDAY, January 16, 2025



COURTESY CYNTHIA PAYNE

Philip Dunn practices movements with weapons.

Azle teen breaks boards, barriers

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricityreporter.com

AZLE — An Azle teen is making flying leaps in the world of special abilities taekwondo.

Just four years ago, Philip Dunn began practicing taekwondo in lieu of physical therapy. Today he's a three-time state champion and a foundational member of the first noncontact taekwondo

Philip Dunn named ATA state champion, receives black belt, paves way for special abilities taekwondo

team headed for the Special Olympics

Dunn and his mother Cynthia Payne moved to Azle from Crowley 10 years ago. They love animals, owning dogs, cats and hamsters. Dunn is a fan of building model villages, woodworking,

hunting and has a passion for classic cars. Among Dunn's hobbies, none are more impressive than his participation in Songahm Taekwondo through ATA Martial Arts.

Dunn, aged 16, is on the autism spectrum. At age 12, he began practicing taekwondo

after a recommendation from his therapist.

"He needed therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, but he didn't want to do the traditional because he felt too old for that," Payne said. "So, I thought, why not try martial arts because his

therapist recommended martial arts. He fell in love with it."

In the time since, Dunn has made strides, winning almost countless competitions and earning a pile of shiny medals. Dunn has proven himself to be a formidable force, the top rank for his age in the special abilities category for the last three years and winning the ATA South District, comprised of Texas,

Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana, twice. Dunn recently achieved another major accomplishment, earning his black belt Dec. 20. After placing first in eight events, Dunn hopes to bring his winning streak to the July ATA World Championship held in Phoenix, Arizona.

To train, Dunn visits Keller ATA Martial Arts four days

PLEASE SEE **BARRIERS** | B2



COURTESY PHOTO

The Shearer family and friends pose around their winning 12-foot-10 inch snowman.

Shearers showcase sizeable snowman

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricityreporter.com

AZLE — One Azle family received a lot of attention for its gargantuan snowman last week. During a big freeze and snowy day in February 2010, the Shearer family built a massive 13-foot snowman. During last

week's snowfall, the family and their neighbors set out to build an even bigger, better snowman. While they ultimately fell short by about a couple of inches, if you include the hat, they still had a wonderful snow day experience.

The Shearer family goes back almost a century in

Azle and today you can find its members all over town, with many concentrated around the home of patriarch Eddie Shearer on Turpin Drive. Between the family and a few friends, 17 total people ended up working on the snowman. The

PLEASE SEE **SNOWMAN** | B3

Weather forces changes in scheduling

Lady Frogs soccer continues strong start

RICK MAUCH

Special to the Tri-County Reporter

While games were played, weather wreaked havoc with the schedules this past weekend. Games were postponed, tournaments were shortened to single games, and in several cases games were canceled altogether.

LAKE WORTH GIRLS SOCCER

The Lady Frogs (3-1) were scheduled to play in the Castleberry Tournament Jan. 9-11, but weather altered the schedule to a single game Saturday. Lake Worth defeated Fort Worth Young Women's Leadership Academy 8-0.

It was the third consecutive shutout for Lake Worth as Ale Andrede was the goalkeeper.

Scoring and assists were Jacksiri Perez two goals, one assist; Yaretzi Salas two goals, one assist; Reanna Arellano one goal, one assist; Jasmin Martinez one goal,

two assists; Yihana Sandoval one goal; Miyelli Para one goal; Julianna Martinez one assist; Stephanie Flores one assist.

Lake Worth opened the season the previous week in the North Crowley Tournament, capturing the consolation trophy by winning their final two games after an opening loss. They outscored their opponents 11-0 in the two wins as Perez, Salas, Arellano and Martinez each had at least two goals and an assist.

The Lady Frogs were hosting Fort Worth Western Hills at press time, then have road matches at Fort Worth Dunbar and Graham Jan. 17 and 21, both at 7:30 p.m.

SPRINGTOWN GIRLS SOCCER

The Lady Pines (4-1) hosted Burkburnett Jan. 11 and won 1-0 as Icic Lopez scored a

goal off rebound shot off crossbar. The goalkeeper was Brooklyn Brickle.

The Lady Pines were playing at Graham at press time, are home to take on Fort Worth North Side Jan. 17 at 5:30 p.m. and host Mineral Wells Jan. 22 at 7:30 p.m.

AZLE GIRLS SOCCER

The Lady Hornets (1-2) had no games this past week as the Brewer Tournament was canceled.

Azle is set to return to tournament competition Jan. 16-18 at the Saginaw Chisholm Trail Tournament with games against Mineral Wells, Fort Worth Wyatt and Boswell. They will open District 5-5A at Chisholm Trail Jan. 21 at 7:30 p.m.

PLEASE SEE **ROUNDUP** | B2

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BARRIERS

FROM PAGE B1

per week from 4 p.m. to about 9 p.m. While it's a long drive, Dunn and his mother feel the sense of family and fulfillment provided by the dojo are well worth it. Dunn is involved in the dojo's leadership program, where he assists others and teaches younger students.

"It really brought him out of his shell," Payne said. "He was hardly talking. He would barely associate with a lot of people and now you find him everywhere. He's this. He goes out and talks to everybody. He's willing to help. He does have his issues, but this is his comfort zone right here."

Through practicing and competing, Dunn has learned to do cartwheels, flips, hand-to-hand combat and how to perform choreography with weapons. When competing

with the Bo Staff for the first time, Payne said he received a standing ovation.

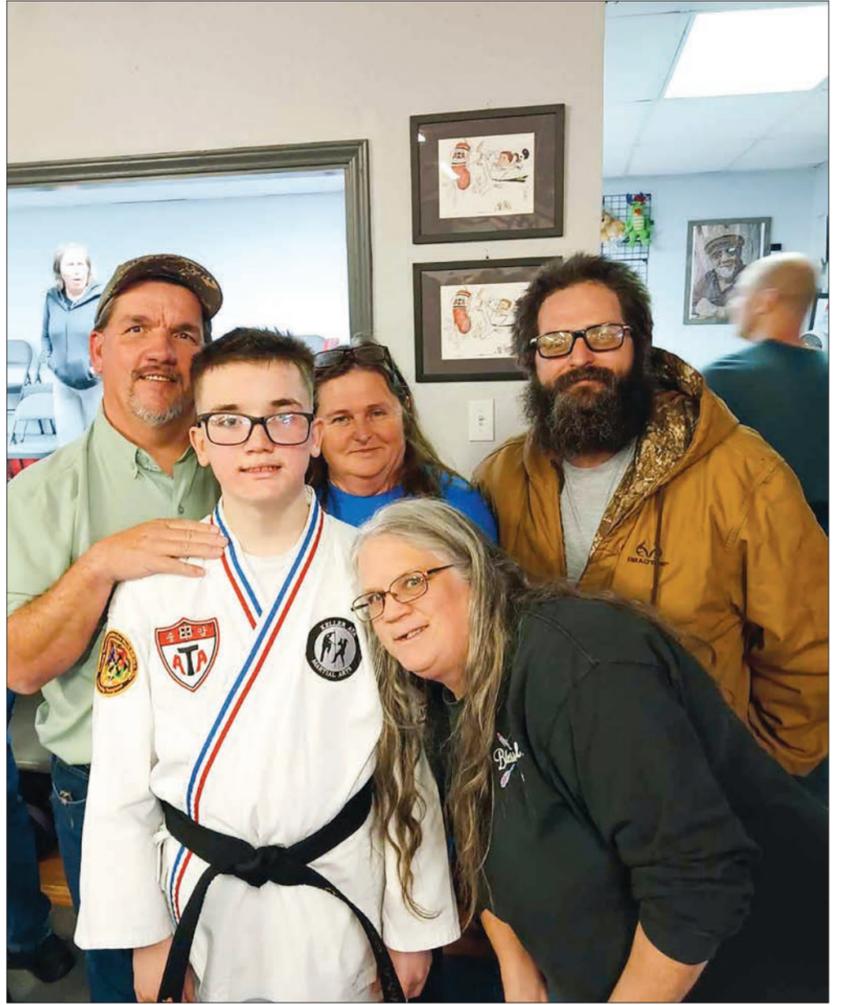
The experience has left a major impact on Dunn, who hopes to one day open his own special abilities dojo. Dunn has aspirations to major in business management in college and is currently an A and B 10th grade student at Texas Virtual Academy at Hallsville. Payne said the flexibility of an online high school has more easily allowed Dunn to pursue his interest in taekwondo. While traveling throughout Texas and beyond, Dunn often continues to attend classes on long car rides and in hotel rooms. His school has also been a major source of support for Dunn, with his classmates and teachers keeping a close eye on his martial arts achievements and cheering him on along the way. After news of his state ranking broke, Dunn was named a spotlight student of the se-

mester. Among his closest supporters are his mom, dad, stepmom, grandmother and ATA instructors and fellow competitors.

"It doesn't matter if you're disabled or not, you're in wheelchair or anything, they're going to be right there with you," Payne said. "They travel in a group. They're there for each other's competitions. They shake each other's hands. They high five each other. It is a phenomenal program. Most of the kids are peers their age, so he loves it. They really love this program."

Dunn said taekwondo has been a healthy outlet to release his anger and learn discipline and that mentoring younger students makes him feel good inside.

According to Payne, getting special abilities accepted into the Special Olympics was a major goal for the wife of Songahm Taekwondo's founder before she passed.



COURTESY CYNTHIA PAYNE

Philip Dunn stands with his family after receiving his black belt at a Dec. 20 ceremony.



While staying at a Ronald McDonald House in Cincinnati, Ohio as a child, this custom painting hung on Philip Dunn and Cynthia Payne's wall. Today, it hangs in their home, reflecting one of Dunn's many hobbies.

ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Thanks to the efforts of Dunn and others at his school, that dream is becoming a reality. Thanks to support from instructor Mary Johannesen, Dunn and other boys at ATA Keller successfully petitioned the Special Olympics to include a no-contact taekwondo event. This January, ATA is assembling its first no-contact taekwondo team with its first competition happening in April. The team is expected to compete alongside other

special abilities athletics for the first time this summer. Payne hopes this will encourage and inspire other disabled students to compete and reach for their dreams, in athletics, the Special Olympics and all avenues.

"It means a lot when you have an IDD (intellectually or developmentally delayed) child that they can excel in something and say, 'hey, I've done it myself,'" Payne said.

With the success of its stu-

dents, ATA Keller itself hopes to grow and improve with the dojo currently fundraising to be able to host its own tournament in Round Rock.

Payne and Dunn want others to pursue their dreams and believe no goal is impossible with enough hard work and determination.

"It was kind of hard, but you push through it," Dunn said. "Just don't quit while you're going through it."

ROUNDUP

FROM PAGE B1

SPRINGTOWN BOYS SOCCER

The Porcupines (0-2) were supposed to host their own tournament this past weekend. However, the weather had other plans.

They opened the season Jan. 7 with a 3-0 home loss to Venus. On Jan. 13 they fell 4-3 against Burk Burnett with Kevin Patino, Brody Phifer and Rylen Passmore scoring goals.

The Porcupines were at Graham at press time. Then, two more home games are ahead, Bowie Jan. 17 at 7:15 p.m. and Mineral Wells Jan. 21 at 7:30 p.m.

AZLE BOYS SOCCER

The Hornets (0-2-1) were scheduled to play in the Ennis Tournament this past weekend before it was canceled by the weather. They dropped a 5-0 home contest to Argyle Jan. 7.

In the Castleberry Tournament the previous weekend, the Hornets dropped two and tied one, with Miguel Maldonado scoring the goal in a 1-1 tie with Fort Worth Western Hills.

Azle was hosting Burleson in the Hornets' first home game of the season at press time. They host Graham at 6 p.m. Jan. 17 and will begin District 5-5A play at home

against Saginaw Chisholm Trail Jan. 21 at 7:45 p.m.

LAKE WORTH BOYS SOCCER

The Bullfrogs' (1-2) had their game against O.D. Wyatt canceled by weather. They began the season the week before in the prestigious and tough Abilene Tournament, dropping two of three.

"We are young and learning, but played some tough 5A and 6A teams," coach Robert Alvarez said. "One win against Big Spring (5-1) but well in the first half of other two games (against Abilene and Midland)."

Lake Worth was playing at Western Hills at press time and is in the Burk Burnett Tournament Jan. 16-18. They travel to Graham Jan. 20 at 6:30 p.m.

AZLE BOYS BASKETBALL

The Hornets (9-17, 0-4 in District 5-5A) dropped a pair of league contests last week. They fell 60-48 at home to Brewer Jan. 7 and 81-59 at Aledo Jan. 11.

Vs. Brewer: Jayden Taylor 16 points, Cason Cook 13 points, Bryce Robinson 8 points.

Vs. Aledo: Cook 16, Taylor 12, Robinson 10, Britt Haas 10.

The Hornets were hosting Saginaw Chisholm Trail at press time. That's followed by trips to Keller Fossil Ridge Jan. 17 and Saginaw Jan. 21, the latter to start the second

half of district, both with a 7:30 p.m. tipoff.

AZLE GIRLS BASKETBALL

The Lady Hornets (6-19, 1-5 in 5-5A) wrapped up the first half of league play with losses of 65-38 to Brewer Jan. 7 and 64-35 at Aledo Jan. 11.

Vs. Brewer: Abbey Natusch 11 points, Brooklyn Young 6 points, Natalie Velasquez 6 points.

Vs. Aledo: Natusch 15, Emersyn Anderson 5.

The second half of district was getting underway at press time with the Lady Hornets facing visiting Saginaw Chisholm Trail. They are then on the road for back-to-back games at Keller Fossil Ridge and Saginaw Jan. 17 and 21, respectively. Each has a 6:15 p.m. tipoff.

SPRINGTOWN BOYS BASKETBALL

The Porcupines' (6-16, 3-2 in 7-4A) perfect start to district came to an end with a 67-46 home loss to Decatur Jan. 7. They then fell 68-41 at Eagle Mountain Jan. 11.

Vs. Decatur: Dylan Crutchfield 11 points, 11 rebounds; Ayden Lugo 9 points, five rebounds.

Vs. Eagle Mountain: Crutchfield 18 points, eight rebounds; Ethan Graham 13 points, four rebounds.

Springtown was hosting Krum at press time and travels to Burk Burnett Jan. 17. They begin Round 2 of

district at home against Lake Worth Jan. 21. All games have a 7:30 p.m. tipoff.

SPRINGTOWN GIRLS BASKETBALL

The Lady Pines (9-13, 3-4 in 7-4A) fell 86-27 at home to Decatur Jan. 7 and won 65-19 at Eagle Mountain Jan. 11, concluding the opening round of league competition.

Vs. Decatur: Esther Balado 7 points, Addy Burnett 6 points.

Vs. Eagle Mountain: Balado 17 points, Burnett 14 points, Olivia Williams 9 points, Brylynn Bazzell 8 points, Evelyn Herrera 8 points.

Krum was the opponent as Springtown began the second half of district at press time. They travel to Burk Burnett Jan. 18 for a 12:30 p.m. contest and host Lake Worth at 6:15 p.m. Jan. 21.

LAKE WORTH BOYS BASKETBALL

After nearly upsetting Bridgeport at home Jan. 7 before falling 72-67, the Bullfrogs (10-11, 0-5 in 7-4A) fell 63-60 at Castleberry Jan. 11. Against Bridgeport, Lake Worth led 48-44 entering the fourth quarter. They also led Castleberry 42-40 going into the final period.

Vs. Bridgeport: Ivan Sanchez 22 points; De'Jay Black 15 points; Braylen Fridia 13 points, six rebounds, six assists; Ayden Brooks 8 points, 12 rebounds.

Vs. Castleberry: Fridia 28 points, six rebounds; Brooks 12 points, nine rebounds; Sanchez 10 points, three assists; Favian Lopez 5 points, five steals.

The Bullfrogs, who are turning around a program that won just two games in 2023-24, were at Decatur at press time and host Eagle Mountain Jan. 17 before starting the second half of the league at Springtown Jan. 21. All games have a 7:30 p.m. start.

LAKE WORTH GIRLS BASKETBALL

The Lady Frogs (15-11, 1-6 in 7-4A) fell 65-27 at home to Bridgeport Jan. 7 before winning 46-19 at Castleberry Jan. 11.

Vs. Bridgeport: Jackie Cleveland 12 points, Kyla Nabors 6 points

Vs. Castleberry: Cleveland 21 points, Nabors 9 points

The second portion of district got started with a trip to Decatur at press time. On Jan. 17 and 21 were a home game against Eagle Mountain and a trip to Springtown, respectively, all starting at 7:30 p.m.

AZLE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL

The Fightin' Crusaders (15-4) topped visiting Garner 62-51 Jan. 7 as Brody Fairman scored 23 points, Corban Potter added 11 and Gage Anderson tallied 9.

Azle Christian School con-

tinued home play against Mineral Wells Community Christian and Granbury Grace Classical at press time, followed by Weatherford Christian Jan. 17 at 7 p.m. to start TAPPS District 2-1A play and a visit from Weatherford Express Jan. 21 at 7:30 p.m.

SPRINGTOWN WRESTLING

The Porcupines finished second recently at the Frisco Duals. They defeated Fort Worth South Hills 71-6, Northwest 51-30, Haslet Eaton No. 2 60-18 and Coppell 47-27 before falling to Eaton No. 1 in the final 53-30.

Undefeated wrestlers for the Porcupines were Wyatt Blount, 106 pounds; Colton Halstead, 150; Lucas Wright, 150/157; Robert Lewis, 190; and James Snyder, heavyweight.

RODEO

Several competitors from Azle and Springtown are among the leaders in the Texas High School Rodeo Association Region 3 standings. Among the senior girls all-around leaders is Azle's Hevenli Scribner at No. 8.

Individual events: Steer wrestling: 2. Cade Walker, Springtown Senior poles: 3. Scribner Senior barrels: 9. Scribner Girls cutting: 5. Charlotte Kelleher, Azle

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THE NEWS OF AZLE, SPRINGTOWN, LAKE WORTH AND SURROUNDING AREAS

ALUMNI REPORT

Former Porcupine plays for national championship

RICK MAUCH

Special to the Tri-County Reporter

Had Brendan Hall remained at his original college choice, he would have been on one of the nation's best teams.

Instead, he transferred and almost won a national championship.

The former Springtown Porcupine is one of the best college punters and kickers around. He was in action Jan. 6 in Frisco, punting and kicking off, in the Football Championship Subdivision Division I championship game.

Hall punted twice for a 40-yard average and kicked off five times for 320 yards and three touchbacks as the Montana State Bobcats (15-1) came up short in a 35-32 loss to the North Dakota State Bison (14-2).

Hall's college career began at SMU following a sterling career at Springtown. In 2021 and 2022 he had a punting average of over 40 yards.

After transferring to the Bobcats, Hall averaged 46

yards per punt, earning All-American and All-Big Sky Conference honors.

During his time as a Porcupine, Hall was a first-team Class 4A all-state selection. His highlights included being 131-of-136 on extra points and kicking 22 field goals with a long of 49 yards in his junior and senior seasons.

He averaged 43 yards per punt those two seasons and his 81 kickoffs averaged 55 yards. His nearly 200 kickoffs averaged 54 yards.

The Porcupines had one of the best two-season runs in program history in that span, going 24-5. They were 13-2 and reached the state semifinals in 2019 and 11-3 in 2020, advancing to the state quarterfinals.

MCALISTER COMFY AS A HORNFROG

Also setting in quite well in a new home is former Azle Hornet Eric McAlister, a junior transfer from Boise State to TCU. He was one of the team's leading receivers in

2024 with 39 catches for 762 yards and five touchdowns.

In the Horned Frogs' (9-4) 34-3 New Mexico Bowl victory against Louisiana (10-4), he caught a season-high eight passes for 87 yards and a touchdown. His best yardage game was 114 yards on six catches in a 66-42 loss to SMU.

McAlister was 12th in the nation in yards per catch, averaging 19.5.

Before coming to TCU, McAlister had a solid two seasons at Boise State. He caught 58 passes for 1,332 yards and nine touchdowns in an offense that is heavily run-oriented.

This included being named the Mountain West Offensive Player of the Week after tying what was then a career-high with seven receptions for 160 yards and a touchdown in a 32-7 win over Wyoming during the 2023 season.

SCHULTZ HELPS RAMS TO BEST SEASON

Texas Wesleyan University had its best season ever in



PHOTO COURTESY SPRINGTOWN PORCUPINES FACEBOOK PAGE

Former Springtown Porcupine Brendan Hall, a senior at Montana State, played for a national championship with the Bobcats this season.

2024, going 10-1 and reaching the NIAA playoffs. Former Azle Hornet Hunter Schultz, a freshman offensive line-

man, helped them achieve that status, playing in nine games.

He was also a part of histo-

ry as the Rams went 8-0 in the Sooner Athletic Conference, capturing their first ever league championship.

SNOWMAN

FROM PAGE B1

family affair was noticed by the Azle Police Department, who parked a police cruiser nearby for a photo opportunity. After suggestions from a friend, the family also entered photos of their snowman in a Weatherford snowman competition on Facebook where they earned over 400 likes and a gift card by the contest's conclusion.

"We didn't use any fancy machines — just some ramps, a truck bed, a ladder, and some good old fash-

ioned 'heave-ho,'" family member Carrie Shearer said. "We won a \$100 gift card to downtown Weatherford, which we will split 17 ways — that should be a trick! Downtown Weatherford Inc. reached out because they saw the size of our group and a video of us in the building process and said they would throw in some coffees for the adults and gelatos for the kids because they love communities working together. All in all, it was just a ton of family fun on a rare, beautifully snowy day in Texas!"



COURTESY PHOTO

An Azle police cruiser parks behind the icy behemoth.

Civil Air Patrol hosts open house Jan. 21

STAFF REPORT

Azle Composite Squadron, Civil Air Patrol will host an open house event at Cornerstone Community Church in Springtown, 2233 E. Highway 199, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 21. The entire community is invited to walk through the parade of displays and learn more about Civil Air Patrol. Members of the squadron will be present to greet visitors, explain CAP's mission and provide demonstrations related to aerospace, communications, emergency services and youth leadership.

There will also be an opportunity to sign up for the next Cadet Great Start Class beginning Feb. 4. Azle Composite Squadron serves youth from Azle, Springtown, Weatherford and surrounding areas. Class size is limited and signups are required to ensure proper planning of resources. Interested teens may sign up through the squadron website at azle.cap.gov, on Facebook or by sending the squadron an email at azle@txwg.cap.gov. Texas Squadron 456 holds these classes twice each year. Students in this class will begin with a training flight and work through their first rank of airman with the John Curry Award at the end of the five-week course.

"We challenge these future leaders academically while building their life skills and experiences using curriculum materials and opportunities

provided by Civil Air Patrol," a recent press release from Capt. Ronda Kilian said. "Our focus for cadets is on character development, leadership, fitness, emergency services and aerospace education/STEM. As cadets learn about these areas, they advance through a series of achievement levels, earning honors and increased responsibilities along the way."

The group meets weekly Tuesday evenings from 6:30-9 p.m. throughout the year. Civil Air Patrol has been an integral start for many astronauts, pilots, engineers and scientists. Homeschooled cadets can even earn high school credits for their work in the program. The group encourages involvement in local communities by recognizing volunteer work performed outside of Civil Air Patrol. The squadron supports Wreaths Across America at both Azleland Memorial Park and Holder's Chapel Cemetery and assists the local chapter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars with flag placement for Memorial Day. In addition, it provides a color guard for various events and ceremonies throughout the community and are available by request.

Adult members are the foundation of the squadron, providing support to perform the squadron's missions in cadet programs, aerospace education and emergency services. Adult members who are pilots can become quali-

fied to provide orientation and mission flights. They also volunteer to fill roles in administration, personnel, communications, public affairs, information technology, aerospace education, logistics, transportation and training. CAP provides a structured education and training program to teach adults how to perform these tasks.

CIVIL AIR PATROL OFFERS YOUTH (12-18):

- Flying opportunities
- Leadership building experiences
- Aerospace / STEM curriculum
- Search and rescue training and missions

- Character development lessons
- Friendship building opportunities
- Career exploration activities
- Life skills enhancement
- Fitness training
- Mentoring/mentorship

CIVIL AIR PATROL OFFERS ADULTS (18+):

- Mentorship opportunities
- Search and rescue training and missions
- Flying opportunities
- Leadership building experiences
- Friendship building opportunities
- Mentoring/mentorship



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Azle Civil Air Patrol cadets at last year's Sting Fling parade.

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

CROSSING FELLOWSHIP
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The Finish Line
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Patti Tobkin - President
azlelionsclub.com
817-994-0074

Christian Leaders partnering together with one voice to impact our culture for Christ. We celebrate unity amidst diversity as we pastor our community.
Luncheon meetings 11:45 a.m. - 1 p.m. 2nd Tues of each month; location varies.
See www.azlema.com or email director@azlema.com for additional information.
817-200-4611

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SE HABLA ESPAÑOL

SHS foreign exchange students reflect on journey in the US

JOLEE SKINNER

jolee@tricountyreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — Homework, sports, tests and college applications are challenges most average teenagers face in high school, not counting all the social, societal and peer pressures teens encounter. But imagine taking on all these challenges in a completely foreign country and being away from your family, friends and everything you've ever known.

Max Wegener, 16, and Elina Lejeune, 18, are two of five foreign exchange students at Springtown High School. Both students are a part of the Council on International Educational Exchange program. Wegener has been in the U.S. for about two years while Lejeune has been here since last August.

Wegener is originally from Germany and Lejeune is originally from Belgium. Wegener wanted to participate in the foreign exchange program because his father had participated and went to a school in California. His dad had a very positive experience — so much so, Wegener's father keeps in contact with his host

family.

Lejeune's best friend in Belgium had also participated in the exchange program. She attended a school in Florida and Lejeune wanted to do the same.

"I have always wanted to do this," Lejeune said. "Like to learn English, the culture and everything."

When Lejeune arrived in the U.S., she was surprised at how big everything was.

"Everything was so big, even the airport and the car," Lejeune said.

Lejeune felt the transition period from being in Belgium to America was challenging once the realization settled in that she was here for a year.

"My English was not really good, so it was hard in the beginning to just express myself," Lejeune said. "It takes a long time to realize that you're finally here."

Lejeune said her favorite part about her home in Belgium is her friends and all her family are there. She did admit she prefers the European cuisine over American food. Lejeune said her favorite part about being in America is attending Springtown High School.

"School is the best thing, it's better than the school in Belgium," Lejeune said. "They (Springtown HS) are so proud of their sports. And here you can choose what you want to study. The teachers are more friendly and the people here are more friendly."

When Wegener first came to the U.S., he said speaking English was never a problem for him as his parents made that a learning priority in his home.

He says the biggest misconception he had about the U.S. was that, in Europe, it's popular to think Americans are not very intelligent.

"Many people think Americans are stupid, but it's not like that," Wegener said. "We learn more about geography because we travel to a lot of different countries. But here, (in the U.S.) you travel to lots of different states."

Wegener said he misses his family but doesn't have that homesick feeling.

"Of course, I miss them but it's not like I'm homesick," Wegener said. "I know that I want to be here and making friends is easy for me."

Wegener is already on the men's varsity soccer team at



Max Wegener and Elina Lejeune reflect on their journey in America as foreign exchange students at Springtown High School. (L-R): Max Wegener, Elina Lejeune with Kimberley Taylor, a representative of the Council on International Educational Exchange program.

JOLEE SKINNER | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Springtown HS. In Europe, soccer is referred to as football. In Germany, sports for kids is a separate organization outside of school that you must pay to participate in.

Lejeune has also made it onto a varsity team at Springtown HS.

"I'm in track and field and it's really good," Lejeune said. "I have practice in the morning at 7:15 a.m. I wake up early; it's so different in Belgium because I have to be at school at 8:30 a.m. but here it's 7:15 a.m."

Lejeune has been trying American foods like pop tarts, burgers and says she loves Chick-fil-A. Lejeune happily admitted her favorite new food she has tried so far is Crumbl Cookies.

"Recently, I went to Crumbl Cookies with a friend," Lejeune said. "She made me try it and it was so good. I tried the cookies and cream and the Honey Bun."

Wegener said he has tried Mexican food and found it delicious.

"Mexican food is not really big in Germany, so I tried it here and it's definitely good," Wegener said. "I like it very much. I'm not a spicy guy,

but there are Mexican dishes without spice. I love the street tacos."

When it comes to learning about his home country in history class, Wegener said learning history in Germany versus in America is not really any different.

"I'm a big history guy, so it's nothing new, the Great Depression and all these things I knew before," Wegener said. "I think everybody knows about German history. We, of course, learn about World War I and World War II, so the perspectives are the same. For me, it's more like refreshing my knowledge."

As far as life after high school goes, both Wegener and Lejeune want to go to a university. Recently, Lejeune sent her application to a university in the Netherlands, which would benefit her English as universities in Belgium mostly speak in French. Lejeune wants to major in international business.

"I want to go to a business international school," Lejeune said. "I think it's because I can travel a lot."

Wegener has two more years of school in Germany when goes back next year.

He isn't too sure yet what his plans are but wants to attend college.

"I could do one semester in America or somewhere else," Wegener said. "One of my skills is speaking and I could see getting into politics and business."

Reflecting on the biggest lessons they've learned while being in the U.S., Lejeune said she has become more open minded.

"You learn about yourself better and also to be more open minded," Lejeune said. "You feel more comfortable about yourself. You have to try to begin a new life."

Wegener said that he's learned that all people are the same no matter where you were born or where you grew up.

"Even though we are pretty different, some things are the same," Wegener said. "Of course, they speak another language, but it's crazy to see how similar we still are. You talk to your teachers like how you talk in German. So, the relationships are the same, even though the language and the people are so far away."

ZED by Duane Abel



Sudoku

JANUARY 16, 2025

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

Level: Advanced

Solution to last week's puzzle

JANUARY 9, 2025

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

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to Halloween.

E V A R I M P

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

Answer: Vampire

CRYPTO FUN

Solve the code to discover words related to Halloween. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 24 = A)

- A.** 15 19 24 23 17
Clue: Spooky
- B.** 25 23 3 24 25
Clue: Something pleasant
- C.** 26 5 5 23 6 3 14 14
Clue: Something to ring
- D.** 19 24 11 26 17
Clue: Sweets

Fire on Florence Drive

STAFF REPORT

Tarrant County — At around 3 a.m. Tuesday, local firefighters responded to a house fire in the 1600 block of Florence Drive in unincorporated Tarrant County near Azle. Dispatch comments described the incident starting from a reported electrical fire in the attic and the Azle Fire Department reported heavy

smoke coming from the roof of the single-family dwelling. Department officials said all occupants were able to exit the home and no injuries were reported. The American Red Cross was requested to assist displaced residents.

"The (Azle) fire crews made a quick stop on the fire this morning," Azle Fire Marshal Melvin Wilson said. "We had

multiple fire agencies assisting us. There were no injuries and all the occupants made it out of the structure."

Azle Fire Department, Briar-Reno Fire Department, Lake Worth Fire Department and Parker County ESD #1 responded to the fire. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

DECEMBER 2024 ACTIVITY

AZLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

1,417
CALLS FOR SERVICE

RESPONDED TO BY PATROL OFFICERS



TRAFFIC STOPS
476

CITATIONS 209
WARNINGS 267

38
CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY

23
CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS



52 ACCIDENTS
DWI RELATED: 3
DWI ARRESTS: 15



3,695
CALLS TAKEN BY DISPATCH

587
911 CALLS

39
CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY

67 ARRESTS



TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

DEVOTIONAL PAGE

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FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD
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817-237-4903

FELLOWSHIP OF LAKE WORTH
4024 Dakota Trail, Lake Worth
817-237-9433

NEW BEGINNINGS CHURCH
810 Goshen Rd., Springtown
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LEGACY CHURCH
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ASH CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH
300 South Stewart, Azle
817-444-3219

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817-523-7271

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8801 Jacksboro Hwy., Lakeside
817-237-8113

FIRST BAPTIST COTTONDALE
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940-433-5539

FIRST BAPTIST POOLVILLE
1 block W. of FM 920, Poolville
817-594-3916

FIRST BAPTIST SPRINGTOWN
5th & Main Street, Springtown
817-220-5229

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801 Friendship Rd., 9½ miles S.
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GRACE BAPTIST
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Hwy. 51 across from Radio Tower

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NEW HOPE BAPTIST
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NORTHWEST BAPTIST
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SANDY BEACH ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH
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sandybeachroad.org
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817-444-3268

BRIAR CHURCH OF CHRIST
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817-444-7102

MIDWAY CHURCH OF CHRIST
6400 Midway Rd. 817-221-2107

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NORTHWEST CHURCH OF CHRIST
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POOLVILLE CHURCH OF CHRIST
West of FM 920 in Poolville
817-594-4182

SOUTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST
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817-221-2799

SPRINGTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST
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TRI-COUNTY CHURCH OF CHRIST
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ABUNDANT LIFE CHURCH OF GOD
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Springtown, 817-677-3208

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817-237-4822

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817-221-HOPE

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817-444-3547

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817-677-5963

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817-523-2855 or 817-995-9087

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Rodney Gatlin, D.C.
www.azlechiropractic.com
400 BOYD COURT • 817-444-HELP

HILLTOP FAMILY CHURCH
1227 Old Cottondale • 817-220-7177
"Caring about what Jesus cares about... You!"

RURAL GAS SUPPLY
PROPANE & TANKS Celebrating 77 Years
140 W. Main St., Azle
817-444-4613

817-270-3340
CALL KIMBERLY TO ADVERTISE
TRI-COUNTY REPORTER
www.tricityreporter.com

THE TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

CLASSIFIEDS

THURSDAY, January 16, 2025

AD CLASSIFICATIONS

001 Asphalt & Cement
002 Auctions
003 Business/Commercial
004 Business Opportunity
005 Cleaning Services
006 Construction/Contractors
007 Demolition
008 Electrician
009 Excavating
010 Fencing
011 Firewood
012 For Sale
013 Garage & Estate Sale
014 Help Wanted
015 Home Improvement
016 Landscape & Mowing Services

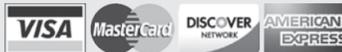
017 Livestock & Pets
018 Lost & Found
019 Masonry & Stonework
020 Moving & Hauling
021 Painting
022 Plumbing
023 Pressure Washing
024 Real Estate for Rent
025 Real Estate for Sale
026 Repair Services
027 Roofing
028 Sand, Gravel & Soil
029 Small Business
030 Storage
031 Welding
032 Miscellaneous

RATES

\$10.75 A Week
 16 Words or Less

- Over 16 words, add 40 cents per word.
- Extras such as Bold, Center & Border are available for a small fee
- Classified boxed display ads also available for \$10.00 per column inch
- All ads must be paid in advance unless you have previously established credit

Most ads require payment in advance, but we do accept VISA, MASTERCARD, DISCOVER or AMERICAN EXPRESS by phone.



CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINE: 12:00 PM FRIDAY

Advertising Works! Call or email us today to place your own ad in the classifieds.
classified@tricountyreporter.com
817-270-3340

Reach more than 8,000 households with advertising in THE TRI-COUNTY REPORTER!

Nobody does it better!

001 Asphalt & Cement Work

Allen Chesney Concrete
 All Types of Concrete Work
 Residential - Commercial
 Foundations, driveways,
 sand, gravel, demolition,
 haul-off, retaining walls
 817-271-4541

BYRUM CONSTRUCTION

Asphalt and Concrete Paving
 Driveways • Parking Lots
 Asphalt Repairs & Sealcoating
 Asphalt Millings • Gravel
 Bruce Byrum, Azle, TX 817-690-2429

Kiley Chesney Construction

Dirt & Concrete Work
 Driveways • House Slabs • Garages • Add-ons
 Small Land Clean-ups • Gravel Driveways
 Kiley Chesney, Owner
 Springtown, TX • Mobile 817-846-6645

LEON'S CONCRETE SERVICES

Elegant custom concrete and landscaping

- Concrete Services
- Patios
- Driveways
- Licensed, insured, and bonded
- Sidewalks
- Retaining Walls
- Stone Walls
- Free Estimates

817-371-8597

007 Demolition

McNeely's DEMOLITION & CLEAN UP SERVICE

We Create Vacancy

- Tear Down
- Removal
- Haul Off
- Mobile Homes
- Garages
- Barns
- Houses
- Bobcat Service
- Dirt/Gravel Spreading

Free Estimates
817-996-7887
 253 Eagles Way, Springtown

ADVERTISING WORKS!

009 Excavating

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

010 Fencing

BOBBY'S FENCE. All types, Free Estimates, Over 26 years experience. 817-444-3213.

KILEY CHESNEY CONSTRUCTION
 All Types Fences - Tractor Work
 817-846-6645

011 Firewood

LEON'S TREE SERVICE. Split Oak and Pecan wood. Pickup or delivery. 817-371-8597.

012 For Sale

1960 Ford 800 Series Tractor, New Battery, New tune up kit, and new front tires. Comes with Brush Hogg and Box Blade. Call or Text 817-688-2301 \$2850.00

013 Garage & Estate Sale

Selling our brass. Come buy. Closed Sunday & Monday. Open 9 am. 463 Deer Bute 817-525-3923 Warmer Inside.

014 Help Wanted

MECHANICS and AUTO BODY TECHNICIANS wanted! SILVER DOLLAR CUSTOMS, a classic auto restoration shop, is hiring to accommodate our growing clientele. Candidates must have experience, and preferably their own tools. We specialize in classics, but work on all types of vehicles. Along with full restorations, we also offer modifications, rebuilds, upgrades, maintenance, and repairs. We are open Monday - Friday, with occasional Saturdays required. Mechanic Shop hours are 8:00a.m. - 5:00 p.m.; Body Shop hours are 6:00a.m. - 2:30p.m. To apply, call Valarie at 817-752-2165, or stop by 408 Commerce St., Azle, TX 76020.

MAINSTREAM group homes are hiring for FT/PT direct care staff. Weekday 3:30pm-8:30am shifts as well as 24-hour weekend shifts. Work 2 days a week, get paid to sleep, and have a full-time job! Paid training, benefits, bonuses, and OT opportunities. Start \$9.00/hr with quick advancement possible. Call 817-270-2747, Monday-Friday, 9am-3pm.

Dredge/Equipment Operator needed in Alvord/Aurora area. For more information, please call 214-802-5157

General office help needed. Experience in the areas of Accounting, Human Resources, Property Management would be preferred but not a requirement. Call or text 817-773-5288.

014 Help Wanted

Wise Ready Mix
Now Hiring Class B-CDL Mixer Drivers

- Production & Safety Bonuses Paid Monthly
 - Employer Matching Retirement Plan Available
- Apply in person at
 1349 NW Parkway • Azle



Place An Ad In The Classifieds Today!
TRI-COUNTY REPORTER
817-270-3340



don't break the piggy!

Find the money you need in our Classified section today!

002

Auctions

Auction

Glenn Jennings Farm & Ranch Estate
 Saturday January 25, 2025, Starting @ 10AM
 607 E. Rock Island Ave. • Boyd, Texas 76023

Partial listing due to still pulling items from barns & sheds: 2019 Chev. Silverado Pickup Approx. 7845 miles, 2013 Chev. 3500 Pickup w/flatbed, JD 2955 Tractor w/ JD 148 Loader, JD 2520 Tractor w/148 Loader, JD 4030 Tractor, JD 4440 Tractor, JD 6430 Tractor w/ JD 673 loader MFWD, Cat. 262-B Skid Steer Wheel Type, Bush Hog 3815 15' Batwing Mower, B/P 12' Dump Trailer, G/N 24' + 5' Dove Tail Tandem Dual Trailer, G/N 24' WW Stock Trailer, 3pt Hyd. Post Driver, P/T 8' Aerator, P/T 12' JD Tandem Disk, 14' Miller 3 Bar Offset Plow, Maintainer Road Grader, 8 Wheel Sitrix Hay Rake, JD 936 MoCo Disc Cutter, JD 467 Mega Wide Round Baler Net Wrap, JD 8300 Grain Drill, Galvanized Box Grain Drill, JD-40 Dozer 2 Cylinder, Craftsman Upright Tool Box, Steel Glide Tool Box, Husky Ball Bearing Tool Box, & Lots More, Still Pulling from Shop and Sheds. For Pictures Go to www.heugatterauctions.com.

Heugatter Auction Services, LLC
 Allen Heugatter Auctioneer TX12304
 14315 US HWY 287 • Bowie, Texas 76230
 940-366-1330

003 Business/Commercial

40x50 building For Rent, 3 miles west of Springtown. 817-713-7495.

005 Cleaning Services

Attention:
 Carpet Cleaning - 2 rooms \$49.00. No hidden charges. 817-219-6437

008 Electrician

BULLDAWG ELECTRIC CO.
 All types of electrical services and MH hook-ups.
 Free Estimates. 817-675-4921
 www.bulldawgelectric.com.
 TECL#25253.

014 Help Wanted

Springtown ISD is accepting applications for Bus Drivers and Monitors. Training available. Contact the Transportation Dept. 817-220-1418.

014 Help Wanted

Azle ISD is accepting applications for a general maintenance position in our Maintenance Department. Experience preferred, but not necessary. Must have a clear and valid Texas drivers' license. Please apply online at www.azleisd.net.

ADVERTISING WORKS!

CALL 817-270-3340



ADVERTISING WORKS!
817-270-3340

TRI-COUNTY REPORTER
Spend your Thursday evening catching up on the news
817-270-3340
 www.tricountyreporter.com

Want to see YOUR ad in the paper?

Place an ad in the classifieds TODAY!

817-270-3340
 tricountyreporter.com

817-270-3340

Classified Deadline 12 pm Friday

CLASSIFIEDS

039 Help Wanted

KARL KLEMENT
Experienced Fleet/Commercial Sales Associate
 If you are a self-starter and motivated individual, we want to speak to you. Experience Preferred. Please send resume via Indeed or Apply in Person at: 605 N Business 287, suite 102, Decatur, TX 76234

WE ARE HIRING
APPLY HOW TO JOIN OUR TEAM!

APPLY IN PERSON
H/R Office
 605 N. Bus. 81/287
 Suite 102
 Decatur, TX 76234

Send Your Resume To:
 career@hr-klement.com

All full-time positions offer growth opportunities & full-time benefits package including Medical, Dental, Vision, Life & Disability Plans. Paid Holidays, Vacation & Training. Plus 401(K) & more!

Resource Center
 (940) 627-6362

Jodi Parrish
 DIRECTOR, CHRO

Gina Pierce
 ASSISTANT HR MANAGER

hr.info@klementford.com

Help Wanted

KLEMENT
 RAM CHRYSLER DODGE Jeep

No Positions Available at This Time

KLEMENT DISTRIBUTION, INC.
 (Hershey Ice Cream Distributor)

No Positions Available at This Time

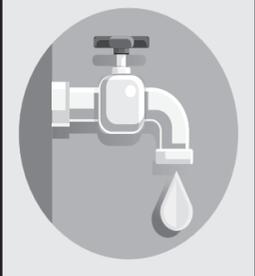
Karl Klement Properties, Inc.

No Positions Available at This Time

031 Welding

WDC
 WELD-DONE CONSTRUCTION LTD.
Metal Building Erectors
 • Pre-engineered Weld-up
 • Barns/Shops
 • Arenas/Hangars
 • Fencing

291 Morrow Rd • Springtown
817-220-2150
 www.weld-done.net



Find Your Handyman in the Classifieds!

015 Home Improvement

Devin's Handyman Service

- Carpentry
- Cement
- Rock
- Granite
- Tile
- Painting
- Siding
- Insulation
- Kitchen/Bath
- Roof & Gutters
- Powerwashing
- Decks

WINTER SPECIAL
20% OFF
 with this ad!

Call Devin at 817-629-9608

026 Real Estate For Sale



FOR SALE
\$229,999

- 104 Cabot Court Springtown TX
- 1.5 AC 3 Bdrm/2 Bath
- 1344 sq. ft.
- New Flooring, Paint, 2023 Roof

CORNERSTONE HOME & RANCH
CHRISTY DORR
 OWNER / BROKER
 940.452.7242

016 Landscape & Mowing

COWBOY LAWN CARE. Handyman services, residential, farm, landscaping, tree trimming. Free Estimates. Firewood for sale, \$350 a cord. 817-271-0450.

024 Real Estate For Rent

Pelican Bay: 1800 E. Pelican Oval 2-1 \$865 MO. \$600 DEP. Owner/Broker 817-988-9954 genejr.com

Chad's Tree Service

Trimming • Removals • Stump Grinding
 Systemic Feeding • Brush Chipping • Cable Bracing

817-221-2201 • 817-246-5943
817-800-6059 CELL
 Insured for your protection

FREE ESTIMATES

Leon's Tree Service

And Full Landscaping

- Full Landscaping
- Tree Trimming
- Tree Removal
- Skid Steer Service
- All Types Haul Offs
- Firewood
- Residential
- Commercial
- Insured
- Free Estimates

817-371-8597

027 Roofing

AT HOME
ROOFING & METAL BUILDINGS

817-304-4224

Tired of always replacing your roof? Call us for a metal roof quote.

We'll be here after the storm.

031 Welding

Our Business is Metal Buildings - And We're Good!

DESIGN FABRICATION ERECTION

Cozart METAL BUILDING SYSTEMS

Fabrication and erection of quality metal buildings at reasonable prices, any size - any design

Office **817-237-2282**
 Fax 817-237-0904

Mark Cozart Jeremy Cozart
 817-233-6668 817-237-2028

ADVERTISING WORKS!

THE TRI-COUNTY REPORTER
 THE NEWS OF AZLE, SPRINGTOWN, LAKE WORTH AND SURROUNDING AREAS

Want all the latest news on events and businesses?

With a subscription to the Tri-County Reporter, you get access to paper AND digital versions of Azle, Springtown, and Lake Worth's OFFICIAL news paper!

The Tri-County Reporter covers events and sports of Azle, Springtown and Lake Worth! With a subscription, you'll NEVER miss out! You'll also get info on local businesses, garage sales, AND specialty publications! Subscribe to the Tri-County Reporter TODAY!

817-270-3340
 www.tricityreporter.com

019 Masonry & Stonework

Silva Masonry, LLC.
CONCRETE
 COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL
 Landscape Designs, Outdoor Kitchens
 Patios, Retaining Walls, Mailboxes

All Types Stone & Brick Work Free New Construction • Remodels Estimates
817-308-6512
 email alvarogsilva@verizon.net

024 Real Estate For Rent

Nice Duplex in adult RV park, large porch and fenced yard. \$1000/month all bills paid. 817-444-3760

Rent Special, 2-2 4-PLEX. \$1,100/mo \$750/security deposit, WBFP, walk-in closets, box windows, large kitchen w/pantry, 1,100 sf. 817-360-3039.

Nice 1BR RV in adult RV park. Great for older person on limited income. Starts at \$650/mo. All Bills Paid. Heritage RV Park 817-444-3760.

1 Bedroom House for Rent. Water included. \$800/month Springtown, TX 940-229-1045 or 940-255-7966

020 Moving & Hauling

U.S. Army Retired-but not tired! Careful moving-Cheap.
 Call Big Jim @ 817-237-5151.

024 Real Estate For Rent

1815 Pelican Oval
 2-1-1 \$1,395 MO. \$1,000 DEP.

1848 Coral Rd.
 3-1-1 \$1,495 MO. \$1,000 DEP.
 Gene Thompson & Associates
 817-246-4646 gtatx.com

AZLE OAKS APARTMENT
 700 JARVIS • AZLE
 817-444-1712

1 & 2 Bedroom Unfurnished
 Accepting Applications
 Rent based on income

TDD: **800-735-2989**

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

028 Sand, Gravel, & Soil

HALL'S SAND, DIRT & GRAVEL
 Quality Family Business Since 1938

CALL Cliff Hall
(817) 228-6293

We go the extra mile to ensure you get more for your \$. On House Pads, Driveways, Lot Clearing & Tractor Work, Etc.

031 Welding

owner Rodney Vick
 817-220-3044
 fax 817-523-7639
 cell 817-253-1614

R & E Construction
 Metal Building Specialist

- Weld Ups/ Bolt Ups
- Pipe Fencing
- Concrete
- Horse Barns
- All Types Fencing
- Metal Roofs

Compare Pricing
NO JOB TOO SMALL

030 Storage

INNERSPACE STORAGE. Hwy 199, Springtown. Now renting all unit sizes, 24-hour access. 682-842-1414.

ADVERTISING WORKS!

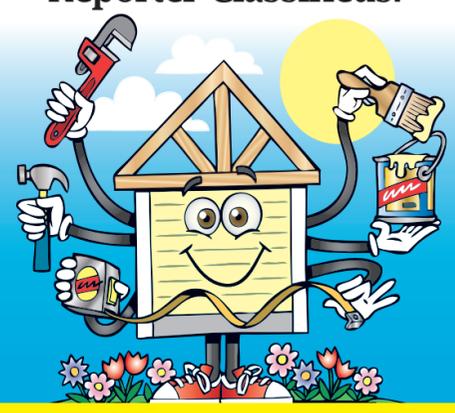
THE TRI-COUNTY REPORTER
 THE NEWS OF AZLE, SPRINGTOWN, LAKE WORTH AND SURROUNDING AREAS
CALL 817-270-3340

Advertising works!
 817-270-3340

SHOP LOCAL

NEED A HANDYMAN THAT CAN DO IT ALL?

Check out the Tri-County Reporter Classifieds!



TRI-COUNTY REPORTER
 Local professionals in your area are ready to help.

CLASSIFIEDS

817-270-3340

Classified Deadline 12 pm Friday

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
Copyright 2025 by Orbison Bros.

ACROSS

- home of Marching Green Pride band
- state ____ has "a star of five points" a SE Asian deer found in Texas
- TXism: "up and ____ juice" (coffee)
- ____ Ross State University in Alpine
- TX Jerry Fuller wrote "Travelin'" for Ricky Nelson
- TXism: "he's fast enough to ____ yesterday"
- grunting while sleeping
- TXism: "hot ____ tar in July"
- ____ Zaragoza Seguin was born in today's Goliad, TX this Stephenson was in soap opera "Texas"
- TX Pride's "____ Angel Good Mornin"
- TXism: "could shoot the eye out of a ____" (good shot)
- ____ up for
- TXism: "he couldn't ____ plastic worm" (bad fisher)
- organized church singers
- to fish on a Texas lake, get ____
- TXism: "gentle ____ merry-go-round"
- study of society

DOWN

- JFK ____ was 11/22/1963
- New Braunfels Herald-____
- popular Austin body of water (2 wds.)
- Jack of "4 for Texas"
- mineral in Texas, used in makeup
- TXism: "got ____ finger" (nervous)
- "Stop-____" convenience store
- this Smith was a "Texas Troubadour" before solo career
- short letter (2 wds.)
- obscene language
- to falsely incriminate someone (3 wds.)
- "we ____ out for pizza"
- Texas high school football night (abbr.)
- "not one red ____" (none)
- TXism: "____ up the loose ends" (finalize)
- TX Meat Loaf's "____ Anything for Love" (1993)
- pleased
- measure of a country's economy (abbr.)
- arrival guess abbr.
- Texas television "Tarzan," Ely
- TXism: "slippery ____ pig"
- Matt Damon was a Texas Ranger in 2010 "____ Grit"
- in Comanche: "Old ____ Courthouse"
- TXism: "he's got a ____ trigger temper"
- TXism: "burned some boot leather"
- fleur-____lis once flew over Texas
- Phoenix Suns, Durant, who played for UT (init.)
- TXism: "honest as the day ____ long"
- cries loudly
- ____ of a gun
- Christmas offering (2 wds.)
- TXism: "it'll make your hair stand ____" (scary)
- ____ worry (no cause for concern)
- Univ. of Central Texas before 1989
- poetic "often"
- triangle sign says ____ traffic
- corrosive liquid
- what you fry bacon in (2 wds.)

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD tollfree at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



Last Puzzle Solution

S-1723

TEXAS STATEWIDE CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING NETWORK

TexSCAN

TexSCAN Week of Jan. 12-18, 2025

MEDICAL

Portable Oxygen Concentrator May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 866-747-9983.

CHARITY

Donate your car, truck, boat, RV and more to support our veterans! Schedule a FAST, FREE vehicle pickup and receive a top tax deduction! Call Veteran Car Donations at 1-855-808-4152 today!

CELLULAR PHONE SERVICE

Consumer Cellular - the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just \$20/month. For more information, call 1-855-493-3803.

ENERGY

Backup power — peace of mind. Get a standard warranty of 7 years, \$849 value. Call 888-925-0261, Briggs & Stratton Energy Solutions.

Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 5-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-855-704-8579 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Jacuzzi Bath Remodel can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. For a limited time, waiving ALL installation costs! (Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. Offer ends 3/30/25.) Call 1-855-965-0841.

WATER DAMAGE

WATER DAMAGE CLEANUP & RESTORATION: A small amount of water can lead to major damage in your home. Our trusted professionals do complete repairs to protect your family and your home's value! Call 24/7: 1-877-727-3027. Have zip code of service location ready when you call!

WANTED

Need Extra Cash — 1 Buy RV's & Mobile Homes — Travel Trailers, 5th Wheels, Goose-necks, Bumper Pulls. In Any Area, Any Condition — Old/New, Dirty or Clean! PAY CASH. No Title — No Problem, we can apply for one. We go anywhere in Texas. ANR Enterprises, 956-466-7001!

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200 Participating Texas Newspapers • Regional Ads
Start At \$250 • Email ads@texaspress.com

NOTICE: While most advertisers are reputable, we cannot guarantee products or services advertised. We urge readers to use caution and when in doubt, contact the Texas Attorney General at 800-621-0508 or the Federal Trade Commission at 877-FTC-HELP. The FTC web site is www.ftc.gov/bizop.

16 WORDS FOR \$10.75

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tricountyreporter.com

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817-270-3340

Looking for a job?
Find it in the classifieds!

Find Your Forever Friend
SAVE A SHELTER ANIMAL

Winter Days

13 Months for the Price of 12

THE TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

THE NEWS OF AZLE, SPRINGTOWN, LAKE WORTH AND SURROUNDING AREAS

CHECK ONE:

\$50.00 IN-COUNTY
Tarrant, Parker & Wise only

\$40.00 ONLINE ONLY
View an online replica of the paper without receiving a printed copy

\$70.00 OUT-OF-COUNTY
Outside of Tarrant, Parker & Wise County within Texas

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____
Zip: _____ County: _____
Daytime ph: _____ Email: _____

Circle one and clip and mail with check:

321 W. Main Street, Azle
817-270-3340
tricountyreporter.com