

**Photos were taken with a Polaroid camera throughout the night.**

**MORE  
PHOTOS**  
PAGE A5

# Tri-County Reporter to close at month's end

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*Sam Houston*  
Chief Operating Officer,  
Hyde Media Group  
Publisher, The  
Tri-County Reporter

# Reno Council places disincorporation on May ballot

PLEASE SEE **BALLOT** | A



PHOTOS COURTESY CHAPA PHOTOGRAPHY

# Azle sends 11 wrestlers to state

## Dillard seeks second girls title

It will be a third straight trip for Dillard as she carries an 85-match winning streak into the tournament and is seeking a second straight state championship.

Dillard (39-0 this season) will be competing in the

PLEASE SEE **WRESTLE** | A12




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# Night to Shine 2025

Attendees walked the red carpet leading into the Church At Azle for a special Tim Tebow sponsored prom event Feb. 7.



**JIM STEVENS | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER**  
Night to Shine attendee Greenlee walks the red carpet leading into the Church At Azle for a special Tim Tebow sponsored prom event Feb. 7.



Night to Shine attendees get their hair done at the Servolution Dream Center in preparation for the big event.



Night to Shine attendee Logan walks the red carpet leading into the Church At Azle for a special Tim Tebow sponsored prom event Feb. 7.



Night to Shine attendees Justin and Chelsey walk the red carpet leading into the Church At Azle for a special Tim Tebow sponsored prom event Feb. 7.



Night to Shine attendee Jack walks the red carpet leading into the Church At Azle for a special Tim Tebow sponsored prom event Feb. 7.

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# Prescription drugs are no joke, but you need a sense of humor

Like most folks my age, my doctor has prescribed several medicines for me. I have suffered from asthma most all my life, and something about pecan trees and mountain cedar seem to make the condition more unbearable. I use a daily inhaler as well as a rescue inhaler when I have a flareup.

Taking medications is something that is becoming more and more prevalent in America. There were \$582 billion worth of pharmaceutical drugs sold in the U.S. in 2017, and by 2023 the number had risen to \$716 billion, an increase of 23% — an interesting number when one realizes the rest of the world increased its drug purchases by a mere 2% during the same period. Are Americans that sickly or are we simply the victims of a self-serving industry?

This past week my prescriptions ran out and I had to reach out to my physician to get them renewed. Before



## FROM MY FRONT PORCH

By Sam Houston

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

I could get a new script, I was informed I would need to make an appointment with the doctor. I was then advised I needed to have blood work completed before the appointment.

I had been using the prescribed medications for years and though this seemed like a lot of hoops to go through, I reasoned it was all for a good purpose: I had not been to the doctor in a year, I am getting older, and it makes sense to get checked. It even makes sense to have blood work done to detect an ongoing or upcoming problem. But all of this seemed like a lot of time and expense just to get a prescription renewed for a drug I had used for years.

After checking all the boxes at the doctor's office, I got my prescription and headed to the same pharmacy that had filled my prescription on previous occasions. My medicine had previously cost about \$160 for a month's supply, certainly pricy but at least the drug is effective. After handing over the prescription, the drug store employee told me the cost would be \$450, a significant increase from the \$160 I had paid the month before. In hopes of finding some economic relief, I showed them the app on my phone which indicated the pharmacy would sell the product for the \$160 figure which I had previously paid. Fortunately, I also noticed

that the app indicated the pharmacy across the street would sell the product for \$95! The app also indicated some of the pharmacies in my area wanted far more than \$160. How lucky was I to notice that? I told the drug-gist to send my prescription across the street to the second pharmacy and I headed out the door to pick up my prescription and save \$65 dollars.

Upon arrival at the second place, the staffer confirmed my prescription could be filled for \$95 but then told me they were out of the medicine I needed. They checked and their warehouse was also out, and they did not have any idea when the medicine would be available.

As I stood at the pharmacy window my breathing was labored, and I decided lower price or not, I needed my meds. I instructed the second pharmacy to send the prescription back to the first pharmacy and I would suffer

paying the higher price. I did not feel like I could wait for who knows how long before the medicine was restocked.

Upon my return to the first pharmacy, I no more than got up to the window to pick up my prescription when I got a text from the second pharmacy indicating my prescription had been filled and was ready for pickup. How could that be? They had just told me they did not have any of the medication in inventory. Was the text a mistake?

Not wanting to leave a stone unturned in my efforts to save cash, I made the trek back to the second pharmacy where my prescription was in fact, filled. I got it for the price of \$95. Where did the medication come from? The pharmacy had just told me they were out and had no idea when they would be resupplied.

I walked out the door with my prescription, though confused, conflicted and shaking my head about the entire

process.

According to Open Seats cited by NBC News, last year the pharmaceutical/health business spent \$4.2 billion lobbying state and national legislators. It has been reported there are at least three dedicated lobbyists for each member of the U.S. Congress! God knows they are not lobbying to make things better or more efficient for consumers. Customer service, efficiency, competition and uniformity in pricing fall by the wayside, all while Americans are prescribed more and more medications. In the meantime, the drug companies continue to make billions, and the U.S. consumer pays.

All this is enough to make you sick.

Thought for the day: Price is what you pay, value is what you get.

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

# A Quarter for your thoughts?

Economists have suggested for years that we'd be better served if the U.S. Mint ceased turning out pennies — the nation's lowest denominational coin. Though some 140 billion pennies remain in circulation — many in jars, under sofa cushions, on sidewalks or playgrounds — their demise will be gradual.

With cost-cutting the order of the day, why should we mint coins that cost 3 cents each to make?

**Hoarders** — I am told — are combing through garage sales, seeking piggy banks — long considered depositories for pennies — anticipating their becoming collectors' items. A clue is that at such sales, prices for piggy banks now are negotiated upward ...

**The penny** — introduced in 1793 — became "Lincolnesque" when "Honest



## 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

Abe's" likeness was struck thereon in 1909, the 100th anniversary of his birth.

It's a sad prospect, really, but pennies don't buy much anymore. You'll need a pocketful to buy McDonald's coffee, and at Starbucks, take a wheelbarrow.

"Penny" will remain a cute girl's name, but it won't buy anyone else's thoughts that are now going for a quarter or more, and sometimes are even priceless ...

I — and likely a few million others — have stopped in our tracks for decades to claim

grounded pennies. General disregard for their meager value — coupled with the exertion of bending over — have lessened the practice.

It's been several years since I've picked one up. Should I be tempted by a quarter, however, I may stick a wad of chewing gum on my cane for, uh "bendless retrieval."

If anyone is watching, I may use store-bought "stick-um." ...

**Pennies**, long romanticized, have mobilized folks to embark on noble causes, promoting "one-for-all and

all-for-one" projects.

Glenn Dromgoole, who spent more than 30 years in newspapering — mostly as editor of the Abilene Reporter News — is a recognized author, now having penned 35 books. This friend of almost 60 years wrote "The Power of a Penny" back in 1999.

His 35 books — several on best-seller lists — can't be put down once picked up, unlike mine, which can't be picked up when put down ...

**Years ago** at an overnight East Texas speaking engagement, someone broke my car window, I assumed to access the case of books on the back seat.

He or she opened the case, took one copy and tossed it on the sidewalk near my motel room door.

Now that's a discerning reader right there ...

**One great** "penny story"

has been shared for decades in Snyder, where a fidgety youngster attended church regularly.

Every Sunday, his mom refused to let him join the "march to the penny jar" at the altar.

That's where children — largely pre-schoolers — dropped pennies for missionaries on Sundays nearest their birthdays ...

**The youngster** was barely 3 years old when he first noticed the practice. Several months away from his 4th birthday, he squirmed each Sunday to participate, his eligibility be hanged.

Finally, his 4th birthday Sunday arrived, and his mother set him free to take his four pennies to the altar.

Racing forward, he rang the rafters with an unlikely and "unchurchy" expression: "Hi yo, Silver, here I come!" ...

**Had Dromgoole** come across the Snyder story when he wrote about pennies, I'm sure he would have "scooped" me. But this one time, I am first, as far as I know.

"The Power of a Penny," by the way, is still available, prominently displayed at the Texas Star Trading Company in Abilene. Multiple copies sold last year, and it'll likely continue to be offered for years to come.

After all, Dromgoole and his wife, Carol, have run the business for 20 years and still accept coins — even buckets of pennies — as legal tender. If Glenn is minding the store, he'll offer a plethora of thoughts at no charge. Come to think of it, he may offer you a penny or two for yours ...

## BOOK REVIEW

# “Let’s Call Her Barbie”

### TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

Looking great is serious business.

Skincare, hair care, make-up and jewelry, it all takes time to get it right. You might watch your weight. You keep tabs on your physical and emotional health. Fashion is at the top of the list for looking great, and that's a lot of work, too. Indeed, as in the new novel, "Let's Call Her Barbie" by Renée Rosen, haute couture is nothing to toy with.

At first, Elliot Handler underestimated his wife, Ruth, but it didn't take her long to prove her mettle. Ruth was capable, smart, fearless, and by 1956, she was president of the company she co-founded. So when the Mattel design staff balked at her idea for a new kind of doll for little girls, well, they should've known Ruth

wasn't going to take "no" for an answer.

But creating a grown-up fashion doll would be an uphill battle: the prototype that Ruth handed to her research and development head, Jack, had to be altered to avoid lawsuits. The doll, named Barbie, after the Handlers' daughter, was strictly kept under wraps to avoid theft of ideas from competitors in the industry. Ruth needed to hire clothing designers to give her new creation a wardrobe and little girls a reason to keep buying Barbie's accessories.

But the biggest hurdle was consumers — most notably, mothers. Ruth hoped to tap into the new medium of television, with advertisements for Mattel's new doll; she knew that once young girls actually saw Barbie, they'd want one despite their mothers'

reluctance.

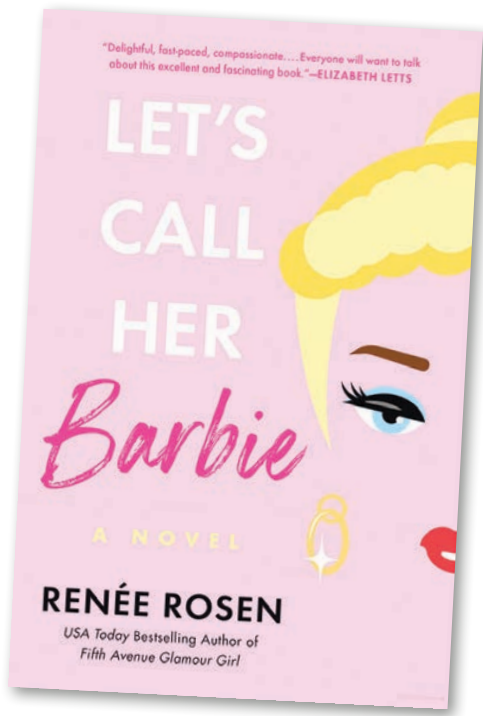
And she was right. By 1960, Barbie was a smash hit but behind the scenes, things weren't running so smoothly.

The real "Barbie" hated everything about her namesake, and she shunned her mother for it. Jack was wild, drinking, using drugs and womanizing his way through the staff, including Mattel's best up-and-coming clothing designer. And Ruth knew that stress was getting to her, which worried her. She smoked too much, and everybody knew cigarettes caused cancer ...

So here's what happens when you set "Mad Men" in a toy factory, toss in actual events and real people, then sprinkle it with an extra bit of drama. Yummy: "Let's Call Her Barbie."

Because it's based on true events and features mostly real characters, it's easy to forget that this story is a novel. Author Renée Rosen does such a fine job telling a tale that readers — especially those who had a big collection of Barbie dolls beneath their bed, way back — will be totally captivated, and immersed in this entire book, the business side of it, the personal side of it, all of it. This story speaks directly to the heart of little girls now grown, and it brings back some of the best parts of childhood, favorite toys and playtime.

At the end of this novel, Rosen reveals to readers who in the story was real and who was not, but resist and don't peek! Just enjoy "Let's Call Her Barbie" at its own leisurely pace, and loving it is child's play.



## BALLOT

FROM PAGE A1

Before the council called for the special election, former Reno council mem-

ber Joy Jenkins spoke to the council, saying the council should have called for the special election sooner.

"At the Jan. 27 meeting, the council motioned and voted to table the item (the ordinance calling for placing the

matter on the May ballot)," Jenkins said. Jenkins cited the Texas Local Government code chapter 62 section 62.002 which states, "The mayor of the municipality shall order an election on the question of abolishing the

municipality's corporate existence if a petition requesting that the election be held is submitted to the mayor and is signed by at least 400 qualified voters of the municipality."

Mayor Hector Bas Jr. re-

plied to Jenkins' comment that the council had until Feb. 14 to order a special election. Citizens will have the opportunity to vote on this pressing issue in the special election; they will also vote for or against the proposition

of reducing the tax rate in the city of Reno for the current year from \$0.556319 (the adopted tax rate) to \$0.340111 (the voter approval rate), a matter the council also approved to be included in the special election.

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# Azle speaks on future of Eagle Mountain Lake

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

**AZLE** — The future of Eagle Mountain Lake could be up to local residents. The Tarrant Regional Water District has begun public talks to create a new watershed protection plan for Eagle Mountain Lake. The organization's previous plan went into effect in the summer of 2016.

A Watershed Protection Plan is a watershed-based plan developed by local stakeholders to ensure future water quality. It designates uses of a waterbody through a combination of voluntary and nonregulatory water resource management measures. The plan's introduction states that public participation is critical throughout plan development and implementation, as the ultimate success of any WPP depends on stewardship of the land and water resources by local landowners, businesses and residents of the watershed.

TRWD's first stakeholder meeting for a future WPP took place Jan. 27 at the Azle Memorial Library. Private citizens joined representatives from the Texas A&M Forest Service, city of Azle, Upper Trinity Groundwater Conservation District, Texas Parks and Wildlife, local non-profits and other agencies to discuss priorities and factors to consider in a new plan.

Kate Myers, watershed coordinator, and Aaron Hoff, watershed program manager, prepared and presented the future plan's draft materials and answered questions from the audience. Much of the feedback given in this first meeting focused on clarity and readability of its planned maps and terminology.

One of the unique challenges for this plan, Myers said, is the changing water needs of the rapidly growing communities surrounding the lake.

"Some of the other watersheds, both that we work in and that other people across

the state work in, are much more static in terms of, this is already completely urbanized, or this is super, super rural, and probably will be for a long time," Myers said. "Eagle Mountain is neither one of those things. In the interim, there are adjustments that might have to be made to it along the way. The fundamental character of the watershed is going to keep changing, and probably pretty rapidly over the next 10 to 15 years, which would be the implementation timeline."

Keeping sediment out of the lake and maintaining an ecological balance were listed as some of the top goals for the project. Myers said that preserving the storage capacity of currently existing reservoirs would always be preferable to having to try and build new ones.

"Nobody wants to do that," Myers said. "No one wants to do the permitting for it. Nobody wants to do the eminent domain for it, no, no one wants it, right? So if we can just keep this one usable as long as possible, that's ideal."

A future meeting is planned to be held virtually as soon as new chapters have been prepared and edits have been made. Myers said there may be a possibility of future meetings being held in person in communities surrounding the lake.

"I've been looking forward to it," Wise County homeowner Jim Duncan said of the meeting. "It's a lot of good information, but they need to do a whole lot more in the way of outreach. I'm thinking this should be the high

school auditorium, half full."

To sign up for updates on future meetings and TRWD newsletters or ask questions, contact Myers at katie.myers@trwd.com or 817-253-3342. Myers is also slated to speak at an upcoming "Love Your Lake" celebration, Feb. 15, at the Fort Worth Boat Club hosted by the local non-profit Save Eagle Mountain Lake. The event will last from 1 to 4 p.m. To register to attend, visit [seml.glueup.com/](http://seml.glueup.com/).

"More people should come and find out how they get their water. TRWD does a great job. A lot of people don't understand the kind of work they put into this," SEML President Cary Lewis said. "So, these kinds of meetings like this, it goes a long way in educating the public and then helping us as well to know how to better serve our constituents."

While Myers hopes to have the final version of the WPP completed by the end of the year, the timeline on when it might be approved by the appropriate federal authorities is still up in the air.

"I have no idea what the landscape is going to look like in terms of agency reviews," Myers said. "Right now, it's just a huge question mark. We don't know what kinds of staffing might be implemented or not implemented, especially at the federal level. There have been years in the past where just it has taken, you know, six to 12 months to get a WPP back and then there have been times where they're really on their game, and they get stuff back in like two weeks."



TRWD Watershed Coordinator Katie Myers speaks at a stakeholder meeting.



TRWD Watershed Program Manager Aaron Hoff answers questions at a stakeholder meeting.



# Springtown's Project Celebration offers safe, fun alternative for students after prom

JOLEE SKINNER

jolee@tricountyreporter.com

**SPRINGTOWN** — In just a few months, Springtown High School seniors will dance the night away at prom as a last hurrah before graduation. Prom is a night so many students look forward to and one they will remember for a lifetime.

But for most students, the night doesn't end after everyone leaves prom. Most students will go to a friend's house afterward for an after-party. And kids will be kids; some after parties are not supervised or safe. That's why parents of students who go to SHS host an annual after party to ensure the safety of

its students.

Project Celebration is hosted by parents at the SHS gym and is a supervised yet a fun experience after prom. Jennie Carter is the PC '25 president and wants to give students a night they'll never forget.

"We plan on giving our seniors a night they will remember forever," Carter said. "We are trying to motivate our seniors to come play and have a great night after prom instead of the alternative. We are excited to see it all come together for our awesome seniors."

Carter explained why the event is an important alternative for students.

"The event will obviously be drug and alcohol free for

seniors and their dates to have a great and safe night after prom," Carter said. "It's not a mandatory event and it's strictly put on by parents of seniors for a night of fun."

This big event takes work and lots of hours of volunteering. Carter says this has been in the works since last year.

"We have fundraised for this event since last May," Carter said. "We've had many people and businesses within our community step up and do give backs. We've held bingo, a 5k, a pickleball tournament, Wild West, restaurant give backs, selling yard signs, flamingo flocking and concessions. Lots of volunteer hours to try and make

this event special for these kids. We could not do this without their help and we are so grateful."

The event will take place midnight until 6 a.m. Check-in is from 11 p.m. until midnight and students will be there for the entirety of the event.

"Once it strikes midnight the doors will lock and there will be no one allowed to enter or exit until 6 a.m.," Carter said. "Technically it's a 'lock-in' type after party to ensure the safety of our students."

Students will have both high school gyms as well as the auditorium to have fun. Students can change into more comfy clothes for the lock-in event. Activities

will include a casino, jump houses, a DJ, nerf gun wars, a velcro wall, a mechanical bull and a magician.

As for oversight, a select group of adults will be watching the students.

"There will be board members and a select group of approved parents overseeing activities and events," Carter said. "Volunteers will be parents from the board and any other parents that are wanting to help will have to be approved through the board. We stated at the beginning anyone wanting to help PC night would need (at least two events) of volunteering."

Transportation will be provided for the students attending or students can

park in the lot across from the gym doors. Attendance will be strictly for the seniors and their dates as specified on forms. No dates younger than juniors will be allowed. Students must check-in with their dates and provide a driver's license for verification.

All seniors are required to send in their forms for entry. The deadline for those to be submitted is March 6. If sent in afterwards they will be denied entry.

For more information about the celebration, follow the Springtown Project Celebration 2025 Facebook page.

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# Venue on the Square hosts Valentine-themed dance for parents and kids



Families and friends hit the dance floor after eating.



The Venue on the Square went all out on decorations for the Valentine's dance.



Valentine-themed desserts and candy were on display for everyone to grab a bite.

JOLEE SKINNER | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

JOLEE SKINNER | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER



A father and daughter attending the dance take a photo together.



Couples attending the dance slow dance together.

## Azle School Menu

Feb 17-21, 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** Vanilla Yogurt Cup w/Banana Muffin **Tues** FUNfetti Mini Pancakes, Sausage Biscuit **Weds** Lucky Charms w/Animal Crack-  
ers **Thurs** Vanilla Yogurt Cup w/Blueberry Muffin, Biscuit w/Bacon **Fri** Mini Maple Waffle, Cinnamon Toast w/Oatmeal

**LUNCH:** Everyday - Variety of milk. Your choice of 1 & 1 or juice  
**Mon** Loaded Baked Potato w/Broccoli Cheese Soup and Bread Stick, Soft Chicken Tacos **Tues** Pizza Pocket, Sloppy Joe  
**Weds** Chicken Bacon Ranch Wrap, Meatball Sub Sandwich **Thurs** Fish Sticks, Meatloaf **Fri** Corn Dog, Hamburger Pizza

**GRADES 5TH - 8TH**

**BREAKFAST:** Everyday - Assorted Fruit and Cereal, Juice, White or Chocolate Milk, Yogurt w/Granola  
**Mon** Vanilla Yogurt Cup w/Banana Muffin **Tues** FUNfetti Mini Pancakes, Sausage Biscuit **Weds** Lucky Charms w/Animal Crack-  
ers **Thurs** Vanilla Yogurt Cup w/Blueberry Muffin, Biscuit w/Bacon **Fri** Mini Maple Waffle, Cinnamon Toast w/Oatmeal

**LUNCH:** Everyday: Variety of milk. Your choice of 1 & 1 or juice, rolls, crackers • Salad bar offered daily  
**Mon** Buffalo Boneless Wings, Cheese Nachos, Chicken Alfredo **Tues** Arroz con Pollo, Corn Dog, Steakfinger Bowl  
**Weds** Bean and Cheese Burrito, Cheese Burger, 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** Lucky Charms, Apple Breakfast Nachos **Tues** Breakfast on a Stick, Sausage Biscuit  
**Weds** Scrambled Eggs, Sausage, and Toast, Vanilla Yogurt w/Muffin Top  
**Thurs** Lucky Charms, Biscuit w/Bacon . **Fri** Cinnamon Toast w/Oatmeal, Cocoa Puffs

**LUNCH:** • Everyday: 1% unflavored or non fat chocolate milk & juice • Salad Bar  
**Mon** TSO Chicken w/Noodles, Chicken and Waffles, Mini Corn Dogs, Chicken and Cheese Quesadilla, BBQ Chicken Pizza  
Pepperoni Pizza Pocket **Tues** Chicken Fried Rice w/Chicken Egg Roll, Breaded Chicken Sandwich, Chicken Bacon Ranch  
Wrap, Beef Enchiladas, Cheese Pizza, Hamburger Pizza **Weds** Sweet Fire Chicken w/Brown Rice, Hot Dog, Maxstixs, Walkin'  
Taco, Bacon Pizza, Cheese Pizza **Thurs** Orange Chicken & Rice, Breakfast for Lunch w/Vanilla Yogurt, Cheeseburger, Taco  
Salad w/Chips, Mozzarella Sticks, Pepperoni Pizza **Fri** Chicken and Vegetable Dumpling w/Lo Mein, Corn Dog, Loaded Baked  
Potato w/Broccoli and Cheese Soup, Bean and Cheese Burrito, Pizza Pocket, Supreme Pizza

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## Springtown School Menu

**BREAKFAST PRICES**

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.*

**Feb 17-21, 2025**  
**PK through 12th Grade**

*\*Menus are subject to change.*

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

**Mon** No school **Tues** Pancake Bites, Strawberry Applesauce **Weds** Sausage Biscuit, Mandarin  
Oranges **Thurs** Cinnamon Roll, Apple Slices **Fri** Yogurt Parfait, Blueberries

**K - 4th Lunch** **Lunch:** Everyday - Choice of one meat, two vegetables, and one grain/bread with milk.,  
Variety of milk is offered every day for breakfast and lunch.

**Mon** No school **Tues** Chicken Nuggets, Chicken Alfredo, Green Beans, Glazed Carrots, Roll, Fresh  
Veggies Apple Slices or Mandarin Oranges **Weds** Cheeseburger, Hamburger, Emoticon Potatoes,  
Fresh Veggies Sliced Strawberries or Birthday Cake, Applesauce **Thurs** Chicken Quesadilla, Yogurt  
& Pretzel Box, Cuban Black Beans, Glazed Carrots, Fresh Veggies Blueberries or Apple **Fri** Pizza  
(Cheese or Pepperoni), Steamed Broccoli, Fresh Veggies, Banana or Watermelon Craisins

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

**Mon** No school **Tues** Spaghetti, Meatball Sub, Italian Blend Vegetables, Roll, Fresh Veggies (Cucum-  
bers w/Tajin, Baby Carrots, Broccoli), Applesauce, Orange **Weds** Regular or Spicy Tenders, Waffles,  
Tator Tots, Fresh Veggies (Cucumbers w/Tajin, Baby Carrots, Broccoli), Apples, Sliced Strawberries  
**Thurs** Beef or Chicken Tacos, Beef or Chicken Nachos, Refried Beans, Corn, Watermelon Craisins,  
Sliced Pears **Fri** Baked Potato w/Pulled Pork, Chicken Quesadilla, Glazed Carrots, Roll, Fresh Veg-  
gies (Cucumbers w/Tajin, Baby Carrots, Broccoli), Banana, Blueberries

*This menu is sponsored by ...*

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# Springtown drug awareness groups team up to educate residents about fentanyl

JOLEE SKINNER  
jolee@tricountyreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — On Saturday, Feb. 8, We Are Our Brother's Keeper and Clearfork Academy hosted an educational event called "Focus on Fentanyl" to spread awareness about the dangers of fentanyl use and how to reverse an overdose with the use of Narcan.

Jessica Castro, founder of We Are Our Brother's Keeper, and Mike Carter, Clearfork Academy alumni relations manager, hosted the event for anyone who has been affected by fentanyl use or simply wanted to become more educated about the subject.

Clearfork Academy is a drug and alcohol rehab center for teens in Texas. Before Carter became affiliated with Clearfork Academy, he took prescription pain killers for 36 years.

"When I was 20, I was crushed between a truck and I was on a bike and it started that process," Carter said. "And once your brain becomes addicted, you make a living off the pain of other folks."

Carter talked about how he deals with the stress of life

and physical pain in a healthy way now.

"Through meditation, through breathing techniques and things like that," Carter said. "That's what I always do to relieve stress."

Carter also spoke to how the government became involved in prescription drug use.

"Do you all remember when the federal government kind of took control of prescription pain killers?" Carter asked. "In 2014, 2016 the government started taking control of prescription pain killers. That's when the pain clinics started."

According to the CDC, the number of opioids prescribed in the United States peaked in 2010 and then decreased. But despite reductions, the number of opioids prescribed remains approximately three times as high as in 1999.

Carter then spoke to just how small the dose is to kill someone using fentanyl.

"Ten to 15 grains of salt or sugar is a lethal dose," Carter said. "Fentanyl is robbing us of our young people. It's robbing us of our family members."

Carter warned the audience to warn family and friends

not to let anyone take pills given to them, outside of prescribed medication from your doctor, as they could be laced with fentanyl.

"Our young people are not afraid of that," Carter said. "That's what's scary to me. They think they're invincible. They think 'It will never happen to me, I'm smarter than everybody else.' No, you don't know that the pill was made in an open-air area in Mexico."

Castro says this event marks an important moment in the community.

"Yesterday marked a pivotal moment in our mission to empower communities, as we kicked off our 2025 speaker series with the fentanyl education class, a vital resource for fostering resilience and hope," Castro said.

Castro will be hosting monthly classes to explore difficult topics surrounding addiction.

"Our monthly classes will tackle a range of pressing topics, beginning with fentanyl education, as we strive to build a more informed, compassionate and supportive community."

Castro hopes that by not just educating the commu-



JOLEE SKINNER | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Speaker and co-host Mike Carter shares his own personal experience with drugs.

nity about the dangers of fentanyl but also sharing personal stories like Carter's, it will help others develop a deeper understanding with this issue.

"By exploring the complexities of fentanyl and its far-reaching impact, we can cultivate a deeper under-

standing and empathy for those affected," Castro said. "Through this series, we aim to unite individuals, promote education and inspire collective action, reinforcing the notion that together, we can drive meaningful change."

To learn more about We Are Our Brother's Keeper,

visit its Facebook page. To learn more about Clearfork Academy, visit [www.clearforkacademy.com](http://www.clearforkacademy.com).

If you or anyone you know are struggling with fentanyl or any drug addiction, contact the Texas Substance Abuse and Drug Addiction Hotline at 866-210-1303.



Residents in the Springtown area listen to the dangerous effects of fentanyl.



Carter shared statistics about the staggering amounts of fentanyl that are pouring into the U.S.



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**LEGAL NOTICE**

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a BG Wine & Malt Beverage Retailers permit by The Armadillo Ranch, LLC to be located at 10130 FM 1886, Azle, Parker County, Texas. Officers of corporation are Jessica Corley – President, Justin Corley - VP

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PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF AZLE

The Azle’s Citizens Police Academy lets attendees meet officers and interact on a personal level to build relationships and mutual understanding with the community.

# APD reopens Azle Citizens Police Academy

**STAFF REPORT**

AZLE — The Azle Citizens Police Academy is a weekly evening class that spans several months and teaches attendees about the different parts of the police department — from evidence and handling equipment to dispatch and patrol operations. It’s a “30,000-foot view” where participants will be exposed to all the systems the

APD uses and the challenges officers face. It lets attendees meet officers and lets officers interact on a personal level to build relationships and mutual understanding with the community.

“It is a pretty cool way for us to meet our citizens, and for them to know our team,” APD Chief Ben Hall said in an email to the Tri-County Reporter. “Having citizens

learn what’s in our hearts and get to know us as people rather than just those people in blue making traffic stops!”

Classes start March 4 and end May 6 and will be held each Tuesday from 6 to 9 p.m. Applications are now being accepted. Interested residents can contact Sgt. Bovea at pbovea@cityofazle.org or 817-270-1822.



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

The intersections at the Stewart Street Bridge with traffic lights flashing red.

# Council addresses Stewart Street red lights

**ZACH FREEMAN**  
azlereporter@tricityreporter.com

AZLE — Since October, Azleites have enjoyed speedier movement through the intersections at the Stewart Street bridge. Over the last few years, the area had become infamous as one of the worst spots for traffic backup in the city. Commuters could be seen waiting in line for green lights as far back as Ash Creek Baptist Church.

In the fall of 2024, all signals controlling traffic on the bridge stopped working. Since then, the lights have flashed red, functioning more like stop signs. Oftentimes, such problems can only be resolved with the manual intervention of a technician.

Local area drivers found traffic problems have been resolved with the lights in their current state and dread the day they might be “fixed.”

The Azle City Council and staff addressed the issue at a Feb. 4 meeting. Council members indicated there had been various problems with these lights throughout the years and they were well aware of the community’s preference; however, the lights are owned and controlled by the Texas Department of Transportation. During recent meetings with city staff and administration, TxDOT revealed the results of a traffic study on the intersections and announced that the lights cannot be left as they currently are. The study showed that four accidents had happened since November while only four accidents had occurred at the same spot over the prior two years.

The city now faces a number of possible options to address the issue.

“I think putting it back to what it was before, we’re going to get a lot of backlash,” Azle City Manager Tom Muir said. “(TxDOT) were getting constant complaints on it beforehand. So, he knows that what it is now, everybody wants.”

Removing the traffic lights and replacing them with stop signs is one redress, though Muir and Public Services Director Rick White said traffic accidents would likely increase substantially. TxDOT indicated to Muir that it will pay for signal removal if the city chooses this option.

The city could also take over the lights and hire engineering firms to program them as it wishes, but Muir

and White said this would be cost prohibitive.

“Why should the city spend money for something TxDOT is willing to do for free for us?” White asked. “It’s state law that they have to do it ‘til we become a certain population. I think it’s like 30 or 40,000 people.”

White ultimately suggested having a yellow flashing light proceeding on Stewart and flashing red for traffic coming off Park Street in front of On The Patio.

“(The TxDOT reps) thought that would solve our problems that we had previously,” Muir said.

This setup would reduce the number of light cycles from seven to five, allowing people to get through more quickly and preventing traffic backup on Stewart Street. White said that plan would also do away with the old weight-sensing pull-up strips and replace them with radar technology, better ensuring that the light cycles account for present traffic conditions.

There is not an immediate timeline for when one of these solutions will be accepted, so the lights will continue to blink red for the time being.

# Single vehicle accident, Sandy Beach Road



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Multiple agencies were called to the scene of a single vehicle crash on Sandy Beach Road after a red Buick Verano went into a ditch, deploying airbags. The driver was reported to have minor lacerations but appeared otherwise uninjured.

# 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 Assistant to the City Manager Susie Hiles at shiles@cityofazle.org. Until next month.....

### New Trash Rates in effect February 1, 2025

Beginning February 1, 2025, Azle residents/business owners will see an increase in their garbage/recycle rates. (Current residential rate \$23.75 – new rate \$24.09/month) The City’s contract with CWD allows for an annual market adjustment each February 1st based on increase in fuel costs, landfill costs, and on the percent of increase in the annual Consumer Price Index (CPI) for all DFW Urban Consumers. The new trash service rates are available on the City’s website at [www.cityofazle.org](http://www.cityofazle.org) or a hard copy is available at City Hall.

Azle residents benefit from a variety of waste disposal options - twice a week solid waste, once a week recycle (option to choose either 65 gal cart or 18 gal bin), once a week bulk item collection, once a month bulk brush, and a twice a year "X-treme Green Event" that is held as part of the city-wide clean up.

The X-treme Green Event gives Azle residents a convenient way to dispose of their household hazardous waste, e-waste, metal appliances, tires, and on-site document shredding. **The 2025 X-treme Green Events are scheduled for May 10 and September 6.**

**Free recycled paint for Azle residents**

As part of our recycling efforts, the City and CWD offer remixed paint (latex & oil-based), blended from the usable paint collected at Azle’s X-treme Green Events, **FREE** to Azle residents. Paint is in one (1) gallon containers and available at Azle City Hall, 505 W. Main Street. *The City of Azle does not guarantee the purity, quality, consistency, etc of the paint distributed.*

The City of Azle and CWD are committed to helping our residents keep the community clean and preserving the environment for future generations. For questions or concerns regarding your solid waste collection, please contact Community Waste Disposal at 972-392-9300, Option 2.

**\*\* For guidelines regarding garbage collection, visit the City’s website.**

Community Waste Disposal  
972.392.9300

## Citizens Police Academy

OUR COMMUNITY, OUR COMMITMENT

### Azle Police Department

**MARCH 4, 2025 – MAY 6, 2025**  
**TUESDAYS 6:00–9:00 PM**

Applications are now being accepted for Azle’s Citizens Police Academy. This program is designed for citizens wanting to gain first-hand knowledge of the daily operations and procedures of the Azle Police Department.

**Apply now!**

Call Us 817-444-3221 | Visit Our Website [cityofazle.org/Police-Department](http://cityofazle.org/Police-Department) | Follow us on Facebook [Azle Police Department](https://www.facebook.com/AzlePoliceDepartment)

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### Cross Timbers Golf Course renovating driving range

Cross Timbers Golf Course has contracted Kemp Golf Course Design and Fleetwood Services for a full practice facility renovation. **Construction has begun and the driving range is officially closed.** The project will include installation of subsurface drainage, new irrigation, TifTuf surfaces, and Tif3D chipping and putting greens. The entire property will be reshaped with target greens and sightlines making practice more efficient. Projected opening is Fall 2025. We understand the inconvenience of not having a practice facility, but the finished product will be worth the wait.

The golf course will remain open for play, so book your tee time at [crosstimbersgc.com](http://crosstimbersgc.com)

**Keep up to date with progress by following our Facebook page @ [facebook.com/crosstimbersofficial](https://www.facebook.com/crosstimbersofficial)**

### Azle Memorial Library News and Free Events

**333 W Main St, Azle, TX 76020**  
**817-752-2682 - [www.azlelibrary.org](http://www.azlelibrary.org) - [facebook.com/azlelibrary](https://www.facebook.com/azlelibrary)**

**AARP Free Tax-Aide**

AARP Tax-Aide service is currently at the Library taking appointments to offer free tax preparation to adults of any age or income. Call the library at 817-752-2682 for an appointment.

**THHSC Food Benefit Application Assistance**

A Community Resource Specialist from the Tarrant Area Food Bank will be on site in the Azle Library foyer on the third Wednesday of each month from 10AM - 2PM to help members of the public apply for SNAP, CHIP, TANF, and/or any other THHSC program. No appointment needed.

**FREE In-Person Programs**

The Library offers an abundance of additional programs that can be found on the library’s website and Facebook page! Programs are held in the Library Community Room, unless noted. Come check us out!

### Azle Municipal Facilities Closed PRESIDENTS’ DAY February 17

Police/Fire services will be available by calling (817) 444-3221, or 9-1-1 in case of emergency. For water/sewer emergencies, please call (817) 444-3221.

Community Waste Disposal will run their regular trash/recycle route.

Scan for more information on what’s happening in the City of Azle or visit us at [www.cityofazle.org](http://www.cityofazle.org)

# Azle’s assistant city manager to leave at end of month

**ZACH FREEMAN**  
azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

AZLE — Beginning as a student intern in July 2002, Azle Assistant City Manager Lawrence Bryant has spent his entire career in Azle. Today, he prepares to say his goodbyes to the community and people he has spent decades getting to know and love.

Bryant grew up in Longview in East Texas, but went to Brigham Young University in Utah to get his undergraduate degree.

“I was a marketing communications major, which is a, basically a fancy way to say advertising major,” Bryant said. “About two semesters before I graduated, I realized ‘This is not for me. I do not want to do this.’ I was just like, ‘Man, I really don’t want to be telling people what toothpaste they ought to buy for the rest of my life.’”

Just two semesters from graduating, Bryant found the concept of switching majors to be a daunting choice. Not wanting to disappoint his parents and not wanting to add another two or three years to his graduation date, Bryant found his saving grace in advice from a friend and fellow student. She was working toward a master’s degree in public administration and said he could do the same under his current degree plan. Participating in Boy Scouts as a kid, Bryant said he had always felt drawn to public service and decided administration could be what he was looking for. He went back to his home state to pursue higher education.

While in grad school at the University of North Texas, the city of Azle funded a

*Lawrence Bryant speaks on career change after two decades of service*

six-month internship for Bryant. Finding that he liked the work, Bryant also interned with the city of North Richland Hills for more experience. While in that internship, former Azle City Manager Craig Lemin — who was assistant city manager at the time — reached out to Bryant and encouraged him to apply for a newly created management analyst position.

The rest is history.

Bryant joined the city full-time in October 2003 and has been here ever since.

“It was not on my radar at all as a young adult,” Bryant said. “I had no idea what a city manager was, but the more I learned about it, the more I familiarized myself with it, I knew that that was what I wanted to do.”

Bryant stuck to it, excelling and assisting Lemin in his professional dealings. Around 2005, the city’s finance director, Jorge Trevino, left for a job in another city. After an arduous search for qualified candidates, Lemin eventually offered Bryant the role where he served faithfully for six years, crossing “T”s and dotting “I”s. When Lemin transitioned from assistant city manager to city manager, his former position remained unoccupied for years. Bryant said he effectively filled most of the assistant city manager’s duties as finance director and he was a natural fit to again move up the ladder and take on the assistant city manager title 14 years ago.

Bryant said every day is different. He oversees many of the city’s public services, its finances and takes on many other responsibilities when needed. During his career, Bryant said one of the most notable developments was the increase in the city’s population from 9,600 to around 15,000. With that came the Azle Walmart in 2006 and the growth of countless other businesses and public amenities. He said Azle’s rapidly growing population and its location just outside the metroplex presented it with some unique challenges when compared with other cities in the metroplex proper.

“We’re just far enough away from a bigger city, like Fort Worth, where it doesn’t make sense for us to rely on them for a lot of services,” Bryant said. “Over in the mid-cities areas and closer to Fort Worth, a lot of those cities they’re relying on Fort Worth for their treated drinking water and to treat their wastewater, relying on them for ambulance service, things like that. Because of where Azle is, we’re far enough away that it just does not make sense for us to do that. We have to do all those things ourselves. There are cities in this area that are a bit bigger than us that don’t have a wastewater treatment plant like we do. Being in a place like this, even though it’s smaller, we do so many things. You do get those opportunities to be a part of the responsibilities that a bigger



**ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER**  
**Lawrence Bryant stands outside the Azle City Council chambers.**

city would do.”

Bryant said he advises future public administrators not to shy away from smaller communities because of the wealth of experiences and opportunities they can provide. His career trajectory was not typical for his line of work. In a career like this, if you want to move up, you have to move on, Bryant said. In this regard, Azle has provided exceptional opportunities for advancement.

“I’ve spent two thirds of my adult life here and it’s a special place,” Bryant said. “One of the biggest things that makes it such, is the people. There are a lot of great people that work for the city of Azle ... The best thing about working here is the people I get to work with. I really enjoy coming to work and interacting with my coworkers. It probably sounds cliché, but we are like family up here.”

Another rewarding aspect of the job is serving Azle’s citizens and being a part of the process that improves their quality of life. In one example, Bryant said he is proud to be a part of the team that helped pay off its debt on the Cross Timbers Golf Course over 9 years early by utilizing royalties from the site’s two natural gas wells. These early payments resulted in just over \$1.8 million in total interest savings.

In doing so, the city was able to save taxpayers money and issue new debt which the city used to fund a new city hall and police station. In working with the Azle City Council, Bryant said he found nothing but good rapport and cooperation.

“It’s not been a tug of war,” Bryant said. “We’ve all been working together to pull the city in the same direction and pull it in a positive direction.”

Yet another critical figure in Bryant’s life is current Azle City Manager Tom Muir, who he has worked with for the last nine years.

“His guidance and leadership as city manager here at the city of Azle have been invaluable,” Bryant said. “He is a great man and has been such a positive influence on me. Tom’s contributions to both my personal and professional life are countless and I will miss collaborating with him on a daily basis.”

Bryant’s last day in Azle will be Feb. 28. In March, he will begin work as an assistant city manager in Euless. Bryant said he was not looking for a change in location and submitted his application just days before the deadline. Ultimately, Bryant could not resist the challenge of working for a larger city and the ease of commuting from much closer to his home. One of the draws of


Euless, he said, is that it reminded him of what has been built in Azle. Looking at the opportunity ahead, the assistant city manager said he feels a mix of excitement and nerves, but he is not afraid. Leaving the city where he built his career was no easy choice, but he feels proud of his work.

“My seeking a new opportunity had nothing to do with me being unhappy in my role here, or anything like that,” Bryant said. “I have said to myself, for a very long time, that if I were ever to leave employment with the city of Azle it would have to be for what I believe to be a really great opportunity. That’s where I am ... If you ask me, ‘Are you leaving this place in a better spot than you found it?’ I can look you in the eye with 100% certainty, say, ‘Yes, I am.’”

While no decision has been announced on Bryant’s potential replacement, he is confident the city of Azle is in good hands. In his time in Azle, he saw the comings and goings of three city managers and four mayors. From a clueless intern to Euless’ executive adjunct, Bryant has come far in his career and is grateful to the Azle community for the support and opportunities it has provided along the way.




**Bryant advises the Azle City Council during a city council meeting.**



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# Homes for Heroes, Lone Star State



Homes for Heroes, Lone Star State, was welcome to the Azle Area Chamber of Commerce with a ribbon cutting Jan. 30. The specialty real estate group focuses on the home-buying journey for local heroes — first responders, active-duty military and veterans, healthcare professionals and teachers. From finding the right home to securing the best financing, Homes for Heroes, Lone Star State has a heart for serving the men and women who work hard to serve their communities. Its office is located at 4700 Boat Club Road in Fort Worth. For more information, visit [www.homesforheroes.com/affiliate/kimi-ortega](http://www.homesforheroes.com/affiliate/kimi-ortega).

# One dies in 3-vehicle crash at Ten Mile Bridge, Boat Club

**JOLEE SKINNER**  
*jolee@tricityreporter.com*

FORT WORTH — Two people were injured and another killed in a multi-vehicle crash in northwest Fort Worth Monday, Feb. 3.

Police officers were dispatched to the intersection of Boat Club Road and Ten Mile Bridge Road at about 9:10 p.m. where they found three vehicles involved in a major accident, according to Fort Worth Police. Two people were taken to area hospitals for treatment. Their conditions were unknown, police said.

One individual was pronounced dead at the scene of the crash. He has been identified as 21-year-old Solomon Alejandro Sanchez by the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office. The cause of death is listed as blunt force injuries.

# 199 Winery

The newest business on Azle's Main Street, 199 Winery, was welcomed to the community with a ribbon cutting hosted by the Azle Area Chamber of Commerce Jan. 28. 199 Winery was previously located on Jacksboro Highway in Lakeside before moving to 147 W. Main St. in Azle. The small, family-owned winery offers locally crafted wines to please any palate. Stop in for a sample flight Wednesday through Sunday. Follow the winery on Facebook to find out about its upcoming events like Wine-O Bingo.



LAKE WORTH INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT					
Statement Of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes In Fund Balances					
Governmental Funds for the year ended August 31, 2024					
DATA CONTROL CODES	10 GENERAL FUND	50 DEBT SERVICE FUND	60 CAPITAL PROJECTS	OTHER FUNDS	TOTAL GOV'T FUNDS
<b>REVENUES:</b>					
5700 Total Local and Intermediate Sources	\$13,235,767	\$7,681,818	\$81,852	\$339,487	\$21,338,924
5800 State Program Revenues	25,192,432	681,649	-	458,525	26,332,606
5900 Federal Program Revenues	407,552	-	-	6,520,370	6,927,922
5020 Total Revenues	38,835,751	8,363,467	81,852	7,318,382	54,599,452
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>					
<b>Current:</b>					
0011 Instruction	23,274,404	-	-	1,271,713	24,546,117
0012 Instructional Resources and Media Services	290,437	-	-	-	290,437
0013 Curriculum & Instructional Staff Development	988,977	-	-	1,172,604	2,161,581
0021 Instructional Leadership	1,049,018	-	-	157,552	1,206,570
0023 School Leadership	2,354,086	-	-	-	2,354,086
0031 Guidance, Counseling, & Evaluation Services	1,060,550	-	-	549,723	1,610,273
0032 Social Work Services	354,088	-	-	96,000	450,088
0033 Health Services	525,870	-	-	-	525,870
0034 Student (Pupil) Transportation	2,093,138	-	-	5,556	2,098,694
0035 Food Services	-	-	-	3,460,344	3,460,344
0036 Extracurricular Activities	1,518,523	-	-	189,755	1,708,278
0041 General Administration	1,926,926	-	-	8,382	1,935,308
0051 Facilities Maintenance and Operations	4,862,562	-	-	-	4,862,562
0052 Security and Monitoring Services	498,226	-	-	410,151	908,377
0053 Data Processing Services	2,419,025	-	-	-	2,419,025
0061 Community Services	496,349	-	-	49,676	546,025
<b>Debt Service:</b>					
0071 Principal on Long-Term Liabilities	147,017	4,404,902	-	-	4,551,919
0072 Interest on Long-Term Liabilities	11,623	3,414,619	-	-	3,426,242
0073 Bond Issuance Cost and Fees	-	17,438	-	-	17,438
<b>Capital Outlay</b>					
0081 Facilities Acquisition and Construction	-	-	1,952,455	-	1,952,455
<b>Intergovernmental:</b>					
0093 Payments to Fiscal Agent/Member Districts of SSA	66,000	-	-	16,000	82,000
0099 Other Intergovernmental Charges	92,482	-	-	-	92,482
6030 Total Expenditures	44,029,301	7,836,959	1,952,455	7,387,456	61,206,171
1100 Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under)	(5,193,550)	526,508	(1,870,603)	(69,074)	(6,606,719)
<b>Expenditures: OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)</b>					
7912 Sale of Real and Personal Property	69,308	-	-	-	69,308
7915 Transfers In	-	-	-	26,836	26,836
8911 Transfers Out (Use)	(26,836)	-	-	-	(26,836)
7080 Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	42,472	-	-	26,836	69,308
1200 Net Change in Fund Balances	(5,151,078)	526,508	(1,870,603)	(42,238)	(6,537,411)
0100 Fund Balance - September 1 (Beginning)	10,575,056	3,068,917	2,969,315	876,841	17,490,129
3000 Fund Balance - August 31 (Ending)	\$5,423,978	\$3,595,425	\$1,098,712	\$834,603	\$10,952,718

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LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICES

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS CITY OF AZLE, TEXAS CENTRAL PARK WALKING PATH

Separate sealed bids for the construction of Central Park Walking Path (Azle bid number 2025-005) will be received by the City of Azle, Texas until 2:00PM on February 27th, 2025, at City Hall, 505 W. Main Street, Azle, Texas, 76020, and then at said location publicly opened and read aloud. This project includes installing approximately 2,375 linear feet of 6' wide concrete sidewalk and all incidental appurtenances for a complete project in accordance with the contract documents and plans. The Contract Documents consisting of Advertisement of Bids, Information for Bidders, Bid Proposal, Bid Bond, Contract, Performance and Payment Bonds, Maintenance Bond, General Conditions, Notice of Award, Notice to Proceed, Plans, Specifications, and Addenda (if any) may be examined at the following location: JACOB & MARTIN, LLC

1925 Fort Worth Highway, Weatherford, Texas 76086 The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities and to reject any or all bids. Bids may be held by the Owner for a period not to exceed 60 days from the date of bid opening for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the qualifications of Bidders prior to awarding of the contract. Contractors must obtain a set of CONTRACT DOCUMENTS online at [www.jacobmartin.com](http://www.jacobmartin.com) by digital download or hard copy to be considered a registered plan holder eligible to bid the project. Cost for digital download of CONTRACT DOCUMENTS will be \$0.00. Hard copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS will be \$100.00 All Copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS must be ordered online and are available for pick up, mail out or digital download via [www.jacobmartin.com](http://www.jacobmartin.com). Upon verification of online payment, hard copies may be picked up at Jacob & Martin, LLC, located at 1925 Fort Worth Highway, Weatherford, Texas 76086. A certified check or bank draft, payable to the order of CITY OF AZLE, TEXAS, negotiable U.S. Governmental bonds (at par value) or a satisfactory Bid Bond executed by the Bidder and an acceptable surety in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the total bid shall be submitted with each bid. City of Azle, Texas Alan Brundrett, Mayor February 13th, 2025.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE A-Z STORAGE 817-237-7972 A-Z STORAGE wishing to avail themselves of the provisions of Texas Revised Civil Statutes Article 523b and Texas Property Code, Ch. 59, Self-Service Storage Facility Liens Article 44, hereby gives Notice of Sale under said act to wit: On Sat., February 22, 2025, at A-Z Storage, 5824 Azle Ave., Lake Worth, TX, between the hours of 10AM - 12NOON of that day, A-Z Storage will conduct a sale to the highest bidder for the contents of units: 60 rented by Andrea Fields or Monique Pair, consisting of household, at A-Z Storage, 5824 Azle Ave. at NW Loop 820, Lake Worth, TX. 817-237-7972 This sale is being held to satisfy a landlord's lien. The Public is invited to attend. Dated this 24th day of January, 2025. Void if lien satisfied in full before date of sale. Mailing address only: A-Z STORAGE, PO BOX 136369, FORT WORTH TX 76136.

The City of Reno plat proposal for property off W Browder Circle, Azle, TX 76020. Morrow Acres Lots 1-3 in the C. Gildon Survey, Abstract No. 523, and the WM. Slover Survey, Abstract No. 1246, Parker County TX.

Special P&Z Meeting will be held on February 24, 2025 at 6:00 PM and the Council Meeting will be held on March 10, 2025, at 7:00 PM located at 195 W. Reno Road, Azle, Texas 76020.

OBITUARIES

Mary Jo (Starr) Chapman  
1942 — 2025

Mary Jo (Starr) Chapman of Azle, our beloved mother, went to her heavenly home Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2025, where she was reunited with her “Danny Boy.” She was 82.

Visitation was from 5 to 7 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 9 at White’s Funeral Home, Azle. Rosary service was at 9:30 a.m. Monday, Feb. 10 at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Azle.

Funeral service was at 10 a.m. Monday, Feb. 10 at Holy Trinity Catholic Church. Burial was at 2 p.m. at Lynn Creek Cemetery, Jack County.

In lieu of flowers and memorial contributions, the family requests you celebrate Mary’s life by treating yourself to your favorite ice cream cone, like she would.

Mary was born July 8, 1942, in Wichita Falls, to James Lewis and Viola Marie (Brock) Starr. She was the firstborn of two children with a younger brother, James Richard Starr. She graduated from Wichita Falls High School in 1960. She obtained her cosmetology license from Bud Hall’s Beauty School in 1961.

She met and fell in love with her husband and our Dad, Daniel Chapman, the love of her life, while working at the Grant Street Drive-In movie concession stand. He was a young airman in the Air Force stationed at Sheppard AFB. They married June 17, 1960. In 1961 they welcomed their first child, daughter Dana, and later their son, Jeffrey. Her faith in the Lord and her family were the most important aspects of her life.

While being a military spouse with her husband in the Air Force for 30 years, they made and maintained many lifelong friendships. They were stationed at Wichita Falls; Lajes Field, Azores; San Antonio; Maryland; Incirlik, Turkey; Wichita Falls; Goldsboro, North Carolina; then returned to San Antonio, where they retired. In 1988 Mary and Dan moved to Azle, where they joined other family members. Mary served as a Girl Scout troop leader, a member of Beta Sigma Phi, worked for Wichita Falls ISD school food service, and USAA proof-reading accident claims. She devoted her retirement years to taking care of her family. Mary and Dan became members of Holy Trinity Catholic Church where she was involved in the Women’s Guild, choir and food pantry. Mary enjoyed researching



genealogy and would often help others when they had questions about their own families. She loved watching British comedies, game shows, court and paternity shows, and following the royal British family. She especially enjoyed ice cream, limeades and red draws. Mary was often in attendance at her grandchildrens’ and great-grandchildrens’ school and extracurricular activities. She was an extremely loving and compassionate woman, who never met a stranger. Her kind words and hugs were meant from the heart. She always looked forward to lunch with her cousin, Sherry Kilgo and husband, Ermon. Sherry was always like a sister to her.

Mary was preceded in death by her husband, Chief Master Sgt. Daniel Chapman, retired; brother, James Richard Star; and her parents, James and Viola Starr.

She is survived by her daughter, Dana Montgomery and husband, Troy of Azle; son, Jeffrey Chapman and wife, Christie of St. Cloud, Florida; six grandchildren, Crystal Colley and husband, Cory, Heather Collins and husband, Ryan, Jeffrey Chapman II, James Chapman, Nick Padgett, Sydney Rutledge and husband, Justin; four great-grandchildren, Celsea and Caitlyn Colley, Haylee and Raelyn Collins; precious cousins, nieces, and nephews, and brother-in-law Robert Chapman of Worcester, Massachusetts.

The family would like to express our thanks to Healing Hands Home Health (Kelli), Three Oaks Hospice (Tiffany, Megan, Leila, Eboni) and the staff at Azle Manor. Your kindness, care and concern for Mom’s comfort is extremely appreciated.

The Tri-County Reporter,  
Thursday Feb 13, 2025

Carl Earnest Voss Jr.  
1946 — 2025

Retired USAF Major Carl Earnest Voss Jr., age 78, passed away Friday, Feb. 7, 2025, at his home, surrounded by his family.

Visitation was 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 12 at Biggers Funeral Home, Lake Worth, Texas 76135.

In lieu of flowers, the family respectfully requests donations to National Coalition for Homeless Veterans at <https://nchv.org>.

Carl was born Aug. 9, 1946, in Worland, Wyoming to Lena and Carl Voss Sr. He attended the University of Wyoming, earning his bachelor’s degree. After college, he was commissioned into the U.S. Air Force, where he retired with the rank of major.

He met the love of his life, Linda Tubbs, in 1971 while they were both Air Force officers stationed in San Antonio. They were married in 1973 in Fairplay.

Carl was a beloved PopPop to his five grandchildren, who were the center of his world: Joshua Wiedeman, Adrianna Wiedeman, Alaina Ledbetter and Jackson Ledbetter of Azle, and Hanna Voss of Norristown, Pennsylvania. Carl found immense joy in spending time with all his grandchildren, creating countless memories they will cherish forever.



He maintained close relationships with many cherished friends he met with daily for coffee at McDonalds for over 30 years. He was an Azle softball staple where he never missed a single home game cheering from the stands.

Carl is preceded in death by his loving wife, Linda Voss; his parents, Lena and Carl Voss Sr.; his sisters, Peggy Dearson and Judith McMillen; his granddaughters; Ava Grace and Avery Dovie Ledbetter.

He is survived by his children, Amy Ledbetter and son-in-law, Joby of Azle; Keith Voss of Norristown, Pennsylvania; his brother, Steve Voss of Utah; and his five grandchildren.

The Tri-County Reporter,  
Thursday Feb 13, 2025

Springtown police find 30-plus abused animals during welfare check

JOLEE SKINNER  
[jolee@tricountyreporter.com](mailto:jolee@tricountyreporter.com)

SPRINGTOWN — On Monday, Feb. 3, multiple Springtown police officers responded to a welfare concern at a residence in the 300 block of W. State Highway 199. Officers arrived at the residence and discovered more than 30 cats, kittens, dogs and puppies living in extremely unsanitary conditions. Police officers notified Springtown Animal Control and Code Enforcement who responded to the scene.

All the animals were voluntarily surrendered to animal control officers and are currently in the care of the Springtown Animal Shelter located on Hilltop Drive. Unfortunately, multiple animals had to be euthanized due to their medical conditions, but more than two dozen remain are still in the care of the animal shelter. One dog and one cat were in active labor during the removal which resulted in additional puppies and kittens.

Springtown Animal Control Supervisor Maddy Gould said this was a tragic situation and reinforced city ordinances that limit the number of pets residents may have.

“This is an unfortunate situation that has resulted in these animals having to

be rescued from dangerous living conditions,” Gould said. “Thankfully, many of the animals were able to be saved, but several did have to be euthanized due to their medical conditions. This case is one example of why city ordinances limit the number of pets that are allowed in a single home without a kennel permit and why sterilization of domesticated animals is important.”

The animals will continue to be given medical care and will be evaluated over the coming days and weeks. Potential foster and adoption information will be forthcoming soon.

“We appreciate all the public support that we have received to help care for these animals and we look forward to being able to find them homes when they are medically cleared for adoption,” Gould said.

For those who would like to donate or support the animal shelter’s efforts to care for these animals, please donate to the shelter at <https://checkout.shelterluv.com/donate/csas>

The animal shelter is also taking donations of towels and wet puppy food specifically for these animals. For more information on how to contribute, please call 817-220-0828 or email [aco@cityofspringtown.com](mailto:aco@cityofspringtown.com)

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Thank you for your support!

We loved serving our community.

TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

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

... ATTEND THE CHURCH OF YOUR CHOICE THIS SUNDAY

THE ABBEY CHURCH

Pastor: Paul Brownback

10400 Jacksboro Hwy 817-238-1404

[www.TheAbbeyChurch.com](http://www.TheAbbeyChurch.com)

Morning Worship..... 10:30 AM

Community Groups..... Various Times

ASH CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor: Dr. G. Wesley Shotwell

300 South Stewart St. 817-444-3219

[www.ashcreekbc.org](http://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

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

COMMUNITY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

Pastor - Alton Davis 817-521-4510

[cbfaze.org](http://cbfaze.org)

1405 Reynolds Rd., Azle

Directions: 730 N. to 1542 .5 mi. right on Cardinal, left on Reynolds

Sunday Service..... 11:00 AM

Wednesday Evening..... 6:30 PM

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

CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH

2233 Hwy 199 E., Springtown

817-221-LIFE (5433)

Sunday Worship Service..... 10:00 AM

Wednesday..... 7:00 PM

CROSSROADS BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor - Jon Baker

Corner FM 730S & FM 1886

817-755-0279

Transportation Available

Worship Service..... 10:30 AM

Wed. Prayer Service..... 7:00 PM

THE EDGE CHURCH - AZLE

1313 S.E. Pkwy, Azle 817-237-4822

Missouri Synod

“Love God - Serve Others - Share Jesus”

Traditional Worship..... 9:30 AM

Contemporary Worship..... 11:00 AM

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..... Sun 5:30 PM & Wed 6:30 PM

GRACEPOINTE CHURCH

4110 E. Hwy 199, Springtown

Pastor: Timothy McKeown

817-221-5683 [gracepointesbc.org](http://gracepointesbc.org)

Sunday School..... 9:45 am

Sunday Service..... 11:00 AM

Wednesday Bible Study..... 6:00 PM

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

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

4795 E. Hwy 199 - Reno 817-221-HOPE

Pastor Gaylen Chrystie

Follow us on Facebook for streaming services

Sunday School..... 9:00 AM

Traditional Service..... 10:00 AM

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

LEGACY CHURCH

Assembly of God Church

Pastor: Gary D. Veazey

3591 East Highway 199 817-221-2983

Morning Worship..... 9:00 & 11:00 AM

Legacy Kids..... 9:15 & 11:00 AM

Weds Evening Legacy

Group Legacy Youth, Kids

All Services..... 7:00 PM

THE RANCH CHRISTIAN COWBOY CHURCH

Pastor: Greg Slankard

7955 Reed Rd., Azle 682-327-7082

[www.TheRanchCCC.org](http://www.TheRanchCCC.org)

Sunday School 9:30 AM • Worship 10:00 AM

Weds 7:00 pm • Thurs Potluck 6:30 pm

SILVER CREEK METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor: Bill Killough

2200 Church Rd., Azle

[www.silvercreekmc.org](http://www.silvercreekmc.org)

Sunday School 9:30 AM

Worship 10:30 AM

SILVER CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor: Jay Ditty

Minister of Music: David Musick

Corner FM 730 S. & Veal Station Rd.

Church 817-444-2325

[www.silvercreekbc.org](http://www.silvercreekbc.org)

Sunday School..... 9:45 AM

Morning Worship..... 10:50 AM

Evening Worship..... 6:00 PM

Wed. Prayer Service..... 7:00 PM

THE WORD@LAKESIDE CHURCH OF GOD

9396 FM 1886 Fort Worth, TX 76135

817-237-5500

[thewordatlakeside.com](http://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

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

## Playoffs await Azle Christian hoops teams

*Special to the Tri-County Reporter*

Individually, Rodriguez placed 12th in the 200 free relay in 2:17.69, while Brekel

PHOTO COURTESY AMY ESTES

PLEASE SEE **ROUNDUP** | A12

*Special to the Tri-County Reporter*

In all, Azle had 16 players sign to play college sports on

Three Bullfrogs signed to play college football:  
Javion Jackson Hollie,  
Navarro College (Corsicana)  
Jeremiah Gordon, Cisco  
College  
Noah Washington,  
Oklahoma Baptist University

PHOTO COURTESY STEPHEN SMITH

Seated (L-R): Azle baseball players who signed to play in college include Braden Sirkel, Ty Bonnett, Ethan Hadaway, Jacob McGee, Garrin Graves, Ian Loeffelholz and Jaxon Liddicote, along with teammates who support them.

 <p><b>Freedom Recovery</b></p> <p>Leading People to Jesus Christ through the 12 Step Program alongside the Biblical Principals</p> <p><b>Crossing Fellowship</b> COMMUNITY CHURCH 120 E. Main St., Azle, TX Tuesdays 7-8:15 pm For info contact Greg S. 817-851-8648</p>	<p><i>Concerned about someone with an addiction?</i></p>  <p><b>AL-ANON</b> for families &amp; friends of alcoholics</p> <p>Meetings Mon &amp; Fri 6:30 PM 229 S. Stewart St. (left door) Azle www.al-anon.org azlesanctuaryafg@gmail.com</p>	 <h1 style="text-align: center;">CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS</h1>			
<p> <b>Texas Health</b> Harris Methodist Hospital® AZLE</p> <p><b>Volunteers Needed</b> TexasHealth.org/ Volunteer/Our-Process</p> <p><b>RAINBOW INN GIFT SHOP</b> Inside Hospital 108 Denver Trail Azle 817-444-8651</p> <p><b>ATTIC RERUNS</b> <b>NOW OPEN! FRI AND SAT 9-1</b> 714 SE Pkwy Azle 817-270-3690</p>	<p><b>Good N.E.W.S.</b> Living at Home Block Nurse Program</p> <p><b>Volunteer Caregiver Training Classes</b> Classes open to public at no charge</p> <p><b>Our Volunteers Make a Difference!</b></p> <p><b>Caregiver Volunteer Meeting</b> 1st Monday of Each Month at 6pm <b>817-444-2300</b> 412 Commerce St.</p>	<p><b>Rotary Club of Azle</b></p>  <p><b>MEETS AT NOON THURSDAY</b> 412 Commerce St. (across from Azle Post Office)</p>	<p><b>The Finish Line</b></p> <p> Addiction wants to destroy you &amp; everyone around you.</p> <p><i>With Jesus there is Victory over addiction.</i></p> <p><b>GET BACK IN THE RACE!</b></p> <p>Meetings held every Friday from 7:30PM-9:30PM at The Church at Azle 1801 S. Stewart • Azle • 817-401-8513 www.ourfinishline.com</p>	<p>Faced with a <b>DRINKING Problem?</b> <i>Perhaps Alcoholics Anonymous can HELP.</i></p>  <p><i>Daily meetings at Noon &amp; 6:30 pm Sunday at 3 pm</i></p> <p><b>229 S. Stewart St. • Azle</b> <b>817-332-3533</b></p>	<p><b>Azle Lion's Club</b></p>  <p>Meets 2nd TUESDAY 6:30 PM 412 Commerce, Azle Patti Tobkin - President azlelionsclub.com <b>817-994-0074</b></p>
<p> <b>AZLE AREA MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE</b> UNITED IN CHRIST</p> <p>Christian Leaders partnering together with one voice to impact our culture for Christ. We celebrate unity amidst diversity as we pastor our community.</p> <p><b>Luncheon meetings</b> 11:45 a.m. - 1 p.m. 2nd Tues of each month; location varies. See <a href="http://www.azlema.com">www.azlema.com</a> or email <a href="mailto:director@azlema.com">director@azlema.com</a> for additional information. <b>817-200-4611</b></p>	<p> <b>SERVOLUTION NETWORK</b> Let's build community together.</p> <p><b>LET'S START A COMMUNITY WIDE REVOLUTION THROUGH SERVING.</b></p> <p>Love God. Love People. Love Your City. Dream Center open 9-3 M-F</p> <p>11698 FM730 S. Azle <b>FOR QUESTIONS CALL:</b> <b>833-4WE-SERV</b> servolutionnetwork.com</p>	<p><b>CLUB or ORGANIZATION meeting?</b></p> <p><b>Only \$125</b> for 52 weeks of advertising</p> <p><b>Call for details:</b> <b>817-270-3340</b></p>	<p><b>Optimist Club of Azle</b></p>  <p>Meets every <b>FRIDAY at 6:45 AM</b> <b>Moe's Country Kitchen</b> 316 W. Main, Azle</p>	<p> <b>Azle Lodge No. 601</b></p> <p><b>Floor School or Work</b> <b>7:30 PM THURSDAY NIGHT</b></p> <p>Kenny Patrick- Worshipful Master Chris Akers - Secretary Clint Hall - Treasurer</p>	<p> <b>EAGLE MOUNTAIN PREGNANCY HELP CENTER</b></p> <p>10328 Jacksboro Hwy Fort Worth TX 76135 817-237-1819 <a href="http://www.emphc.org">www.emphc.org</a> Tues 9 - 3 PM • Thurs 12-6 PM <i>SE HABLA ESPAÑOL</i></p>



Azle Hornets girls wrestling team, top. Azle Hornets boys wrestling team, second from top. 11 Azle wrestlers (6 boys, 3 girls, 1 girl alternate, 1 boy alternate) will be at the Class 5A State Tournament at the Berry Center in Houston this weekend following their performance at the Region I Tournament in Lubbock.



Springtown Coach Sawyer Cooper celebrating a win.

## WRESTLE

FROM PAGE A1

114-pound weight class after having won the 120 division a year ago. She was 4-0 at the regional tournament.

Also returning to state for the Lady Hornets is Noah Kovach (31-1) in the 100-pound weight class after winning regionals.

Joining them will be Elly Yelle (43-2), who won the regional championship in the 165-pound class and was named the tournament's Most Outstanding Female Wrestler.

Kaylie Groot (35-14) narrowly missed joining them, finishing fifth in the girls 107

division. She is making the trip as an alternate.

Meanwhile, the boys posted the program's highest finish ever at regionals, taking second place. Tyler Yancey (44-3) and Roman Fraser (44-7) each won regional championships in the 132 and 215 weight classes, respectively. Chase Yancey (48-4), Landin Evans (38-6) and Devin Wingfield (26-3) were runners-up in the 138, 150 and 285 classes, respectively.

Eli Bryan (38-11) placed third in the 175 category and Wyatt Hicks (47-8) is an alternate at 144 after finishing fifth in the 144 division.

Chase Yancey finished third in the state last season in the 132 class. Also return-

ing to state are Evans, Bryan, Wingfield and Hicks.

"We had a record number of regional finalists and champions and had the highest boys team finish in school history. We are excited to continue to get better and chase our goals for one more week," Harrison said.

**SPRINGTOWN**

The Porcupines had three wrestlers compete at the 4A level in Lubbock this past weekend, though none advanced to state. Dominic Contreras split his four matches in the 138 weight class, while Daniel Wilson (144) and James Snyder (285) each won one of three matches.

## ROUNDUP

FROM PAGE A11

points

### AZLE BOYS BASKETBALL

The Hornets (9-22, 0-11 in District 5-5A) lost 79-54 at home to district champion Aledo Feb. 4 and 63-25 at Saginaw Chisholm Trail Feb. 7.

Vs. Aledo: Jayden Taylor 20 points, Cason Cook 16 points, Dominic Baxter 7 points

Vs. Chisholm Trail: Cason Cook 13 points

The Hornets were ending the season at home against Fossil Ridge at press time.

### AZLE GIRLS BASKETBALL

The Lady Hornets (6-25, 1-11 in District 5-5A) ended the season with a 45-23 home loss to Aledo Feb. 4. Azle was led by Abbey Natusch with 11 points.

### SPRINGTOWN BOYS BASKETBALL

The Porcupines (9-17, 6-7 in District 7-4A) saw their playoff hopes slip away with losses of 59-37 at home to Eagle Mountain Feb. 4 and 80-41 at Krum Feb. 7.

Vs. Eagle Mountain: Ethan Graham 18 points; Ayden Lugo 10 points; Dylan Crutchfield 7 points, six rebounds

Vs. Krum: Crutchfield 13 points; Grayson Brooks 10 points; Graham 6 points, five assists

The Porcupines were ending the season at home against Burkburnett at press time.

### SPRINGTOWN GIRLS BASKETBALL

The Lady Pines (12-17, 6-8 in District 7-4A) wrapped up the season by winning 76-15 at home against Eagle Mountain Feb. 4. Springtown was led by Esther Balado with 31 points, Brylynn Bazzell with 18, Kylie Russell scored 12 and Addy Burtnett tallied 11.

### LAKE WORTH BOYS BASKETBALL

The Bullfrogs (10-19, 0-13 in District 7-4A) lost another close contest, 60-57 at home to Castleberry Feb. 4. They

followed with a 80-41 loss to visiting Decatur Feb. 7.

Vs. Castleberry: Braylen Fridia 28 points, six rebounds; Ayden Brooks 12 points, nine rebounds; Ivan Sanchez 10 points

Vs. Decatur: Fridia 24 points; Brooks 14 points, nine rebounds; De'Jay Black 7 points; Ivan Sanchez 6 points, five rebounds

Lake Worth was concluding its season against visiting Eagle Mountain Feb. 11.

### LAKE WORTH GIRLS BASKETBALL

The Lady Frogs (17-14, 3-11 in District 7-4A) ended the season by winning 65-35 at home against Castleberry n Feb. 4. They were led by Jackie Cleveland with 29 points and eight rebounds, Aliyah Salas with 15 points, Kylah Nabors with 11 points and six steals and Cherysh Luiv with seven rebounds.

### AZLE BOYS SOCCER

The Hornets (1-9, 0-5 in District 5-5A) lost 5-0 at Brewer Feb. 7.

The Hornets were hosting Aledo at press time and have a 7:45 p.m. match at Saginaw Chisholm Trail Feb. 14.

### AZLE GIRLS SOCCER

The Lady Hornets (8-4-1, 3-2 in District 5-5A) fell in a shootout, 2-1, against visiting Brewer Feb. 7. Aly Licerio scored Azle's goal with an assist from Audrina Montoya.

Azle was playing at Aledo at press time and hosts Saginaw Chisholm Trail Feb. 14 at 7:30 p.m.

### SPRINGTOWN BOYS SOCCER

The Porcupines (3-6-1, 0-3 in District 8-4A) dropped a 9-0 contest at Lake Dallas Feb. 4 before returning home and falling 1-0 against Castleberry Feb. 7.

Springtown was playing in Grapevine against Collegiate Academy at press time. They host Lake Worth Feb. 18 at 5:30 p.m.

### SPRINGTOWN GIRLS SOCCER

The Lady Pines (7-4-2, 2-1 in District 8-4A) lost 5-0 at Lake Dallas Feb. 4 and won 2-1 in a shootout at home against Castleberry Feb. 7. Kylie Wiens scored

the regulation goal for Springtown, while Makayla Ballard had the game winner in the shootout. Also scoring shootout goals were Lily Duvall, Emma Hauprich, Wiens and Alea Stiles.

At press time, Springtown was playing at Collegiate Academy. Lake Worth comes to town Feb. 18 at 7:15 p.m.

### LAKE WORTH BOYS SOCCER

The Bullfrogs (4-8-1, 1-2 in District 8-4A) lost 1-0 at Castleberry Feb. 4 despite eight saves by goalkeeper Thomas Balokosiabi. On Feb. 7 they won 2-1 against visiting Collegiate Academy as Roman Mtambola scored a goal with an assist, Elie Mushiemi had a goal and Joel Osornia had an assist.

Eagle Mountain was playing at Lake Worth at press time before the Bullfrogs visit Springtown.

### LAKE WORTH GIRLS SOCCER

The Lady Frogs (8-3-1, 2-1 in District 8-4A) went to a shootout and won after ending regulation in a 1-1 tie at Castleberry Feb. 4. Yaretzi Salas had an unassisted goal in regulation and a shootout goal. Juliana Martinez also had a shootout goal, as did Jazmin Martinez with the game winner.

They then blanked Collegiate Academy 5-0 Feb. 7. Scoring goals were Jazmin Martinez with 2, Reanna Arellano, Miley Perez and Salas. Yihana Sandoval had a pair of assists and Salas added another.

The Lady Frogs were playing at Lake Worth before visiting Springtown.

### AZLE GIRLS POWERLIFTING

The Lady Hornets placed second as a team at the Boswell Meet recently.

97-pound division: 2. Ryan Hance, 3. Caydence Giancespro  
105: 2. Michelle Lechuga  
114: 3. Kimber Gray  
123: 1. Kellar Gunter, 3. Parker Neely  
132: 2. Brooklyn Debbs  
148: 1. Brooklynn Gibson, 2. Kenzie Arellano, 3. Madison Holleman  
165: 2. Liliana Rodriguez, 3. Ryann Baker  
181: 3. Emma Booten



The 200-medley relay featuring Mavis Caldentey, Nekoda Averitte, Sophia Roark, and Ava Dash placed 15th, clocking 2:36.29

# Texas Crossword

FEBRUARY 13, 2025

ACROSS

1 TXism: "mobile mouse" (cat)

5 TX George Strait's "Ace in the"

6 TX Strait's "All My Live in Texas" (var.)

7 TX Don Henley co-wrote "Take the Limit" (1975)

8 TXism: "gut" (liquor)

9 TX Bill Paxton was in this epic film about a 1912 disaster

16 close-fitting jeans

18 TX Cindy wrote this empty pages book: "Everything Men Women"

21 Lynda Bird Johnson wed this Robb (init.)

22 a cable car

23 state org. for nurses

24 beauty treatment

30 TXism for "observant" (hyph.)

34 birth state of TX Goodnight (abbr.)

35 TXism: "he's got more on his plate" can say

36 Texas-based "1 Imports Online"

37 give a speech

39 TXism: "busy" on

43 Texas pitcher, Ryan

44 TX Martha Hyer 1965 film: "of Katie Elder"

45 TXism: "want it bad I could spit"

46 benign skin growth

47 Texan who can vote

49 dictatorship

52 to fall asleep after a chicken fried steak meal, e.g.: off

53 Santa \_\_, Texas

54 what TX A.J. Foyt did

55 Tex Ritter: "America's Most Cowboy"

58 TX Willie 1986 film: "coach"

59 a color

60 make a mistake

61 corporate area in Irving: \_\_ Colinas

1 TX Willie album: "Tapes"

2 in Lamar County on FM 137 & 38

3 TXism: "so green he could hide in" patch" (rookie)

4 100 centavos in Mexico

9 TX Tom who won 1992 U.S. Open in golf (init.)

10 extra money paid for a loan

11 ripped up

12 TXism: "salt some" (save)

13 TX Audie Murphy 1959 film: "No the Bullet"

14 he wrote the songs in TX Ginger Rogers 1935 "Top Hat" (init.)

15 Alamo bed for Col. Jim Bowie

17 the Joaze traveled through Texas in "The Wrath"

19 single, uniform

20 natural skill

24 Worth (abbr.)

25 TX Dale Evans wrote "San Antonio"

26 toss a fishin' line

27 TXism: "active as a fox" house"

28 founder of Dallas Morning News (init. + last name)

29 rented

31 Eli Whitney invention: cotton modern light

33 TXism: "wet as a rat"

38 trust conserves Texas acres

40 giant mythical bird

41 an explosive

42 husband of Texas-born Dale Evans (2 wds.)

48 Texans in the Civil War

50 TX Buddy Holly's "On"

51 "in the hole"

56 singer with a powerful voice, Merman

57 George W.'s wife

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P-1728

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A portrait of Dr. Joseph McCreary, III, a man with glasses and a blue dental shirt, smiling.



# Congratulations Azle Hornets Wrestling!

Eleven Azle wrestlers (6 boys, 3 girls, 1 girl alternate, 1 boy alternate) will be at the Class 5A State Tournament at the Berry Center in Houston this weekend following their performance at the Region I Tournament in Lubbock this past weekend.

“Eleven Hornets headed to Houston!” said an excited coach Tyler Harrison. “Our coaching staff is incredibly proud of the way our kids competed this (past) weekend.”



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THURSDAY, February 13, 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  
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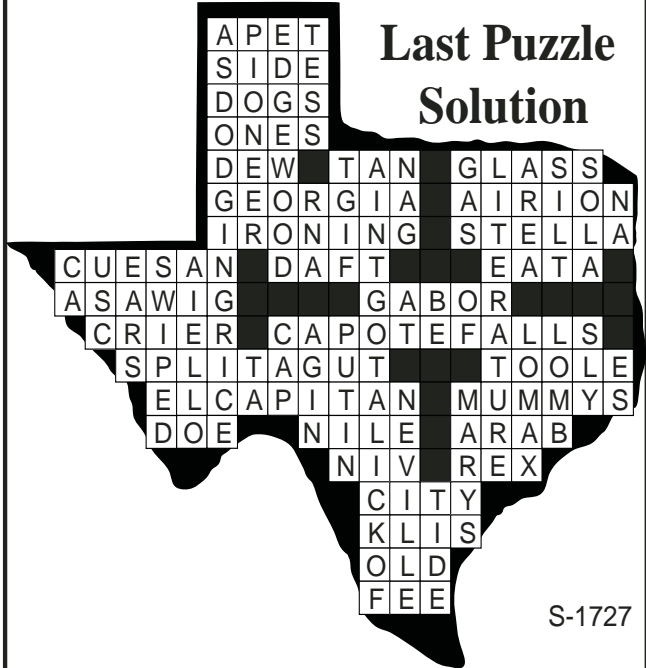
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MOUNTAIN

Lake

Thursday, February 13, 2025

PHOTO COURTESY HUNTER DAVIS

# TRWD law enforcement, EML fire partner to enhance public safety on Eagle Mountain Lake

JOLEE SKINNER  
jolee@tricityreporter.com

The Tarrant Regional Water District has significantly strengthened its emergency response capabilities on and around Eagle Mountain Lake this year through its partnership with the Eagle Mountain Fire Department. This collaboration is part of an initiative to enhance public safety in terms of the recreational areas on Eagle Mountain Lake, which are frequently visited by boaters and people who are fishing.

The TRWD Law Enforcement Division is led by Sgt. Rick Odom, who oversees security across 14 counties through the district's jurisdiction. Odom is also responsible for maintaining the safety of the district's vast water resources including dams and water facilities.

In addition to criminal investigations and patrol operations, one of the law enforcement team's top duties is responding to lake emergencies like boat accidents, medical emergencies and drownings.

Until recently, TRWD was the only agency equipped to handle these emergencies on the lake. Police officers, many trained as EMTs, responded to calls and provided medical aid plus they transport victims to ambulances. However, these emergency calls grew, especially during the summer season, and TRWD recognized the value of collaboration with the Eagle Mountain Fire Department to enhance response times. The new partnership brings big improvements to the lake.

"That obviously helped tremendously with the response

times," Odom said. "Because anything out in the lake, you're going to have delayed response from getting the ambulance to the marina and then getting the patient to the ambulance."

TRWD has donated to Eagle Mountain Fire Department a 24-foot center-console boat with emergency response tools, including a fire pump and transport capabilities. This investment helps with visibility on the lake.

"You want to be able to keep your eye on everything," Odom said. "While most people are out to have fun and we encourage people to come out and enjoy the lake, we want them to be safe about doing so."

Improving water rescues, the TRWD LED and the EMFD have incorporated cutting-edge technology into the boat like sonar.

Sonar systems help detect objects like sunken boats or missing people and provide evidence in boat accident investigations.

"We utilize sonar and then other methods of diagramming and investigating crimes," Odom said.

In addition to the technological upgrades, the TRWD LED and EMFD teams will engage in joint training exercises to improve coordination during emergencies. These rescue training scenarios, which focus on removing injured people from the water, will ensure first responders are prepared for unpredictable lake incidents.

"Everything on the water is more difficult," Odom said. "On the water, everything is moving. The training is more intense because you're work-



PHOTO COURTESY JAMIE STEPICH  
Kyle Stepich, 13, of Azle, spends an afternoon wakeboarding with his family on Eagle Mountain Lake.

PLEASE SEE **SAFETY** | B7

A close-up of a black lawn sprinkler head with a yellow top, spraying water in several directions. The background is a lush green lawn.

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The logo for the Tarrant Regional Water District (TRWD). It features the letters "trwd" in a stylized, lowercase font, with a blue wave-like graphic above the "d". To the right of the logo, the text "Tarrant Regional Water District" is written in a smaller font.

A scenic view of a lake at sunset. The sky is a mix of orange, red, and yellow. Bare trees are in the foreground, and a metal railing is visible. The water reflects the colors of the sky.

## Enjoy scenic views at Eagle Mountain Park.

The logo for the Tarrant Regional Water District (TRWD). It features the letters "trwd" in a stylized, lowercase font, with a blue wave-like graphic above the "d". Below the logo, the text "Tarrant Regional Water District" is written in a smaller font.

Enriching Communities. Improving the Quality of Life.

# TRWD’s Trash Bash: 30 years of keeping Texas water clean

**JOLEE SKINNER**  
jolee@tricountyreporter.com

For over three decades, the Tarrant Regional Water District has led one of the largest volunteer-driven environmental cleanups in North Texas called the “Trash Bash.” This biannual event brings in thousands of volunteers to remove litter from local lakes, rivers and reservoirs, aiming to help preserve the region’s waterways while creating community engagement.

The first Trash Bash event was in 1990 and focused on cleaning up the Trinity River and Eagle Mountain Lake. Over the years, it has expanded to fit all TRWD-managed waterways, including Lake Bridgeport, Marine Creek Lake and Richland-Chambers Reservoir.

The driving force behind

the Trash Bashes are coordinators Hermilo Munez and Robbie Tompkins.

Each year, TRWD hosts two sets of Trash Bash events, one in the spring and another in the fall. However, the Trinity River cleanup is held both in the spring and in the fall.

“The Trinity River, we do that one twice a year,” Munez said. “Because this is our largest service area. The Trinity River we get maybe annually over 10,000 volunteers total.”

Meanwhile, lake cleanups, like Eagle Mountain Lake and Lake Bridgeport, are purposefully scheduled in different seasons to increase community engagement across the district.

The Trash Bash has grown into more than just a cleanup effort — it has become a huge community tradition. Tompkins, who has been

involved for over 30 years, credits the event’s success to the dedicated volunteers.

“People tell their family and friends to come out,” Munez. “And, of course, it’s the ones that have done it for years and continue to do it as well.”

To encourage participation, TRWD employs a range of outreach strategies, including newspaper advertisements, billboards on highways, school flyers and online promotions. High school kids even play a significant role in the Trash Bash events.

“We get a lot of volunteers from Saginaw High School kids,” Tompkins said. “Those kids like to do it. It is a good opportunity for student groups and organizations to get their community service hours.”

After the big clean up, volunteers can interact with local fire and law enforcement



PHOTO COURTESY TRWD

Families gather to participate in the Tarrant Regional Water District Trash Bash.

departments and explore the watershed education trailer, which is a mobile trailer that educates the public about the watersheds and how to protect them. The after party is a celebration for all the volunteers’ hard work done that day.

A major part of the Trash Bash is the partnership with the Literati app. This app allows volunteers to document and categorize litter collected, providing data on the pollution patterns.

“This app is the future of cleanups,” Munez said. “Each person, through their phone, can now document litter data. We’ve started amassing data over a lot of litter that people pick up at all of our waterways. We’ve amassed litter data from over 52,000 individual’s litter pieces. We

try to publish that data and tell people here’s what you’ve helped pick up.”

TRWD tracks these numbers to assess the event’s impact and continuously upgrade its approach to the waterways.

Looking ahead, TRWD wants to increase volunteer turnout at new cleanup sites, particularly at Marine Creek Lake and Richland Chambers Reservoir. Beyond picking up trash, TRWD wants to create long-term environmental responsibility. Munez hopes this will increase the program’s environmental impact over the next five years.

“Something we like to preach about is we are stewards creating more stewards,” Munez said. “But not only are we trying to give these communities an op-

portunity to contribute to their neighborhoods. They use these waterways recreationally. It all comes back to benefit themselves. We’re hoping that they become not just stewards who are trying to help prevent litter wherever they live, but hopefully this also teaches, especially the younger generation, how to be a good public citizen.”

Whether you’re a student earning service hours, a family looking for a meaningful weekend activity or a resident invested in preserving local waterways, Trash Bash offers a way to make a difference.

To learn more about upcoming events and how to get involved, visit [www.trwd.com/trashbash/](http://www.trwd.com/trashbash/).

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# Building excellence

**ZACH FREEMAN**  
azlereporter@tricityreporter.com

In recent decades, Tarrant Regional Water District's Law Enforcement Division has grown and branched out, improving the agency's efficiency and ensuring the safety of local water resources, like Eagle Mountain Lake and those who use it.

Lt. Randall Cocke is one of the many dedicated public servants who have shaped the department into what it is today. While he retired from his full-time position in November, he remains a part-time employee to guide TRWD through its transition.

Randall began his employment with the district in 1995 as a general repair technician. By 2005, he had attended the Tarrant County College Police Officer Academy and transferred to the district's Law Enforcement Division as a patrol officer.

## Retiring TRWD lieutenant speaks on impact, future of law enforcement division

"My family were always in public safety," Cocke said. "I had a father and brother, both at Fort Worth Fire Department. My dad was a battalion chief there for almost 30 years, so it was kind of a natural fit just to move over into public safety. In my early days, it's not something I looked at, doing law enforcement, but once I got into it, it seemed like it was a great fit for me. It allowed me to help people and actually make a difference."

TRWD's Law Enforcement Division Chief David Geary said Cocke's leadership abilities and constant desire to improve facilitated his promotion to sergeant in 2009 and lieutenant by 2014.

"He was the driving force behind the scenes that trans-

formed the Law Enforcement Division into the highly regarded professional agency of today," Geary said. "His drive and thirst for knowledge coupled with his ability and demand for excellence not only created a great staff but the policies and procedures to support it. His leadership helped to build every aspect of what is now a fully functional multi-talented group dedicated to excellence and service."

Geary credits Cocke with the creation of its recovery dive team, the establishment of the TRWD Communication and Dispatch Center, integration of the computer-aided dispatch system and the implementation of emergency watercraft training.

Geary said, "his leadership ability, integrity and overall masterful skillset," were Cocke's greatest contributions to TRWD. "He set the bar for excellence."

In the past, Cocke said, TRWD was reliant on other agencies, groups and individuals to complete certain tasks and always behind the bell curve when it came to getting responses that it needed. Over the course of his career,

Cocke decided that if he couldn't get the results he wanted, it was better if his own agency could do these jobs itself.

"With anything, if you actually take ownership of a program, you get to actually benefit the most from it," Cocke said. "We were on the water all the time and if we had to wait on divers to make recoveries or look for evidence, we wait a half a day or a day, or maybe two days to get that accomplished. It's mission effective, really. So, we came up with the idea to just do it ourselves. It's the same with the dispatch center. That was probably one of my biggest goals before I retired, was to create a fully functioning communication center. We had services from other departments and you don't get full service if you don't own the program."

Cocke said seeing the communications center realized was one of his career's two biggest accomplishments. The center started from scratch and took years of planning to achieve. With his time at TRWD now coming to an end, Cocke said he feels secure in its future.



Randall Cocke

PHOTO COURTESY TRWD

"We hired a really good group of people," Cocke said. "It was time, and it felt right to hand the torch over. The people that came up, especially Vicki and Chris, are perfect for the job. They know what they're doing, which always helps and they're responsible, they're motivated. If I really, truly had to pick one of my best accomplishments, it's really not the programs that I started, it's the people that I hired and hopefully motivated and mentored."

One of the things that Cocke loved most about his job was getting to spend most of his days outdoors and having the freedom to explore and patrol such a

large jurisdiction by foot, bike, all-terrain-vehicle and boat. Once his part-time role is over, Cocke looks forward to being back outdoors, hunting, hiking and fishing.

Cocke stressed that he couldn't have done it without the 30 years of guidance and leadership from his chief.

"You don't see a lot of agencies that have chiefs that last as long as they do. If you look at any municipality, they go through chiefs every five or seven years and we've had one for close to 30 years now. You don't see that very often. So, it's a credit to David on being a good person first, and a great chief and a great friend."



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# TRWD Master Recreational Plan

JOLEE SKINNER  
jolee@tricountyreporter.com

The Tarrant Regional Water District is charting a new course for outdoor recreation with a first-ever Recreation Master Plan. Designed to enhance access to parks, trails and open spaces, the plan will balance recreation with TRWD’s mission of water supply and flood control. Lexi McCalip is the floodway and construction director at TRWD.

We really want to be a good steward of the property and the resources that we own by making it available to the public, so they feel safe to recreate there,” McCalip said. “That’s the general theme of the whole entire document.”

McCalip explained the master plan’s creation.

“The district decided we

wanted to have our first ever recreation master plan,” McCalip said. “This is the first one that we’ve ever done, although recreation has been a part of our mission for years.”

In the last year, TRWD created its recreational goals by holding 10 public meetings across Tarrant County, including sessions at Lighthouse Fellowship Church, Northwest Library and Azle City Hall. Additionally, an online survey gathered nearly 1,000 responses from residents.

“We had a lot of public input from there,” McCalip said. “This feedback helped shape the plan.”

The plan includes improvements to existing recreational sites like Eagle Mountain Park, Twin Points Park and Walnut Creek near Azle High School. The district also

manages a loop trail around Marine Creek Lake and plays a role in Fort Worth’s extensive Trinity River trails.

Because easily accessible trails have already been developed, the focus is now on improvements that need to be made to the trails. One major initiative includes lighted loop trails along the Trinity River, providing a safe, illuminated space for early morning and evening recreation. The district is also prioritizing trail stripping and improving signs to enhance pedestrian and cyclist safety in high-traffic zones.

Additionally, the district is pursuing a forestry grant to plant more trees and expand wildflower areas, that will enhance erosion control while maintaining responsible land stewardship.

The master plan outlines



Large mouth bass caught in Eagle Mountain Lake, out from Shady Grove park.

PHOTO COURTESY JULIE INCE



Family dog enjoying a day on Eagle Mountain Lake.

PHOTO COURTESY SARA DYGERT

short, mid and long-term projects with a three to five-year focus. Implementation depends on available funding and partnerships with local entities such as the City of Fort Worth, Tarrant County and the school districts.

“The big aspirational project would be developing the Walnut Creek property into a nature reserve area,” McCalip said. “That area is going to be hard to develop. We’ll have

to have significant partners with the city and the county, possibly even the school district.”

While some projects may have temporary trail closures or detours, the district will aim to minimize the disruptions.

“We always try to offer a detour of some sort to go around the construction while its happening,” McCalip said. “We try to work through

the progress and let people still have access around the site. But when it is under full construction, we can’t let the public in there when we have big heavy equipment.”

As funding becomes more available and partnerships are formed, residents can expect to see more state-of-the-art enhancements to the local parks and trails — giving the community better access to outdoor recreation.

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# “Pushing the envelope”

*Lt. Chris Akers speaks on continuing improvements in TRWD law enforcement*

**ZACH FREEMAN**  
azlereporter@tricityreporter.com

AZLE — Whether it’s man-aging clowns or cops, Lt. Chris Akers can do both.

He joined TRWD as a gener-al repairman 25 years ago at age 19 and moved around to several different roles. While working at its Fort Worth operations, Akers changed his career trajectory. Having some interest in the job, Akers got the opportunity to do a ride-along with then-patrolman Randall Cocke, who later become a lieutenant. Cocke officially retired in November 2024 but remains on a part-time basis to guide TRWD as it transitions.

“Throughout that, the teamwork, the camaraderie, which is really something we have throughout the district, I really fell into that.”

Akers put himself through college and the police acad-emy at night while working for the water district during the day and eventually he was qualified to join TRWD’s

Law Enforcement Division as a patrolman. Over the years, Akers worked his way up to sergeant where he was re-sponsible for a supervising a team that protects TRWD employees, infrastructure and resources, as well as supporting safe recreational activities.

“Our officers are widely trained in a lot of specific ar-eas, watercrafts and under-water investigations,” Akers said. “We’re always pushing that envelope so that we’re the experts to not only per-form, but also to help train and mentor other depart-ments throughout the state.”

As a certified public safety diver, he has also investi-gated underwater search and rescue calls and water fatali-ties. In addition to his thou-sands of hours of on-the-job training, Akers has continued his education by pursuing a bachelor’s degree in crimi-nal justice supervision at Tarleton University.

“I’ve always kind of been a, I would say (in) ‘air quotes,’

like a peacemaker growing up and stuff like that,” Akers said. “I never really had the whole strong ‘I want to be a cop’ thing but as I grew into the job I found that’s what I want. That’s what I am. They say if you do what you love, it won’t ever be work. This is the one job where it doesn’t feel like I’m going to work ev-ery day.”

With the November retire-ment of Cocke, Akers was promoted to lieutenant. Some of his new duties as lieu-tenant include maintaining TRWD’s budget, personnel and equipment. Akers said his biggest career goal is to continue the improvement and growth pushed by his predecessor.

“I have big shoes to fill,” Akers said. “I’ve worked alongside or under Randy for four years and watched him take his goals and what he hopes our department becomes. I want to continue that, the momentum that he pushed and seeing the growth and what we’ve done,



Tarrant Regional Water District Lt. Chris Akers

COURTESY PHOTO

and the professionalism and what we’ve become, I want that.”

Along with being one of the newest lieutenants at Tarrant Regional Water District, Akers also heads the clown unit for local Shriners hospi-tals, where he volunteers with his wife and kids. He said it is always extremely gratifying to see the immediate happi-ness and help that his work as “Kranky the Clown” can have for patients and their families. He has also vol-unteered at the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo, re-uniting lost children with their families and other secu-rity matters.

## TRWD Board of Directors for 2025



**James Hill**  
Vice President, Term 2021-2025

Mr. Hill was elected to the TRWD Board in 2017. Born and raised in Fort Worth, he is a graduate of the Business Honors Program at the University of Texas at Austin. In addition, he received his MBA in the Accelerated Program at TCU. A banking executive with significant experience in finance and real estate, Mr. Hill is also very active in the community. He and his wife have two kids and live in Fort Worth.



**Leah M. King**  
President, Term 2021-2025

Mrs. King joined the TRWD Board of Directors in 2017. She is currently the president and chief executive officer for United Way of Tarrant County. Mrs. King is very active in the community, and serves on many boards and committees throughout Fort Worth and Tarrant County. She is also a member of the Leadership Fort Worth 2010 and Leadership North Texas 2011 classes. She and her husband, Barry, have one son.



**Mary Kelleher**  
Secretary, Term 2021-2025

Mrs. Kelleher lives in east Fort Worth along the Trinity River where she and her husband, Larry Langston, operate a cattle ranch. She became interested in TRWD after their farm flooded from the Trinity River. Mary served on TRWD’s board from 2013 to 2017 and is passionate about water issues. Mary strives to provide citizens with information and insight into TRWD policies and business practices.



**Paxton Motheral**  
Term 2023-2027

Paxton Motheral was elected to the TRWD board in 2023. A Fort Worth native, he graduated from Trinity Valley School and earned a B.B.A. in Finance with an emphasis in Real Estate, as well as a B.S. in Ranch Management from Texas Christian University. He also attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology where he pursued a Master of Science in Real Estate Development. Mr. Motheral serves as Vice President of Cassco Development Co. He is also involved in many civic and real estate industry specific organizations including the boards of Streams & Valleys, the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo and the Sportsmen’s Club of Fort Worth. He is also actively involved in the Urban Land Institute and the Real Estate Council of Greater Fort Worth.



**C.B. Team**  
Term 2023-2027

C.B. is a 5th generation and lifelong Fort Worth resident. He is a Partner and Principal at Ellis & Tinsley, Inc. He holds both Texas and Colorado Real Estate Brokers Licenses. C.B. takes his profession a step further investing his time into community development. C.B. has volunteered as a Livestock Department Superintendent at the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo every winter and was appointed to its Board of Directors in 2021. He is a graduate of The University of Texas at Austin, serves on numerous local boards, and is a commercial-rated pilot. C.B. lives in Fort Worth with his wife and their two children.



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# In case of disaster, call Bailey

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

Tarrant Regional Water District's Law Enforcement Division Chief David Geary called 2025 a "new era of leadership and responsibilities." Among the new leaders of the agency's growing departments is Emergency Management and Security Operations Coordinator Lt. Victoria Bailey.

Formerly an Azle Police Department dispatcher and patrol officer, in June 2015 she was approached about working for TRWD as a patrol officer. Today she oversees her own team of dispatchers.

For most of her life, law enforcement has been close to Bailey's heart. Growing up, she was often near her father,

who was a police officer in a small Nevada town, while he was writing reports or training. She eagerly joined her high school's police work study program where she got a glimpse into the day-to-day duties of an officer.

After high school, she joined the United States Marines and then went to college to pursue criminal justice. When Bailey moved to Texas in 2006, she secured a job at Azle's 911 dispatch center for police, fire and EMS. The APD sent her to the police academy where she graduated in 2009. She then moved to the criminal investigation division and managed APD's community outreach program. At the time, Azle managed the dispatch services for TRWD, so Bailey came

to know the organization and its employees.

Under the leadership of Geary and Lt. Randall Cocke, TRWD began its own dispatch center in 2019. By that time, Bailey had risen through the ranks and was working on a master's degree in disaster management. She quickly became the most qualified and capable candidate to head up the new department as coordinator. On top of her responsibilities as a lieutenant, Bailey now heads a six-person dispatch team answering calls around the clock, serves on the security planning team and safety steering team.

"My career path is neat to reflect back on; day to day I don't recall any catalyst career moments, but I was clearly blessed with direc-

tional opportunities—I'm appreciative for sure! Of course I can't take credit for the TRWD Communications Center, inception was prior to my involvement—Lt Cocke, who your article is featuring, gets the accolades," Bailey said.

Bailey and her team serve as the bridge between TRWD other agencies, first responders and contractors. As part of her job duties, she's established the necessary relationships and planning to ensure that all parties can more quickly react and recover in the event of a major emergency. The department operates much like a 911 dispatch office, while also receiving and disseminating water district-related community concerns. During the city of Fort



PHOTO COURTESY TRWD

Tarrant Regional Water District Lt. Victoria Bailey

Worth's Fourth of July celebration, Bailey coordinates and trains local agencies in emergency response and how to handle the event's nearly 100,000 annual attendees. Bailey said her role requires constant flexibility with no two situations ever being exactly the same.

"Motivating others through mitigation efforts and training in scenario-based conver-

sation can be a bit cumbersome," Bailey said. "So, I get the most geeked-out when what would otherwise be a disastrous event ends up as merely unscheduled tasks for all involved... Because everyone did their preparedness part prior."

Outside of work, Bailey and her family enjoy the outdoors, beekeeping and traveling.



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# SAFETY

FROM PAGE B1

ing on a body of water. People don't realize how much harder it is."

Public education about lake safety is a key focus for the TRWD law enforcement division. Officers regularly visit schools and host water safety training sessions for local communities to reduce accidents and educate people about regulations. Officers also stress the importance of having the correct navigation lighting, as bright lights can confuse other boaters and create safety hazards.

"The trend that we see increasing is these boats are

coming from the factory with these LED dock lights on them and they are extremely bright," Odom said. "They are brighter than car headlights."

The TRWD regularly conducts safety inspections to ensure that boats comply with regulations. The overall goal is to create a safe environment for everyone using the lake.

With the partnership with TRWD LED and EMFD, the departments are poised to deliver a higher level of service to residents and visitors to Eagle Mountain Lake. The combined expertise of both agencies will ensure a quicker, more efficient response to emergencies.



Kayaking down Walnut Creek off Eagle Mountain Lake.

COURTESY PHOTO

# Hiles

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# Protecting Eagle Mountain Lake

JOLEE SKINNER  
jolee@tricountyreporter.com

Eagle Mountain Lake is a vital water source and a popular recreational area in North Texas, but it faces ongoing challenges due to stormwater runoff and sediment accumulation. The Integrated Stormwater Management (iSWM) program has taken an active role in advocating for the lake's protection. Created by the North Central Texas Council of Governments, this advocacy group works alongside municipalities and governments to implement the best management practices for stormwater control.

While it doesn't have direct jurisdiction over stormwater management, the orga-

## A collaborative approach to stormwater management

nization collaborates with cities that oversee these regulations. iSWM's focus is on developments near the lake that could significantly impact water quality due to stormwater runoff. Jennifer Owens is an environmental technician at the Tarrant Regional Water District and a spokesperson for the iSWM program.

"Our role is to really advocate for the lake and work in partnership with the cities that do have authority over stormwater control," Owens said.

One of iSWM's primary

roles is visiting sites after significant rainfall on the lake. iSWM personnel inspect developments like houses or businesses and assess the stormwater control measures. Then, the information is shared with the residing municipalities to ensure compliance with stormwater management regulations.

"We're not enforcing regulations, but we provide supplemental information to local authorities so they can take appropriate action," Owens said. "That's really what our effort is about."

A key concern of iSWM is

sediment runoff, which can reduce the lake's water storage capability and decrease the water quality.

"By keeping the sediment on site, keeping it from coming into the lake, by maintaining our water capacity, it keeps us from having to develop a new reservoir," Owens said.

To achieve this, iSWM encourages quality maintenance of stormwater control measures, such as sediment barriers and erosion control. This advocacy group also educates the public on these overlooked problems.

"Our watershed group does a lot for education," Owens said. "The more we can protect the water quality, that helps improve the function of the lake."

Public engagement is another important aspect of iSWM's efforts. The organization educates residents about stormwater management and addresses concerns in regard to new developments near the lake. iSWM emphasizes that stormwater infrastructure is designed to handle runoff from normal rain but could be overwhelmed during heavy rainstorms.


"That first inch-and-a-half of water that runs off the site is really the most critical in terms of the water quality coming off the site," Owens said. "It's an important thing for people to understand."

iSWM also supports green infrastructure initiatives, including permeable pavements and rain gardens. However, since participation

is voluntary, implementation depends on a developers' willingness to participate in these practices

"We have resources available for those interested and we encourage municipalities to incorporate these methods," Owens said.

As Eagle Mountain Lake continues to see rapid development, maintaining water quality remains a top priority. The ongoing collaboration between municipalities, developers and residents is helping to reduce stormwater impact. Looking ahead, iSWM is working on the Watershed Protection Plan which, if approved, could lead to more funding and initiatives to further protect Eagle Mountain Lake.



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Park Boundary



### EAGLE MOUNTAIN LAKE TRAILS

The trails at Eagle Mountain Park are some of the best you will find in North Texas. These trails aren't made for biking, but are instead for hiking, walking, and sometimes running. The Eagle Mountain Park trails are well maintained and are mostly between 5 and 10 feet wide. The trail system in this park is about 5 miles long with six distinct trails. Wildlife are abundant throughout the trail system. You will also find picnic tables, benches, water fountains, and sometimes restrooms.

You will also see some of the most beautiful views of Eagle Mountain Lake that you can find anywhere. The trails are open from sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset seven days a week and are completely free.

### RULES:

- Day Use Only—Gates close 30 minutes after sunset
  - No motorized vehicles off designated roadways
  - No campfires
- No dogs • No horses
  - No bicycles
  - No firearms, hunting or fireworks
  - No public consumption or display of alcoholic beverages
  - No littering—Carry out all trash





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