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Lady Hornets duo crowned state wrestling champs



Mariah Dillard captured the 114-pound championship in the Class 5A State Tournament at the Berry Center in Houston Feb. 14-15

PHOTOS COURTESY CHAPA PHOTOGRAPHY

RICK MAUCH
Special to the Tri-County Reporter

Mariah Dillard ended her career as an Azle Lady Hornet wrestler with back-to-back state championships and an 85-match win streak. She captured the 114-pound championship in the Class 5A State Tournament at the Berry Center in Houston Feb. 14-15.

And this season she can share that championship feeling with a teammate. Sophomore Noah Kovach captured the girls championship in the 100-pound division.

For the Hornets, brothers Chase Yancey, a junior, and freshman Tyler Yancey, finished as state runners-up in the 138 and 132 weight classes, respectively.

As a team, the Lady Hornets finished third with 71.5 points, behind Lubbock Cooper with 110.5 and Dumas with 80. It's the second straight season the Azle girls have brought home a trophy as they were state runners-up in 2024.

"State was an exciting

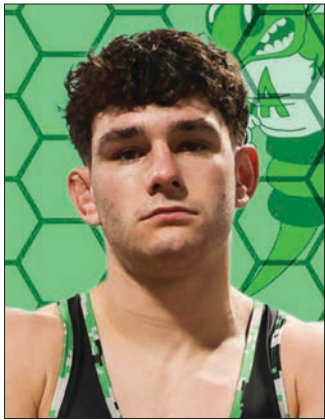
Brothers finish as runners-up for Hornets



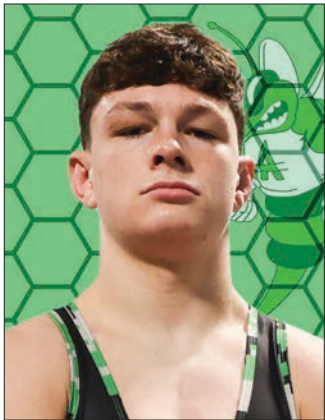
Mariah Dillard



Noah Kovach



Chase Yancey



Tyler Yancey

PLEASE SEE **STATE** | A8

Mike Kelley running for mayor of Springtown

JOLEE SKINNER
jolee@tricountyreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — Election season didn't just end in November but continues in the city of Springtown as the offices of mayor, city council Place 2 and city council Place 4 are up for reelection this

spring.

Back in January, current Springtown Mayor Greg Hood announced he will not seek reelection this year after serving in the office since 2018. With Hood's retirement, a newcomer to city politics has emerged seeking the mayor's office.

Longtime former Springtown Independent School District Superintendent Mike Kelley is throwing his hat into the race for mayor as he filed his application with the city Jan. 17.

Of his inspiration to run for the office, Kelley says his family's history of public service gave him the motivation.

"My dad was a school board trustee, his dad was a mayor and later county treasurer and generations further back include a state representative and a U.S. senator," Kelley said. "I was proud to read stories about what they accomplished, and I suppose that is part of my inspira-

tion to serve in this capacity. Although I am relatively new to Springtown (having only been here 26 years), my wife's side of the family has been part of this community for seven generations and that also influenced my decision to run for mayor here in Springtown."

But what makes Kelley stand out as a candidate? Kelley points to his experience leading organizations and wearing the different hats of many public roles is what sets him apart.

"As for what might sepa-

PLEASE SEE **KELLEY** | A8

LWISD to close Effie Morris Early Learning Academy and Tadpole Learning Center

JOLEE SKINNER
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LAKE WORTH — In an unexpected turn of events, the Lake Worth ISD board of trustees has decided to close Effie Morris Early Learning Academy and the Tadpole

Learning Center.

On Feb. 17, at a regular school board meeting, due to the LWISD's tightening financial situation, the board of trustees voted to close Effie Morris along with the daycare program, the Tadpole Learning Center.

LWISD Chief Financial Officer Trent Dowd showed to the board and the public a presentation showing the harsh reality of where the school district is financially. Exploring every financial

PLEASE SEE **CLOSE** | A7



The board voted 4-2 to close Effie Morris Early Learning Academy and the Tadpole Learning Center.

JOLEE SKINNER | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER



JOLEE SKINNER | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Springtown ISD Superintendent Shane Strickland announces to the public the \$98 million board approved bond package voters will have a chance to approve in May.

SISD trustees place \$98M bond proposal on May ballot

JOLEE SKINNER
jolee@tricountyreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — On Feb. 10, in a special board meeting, the Springtown ISD board

of trustees unanimously approved calling for a school bond election May 3.

The Springtown ISD Citizens' Facility Advisory Committee is made up of

58 community members in Springtown who met eight times in the past five months to evaluate the district's long-

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Springtown Legends Museum showcases first edition copies of Uncle Tom’s Cabin for Black History Month

JOLEE SKINNER
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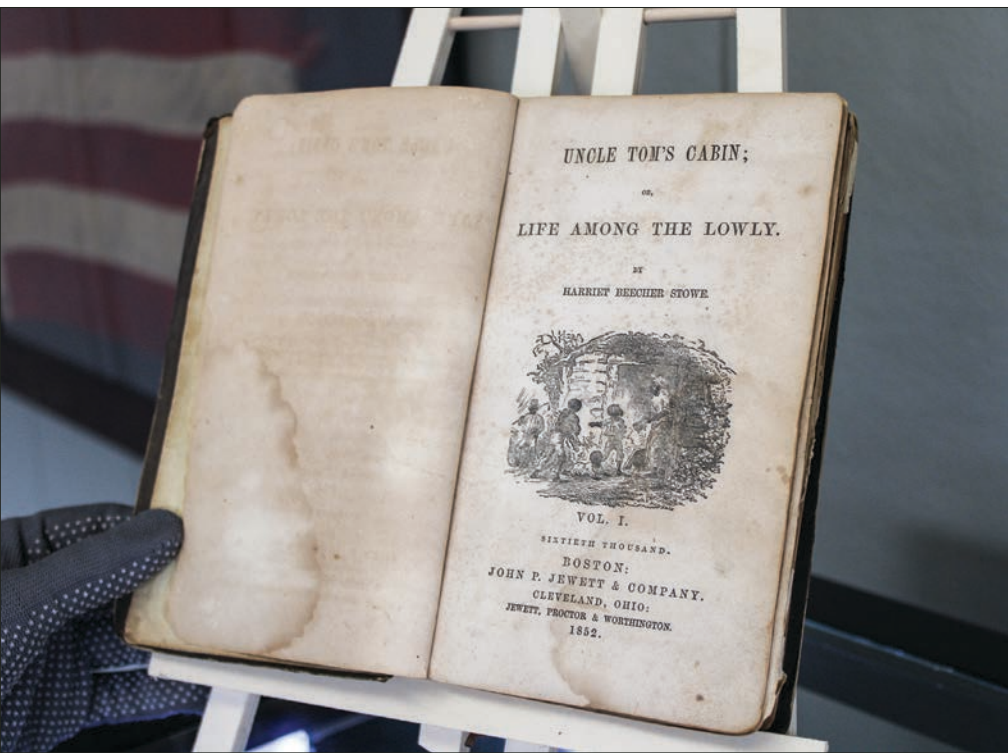
SPRINGTOWN — For Black History Month, the Springtown Legend’s Museum has on display two first edition copies of Uncle Tom’s Cabin from 1854. The famous book was first origi-

nally published in 1852. Museum Coordinator Amy Hedges received these copies from Ronald Steinfelds who had them in the Civil War Museum in White Settlement, which closed in October 2024. These books will be displayed in the back room of

the museum next to other Black History Month exhibits. Uncle Tom’s Cabin was written by Harriet Beecher Stowe, an author, abolitionist and advocate against slavery. The book is about a character named Uncle Tom, who was a long-suffering black slave and whom the other charac-



The picture found on page 238 states, “The fugitives are safe in a free land.”



The introduction of Uncle Tom’s Cabin.

ters’ stories revolve around. Stowe’s goal writing and publishing the book was to educate Americans on the horrors of what was happen-

ing in the South in terms of slavery. The book’s emotional portrayal of the horrific effects of slavery captured America’s attention and even

the attention of President Abraham Lincoln who said to Stowe, “So you are the little woman who wrote the book that started this great war.”

JOLEE SKINNER | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Boy, 11, with cancer treated to movie night by LW police, firefighters

JOLEE SKINNER
jolee@tricountyreporter.com

LAKE WORTH — On Monday Feb. 10, local Lake Worth boy, Nathan Torres, received a warm welcome from Lake Worth Police and Fire departments at the Texas Movie Bistro in Lake Worth. Torres’ whole family showed

up for the surprise and to see the movie with him. Torres’ mom, Emily Garcia, said this made her son feel so special. Torres saw the movie Dog Man that day. Torres is 11 years old and was diagnosed with bone cancer in 2024. He has undergone two operations to remove the cancer and his fami-

ly thought he was in the clear. Then around Thanksgiving, Torres’ scan showed that the cancer has moved to his lungs. Nathan and the school counselor came up with a bucket list which included a movie date with his family. “It made him feel shy, but it also made him feel special and he thought it was cool that he got to see the fire trucks and meet some of the people in the department,” Garcia said. “He wasn’t expecting all of that, he only knew he was going to the movies. It was kind of a surprise but when we came back home later that night, he expressed his feelings by saying he had so much fun at the movies and that he had a good day.” Garcia said because of her son’s cancer, his days can vary from day to day in terms of how he feels emotionally. “Some days are kind of hard, but I’ve noticed that keeping him busy when he has the energy helps him and hanging out with his friends from school or even just playing online with them on his PS5 helps,” Garcia said. “It doesn’t make him feel so isolated from the world even though that’s kind of what his life is now. But just like those good days, he also tends to question me if he’s going to be OK, or what will the doctors do if his cancer comes back in a different spot. I just do my best



School Resource Officer Jones initiated the information about Torres to the police department who set the surprise evening up.



Lake Worth Fire Chief Ryan Arthur bumps fists with Torres.

JOLEE SKINNER | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

to always remind him he’ll be OK and the doctors are very smart. Those conversations seem to help him out.” Garcia offered some words of encouragement to parents who have kids going through childhood cancer. “My advice to other parents going through the same thing would be to just enjoy what you can,” Garcia said. “Life is unpredictable, and you never know what the next day will bring. Enjoy your time with your baby, soak up all the smiles and laughs, even all the cries because at some

point we won’t have that anymore. All the feelings we feel are normal and valid and it’s OK to cry, but for the most part if we can stay strong as parents, it helps the little ones. It makes them feel like they shouldn’t have to be scared or worried about doctors’ visits. In my household, we take it one day at a time and sometimes that’s even hard to do, but it works.” Lake Worth Police Chief J.T. Manoushagian said the department learned Torres’ story through an SRO and the welcoming was an honor for

them to participate in. “We learned about Nathan’s story from one of our school resource officers, which highlights the important role police officers play in the lives of our students and their families,” Manoushagian said. “Being able to play a small part in a special day for Nathan and his family was a tremendous honor for all of us. I pray that a day at the movies is one of many memories this family will make with their precious son in the coming weeks.”

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The thoughts of a common-sense taxpayer and citizen

The Texas legislature is back in session. Heaven save us from the political rigmarole they seem to have planned for us citizens. The Texas legislature only meets every other year. No telling what havoc they could create if they met annually. Every other year is bad enough.

This past week I went to see my friend Waldo Beenthinkingaboutit. Waldo lives up on the Red River in the tiny hamlet of Marysville. A hundred years ago, Marysville was a thriving community of a couple of hundred people, but now it is just a wide spot in the road with less than 15 residents and no businesses. My friend seems to like it that way. He doesn't have a bunch of neighbors to distract or disturb him and there is no cable tv or internet. His news comes from the newspaper, which gets delivered once a week by mail, and from the radio; Waldo likes listening to the radio when he is in the barn working.

My friend lives the simple life, hunting and fishing, raising his cattle, and minding his own business. Maybe it is his isolation from the rest of



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

the populace which allows him to have his unique perspective of the world.

We brought along a few libations and headed to the riverbank of the mighty Red, looking forward to fishing and congenial conversation. Enjoying our beverages, we waited for the fish to bite. It was in those minutes of quiet respite that Waldo made quite a revelation. "Sam," he said, "I think I am going to be able to stop working and running my cattle. Life is going to be easy from now on." My attention was immediately captured. Had my friend decided to retire, or had he hit the lottery? This is when he began to explain.

"I have been listening to all the plans the governor and legislature have for these vouchers. I think they really have a good idea, letting folks make their own choice about where their tax dollars

should go. After all, we are living in a democracy, and we taxpayers should decide what happens to the money. I understand if legislation gets passed, and it surely looks like it will, a family can get up to \$11,500 per student to send their kid to private school."

I nodded my head as my friend spoke and then asked, "What does this all have to do with you and your thinking you are going to stop raising cattle and working?" This is when Waldo began to espouse his interpretation of the legislative goings on and what it would mean to him.

"I have been thinking. I live on 320 acres and have for a whole lot of years. After hearing the governor and his followers explain about this voucher thing, it got me to thinking how right he is. We folks ought to have a say in where our tax dollars go.

So, I did a little investigating and learned what Texas spends on highways, roads and bridges. It is a right tidy sum. Then I realized I do most of my traveling on horseback going from pasture to pasture. I never travel further than Gainesville to get my groceries and when I do travel it is on a county road. I pay my county taxes which pays for the county road, and I have no problem with that at all, but I never use the Interstate or the state highways. Since I won't be using those roads, it should be my choice to spend my portion of the money which gets spent on them and have it sent to me to do as I choose. I may use it to fix the roads on the ranch, or I might not. I stand with the governor: my portion of the expenditure should come to me to do with it as I wish."

"Similarly, Texas spends a lot of money on universities and higher education. Heck I never went to college and never will go. I will take my share of that expenditure and put it in the bank. Then there is public safety. I live out in the middle of nowhere. All the protection I need is my

Colt pistol. I should be able to recapture my portion of that expenditure, too. Heck, I have made a list of things the state does, that I either don't use, or would rather not use, and I figure my portion to be right at \$39,000 a year! It adds up pretty quick! With my social security I can retire on that amount! I am sending a letter to the governor and asking him to send me my check as soon as possible."

I looked at my friend and asked him if he really thought the governor would be sending him a check simply because he unilaterally decided he would like to have the money rather than having it spent in furtherance of the public good. He looked at me and smiled and said, "No, that wouldn't make any sense at all. That is not how the system works or how it has worked since our country started. But what I am saying makes about as much sense as giving people \$11,500 because they don't want their kids in public schools. I can't tell you for sure the motivation for this even being a consideration, but it makes about as much sense as sending me a check for \$39,000 a

year. Heck if we have \$11,500 to spend on anyone who wants their kids to go to private school, why don't we put that money into the public schools and make them better? The governor and his supporters all say this voucher thing is a big issue in the eyes of the voters. It looks to me like it is only a big issue in the eyes of a few wealthy people, and their money and political contributions are what have made the topic an "issue."

Later that day, as I waved good-bye, Waldo looked at me, smiled and winked and told me he would let me know if he started receiving his check from Gov. Abbott.

Waldo didn't go to private school. Despite that, it seems to me like he got a pretty darn good education and has a solid head on his shoulders. Guess that is why I call him my friend.

Thought for the day: Common sense is something everyone needs, few have, and none think they lack.

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

Mort and the rumor mill...

Uncle Mort doesn't own a smartphone, and only recently found a well-worn flip phone for \$10 on eBay. Neither does my ancient uncle own a computer, claiming he'd never remember where the off/on switch is, or how to use it should the screen magically light.

Still, he claims to be a "follower of social media," but his sources are second-hand at best, and often third, fourth and fifth, be they fact, fiction or fantasy. One of his "sources" is the guy who delivers bread to the general store a few miles up the lane from his spread in the thick-et. The man usually drops off more than bread.

He is full of rumors, jokes and stories, leaving smiles — and sometimes thigh-slapping laughter — in his wake. The other day, he asked, "Do



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

you know what I 'herd'?" ... "A small HERD of cattle and a few goats and sheep." ...

Recently, Mort and his buddies jumped to attention when the breadman mentioned that a friend of his second cousin (on his dad's side) lives in New York City, where his wife works daily in Manhattan. (Mort always clarifies with "where them tallest buildings are.")

She swears she saw President Donald Trump and his sidekick ("almost-equal-kick") entering the CBS president's office. (She admits

the pair may have been AI versions of the president and of Elon Musk.) Anyways, she thinks she heard President Trump campaigning to get the name of a popular weekly TV program changed from Face the Nation to The Nation Faces Me. And Musk was promoting the Big Dipper and the Little Dipper to become our 52nd and 53rd states, assuming Canada will become number 51.

That sounded "about right" to Mort, who spent the rest of the day informing others of the Trump-Musk sightings ...

All the agency shake-ups in DeeCee remind a longtime friend, John Nickols, of his brief tenure almost 50 years ago when he and another Quantico-trained FBI rookie were agents in the Albuquerque, New Mexico, field office. Well-armed and well-trained, the pair received word about a federal fugitive believed to be holed up in Ruidoso, New Mexico, where he had formerly lived and his family still resided. So, they headed for Ruidoso in hot pursuit, finding nary a fugitive after disturbing both nooks and crannies. After all, they reasoned, the "tip" came from a usually reliable FBI source. Whatever, it was a pretty lousy way to spend Christmas Eve.

Later, the "source" admitted innocently sharing flawed information. The fugitive

was in Reynosa, Mexico, NOT Ruidoso. Soon, the fugitive was arrested by other agents. "Many people had goose for Christmas," Nickols remembers. "My partner and I had a wild goose chase." Cool Hand Luke would have said there was a definite failure to communicate.

An avowed Christian, he spent most of his career as a highly successful high school and college basketball coach and as a respected university teacher. He was a pacesetter in everything, except perhaps as a guitarist, where maybe "hobby" is a better fit. However, he befits the description "Bum" Phillips, longtime Houston Oiler Coach, once offered when asked if star running back Earl Campbell was in a class by himself. "If he's not," Bum drawled, "It don't take long to

call the roll." ...

In this space two weeks ago, I wrote about the recent collision of aircrafts resulting in their crashing into the Potomac River. In the five paragraphs reflecting on earlier crashes involving Braniff International, I relied on memory for details, and failed miserably, perhaps committing more "goofs" than any other in my 22 years of weekly meanderings.

I erred in several references to Braniff, and persons who want to learn accurate details of this airline's remarkable history may Google "Braniff Airways Foundation."

The foundation allows Braniff's rich heritage to live into perpetuity. I am sincerely sorry for my mistakes — all of them of the head and not the heart — and offer deepest apologies ...

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Azle's FeedLot set to reopen April 5

ZACH FREEMAN
azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

AZLE — The Azle Farmers Market and FeedLot food truck park is preparing for its second-ever season, scheduled to start Saturday, April 5.

At a Feb. 4 meeting, the Azle City Council discussed possible future improvements and developments for the park. Since closing for the winter, an old building has been demolished making more room for the site's driveway and greater visibility of the parking lot

Council speaks on possible improvements to food truck park

from Church Street. The building was formerly used as an office space by the First Methodist Church and was acquired by the city along with the FeedLot property. Before its demolition, it was used for training by the police and fire departments.

In this newly opened space, the city has constructed an additional driveway for ingress and egress from the

parking lot. One previous observation made by council members and staff was that the parking lot was often underutilized due to its lack of visibility from the street. Many patrons would instead park on the side of Church Street or in the FMC parking lot. Community and marketing specialist Kristen Pegues indicated the city will be adding a sidewalk, allowing people to more easily get to vendors without trekking through mud or dirt. The parking lot itself is likely to be expanded to create a foundation for a hydroponic shipping container freight farm that is scheduled to be added to the FeedLot. Azle Public Services Director Rick White and other city staff have playfully dubbed this upcoming addition, "The Lettuce Shack."

Pegues also told the council that the city could move the FeedLot's restroom trailers to the now-empty corner of the property, allowing for additional food truck spaces complete with preexisting water and electricity hookups.

Pegues discussed another possible improvement — the addition of a large shade structure to provide better shelter from sun and rain to diners and shoppers at



The new FeedLot driveway exit seen from near Church Street.



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER
The new FeedLot driveway exit seen from the parking lot.

the FeedLot. An opportunity arose for Pegues to meet with an individual specializing in the construction of these structures after a shade structure at Azle Central Park collapsed due to January snowfall. The total area covered would be about 52 by 88 feet, roughly the size of Shady Grove Park's largest shaded area. Due to the high cost of this kind of structure, an estimated \$80,000 to \$100,000, Pegues suggested building the structure in phases, covering half the FeedLot to start with.

"These shades, while they're very sturdy and durable, they're also very expensive for that reason," Pegues said. "So, (the builder) suggested maybe phasing was the way to go."

Mayor Alan Brundrett suggested using local business to construct a high metal roof instead. Council members noted it would match the style of the stage. City Manager Tom Muir and White said bidding requirements and state laws may complicate this process.

The council suggested also

adding a long bench and picnic tables for additional seating. Pegues announced that Community Waste Disposal offered to sponsor the FeedLot in putting up speakers for its musical performances in exchange for on-site audio advertisements. The council has advocated adding speakers since the FeedLot's inception.

Muir said some of these projects wouldn't likely be ready by the FeedLot's spring opening, but would instead be decided on and implemented later in the future.

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Miller provides updates at Springtown business luncheon



JOLEE SKINNER | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER
Springtown City Administrator David Miller speaks to business owners and citizens with all the latest news and updates within Springtown.

JOLEE SKINNER
jolee@tricityreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — On Monday, Feb. 10, the city of Springtown hosted its annual business luncheon which gives business owners and citizens a chance to network and hear all the latest Springtown news. Springtown City Administrator David Miller led the meeting and gave some updates the city will be implementing in the next few months.

FARMERS MARKET

The first big update Miller gave is the Springtown Farmer's Market will be opening back up in mid-spring. "We will be bringing back the farmer's market to the square so different vendors will be able to come in and market their goods," Miller said.

CITIZENS ACADEMY

The City of Springtown will host an eight-week class that will inform citizens about how the city government works. "We're going to cover all the bases of city government, what goes into the city budget, how your tax dollars work, how your sales taxes work, we are going to do all that," Miller said. "It's going to serve as good education for those who would consider getting on our planning and zoning commission or city council in the future."

ONLINE COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Miller also announced that the city is currently building an online community calendar that will be on the city's website. This will keep citizens informed on Springtown activities, events and schedules across the area. "You'll be able to click online and see everything going on in the city at the time it's going on," Miller said. "Monthly newsletters will have schedules about upcoming events. The next one comes out on the 15th of this month."

PLAYGROUND UPDATES

Cartwright Pavilion has new shade covers for the summer-time. The city also put brand new mulch on the ground. Miller announced that new public restrooms will be built by Newby Pavilion, which will help with events. Miller said the city is working with a local youth sports organization to renovate the baseball fields.

AVENUE A AND HILLTOP DRIVE UPDATES

Miller informed residents the city will soon begin rebuilding the subgrade on Avenue A from Second St. northward in order to install new sewer and water pipe. Then the city will repave Avenue A all the way to Ninth Street. Miller said work will be performed on one side of the roadway at a time to get

traffic in and out. Hilltop Drive is undergoing the same renovations from State Highway 199 to the police station. Miller said the reason for this construction is the city had some extra funds to allocate which led to the decision to repave city streets. "We are working really hard to improve our streets and to get them to where they can be driven on without hitting a whole lot of difficulties," Miller said.

WATER PLANT IMPROVEMENTS

Miller announced that Springtown was awarded \$8 million for water treatment improvements. "It's about a 26-month process but we are going to be adding more pumps, more treatment capacity," Miller said. "By doing all of that it's going to increase our capacity for water by 50%. It will take us from a million to a million-and-a-half gallons a day." Another grant the city applied for is a \$6.2 million grant from the Texas Water Development Board to replace a great deal of Springtown's water transmission line from the booster pump station which is just outside of Reno. The city will announce if Springtown has received this grant in the near future. For updates and information on Springtown, visit the www.cityofspringtown.com

Woman, 65, struck and killed by vehicle on SH 199

JOLEE SKINNER
jolee@tricityreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — A 65-year-old female pedestrian standing in the eastbound lanes of State Highway 199 was struck and killed by a vehicle Sunday night, Feb. 16, according to the Department of Public

Safety. Emergency responders located the woman's body lying in the eastbound lanes of SH 199. The pedestrian was identified by the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office as 65-year-old Renee Gonzalez of Springtown; she was pro-

nounced dead at the scene. The driver of the 2017 Honda Accord was identified as an 18-year-old Azle woman who remained at the scene and cooperated with investigators. The accident was investigated by Parker County DPS Trooper N. Morgan.

LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICES

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.

Notice of Public Sale pursuant to Chapter 59 of Texas property code to satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale to be held at Springtown Self Storage at 1050 W Hwy 199; Springtown, TX 76082 on storageauctions.coms starting on, February 21, 2025 at 9:00am CST and ending on March 4, 2025 at 10am CST. Cleanup deposit is required. The seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale. Unit items sold to the highest bidder. Property includes the contents of spaces of the following tenant and is primarily household items and furniture. David L Wall Codie Tauberschmidt Kerry Watkins

NOTICE TO BIDDERS SEALED PROPOSALS addressed to the City Council of the City of Springtown, Texas will be received at the City Hall Annex, 200 N. Main Street, Springtown, Texas 76082, until 3:00 PM on Thursday, March 13, 2025 for the purpose of furnishing all plant, labor, materials and equipment and the performing of all work required in the **SANITARY SEWER IMPROVEMENTS** and other improvements incidental thereto, at which time and place the proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud in the City Hall Annex and retained by the city for tabulation, checking and evaluation. **BIDS** shall be submitted in sealed envelopes upon the blank Bid Form in the Contract Documents booklet. The entire Contract Documents' booklet must be returned in a sealed envelope with the following forms filled out and signed: Bid Form, Disadvantaged Business Enterprises Form, Conflict of Interest Questionnaire, Local Government Officer Conflicts Disclosure Statement, Vendor Compliance to State Law form, Contractor Compliance to Texas Sales Tax Code form. The Bid Bond for five (5%) percent of the total bid must be included in the sealed envelope with the bid. The sealed envelope shall be marked **SANITARY SEWER IMPROVEMENTS - DO NOT OPEN UNTIL 3:00 PM on Thursday, March 13, 2025.** A non-mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at 3:00 PM on Thursday, March 6, 2025 at the City Hall Annex, 200 N. Main Street. Representatives of the Owner and Engineer will be present to discuss the project and answer any questions. The Engineer will distribute to prospective bidders of record such Addenda, as the Engineer considers necessary in response to discussions or inquiries arising at the conference. **PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS** and contract documents may be examined and obtained without charge at the Springtown City Hall, 102 E. Second Street, Springtown, TX 76082. No hard copies of the Bidding Documents will be made available at City Hall. It is the responsibility of the interested party to print the Bidding Documents. Neither the Owner nor the Engineer will be responsible for full or partial sets of Bidding Documents, including any addenda, obtained from other sources. Each Bid must be submitted on the prescribed Bid Form and accompanied by Bid security as prescribed in the Instructions to Bidders. The Successful Bidder will be required to furnish the additional bond(s) prescribed in the Bidding Documents. In case of ambiguity or lack of clearness in stating proposal prices, the Owner reserves the right to adopt the most advantageous construction thereof, or to reject any or all bids. No bid may be withdrawn within forty-five (45) days after date on which bids are opened. **CITY OF SPRINGTOWN, TEXAS**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE Pursuit to Chapter 59, Texas Property Code, TSD Storage, 1350 Liberty School Rd., Pelican Bay, TX. 76020 is holding a Public Property Sale to satisfy a Landlord's Lien **LEGALLY BELONGING TO: Robert Tanis.** General Description of Property: Misc. Boxes and Items. The Sale will be held online beginning on March 7. 2025 at storageauctions.com. Terms are Cash at time of sale.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **DOLPHUS CLAUDE BERRY**, Deceased, were issued on February 12, 2025 in Cause No: 24P433, pending in the County Court-at-Law of Parker County, Texas, to: Jon William Berry. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. c/o: Jon William Berry 3809 Wosley Dr Fort Worth, Texas 76133 DATED the 13th day of February, 2025. Michele Audet Attorney for Jon William Berry State Bar No.: 00792338 918 S. Main St. Weatherford, TX 76107 Telephone: 817-341-0088 Fax: 817-341-0090 Email micheleaudet@sbcglobal.net

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **WILLIAM L. MCDONALD, JR.** Deceased, were issued on February 12, 2025 in Cause No 25P035 pending in the County Court of Parker County, Texas to: **WILLIAM CAMERON MCDONALD.** The address of the Resident Agent to accept service of process is in Parker County, Texas, and the name of the Resident Agent and the post office address are: Soraya Joslin Attorney At Law 208 N. Main Street #130 Weatherford, Texas 76086. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

CITY OF LAKE WORTH NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT VARIANCE REQUEST CASE #BOA-2025-01 The Board of Adjustment of the City of Lake Worth, Texas, will conduct a public hearing at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 4, 2025, at the Lake Worth City Council Chambers, 3805 Adam Grubb, Lake Worth, Texas 76135 to hear public comment and consider a variance of the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance, Article 14.05 Zoning Districts, Section 14.05.002 SF-7.5- Single Family 7.5, (c) Height and area regulations, (6) Rear yard. There shall be a rear yard having a depth of not less than (10 ft.) and (7) Side yard. There shall be a minimum side yard of five feet (5 ft.) on side yards adjacent to interior lots to allow an existing accessory structure which sits 3.0' feet from the rear property line and 2.7' feet from the side property line, an existing primary structure which sits 2.9' feet from the rear property line and a trash enclosure which will sit 3.2' feet from the rear property line on a 0.922-acre tract of land known as Abstract 188, Tract 2FF01, 2FF02, 2RRRR, and 2WW, John Breeding Survey of the records of Tarrant County, Texas, which is commonly described as 4300 Williams Spring Rd., Lake Worth, Texas. All interested parties are encouraged to attend.

CITY OF LAKE WORTH NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION AND CITY COUNCIL PRELIMINARY PLAT REQUEST PLANNING & ZONING CASE #PZ-2025-06 The Planning and Zoning Commission of the City of Lake Worth, Texas, will conduct the first of two public hearings at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at Lake Worth City Council Chambers, 3805 Adam Grubb, Lake Worth, Texas 76135 to hear public comment and consider recommendations to the City Council regarding a proposed preliminary plat being all of approximately 1.109-acres of land described as Abstract 189, Tracts 30 and 102, N B Breeding Survey and more commonly described as 7007 Clark Dr and 4517 Williams Spring Rd, Lake Worth, Texas. The proposed preliminary plat's new legal description will be Block 1, Lots 1 and 2, Lily Addition, Lake Worth, Texas and be commonly described as 7007 Clark Dr (Lot 1) and 4517 Williams Spring Rd (Lot 2). The City Council will conduct a second Public Hearing at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at Lake Worth City Council Chambers, 3805 Adam Grubb, Lake Worth, Texas 76135 to hear public comment and consider a proposed preliminary plat being all of approximately 1.109-acres of land described as Abstract 189, Tracts 30 and 102, N B Breeding Survey and more commonly described as 7007 Clark Dr (Lot 1) and 4517 Williams Spring Rd (Lot 2). All interested parties are encouraged to attend.

CITY OF LAKE WORTH NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION AND CITY COUNCIL FINAL PLAT REQUEST PLANNING & ZONING CASE #PZ-2025-07

The Planning and Zoning Commission of the City of Lake Worth, Texas, will conduct the first of two public hearings at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at Lake Worth City Council Chambers, 3805 Adam Grubb, Lake Worth, Texas 76135 to hear public comment and consider recommendations to the City Council regarding a proposed final plat being all of approximately 1.109-acres of land described as Abstract 189, Tracts 30 and 102, N B Breeding Survey and more commonly described as 7007 Clark Dr and 4517 Williams Spring Rd, Lake Worth, Texas. The proposed final plat's new legal description will be Block 1, Lots 1 and 2, Lily Addition, Lake Worth, Texas and be commonly described as 7007 Clark Dr (Lot 1) and 4517 Williams Spring Rd (Lot 2). The City Council will conduct a second Public Hearing at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at Lake Worth City Council Chambers, 3805 Adam Grubb, Lake Worth, Texas 76135 to hear public comment and consider a proposed final plat being all of approximately 1.109-acres of land described as Abstract 189, Tracts 30 and 102, N B Breeding Survey and more commonly described as 7007 Clark Dr and 4517 Williams Spring Rd, Lake Worth, Texas. The proposed final plat's new legal description will be Block 1, Lots 1 and 2, Lily Addition, Lake Worth, Texas and be commonly described as 7007 Clark Dr (Lot 1) and 4517 Williams Spring Rd (Lot 2). All interested parties are encouraged to attend.

Tri-County Reporter to close at month's end

Hyde Media Group has announced its decision to close the Tri-County Reporter. The final issue of the newspaper will be published Thursday, Feb. 27, 2025.

The Tri-County Reporter and its predecessor papers, The Azle News and The Springtown Epigraph, have a long history of reporting the news — including extensive coverage of the seven cities and four school districts in its coverage area, along with the arts, community organizations, infrastructure, recreation, and feature stories about the many interesting people in our communities — in the Springtown, Azle, and most recently, Lake Worth areas.

Unfortunately, business issues facing newspapers nationwide have also affected the Tri-County Reporter. Changes in readership habits, rising costs and stiff competition for advertising dollars no longer allow the paper to operate in a profitable manner.

Subscribers who wish to receive a refund for the unused portion of their subscription may email classified@tricityreporter.com and a refund will be issued within 30 days.

Thank you for allowing Hyde Media Group to be a part of your community for the last four years.

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

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Never too late to learn

Oldest graduate's experience with Hornet Academy and his life beforehand

NOVA WANG

Nova Wang is a journalism student at Azle High School who participates in a practicum program hosted by the Tri-County Reporter.

AZLE — Starting in spring of 2008, Azle ISD's Hornet Academy began its program for students of all backgrounds, from high school students who want to transfer, to students who were unable to finish high school. As students from the Hornet Academy come from various stages of life, they have different experiences with the program and how they operate.

Robin Hamm, the oldest graduate of the Hornet Academy to date, recounts his experience during the program before gaining his diploma in 2023.

"(Hornet Academy) was a good experience. You work at your own pace and call for the teacher if you needed

help," Hamm said. "The program teaches all the subjects that I learned from when I went to school and some that I didn't finish."

When joining the program at the academy, there is a possible restriction for who can do their assignments off and on campus.

"I think there's an age limit for on-campus; they have on-campus and you've got to be, I think between 20-25 to be allowed to go to the campus," Hamm said. "After those ages then you do it online at home."

Before his journey at Hornet Academy, Hamm served in the military for a long duration.

"I was in the Navy and did civilian housing construction for seven years and then I got into the housing side in 2000 where I then became facility manager for the base housing," Hamm said. "Then I lost my job and decided to retire

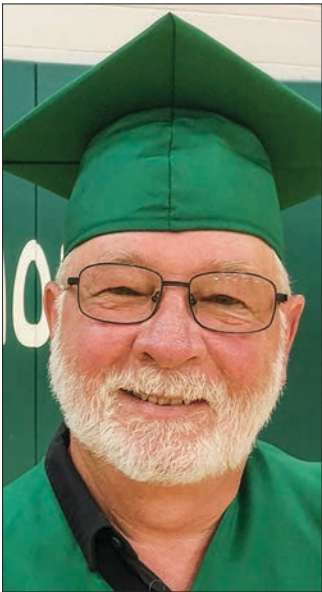


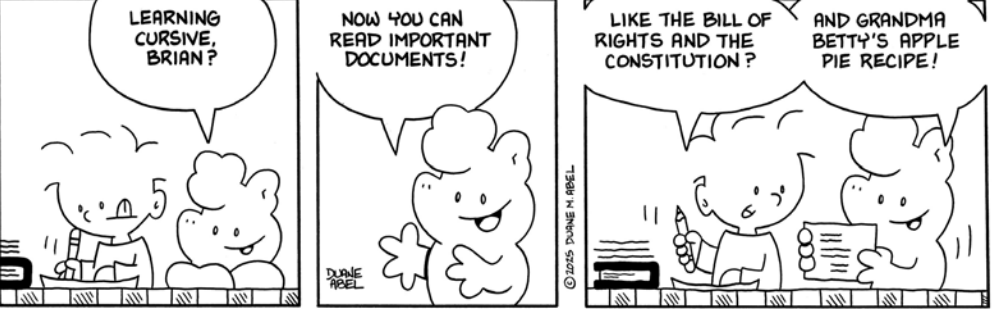
PHOTO COURTESY ROBIN HAMM
Hornet Academy graduation photo of Robin Hamm.

and I was sitting around the house doing nothing so I decided to go for my diploma."

When it came to tutoring and teachers, Hamm mentioned how easy it was for students to ask for assistance or tutoring from teachers at Hornet Academy.

"Teachers were available every day and I had to do two hours there the first day because they wanted to see what I knew," Hamm said. "And you can go into the campus for help but I was able to just call the teacher if I had a problem."

ZED by Duane Abel



Sudoku

FEBRUARY 20, 2025

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

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THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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Solution to last week's puzzle

FEBRUARY 6, 2025

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

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to decorating.

ISADE

Answer: Ideas

CRYPTO FUN

Solve the code to discover words related to the holiday season. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: H= A)

A. 12 11 16 1 22 19
Clue: Come together

B. 8 11 9 23 26 4
Clue: Related people

C. 15 23 25 25 22 19
Clue: Evening meal

D. 1 13 26 23 15 11 4
Clue: Festive event

... ATTEND THE CHURCH OF YOUR CHOICE THIS SUNDAY

THE ABBEY CHURCH

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

ASH CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor: Dr. G. Wesley Shotwell
300 South Stewart St. **817-444-3219**
www.ashcreekbc.org
Sunday School..... 9:30 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
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
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
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
Sunday School 9:30 AM
Worship 10:30 AM

SILVER CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor: Jay Ditty
Minister of Music: David Musick
Corner FM 730 S. & Veal Station Rd.
Church **817-444-2325**
www.silvercreekbc.org
Sunday School..... 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
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

The museum containing Azle’s history

How the Azle Historical Museum started and what to know

NOVA WANG

Nova Wang is one of several Azle High School journalism students participating in a practicum course with the Tri-County Reporter as part of the AHS Career and Technical Education program.

AZLE— With Azle being a small town, many people here would assume that they know all about what the city has to offer. Something many do not know about is the Azle Historical Museum located at the corner of W. Main and Church Streets.

Originally when the museum was founded, it was at a completely different location prior to its current one.

“The museum was organized in 1976, but we’ve only been in this building since ‘78,” President Rex Ballauer said. “At first we were on the top floor of what is now Red’s Burgers but at that time it was called Stribling’s Drugstore. Mrs. Stribling was one of the people who got the museum together; she was one of the founding members of it. So if we had things to display, then we put our display on the top floor of the drugstore.”

What started the concept of the museum was the public’s interest in having a display for anybody to see. This led to many people donating, to the point that the museum now has to be wary of what people donate because the building is filled to the brim with historical items.

“We like to say that it’s all Azle, donated by Azlelites. But some things in here did

not come from Azle, but they represent history,” Ballauer said. “We used to take donations, but we are now at the point where we are at full capacity. So if somebody donates something, we have consider to how big is it. We have no wall space and our shelves are pretty well full. We have three closets ,but they are all stuffed full. So we can’t rotate exhibits because we don’t have a place to store the ones that we’re not showing at the time.”

When it comes to having interesting pieces from history, the Azle Historical Museum has a range of items from clothing to machinery.

“Probably the oldest item in the museum is a spinning wheel that we’ve got upstairs that belonged to one of the founding families that came in the early 1860s and 1870s,” Ballauer said. “What is interesting though, is that we have the horseshoes from Seabiscuit, who was popular back when he was racing and so we have those. Our former mayor, Mayor (C.Y.) Rone, he knew everybody and I don’t know where he got the horseshoes, but they’re displayed on a plaque and everything.”

With continuous changes within the museum, the only thing that has helped keep it going are the helpers and their relationship with Azle.

“My family came here at the very beginning in 1853. My great-grandmother was born here in 1855. So I’ve got a vested interest in the museum because of my family’s



The oldest item in the museum, a spinning wheel, dates back to the 1800s.

history,” Ballauer said. “One of our other volunteers’ family has been here longer than mine and one of the other members’ family has been here since the very beginning. So I think it’s the volunteers that we’ve got and their connection with Azle, and they want to see the history of Azle and want other people to see the history.”

On an average Saturday, volunteers can have varied shifts depending on who chooses to come in.

“We have like eight volun-

teers, so we have a Saturday apiece, so we don’t have to work every Saturday,” Ballauer said. “Some Saturdays we sit here for four hours and no one comes in, other times we have as many as eight people come in. But many people come in and say, I’ve lived here all my life and I’ve never been in here. How long have y’all been here?”

While the museum is closed for the winter, it will be open soon in the spring.

“After they watch the

Christmas parade, we shoo everybody out and then we lock the door for the winter and then we turn the water off and we don’t open back up until the first Saturday in March,” Ballauer said. “Every year we do that, so we close after the parade on the first Saturday in December and open the first Saturday of March. We do this every year because of the water.”

If anyone is interested in hearing about the history of Azle, they can swing by the museum to learn about the

city.

“I’m considered the unofficial historian, so I go around and talk to organizations and clubs and tell them the history based on things like that, churches,” Ballauer said. “If I’m ever down here, I love to tell anybody the history of Azle. If we have groups or something that can’t come on Saturdays, if I’m notified, I’ll come down here and open the museum, anytime, any day and I can tell them the history of Azle, if they’re interested.”

NOVA WANG| TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

CLOSE

FROM PAGE A1

route, Dowd explained how this is the only way to move forward with the little funding the district gets from the state.

“We would not be recommending this if we did not feel like this was the only way forward in order to get our district back to a fiscally healthy position,” Dowd said. “We’re hearing coming out of this legislative session is that there’s little promise for a significant increase in public education funding that would allow us to increase that basic allotment but also would allow us to increase our general budgets.”

The basic allotment is the minimum amount of funding per student that the state provides to each school

district, which has not been raised for LWISD since 2019. Dowd also informed the board that LWISD will not receive any significant funding from the Tarrant Appraisal District.

“The concern on top of that, we have what’s going on in our Tarrant Appraisal District and that’s more unique to Tarrant County school districts,” Dowd said. “... we’re also very concerned about our local funding that could be affected by that new reappraisal plan.”

Because of these financial hurdles, Dowd noted the process of making reductions in the district started back in the fall of 2023 in hopes of getting financial assistance from the state. A lot of the funding depends on enrollment and attendance. The district made cuts and hoped the state would raise the ba-

sic allotment, but to no avail.

“For the past three years, we’ve had to dip into our fund budget,” Dowd said. “This most recent year we considerably dipped into our fund budget. If we have another year like we did this year, I am very concerned for our fund budget and we’ll get to the point where we’ll have a hard time meeting day-to-day expenditure requirements.”

Dowd said the district estimates its deficit to be \$3.5 million for the 2025-2026 school year. With enrollment and attendance being low, the district is forced to start making big budget cuts.

Closing Effie Morris will save the district \$380,000, and a little bit less than that number in terms of the Tadpole Learning Center. Despite these financial reasons, many teachers and par-

ents made public comments to the board opposing the recommendation of closure.

Ultimately, the board voted 4-2 with Cindy Burt and Tammy Thomas voting against the closing of Effie Morris and the Tadpole Learning Center. Thomas read a statement she prepared before the vote stating why she opposes the recommendation. Her statement was met with a round of applause by parents and teachers who attended the board meeting.

“Because of the unique environment created at Effie Morris Early Learning Academy it made the teacher allotment possible for many teachers here,” Thomas said. “The return of our investment into these students has already been proven and to dissolve this campus would be catastrophic.”



JOLEE SKINNER | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER
Parents raise concerns to the board about the closure of Effie Morris Early Learning Academy and the Tadpole Learning Center.

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 24-28, 2025
PK through 12th Grade
*Menus are subject to change.

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

Mon Eggo Froot Loop Waffles, Peach Applesauce **Tues** Sausage & Egg Slider, Pineapple Chunks **Weds** EggStravaganza, Sliced Pears **Thurs** Breakfast Pizza **Fri** Manager's Choice, Sliced Strawberries

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 Popcorn Chicken, Steak Fingers, Mashed Potatoes, Corn, Roll, Fresh Veggies Mixed Fruit or Apple **Tues** Pulled Pork Sandwich, Corn Dog, Steamed Broccoli, Fresh Veggies, Watermelon Craisins or Orange **Weds** Chicken & Waffles, Tator Tots, Fresh Veggies, Sliced Strawberries or Applesauce **Thurs** Bosco Sticks, Chicken Sandwich, Chili Beans, Fresh Veggies, Apple Crisp or Blueberries **Fri** Pizza (Cheese & Pepperoni) Fresh Veggies, Sliced Peaches

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 Chicken or Sausage Biscuit, EggStravaganza, Hash Brown Rounds, Fresh Veggies, Apple Slices, Sliced Peaches **Tues** Chicken Fried Steak Sandwich, Mac & Cheese, Steamed Broccoli, Fresh Veggies, Strawberry Applesauce, Orange **Weds** Cheeseburger, Hamburger, French Fries, Fresh Veggies, Apple, Watermelon Craisins **Thurs** Beef Enchilada Bake, Corn Dog, Chili Beans, Roll **Fri** Pulled Pork Sandwich, Roasted Cauliflower, Roll, Fresh Veggies (Fiesta Sticks, Baby Carrots, Salad Cup), Banana, Blueberries

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TRI★COUNTY REPORTER

Azle School Menu Feb 24-28, 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 Froot Loop Waffles, Fruit Cup **Tues** Powdered Sugar Donut, Cinnamon Apple Sauce **Weds** Cinnamon Toast Crunch, Apple, Apple Juice **Thurs** Bacon Scramble Pizza, Apple Juice, Fruit Cup **Fri** Strawberry Cream Cheese Mini Bagels, Oranges

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

Mon Cheeseburger, Frito Chili Pie, Apple, Apple Juice, Orange Juice, Green Beans **Tues** Spaghetti w/ Meatsauce, Walkin' Taco, Garlic Bread Stick, Apple Juice, Orange Juice, Oranges, Corn, Mixed Veggies **Weds** Orange Chicken & Rice, SteakFinger Bowl w/ Roll, Apple Juice, Orange Juice, Peaches, Steamed Broccoli **Thurs** Cowboy Chili, Mozzarella Sticks, Cornbread Poppers, Apple Juice, Bananas, Orange Juice, Marinara **Fri** Bean and Cheese Burrito, Breaded Chicken Sandwich, Apple Juice, Orange Juice, Corn, Green Peas

GRADES 5TH - 8TH

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

Mon Pig in a Blanket, Strawberry Yogurt, Honey 'n Oats Granola, Bananas **Tues** Breakfast Bites (mini pancake with sausage), French Toast Sticks, Oranges **Weds** Cinnamon Roll, Sausage Breakfast Pizza, Peaches **Thurs** Cocoa Puffs, Reduced Sugar, 2 Oz, Egg and Cheese on a Bun, Apple, tBacon **Fri** Pancakes, Yogurt Parfaits, Apple Juice, Orange Juice, Pears Diced, Bacon

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

Mon Cheese Enchiladas, Mini Corn Dogs, Orange Chicken & Rice, Apple Juice, Oranges, Black Beans **Tues** Cheeseburger, Tater Tot Casserole, Walkin' Taco, Whole Wheat Roll, Apple Juice, Peaches, Corn, Salsa, Mild **Weds** Hamburger, Sloppy Joe, Soft Chicken Tacos, Apple Juice, Pineapples, Paradise Punch Juice, Pinto beans **Thurs** Breaded Chicken Sandwich, Cheeseburger, Meatloaf, Garlic Bread Stick, Apple Juice, Pears Diced, Buttery Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans **Fri** Grilled Cheese Sandwich, Hot Dog, Pepperoni Pizza, Whole Wheat Roll, Tater Tots, Tomato Soup

HIGH SCHOOL

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

Mon Pig in a Blanket, Strawberry Yogurt, Honey 'n Oats Granola, Blueberries **Tues** Breakfast Bites, French Toast Sticks, Orange Juice, Oranges **Weds** Cinnamon Roll, Sausage Breakfast Pizza, Orange Juice, Peaches **Thurs** Egg and Cheese on a Bun, Green Apple Slices, Orange Juice, Bacon **Fri** All-Star Breakfast Combo, Yogurt Parfaits, Muffin, Blueberry, Blueberries

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

Mon Chicken Spaghetti, Spicy Chicken Sandwich, Buffalo Chicken Pizza, Pepperoni Pizza Pocket, Picadillo, Teriyaki Chicken **Tues** Buffalo Boneless Wings, Meatball Sub Sandwich, Cheese Pizza, Hamburger Pizza, Soft Chicken Tacos, Sweet & Sour Chicken w/ Noodles **Weds** Cheeseburger, Tater Tot Casserole, Bacon Pizza, Cheese Pizza, Cheese Enchiladas, Chicken & Cheese Pizza Quesadilla, Spicy Sichuan BBQ Chicken **Thurs** Frito Chili Pie, Grilled Cheese Sandwich, Hamburger Pizza, Mozzarella Sticks, Chicken Burrito, Orange Chicken & Rice **Fri** BBQ Boneless Wings, Cheeseburger Mac, Pizza Pocket (calzone), Supreme Pizza, Beef Quesadilla Triangles, Chicken Ramen

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BOOK REVIEW

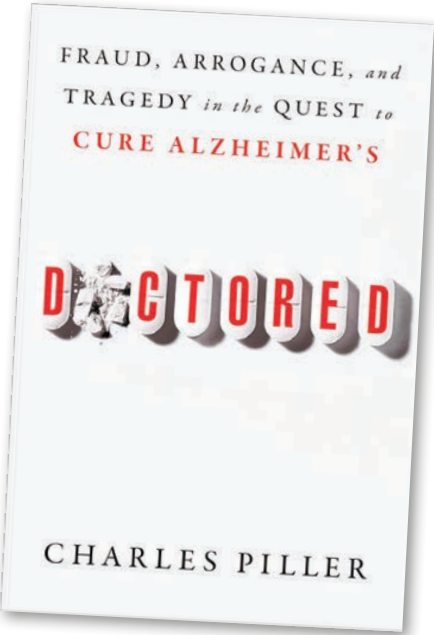
‘Doctored: Fraud, Arrogance, and Tragedy in the Quest to Cure Alzheimer’s’

TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER
Take two at bedtime.
That’s what the label on the side of the bottle says, and that’s what you’ll do. You want to feel better soon— your health and well-being are important— so you’ll do as you’re told and follow all medical dosages. As in the new book, “Doctored” by Charles Piller, you’ll take your meds and cross your fingers.
For many months, 73-year-old Stephen Price had struggled. It started with minor forgetfulness and by early 2021, Price had trouble remembering words and he could no longer run the business he owned. Knowing that his father wanted to “help” others, Price’s son, Matthew, a “Harvard trained epidemiologist and global-health specialist” had enrolled Price in a study using simufilam, a drug that had attracted consid-

erable attention and garnered excitement.
If preliminary results were correct, simufilam could be the long-sought-after cure for dementia, the Holy Grail of Alzheimer’s research. It wouldn’t be a cure, Matt knew. He wasn’t entirely comfortable with what he saw about the study or with Cassava Sciences, the drug’s maker, but it was a trial his father qualified for.
Designed to “slow, stop or reverse cognitive decline,” simufilam was created, says Piller, by a company that owned another drug that had been rejected by the FDA “over and over” and the company’s CEO “needed a new idea fast.” Two scientists on his team had one for him that, if it worked, would be a “breathtakingly lucrative” product for Cassava Science s...
In a laboratory in Vanderbilt University in Nashville, neurosci-

entist and cerebral amyloid angiopathy expert Matthew Schrag had been studying Alzheimer’s, hoping to help find a cure, when a request for petition for simufilam made him take pause. Reading them over, the studies seemed like a “sham” to him. He ultimately decided that “this ... issue” needed to be reported to the National Institutes of Health.
If he was wrong about possibly-questionable aspects of simufilam, it could destroy his career. If he was right, it would “derail ... the dominant view of how to cure one of the most terrifying diseases of our time.”
Reading somewhat like a medical thriller or an espionage novel, “Doctored” is packed with twists and turns, heroes and scandal. It’s also packed with a lot of facts and data that, to understand completely and comfortably, nearly

requires a PhD.
If you have a working knowledge of Alzheimer’s, that may suffice.
Author Charles Piller is a scientific investigative journalist and he writes about how he learned of this story and why it became his “new obsession,” and that eagerness is contagious — even though you should know that this is a pretty heavy-duty book. Readers who are caretaking an elder or spouse may muddle through it and become baffled sometimes, but they’ll find enough information to make them really, really mad.
Cases of dementia, says Piller, will “more than double” in the next 25 years, and the cure is tantalizingly close. Or not. Either way, “Doctored” may help you understand why, but read carefully, or it might be hard to take.



“Doctored: Fraud, Arrogance, and Tragedy in the Quest to Cure Alzheimer’s” by Charles Piller
c.2025, One Signal Publishers, \$28.99, 352 pages

KELLEY

FROM PAGE A1

rate me from any other candidate who might choose to run, I hope my experience leading an organization with more than 500 employees and working with elected officials for more than a decade proves to be valuable,” Kelley said. “I believe I have been approachable and transparent as a teacher, coach, principal and superintendent here in Springtown. I will certainly strive to be both if given the opportunity to serve our community as mayor.”
Kelley emphasized the city’s great effort in being transparent with its citizens and plans to continue this if he wins office.
“Prior administrations have gone to great lengths to ensure that our council’s actions are completely public and transparent,” Kelley said. “Every council meeting is available online and voting records are clearly accessible on the city’s website. I think they have done a terrific job

on that front.”
As for the key issue he wants to focus his campaign on, Kelley wants to make sure the city’s infrastructure is prepped for continuing rapid growth.
“The continued population growth of our city and the surrounding community is certain to continue,” Kelley said. “Preparing our infrastructure for the growth that is sure to come so that our community is appealing to the people and businesses that will help us improve our quality of life. Perhaps the focus of future infrastructure needs revolves around water. There is a real crisis pending on that front. I hope my experience cooperating and networking with various government entities and elected officials at both the local and state level proves to be useful if I am elected.”
Kelley believes this infrastructure improvement can be accomplished through partnership and discernment.
“I believe I can work alongside the other members of our city council and Mr.

Miller’s staff while providing an appropriate level of discernment when needed,” Kelley said. “The current council has already secured a grant that will provide matching funds to improve our city park and the city has already shared plans to continue improving our roadways. Water has to be a chief concern of every community in our part of the state and I want to be certain resources are allocated to address those needs as best we can.”
When it comes to topics like reform within the city government, Kelley believes no major reform is needed as the current council has all his confidence.
“I have confidence in the existing city council,” Kelley said. “If there were significant reforms needed, I believe they would already be underway. That said, I remember hearing Pat Riley famously say, “If you’re not getting better, you’re getting worse,” and it’s always applicable.”
Kelley said his hope for Springtown in five years is that the city’s footprint and

tax base grows simultaneously working together as a city.
“I hope that we (and I emphasize “we”) will have found a way to grow the city’s footprint and tax base,” Kelley said. “This will be no small task — if it were easy, someone would have already found a way to do it. However, I believe doing so may be the only path forward if we hope to improve our infrastructure, provide quality emergency services and support the businesses in our community (those already here as well as those that might come).”
As for economic development, Kelley says he will work with the Springtown Chamber of Commerce and other municipalities to further grow and attract businesses to come to Springtown.
“I will continue to work with our local chamber of commerce (though from a different position),” Kelley said. “I hope to engage with the North Central Texas Economic Development District, the Parker County Economic

Development Council and the Texas Municipal League to learn more about how our city can secure grants, leverage interlocal agreements and work cooperatively other councils in our area. As a retiree, I have time and availability — as a former superintendent, I have a strong understanding of how public entities must operate.”
Springtown’s financial stability is crucial to Kelley and if elected, he plans to continue providing that stability alongside City Administrator David Miller.
“The council approves the budget annually and is charged with reviewing monthly updates throughout the year. I believe the city council and city staff have worked cooperatively to ensure short and long-term fiscal stability and I will pledge to continue that path,” Kelley said. “As with any homeowner or business owner, sometimes you have to spend money to save money.”
And for the undecided voters to come, Kelley sees that being known throughout the

community comes with already formed opinions and states he will always do what is right for Springtown.
“My career in education included 22 years leading either a campus or the district in Springtown,” Kelley said. “I suspect a fair percentage of our community has already formed an opinion of me. I have always tried to do what’s right, knowing full well that what’s right is not always popular. A quote Lonnie Seipp shared with me when I became a principal will continue to guide my decision-making if elected mayor of Springtown: “If I were to try to read, much less answer, all the attacks made on me, this shop might as well be closed for any other business. I do the very best I know how — the very best I can. And I mean to keep on doing it to the end. If the end brings me out all right, what is said against me will not amount to anything. If the end brings me out all wrong, 10 angels swearing I was right would make no difference.”— Abraham Lincoln.

STATE

FROM PAGE A1

weekend of ups and downs,” Azle coach Tyler Harrison said.
Both Kovach and Dillard dominated their opponents on the way to their titles. Kovach won her final with a 17-2 technical fall score at 5:38 of the match.
In her final match as a Lady

Hornet, Dillard won by a pin just 25 seconds into the match. She pinned all four opponents at state.
Dillard, making her third straight appearance at state, ended the season with a 43-0 record. She won the 120 division last season.
Kovach posted a 35-1 record this season. She was state runner-up in the same weight class last season.
Tyler Yancey (47-4) narrowly missed out on joining

them on the champions podium, losing his finals match 8-7. He and Chase are the first boys from Azle to reach a state final since 2018.
Chase (51-5), who lost a 12-6 decision in the finals, medaled for a second straight season and improved from his third-place finish a year ago.
“Watching them compete in the state finals as brothers and training partners was a great experience, and I am

confident they are going to be back there next year chasing the goal of being a state champion,” Harrison said.
Also for the Lady Hornets, sophomore Elly Yelle (45-4) placed fourth in the 165 division. She was named the Most Outstanding Girls Wrestler at the 5A Region I Tournament.
The 2024-25 season included a district championship won by the Hornets in runaway fashion by more than 100 points, followed by post-

ing their highest finish ever at the regional tournament.
Individual regional championships were won by Dillard, Kovach and Yelle for the girls, along with Tyler Yancey and Roman Fraser for the boys. In all, nine Azle wrestlers competed at state, including Landin Evans (boys 150), Devin Wingfield (boys 285) and Eli Bryan (boys 275).
Kaylie Groot was an alternate in the 107 division for the girls and Wyatt Hicks was

an alternate in the 144 class for the boys.
“We are proud of the growth we saw this year in the program and the successes that we had,” Harrison said. “We are excited to come back even stronger next year, returning four of our five state placers. We are going to have a great off season this spring and build a foundation for next season.”



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Azle feels impact of urgent care industry growth

ZACH FREEMAN
azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

AZLE — In shark-infested waters, Azle is a calm refuge. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, the urgent care market has undergone rapid changes. At a recent chamber luncheon, Urgent Care TX Vice President of Operations Jason Nicholas spoke with the Tri-County Reporter and local businesses emphasizing the ripples that some of these changes are having in small communities like Azle. “The urgent care market is changing,” Nicholas said “The big fish have turned into sharks.” Urgent care facilities provide same-day treatment for non-life-threatening illnesses and injuries that are not severe enough to warrant a visit to the emergency room. The years following the COVID-19 pandemic represented a major spike in growth and patient utilization for the urgent care industry. According to the Urgent Care Association, patient volume increased 60% between 2019 and 2022.

With more money to be made, private equity and larger organizations with more financial backing moved fast to take advantage of the growth. Nicholas said that in trying to compete with one another, organizations on the scale of Texas Health Resources and Baylor Scott & White have been rapidly building new urgent care facilities in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. In doing so, he said they often buy out or out-compete smaller operations, sometimes causing them to have to close down. “CareNow bought out Medspring, so they went from having 20 or 30 to now, like 50 or 60 urgent cares in the area,” Nicholas said. Urgent Care TX is an urgent care company that opened its Azle location in March. The company hopes to survive competition with the big players by staying out of their way and focusing on small, but rapidly growing, communities surrounding the DFW metroplex. Urgent Care TX has offices in Cleburne, Lancaster, Benbrook and now

Azle. Nicholas credits its acceptance of a broad range of insurance and payment options as another strategy for its success. The clinic has drawn in patients from the surrounding areas, including Decatur, Boyd, Briar, Springtown, Bridgeport, Paradise, Weatherford and Aledo. The facility has also partnered with Azle ISD for school physicals. Originally, the urgent care had plans to build in an empty lot near Walmart. However, after assessing costs and logistics, they opted for the suite that formerly housed SurePoint Family Medicine at 601 Northwest Parkway. “Instead of six to nine months getting in and spending \$800,000, we spent three weeks getting in and only \$75,000,” Nicholas said. This efficient approach to expansion has allowed the clinic to focus on delivering care to a growing number of patients. Nicholas noted that in January alone, the facility treated 862 patients, with over 5,000 served from March to December in the



Jason Nicholas at the Feb. 4 Chamber luncheon.

ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

greater Azle area. This demand has prompted further expansion considerations, with Decatur being a potential future location. Nicholas and his team sponsored meals at the Feb. 4 Azle

Area Chamber of Commerce luncheon, saying the “real community feel” and closer connections that businesses and individuals can make in areas like Azle was a big point in the city’s favor.

“We like that small town feel,” Nicholas said. “We like strong communities. A thousand dollars spent in Azle goes a whole lot further than spending \$1,000 in Fort Worth.”

BOND

FROM PAGE A1

term facility needs and help create a plan and vision for these needs. In January, the committee made a recommendation about long-term solutions for the district. That recommendation was presented to the SISD board. “I want to take this time to thank our Citizens’ Facility Advisory Committee and our board of trustees for all the hard work that’s been put in for the last five months,” Strickland said. “The last community investment in Springtown ISD was nearly 20 years ago. Since then, the district has worked to care for our facilities to keep them up-to-date with current standards and make them ac-

commodate the needs of our students, staff and teachers. But many of our facilities are reaching the end of their useful lives, bringing us to this point.” Since Texas school districts don’t receive state funding for renovations or building new schools, districts receive funds through school bond elections. This bond will ask Springtown voters to consider this \$98 million package in one proposition. Proposition A will include a new elementary school, renovations to Springtown Elementary, a science and Career and Technology Education (CTE) addition to Springtown Middle School, upgraded CTE equipment and facilities, safety and security, and new buses. The number of buses purchased with funds from the May

2025 bond will depend on the cost of the buses at the time they are purchased or needed. Springtown ISD has become one of the fastest-growth districts in the area, with recent growth outpacing what was projected a few years ago. The district’s enrollment has increased by 600 students in the last four years and is expected to gain another 400 students in the next four years. In three years, the district projects it will be 135 seats short of what it needs throughout K-12 grades. Two of the district’s elementary schools are over their functional capacity and Springtown Intermediate School will be over its capacity within the next year. If passed, the bond would give schools more seats,

buildings and classrooms to accommodate all the growth. “Others have realized what a great community Springtown is to live in and make their home. But the fact is that we are running out of room faster than we can act on right now,” Strickland said. “We have had to request waivers from the state for our overgrown classroom sizes in several areas. This bond package helps accommodate that growth at the elementary level and our Career and Technical Education at the middle school.” In a press release, Springtown ISD pointed to the 2023 state legislative session that brought the largest property tax cut in Texas history. With the constricting of schools and the \$100,000 homestead exemption cut school district property taxes

for homeowners around the state. If the bond garners the voters’ approval, the projected financial impact of the bond would be \$12.78 a month on a home valued at \$300,000 in the school district. Since 2019, state law requires all bond propositions for school districts to have the phrase “This is a property tax increase” stated on ballots that have bond propositions. Homeowners 65 years of age and older who have filed for and received the Over 65 exemption will not see an increase on their frozen dollar amount. The school district will begin providing Springtown citizens with voter education information on all areas concerning the 2025 bond package. Early voting will begin April 22 and end April

29; Election Day is Saturday, May 3. “We want to make sure that our community is well-informed with the facts about this bond proposal,” Strickland said. “The district has an obligation to fill by keeping our voters informed about only the facts and that these bond funds will only be used on the projects identified in this bond package and on the ballot. We will be reaching out by phone, mail, digitally, and on social media to inform all our voters about the facts before they go to the polls in April and May.” For more information about the 2025 bond project and when voting locations will be available, go to the district’s website at SpringtownISDBond2025.net.

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Crusaders advance in TAPPS playoffs

Set school record

RICK MAUCH

Special to the Tri-County Reporter

The Azle Christian School Fightin' Crusaders set a school record for victories when they rolled past Dallas Winston Christian 57-12 at home in their Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS) Class 1A bidistrict basketball game Feb. 13.

"Best defensive performance of the year," said Crusaders coach Ryan Rollins.

The victory improved Azle Christian School to 22-6, a school record for victories. They were led by Kanon Wyatt and Gavin Montez with 11 points each, while Jakob Rollins added 8.

The Crusaders were facing Regents Academy of Nacogdoches (7-7) in Nacogdoches at press time. The winner will advance to face Amarillo Accelerate (5-14) or Rockwall Providence Academy (13-12) in the state quarterfinals.

AZLE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL

After ending the regular season with a 14-9 record, the Lady Crusaders were playing their TAPPS Class 1A bidistrict contest at Regents Academy in Nacogdoches at press time. The winner will advance to face Rockwall Providence Academy (18-4) in the state quarterfinals.

AZLE GIRLS SOCCER

The Lady Hornets (9-5-1, 4-3 in District 5-5A) fell 3-0 at Aledo Feb. 11 before winning 1-0 at home Feb. 14 against Chisholm Trail. Audrina Montoya scored the goal off assists from Valeria Macias and Cynthia Gomez. Emma Nelson was goalkeeper.

Azle was hosting Keller Fossil Ridge at press time and visits Saginaw Feb. 21 at 7:30 p.m. They host Granbury Feb.

25 at the same time.

SPRINGTOWN GIRLS SOCCER

The Lady Pines (8-4-2, 3-1 in District 8-4A) slipped by Collegiate Academy 1-0 Feb. 11 in Grapevine as Alea Stiles scored a goal in the final five minutes.

Springtown was hosting Lake Worth at press time, with two more home games to follow: Eagle Mountain at 5:30 p.m. Feb. 21 and Lake Dallas at 7:15 p.m. Feb. 25.

LAKE WORTH GIRLS SOCCER

The Lady Frogs (9-3-1, 3-1 in District 8-4A) won 1-0 at home over Eagle Mountain Feb. 11 as Ashlyn Martinez scored unassisted.

SPRINGTOWN BOYS SOCCER

The Porcupines (3-7-1, 0-4 in District 8-4A) dropped a 1-0 contest at Collegiate Academy in Grapevine Feb. 11.

Lake Worth was visiting Springtown at press time before the Pines host Eagle Mountain at 7:15 p.m. Feb. 21 and Lake Dallas at 5:30 p.m. Feb. 25.

LAKE WORTH BOYS SOCCER

The Bullfrogs (4-9-1, 1-3 in District 8-4A) lost on penalty kicks at home to Eagle Mountain after ending regulation tied 1-1. Roman Mtibala scored the regulation goal off an assist from Antonio Duarte.

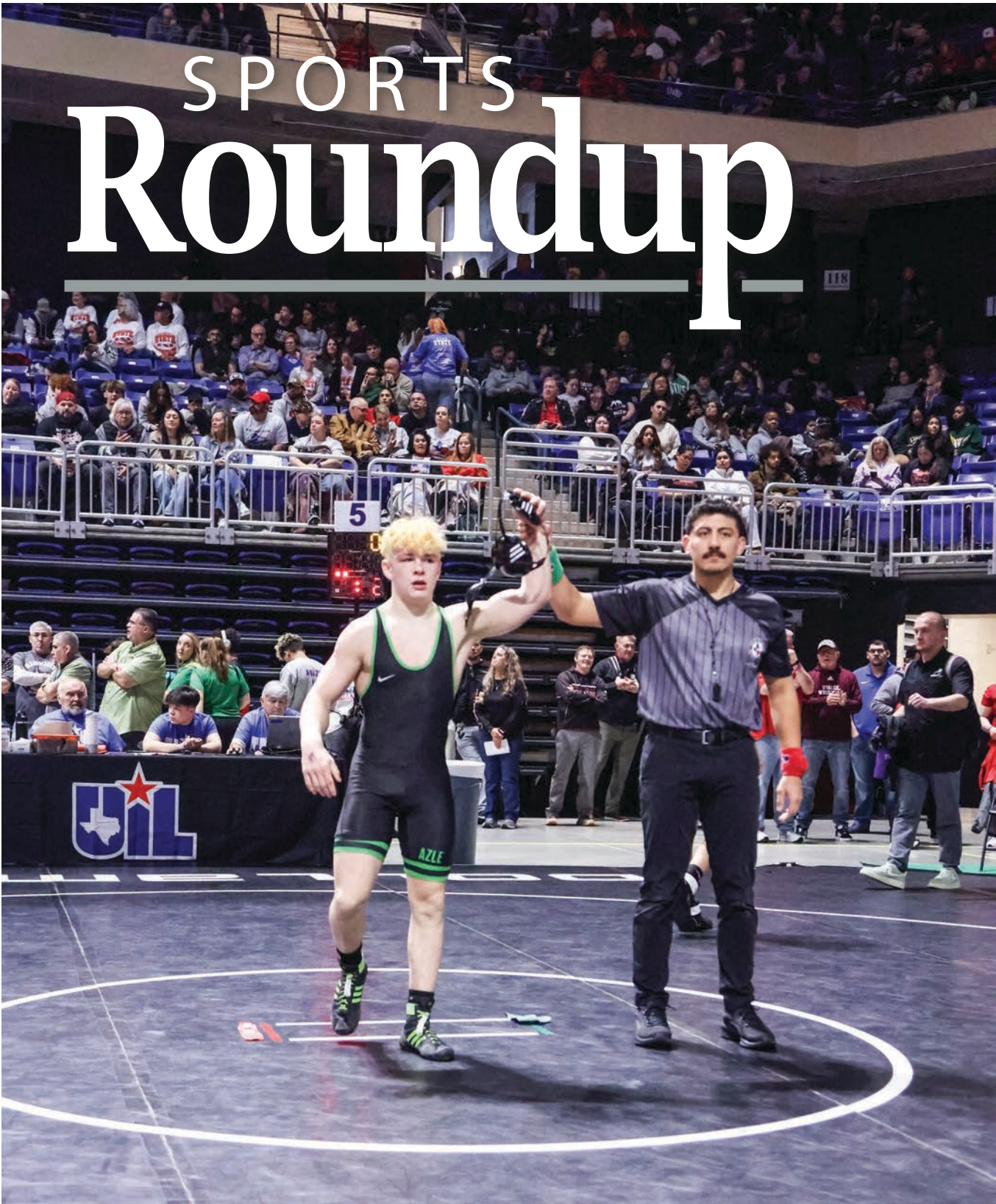
AZLE BOYS SOCCER

The Hornets (1-11, 0-7 in District 5-5A) lost 8-0 at home to Aledo Feb. 11 and 4-0 at Saginaw Chisholm Trail Feb. 14.

Fossil Ridge was visiting the Hornets at press time and Saginaw comes to town Feb. 21 before a trip to Granbury Feb. 25, all at 7:45 p.m.

SPRINGTOWN BOYS BASKETBALL

The Porcupines' season came to an end with an 86-37 home loss to Burkburnett



Feb. 11. Dylan Crutchfield ended his high school career with a double-double, scoring 10 points and pulling down 11 rebounds.

Springtown's overall record was 9-18 and the Porcupines were 6-8 in District 7-4A, finishing fifth.

LAKE WORTH BOYS BASKETBALL

The Bullfrogs fell 57-41 at home to Eagle Mountain in their final game of the season, one that was much closer

than the score indicates. Eagle Mountain led 33-32 entering the final quarter before ending with a 24-9 run.

Lake Worth was led by De'Jay Black with 9 points and three steals, Ayden Brooks scored 8 points, Ivan Sanchez and Eddie Paige each scored 6 with Paige also grabbing seven rebounds, Caleb Jackson had 5 points and five rebounds, and Braylen Fridia scored 5 points with five assists.

The Bullfrogs ended with a

10-20 record and were 0-14 in District 5-5A.

AZLE BOYS BASKETBALL

The Hornets dropped their season final at home to Keller Fossil Ridge Feb. 11. Jayden Taylor scored 15 points and Cason Cook added 11.

Azle finished the season 9-23 overall and 0-12 in District 5-5A.

AZLE SOFTBALL

The Lady Hornets (2-1-1) began the season by winning 12-10 at Joshua Feb. 11, holding

off a late rally by the Lady Owls. Then they played in the Cleburne Tournament over this past weekend, where they defeated Frisco Legacy 12-4, lost to Greenwood 8-3 and tied Palmer 2-2.

Vs. Joshua: Ryann Baker grand slam home run, walk, five RBIs; Corynne Barone three hits, double, triple, RBI, two stolen bases; Adrianna Wiedeman two hits, RBI; Bella Tipton double, walk, two RBI;

PLEASE SEE **ROUNDUP** | A11



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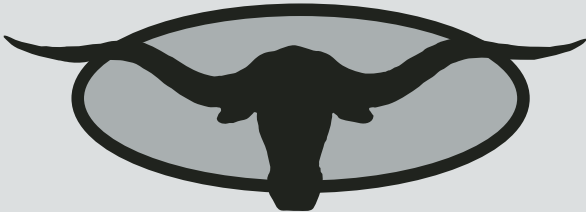
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Azle grad to receive Distinguished Flying Cross

ZACH FREEMAN
azlereporter@tricityreporter.com

Born and raised in Azle, a local veteran is getting renewed recognition for his actions overseas. Jerry Orsburn, a 1983 Azle High School graduate, will receive a Distinguished Flying Cross medal for a mission which began at the start of the Persian Gulf War in January 1991. Orsburn was said to have fired the first shot in the war and has been featured in "Soldier of Fortune" magazine. He was a chief warrant officer two and an AH-64 Apache attack helicopter pilot with an attack helicopter battalion in the 101st Airborne Division. The award ceremony presentation will be at the Army Aviation Association of America

conference from May 14-16 in Nashville, Tennessee. Orsburn currently lives in North Richland Hills with his family and is a practicing chiropractor in Bedford; he still has family in Azle and is the son of a longtime Azle school teacher.

"When I got that email, it really surprised me. I thought it was really an honor," Orsburn said of the recognition in an interview with the Tri-County Reporter. "What an honor that somebody went back and looked at that and upgraded us. We originally got Air Medals with Valor, but now what it is, it's an upgraded award from an Air Medal with Valor to a Distinguished Flying Cross, which is kind of like going from a Bronze Star to a Silver Star for an aviator. I just thought it was really,

really neat. It really surprised me. My family was really shocked, too. They didn't really know it, and they didn't really even know I did much. I was hardly even in the military. I really don't talk about it or anything."

Orsburn remembers thinking at the time that his service was the most important things he would do in his life. The operation itself came as a surprise as Orsburn and his fellow pilots were not briefed on the war's start until the night before his first air battle. He remembers former U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell, President George H.W. Bush and other high-level officials entering the room to make the formal announcement.



Jerry Orsburn stands in front of an Apache attack helicopter during the Persian Gulf War.

COURTESY PHOTO



PHOTOS BY CHAPA PHOTOGRAPHY

Tyler and Chase Yancey

ROUNDUP FROM PAGE A10

Haley Carlson double TOURNAMENT

Vs. Legacy: Baker two home runs, seven RBI; Barone double, hit by pitch; Emma Lehr two hits, walk, two stolen bases; Wiedeman two hits, RBI; Fallon Inglet hit, stolen base; Tipton walk, two hit by pitch; Bella Robles two walks; Brynlei Taylor, two walks. Pitching: Barone three innings, four hits, four earned runs, three strikeouts, five walks

Vs. Greenwood: Barone double; Baker double, walk, stolen base; Klaire Carlson hit; Robles hit by pitch, stolen base

Vs. Palmer: Lehr double, stolen base; Barone triple; Tipton hit, RBI, two stolen bases; H. Carlson hit, two stolen bases. Pitching: Wiedeman four innings, four hits, zero earned runs, 10 strikeouts, two walks

Azle was playing at Denton Ryan at press time before playing in the Mansfield Tournament Feb. 20-22. They travel to Springtown

Feb 25 at 7 p.m. SPRINGTOWN SOFTBALL

The Lady Pines (2-2) began the season in the Jacksboro Tournament. They dropped games to Brock 5-1 and Paradise 8-3. However, in their two wins they defeated Childress 21-0 and Valley View 19-1.

Vs. Brock: Ryleigh Morris two hits, double, RBI, stolen base; Riley Fagan double; Reiss DeLaFuentes hit

Vs. Paradise: Morris double; Ava Fernandez hit; Kylee Spray double, two RBIs; DeLaFuentes hit, RBI

Vs. Childress: Fagan two hits, walk, RBI; Fernandez double home run, three RBIs, hit by pitch, stolen base; Spray three hits, triple, walk, two RBIs; Morris double, two RBIs; Chelsea Cobb hit, walk, two RBIs; Kaylie Houghton walk, two hit by pitch, stolen base, RBI; Makinze Nation double, hit by pitch, two stolen bases; Kaylie Ratliff hit by pitch; Kaylee Falcon hit by pitch; DeLa Fuente hit by pitch. Pitching: Falcon three innings, three hits, six strikeouts, no walks

Vs. Valley View: Kaylee Moore three hits, double,

triple, two RBIs; Morris two hits, four RBIs, stolen base; Fernandez double, home run, two RBI; Spray two hits, double, walk, RBI, stolen base; DeLaFuentes home run, double, three RBI; Falcon two doubles, walk; Bailey Spillman hit; Jaydan Gurule three walks, hit by pitch, stolen; Fagan hit, walk, two stolen bases. Pitching: Falcon four hits, one hit, one earned run, four strikeouts, five walks

After traveling to Paradise at press time, Springtown is in the Weatherford Tournament Feb 20-22 before hosting Azle.

AZLE GIRLS POWERLIFTING

The Lady Hornets captured first place in the Aggie Showdown at Texas A&M University recently. They also brought home eight individual medals:

97-pound division: 1. Kyndal Robbins

105: 1. Paizlee Gray

123: 1. Mckynleigh Sisk

132: 1. Cooper Yates, 2. Dakota Donaldson

148: 2. Haley Carlson

181: 1. Emma Sustala

242-plus: 1. Giselle Redding



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TRI★COUNTY REPORTER

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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GENERAC



Praised pilot speaks to club in Azle

ZACH FREEMAN
azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

AZLE —The Silver Dollar Classics Car Club took a different approach to last Tuesday’s meeting. Along with a quick flyby of information about the organization’s third-annual Vietnam veteran benefit car show, Doug Petersen, a noted public speaker and former “DUSTOFF” pilot, told his story to a packed room at Moe’s Country Kitchen. An estimated 50 people arrived to listen to Petersen and enjoy a meal at the local restaurant.

Petersen spoke to the club and described his experiences joining the military and surviving being shot down twice over Vietnam. Petersen spent more than 20 years as an aviator in the United States Army where he completed over 1,000 combat hours and evacuated nearly 1,300 wounded soldiers.

Originally from Virginia Beach, Virginia, in 1969 he enlisted in the United States Army, going from high school to fly school. After basic training in Louisiana, he came to Texas to train as a pilot at Fort Wolters in Palo Pinto and Parker Counties.

“Here we are a bunch of teenagers, maybe 20 years

Vietnam veteran Doug Petersen speaks at Moe’s Country Kitchen

old, flying these little helicopters all over Palo Pinto County,” Petersen said. “I mean, we were everywhere. We called them a little mosquito and it was a little two-passenger thing, a tiny little thing, a little orange bubble. We called it the rubber band airlines, because what drove the transmission was eight fan belts. If the fan belts broke, things were not looking good for you.”

From Fort Wolters, Petersen was transferred to Fort Rucker, now called Fort Novosel, in Alabama for advanced training. There, he trained to be a gunship pilot.

“I’ve got rockets and I’ve got mini guns, and I’ve got grenade launchers and I’m just having a blast of a time in lower Alabama blowing up trucks and stuff down range,” Petersen said. “So, I thought I was pretty cool.”

When he got to Vietnam in 1970 and was instead assigned to fly a Huey as a DUSTOFF pilot, Petersen said he couldn’t believe it.

“Little did I know how rewarding that decision was going to be for me,” Petersen

said. “I got to fly a mission that had meaning and purpose, not that the others didn’t, but I got to fly a mission that saved lives.”

The Huey held two pilots, a crew chief and a medic. DUSTOFF helicopters were not permitted to have guns, apart from the M16 rifles and sidearms carried by its crew for patient protection. It served strictly as an air ambulance. DUSTOFF crews would airlift wounded soldiers from all sides while under fire. The nickname DUSTOFF was first used as a call sign by the U.S. Army’s 57th Medical Detachment because of the large amount of dust kicked up by the chopper as it landed to pick up the injured from the battlefield.

Petersen said of the 3,400 total DUSTOFF crew members that served over Vietnam War, about one-in-three were killed or injured. Despite the dangers, the crews would fly day and night through good weather and bad in order to quickly get injured allies and even enemy combatants to safety.

“Those 3,400 flew nearly 500,000 missions and evacuated 900,000 patients,” Petersen said. “That one U.S. soldier that got to come home OK, he got to have a family, who had a family. So, you see, the 3,400 just didn’t impact 900,000 — it impacted multi-millions internationally.”

Of all the aircraft that went down, Petersen said roughly half were the result of enemy fire. The other half were due to bad weather. He recounted stories from his flight school peers who were shot down in action and another who had flown into the side of a mountain during a blinding rain.

Petersen said he did not remember much from his first time being shot down, but that the second incident has always stuck with him.

“The second time I got shot down, I was the aircraft commander,” Petersen said. “We



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER
Doug Petersen speaks to Silver Dollar Classics Club members at Moe’s Country Kitchen Feb. 11.

flew directly over the (Viet Cong). He took his AK-47 pointed directly up in the sky as I flew over top of him and unloaded his magazine and we took 25 hits. So, things get exciting at this point, as you can imagine. Now the mission was to get the crew to safety. Before the aircraft crashed into the jungle, I was able to fly to a small area to get down on the ground before the engine quit. I wanted to get there before the engine quit. Now I didn’t know where I was landing. Whether it was with the good guys or the bad guys, or who was there, there was no choice. There was, the only option was to get there. So, I got there and landed, and we got picked up about an hour later by another crew.”

Among Petersen’s most dangerous operations were voice missions. During these flights, DUSTOFF crews would lower a jungle penetrator via a long cable. The torpedo-shaped device would unfold and injured soldiers could be strapped and hoisted to relative safety.

“We were sitting ducks because you’re sitting in the enemy territory,” Petersen said. “You were sitting there at a harbor for 20 to 30 minutes on average and you’ve got a patient on board.”

For nearly a decade, Texas

Sen. John Cornyn and former Washington Congressman Derek Kilmer have fought for DUSTOFF pilots to be recognized with the Congressional Gold Medal, the country’s highest civilian honor. These efforts did not bear much fruit until recently, when the DUSTOFF Crews of the Vietnam War Congressional Gold Medal Act was signed into law by former President Joe Biden in September. The U.S. Mint will strike just one gold medallion, which will be displayed at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio in honor of every DUSTOFF crew member. Petersen and other pilots played a critical role in lobbying to get their due recognition.

“I belong to an organization called the Vietnam DUSTOFF Association,” Petersen said. “We, as an organization, got together, and we asked a law firm in Washington, D.C., would you help us with lobbying Congress? And, oh, by the way, we can’t pay and they said, ‘Yes.’ So, 13 of us with this law firm went to Washington, D.C., and they had made all these arrangements for us to meet with congressmen and senators and congressional staffers and legislative assistants and all those and we knocked on doors day after day. I went to Washington three times and I

knocked on doors and shook hands and told my story.”

After retiring from the armed services in 1989, work would eventually bring Petersen back to Texas. Today, he continues to live in Benbrook and has made appearances on the local CBS Channel 11 news, has given a TEDx talk, appeared on popular podcasts and more.

The SDCCC plans to hold its Vietnam Veterans Day Car Show March 29 at Eagle Mountain Marina. The club presented a check for \$7,500 to the Tarrant County Vietnam Memorial Foundation using money it raised during its 2023 car show. In 2024, the club presented a \$10,000 check to the foundation.

“I think this is a great organization,” Petersen said in an interview with the Tri-County Reporter. “So many times the Vietnam veterans were kind of ignored in the past and when we have organizations like this one come together and with a purpose behind it and support veterans, whether it’s the Vietnam veterans or any other veterans’ group, I think that’s fantastic. This is what Americans need to be doing is supporting other veterans. I just think that this is a great honor, great privilege, to be able to do that today.”



Petersen tells his story and gestures while the crowd listens in.



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State Champs!

Congratulations to Mariah Dillard and Noah Kovach, Azle High School's State Wrestling Champions! We also couldn't be prouder of Chase Yancey and Tyler Yancey, who each placed second in state in their respective weight divisions; Elly Yelle, who took fourth in her division; as well as the AHS girls wrestling team who took third in state as a team! Go, Hornets!!!



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CENTRAL FULL GOSPEL FELLOWSHIP
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832-289-8720
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KINGDOM HALL of JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES
212 Pearson Lane, Azle
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THE EDGE CHURCH - AZLE
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817-237-4822
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817-221-HOPE
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817-594-2744
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ARCHANGEL GABRIEL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH
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817-752-8255

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817-521-4694
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www.thechurchinpeaster.org
817-596-8805
CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH
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817-221-LIFE (5433)
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940-969-2427
HILLTOP FAMILY CHURCH
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THE FELLOWSHIP AT PLEASANT GROVE
1064 CR4679, Boyd
940-999-8210
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817-319-7364
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3282 FM 2048, Boyd 76023
817-755-7021
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817-444-4311
LIGHTHOUSE HARBOR CHURCH
1960 Long Circle, Pelican Bay
817-444-3547
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817-913-2717
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817-444-1577
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7955 Reed Rd., Azle 682-327-7082
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THE TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

CLASSIFIEDS

THURSDAY, February 20, 2025

AD CLASSIFICATIONS

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

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

RATES

\$10.75 A Week
16 Words or Less

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

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Small Land Clean-ups • Gravel Driveways
Kiley Chesney, Owner
Springtown, TX • Mobile **817-846-6645**

003 Business/Commercial

40x50 building For Rent,
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817-713-7495.

005 Cleaning Services

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

007 Demolition

McNeely's
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We Create Vacancy

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- Garages
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- Houses
- Bobcat Service
- Dirt/Gravel Spreading

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011 Firewood

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014 Help Wanted

Now Hiring: Full-Time Assistant We are seeking a reliable and dedicated assistant to join our team! This position is Monday through Friday, 8 AM to 5 PM. Proficiency in both English and Spanish is a plus, especially for assisting Spanish-speaking clients. To apply or learn more, please contact **817-773-5288**

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

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

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

WANTED: Dredge Operator for Aurora/Alvord are. Will train. Must be detail oriented and willing to work overtime. Potential benefits include reduced rent housing. Contact Kate **214-802-5157** for more information.

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Experience Preferred, however training and mentorship provided to selected candidate(s) with sales & customer service experience.

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019 Masonry & Stonework

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021 Painting

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024 Real Estate For Rent

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2-1-1 \$1,395 MO. \$1,000 DEP.

1848 Coral Rd.
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027 Roofing

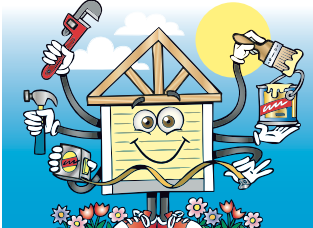
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CLASSIFIEDS

027Roofing

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032Miscellaneous

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S-1728

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TexSCAN Week of Feb. 16-22, 2025

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Find Your Handyman in the Classifieds!

ACROSS

1 actress Cyd Charisse was born in Texas as _____

5 October birthstone

6 a chamber in "Longhorn Cavern State Park"

7 TXism: "_____ hombre" (mean)

8 oldest Catholic parish in Texas? (3 wds.)

17 a New Deal agcy.

18 builder of Disneyland Paris (2 wds.)

21 theory of relativity developer (init.)

22 smooth-talker

23 TXism: "unnecessary as axle _____ on a jackrabbit"

24 TXism: "_____ small town gossip"

29 slim, skinny

30 hay for a horse

31 TX George Strait's "I've Come _____ Expect It from You"

32 well planned (2 wds.)

34 newest version of Brooks & Dunn "_____ Moon" has TX Musgraves

35 _____-o'-shanter

36 Texan Julia Germain and this sister were successfully rescued from the Comanches

37 provided by Texas ranches

38 TXism: "_____ spell" (stay and visit)

DOWN

1 TXism "she'd have to stand up twice _____" (skinny)

2 TX George Jones' "The Window _____" (1960)

3 Port _____, Texas

4 in Parker County

9 used fireplace again

10 destruction

11 spherical body

12 TXism: "it'll _____ in a pinch"

13 TX-born Kate Capshaw began her career on "The _____ Night"

14 police car warning

15 pre-owned car

16 a nucleic acid abbr.

19 money and property owned at death

20 naval person who does clerical work

22 TX Freddy Fender was born Baldemar _____

24 _____ Worth (abbr.)

25 "_____, San Antone!"

34 first moonwalker, Armstrong

35 the cowboy _____ bandanna around his neck

37 TXism for "to fish" (3 wds.)

38 push or pull a thing

40 TXism: "_____ soul" (no one)

41 soothsayer

44 caramel custard

47 Texas astronaut, White

49 Mexican actor, Novarro, was a "Latin Lover"

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

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P-1729