THE COUNTY REPORTER tricountyreporter.com

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

THURSDAY, March 6, 2025 • \$1.00



Spring forward!

Daylight Saving Time begins at 2 a.m. Sunday, March 9

STAFF REPORTS

Since 1908, Americans have juggled between Standard Time and Daylight Saving Time twice annually, and 2025 is no different.

So here's your reminder: set your clocks forward one hour before you go to bed Saturday night, March 8, or risk being late for church Sunday morning!

Started during World War I as a way to save fuel and power, the U.S. has continued switching back and forth for 116 years.

In March 2022, the U.S. Senate unanimously passed legislation that would stop the endless clock-swapping and enact permanent Daylight Saving Time. While health.

a companion bill was introduced to the U.S. House of Representatives, the 117th Congress ended without the House voting on the bill.

So unless and until something changes, we'll continue setting our clocks forward by an hour the second Sunday of each March and setting them back to Standard Time the first Sunday in November each vear.

In the meantime, try heading to be early Saturday night and maybe even sneak in some extra shuteye over the next week or two since losing that one hour of sleep can wreak havoc on your overall



E

Dr. Scott Ballard holds a red-tailed boa constrictor.

JOLEE SKINNER | TR-COUNTY REPORTER

Skunks, snakes and baby kangaroos ... oh, my!

JOLEE SKINNER jolee@tricountyreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN - For 20 years now, Ballard Family Dentistry has educated children in the North Texas area about the importance of dental hygiene. Usually, most dentists might show a colorful picture and talk about the importance of brushing your teeth. But Dr. Scott Ballard isn't your usual dentist.

"Creature Teacher" program celebrates 20th anniversary and expands to Springtown

The Creature Teacher program is an event where Ballard brings in exotic animals, like boa snakes, baby kangaroos and more to talk about the importance of taking care of your teeth. Ballard Family Dentistry Marketing Director Lindsey Oxford says

Ballard made it his mission to find a way to creatively engage with kids about dental hygiene.

"Dr. Scott created the program in 2005 after realizing there was huge void in our local schools for dental hygiene education," Oxford said. "He

Significant wind damage in the Azle and Springtown area

realized it was because the schools had bad experiences with other programs in the past and the kids were not engaging. He asked the Eagle Mountain School District "If I find a way to make the kids

Riding the storm out Significant wind damage in the Azle and Springtown damaged businesses, trees, and took out power lines.

JOLEE SKINNER | TRICOUNTY REPORTER The Springtown Senior Center suffered significant storm damage Tuesday morning.

MORE PHOTOS PAGE A9



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER A power line was uprooted and left dangling over the Azle Chiropractor parking lot after intense winds and storms March 4.

Tri-County Electric Co-op board shrinks to 4, votes to stick to regular election cycle

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

ALEDO — The four remaining directors of the Tri-**County Electric Cooperative's** original nine-member board have voted to stick to the

cooperative's regular election cycle following a recent exodus.

Five directors have either been removed or have resigned in the last two weeks. The co-op announced the termination of Steve Harris and

Jarrett Armstrong for violating the cooperative's bylaws Feb. 20. A press release also stated director Kevin Ingle had simultaneously resigned. The following week, District 4 director and board chairman David Miller announced his

resignation due to time conflicts. The next day, Feb. 27, TCEC announced that District 6 director Timmy Yeary had been dismissed for violating the cooperative's bylaws as well as a board member confidentiality agreement.

The board previously planned to fill its vacant positions during its upcoming September election but has opted against that decision per a Feb. 27 announcement. Citing a desire for members to select their representa-

tives, the board has instead voted to follow its regular election cycle, holding elections for Districts 5, 7 and 9 this year, Districts 1, 2 and 4 in 2026 and Districts 3, 6 and

PLEASE SEE TCEC | A6



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VOLUME 2, NUMBER 39 Local, zone(s) 2 sections, 16 pages

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Azle Music Academy has first public performance

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

AZLE — Students at the Azle Music & Enrichment Academy got to show off their talents and put their skills to the test at an open recital Feb. 22. The event, held at Eagle Mountain Plaza, was the first of its kind since the academy opened in October.

The Azle Music & Enrichment Academy offers private lessons in a variety of instruments, including guitar, piano, ukulele, drums, violin, singing and more. It also offers test preparation in addition to STEM and art classes.

Among the standout performers was 3-year-old Luther, a student in the academy's early childhood music program. Luther took the stage, playing "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" on both the xylophone and keyboard.

"We were so proud of him!" said his mother, Macy Witthaus, a dyslexia teacher for Azle ISD. "Luther was so excited to participate in the recital and talked about it all day leading up to his performance! The look on his face when he finished his song was priceless. I could tell he was so proud of himself."

Witthaus said going to lessons at the academy has allowed Luther the opportunity to really dedicate himself to his love of music and get exposed to new instruments. He has quickly learned to feel at home on stage, she added, and his confidence is growing daily.

"Luther has always loved

participating in music classes and we were so excited to have something so close to home that he could attend," Witthaus said. "We also loved that his classes were one on one and that he got to explore all different kinds of instruments, so that we could see which one he would be most drawn to."

Along with a wide variety of musical performances, students had a chance to dazzle their families and spectators with their artistic feats and science knowledge. An original art gallery and a robot demonstration from the academy's STEM camp students accompanied singing and instrument playing at the event.

Breanna Reed, the academy's co-founder and a Gifted and Talented Program teacher at Azle Elementary, expressed her gratitude for the community's support and excitement for future events. Breanna and her husband, Jon Reed, started the academy to give kids a place to explore their talents after being inspired by their son's avid drumming.

"It was an incredible evening that truly highlighted the talent and dedication of our students," Reed said. "Eagle Mountain Plaza has graciously agreed to host many more of our events, and we're thrilled to continue providing opportunities for our students to share their work."

Readers can find more information at *www.theazleacademy.org/home* or visit their location at 413 W. Main St. in Azle.



Jessa Howard plays the piano.



Cecelia Michalak holds her solar-powered robotic cricket in her hand.



COURTESY PHOTO Isaac Armstrong holds a microphone while belting out a song at Eagle Mountain Plaza Feb. 22.



Azalea Negrete plays the drums.







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Tri-County Reporter newspapers used in Springtown Legends Museum experiment

JOLEE SKINNER

jolee @tricounty reporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — The City of Springtown Legends Museum held its "Spring into STEM" experiment last Friday, Feb. 28, using Tri-County Reporter newspapers. Springtown Museum Coordinator Amy Hedges created the experiment as an engineering project to turn newspapers into a stool strong enough to hold the weight of a person using nothing else but tape. Hedges asked the kids to bring in a design sketch of their ideas.



The kids try out their successful engineering project.



Springtown Legends Museum used Tri-County Reporter newspapers to create a stool strong enough to hold a person.





JOLEE SKINNER | TRICOUINTY REPORTER

The kids also used the newspapers as telescopes.

Hedges teaches kids how to use tape to connect the newspapers together and build a structure stable enough to hold the weight of a person.



Springtown Museum Coordinator Amy Hedges explains how to create a stool using newspapers to the kids.



The kids also used the newspapers as telescopes.

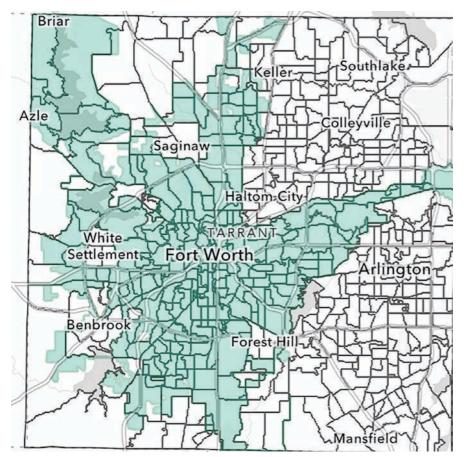
Pul KIM	NUR CONTRECTION A Hyde Media Group, LLC Company Alisher WARE MURTE MARE MARE MARE MARE MARE MARE MARE MAR	USPS 546-920 321 West Main Street, Azle, Texas 76020 Phone: (817) 270-3340 THE TRI-COUNTY REPORTER is published at 321 West Main Street, Azle, Texas by Hyde Media, LLC, weekly on Thursdays. Periodicals postage paid at Azle, Tx. 76020. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the TRI-COUNTY REPORTER, 321 West Main Street, Azle, Tx. 76020. Any erroneous reflection upon character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation, which may occur in the TRI-COUNTY REPORTER will be gladly corrected once brought to the attention of publisher or editor. The publisher is not responsible for copy omissions or typographical errors that may occur other than to correct them in the nearest issue after it is brought to his attention and in no case does the publisher hold themself liable for damages further than the amount received by them for actual space covering the error. The IRI-COUNTY REPORTER is an award-winning member of the Texas Press Association, North & East	ADVERTISING Marketing Consultant LORA PASCHAL lora@tricountyreporter.com CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING Classifieds SARA DYGERT classified@tricountyreporter.com	CIRCULATION For delivery or billing questions, subscriptions and vacation stops call (817) 270-3340 SUBSCRIPTION RATES Delivery in county: Parker, Wise and Tarrant \$5 Delivery to remainder of Texas: Outside Parker, Wise and Tarrant \$7	
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OUR MISSION: The Tri-County Reporter shall provide news and insights to our readers through the independent and impartial presentation of information that educates, enriches and entertains. We are proud to be a community newspaper committed to the people we serve.



LOCAL ELECTIONS





TRWD's taxing district

COURTESY PHOTO

Water district sees contested board race

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

FORT WORTH — Tarrant **Regional Water District is** guaranteed to see at least two new faces on its fiveseat-board after the upcoming May election.

In pursuit of other opportunities, current board members James Hill and Mary Kelleher have not filed to run for re-election. That leaves two seats for the taking and another contested seat held by incumbent president

Leah King. King has filed to defend her seat, and faces challenges from newcomers Skylar O'Neil, Andrew Brinker and Jonathan Killebrew. Candidates who earn the top three most votes in May will win a fouryear term on the board.

O'Neil is a principal at Summit Cove Investments, which has an apparent focus in software related to the energy sector. Brinker is a Tarrant County College biology professor and Fort Worth science teacher.

Killebrew is an executive Metro Code Analysis, a building inspection company.

TRWD's board of directors oversees the management of the water supply, flood control measures, and recreational areas for more than two million North Texas residents.

Voters must live in TRWD's taxing district and be at least 18 years old. Eligible voters can find a code, 223 TARRANT REGIONAL WATER DISTRICT, on their tax statements.

Who is running for Springtown ISD Board of **Trustees?** Here is the list

JOLEE SKINNER

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SPRINGTOWN — The election for Springtown ISD board of trustees 2025 is set for May 3, and Places 1, 2 and 3 are up for grabs. The final day to file for a place on the ballot was Feb. 14.

Incumbents Rick Beall, Place 1, and Jay Grubis, Place 3, have decided not to defend their seats.

Running for Place 1 are Derek Miles and Elizabeth "Tootie" Hall. Miles is a Springtown graduate who owns HDM, a local home building company. Miles is a youth coach for softball, baseball, football and basketball within the Springtown Lions Club. He is also a sponsor for both middle school girls' basketball and high

school baseball, as well as volleyball and baseball at SLC. Hall is retired and previously held Place 7 for 16 years before Cody Bryant won that seat in 2024. Hall is active within the Springtown Chamber of Commerce, is a Golf Tournament Chairman for the Springtown Education Foundation and helps the Springtown Area Senior Citizen Center.

Matthew Jones is challenging incumbent Damon Liles for Place 2. Jones went to Azle High School and graduated from Midwestern State University with a master's in business administration. Jones currently works as a financial and technology services manager at the Tarrant County Auditor's office. Liles was elected to the board of trustees in May 2016. He

holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of North Texas and is currently the president of Damon Liles Insurance Agency Inc.

Two people have filed to run in Place 3: Wendy Kennedy and Teresa Kelley. Kelley's husband, Mike Kelley, is running for the office of mayor in Springtown. Kelley graduated from Springtown High School, studied at Tarleton State University and is a College, **Career and Military Readiness** Coordinator. Kennedy is retired from SISD, where she taught at Springtown Intermediate School and is a member of the SISD Citizen's Facilities Advisory Committee.

Reno and Sanctuary cancel elections; incumbents ran unopposed

JOLEE SKINNER

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The cities of Sanctuary and Reno had no new candidates file to run for any council seats or mayor's office. The Sanctuary city council

will approve an unopposed

election in its March 11 meeting. The seats are up for election are Place 1, held by Alderwoman Dana Fohl; Place 3, held by Alderman Cliff Scallan; and Place 5, held by Alderman Robert Gunter. The City of Reno has can-

celled the election for Mayor,

Place 2, Place 4 and Place 5, due to all the candidates being unopposed. Hector Bas is the current Reno mayor; Place 2 is held by Jennifer Vogle; Ed Braun holds Place 4; and Place 5 is held by Ed Payne.

Azle, Lakeside, Pelican Bay cancel May elections

ZACH FREEMAN

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The city of Azle, the town of Lakeside and the city of Pelican Bay will not hold elections this May because there are no contested races in any

of the jurisdictions. Because longtime Azle Mavor Alan Brundrett is not running for re-election this vear, mayor pro tem Randa Goode has filed for a guaranteed spot as Azle's new mayor. Azle City Council

Place 3 Stacy Peek and Place 6 Brian Conner have also filed to remain in their current seats. Newcomer Josh Berry received no challenges in taking Goode's previous Place 4 position.

Incumbent Lakeside Mayor

Pat Jacobs, council member Place 2 Ben Forehand and council member Place 4 Amy Robinson will not have to fight to keep their seats for another term.

Pelican Bay council member Place 3 Tracy Melton, Place

4 Matt Gassen and Place 5 Kathy Bender will also retain their seats on the city council; each will be up for reelection in May 2027.

Texas law allows certain political subdivisions below the county level to cancel

their elections only if all candidates are running unopposed. Once the election date has passed, candidates are considered to be "elected" to another term.

Former Springtown council member files to run again

JOLEE SKINNER

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SPRINGTOWN — The city of Springtown has two city council seats up for election this May in addition to the mayoral office.

Council member Michele Kelley has filed to defend her spot in Place 2 where she is unopposed. Kelley has served on the council since 2017 when she was appointed to fill a vacancy. She won re-election in 2018 and ran

unopposed in 2019, 2021 and for mayor, Walter Roberson 2023 and now in 2025.

But a former council member has emerged to gain a seat at the council table once again.

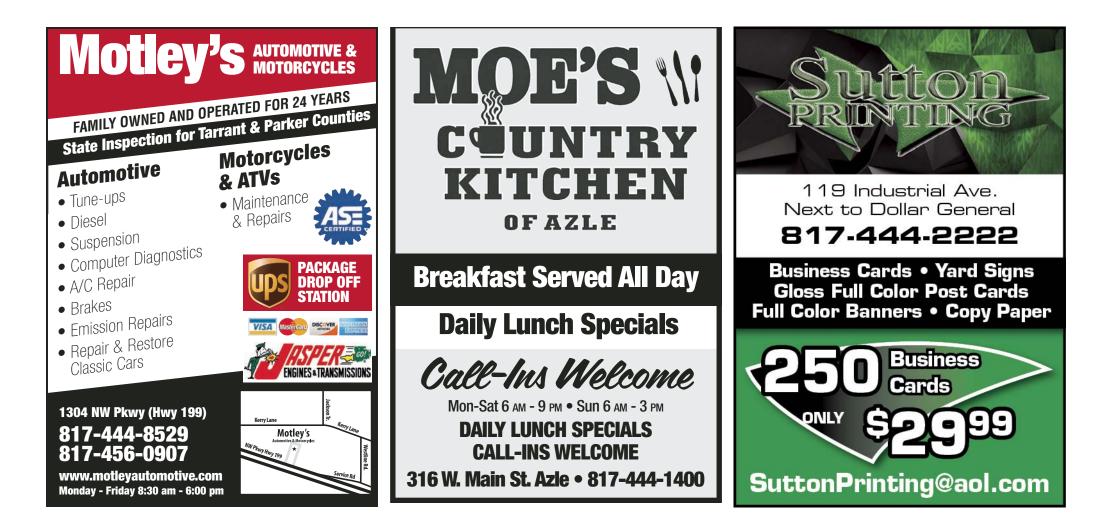
Since current council member Richelle Pruitt is running

is running for Pruitt's seat, Place 4; he is also running without opposition.

Roberson previously held Place 3 but was unseated in 2024 by David Martin. Roberson retired from Atmos

Energy where he worked for 45 years. He is an honors graduate from Jackson State University with a degree in speech communication. He graduated in 1974 from Texas Christian University with a master's degree in

speech communication. Roberson married his college sweetheart, Francine, and they have been married for 47 years. They have lived in Springtown for 30 years



AISD supports county literacy efforts

ZACH FREEMAN

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FORT WORTH — Azle Independent School District Superintendent Todd Smith attended a news conference Wednesday, Feb. 19 to show support for Precinct 4 Tarrant County Commissioner Manny Ramirez and the court's literacy efforts.

During a meeting and news conference, Ramirez introduced a resolution calling on all Tarrant County school districts to prioritize childhood literacy and implement actionable plans to increase the percentage of students reading at or above grade level. The resolution and officials from throughout Tarrant County spoke on the connection between low literacy and criminality. The document states that approximately 80% of Texas prison inmates are reported to be functionally illiterate and as are 85% of all juveniles within the juvenile court system. The resolution also notes high school dropouts are five times more likely to be arrested in their lifetime and two-thirds of students who cannot read proficiently by the end of the fourth grade will end up in jail or on welfare.

Azle ISD falls in the "upper middle" of Tarrant County school districts in achieving state reading standards.

"While we are proud of traditionally scoring above the state and region level, we remain focused on continued growth and improvement," Smith said in an email to the Tri-County Reporter. "I can assure you our Azle ISD team: teachers, campus administrators and our Curriculum and Instruction Department know the importance and are putting forth their best effort to improve."

Smith also said while the district does not need a resolution to take action, it appreciates the work of the court and will continue to go hand-in-hand with the goals outlined in the document.

It's a scam!

STAFF REPORTS

Editor's note: TxDOT is aware of continued scams targeting TxTag customers regarding outstanding toll charges. TxTag does not send emails or text messages to customers regarding balances due. If you received a suspicious message, do not click on any links and do not call TxTag's customer service phone number. Please report it to FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center at https:// ic3.gov.

AUSTIN – Texting scams are targeting toll customers in Texas saying they're from TxTag, and the Texas Department of Transportation is warning everyone to be on the lookout.

There have been multiple reports of TxTag customers receiving text messages claiming to have a balance due or past due. These SMS text phishing scams, also known as smishing, have been occurring since April, but appear to have increased recently. TxDOT is working to have fraudulent websites taken down in hopes of preventing customers from becoming victims.

TxTag takes customer account security and verification very seriously. While TxTag currently communicates with customers via email, text and outbound phone calls, it will not send text messages regarding final payment reminders or past due balances. Any text messages sent to TxTag customers will be sent from 22498.

TxDOT asks TxTag customers to be vigilant of these ongoing scams and contact

Beware messages about TxTag charges

TxTag Customer Service directly at TxTag.org. or by calling 1-888-468-9824, should customers receive an unsolicited text, email or message purporting to be from TxTag or another toll agency. They should also not click on or open any links.

Emails and texts are sent to the email address and/ or the phone number that customers provide in their account. Customers are required to opt into email and/ or text notifications in order to receive emails and/or texts from TxTag. If customers are unsure if they are opted into email and/or text notifications, they can log into their TxTag online account or contact TxTag customer service to confirm.

TxTag requires all customers to confirm their account information and verify their identity before providing any information to ensure they are speaking with the correct person on the account.

If a customer receives a phone call, email or text message they believe may be a scam, they should contact TxTag customer service directly at TxTag.org or by calling 1-888-468-9824.

Anyone who believes they have received a fraudulent text can file a complaint with the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) at www.ic3.gov.

COURTESY PHOTO A screenshot of a toll tag texting scam. TxTag does not send emails or text messages to customers regarding balances due. The Toll Roads Notice of Toll Evasion: You have an unpaid toll bill on your account. To avoid late fees, pay within 12 hours or the late fees will be increased and reported to the DMV.

https://secure.txtagxq.top/ payabill

(Please reply Y, then exit the text message and open it again to activate the link, or copy the link to your Safari browser and open it)

The Toll Roads team wishes you a great day!

LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Estate of Glenda Nell Darden Zachary, also known as Glenda N. Zachary, Deceased Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Independent Administration With Will Annexed for the Estate of Glenda Nell Darden Zachary, also known as Glenda N. Zachary, Deceased, were issued on February 26, 2025, in Cause No. 24P458, pending in the County Court of Parker County, Texas, to: Clinton Heath Carlisle, Independent Administrator With Will Annexed. Claims may be mailed in care of the Estate as follows: Clinton Heath Carlisle, Independent Administrator With Will Annexed. Claims may be mailed in care of the Estate as follows: Clinton Heath Carlisle, Independent Administrator With Will Annexed c/o Jennifer S. Ruelas, Attorney Ruelas Andino Law, PLLC 1020 Fort Worth Hwy., Ste. 500 Weatherford, Texas 76086 All persons having claims against said Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated this 26th day of February 2025.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Estate of Christopher Austin Zachary, also known as Chris Austin Zachary, Deceased. Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Independent Administration With Will Annexed for the Estate of Christopher Austin Zachary, also known as Chris Austin Zachary, Deceased, were issued on February 26, 2025, in Cause No. 24P456, pending in the County Court of Parker County, Texas, to: Clinton Heath Carlisle, Independent Administrator With Will Annexed. Claims may be mailed in care of the Estate as follows: Clinton Heath Carlisle, Independent Administrator With Will Annexed c/o Jennifer S. Ruelas, Attorney Ruelas Andino Law, PLLC 1020 Fort Worth Hwy., Ste. 500 Weatherford, Texas 76086 All persons having claims against said Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated this 26th day of February 2025.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS CITY OF AZLE, TEXAS VAC-TRUCK BUILDING Separate sealed bids for the construction of the Vac-Truck Building project (Azle bid number 2025-007) will be received by the City of Azle, Texas until 3:00 PM on April 3, 2025, at City Hall, 505 W. Main Street, Azle, Texas, 76020, and then at said location publicly opened and read aloud. This project includes: installing approximately a 50' x 100' pre-fabricated metal building, foundation, and all incidental appurtenances for a complete project in accordance with the contract documents and plans. The Contract Documents consisting of Advertisement of Bids, Information for Bidders, Bid Proposal, Bid Bond, Contract, Performance and Payment Bonds, Maintenance Bond, General Conditions, Notice of Award, Notice to Proceed, Plans, Specifications, and Addenda (if any) may be examined at the following location: JACOB & MARTIN, LLC 1925 Fort Worth Highway, Weatherford, Texas 76086 The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities and to reject any or all bids. Bids may be held by the Owner for a period not to exceed 60 days from the date of bid opening for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the qualifications of Bidders prior to awarding of the contract. Contractors must obtain a set of CONTRACT DOCUMENTS online at www. jacobmartin.com by digital download or hard copy to be considered a registered plan holder eligible to bid the project. Cost for digital download of CONTRACT DOCUMENTS will be \$0.00. Hard copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS will be \$100.00. All Copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS must be ordered online and are available for pick up, mail out or digital download via www.jacobmartin.com. Upon verification of online payment, hard copies may be picked up at Jacob & Martin, LLC, located at 1925 Fort Worth Highway, Weatherford, Texas 76086. A certified check or bank draft, payable to the order of CITY OF AZLE, TEXAS, negotiable U.S. Governmental bonds (at par value) or a satisfactory Bid Bond executed by the Bidder and an acceptable surety in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the total bid shall be submitted with each bid. City of Azle, Texas Alan Brundrett, Mayor March 6th and 13th, 2025.



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PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE- VARIANCE REQUEST The City of Pelican Bay Board of Adjustment will conduct a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at City Hall, 1300 Pelican Circle to consider the following variance request: The property owner, Tracy and Thomas Melton, has requested a variance to the SF-3 living area square footage requirement of 1,000 square feet to allow for a new home at 960 square feet for an existing lot 84 in block 18, of Pelican Bay Addition, generally located at 1404 Quail Ct. The property is zoned SF-3 (Single-Family 3), which requires a minimum living space of 1,000 feet. The owners home burned in a fire and is deemed a total loss with no insurance to rebuild. Without a variance, the couple will endure a severe financial hardship to comply with the current square footage requirement. Written comments on the variance request are welcomed and must be returned to the following address before the meeting. Members of the public are invited to attend and speak at the hearing. City of Pelican Bay 1300 Pelican Circle Pelican Bay, Texas 76020 Attn: Cynthia Daniels, City Secretary

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SPRINGTOWN, TEXAS AMENDING SECTION 33.1, FENCES IN SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL AREAS, SECTION 33 "FENCES, WALLS, AND SCREENING" OF CHAPTER 14 "ZONING ORDINANCE" OF THE CITY OF SPRINGTOWN CODE OF ORDINANCES; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A PENALTY FOR VIOLATIONS HEREOF; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE Any person, firm or corporation who violates, disobeys, omits, neglects, refuses or fails to comply with, or who resists the enforcement of any provision of this ordinance shall be fined not more than Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) for each offense. Each day that a violation is permitted to exist shall constitute a separate offense.

Effective February 27, 2025

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Notice is hereby given that the City of Pelican Bay, Texas City Council will hold a public hearing on March 11, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall, 1300 Pelican Circle, Pelican Bay, Texas to consider the following: Final Plat Application No. 2024-01, by Friendly Acres Quality Homes, LLC to plat a development of 57 lots for residential located at 149 Richard Lane and 1 lot for commercial located at 10925 to 10945 Liberty School Road on a 12.479 acre parcel of land. Property is within the corporate limits of Pelican Bay, Texas, being part of the Jacob Wilcox Survey, Abstract 1713 in the City of Pelican Bay, Tarrant County, Texas.VPublic Comment: All interested parties are invited to attend the public hearing and provide comments regarding the proposed preliminary plat. Written comments: The preliminary plat application and supporting documents are available for review at 1300 Pelican Circle, Pelican Bay, Texas during regular business hours. Contact Information: For further information, please contact Cynthia Daniels, City Secretary, at 817-444-1234 or cdaniels@pelicanbaytx.gov.

NOTICE TO PROPOSERS Request for Proposals for General Counsel Walnut Creek Special Utility District is requesting proposals for general counsel servicesfromlicensedattorney firms or individual attorneys. The complete RFP can be found at www.walnutcreeksud.org. Sealed proposals, and separately, sealed cost proposals, three (3) original hard copies of each proposal and one (1) electronic version on a USB drive, marked "Sealed Proposal for Legal Services" and "Sealed Cost Proposal", respectively. These will be received by the Office Manager or designee, at 1155 W. Hwy 199, Springtown, Parker County, Texas, until 3:00 p.m. on Monday, March 31, 2025, at which time proposals are to be opened and publicly read in the Board Room. Questions regarding the proposal should be directed to the Office Manager at denise@ walnutcreeksud.org. Questions will be accepted until 3:00 p.m. Monday, March 10, 2025. Walnut Creek Special Utility District does not accept emailed or faxed proposals. Proposals are to be submitted on proposers' own forms including Name of Proposer, Contact and Telephone number. The District reserves the right to reject all proposals, or parts of proposals, to waive any and all technicalities, and to accept any proposal, or part of proposal, which it deems advantageous to itself. BY ORDER OF WALNUT CREEK SPECIAL UTILITY DISTRICT, SPRINGTOWN, TEXAS





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Springtown PD **Officer Shane Brown** receives corporal pin at council meeting

JOLEE SKINNER

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SPRINGTOWN - On Thursday, Feb. 27, Officer Shane Brown received his corporal pin during a pinning ceremony during the Springtown city council meeting. Brown is Springtown High School's resource officer and was recently promoted from the rank of

officer to that of corporal. Brown has been employed with the Springtown Police Department since 2019. Deputy Chief of Police Jamie Oliver spoke a few words before Brown received his pin.

"It's been a long time coming," Oliver said. "He's done a great job. Over the summer, he helped patrol this area. He'll help you with whatever

you need. I'm very excited, I've been waiting for this to happen."

Brown was pinned by his fiancé Kelly Sabin.

To become a police corporal, usually officers need to have a certain amount of experience as a full-time police officer and demonstrate leadership skills. They also complete additional training and pass written exams.

JOLEE SKINNER | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Shane Brown received his corporal pin at the Feb. 27 Springtown city council meeting. Brown was pinned by his fiancé, Kelly Sabin.

TCEC FROM PAGE A1

8 in 2027. District 5, which represents much of Azle and Springtown, was held by Harris until Feb. 20. This

seat will be filled during the co-op's regular election in September. District 4 was previously held by Miller, who is the Springtown City Manager, and covers parts of Springtown, Poolville, Weatherford and parts of rural Parker and Jack County; the seat will remain vacant until September 2026. Districts 6 and 8, now vacant, will not be filled for nearly three more years.

Applications to file for a place on the ballot for Place 5, as well as additional materials, will be available on the TCEC website at tcectexas. com and in district offices by

April 15. Candidates must be members of Tri-County Electric Cooperative.

TCEC is one of the state's largest electricity providers, and as a cooperative, its customers are also memberowners. Four customers reached out to the Tri-County Reporter by press time to

voice their concerns.

"With the majority of the board having been replaced, I am alarmed at rumors suggesting an effort to retain control by not holding elections to fill the vacant seats," Robert Embrey of Poolville said. "The decision to prematurely close the election

means that over 70% of our members will lack representation until 2028, which is unacceptable. Surely, anyone can tell this organization is a huge mess and I know the members are urgently trying to get someone to help do something!"



TRI*COUNTY REPORTER

... 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 Worship10:45 AM Evening Worship/Youth Refuge... 6:00 PM Wednesday Evening 6:15 PM

AZLE FIRST ASSEMBLY of GOD

Rev. Joshua Lowrance	1
1020 S.E. Parkway, Azle 817-237-4903	
Sunday School	
Morning Worship 10:30 AM	

COMMUNITY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH Pastor - Alton Davis 817-521-4510

cbfazle.org 1405 Revnolds Rd., Azle

1100 1109110100 1101, 71210
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 Wednesday7:00 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 Worship9:30 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 Youth Sun 5:30 рм & Wed 6:30 рм Wed. Bible Study......7:00 рм

GRACEPOINTE CHURCH

4110 E. Hwy 199, Springtown Pastor: Timothy McKeown 817-221-5683 gracepointesbc.org Sunday School9:45 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 ам
Sunday	11 AM (Spanish)
Daily Mass (M, T, Th, F).	
Wednesday Mass Religio	us ED6:30 рм
Confessions	Sat 4 рм

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 Donuts9:00 AM Sunday School 9:30 am Morning Worship 10:30 AM Children's Church After Music Service

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 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

9:45 AM	(011-17
10:50 ам	Awana
7:00 рм	
	10:50 ам 6:00 рм

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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)			
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

31 Springtown ISD teachers receive TIA designations

JOLEE SKINNER

jolee@tricountyreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — Springtown ISD announced 31 teachers who received designations through the Teacher Incentive Allotment (TIA). Springtown ISD Communications and Marketing Coordinator Kendra Hutchison made the announcement to the district. "Springtown ISD is proud to recognize the outstanding achievements of our teachers who have earned designations through the Teacher Incentive Allotment," Hutchison said. "These designations are a testament to their dedication, expertise and commitment to excellence in the classroom. This year, we are excited to celebrate 31 teachers across our district who have earned Master, Exemplary and Recognized distinctions."

Springtown ISD Master Teacher:

Heather Herring — Goshen Creek Elementary

Springtown ISD Exemplary Teachers:

Anne Mechler — Goshen Creek Elementary Graceyn Owens — Goshen Creek Elementary Shayli Tilghman — Goshen Creek Elementary Amanda Bratcher — Goshen Creek Elementary Lyza Becker — Goshen Creek Elementary Lauri Harris — Goshen Creek Elementary Erica Jones — Goshen Creek Elementary Shelby Cutchen — Goshen Creek Elementary Whitney Lowery — Goshen Creek Elementary Barbara Morrow — Goshen Creek Elementary Jacqulyn Patino — Springtown Reno Elementary Kacie Woods — Springtown Reno Elementary Johanna McIntosh — Springtown Reno Elementary Saskia Hornback — Springtown High School Hannah Adams — Springtown High School Kevin Van Rite — Springtown High School Daniel Horton — Springtown Middle School

Springtown ISD Recognized Teachers:

Heather Babcock — Goshen Creek Elementary Christian Denney — Goshen Creek Elementary Jennifer Dolkos — Goshen Creek Elementary Jawie Beck — Goshen Creek Elementary Jaylee Grubis — Goshen Creek Elementary Lindsey Killion — Goshen Creek Elementary Tracy Torres — Springtown Reno Elementary Soraida Rodriguez — Springtown Elementary Merle Westerhaus — Springtown Elementary Katy Mussulman — Springtown High School Djauhn Cross — Springtown Intermediate Chelsea Strickland — Springtown Intermediate



PHOTO COURTESY KENDRA HUTCHISON

Heather Herring, a teacher at Goshen Creek Elementary, received the Master Teacher designation, the highest in the Teacher Incentive Allotment program. Pictured presenting Herring the award are (L-R: Wesley Thomas, Micheal Chavez, Tiffany Cano, Amanda Lanicek, Shane Strickland, Heather Herring, Wendy Ashley, Mark Mathis, Rick Beall).

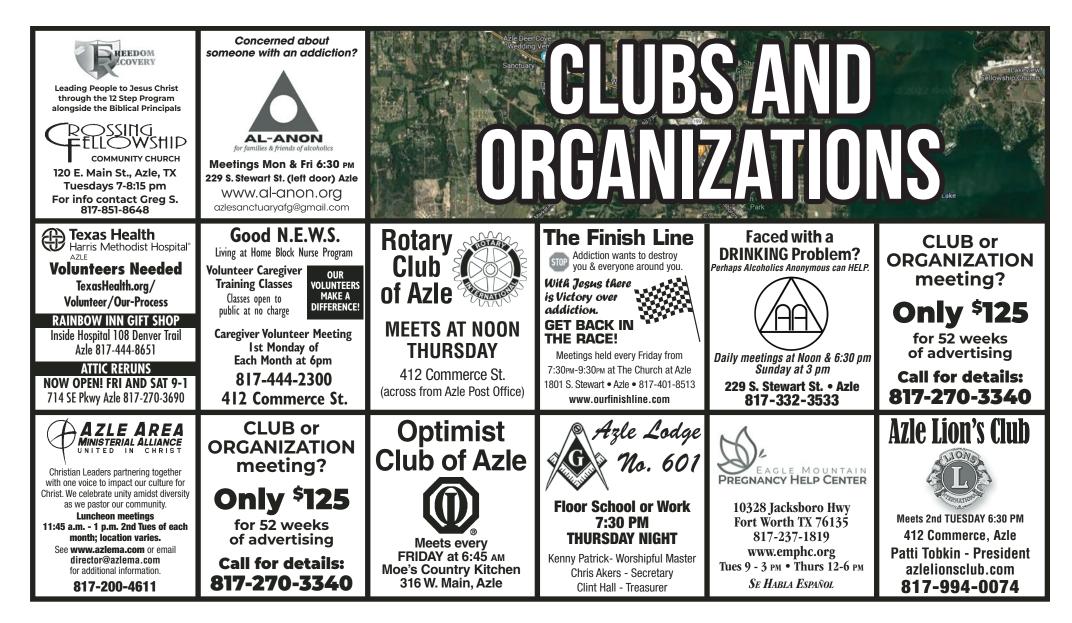


Jacqulyn Patino, a teacher at Reno Elementary, received the Exemplary Teacher designation. Pictured with Patino as she received the award are (back, L-R back): Shane Strickland, Rick Beall, Mark Mathis, Micheal Chavez, Tiffany Cano; and (front, L-R): Wendy Showers, Jacqulyn Patino, Amanda Lanicek.



Djauhn Cross, who teaches at Springtown Intermediate, received the Recognized Teacher designation. In this photo are (back, L-R): Rick Beall, Micheal Chavez, Wesley Thomas, Mark Mathis, Shane Strickland; and (front, L-R): Amanda Lanicek, Djauhn Cross, Tiffany Cano.

Merle Westerhaus, who teaches at Springtown Elementary, received the Recognized Teacher designation. Pictured during the presentation are (back, L-R): Rick Beall, Wesley Thomas, Mark Mathis, Shane Strickland; and (front, L-R): Amanda Lanicek, Merle Westerhaus, Tiffany Cano.



High score!

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

AZLE — Azle High School senior Katalina Brunetti was once again recognized by the Azle Independent School District board of trustees. Brunetti last appeared before trustees in the fall as a 2025 National Merit Scholar semifinalist and returned as a finalist for a Feb. 24 meeting.

Brunetti was recognized along with 15,000 semifinalists nationwide in the 70th annual iteration of the contest. The student was entered into the semifinals after scoring a 1430, then later a 1510, out of a possible 1600 on the Scholastic Aptitude Test. Brunetti continues to work and retest to get an even higher score. More than 1.3 million high school juniors in about 21,000 high schools were entered after making high scores on their PSATs.

Merit Scholar designees are selected on the basis of their skills, accomplishments and potential for success and rigorous college studies. National Merit Scholarship finalists will be notified in February and awardees for 2025 will be announced with nationwide news releases beginning in April and ending in July. Nearly \$26 million will be offered to students at contest's conclusion.

About 7,500 students will receive scholarships of \$2,500 and higher. Winners will be guaranteed a full ride, paid tuition, good at more than 200 universities around the country. Brunetti has not committed to a university but is interested in the University of Texas in Austin and the University of Texas at Dallas. With a grade point average over 105, Brunetti is also salutatorian of the Azle High School senior class and helped make meals for the trustees the evening of the meeting as a member of the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America.

Azle High School senior recognized as one of nation's top SAT takers



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER Back row: Jeremy May and Jeff Edwards. Middle row: Brandon Geary, Todd Smith, Bill Lane, Sarah Bennett, Brenda Reed, Tim Brown. Front row: Katalina Brunetti at a Feb. 24 meeting.

Springtown council hears 2024 police report

JOLEE SKINNER

jolee@tricountyreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — The Springtown Police Department released its annual report for 2024 at the Feb. 27 Springtown City Council meeting. Deputy Chief of Police Jamie Oliver presented the report as well as the annual racial profiling report, the Group A Offense report and the UCR report.

"We did really good this year," Oliver said, "We just continue to grow. We stay busy. The guys work hard." In 2024, the SPD's staff included the deputy chief of police, director of public safety, CID sergeant, SRO sergeant, eight patrol officer positions, two corporals, six school resource officers, telecommunications supervisor and four telecommunications officers.

SPD responded to 18,411 calls for service in 2024. **HERE WERE THE TOP FIVE**

- CALLS FOR SERVICE:
- \cdot 936 animal calls
- · 307 accidents
- · 283 reckless drivers

 \cdot 213 alarm calls

209 assist other agencies (EMS, fire department)
Here were the top selfinitiated calls for service:
9,746 extra patrols/security

- 8,826 traffic stops
- 822 suspicious persons/ vehicles
- 6,543 total warnings
 4,832 total citations

Fraud offenses range from stolen credit cards or bank accounts to spam calls. There were 66 thefts and 50 fraud offenses reported to the SPD this past year. Most of these offenses occur in the commercial areas of the city. The offenses that occurred in the residential areas of the city can be classified as crimes of opportunity such as the theft of bicycles and lawn equipment left unsecure or out in a yard. There were five burglaries reported to the department in 2024.

SPD made 402 arrests for various offenses this year. These arrests cover on-view and warrant arrests for misdemeanor and felony offenses. Of the total arrests, 158 were for outstanding warrants from SPD and other law enforcement agencies throughout the area and state, while 244 were on-view arrests. There were zero reports of homicide or rape in 2024.

The Texas Department of Public Safety collects information about crimes in Texas to determine the crime rate. In 2024, the City of Springtown reported 92 Part I offenses, including criminal homicide, rape, robbery, assault, burglary, larceny-theft and motor vehicle theft.

There were two reported

robbery cases, 47 reported assault cases with 20 cleared by arrest or exceptional means. Five burglary cases were reported, with four cleared, 31 larceny-theft cases were reported with two cleared and seven reported motor vehicle theft cases with one cleared.

SPD had zero racial profiling complaints in 2024. For more information about the Springtown police department, contact David Miller at *dmiller@cityofspringtown. com.*

AISD responds in elementary Omegle incident

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

AZLE — The father of an Azle student went to Facebook after learning his child had seen illicit sexual content on another student's phone.

Steve Kotera alleged that

his fifth-grade daughter had seen a live stream of a man performing an inappropriate sexual act on the video chat website Omegle after being called over to a group of students during class dismissal. Kotera's Facebook post stated he was looking for a lawyer in order to pursue legal options in the case. Kotera posted again Feb. 22, upset that he had allegedly not received an update from the school after two weeks.

The Tri-County Reporter reached out to AISD Communications Director Amanda Moore for information about the incident. Moore responded with a quote from AISD Superintendent Todd Smith, who confirmed that an incident took place at the end of the school day at Azle Elementary Wednesday, Jan. 20

"A small group of students gathered around a student's

personal cell phone and allegedly witnessed inappropriate adult content," Smith said in an email. "This was not reported to an adult until Friday, Jan. 31, at which time Azle Elementary administrators investigated. The content of what was seen is only from student reports. It appears the student accessed a couples' chat group via an app or the internet, not on our Wi-Fi network. AE administrators contacted the parents of those students directly involved. AE admin followed our student code of conduct and discipline matrix in addressing the situation."





TRI+COUNTY REPORTER

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Springtown Senior Center suffers heavy storm damage



JOLEE SKINNER | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

A gust of wind resulted in roof damage to properties in Parker County, including the Springtown Area Senior Center. The wind peeled the overhang and metal roof from the building and deposited it several feet away.



JOLEE SKINNER | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER This photo of the Springtown Area Senior Center overhang before the wind damage was taken Nov. 5, 2024.



JOLEE SKINNER

jolee@tricountyreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN — The Springtown Area Senior Center fell victim to severe storm damage in the early morning hours on March 4, 2025. Gusts of winds as strong as 70mph blew through Parker County, resulting in roof damage, trees blown over and significant property damage. The overhang, located in the front of the center, flew into some nearby trees and a brick wall located on the east side of the center completely collapsed. The parts of the metal roof were also found in nearby trees.



JOLEE SKINNER | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER Part of the Springtown Area Senior Center roof after the storm.





JOLEE SKINNER | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER The Springtown Area Senior Center overhang after the storm.

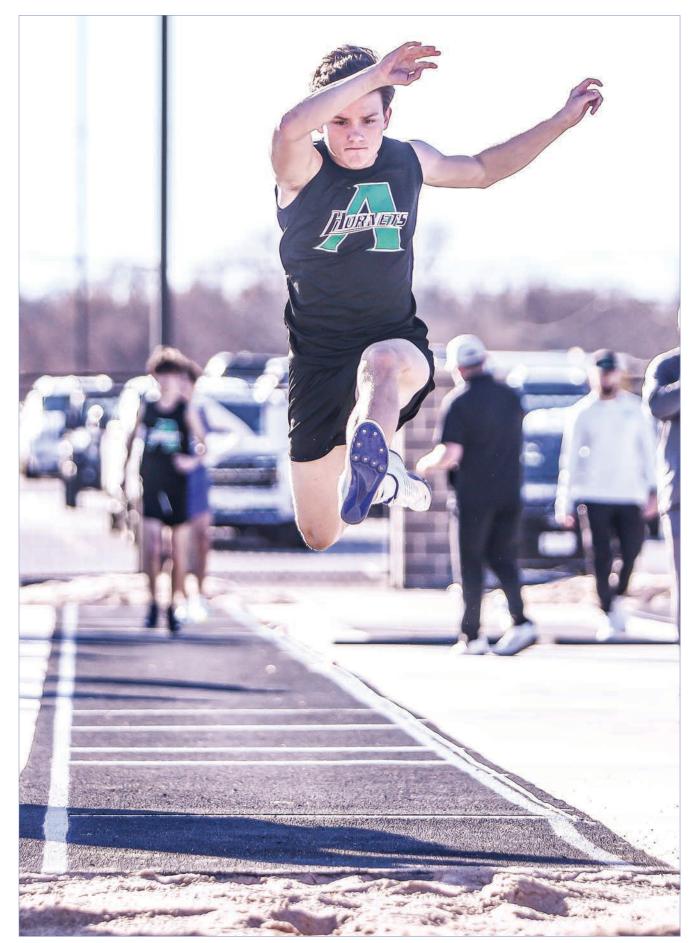
The Springtown Area Senior Center decorative brick exterior on the east side collapsed.

JOLEE SKINNER | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER



TRI+COUNTY REPORTER COMMUNICATION

THURSDAY, March 6, 2025



Azle girls wrestling team recognized by trustees

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

AZLE — Azle High School girls wrestling coach Jason Conger spoke about the success and stories of his team's season during a Feb. 24 board of trustees meeting. Conger thanked the community, Azle ISD, its staff and administrators for all the support the girls' team received this season and presented the

PLEASE SEE GIRLS | A11



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER Chloe Jones and members of the AHS girls wrestling team shake hands with trustees.

AHS boys wrestling team highlighted at AISD meeting

ZACH FREEMAN azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

AZLE — Azle High School wrestlers and coaches came home to bask in their success after wrapping up a historic season. At a Feb. 24 board of trustees meeting, the group was recognized for its accomplishments and head coach Tyler Harrison spoke about everything his teams had been through during the year.

PLEASE SEE BOYS | A11



Hornets shine at Azle Invitational Track Meet

Azle High School's Aaron Stapleton competes in the long jump during the Azle Invitational Track Meet Thursday, Feb. 27. MORE PHOTOS PAGE A11

ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER Azle High School wrestlers shake hands with trustees Feb. 24.

Azle swimmers make waves

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricountyreporter.com

AZLE — Members of the Azle High School swim team were recognized at a Feb. 24 Azle Independent School District board of trustees meeting following the team's historic season. Coach Amy Estes was called on to speak about the accomplishments of her girl and boy swimmers. Estes said the students had worked hard and made waves after starting their season in August. Without a pool of their own, the group gets up 5:45 a.m. to travel to the Decatur ISD natatorium for practice. Near the season's conclusion Feb. 9–10, the girls team placed third at a Mansfield Regional competition.

"We've never been able to do that," Estes said. "So, that was a first for us to get a flag and be honored as a team. Our guys, if you'll notice, they're a little scant in numbers, but they work hard as well. We had a fantastic end and we are proud of their accomplishments and we look forward to the next year. I do want to say over half of these kids up here are first year swimmers. We only had three returners. We graduated six last year, so it was a rebuilding year. More than half are brand new swimmers. So, we're really proud."

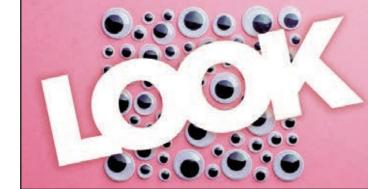
PHOTOS COURTESY CHAPA PHOTOGRAPHY

SWIM TEAM MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE INCLUDE:

- Karla Rodriguez
- Kaylee Daniels
- Kayley Brekel
- LaynieBeth Hodges
- Mavis Caldentey
- \cdot Chanel Martin
- Sophia Roark
- Nekoda Averitte
- Ava Dash
- Tanner Gray
- Nathan AllenLogan Chrisman
- Logan Chirisinan



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER Members of Azle High School's swim teams shake hands with trustees the night of Feb. 24.



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Hornets shine at Azle Invitational Track Meet

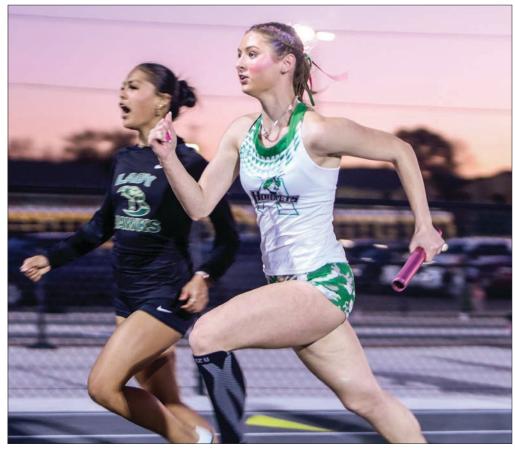


PHOTOS COURTESY CHAPA PHOTOGRAPHY

An AHS competitor, left, leaps to clear a hurdle and keep ahead of his Fort Worth Paschal opponent.



Azle's Jay Glaze stretches while showing off his golden sneakers during the Azle Invitational Track Meet Feb. 27



Azle's Paisley Jeter gives it her all in the girls 440 by 2 relay at the Azle Invitational Track Meet Feb. 27.



Jay Glaze of Azle High School reaches backward to grab the baton from his teammate in the second leg of the 440 by 2 relay at the Azle Invitational Track Meet Feb. 27.

BOYS FROM PAGE A10

"We're just very grateful

the Hammer Invitational in Cabot, Arkansas, where they competed against 32 teams from seven different states. The Hornets won their district championship by a large margin and secured eight individual district titles. At regionals, they finished second in Region 1 for the first time in school history, advancing seven wrestlers to the state tournament in Houston. The team cracked the top 10 at state, finishing eighth overall, with two individual state finalists. The team was also named the

Texas High School Wrestling Coaches Association Dual State Champions.

The coaching staff worked closely across both the boys' and girls' programs, a factor that Harrison believes has contributed significantly to the team's achievements. Harrison said Azle sent more students to the state competition than many much larger schools. Harrison also highlighted Azle ISD's commitment to multi-sport participation, with several wrestlers competing in baseball and other activities.

"Azle ISD is a destination district and we're proud that our program is part of that," Harrison said. "In our wrestling village, we've got a grea group of kids and parents in our program that work together. They support each other, they run around from gym to gym and cheer for our kids, and so that's what contributes to our success.' A special moment from the season included Coach Michael Mitchell singing the national anthem at both the regional and state tournaments, earning an invitation

to perform a second time. The event also saw strong school support, with AHS Principal Nate Driver cheering from the front row during the finals and AISD Athletic Director Michael Sain joining the team on the floor at the state tournament. This year, AHS also hosted a district tournament at Azle High School for the second time ever. "The amount of work organization and coordinating, and amount of information and all the things that got put together, these coaches

knocked it out of the park," Harrison said. The future looks bright for next season's returning

for the opportunities and the fact that this district puts what's best for kids first," Harrison said. "That support enables us to do our job and build a successful program."

This season, the Azle boys' wrestling team traveled across Texas and beyond, securing major wins. They took first place at the Ultimate Warrior Duels in San Antonio and dominated the Bring benefiting from the district's support.

TEAM MEMBERS RECOGNIZED AT THE MEETING INCLUDE:

- \cdot Waylon Gray
- · Chase Yancey
- \cdot Kolby Moreland
- \cdot Landin Evans
- Roman Fraser
- \cdot Tyler Yancey
- JW Gilbreath

GIRLS FROM PAGE A10

achievements of this season's students.

"Now these young ladies in front of you, they're a special group," Conger said. "They're dedicated, gritty and determined. They work purposefully every day to be the best version of themselves. The sport of wrestling is unforgiving and it's incredibly difficult on a daily basis. There's nowhere else in the high school that they lock you in a packed room and allow you to go hand-to-hand and come out the other side every single day. These young ladies are products of that grittiness and toughness every single day. These young ladies continue to persevere no matter what is thrown their way."

After sending a team of three regional champions to the state competition, the girls' team ultimately walked away with a third-place trophy. Conger noted this was the second consecutive trophy brough home by this group of girls. He mentioned senior Mariah Dillard who had a particularly spectacular final season and wrestling career at Azle ISD.

"This young lady deserves

every single moment that she gets in the spotlight, and she's very special for a lot of different reasons, but she deserves this recognition," Conger said. "Not only is she a senior, but she's a threetime state finalist. She's the third two-time state champion in Azle ISD history. Not only that, but she's the only athlete to ever go undefeated at 85 and 0 in the history of wrestling in Azle ISD ... "She's going to be truly missed, but every accomplishment that she's ever accomplished while wearing the Hornet seal is going to be remembered in history forever."

Conger also pointed out Chloe Jones, an athletic trainer for the team, calling her one of the most dedicated trainers he's had the opportunity to work with. Jones will also compete at HOSA's upcoming sports medicine state competition after qualifying at regionals.

RECOGNIZED GIRL WRESTLERS AND ATHLETIC TRAINERS INCLUDE:

- \cdot Elly Yelle
- Noah Kovach
- Mariah Dillard
 Vlariaga Faminga
- Klarissa Espinoza
- Kaylie Groot
- \cdot Chloe Jones



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LEGACY CHURCH Hwy. 199 W. at FM 2257, Azle 817-221-2983 / 817-221-5760

VICTORY CHRISTIAN CENTER 737 Boyd Rd., Azle 817-444-LOVE

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AGNES INDEPENDENT BAPTIST 350 Agnes N., Springtown 817-523-7271

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BY THE WORD BAPTIST West of FM 730 N. at sign, Briar 817- 444-3484

CALVARY HEIGHTS BAPTIST 1 block off Hwy. 199, east of David's Patio, Springtown, 817-221-2241

CENTRAL BAPTIST 4290 Old Agnes Road 817-594-5918

CHURCH ON THE HILL 836 NW Parkway, Azle 817-444-3752

CHRISTWAY BAPTIST 7673 West Hwy. 199, Agnes 817-220-9133 or 817-220-3581

CLEAR FORK BAPTIST Corner of FM 730 & Ragle Rd., Weatherford, 817-594-1154

EAGLE MOUNTAIN BAPTIST 8780 Eagle Mtn. Circle, Azle 817-237-4135

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

FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST 801 Friendship Rd., 9½ miles S. of Springtown off Hwy. 51 S. 817-594-5940 or 817-599-4917

FUNDAMENTAL BAPTIST 5th & Main in Springtown 817-523-5477

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GRACE POINTE CHURCH 4110 E. Hwy. 199, Springtown 817-221-5683

HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH 3577 FM 51 N., Weatherford 817-564-3946

IGLESIA BAUTISTA Nueva Jerusalen 6640 Midway Rd., Springtown 817-694-0444

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LAKE WORTH BAPTIST 4445 Hodgkins, Lake Worth 817-237-4163

METROPOLITAN BAPTIST 6051 Azle Ave., Fort Worth 817-237-2201

NEW HOPE BAPTIST 782 New Hope Rd., Reno area 817-221-2184

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PRIMERA IGLESIA BAUTISTA 300 S. Stewart, Azle 817-500-3641

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CHRISTIAN

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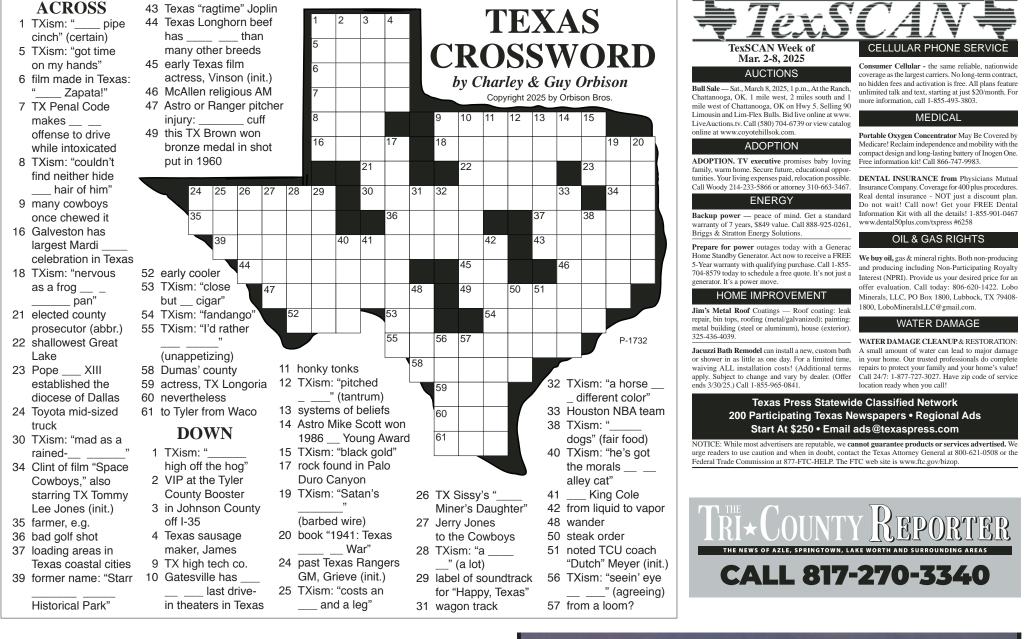
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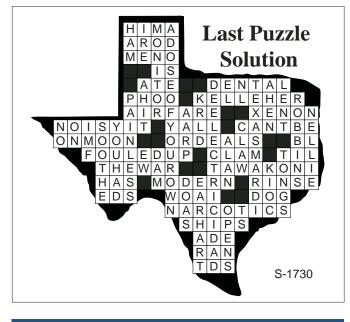
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Dr. Scott Ballard holds a champagne skunk.

CREATURE FROM PAGE A1

love it, will you consider it?" They said yes. Then he personally set out on a mission to find a way to bring a program to the schools that did just that."

Ballard mainly showcases "Creature Teacher" to kindergarten through second grade students, but he has recently expanded.

"We have always focused on kindergarten through second grade but in the past few years, we first expanded with the addition of pre-K because there was a huge need," Oxford said. "We have now begun doing entire schools, pre-K through fifth grade in our rural markets like Springtown. Dr. Scott would do every single school, as many kids as possible, if his schedule allowed."

As the program has grown in popularity, schools reach out months in advance, hoping to snag a spot for their students.

"It's become a tradition — it's certainly part of our brand now," Oxford said. "Teachers start messaging us early in the school year to make sure they get theirs scheduled. Kids remember us and even know us by name. We know they are impacted and we love that they look forward to learning. So many relationships have formed between our teams and the schools. We love it."

Ballard started partnering with the Fort Worth Zoo but then found a business that shared more than just a name.

"Originally, we worked with different organizations including the Fort Worth Zoo," Oxford said. "Over time, we developed a wonderful relationship with Belinda and Corv Henry from The Creature Teacher. Ironically, their business shared the name concept. We use them exclusively in all our shows, which also has turned into additional "one off" community shows in our Northlake communities in both the spring and fall. We have also been known to spoil our local teaching communities at their convocations in August and brought "Quillie Nelson" the porcupine to Springtown ISD this past August."

COVID-19 did bring some challenges to the program, due to students being sent home to quarantine. But Ballard found a way to reach his audience.

"In 2021, we had to get creative," Oxford said. "COVID prevented us from going into the schools physically. Dr. Scott demanded that we find a way to make sure the program was available. We hired a professional videographer to come to our office, record a "live show," then added it to YouTube and our website. That enabled us to be able to not only send out the link for teachers to share a virtual program with their class, but we also donated the normal dental hygiene bags and created a cute card for the kids to take home to watch it with their parents."

Oxford says the event is designed around a formula Ballard created for these particular age groups and watching them is always a blast. "It just never gate old

"It just never gets old watching them scream, engage and just watching them learn," Oxford said. "Dr. Scott, being a father of five himself and now a grandfather, realizes that kids in this age group don't have a long attention span in group settings. He developed the program so that it was short, hit all the high points and was interactive."

Ballard understands that this program not only helps kids but helps struggling parents at home trying to implement good oral hygiene habits for their children.

"Without a doubt, he knows that every kid can benefit from this show," Oxford said. "He also knows that parents struggle at home at times with oral hygiene or that not all kids have a good routine in place for 100 different reasons. He truly believes that if he impacts even one child out of the 600-plus kids we see in one school, it's worth it to him. Habits form early and this truly helps. He has grown "kids" that recognize him in the community now. He's referred to as the "Creature Dentist" which only fuels his fire to do it more."

How long does Ballard plan to continue the program? His answer — as long as he is in business.

"He will never not do the show," Oxford said. "As long as his name is on the door, he will be the "Creature Teacher Dentist."





Dr. Scott Ballard teaches kids the importance of flossing and brushing their teeth.

Springtown Elementary Students look at Dr. Scott Ballard holding the animals.

