TRI+COUNTY REPORTER

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

THURSDAY, March 13, 2025 • \$1.00

TEA praises Azle school security

ZACH FREEMAN

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 ${\it AZLE-Azle\ Independent}$ School District has achieved full compliance in all categories of its recent Texas **Education Agency safety** and security audit.

AISD Police Chief Darren Brockway presented results from a January district vulnerability audit during a Feb. 24 board of trustees meeting. The assessment covered emergency operations, security protocols and campus safety standards, ensuring that the district meets state requirements and remains eligible for grant funding.

The results confirmed that Azle ISD not only met

state standards but also exceeded expectations in several areas. Azle schools were awarded the "best practices" designation for numerous instances where security went above and beyond. Among the best practices recognized were the district's implementation of silent alarm activation procedures, comprehensive officer training, extensive camera and monitoring systems and many other feats and features. Another noted best practice was the frosted glass dry erase boards found at three elementary campuses that double as a means to conceal and shield students during ac-

SEE **SECURITY** | A3



Legacy Oaks uses baby dolls

CARLA STUTSMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Legacy Oaks of Azle memory care resident Ruth holds her baby doll and smiles next to Tonja Moon March 6.

ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER Police Chief Darren Brockway reports findings from a recent TEA security audit at the Azle ISD Administration building March 4.

ZACH FREEMAN

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AZLE — Memory care residents living in Azle are being reintroduced to parenting

with great success. The Dallas-Fort Worth-

in dementia therapy

based Grand Baby Project, a 25-year initiative by Tonja Moon, uses dementia doll therapy to improve the lives

of dementia patients without pharmaceuticals. Inspired by Moon's own experiences with her grandmother, the project has expanded across the country and globe. The ther-

apy, effective for stage four dementia and above, involves giving patients lifelike dolls to stimulate positive behav-

PLEASE SEE **DEMENTIA** | A4

Property deemed uninhabitable by Springtown City Council

JOLEE SKINNER

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SPRINGTOWN — The Springtown City Council conducted a public hearing Feb. 27 into a property where more than 30 animals were

During the public hearing, Emmie Bryant represented the property owner, who is a single elderly female. Bryant told the council the property owner will comply with Code Enforcement's request

to have the property demolished. The elderly woman has hired a contractor to demolish the house and requested additional time to have several vehicles be placed elsewhere and to remove items from the house. The owner

has put the property on the market, hoping it sells soon.

Springtown City Administrator David Miller told Bryant there will be another hearing at the March 18 city council meeting and assured the property owner

that she had additional time to remove items from the house, demolish the house and sell the property.

In early February, Springtown police officers were called to the property for a welfare concern. Upon

arrival, the officers discovered an unsecured entry, and based on the welfare concern, made entry to the structure.

They discovered unsanitary living conditions, no running

PLEASE SEE **PROPERTY** | A2



Students got to enjoy different flavored snow cones.

JOLEE SKINNER

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SPRINGTOWN - OnThursday, March 6, Goshen Creek Elementary students had the time of their lives at the "Best Day Ever" PTA celebration. The festivities were in celebration of all the hard work Goshen Creek Elementary's Parent Teacher Association put in this year to raise money for a new outdoor learning center and to bring in special guests for students.

Goshen Creek Principal Wendy Ashley said the PTA

partnered with "Next Level," formerly "STEP IT UP," which is an experience-based fundraiser for schools to help take their fundraisers to the next level.

Goshen Creek Elementary

"Best Day Ever is technically the celebration or reward event from the POP fundraiser," Ashley said. "This year, our PTA held the spring fundraiser for the campus. The Best Day Ever is a day of fun where grade levels rotate through the activity zone that includes bounce houses and other activities."

PLEASE SEE **PTA** | A7



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VOLUME 2, NUMBER 41

Local, zone(s) 1 section, 16 pages

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Azle man, Lakeside woman charged in heroin scheme

STAFF REPORT

Two people were arrested by Parker County Sheriff's Special Crimes Unit investigators as part of a monthslong investigation involving the distribution of black tar heroin.

In a press release, Parker County Sheriff Russ Authier said the case initially began with an anonymous tip that sparked an SCU investigation that led SCU investigators to obtain a search warrant for a storage container in the 11000 block of Farm-to-Market Road 730 South in Parker County near Azle.

During the execution of the search warrant, SCU investigators located approximately four pounds of black tar heroin, six firearms and illegal narcotics paraphernalia.

Some of the seized firearms were discovered to have been illegally modified into shortbarrel firearms.

Jodi Elizabeth Back, 32, who lists an address in Lakeside, was arrested on a charge of tampering with evidence after she implicated herself in deleting evidence of the investigation from a smart phone. The charge is a third-degree felony, which carries a punishment ranging from two to 10 years in a state penitentiary and a fine of up to \$10,000.

The investigation also led to the arrest of Christopher Clifton Walker, 33, of Azle, who was booked into the Parker County Jail on charges of manufacture or delivery of a controlled substance over 400 grams, unlawful posses-

sion of a firearm by felon, and tampering or fabricating physical evidence. The manufacturing charge is a first-degree felony charge punishable by 15 years to a possible life term in a Texas penitentiary and a fine of up to \$250,000.

Walker initially told SCU investigators he was "hold-

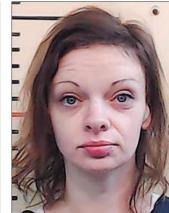
ing" the illegal narcotics and firearms for "someone else." Once lab results returned showing positive results for black tar heroin found in Walker's possession, SCU investigators obtained Walker's arrest warrant.

Both Walker and Back were booked into the Parker County jail Jan. 3. Back post-



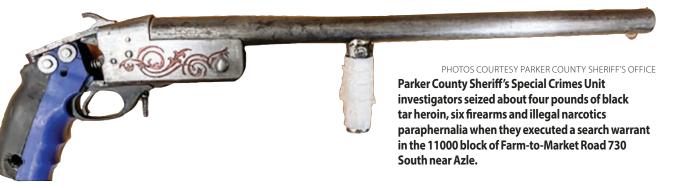
Christopher Clifton Walker

ed a \$10,000 bond and was released from jail Jan. 31. As of Tuesday, March 11, Walker



Jodi Elizabeth Back

remained incarcerated at the Parker County jail in lieu of \$140,000 bond.



water and more than 30 living cats and dogs. Officers contacted city of Springtown Animal Control and Code Enforcement officers. The property owner voluntarily surrendered the animals to Animal Control on scene. who then removed the animals and relocated them to temporary holding spaces at a city facility because the

number of animals exceeded the shelter's capacity.

Code Enforcement observed plain sight conditions, including the lack of sanitary facilities due to no running potable water and immediately deemed the structure uninhabitable and ordered it to be vacated. Adult Protective Services was contacted for the elderly woman.

APS attempted to assist the resident with temporary housing based on observed conditions including animal feces and urine layering the

floor several inches thick, huge materials blocking exterior doors and windows against fire code plus other issues which qualify the building as a substandard structure. Code enforcement believes the structure to be not repairable and as part of the requested public hearing will present evidence to support that determination.

The city council unanimously ordered another public hearing for the March 18 meeting at 7 p.m.



JOLEE SKINNER | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

The Springtown City Council ordered a second public hearing for March 18 regarding a property where more than 30 animals were confiscated in February.



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Springtown Epigraph

Springtown Middle School principal highlights progress amid challenges

JOLEE SKINNER

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SPRINGTOWN — Despite facing challenges last year, Springtown Middle School is making substantial strides in academic improvement, creating a more vibrant school culture and focusing on the individual needs of students. Principal Brittany Chavez shared an update on the school's progress at the Feb. 24 board meeting as it works through its comprehensive campus improvement plan.

"Last year was quite a challenge and it showed on paper," Chavez said. "We definitely knew there were going to be challenges and it's definitely been an adventure for us to see those challenges and find ways to address them."

As part of the school's im-

provement plan, Springtown Middle School has set ambitious goals focusing on four key categories: academic instruction, safety, teacher development and building a strong community. These areas have been addressed through specific strategies aligned with Education Service Framework, which emphasizes continuous improvement.

Chavez emphasized the school's commitment to enhancing Tier one instruction. In line with these goals, the school adopted the Advancement Via Individual Determination framework this year. Seventeen middle school staff and teachers attended the AVID conference last summer. The conference provided resources for professional growth and many

teachers are now leading professional development sessions for their peers throughout the year.

"Teachers and staff really dove deep into the conference," Chavez said. "It gave them a ton of teacher leadership opportunities and they came back and have been doing training throughout the year. We're doing tons of coaching sessions with AVID staff. Our instructional coach focuses on giving teachers feedback on how to make one quick change that's going to make their instruction better."

One of the things SMS has incorporated is project-based learning, moving away from the computer-based instruction that was prevalent during the COVID-19 pandemic. This hands-on approach allows students to engage

more deeply with the material and promotes collaboration among classmates. As a result, students are spending more time working on tangible projects, some of which are now displayed throughout the school hallways.

Data is a central focus of SMS' improvement plan. Teachers are actively engaged in professional learning communities and data analysis sessions to better understand how to meet the needs of individual students. The school implemented a data room where teachers collaborate to review their performance metrics and adjust instructional plans.

"We have done 17 data PLC's where teachers have done deep dives into their data, looking at how to be the most effective in the classroom," Chavez said.

Early results from reading assessments already show promising change. For example, the percentage of students who "did not meet" expectations decreased significantly from the previous year, while the number of students meeting or exceeding expectations has risen.

"We're seeing a trend in the direction that we really like with our sixth and seventh graders," Chavez said. "Our "did not meet" numbers have dropped. I think that's very telling that our Tier one instruction has improved." Addressing student disci-

pline has been a top priority, and Chavez announced the school's referrals have lowered.

"Our discipline referrals have dropped dramati-

cally," Chavez said. "In the fall semester of last year, we had 869 referrals. In the fall semester this year, we had 535. I think that's truly telling of the relationships that our teachers are building. They're keeping students engaged.'

As the year progresses, Springfield Middle School is on track to meet its goals for student growth. For instance, the school is aiming for at least 80% of students to meet their individualized goals on Northwest Evaluation Association testing by the end of the year. Early data shows growth, especially in reading and science.

"We're seeing the fruits of our labor," Chavez said. "We're seeing it in attendance rates, teacher satisfaction. We are showing growth at a very promising rate."

It's official

ZACH FREEMAN

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AZLE — In a rollercoaster of a month, the Tri-County Reporter was ousted as Azle's official paper only to be re-crowned at the following city council meeting.

The city of Azle was forced to select a new paper of record February in light of the Tri-County Reporter's planned shuttering. In its search, city staff selected the Commercial Recorder in Fort Worth to take on the mantle of the city's official paper.

The Texas Local Government Code states that the governing bodies of municipalities must select an official newspaper to host the city's legal notices. Some operations, like the Fort Worth Commercial Recorder, specialize in fulfilling this requirement for cities without providing news coverage. Azle City Manager Tom Muir said the Recorder has the

benefit of posting multiple times per week. Notably, the Star Telegram was not selected due to its higher costs for the city.

During the public comments section at the Feb. 18 Azle City Council meeting area resident Jim Kirk raised concerns about the city's selection of the Commercial Recorder as its new paper of record.

"What little research I've been able to do to understand about it is it just handles legal notices," Kirk said. "It doesn't handle local news or in any way show local happenings in Azle. In fact, you can only get it at municipal buildings in Tarrant County."

Kirk advocated for considering the Weatherford Democrat instead, arguing that it was a more locally engaged publication. Kirk spoke with publisher Lisa Chappell who said no city officials had approached the Democrat about becoming

Revived newspaper wrestles back paper of record status

Azle's official newspaper. The Weatherford Democrat, Kirk gathered from the conversation, was already slated to become the official paper of Springtown and Reno.

Kirk also took a moment to acknowledge the temporary loss of the former — and now forthcoming — Azle News and Springtown Epigraph for their long service to the community. He suggested the city formally recognize the publication and its staff at a future council meeting. Fortunately for Kirk and other subscribers, their local newspapers are again here to stay.

After the announcement was made in late February that the Tri-County Reporter will stay open under the ownership of Burtnett Media Holdings LLC and will transition back to The Azle News and The Springtown Epigraph, the council reversed its decision in a March 4 meeting. Muir and council

members expressed relief to know the paper will not be ceasing production.

"We fully support the Tri-County Reporter and The Azle News," Muir said. "Publishing once a week is really a hassle but we've been dealing with it, so we can continue to deal with it ... It is a good thing it's coming back. I think for the community it would have been a sad thing to see, to see it not be here. A lot of people take it for granted and I'm one of those. I just always thought it was going to be here but it would be a shame if it

Springtown and Reno have since indicated that they will also stick with the Tri-County Reporter/Springtown Epigraph as their paper of record. In a Feb. 18 meeting, the city of Lake Worth selected the Fort Worth Star-Telegram as its official paper of record and have not yet indicated if they might switch back.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

As the Postmaster for Azle, I am honored to serve this incredible community and be a part of your daily lives. The U.S. Postal Service has been a trusted institution for nearly 250 years, and as we celebrate this milestone anniversary, we are as committed as ever to providing exceptional service to you.

This year, USPS is rolling out exciting new products and services aimed at making your mailing and shipping experiences faster, easier, and more convenient and affordable. From new P.O. Box offerings to our expanded USPS Connect service for local businesses, we are investing in technology and innovation to meet your evolving needs.

One of our key priorities is continuing to modernize our operations under the Delivering for America plan, which includes upgrading our delivery fleet and streamlining our services to better support you. I am proud to bring



COURTESY PHOTO

James Morgan

this progress to Azle and ensure we uphold our mission to bind the nation together, one delivery at a time.

Thank you for welcoming me to the community. I look forward to serving you and working with my dedicated team to support your mailing and shipping needs in the year ahead.

> Warm regards, James Morgan Azle Postmaster

Business renditions due April 15 in Parker County

STAFF REPORT

Business owners in Parker County are reminded by the Parker Appraisal District that they MUST file a rendition of their taxable property by April 15.

A rendition is a report listing all taxable property owned or controlled as of Jan. 1, including inventory and business equipment. The information provided in the rendition helps the

appraisal district determine property values.

Business owners can also file a report of decreased value if their property has significantly depreciated. For example, if your property was damaged by a storm, flood or fire last year, you should submit a report of decreased value. The appraisal district will review the property before assigning value.

For most property types,

renditions must be filed between Jan. 1 and April 15. Certain appraisal districts may have different deadlines. Property owners may request an extension to May 15 by submitting a written application.

Late, incomplete or missing renditions may result in penalties. Property owners who need more time to file may request an automatic extension in writing by the

original deadline.

For more details about rendering property, extensions, penalties and forms, contact the Parker Appraisal District at 817-596-0077 or bpp@parkercad.org. Additional information is available through the Texas Comptroller's Property Tax Assistance Division at comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/ property-tax/.

SECURITY FROM PAGE A1

tive shooter scenarios. The TEA also praised Azle ISD for having a certified police officer assigned to every campus before it became a state

"I told them that our board authorized police officers

at every campus one year before even they even knew it was going to be a mandate and they were blown away by that," Brockway said.

The chief added that in a random survey of 170 staff members about lockdown procedures, all questioned individuals had a clear idea of what steps to take.

"That's a testament to the principals and staff and the

drills that we do," Brockway said. "I can tell you; (TEA representatives) were very complimentary of our staff."

While the district was found to be in full compliance, two nonpunitive findings required adjustments: adding additional locks to roof hatches and installing peepholes in certain exterior metal doors leading to kitchens and custodial hall-

ways. The necessary locks have since been added and Superintendent Todd Smith noted that a closed-circuit camera may be added in lieu of a peephole to a science lab intended to also act as a storm shelter. Smith said adding peepholes to the doors in question would likely void the district's warranties on the doors.

Write a letter to the editor!

You can email us at info@tricountyreporter.com, or send us a letter at 321 West Main Street, Azle, Texas 76020. We'd love to hear from you!

Correction

AZLE — In the Feb. 27 edition of the Tri-County Reporter, Lisa Rettew, an Azle Independent School District board of trustees candidate was erroneously identified as the chief executive officer of Luther King Capital Management. Rettew is the company's chief administrative officer. The TCR regrets the error.

TRI*COUNTY REPOR

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ioral changes and improve quality of life. The project has been successfully implemented in various communities, including Legacy Oaks of Azle Senior Living. LOOA is only the second Civitas community utilizing the Grand Baby Project. The initiative ultimately came to Azle after Mary Greer, a trainer and speaker for the Grand Baby Project, met a Civitas director at the Conservatory at Keller Town Center.

Mary said LOOA staff created an amazing day at last

Thursday's "baby shower." The baby dolls, Greer said, act as a very useful tool in giving memory care residences an activity to immerse themselves in, bond over and create a renewed sense of agency. The baby dolls can be used by caretakers to motivate dementia patients to clean themselves, take walks and more willingly engage in a wide variety of other beneficial activities. It also keeps them preoccupied with a task. Men and women, Greer said, both can benefit from this kind of therapy.

"Most all of the dementia patients will go back to a time where they were most happy," Greer said. "This,

in many cases, is when they were a parent, they wanted to be a parent, or they themselves were a child... We do refer to them as babies when we talk about them, we don't talk about dolls, we talk about babies. So, it really hits on everything, whether they're thinking about their own baby as a young mother or young father or as a child."

As a nonprofit organization, the Grand Baby Project relies on donations, which the LOOA community relations director has been promoting since a December Azle Area Chamber of Commerce luncheon. Readers can donate or learn more at www.thegrandbabyproject.org.



CARLA STUTSMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Legacy Oaks of Azle memory care resident Shirley holds her baby doll and smiles next to Mary Greer March 6.



Memory care resident Linda feeds her baby doll.



Memory care residents Ruth and Yoko feed and cuddle their baby dolls just after being introduced.



Tonja Moon introduces Legacy Oaks of Azle memory care resident Yoko to her her baby doll.



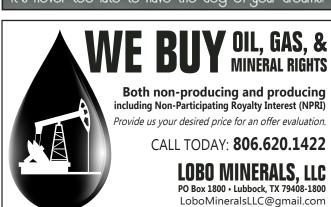
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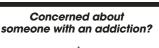
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SE HABLA ESPAÑOL

Springtown ISD schools reveal Teachers of the Year

JOLEE SKINNER

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SPRINGTOWN — Springtown ISD schools have announced their Teachers of the Year and their Paraprofessionals of the

GOSHEN CREEK ELEMENTARY:

- \cdot Graceyn Owens Teacher of the Year
- · Jennifer Arce Paraprofessional of the Year

\cdot Meagan Payne — Teacher of the Year

SPRINGTOWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:

 \cdot Chelsea Scriber — Paraprofessional of the Year

RENO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:

- \cdot Katie Wellborn Teacher of the Year
- · Sylvia Galan Paraprofessional of the Year

SPRINGTOWN MIDDLE SCHOOL:

- · Melissa Kobzowics Teacher of the Year
- · Shelby Wilson Paraprofessional of the Year

SPRINGTOWN INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL:

- \cdot Shauna Warlick Teacher of the Year \cdot Chelsea Cabtrell Paraprofessional of the Year

SPRINGTOWN HIGH SCHOOL:

- \cdot Scot McPhetrige Teacher of the Year
- · Brandon Burdick Paraprofessional of the Year



Chelsea Scriber was named Springtown Elementary School's Paraprofessional of the Year. In this photo, (I-r) Pearl Russell, Chelsea Scriber, Springtown Elementary School Principal Amberlie Thomas, Assistant Principal Rheannon Boe.



Brandon Burdick was named Springtown High School's Paraprofessional of the Year. Springtown High School Principal Andrew Hohman on the left and Brandon Burdick on the right.



Meagan Payne was named Springtown Elementary School's Teacher of the Year. In this photo, (I-r) Assistant Principal Rheannon Boe, Meagan Payne and Springtown Elementary School Principal Amberlie Thomas.



Katie Wellborn was named Reno Elementary School's Teacher of the Year and Sylvia Galan was named Reno Elementary School's Paraprofessional of the Year. In this photo, (I-r) Sylvia Galan, Katie Wellborn and Reno Elementary School Principal Jenna Showers.



Scot McPhetrige was named Springtown High School's Teacher of the Year. Springtown High School Principal Andrew Hohman on the left and Scot McPhetrige on the right.







Onlinewith TCB.com

Two injured in NW Parkway crash

ZACH FREEMAN

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AZLE — Two people sustained injuries and were transported to area hospitals Wednesday afternoon, March 5, following a two-ve-

hicle collision that resulted in moderate damage to both vehicles. The cause of the accident is under investigation. The wreck occurred in the 1300 block of Northwest Parkway near Russell Feed and Supply at 6:09 p.m., Azle Fire Department Chief Will Scott reported.

Azle Police Department community liaison Leslie Dvorak reported a Chevrolet pickup truck collided with a Chevrolet Tahoe. The driver of the pickup was transport-



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Two vehicles sustained moderate damage after a presumed rear-ending March 5 on Northwest Parkway.



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

The Azle Fire Department's Medic 52 leaves the scene with an injured patient.

ed to Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital in Azle with non-life-threatening in-

juries and is under investigation for driving while intoxicated. Initial findings indicate

alcohol and failure to control speed were the contributing factors.

Creekside Critters Pet Sitters



PHOTO COURTESY AZI F AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Creekside Critters Pet Sitters is a full-service in-home pet care provider servicing the **Tarrant and Parker county** cities of Fort Worth, Benbrook, White Settlement, River Oaks, Lake Worth, Azle and Aledo. To welcome the business as a new member, the Azle Area **Chamber of Commerce hosted** a ribbon cutting for Creekside Critters Pet Sitters Feb. 27. For information about services, call 817-900-6565 or visit www. creeksidecritters.com.



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Springtown Epigraph



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on Cardinal, left on Reynolds

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Sunday Worship Service10:00 AM Wednesday......7:00 РМ **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

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Pastor: Rev. Raymond Gilman 200 Church St., Azle **817-444-3323** Morn. Worship8:30 & 10:45 AM Sunday Service................11:00 AM Sunday School.................9:45 AM Wed. Prayer Meeting............6:30 PM

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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 Study6:00 PM

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH 800 Highcrest Dr. - Azle **817-444-3063** Saturday......5:00 PM Sunday9:00 AM Sunday11 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 Follow us on Facebook for streaming services Sunday School......9:00 AM Traditional Service10:00 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 Children's Church After Music Service

LEGACY CHURCH Assembly of God Church

Pastor: Gary D. Veazey Hwy. 199 & Jaybird Lane **817-221-2983** Morning Worship......9:15 & 11:00 AM Kidz Zone.....9:15 & 11:00 AM Weds Evening Legacy Group Legacy Youth, Kids All Services.......7:00 PM

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 817-444-1382

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 Morning Worship......10:50 AM

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 Evening Worship6:30 PM Awana Kids at the WORD6:30 PM

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North Tarrant Chamber promotes leadership classes in Azle

ZACH FREEMAN

zach@hurtnettmedia.com

AZLE — Jack Bradshaw and Angie Akmakjian of the North Tarrant Chamber of Commerce visited Azle Tuesday, March 4 to speak about new opportunities for local business owners and public sector administrators. The duo promoted the newly combined Leadership North Tarrant program as the designated speakers at the monthly Azle Area Chamber

of Commerce luncheon. Bradshaw has been president and chief executive of the North Tarrant Chamber for 12 years while Akmakjian has been vice president for five. The two have an extensive history of leading successful businesses and nonprofits across a wide variety of industries.

Leadership North Tarrant, which was previously Leadership Northwest

Tarrant and Leadership Northeast Tarrant, provides a heart." course and venues for aspiring local leaders to achieve their greatest potential and refine critical communication and decision-making skills. The program started in 1989 and has graduated more than 500 individuals to date. Over the course of nine monthly sessions, participants will engage with their class of 40 in a wide variety of cities and settings while learning the ins-and-out of economic development, government and leadership, transportation and more.

"Leadership isn't just about authority, it's about vision, communication, integrity and the ability to bring out the best in people," Bradshaw said. "Leadership is a lot like (an) iceberg. We see some of it at surface level, but so much of leadership is not really readily visible. It's behind the scenes, perhaps hidden

beneath a humble servant's

Bradshaw added that the classes are helpful in instilling the importance of trust, adaptability and ethics in anyone hoping to lead others. Following Bradshaw, Akmakjian shared her experiences visiting and learning about TEXRAIL, local landfills, educational facilities and taking tours through partner cities, which now includes Azle, during the classes. She attended the classes herself after first moving to the area 10 years ago and said she has built friendships that still last today.

The program costs \$4,000 for corporate applicants and \$3,500 for nonprofits, governmental agencies or noncorporate organizations. The program's website, www. leadershipnorthtexas.org, states applications are due by May 19 and the first class will take place August 14.



ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER\

Jack Bradshaw and Angie Akmakjian of the North Tarrant Chamber speak in Azle to promote Leadership North Tarrant at a March 4 luncheon.

Ashley said Goshen Creek also brought in the Creature Teacher experience and Dr. Rebekah Hartfield to read to students.

"We strive to make every day the best and used the opportunity to bring in other guests that included Dr. Ballard and Creature Teacher to present about dental hygiene, a guest author that also brought her books and some main characters — goats — for students to experience, as well having extended reading opportunities for Dr. Seuss Read Across America Week," Ashley said.

Another fun activity students got to participate in was story time with baby goats with the guest author and veterinarian, Dr. Rebekah Hartfield.

"Creature Teacher gave an amazing presentation on dental health and gave all students and staff a goodies sack to take home," Ashley said. "Rebekah Hartfield spoke about her journey to be an author and a vet. She brought goats, also the main character of one of her books. This week we also had a Dr. Seuss-themed Open House that included a reading restaurant that was themed "Oh the Places You Go!" to which students had the opportunity to have a little creative play and fun with reading books to their loved ones. After they read, they then had the opportunity to make and take a fun math game to take

home."

Ashley said parents and students also had the opportunity to visit a special corner.

"Lastly, our students and parents visited the Choose Love Booth that is our district social/emotional curriculum that helps equips students with tools to be a good friend, help regulate and be in control of their feelings and actions, as well as a foundational practice at Goshen," Ashley said.

Ashley proudly states that work and fun cohesively go together.

"At Goshen, we believe that hard work can be fun and it pays off," Ashley said. "We believe that each day can be the best day ever and making each moment count is the small goal that can move

mountains toward student success."

OUTDOOR LEARNING CENTER:

Back in the fall, the Goshen Creek PTA decided to contribute toward the school's goal of creating an outdoor learning center.

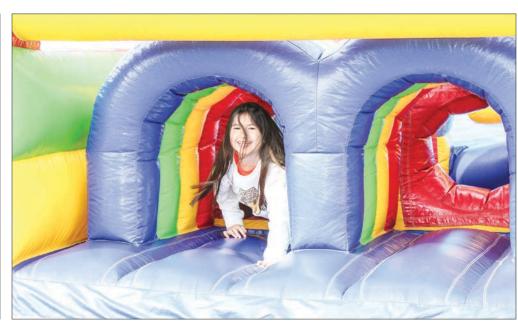
"Goshen used a portion of our fall fundraiser to create the outdoor learning center with the vision in mind to create a place that students and teachers can use for outdoor learning or other activities," Ashley said. "This area has also given us the opportunity to have an area to celebrate students' work and excellent behavior to have the opportunity to have lunch with a loved one. Goshen's amazing PTA is contributing towards the completion of this area with the addition of four more tables and umbrellas."



Dr. Rebekah Hartfield is a veterinarian and an author who wrote books like "Stewart the Goat."



The new outdoor learning center at Goshen Creek Elementary.



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City of Azle honors top employees

CARLA NOAH STUTSMAN

carla@burtnettmedia.com

Employees of the city of Azle gathered Thursday evening, March 6, at A&M Gardens for the city's annual awards banquet. After enjoying some social time and a scrumptious meal prepared by Corn Fed Catering, the program turned to honoring the best talent the city has to offer.

According to City Manager Tom Muir, 21 employees were nominated for various awards. Department heads selected the awards recipients from those nominated; in the case of the city-wide Employee of the Year Award, the executive staff, including the city manager, assistant city manager, police chief, fire chief, etc., selected the winner. Departmental employees of the year receive a plaque as well as a \$250 check; the city-wide Employee of the Year received a check for \$500 in addition to a plaque.

PUBLIC SERVICES EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Tiffany McBroom was selected as Public Services Employee of the Year. Those who nominated McBroom said she goes above and beyond both in her job and to help others, completing her own tasks and others she finds along the way. Her great attitude was noted and called "contagious to other employees." A recent recipient of a Class "B" wastewater license, McBroom's fellow employees say she always looks for ways to improve the plant process and is the first to volunteer to cover shifts for employees who are on vacation or call in sick.

CROSS TIMBERS GOLF COURSE EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Joshua Hoffman, assistant superintendent at Cross Timbers Golf Course, was named its Employee of the Year. Unfortunately, Hoffman was unable to attend the banquet.

Cross Timbers general manager Matt Sommerfield explained that after the course lost more than seven acres of grass during the significant cold spells of early 2024, it took an incredible amount of work to get the course back in shape.

"To be honest, we could have given this award to anybody on staff — everybody was a big part of getting the course back into shape," Sommerfield said. "But Josh went above and beyond, and he was always available for anything, even outside course recovery. He's right there, immediately, anytime we need

Sommerfield said Hoffman has been employed at the course for nine years and was recently promoted from mechanic and irrigation tech to assistant superintendent, adding that Hoffman was the obvious choice for the

position.

"He's a U.S. Army vet, a great human being, a good person who would do anything for anybody, and I think every employee here would agree he is Employee of the Year," Sommerfield added. "I don't believe Cross Timbers would be the golf course it is without Josh on staff."

FIRE DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Lt. Steve Lemming was selected Employee of the Year for the Azle Fire Department.

While presenting the award, Azle Fire Chief Will Scott said Lemming has consistently demonstrated a deep commitment to excellence, education and leadership. His decades of service,

unwavering commitment to education and team building, and his wealth of historical knowledge make him an ideal candidate for the Fire Department Employee of the Year award.

"Lt. Lemming possesses a valuable historical understanding of the City of Azle Fire Department. His ability to recall and share the department's legacy, traditions and past achievements provides crucial context for current operations and future planning. This deep-rooted knowledge helps preserve our heritage while inspiring new generations of firefighters," Scott said. "His leadership has helped create an environment where his team feels supported and valued, which directly impacts the quality of service provided to our community."

POLICE DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Leslie Dvorak, crime analysts and community liaison, was presented with the Employee of the Year Award for the Azle Police Department.

Since joining the department, Police Chief Ben Hall said Dvorak has made significant contributions that have significantly benefited both the department and the city of Azle. During 2024, she demonstrated exemplary investigative skills and leveraged her social networking abilities to identify several suspects in multiple crimes.

"Her keen eye for detail and analytical prowess have led to the creation of reports that have enabled closer patrols in high-crime areas. Through her statistical analysis, we have pinpointed areas requiring increased attention, thereby enhancing public safety," Hall said of Dvorak. "In addition to her primary responsibilities, Leslie has taken on the crucial task of assisting with grant writing. These grants are essential for our agency, as they provide funds for resources and equipment necessary to conduct investigations more efficiently. Leslie's efforts in securing these funds have been instrumental in improving our operational capabilities.

"As the community liaison, Leslie has coordinated numerous events that have fostered stronger relationships with our community. Her expertise in utilizing social media has immensely impacted our interactions with the public, resulting in thousands of new followers on our social media page," Hall continued. "This increased engagement has allowed us to build positive relationships and establish an additional communication channel with the community."

Hall said Dvorak's dedication to the department extends beyond her regular duties. During her time off, she chooses to ride along with officers to build better relationships with them and to gain a deeper understanding of how to effectively distribute information. These ridealongs have also provided her with valuable insights into the city's dynamics and the operations of each shift.

"Overall, Leslie's contributions to the Azle Police Department and the city of Azle have been profound. She embodies the goals and mission of the city, and her unwavering commitment to her role has made a significant impact on our community," Hall said.

ADMINISTRATIVE EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Administrative Assistant Malinda Nowell was named Administrative Employee of the Year.



Azle City Manager Tom Muir, left, presents the Administrative Employee of the Year award to Malinda Nowell, administrative



Leslie Dvorak, right, community liaison and crime analyst, is presented the Azle Police Department Employee of the Year award by Police Chief Ben Hall during the city of Azle's awards banquet March 6.



Tiffany McBroom, left, receives the Public Services Employee of the year award from Public Services Director Rick White during the city of Azle's annual awards banguet.



Azle Fire Chief Will Scott, left, presents the Fire Department Employee of the Year Award to Lt. Steve Lemming during the city's annual awards banquet March 6.



Some of the big winners for the night included (I-r): administrative assistant Malinda Nowell, holding a photo of Community and Marketing Specialist Kristen Pegues, who was unable to attend; Azle Fire Department Lt. Steve Lemming; Azle Police Department Crime Analyst and Community Liaison Leslie Dvorak; and Cross Timbers Golf Course general manager Matt Sommerfield, representing the winner of the golf course's Employee of the Year, Joshua Hoffman.



PHOTOS COURTESY CITY OF AZLE

Cross Timbers Golf Course general manager Matt Sommerfield accepted the award for the golf course's Employee of the Year award on behalf of Joshua Hoffman, assistant superintendent at the course, who was unable to attend the city's annual awards banguet.

According to her nomination, Nowell came into her current position with experience in a different area of local government and has learned to utilize skills from her former position as a city secretary to efficiently and effectively apply herself in her current role. She has graciously stepped in when her skills can assist others in different departments.

Nowell is described as always friendly, professional and even though she is still relatively new in her position, she has embraced the culture of the city and shown tremendous adaptability when it comes to juggling multiple priorities. "She is a model employee who is deserving of the Administrative Employee of the Year Award," the nomination says.

CITY-WIDE EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Community and Marketing Specialist Kristen Pegues received the award for citywide Employee of the Year, although she was unable to attend the event.

An Azle native and graduate of Azle High School, Pegues' leadership in bringing the FeedLot to life was noted by two people who nominated her for the award.

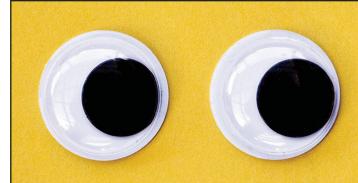
"She stepped up to oversee and contribute to its startup, setup and continuous construction," one nomination said. "The way she took the concept from her mind and turned it into a clear, actionable plan is impressive. She has a remarkable ability to communicate her vision and inspire those around her. Kristen also serves as. Positive representative for the city, especially on social media platforms like Facebook, where she regularly shares updates and keeps the public informed. She goes above and beyond her role by keeping various city departments well-informed about ongoing projects and her vision for Azle's future.

"Kristen has a unique ability to connect with people from all walks of life, regardless of background or titles, and communicates with them

in a way that leaves no doubt about her intentions, her position on topics, and her willingness to help or volunteer for projects. I want to express my sincere gratitude for all her hard work and her continuous eagerness to assist anyone in need; she is like a sister to many of us. Thank you, Kristen!" the nomination concluded.

A separate nomination says Pegues has proven in a very short time that she is indispensable to the city.

"She has an obvious passion for the city and the community as a whole, and her energetic spirit is evident in all she does," the second nomination says.



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Azle News Springtown Epigraph

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Veteran and Taco Casa VP brings patriotism to Springtown Chamber luncheon

JOLEE SKINNER

jolee@tricountyreporter.com

 ${\tt SPRINGTOWN-Master}$ Sgt. Jim Rodriguez, retired, a decorated U.S. Air Force veteran and vice president of Taco Casa, delivered a patriotic and powerful message at the Feb. 27 Springtown Chamber of Commerce luncheon about his life, career and the F.L.A.G. program he started in schools.

Rodriguez spent 21 years in the Air Force, including 19 as a basic military training instructor at Lackland Air Force Base. Rodriguez recalled the story of his unexpected draft notice during the Vietnam War while attending MacMurray University. He was given 30 days to choose a branch of service and Rodriguez decided to enlist in the Air Force. His military service led him to become a welcoming face for thousands of young service members.

"I was the one that wore the 'Smokey the Bear' hat and welcomed young men and women into the United States Air Force at Lackland," Rodriguez said.

After retiring in 1992, Rodriguez has remained committed to serving his country in other ways. He



JOLEE SKINNER | TRICOUNTY REPORTER

Jim Rodriguez invited Jill Sebik to test her knowledge about the American flag history.



Master Sgt. Jim Rodriguez, retired, educated members of the Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce about his F.L.A.G. program.

now plays a major role in educating young students about American history and proper flag etiquette through a program he started 15 years ago. He recounted a moment that inspired his current mission — watching a school janitor mishandle the flag outside his daughter's school in Waxahachie.

"That flag was on the ground and kids were just walking by, not caring," Rodriguez said. "Retired Master Sgt. Jim Rodriguez was sitting behind the wheel going, 'Not on my watch."

This moment led him to establish the F.L.A.G. program, which stands for flying, lowering and gathering. In this program, Rodriguez teaches students the history, the sacrifice and the significance of the American flag.

"Not in my wildest dream, not in my wildest visions did I ever think that I was going to be in 20 states and in 150 schools," Rodriguez said. "Do you think our kids should understand about the men and women who have given their lives for this flag? We teach

them how to respect and honor the American flag.'

The program currently operates within schools like Gainesville, Waxahachie and Decatur, In Decatur, 160 students have enrolled, learning how to properly raise and lower the flag plus studying about its history. For example, Rodriguez spoke about how the Pledge of Allegiance has changed over time. As part of the program, students receive a citizenship award, a flag lapel pin, a challenge coin and Walmart gift cards to celebrate their accomplishments. To support the initiative, Rodriguez sells American flags and challenge coins at events across the country.

Rodriguez has no political agenda; he just wants to educate everyone he comes

"I don't care if you're Democrat, Republican, liberal," Rodriguez said. "I don't care what you want. As long as you honor that American flag and as long as you know what it stands for, you're okay in my book.'

Rodriguez said the program comes at no cost to schools because he personally raises the funds himself.

"I knock on doors," Rodriguez said. "I'm the founder, president, fundraiser, public relations — you name it, I do it."

Another reason Rodriguez started this program was to highlight the sacrifices American service members made during the Vietnam war. Rodriguez specifically pointed out the number 33,103 which is how many 18-year-olds who tragically lost their lives in Vietnam.

"That was my generation," Rodriguez said. "They didn't come back to be sons, brothers, uncles, or future dads. I don't take freedom lightly. I took an oath to defend that

flag and I will never stop." Rodriguez wants students in Springtown ISD to learn the same values of respect and honor for the American flag that he has spent the majority of his life upholding.

"I can't change it by myself," he said. "But I think we're here to stay."

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.	



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

*Menus are subject to change

Mon French Toast Sticks, Sliced Pears Tues Breakfast Bites, Strawberry Applesauce Weds Sausage Biscuit, Sliced Peaches Thurs Cinnamon Roll, Fresh Apple Slices Fri Yogurt Parfait, Blueberries

K - 4th Lunch

PK - 12th Breakfast

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

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 Chicken Fried Rice, Chicken Sandwich, Glazed Carrots, Orange or Pineapple Chunks Tues Chicken Alfredo, Chicken Nugget, Roll, Fresh Veggies, Cucumbers,, Baby Carrots, Broccoli), Apple Slices or Mandarin Oranges **Weds** Cheeseburger, Hamburger, Emoticon Potatoes, Fresh Veggies, Strawberry Applesauce or Sliced Pears Thurs Chicken Quesadilla, Yogurt & Pretzel Box, Cuban Black Beans, Fresh Veggies, Fri Pizza, Fish Sticks, Steamed Broccoli, Roll, Fresh Veggies, Banana or Watermelon Craisins

5th - 12th Lunch

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

Mon Steak Fingers, Chicken Fried Rice, Chicken Eggroll, Glazed Carrots, Roll, Pineapple Chunks **Tues** Spaghetti, Meatball Sub, Italian Blend Vegetables, Roll, Fresh Veggies, Cucumbers w/Tajin, Baby Carrots, Broccoli) Applesauce, Orange Weds Regular or Spicy Tenders, Waffles, Tator Tots, Fresh Veggies (Cucumbers w/Tajin, Baby Carrots, Broccoli), Sliced Strawberries Thurs Beef or Chicken Tacos, Beef or Chicken Nachos, Refried Beans, Corn, Apple Slices, Sliced Pears Fri Fish Sticks, Chicken Quesadilla, Glazed Carrots, Fresh Veggies (Cucumbers w/Tajin, Baby Carrots, Broccoli), Banana, Blueberries

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Azle School **March 17-21, 2025**

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PreK-4th Grade \$2.55.5-6th Grade \$2.75 7-12th Grade \$2.55 2nd Meal \$3.20 Visitors & Employees \$3.75





BREAKFAST: Everyday - Assorted s and Cereal, Juice, White or Chocolate Milk, Graham Crackers, Toast Mon Apple Frudel, Apple Juice, Fruit Cup Tues French Toast, Mini's, Apple Juice, Fruit Cup Wed Trix Strawberry Banana Bash Low Fat

Yogurt, Animal Crackers, Clementines, raw **Thurs** Bacon Scramble Pizza, Apple, Apple Juice **Fri** Cinni, Minis, Apple Juice, Whole Pear LUNCH: Everyday - Variety of milk. Your choice of 1 & 1 or juice

Mon Crunchy Tacos, Mac & Cheese, Whole Wheat Roll, Apple Juice, Orange Juice, Strawberry, Slices, Black Beans, Salsa, Mild Tues Chicken and Waffles, Mini Corn Dogs, Apple Juice, Mixed Fruit, Orange Juice, Green Beans, Sweet Potato Waffle Fries Weds Hot n Spicy Nuggets, Maxstixs, Apple Juice, Orange Juice, Oranges, Buttery Mashed Potatoes, Marinara Thurs Chicken Alfredo Pasta, Soft Chicken Tacos, Apple Juice, Cinnamon Apple Sauce, Orange Juice, Corn, Green Peas Fri Cheese Pizza, Cheeseburger, Spicy Chicken Sandwich, Apple, Apple Juice, Orange Juice, FREE COOKIE FRIDAY!

GRADES 5TH - 8TH

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

Mon Dutch Waffle, Apple, Orange Juice Tues Breakfast Taco Egg, Sausage and Cheese, Apple Juice, Orange Juice, Oranges Weds All-Star Breakfast Combo, Lucky Charms, Bowlpack, Apple Juice, Whole Pear **Thurs** Breakfast on a stick, Yogurt Parfaits, Banana Muffin, Orange Juice, Oranges Fri Cheesy Eggs, Toast, and Bacon, French Toast Sticks, Apple Juice, Mixed Fruit, Orange Juice

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

Mon Cheeseburger, Corn Dog, Mac & Cheese, Whole Wheat Roll, Apple Juice, Mixed Fruit,. Crinkle Fries, Steamed Broccoli Tues Chicken Alfredo Pasta, Hot Dog, Maxstixs, Garlic Bread Stick, Apple Juice, Strawberry, Slices, Green Peas, Marinara, Tropical Slush Weds Cheese Pizza, Mini Corn Dogs, Walkin' Taco, Apple, Apple Juice, Peaches, Crinkle Fries Thurs Chicken Bacon Ranch Wrap, Pretzel Bites w/ Cheese Dip, Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich w/ String Cheese, Apple Juice, Whole Pear **Fri** Cheeseburger, Chicken Tender Snack Wrap, Popcorn Chicken Bowl, Apple Juice, Cinnamon Apple Sauce, Oranges, Crinkle Fries, Paradise Punch Juice

HIGH SCHOOL

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

Mon Dutch Waffle, Apple Juice, Oranges, Hashbrown Patties Tues Breakfast Taco Egg, Sausage and Cheese, Apple Juice, Cinnamon Apple Sauce, Oranges **Weds** Scrambled Eggs, Sausage, and Toast, Apple Juice, Pears Diced **Thurs** Breakfast Bites (mini pancake with sausage), Yogurt Parfaits, Banana Muffin, Apple, Apple Juice Fri French Toast Sticks, Glazed Donut, Apple Juice, Mixed Fruit

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

Mon Steak Fingers, Mozzarella Sticks, Pepperoni Pizza, Chicken Burrito, Orange Chicken & Rice, Cheeseburger Tues Mac & Cheese, Buffalo Chicken Pizza (spicy), Supreme Pizza, Beef Quesadilla Triangles, Honey Sriracha Chicken (New!), Buffalo Boneless Wings (SPICY) Weds Chicken and Waffles, Individual Deep Dish Pizza, Meatlovers Pizza, Soft Chicken Tacos, TSO Chicken w/ Noodles, Mini Corn Dogs Thurs Chicken Bacon Ranch Wrap, Hamburger Pizza, Stuffed Crust Cheese Pizza, Tostada (Mexican pizza), Chicken Fried Rice w/ Chicken Egg Roll, Spicy Chicken Sandwich Fri Maxstixs, Bacon Pizza, Cheese Pizza, Bean and Cheese Burrito, Sweet Fire Chicken, Chili Cheese Dog

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City council continues work on short-term rental ordinance

ZACH FREEMAN

zach@burtnettmedia.com

AZLE - Short-term rentals, like AirBnB or VRBO, have been in the Azle City Council's crosshairs since last spring. After a long pause, the city is putting the final touches on an ordinance regulating these businesses within city limits.

Over the last several years, cities throughout North Texas have attempted to pass ordinances banning or

restricting short-term rentals. Outright bans have not been viewed favorably by courts and have largely been overturned. Many cities have found success in restricting or adding conditions to the operations of short-term rentals instead.

Kenneth Bachelor, who lives on Windjammer Lane, first brought the issue to the council's attention during an April 16, 2024, meeting. Bachelor stated that an Airbnb located on his street

overcrowding and noise, alleging there were as many as 17 cars parked in front of the house on a particular weekend and that the police had to be called. Council members Amy Estes and Stacy Peek claimed they had also witnessed similar problems with short-term rental properties near their homes.

In crafting an ordinance, city attorney Andrea Russell emphasized the need for strong evidence and thought-

ful regulation to avoid legal challenges. She stated that the foundation for the regulations should focus on the impact the properties have on the health and safety of the community. With the ordinance, the city hopes to reduce excess traffic, noise and potential health or safety concerns short-term rental properties may have on residents throughout Azle.

After much discussion and a June 4, 2024, meeting with Rachel Raggio, an attorney who specializes in short-term rentals with the city's legal counsel, Taylor Olson Adkins Sralla & Elam, the council is down to working out its final kinks and questions with a draft version of the document.

During a March 4 city council meeting, Azle resident Destiny Ann voiced her concerns at the meeting. She worried the ordinance could set a dangerous precedent for

could open up the city to lawsuits. While not a short-term rental property owner herself, Ann said she had a colleague interested in acquiring multiple properties in the area. After the meeting, Ann reached out to the Tri-County Reporter to further argue her position.

"This is an outrageous violation of the Fourth, Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments the same rights that protect all homeowners from government overreach," Ann said in an email to the newspaper. "If city leaders can force this on STR owners, what stops them from targeting rental properties, home businesses, or even single-family homes in the future?'

At the meeting, Russell and the council responded to Ann's questions and concerns, stating that short-term rentals are expected to be treated like hotels and that constitutional protections for property rights and warned it homes do not apply. The ma-

jor point of contest between Ann and the council was the requirement that short-term rentals receive mandated inspections for fire safety.

"Whenever you choose to make your house a business, you're choosing that," council member Brian Conner said. "If you don't want that, then don't open it as business. That's your choice as a property owner."

Azle Mayor Alan Brundrett empathized with the woman's worries but ultimately agreed with Conner and Russell, stressing that the idea behind the ordinance was to protect homeowners living near short term rental properties. A current draft of the ordinance can be found online in the city council's March 4 agenda.

The council is expected to continue discussing and ultimately vote on whether to approve the ordinance in an upcoming meeting.

EGAL PUBLIC NOTICES

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.

NOTICE TO PROPOSERS Request for Proposals for General Counsel Walnut Creek Special Utility District is requesting proposals for general counsel services from licensed attorney 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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of BESSIE DEVILLE CAMPBELL, Deceased, were issued on February 26, 2025, in Cause No. 25P020, pending in the County Court of Parker County, Texas, to: Pamela Bothun. 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: Pamela Bothun 705 Camelot Ct. Willow Park, Texas 76087

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of LAWRENCE ELTON MARTIN, Deceased, were issued on February 26, 2025, in Cause No. 25P013, pending in the County Court of Parker County, Texas, to: Alva Martin. 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: Alva Martin 160 Deer Creek Drive, Aledo, Texas 76008

Jeffrey Daniel York, you are hereby notified to appear at 810 E 10th Street, Loveland, CO 80537 Court room L1 on May 1st 2025 at 10:30am for the NAME CHANGING HEARING for Angelina **Danielle York**

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of Helen Ruth Nayfa, Deceased, were issued on February 26, 2025, in Cause No. 2025-PR00072-1 pending in the County Court at Law No. 1, Tarrant County, Texas, to: David Jim Nayfa. 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: William K. Clary PO Box 98 Bridgeport, Texas 76426 DATED the 6 day of March, 2025.

NOTICE: REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS AND PROPOSALS FOR PROVISION AND INSTALLATION OF STEEL BUILDING ITB Contract# 2025-02 (Parker County, Texas) Parker County Emergency Services District 1 (PC-ESD1) is issuing a Request for Qualifications and Proposals (RFQ/RFP) for the Provision and Installation of a Steel Building. PC-ESD1 will evaluate submissions and select the proposal that provides the Best Value to the district. Submission Details:

Deadline: Submissions must be received no later than 10:00 AM on April 3rd, 2025 Location: Parker County ESD1 Administration (address below) Opening: Qualification submissions will be opened at 10:30 AM on April 3rd, 2025, at the same location The full RFQ/RFP and Unit Criteria Package can be obtained from: Parker County ESD1 C/O David Pruitt, Assistant Fire Chief PO Box 323 315 Morrow Road Springtown, Texas 76082 The documents will also be available online at: www.pcesd1.com Assistant Fire Chief David Pruitt is the designated contact person for all inquiries. Telephone inquiries are permitted, and he can be reached at

NOTICE REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS and PROPOSALS FOR PAVING, SIDEWALK, AND RELATED IMPROVEMENTS UNIT PRICE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR PARKER COUNTY ESD1 (Parker County, Texas)

This is notice of a Request for Qualifications AND Proposals ("RFQ/RFP") for paving, sidewalk, and related improvements unit price construction contract. The PC- ESD1 will select the Proposal that provides the Best Value to the PC- ESD1. Submissions must arrive no later than 10:00AM on March 28th, 2025, at the Parker County ESD1 administration, address listed below. Qualification submissions will be opened at 10:30am, on March 28th, 2025 at the same location. The full RFQ/RFP and Unit Criteria Package are available from the PC- ESD1 at the following address: Parker County ESD1 C/O Stephen Watson Fire Chief PO Box 323 315 Morrow Road Springtown, Texas 76082 It will also be made available on the Parker County Emergency Service District 1's website at the following address: http://www.pcesd1.com The Fire Chief of Parker County ESD1, Parker County, Texas is designated as the contact person for all inquiries, Telephone inquiries are permitted. The telephone number of the Fire Chief is Stephen Watson, Fire Chief of Parker County ESD1 is (817) 523-7598.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of JAMES BERNARD ECKBER, Deceased, were issued on March 3, 2025, in Cause No. 2024-PR03103-1, pending in the Probate Court No: 1 Tarrant County, Texas, to: Jacob Richard Eckber. 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

c/o: Jacob Richard Eckber 1501 Choctaw Ave. Denton, Texas 78209

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of BESSIE DEVILLE CAMPBELL, Deceased, were issued on February 16, 2025, in Cause No. 25P020, pending in the County Court of Parker County, Texas, to: Pamela Bothun. 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: Pamela Bothun 705 Camelot Ct. Willow Park, Texas 76087

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of THERESA ANN ASHCRAFT, Deceased, were issued on March 3, 2025, in Cause No. 2024-PR01351-1, pending in the Probate Court No: 1, Tarrant County, Texas, to: Charles E. Ashcraft, Jr. 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: Charles E, Ashcraft Jr. 10164 Paradise Shore Athens, Alabama 35611

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Pursuant to Chapter 59, Texas Property Code, Innerspace Storage which is located at 1447 East Hwy 199 Springtown, Tx 76082 will hold a public auction of property being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien. The sale will be held at 10 o'clock a.m. on March 22, 2025 at 3090 West Hwy 199 Springtown, Tx 76082. Property will be sold to highest bidder for cash. Deposit for removal and cleanup may be temporarily required. Seller reserves the right to not accept any bid and to withdraw property from sale. Property in each space may be sold item-byitem, in batches, or by the space. Property being sold includes contents in space(s) of the tenant listed below, with brief description of contents in the space(s). TENANT'S COMPLETE NAME as shown on rental agreement: Clint Rabe, Clint largen, Mary Sanders, Michael Vanlaningham, Betty Wellner. General description of property: Household Goods.

Texas Health, AAMA partner for screening mammograms

STAFF REPORT

Texas Health Resources and the Azle Area Ministerial Alliance will partner to ensure women in the Azle area have an opportunity to get a screening mammogram.

From 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Thursday, March 27, Texas Health Resources' Wellness for Life — Mobile Health Unit will be at First Baptist Azle, 1017 Boyd Road to provide the screenings.

To be eligible, women must:

- Be 40 years of age or older
- · Have no personal history of breast cancer
- Not have breast implants
- Have no known breast lumps or other breast problems
- Not be pregnant of haven't breastfed in the past six months
- Not have received a mammogram in the past 12 months

To make an appointment, call 855-318-7696. Appointments can be made Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Please bring your insurance card and driver's license or state issued ID to your appointment. Fully funded screenings are available to women without insurance who qualify.



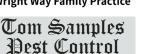
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TRI+COUNTY REPORTER

COMMUNITY

THURSDAY, March 13, 2025

Tye Adams: 'Embrace the hard days'

JOLEE SKINNER

jolee@tricountyreporter.com

SPRINGTOWN —
Springtown High School
coach Tye Adams has always wanted to coach young
athletes.

Growing up in Hamilton, Adams played baseball, ran track and played football. Adams knew from a young age that he wanted to be more than just a coach but a mentor, like his coaches were to him.

"I had some really good men that coached me in high school," Adams said. "My high school coaches made me fall in love with the profession. When I went to college, I knew I wanted to coach and to teach. I knew I wanted to be like those men that influenced me."

Adams graduated from
Tarleton State University
in 2004 with a degree in exercise and sports science.
One of Adams' mentors had
gotten him an interview for
a coaching position with
Springtown High School even
before his college graduation. Adams got the job and
began coaching high school
football, then freshman basketball. But Adams started to
really enjoy track once he got
familiar with the sport.

Springtown HS coach talks 2025 spring track season

"I always ran track growing up, but I am a football coach first," Adams said. "As I was learning from my coaches that took me in when I was in college, I learned how important a strong track program is for a football program. And then I just fell in love with track."

As for the team this season, Adams says Springtown has speedy students on the track.

"We feel like we have some really fast kids," Adams said. "Last year we took two relay teams to the state track meet and they were able to run fast. And we got those kids back. We want to win a district championship; we won it last year. We won the area meet. That's our goal."

The team is already one step closer to that goal as it dominated in the three divisions at the Yellow Jackets Relays in Boyd Feb. 28.

An improvement Adams has made to practices over the last couple of years is athletes track how many miles per hour they can run or track their distance for a certain amount of time.

"We feel like we do a good

job of making them faster," Adams said. "We do runs where we're testing distance for a certain amount of time. Then we talk to our kids about what the data is showing, what they can do and how that should translate to a meet."

Adams said showing students all the data collected makes them want to train better and run faster. Adams understands that track practices are quite challenging.

"There are going to be days that are real tough," Adams said. "They know that there's going to be those days that aren't fun. And then there's going to be days that are pretty decent. We have to embrace those days that are going to be really hard."

But with the tough days come vast improvement. Adams says that's what makes the athletes better.

"Our kids are starting to understand that there's a purpose for what we are doing to them," Adams said. "When we tell them, 'Go out there and really give effort on a day that's going to be difficult.' It's been good for the



JOLEE SKINNER | TRICOUNTY REPORTER

Coach Tye Adams at the Brad Legan Friends and Family Invitational March 6.

program."

BRAD LEGAN FRIENDS AND FAMILY INVITATIONAL

A couple of years ago, Adams wanted to create a track meet where Springtown invites different schools to come and compete, along with family, friends and Springtown's biggest supporters to come take in the competition.

Brad Legan was the head track coach at Springtown high for 19 years and got hired at the same time as Adams. This year was the second annual invitational.

"We enjoy going to other places to run track, but I told coach Legan "I want to host another meet and keep it small," Adams said. But word started to get out about the meet and this year 13 teams called and wanted to participate.

Adams spoke about how the Springtown High School track team in the early '90s was exceptional but did slowly dwindle in the early 2000s.
"When Brad took over as a
first-year coach, they hadn't
been quite as good," Adams
said. "But it didn't take long
for him to turn it back around
and put some really good
track teams out there."

Legan retired from coaching but still teaches and Adams wanted to put together an event in his honor.

"It was definitely something I felt that coach Legan

PLEASE SEE **ADAMS** | A13

Spring sports abound at Azle High School



AHS senior Parker Huffaker races, baton in hand, in his leg of a relay at the Azle Invitational Track Meet Feb. 27.



NOVA WANG | AHS/TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

AHS senior Jacob Carlson throws the ball back onto the field against Brewer March 6. The Hornets fell to the Bears 0-8.



UTKARSH BHANDARI | AHS/TRI-COUNTY REPORTER
AHS senior golfer Case Moore replaces his tee with a ball.





Young Azle thespians appear at city hall

ZACH FREEMAN

zach@burtnettmedia.com

AZLE — March 2025 is officially "Theater in Our Schools Month" in the city of Azle. Mayor Alan Brundrett introduced Azle High School Drama Club students and theater teacher Rebecca Crabtree with a proclamation during a March 4 Azle City Council meeting.

"Theater education enriches the lives of countless students in our schools and allows them to discover their myriad skills and abilities in leadership, communication and collaboration and unlocks unlimited potential of the student," Brundrett read from the proclamation. "If you've never been to any of the high school theater plays, they are really awesome and you guys should go check them out."

Brundrett and the council encouraged the community to recognize and support

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ZACH FREEMAN | TRI-COUNTY REPORTER

Azle Mayor Alan Brundrett presents a written proclamation to AHS Drama Club Vice President Lyla Castro in front of Sage Laing, TJ Bradford, Jonah Castro, Kayla Eversole, Savanna Samford and Rebecca Crabtree during the March 4 council meeting at Azle City Hall.

school theater programs, urging residents to attend performances and celebrate

student achievements. "We spend all of our free time doing this and we all

pour our hearts and our souls to enjoy," AHS Drama Club into this to make something really special for other people said. "So, it's an honor."

Vice President Lyla Castro

FROM PAGE A12

deserved," Adams said. "He's a great man and he's a dang good track coach." Below are the results from the Brad Legan Friends and Family

Invitational: JV BOYS TRACK:

Gabe Hicks — 2nd high

Hayden Murrell - 1stshot put $\operatorname{Colin}\operatorname{McKinney}-1\operatorname{st}$

400 meters

Pilot Grubis — 2nd 110 hurdles, 1st 300 hurdles, 1st 4x4

Jett Bryant — 2nd 4x1Jett Hill — 3rd 4x2 Kolt Killion — 1st 4x4 Kasen Beaman — 2nd high jump, 2nd 4x2, 1st 200 meters, 3rd 4x2

Teagan Hair — 2nd 100 meters, 2nd 4x1, 3rd 4x200 Tre Fortune — 2nd 400 meters

Robert Lewis — 2nd 4x1 Cashton Parker — 3rd 110 hurdles

Karson Ferguson — 3rd

Brennan Smith — 1st 4x4

VARSITY BOYS TRACK:

Devon Hair — 3rd pole vault Kaine Hill -1st 300 hur-

dles, 1st 4x1, 1st 4x4 Christian Mendoza — 1st 4x1, 1st 4x2 Caden Rodgers — 1st

Dylan Crutchfield — 2nd discus Omar Hernandez — 3rd

4x1, 1st 4x2, 2nd 4x4

300 hurdles Cash Smith -1st 4x1, 1st 4x2, 2nd 4x4

Dillion Kates — 2nd 4x4,

High school girls' results were not press ready at time of publication.



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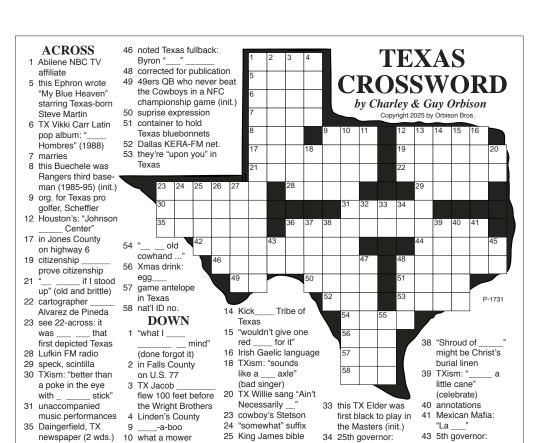
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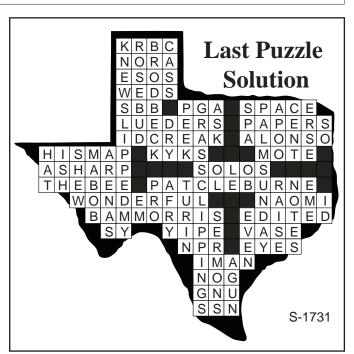
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