

MARCH/APRIL 2024

ARISE & REJOICE

Positive Stories About Positive People.

MAGAZINE.

People of peace, love and loyalty...



..... The Tongan Community!

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please see page 4

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Since the formation of the company in 2006, 3i has worked to exceed client expectations and transform vision into award-winning projects. 3i offers the broad expertise and financial stability of a mid-size General Contractor and Construction Manager while combining the personalized service and attention of a smaller firm.

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The mission of our Foundation is to
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by assisting and supporting
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LET'S GO TONGA!!



We Invite You to View These Features

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A LIGHT IN THE WINDOW

It is vitally important for our wellness that we look towards the "light in the window" for strength and wisdom.

Social media and most news reports are not uplifting. Avoid them as much as you can! Do not allow them to depress or embitter you!

Always remember that there exists an interdependence among people. Farmers are as dependent on those who purchase their food as the buyers are on them!

On each new day strive to make the world better for yourself, for those you know and even for those you will never know or meet. |AR

Pursuing Her Sacred Duty



Ms. Faiva-Siale, second right, and other Tongan influencers, Seini Afuhamango, left, and Eivise Tavo, right, collaborate with Euless Mayor Linda Martin to benefit Euless.

More than twenty times each year, no matter the harshness of the weather, the cost or personal sacrifice, Ofa Faiva-Siale travels to California to be with, and care for her niece, Emily. It is her sacred duty to be there, she said.

“When my family first came to America from Tonga, we had very little,” Ms. Faiva-Siale said. “We lived with Emily’s family, and they cared for us and made their home our home. When I travel to see her, I may take a handmade blanket, we go out to eat and we spend time talking about family,” said Ms. Faiva-Siale, an administrative assistant with the Euless Police Department.

Born out of custom, Ms. Faiva-Siale said that it was not uncommon for people in the Euless Tongan community to journey to their place of birth to attend funerals, weddings and other special occasions. Some might travel as many as three times each year or more, said Ms. Faiva-Siale whose family relocated to Euless in 1985.

“Family closeness and warmth is important in the Tongan community. Members of families have sacred responsibilities to one another, she said.

Ms. Faiva-Siale cites the Tongan Youth Association and the Euless Tongan Community Committee as crucially important institutions that have helped the growth and stability of the Tongan community in Euless, and throughout North Texas.



Euless Police Chief Mike Brown said that Ms. Faiva-Siale was an exceptional public servant.

“Ofa’s organizational skills and her willingness to tackle any task or challenge have made her a real difference-maker in the Euless Police Department,” said Euless Police Chief Mike Brown.

“I have never met anyone who could effectively communicate across cultures in a manner that brings people together quite like she does. Ofa is a true servant whose value to this community is beyond measure,” said Chief Brown.

Helping to provide direction to young people in the Tongan Community has been a joint effort between members of the Tongan Community, Euless city government and the Hurst, Euless, Bedford Independent School District, said Ms. Faiva-Siale who lives in Euless with her husband, Fatongia.

“Working together we created programs that encourage young people to seek higher education. We carry them on college campus visits and do all we can to inspire them to pursue excellence in their personal and professional lives,” she added |AR

THE LUCAS FAMILY SALUTES THE BELOVED EULESS TONGAN COMMUNITY



'Oua lau e kafo kae lau e lava' – Stay positive and count your blessings



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CITY OF EULESS

EASTER SPLASH

March 23rd

9:30am

**Euless Family Life Center
Natatorium**

\$10 PER PERSON

**REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED AND
SPACE IS LIMITED.**



IN FAITH & SERVICE



The Rivera family are great fans of the World Champion Texas Rangers baseball team.

The depth of her family's faith, and their commitment to plant a church brought Mele Rivera to Eulless in the early 1980s.

Even as a young student at South Eulless Elementary School, Ms. Rivera fully understood that her family's mission, anchored by their beliefs, was deep and vast, exceedingly importance to the Tongan Community in Eulless, and throughout the United States.

"In Tonga my mother, Losa, was a teacher and my father, Peniloutu, worked in agriculture," said Ms. Rivera who graduated from Trinity High School in 1995.

"My parents were starting a church and seeking a better life for their family in this country," she added. With parents that helped to anchor the Eulless



Mr. and Mrs. Peniloutu and Losa Asaeli, laid a sturdy foundation for their daughter, her family and others.

Tongan Community Committee when it first started, Ms. Rivera had little choice but to embrace others who shared a common language, and ancestral home.

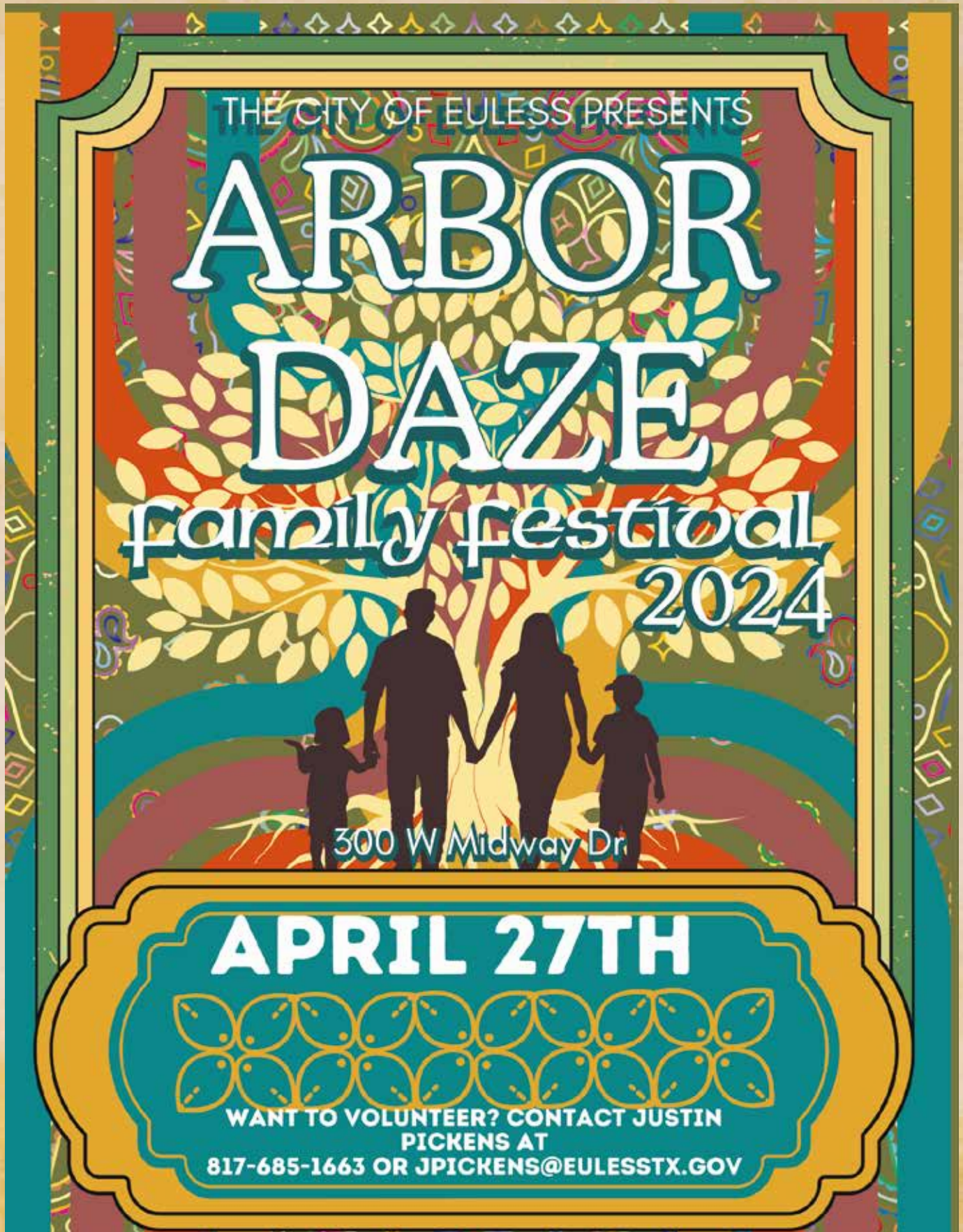
"I was taught to assist others when I was growing up," said Ms. Rivera. "I learned that from my parents and from my church,

the Tongan First United Methodist Church where Reverend Alex Latu was my pastor."

Ms. Rivera and her husband, Jerry, reside in Eulless with their three children, Lorena, David and Jerry Jr.

In addition to her work with the Committee, Ms. Rivera was an active participant in "Voice of Tonga," a former volunteer organization that assisted people with immigration matters, educational issues, and health concerns.

"Working with Texas Health Harris Methodist HEB Hospital we sponsored a mobile health unit that serviced residents in the community," Ms. Rivera said. |AR

A vibrant, colorful poster for the Arbor Daze family festival. The background is a collage of various patterns, including a large tree with yellow leaves, a rainbow, and a family silhouette. The text is arranged in a central, framed area. At the top, it says 'THE CITY OF EULESS PRESENTS' in a small, white, sans-serif font. Below that, 'ARBOR DAZE' is written in large, white, serif letters with a blue outline. Underneath, 'family festival' is in a smaller, white, cursive font, and '2024' is in large, white, serif letters with a blue outline. In the center, there is a silhouette of a family (two adults and two children) holding hands, standing on a rainbow. Below the family, the address '300 W Midway Dr' is written in a white, sans-serif font. At the bottom, there is a large, yellow, rounded rectangular box with a blue border. Inside this box, 'APRIL 27TH' is written in large, white, sans-serif letters. Below the date, there is a pattern of yellow leaves. At the very bottom of the box, the text 'WANT TO VOLUNTEER? CONTACT JUSTIN PICKENS AT 817-685-1663 OR JPICKENS@EULESSTX.GOV' is written in a small, white, sans-serif font.

THE CITY OF EULESS PRESENTS

ARBOR DAZE

family festival

2024

300 W Midway Dr

APRIL 27TH

WANT TO VOLUNTEER? CONTACT JUSTIN PICKENS AT
817-685-1663 OR JPICKENS@EULESSTX.GOV

CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE EULESS TONGAN COMMUNITY COMMITTEE



○ **Moli Tameifuna**
7th Day Adventist Church

○ **Mite Ahau**
The Mormon Church Ward 2

○ **Tilolou Vaai**
The Mormon Church Ward 3

○ **Ofa Tulilotu**
The Mormon Church Ward 4

○ **Losaline Falahola**
Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga

○ **Iunisi Finau**
Siasi Tokaikolo

○ **Pilimilose Tatofi**
Free Church of Tonga

○ **Fine Tongia**
Martin United Methodist Church

○ **Mele Rivera**
Christ Wesleyan Congregational
Methodist Church

These volunteers serve selflessly to improve the lives of
people in Euless and elsewhere.



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Saluting the Tongan Community

MARCH/APRIL 2024

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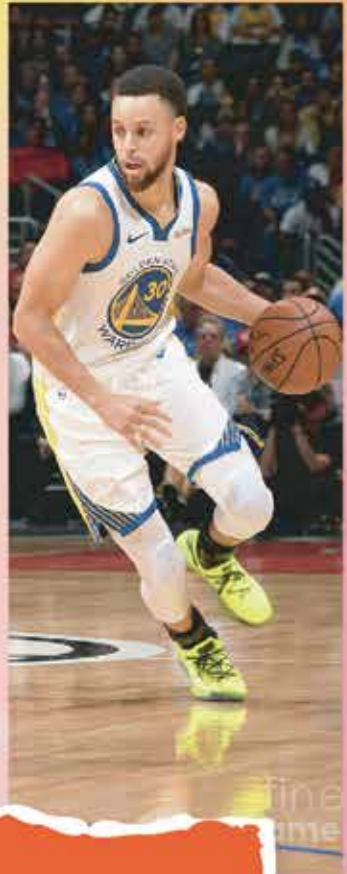
Arise & Rejoice is a publication that reflects the goodness and grace that abounds within all people. It seeks to bring all of us closer together, promoting understanding and reconciliation.

Arise & Rejoice believes in the development of a community of "we" where no one is seen as "the other" and where all people are acknowledged and respected!

YELLOW PEOPLE!
BLACK PEOPLE!
WHITE PEOPLE!
BROWN PEOPLE!
BLUE PEOPLE!
GAY PEOPLE!
STRAIGHT PEOPLE!
REPUBLICAN PEOPLE!
DEMOCRAT PEOPLE!
OLD PEOPLE!
YOUNG PEOPLE!

Need Each Other! ©

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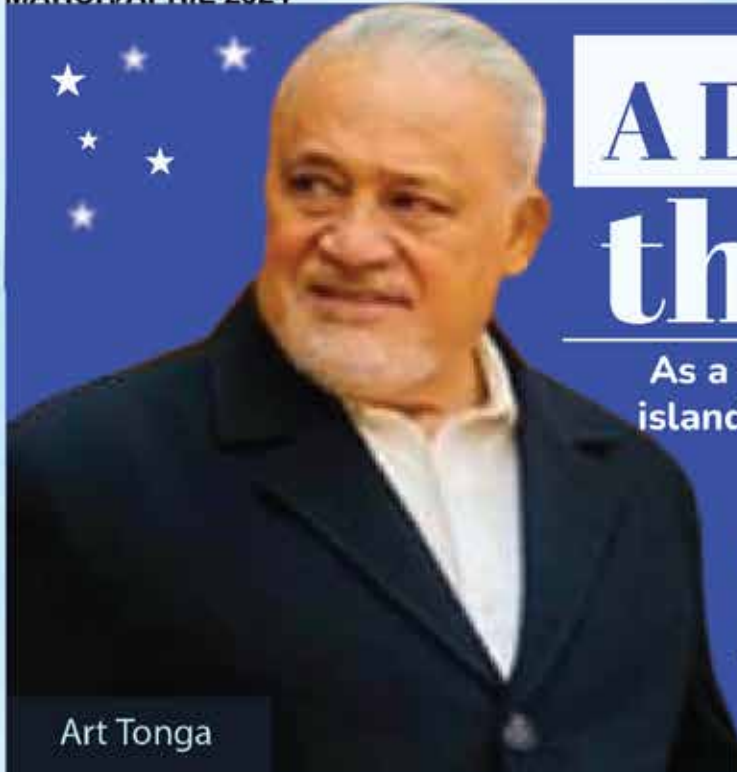
Stephen and Ayesha Curry live a life that goes beyond the boundaries of a basketball court or arena.

They have become exemplary role models for married couples and those in serious relationships around the world.

Living within themselves, and avoiding the trappings of celebrity, they have recently pledged to raise \$50 million for the distressed public school system in Oakland, California.

Perhaps others of means will follow the lead of the Stephen and Ayesha whose judgement is as accurate as one of Stephen's three-point shots launched from thirty feet away from the basket. |AR





Art Tonga

A Life Beyond the Stars

As a teenager growing up on a small island in the Pacific Ocean, Art Tonga had no idea that one day he would play a crucial role as an engineer in the American space program, work closely with astronauts and help NASA with its European Space Operation.

“The space program was very important work,” said Mr. Tonga, who lives in Euless with his wife, Lynn, an American Airlines retiree. “I worked with and came to know the seven astronauts who were killed in the Columbia Space Shuttle accident,” he said softly. “I was in Houston at NASA with my colleagues watching when it happened. It was one of the saddest days of my life.”

After working in the space industry in Houston, Italy and Germany, Mr. Tonga, now semi-retired, made Euless his home in 1992. He became the first chairman of the Euless Tongan Community Committee, and helped to establish programs designed to improve the lives of young students, and their hardworking parents.

A graduate of Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, Mr. Tonga, who studied engineering, spent four years in the United States Air Force after earning his college degree. He then went to work for The Boeing Company, the world’s leading designer and manufacturer of commercial aircraft.

“I worked in Seattle and in Los Angeles,” said Mr. Tonga, the father of two daughters and two sons. “I participated in the launch of the very first space shuttle in 1981,” he added. The program that Mr. Tonga worked on was the first of hundreds of NASA missions into space. The work that he and his colleagues performed elevated the spirit of an entire nation.

“I have always wanted to help people,” said Mr. Tonga, whose father, Semisi, was a barber while his mother, Lea, made clothing for a living. “In my youth I always wanted to build things,” he said. “I was fascinated with how things worked, things that you built from scratch with your hands and your mind.”|AR

HOW TO LIVE TO

100

If you want to live a century or more here are some tips that you can consider. However, if you are not interested in living one hundred years or more stop reading immediately!

Those wishing to get older should stop smoking and drinking immediately! Spend at least thirty minutes each day exercising. Walking is allowed!

Get at least five hours of sleep each night. The older you get the more sleep the body needs, healthy living experts say.



At least 5 hours of sleep

Try not to carry more weight than necessary and make sure that fruits, vegetables, nuts and water are part of your regular diet.

Water is part of diet

Surround yourself with positive people who share warm thoughts with you! Stay away from negative folks and avoid selfish and petty people.



Watch your blood pressure, your cholesterol level and your blood sugar. Take your prescribed medication regularly. |AR



Sisters Sarah and Elizabeth Delany lived beyond one hundred years. Sarah passed when she was 109. Elizabeth was 104 when she passed.

Shared American Experience®



The 'Americans with Disabilities Act'

The ADA was signed into law by President George H.W. Bush in 1990. It prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities.

Prior to the enactment of the law, people with disabilities faced racid discrimination when applying for jobs or taking public transportation.

Now disabled employees applying for jobs with public entities must be provided with certain equipment that will help them perform just like a person without disabilities.



Local public entities are among those covered by the legislation

Public transportation systems and public housing providers are covered by the law.

They must provide access for disabled people and must accommodate animals such as service dogs that assist some people with disabilities. |AR

GIVING UNTO OTHERS[®] EVEN WHILE DYING SHE GAVE!



Casey McIntyre thought of others!

Shortly before she died in November of 2023, Casey McIntyre established a fund designed to help those in need pay their medical bills.

In a letter that she posted to friends on social media, Casey said that she intended to help other people by paying their medical debt in full.

Within sixty days of her passing, more than a half million dollars had been raised in her name to help people she had never met and who did not know her.

She was inspired to support others after seeing a news report of a church in North Carolina whose members paid medical debt for others.

Her husband, Andrew, said that he and their two-year-old daughter, Grace, would miss her and would always honor her selfless life. She cared deeply for others, he said.

Andrew said that those who are inspired by his wife's act should google "RIP Medical Debt" to see how they can help others in need, as his wife did! |AR

SHARING BELIEFS AND DREAMS!

TONGANS HAVE GIFTED A SENSE OF hope, loyalty and service to North Texas, and wherever they find themselves in the United States and throughout the world. They have taken the goodness and spirit of Tonga with them to destinations across the globe. They contribute to the lives of communities wherever they reside. It is their personal responsibility, a belief buried deeply in their hearts and in their souls.

"THE TONGAN COMMUNITY IS AN example of how valuable family, community and human relationships can be," said Euless Mayor Linda Martin. "Tongans are truly wonderful people," said Mayor Martin who credits her late predecessor, Mayor Mary Lib Saleh, for playing a pivotal role in developing trust and reliance between the city and Tongan residents of Euless.

THE MAYOR'S SENTIMENTS ARE echoed by Mite Ahau, a Tongan businessowner who serves as chairman of the Euless Tongan Community Committee, the nine-member volunteer board that serves as an anchor in the Tongan community, working with high school students, adults, city officials and teachers and administrators from the Hurst, Euless, Bedford Independent School District.

"THE CITY OF EULESS AND HEB-ISD have been extremely kind to the Tongan Community," Mr. Ahau said. "The city and the school district and our other partners in the North Texas community are extremely important to us," he said. "The resources, ideas and programs they have provided have been invaluable."

MR. AHAU, WHO FOUNDED 'Polynesian Landscaping' in 2002, lives in Euless with his wife, Taionala. Their children are graduates of L.D Belle High School in Bedford. Each pursued college degrees.

IN ADDITION TO ESCORTING TONGAN youth on four tours each academic year of college campuses throughout the state of Texas, Mr. Ahau and his colleagues on the Committee sponsor quarterly meetings for young people at L.D. Bell and Trinity High Schools. During these sessions young people are exposed to guests that include chief executive officers of area corporations, and other successful people. There is also a "lunch and learn" program coordinated by school officials that helps Tongan youth, Mr. Ahau said.

"I want our young people to have better lives. I want them to pursue higher education and great opportunities in life."

Mr. Ahau applauds Carter Blood Care for its efforts to improve the wellness of members in the Tongan community. The Committee works with Carter Blood Care to conduct an annual blood drive, Mr. Ahau said.



Mr. Ahau chairs the Euless Tongan Community Committee.

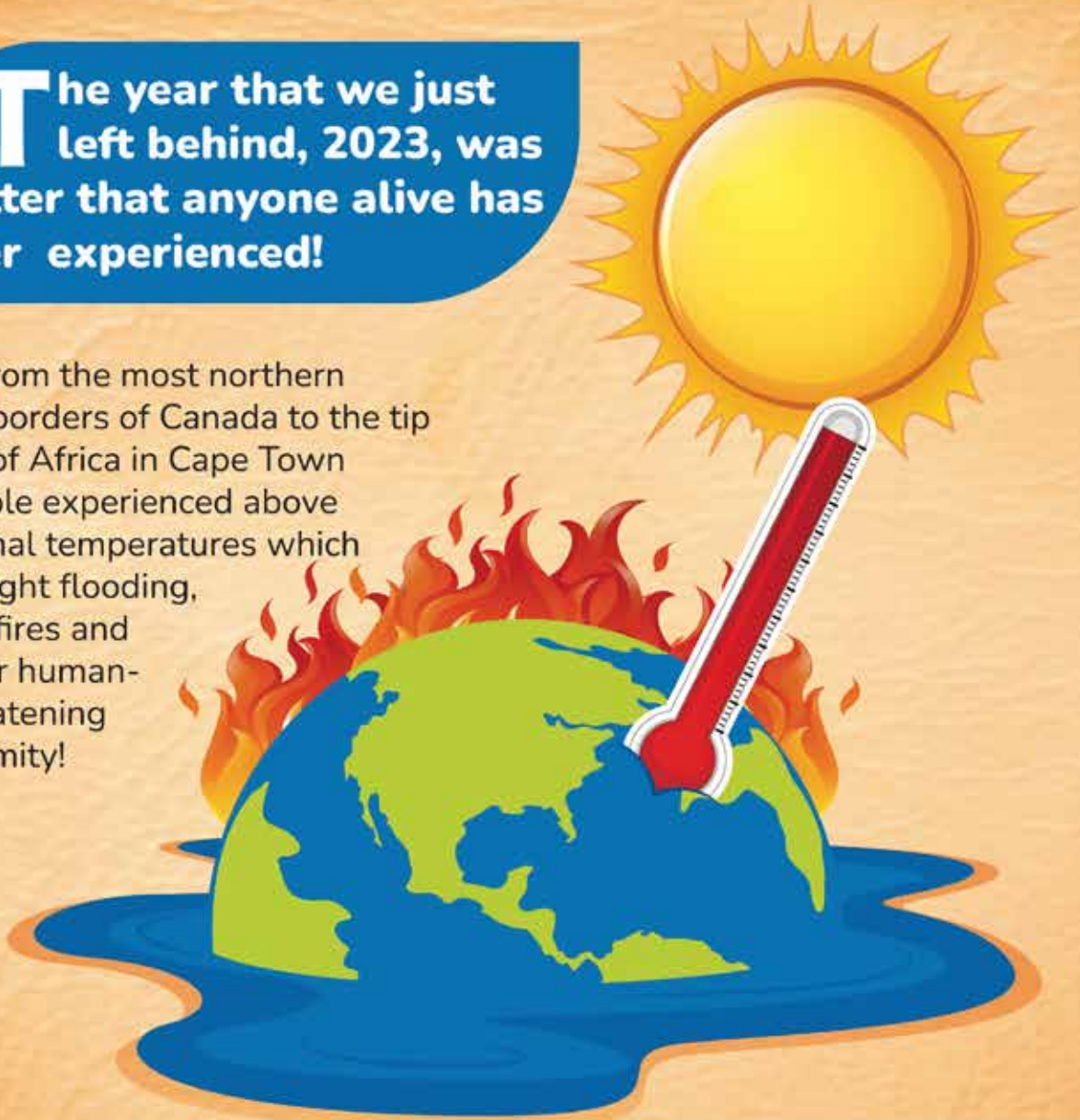
"DIABETES IS A PROBLEM THAT WE address," he said. "We encourage people to exercise, and we sponsor activities such as our "fun and run" program which takes place in a park in Euless. We also provide people with health-related information on our website."

A former Bishop in the Mormon Church in Euless, Mr. Ahau is well-accustomed to helping others. "I served as a Bishop for five years," he said. "My role was to meet the needs of people, to be there for them when they had needs such as housing and clothing. That was my role. That was my obligation," he added. | AR

THE EARTH IS TOO HOT!

The year that we just left behind, 2023, was hotter than anyone alive has ever experienced!

From the most northern borders of Canada to the tip of Africa in Cape Town people experienced above normal temperatures which brought flooding, wildfires and other human-threatening calamity!



Some climate scientists say that the warming planet and its brutal conditions are the result of human activity.

If humans continue to endanger the planet it could become unlivable, scientists say.

So, educate yourself on how you can help slow down a rapidly heating earth. If not for yourself then do it for your children and your grandchildren!! |AR

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