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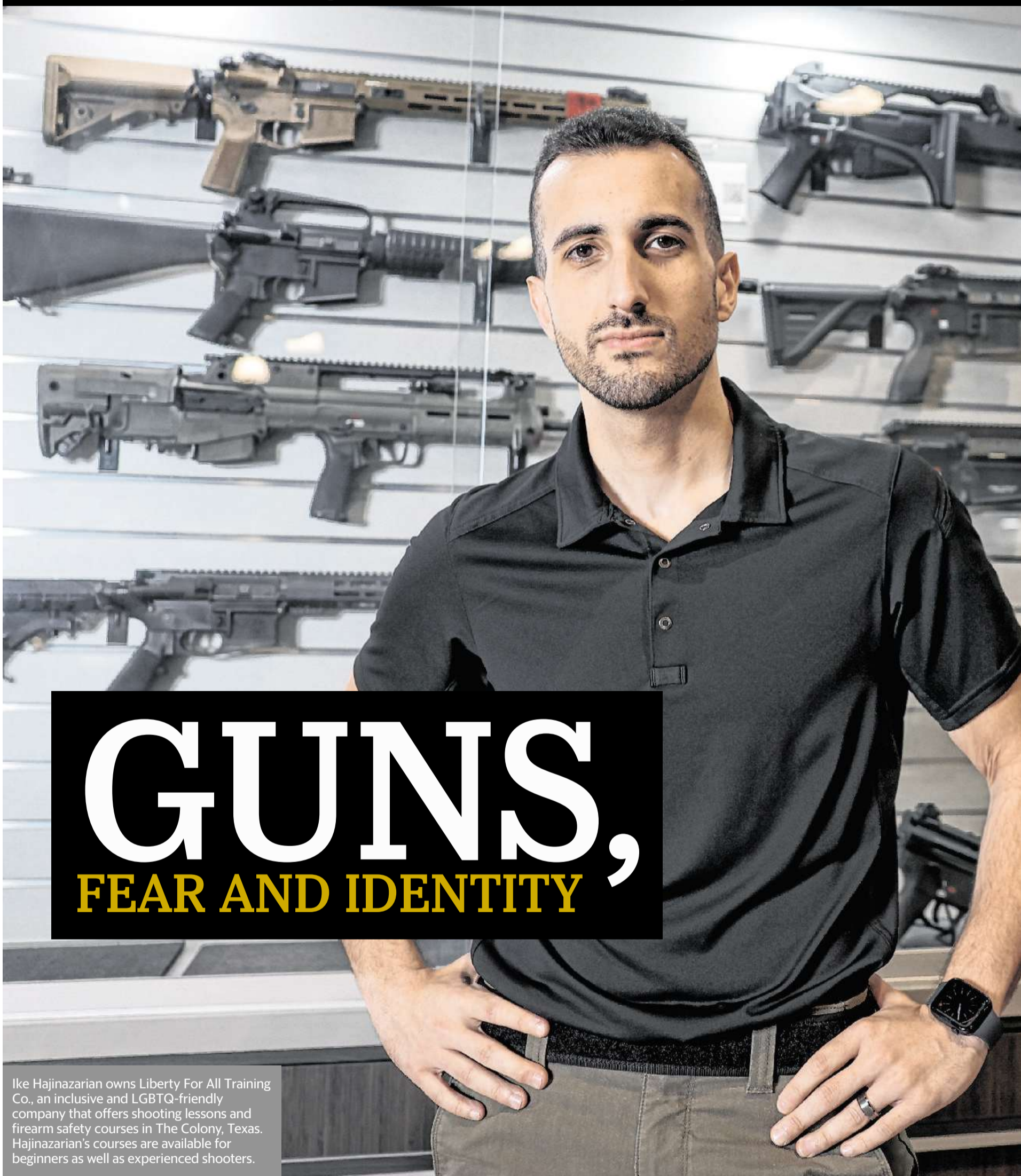
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SUNDAY

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## GUNS, FEAR AND IDENTITY

Ike Hajinazarian owns Liberty For All Training Co., an inclusive and LGBTQ-friendly company that offers shooting lessons and firearm safety courses in The Colony, Texas. Hajinazarian's courses are available for beginners as well as experienced shooters.

ABIGAIL DOLLINS Fort Worth Star-Telegram

### Horner's grandmother apologizes to victim's family

BY HARRIET RAMOS hramos@star-telegram.com

Tanner Horner's grandmother apologized to Athena Strand's family Thursday and told jurors she was shocked to learn Horner had sexually assaulted the 7-year-old Wise County girl before killing her in the back of his FedEx truck in November 2022.

"I feel like there's nothing I can say to make anything better. And I'm sure there's not,"

Jackie said to Athena's parents. "I just want you to know that I've not forgotten you or your daughter."

Jackie, whom attorneys addressed only by her first name, was one of the last witnesses for the defense in Horner's capital murder trial. The 34-year-old Horner has already pleaded guilty to kidnapping and killing Athena after delivering a package to her family's Wise County home on Nov. 30, 2022. The jury will decide if the defendant should receive life in

prison without the possibility of parole or the death penalty.

Horner went to live with Jackie — his maternal grandmother — and her husband when he was around 3 years old. His parents had separated, and his father spent time in prison. Horner's mother, Melissa, was struggling with addiction and was in and out of his life.

Jackie sent Horner to a day-care since she had to work. She started noticing that he preferred to play alone, and other

children labeled him as "weird" and "awkward," she said.

Horner was eventually diagnosed with Asperger's syndrome, now called autism spectrum disorder, and ADHD. Jackie said it was a relief to find out what was wrong. She described Horner as friendly and talkative, but said he had a hard time making friends and was often bullied.

Jackie said her husband, Bill, didn't put any stock in the diagnosis and would say there's "nothing wrong with that boy." Bill, who was a Vietnam War veteran, tended to be angry and demanding at home. He would tell Horner to mow the lawn, but didn't show him how to do it right, Jackie testified.

SEE HORNER, 2A



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