

## Council hears annual report on library

BY DON MUNSCH  
don@azlenews.net

More people are visiting the Azle Memorial Library these days, the Azle City Council heard at last week's council meeting.

Azle Library Director Curren McLane conducted an annual presentation of the library, with the report detailing staffing levels and continuing education hours for staff. The library is open six days a week and 48 hours weekly. Staffers are there additional hours to get some

work done. "This last year, we saw a little over 77,000 visitors to our library, which was a big increase from last year," McLane said about the fiscal year 2021-22 report at the Nov. 1 meeting, mentioning how visits slowed during

the pandemic but have increased since then, especially last year. More than 220,000 items were borrowed in the year.

McLane discussed the many duties that staffers have, such as sending faxes or making copies for patrons for

a fee. The library has about 33,000 items in its digital collection - the number of items is shared with about 30 other libraries - and a little over 57,000 items in the physical collection. And a little over 3,000 items are added per year. The library repairs a

number of books so they can have their lives prolonged, McLane said.

Additionally, McLane discussed other functions of the library, such as programming and services, the latter

SEE LIBRARY, PAGE 12A.

## Volunteers sought to help young people have a Night to Shine

BY DON MUNSCH  
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Sports fans know Tim Tebow as the Heisman Trophy winning quarterback who played in the National Football League and in the New York Mets minor league baseball system.

But Tebow is known for more than just his achievements on the gridiron and baseball field, as his foundation seeks to help people

through a number of causes.

One of those is Night to Shine, sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation, which is a prom held in February for young adults, ages 14 and up, with special needs. The Edge Church sponsors the prom for the first time this year, and it will be held from 6-9 p.m. Feb. 10, 2023, at Servolution Dream Center, 11698 FM 730 S. in Azle. The event is free. Night to Shine will celebrate its ninth anni-

versary this year.

Organizers need help putting on the event, as they seek 75 people to be buddies for the special needs people attending the prom.

"They will have someone who accompanies them throughout the night to just make sure they have what they need, if they need help getting food or even just someone to dance with - any

SEE SHINE, PAGE 11A.



PHOTO COURTESY TIM TEBOW FOUNDATION

Night to Shine, sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation, is a prom held in February for young adults, ages 14 and up, with special needs.

## Replace or expand?



PHOTO BY DON MUNSCH

The art classroom at Azle Junior High School fits 30 students in this room for lessons, making for a crammed space, AJHS Principal Brian Roberts said.

*District examining future of junior high school campus*

BY DON MUNSCH  
don@azlenews.net

Azle High School students began occupying the building that houses the current Azle Junior High School back in 1953.

High school students had previously used the Rock Building for classes. That

building now houses the district's administration. The current high school on FM 730 was built in 1970.

So, the district has a history of retrofitting buildings as needs dictate.

But can the current junior high school - the oldest building in the district - continue to be used as a second-

ary campus, or will it need to be replaced or expanded in the future? An analysis performed by VLK Architects will offer some insight into that building's future, and its report is likely due back in the spring. The building features seventh and eighth grades.

SEE SCHOOL, PAGE 11A.

DON'T MISS OUR

## Veterans Day Special Section

IN THIS EDITION OF THE AZLE NEWS

**VETERANS DAY**  
Honoring all those who served

SPECIAL TO THE AZLE NEWS/SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

**From serving his country to serving his county**  
George Conley

**Azle fire marshal: Service was 'best time' of his life**  
Kenny Wilson

**Veteran liked certain appeal from the Army**  
Clim Keeley

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# Optimist banquet recognizes two dozen Azle youth



PHOTO BY JESSICA MCKINNEY

Twenty-four students representing Azle schools and youth organizations were recognized at the 42nd annual Optimist Club Youth Appreciation banquet on Nov. 3.

### FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Optimist Club of Azle held its 42nd annual Youth Appreciation Banquet on Nov. 3 at Santo Forte Junior High School, recognizing 24 young people from the community for their hard work both in and out of the classroom.

Each year, Azle schools select two students from each campus - one boy and one girl - to be honored at the

banquet.

This year, Optimist Club members also invited the local BSA troops, Girl Scout troops and Civil Air Patrol squadron to select nominees to be recognized at the event.

The guest speaker was former Azle News publisher Bob Buckle. Optimist Club President Josh Reed and Azle ISD Superintendent Todd Smith presented certificates to each honoree.

### AZLE HIGH SCHOOL

Henry Lalonde  
Ashlyn Norton

### CIVIL AIR PATROL, AZLE COMPOSITE SQUADRON

Tret King  
BSA Troop 175  
Brayden Eber

### BSA TROOP 243

Jackson Shew

### GIRL SCOUT TROOP 2745

Rayna Taney  
Azle Junior High  
Ellie Bennett  
Joaquin Solorzano

### SANTO FORTE JUNIOR HIGH

Marialy Garcia  
Korbin Chaudron

### AZLE ELEMENTARY

Diana Soto  
Dylan Morland

### HOOVER ELEMENTARY

Bristyl Connellee  
Cagen Mooney

### CROSS TIMBERS ELEMENTARY

Klara Ferrell  
Hannibal Copeland

### LIBERTY ELEMENTARY

Payton Reusch  
Logan Johnson

### WALNUT CREEK ELEMENTARY

Ava Wahkinney  
Micah Huddleston

### SILVER CREEK ELEMENTARY

Addalee Haddock  
Owen Gathright

### EAGLE HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY

Belinda Morales Ledezma  
Briggs Baker

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**Country Showdown**  
FREE SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12 | 11AM-5PM  
Featuring Cody Cresswell, Coston Cross, Nate Burnham, Chris Breau & Six String Rodeo, Southern Oak Band, Billy Jo, Landon Heights, and Matthew Shane Band!  
Special performance featuring Will Carter | 6-7:30PM

**Christian Country Concert**  
FREE SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13 | 12-1PM  
Featuring Justin Todd Herod!

**Texas Country Music Awards Show**  
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Featuring Roger Creager, Terry McBride & The Ride, Bailey Rae and many more!  
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# Applications sought for Texas Tri-County Youth Tour



COURTESY PHOTO TRI-COUNTY ELECTRIC

Students who participated in the Tri-County trip in 2019 were, front row, Kade McAdams (Seymour High School), Nikoletta Shockley (Carroll High School), Destiny Otparliik (Azle High School) and Arya Kumar (Keller High School), and back row, Cole Petit (Seymour High School), Chase Torgesen (Azle High School) and Jackson Schriver (Brock High School).

## FROM STAFF REPORTS

Tri-County Electric Cooperative is now accepting applications for the 2023 Texas Youth Tour for six high school students to experience a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Selected students – juniors and sophomores are eligible to apply – will travel to Washington, D.C., and tour historical sites and learn about the nation’s capital.

“This all-expenses paid, 10-day trip is a unique opportunity for our young members to learn about our nation’s capital, experience the rich history regarding the founding of our country and learn about the electric cooperative industry – all while gaining

leadership experience,” said Annie Watson, Tri-County director of communications, in a news release.

Selected participants will spend June 11-19 with over 150 other students statewide, meeting in Texas before embarking on their trip to Washington, D.C. Students will meet with federal representatives from Texas while in D.C. The statewide association – Texas Electric Cooperatives – sets the agenda, Watson said, and the group continues to work on the official schedule, but based on the past, students will be in Austin June 11-12, Washington June 13-18 and Austin June 19.

Additionally, students will

each receive a \$2,000 scholarship for college or trade school. Tri-County Electric Co-op selects the students who participate in this project.

“We have a committee composed of employees from across our departments who review applications and interview the students,” Watson said in an email.

To apply, students should visit [www.tectexas.com/youth-tour](http://www.tectexas.com/youth-tour). The application deadline is Jan. 13, 2023.

Tri-County Electric Cooperative, established in 1939, is a distribution electric cooperative that serves more than 103,000 members in 16 counties in the north Texas region.

## SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

# News for the seasoned adult

BY JACKIE “JJ” JOY  
Special to the Azle News

At the Azle Adult Activity Center (Senior Center), you will find a place of fun, food, and friendship. Healthy and nutritious meals are prepared by Meals On Wheels, Inc. of Tarrant County and meet the requirements of the Older Americans Act and can be enjoyed Monday through Friday. Meals are served at 11:30 a.m., so please call 817-444-0070 by 9:30 a.m. the day before you would like to come. Our menu can also be found using the “Senior Center” link on the [cityofazle.gov](http://cityofazle.gov) website.

For fun, we have a wide variety of games to choose from. Recently acquired games include Coney Island Toss, Mexican Train, Chickenfoot, Scrabble and Monopoly.

If you enjoy crafts, we have a well-equipped craft room. Bring a craft or start a new one and use what we have available.

We never want to forget to remind people we have a bridge club that meets each Friday at 9 a.m. If you want to learn to play, please contact us as we have someone who is willing to meet with you.

One of the activities we have on our calendar is Bean-Bag-Baseball on Wednesdays, but we also have a new game called Coney Island Toss. Let’s get enough people to have competition and eventually challenge other centers. These are available in the back of the main dining room. We also have available Wii bowling and other Wii games available.

We now have Lunch-n-Learn on Thursdays at 11:45 a.m. Once you have received your lunch, it can be taken to the TV room to watch MasterClass while eating. This month’s presentation is Dr. Jane Goodall. She is the scientist known as “The Ape Lady.” She lived among the chimpanzees of Africa, studying them their behav-

ior and how we can relate to them. She is very fascinating as she tells her story and what she learned.

The center was recently blessed with the acquisition of a new warmer for our meals, new games, an exercise step and ball and a brand-new Cuisinart dual coffee maker. We can now have coffee by the pot or select from a variety of coffees, hot tea, cocoa, or spiced cider to have by the cup.

All these items were given to us for the enhanced enjoyment of our center. If you haven’t been here recently, you may want to come in and visit. We are still open at 9 a.m. till 1:30 p.m.

AARP will be doing another Safe Driving course on Friday, Nov. 18 at 9 a.m. This course is very informative and will help you learn new laws and enhance your memory of the old. Call now to sign up for the class.

For any questions or information, please contact us at 817-444-0070. See ya soon!

# One injured in ultralight aircraft incident

BY CARLA NOAH STUTSMAN  
[carla@azlenews.net](mailto:carla@azlenews.net)

The pilot of an ultralight airplane suffered unknown injuries the morning shortly before 10 a.m. Nov. 1 when the plane went down in a

tree line just off Rhonda B Road in Reno.

The man was transported to a Fort Worth hospital by LifeCare EMS. The crash location is alongside Walnut Creek northwest of FM 730 North.

Reno Police Department, Parker County Sheriff’s Office, Department of Public Safety, Briar-Reno Fire Department, Parker County ESD #1 La Junta Station and LifeCare EMS responded to the scene.



**good news** Each One, Give One

**What you consider a household necessity, your senior neighbors consider a luxury. Below is a list of items most needed by the seniors in our community:**

**Items Needed:**

- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Laundry Detergent Pods
- Dish Soap
- Tissues (Kleenex)
- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels

**Accepting donations thru Nov. 30th.**

Look for bins at the following locations:  
Eagle Crest Villa, Azle Chamber of Commerce, Azle News, Azle Manor Nursing Home & Rehab & Northwest Physical Therapy




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(817) 444-2300  
[www.goodnews4seniors.org](http://www.goodnews4seniors.org)

## The BIGGEST Mistake Low Back Pain Sufferers Make



By Local Health Expert Dr. Robert Moss PT, ScD, OCS, FAAOMPT

If you or someone you know has back pain then this article is for you. This is something very close to my heart as I have suffered with lower back pain through the years. My Dad and brother have also suffered with lower back pain which became so bad they both underwent dangerous surgery to try and fix their problem.

They live in San Antonio (where I grew up) and I felt guilty that I was not able to help them, but hopefully my 23+ years of experience can help you. Fortunately my dad did okay after his surgery. I can’t say the same for my brother, but that is a story for another day.

Over the years I have discovered some things that are not taught in physical therapy school. One of the major awakenings is that as humans we have a tendency to procrastinate and not handle issues when they first come up, I am no different. However when it comes to health issues this is definitely the wrong approach. When you start to experience back or leg pain (also called sciatica) most people tend to ignore the pain and pretend it will go away on their own.

This is what I call the **Biggest mistake**. By ignoring your pain you are potentially setting yourself up for larger and more costly problems in the long run. The faster you address the problem the greater chance of success which leads to your ability to return to normal life.

A **second mistake** I frequently see is that people with back pain try to alter their symptoms by taking dangerous medications, having injections or surgery. Don’t get me wrong there is a time and place for injections and possibly surgery but not at the onset.

Most people don’t exhaust all of their conservative care options before trying more risky options. Even taking over the counter medications is a form of “altering” their pain.

It is one thing to take some tylenol or ibuprofen to reduce some pain and inflammation while getting to the root cause of the pain and doing something about it vs only taking medications. Just because the pain reduces doesn’t mean the problem has been taken care of.

We frequently see people in the clinic who have had back pain for months, and were sent to see a pain management specialist who did a series of injections. Maybe they got some relief but it wasn’t permanent. Then they wind up in our office to help.

This is backwards. Injections have the great chance of working when combined WITH physical therapy at the same time, not as an either or situation.

So what do the most successful people do when they have back pain? They address their problem.


**I call it the 3 D’s Principle to handle any problem in life - Don’t Ignore it, Don’t Mask It, Do Something About It.**

If you feel you would really enjoy helping yourself find relief from that annoying, nagging lower back pain, get off the pain pills and avoid surgery then I have something for you.

**Act now - call the office NOW 817-220-6677 to request my 100% FREE Report Top 10 Burning Questions for Back Pain and Sciatica.** Or if you want the report right now, please visit [www.springtownphysicaltherapy.com/back-pain-report](http://www.springtownphysicaltherapy.com/back-pain-report) or scan the QR code and you can download it instantly.

PS. No one will ask for any money for anything when you call 817-220-6677 to request your free report which is perfect for those who are suffering with lower back pain and sciatica.

The author, Dr. Robert Moss PT, ScD is the owner of MOSS Rehabilitation Center in Springtown, TX. He is happy to help you with your back pain and sciatica problems either by phone 817-220-MOSS (6677) or email [robert@springtownphysical](mailto:robert@springtownphysical)



# November is a busy month

**Hornet Community:**  
Happy fall! November is a busy month with several key events, such as Election Day, Veteran's Day, and of course, Thanksgiving.

Thank you to those who took part in the recent general election. It is important that we, as the Azle ISD community, continue to instill our culture of voting by performing our civic duty and letting our voices be heard at the polls.

This Friday, November 11, we celebrate Veterans Day. I encourage everyone to take the time to thank a veteran and reflect on the sacrifices and commitment of our service men and women, both



**AZLE ISD**  
By Todd Smith, M.Ed.,  
Superintendent of Schools - Azle ISD

Mr. Smith just completed his 28th school year in Azle ISD, with 13 years in campus administration and six years as a district administrator. In June 22, 2020 he was named Superintendent of Schools by the Azle ISD Board of Trustees. He is thankful for the passion and dedication exhibited by Azle ISD faculty and staff and is extremely proud of the work Azle ISD has accomplished and the impact they will continue to make in the lives of our students.

past and present. For all branches of service, I express my gratitude for defending our nation. Thank you to all Veterans in the Azle ISD community, along with all Azle ISD employees who have served our great country! As we approach

Thanksgiving, I want to share just a few highlights I am thankful for regarding Azle ISD. First, I am thankful for our students, pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. Our almost 7,100 students are truly a blessing, and it is an honor to be a part of their

educational journey. Second, our employees. I am extremely grateful for everything our employees do for the students of Azle ISD. It is a blessing to work alongside such a dedicated group of people. Finally, I am thankful for YOU, our Azle ISD community. We truly have a unique community that is committed to serving and helping others. You exemplify this almost daily in some form or fashion, big and small, and even more so during this time of the year. I am indebted to the relationships, both personal and professional, I have made over the last almost 30 years in this community. These three items, along with many

more, are what make Azle ISD special. Making a difference to every child, every chance, every day.

We continue to welcome new families into our community. In a meeting with our demographers just last week, our student enrollment was predicted to continue to grow around 3% a year, or approximately 200 new students a year, for the next several years. We are in the final stages of evaluating future attendance zones with the addition of Hilltop Elementary opening next school year. We have two informational attendance zone meetings scheduled, the first on Wednesday, November 30, and the second

on Monday, January 9. Both will be in the Swarm conference room at our administration building starting at 6 p.m. While re-zoning is never a popular topic, it is a necessary part of a growing community.

All Azle ISD campuses will serve a Thanksgiving meal for lunch over the next few weeks, and I invite you to join us. Please be sure to check with individual campuses for specific serving dates, times, and costs. Many require pre-sale tickets to ensure enough food is prepared. Happy Thanksgiving.  
We Are Azle -  
Todd Smith, Superintendent of Schools - Azle ISD

## 50th ANNIVERSARY Celebrating 50 years of love!



James and LaTisha Haney of Azle will celebrate 50 years of love on Nov. 10. James retired from General Motors in Arlington after 33 years. LaTisha retired from Arlington Water Utilities after 25 years. The couple has been blessed with two sons, Jody and Kenny, and a daughter-in-law, Rubee.

## Quilter's Guild of Parker County to meet next week

**FROM STAFF REPORTS**  
The Quilter's Guild of Parker County will hold a collage quilting trunk show on Nov. 17.

Speaker Doris Rice will present the trunk show. Collage quilts are brightly colored and bring to life everyday objects in a beautiful art quilt. Rice is a Laura Heine Collage instructor and will talk about this technique.

The guild will meet in-person and via Zoom on Nov. 17 at Lakeshore Drive Baptist Church at 200 S. Lakeshore Drive in Hudson Oaks. The meeting will start at 6:45 p.m., but attendees are encouraged to come earlier to socialize. Visitors are welcome in-person and online.

To join online, email your name and telephone number to [qgpc2000@gmail.com](mailto:qgpc2000@gmail.com). To learn more about the guild, visit its website [quilters-guildofparkercounty.org](http://quilters-guildofparkercounty.org) or find the guild on Facebook.

There will also be a workshop on Friday morning, Nov. 18 on collage quilts. To sign up for the workshop, please email the guild.



The Honey Bee Collage Quilt Kit by Doris Rice is available from Cactus Queen Quilt Co.

### Azle School Menu Nov 14 - Nov 18, 2022

<p><b>BREAKFAST:</b> PreK-4th Grade \$2.55 7-12th Grade \$1.55 5-6th Grade FREE 2nd Meal \$2.00 Visitors/Employees \$2.75</p>	<p><b>LUNCH:</b> PreK-4th Grade \$2.75 5-6th Grade \$2.75 7-12th Grade \$2.55 2nd Meal \$3.20 Visitors &amp; Employees \$3.75</p>
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**PreK - 4th**

**BREAKFAST: Everyday - Assorted Fruits and Cereal, Juice, White or Chocolate Milk, Graham Crackers, Toast**  
**Mon** Breakfast on a Stick, Applesauce **Tues** Egg & Cheese Taco, Pineapple **Weds** Breakfast Pizza, Applesauce  
**Thurs** Cereal (Cheerios), Banana **Fri** Kolache, Orange Slices

**LUNCH: Everyday - Variety of milk. Your choice of 1 entree & 1 fruit or juice**  
**Mon** Chicken & Cheese Quesadilla, Sloppy Joe, Peas, Applesauce **Tues** Thanksgiving Meal **Weds** Turkey & Cheese sandwich, Chicken Spaghetti w/roll, Steamed Broccoli, Orange **Thurs** Thanksgiving Meal **Fri** Max Sticks w/marinera, Diced BBQ Chicken Sandwich, Smile French Fries, Applesauce

**GRADES 5TH - 8TH**

**BREAKFAST: Everyday - Assorted Fruits and Cereal, Juice, White or Chocolate Milk, Yogurt w/Granola**  
**Mon** French Toast Sticks, Peas **Tues** Breakfast Taco, Apple **Weds** Biscuit & Gravy, Orange  
**Thurs** Breakfast on a Stick, Applesauce **Fri** Waffles, Banana

**LUNCH: Everyday: Variety of milk. Your choice of 1 entree & 1 fruit or juice, rolls, crackers • Salad bar offered daily**  
**Mon** Chicken & Cheese, Quesadilla, Sloppy Joe, Peas, Applesauce **Tues** Thanksgiving Meal **Weds** Turkey & Cheese sandwich, Chicken Spaghetti w/roll, Steamed Broccoli, Orange **Thurs** Cheeseburger, Chicken Taco, Brown Rice, Refried Beans, Pineapple **Fri** Max Sticks w/ marinera, Diced BBQ Chicken Sandwich, Smile French Fries, Applesauce

**HIGH SCHOOL**

**BREAKFAST: Everyday - Assorted Fruits and Cereal, Juice, White or Chocolate Milk, Yogurt w/Granola**  
**Mon** French toast Sticks, Assorted Cereal, Pineapple **Tues** Breakfast Taco, Assorted Cereal, Oranges **Weds** Biscuit & Gravy, Assorted Cereal, Applesauce **Thurs** Breakfast on a Stick, Assorted Cereal, Apple **Fri** Waffles, Assorted Cereal, Banana

**LUNCH: • Everyday: 1% unflavored or non fat chocolate milk & juice offered daily at breakfast and lunch. Salad Bar • Fruit of the day subject to change due to deliveries and shortages. • Fruit, hot and cold veggies**  
**Mon** Steak Fingers w/ , gravy, Sausage Link w/ mac n, cheese Cheese Enchiladas, , Bean Burrito, Orange, Chicken w/fried rice, Cheese, Pizza, Pepperoni Pizza, Cheeseburger/Burger, Crispy **Tues** Chicken Nuggets, Mini, Corndogs, Beef or Chicken, Nachos, General Tso's Chicken, w/ lo Mein, Chicken Alfredo, , Cheese Pizza , Boneless Chicken, Wings, Hot Dogs **Weds** Mac n Cheese, Fish, Sticks, Beef or Chicken Tacos, , Chicken Egg Rolls w/ fried Rice, , Meatball Sub, Pepperoni Pizza,, Spicy Chicken Sandwich,, Popcorn Chicken **Thurs** Thanksgiving Meal **Fri** Cheeseburger, Burger,, Totchos w/ rice, Bean Burrito,, Sweet n Sour Chicken w/ fried, rice, Chicken Bacon Wrap, Nachos

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## Klaus, Kids & Kookies

November 12: Our special guest, Mr. Klaus, is stopping by the Porch!

AZLE, TX

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Azle, TX 76020

theporchresaleshoppe.org

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# Rotary Club seniors of the month

BY DON MUNSCH  
don@azlenews.net

Four Azle High School students were recognized as the seniors of the month for November last week by the Azle Rotary Club.

Meagan Brady, Katheryn Ardito, Steven Manley and Jack Clark were honored by the club.

Brady holds a grade point average of 101.30 and is ranked 23rd in the senior class of 361. She participates in the Emerald Dazzlers drill team, which she has been on since her sophomore year, and this year she is a social officer, which allows her to have a bigger impact on the team.

"So that's really fun - I love doing that," she said.

She also is involved in the National Honor Society, which has been in since her junior year. During her first two years of her high school career, she was involved in Interact.

Brady plans to attend Tarleton State University and study communications. She wants to explore a career in human resource management or perhaps public relations. Outside of school, she enjoys dancing, reading and watching movies.

Ardito has a GPA of 102.06 and is ranked 15th in the senior class. She has participated in the Marching Green Pride for all of her high school years and was in the Indoor Winds - an indoor marching band with about 50 students - for two years. She



PHOTO BY DON MUNSCH  
Azle High School seniors of the month for November are Meagan Brady, Katheryn Ardito, Jack Clark and Steven Manley. Standing with them is AHS Principal Nate Driver.

has been in Future Business Leaders of America and NHS and participates in concert band and solo and ensemble. She went to state in FBLA last year for graphic design.

Outside of school, she has been a member of Girl Scouts and Texas Girls Choir.

Ardito would like to attend Texas A&M University and major in chemistry. After college, she would like to explore the medical field, with anesthesiology being an option.

"I haven't completely decided so I decided to go chemistry to open up my opportunities of what career I want to go down," she said.

Manley is ranked 22nd in the senior class and has a GPA of 101.34. He has been in swimming for all four years and has been a swim captain his junior and senior years. He said the breaststroke is his best event and is working hard to take the school record.

"I think I might be able to,"

he said. "So I'm going to work hard for that one."

The record is a 1:10 and he swims a 1:13 (100 meters). His next best event would be freestyle.

He plans to Texas State University and study accounting. He likes pets, working out, football, swimming and powerlifting.

Clark is ranked 19th and holds a GPA of 101.5. He is involved in the Marching Green Pride, tennis and NHS. In the band, he plays the trumpet

and is one of the soloists in the marching show this year. He was involved in Indoor Winds last year. In tennis, he has been team captain for the past two years and won the boys MVP award last year.

AHS tennis coach Jared Ewing has probably been his most influential teacher at the high school, Clark said.

"He has taught me immense amounts of leadership qualities as well as work ethic, because I had a brother who was much better than

me, and I really didn't want to try it that much because I never thought I could beat him, but coach Ewing came in and he really turned me around," he said.

Clark has been accepted to Oklahoma State University and will major in biochemistry or biomedical engineering. After college, he said he would like to "make the world a better place for people who need it and I think those are both careers where I could do that."

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From left to right: Kenny Bates, Gloria Brewster, and Richard Herrera.

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Southwestern Comfort Air and Heat offers same day service in most cases and emergency services are available 24/7. You can also sign up for one of their maintenance plans to help extend the life of your system.

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Southwestern Comfort Air and Heat is located at 11345 FM 730 N in Azle, and they are open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and they also take special appointments and emergency calls 24/7.

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# OBITUARIES

## Melvin Bonner 1958 - 2022

Melvin Gene Bonner, age 64, of Briar, Texas passed away peacefully surrounded by family on Sunday, October 30, 2022.

His celebration of life is pending at this time.

Melvin was born in Dallas, Texas on October 1, 1958. He was a 1976 graduate of Seagoville High School in Seagoville, Texas, where he enjoyed playing football and watching out for his little sister.

After high school, Melvin had a fulfilling career being a brake press operator and a master welder. He was a gifted mechanic who could fix any and everything and loved being outdoors camping and riding his motorcycle. While camping he enjoyed looking for "Sasquatch" and then telling his great-nieces all about the discoveries.

Melvin did not know a stranger. He would do any and everything for anyone who asked. He was a kind and gentle soul who will be missed dearly.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Maxine



Bonner; son, Randy Bonner; and brother-in-law, Kenneth Johnston.

He is survived by the love of his life, Janet Hilton; father, Billy Bonner; sisters, Chris Johnston and Shelley Bonner; two grandchildren, Savannah Bonner and Austin Bonner; nieces, Shannon Valdez, Kendra Blackburn, and Kayla Johnston. He also had four great-nieces, one great-nephew, many cousins, and an abundance of friends across the state.

*The Azle News, Nov. 9, 2022 Edition*

## Charles Wood Jr. 1954 - 2022

Charles "Bud" Newton Wood Jr., of Fort Worth, Texas, passed away on November 01, 2022, at 68 years old.

He was born on March 4, 1954, in Fort Worth to Charles and Margie Wood, and he grew up in near-by Springtown and Azle. He worked at General Dynamics/Lockheed as a tube bender for many years, and later drove buses at DFW Airport, before retiring.

Charles was a son, a brother, a husband, a father, a grandfather, an uncle, a friend, and a dog dad. He positively impacted the lives of so many, and we are forever grateful to have shared his life, and our lives, with him. He is remembered by his family and friends as someone who loved big and was loved big back.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Carol "Kay" Wood; his father and moth-



er; his daughter, Brandi Wood; and his grandson, King Pennington.

Charles is survived by his children, Chris Pennington, Mark Pennington, Kathryn Breaker, John Awbrey, Matt Awbrey, and Sarah Cooper; brothers, Warren Wood and Wendall Wood; 12 grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and numerous nieces and nephews.

*The Azle News, Nov. 9, 2022 Edition*

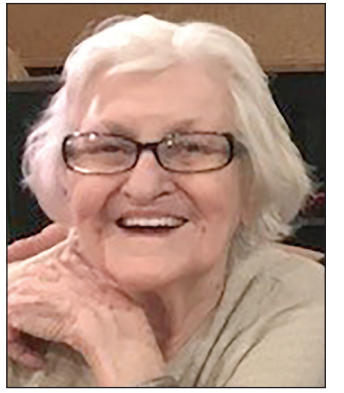
## Lucia Clare Munsch 1933 - 2022

Lucia Clare Munsch, 89, of Arlington, died Oct. 27, 2022, in Arlington, Texas.

Funeral services will be at noon Wednesday, Nov. 9, 2022, at Guerrero-Dean Funeral Home, 500 E Main Street in Grand Prairie. Burial follows at 2 p.m. at Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery. Deacon Pete Rodriguez is the officiant.

Lucia was born July 20, 1933, in Guilford, Missouri, to Patrick and Irene Merrigan. She attended St. Mary's Hospital School of Nursing in Kansas City, graduating in 1954. She joined the U.S. Navy in 1956 and married Henry Munsch in 1957 in San Diego, California.

She worked in a number of hospitals in her 45-year career, with many of her years spent in Arlington, including Arlington Memorial Hospital. In her retirement, she enjoyed reading and antiquing and spent many years selling items at The Chicken House Flea Market in Stephenville. She also enjoyed time spent with relatives, including children and grandchildren, and was a news connoisseur who enjoyed watching MSNBC and the local television news and reading many newspapers - local publications, The New York Times, her hometown paper and whatever paper



her son Donald was working at at the time. She was a long-time member of St. Matthew Catholic Church in Arlington.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Henry Munsch; parents; three sisters, Winnie Stark, Jeanie and Anna; and two brothers, Donald and Hubert.

Survivors include three sons, Patrick and wife Paula, Henry and Donald; two daughters, Cheryl and husband Alan; and Lisa; and three grandchildren, Payton, Emily and Kylee; four sisters, Patty Archer, Eulalia Schieber, Cecelia Meyer and Veronica Dorrel; one brother, Bill Merrigan; and a number of nieces and nephews, with a special recognition given to nephew C.A. Munsch III.

*The Azle News, Nov. 9, 2022 Edition*

## Donald Finchum 1945 - 2022

Don passed away peacefully with his wife, Elaine Finchum, on October 30, 2022.

A celebration of life was held on Saturday, November 5, 2022 at 2 p.m. at Lynn's Saloon.

Don leaves behind his two children, Donnie Finchum and Ashley Maldonado; son-in-law, Paul Maldonado; two grandchildren, Elizabeth and Leah; his niece Denise Thompson; and nephew JD Martin.

He will be missed by all that loved him.



*The Azle News, Nov. 9, 2022 Edition*

## Margaret Wright 1948 - 2022

Margaret Diane Wright went to be with the Lord on Wednesday, November 2, 2022 at the age of 74. She was a true fighter and the toughest one of the Rush family and was fighting to the end.

Visitation was held from 6 to 8 p.m. Monday, November 7, 2022, at White's Chapel in Azle.

Funeral Service was held at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, November 8, 2022, at First United Methodist Church of Azle.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the children's church fund at First United Methodist Church.

Margaret was born in Waco, Texas on August 7, 1948. She married Jim Wright on September 10, 1988, and recently celebrated 34 years of marriage. After graduating from the University of Texas, Arlington, Diane spent 25 years with General Dynamics, Data System Division and moved to Computer Science Corporation when DSD was acquired. Working as a financial consultant and lead on transition teams, she helped set up accounts in the finance area of acquired companies. This position took her to locations all over the world, as well as numerous locations in the United States and for many years she lived out of her suitcase.

Even with much traveling for her work, she still found time to be a mother to Kerry and to travel with her family on numerous cruises all over the world. Her favorite destination was Alaska, having been there 5 times. And she



still found time to go on golf adventures with Jim.

She taught Sunday school and children's church for 10 years at First Methodist and was active in both the Magnolia Banquet and Lord's Acre programs. Recently, she was involved in the chair aerobics class to build her strength up for a heart procedure. She enjoyed playing games on her tablet, sewing, visiting with friends and family, and loving on her two dogs, Peanut and Maci.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Asbury William Rush Jr and Donna Lou Bell; and sister, Linda Rush.

She is survived by her husband, Jim; daughter, Kerry Sandberg (Eric); grandchildren, Wyatt and Sloane, who she loved immensely; also survived by three sisters, Karen Rice (Steve), Susan Garner (Gary), Beverly Swan (Tracy); brother, Larry Rush (Lisa), along with numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and a host of friends.

*The Azle News, Nov. 9, 2022 Edition*

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<p><b>THE ABBEY CHURCH</b> Pastor: Paul Brownback 10400 Jacksboro Highway <b>817-238-1404</b> www.TheAbbeyChurch.com Morning Worship.....10:30 AM Community Groups..... Various Times</p> <p><b>ASH CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH</b> Pastor: Dr. G. Wesley Shotwell 300 South Stewart St. • <b>817-444-3219</b> www.ashcreekbc.org Sunday School.....9:30 AM Contemporary Worship-TMP.....10:45 AM Traditional Worship.....10:45 AM Evening Worship.....6:00 PM Wednesday Youth Refuge.....6:00 PM Wednesday Evening.....6:15 PM</p> <p><b>AZLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH</b> (Disciples of Christ) Senior Minister, Ashley Dargai, Katie Medlin, Worship Minister 117 Church St. • <b>817-444-3527</b> Sunday School.....10:00 AM Morning Worship.....11:00 AM</p> <p><b>AZLE FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD</b> Rev. Joshua Lowrance 1020 S.E. Parkway, Azle <b>817-237-4903</b> Sunday School.....9:30 AM Morning Worship.....10:30 AM Wednesday Evening.....7:00 PM</p>	<p><b>COMMUNITY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH</b> Pastor - Alton Davis 817-521-4510 1405 Reynolds Rd., Azle <b>817-444-7117</b> Directions: 730 N. to 1542 .5 mi. right on Cardinal, left on Reynolds Sunday School.....9:45 AM Morning Worship.....11:00 AM Sunday Evening.....6:00 PM Wednesday Evening.....7:00 PM</p> <p><b>CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH</b> 2233 Hwy 199 E. • Springtown <b>817-755-0279 (5433)</b> Sunday Worship Service .....10:00 AM Wednesday .....7:00 PM</p> <p><b>CROSSROADS BAPTIST CHURCH</b> Pastor - Jon Baker Corner FM 730S &amp; FM 1886 <b>817-755-0279</b> Transportation Available Worship Service.....10:30 AM Wed. Prayer Service.....7:00 PM</p> <p><b>THE EDGE CHURCH - AZLE</b> 1313 S.E. Pkwy, Azle <b>817-237-4822</b> Missouri Synod "Love God - Serve Others - Share Jesus" Traditional Worship.....9:30 AM Contemporary Worship.....11:00 AM</p>	<p><b>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> Pastors: Rev. Todd &amp; Jenn Pick 200 Church St., Azle <b>817-444-3323</b> Morn. Worship.....8:30, 9:45 &amp; 11 AM Sunday School.....9:45 &amp; 11 AM Youth (UMYF).....5:00 PM Sun &amp; 6:30 PM Wed</p> <p><b>HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> 800 Highcrest Dr. - Azle <b>817-444-3063</b> Saturday.....5:00 PM Sunday.....9:00 AM Sunday.....11 AM (Spanish) Daily Mass (M, T, Th, F).....8:00 AM Wednesday Mass Religious ED.....6:30 PM Confessions.....Sat 4 PM</p> <p><b>HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA</b> 4795 E. Hwy 199 - Reno <b>817-221-HOPE</b> Follow us on Facebook for streaming services Sunday School.....9:00 AM Traditional Service.....10:00 AM</p> <p><b>SOLID ROCK BIBLE CHURCH</b> 591 S. Reno Rd., Springtown, Texas 76082 Pastor - Bill Gay - <b>817-304-7443</b> Coffee and Donuts.....9:00 AM Sunday School.....9:30 AM Morning Worship.....10:30 AM Children's Church After Music Service Wed. Prayer Meeting.....6:30 PM Wed. Bible Study.....7:00 PM</p>	<p><b>LEGACY CHURCH</b> Assembly of God Church Pastor: Gary D. Veazey Hwy. 199 &amp; Jaybird Lane <b>817-221-2983</b> Morning Worship.....9:15 &amp; 11:00 AM Kidz Zone.....9:15 &amp; 11:00 AM Weds Evening Legacy Group Legacy Youth, Kids All Services.....7:00 PM</p> <p><b>SILVER CREEK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> Rev. Sheila Fiorella - Pastor 2200 Church Rd., Azle <b>817-444-1382</b> www.silvercreekumc.org Sunday School 9:30 AM • Worship 10:30 AM</p> <p><b>SILVER CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH</b> Pastor: Jay Ditty Minister of Music: David Musick Corner FM 730 S. &amp; Veal Station Rd. Church <b>817-444-2325</b> www.silvercreekbc.org Sunday School.....9:45 AM Morning Worship.....10:50 AM Evening Worship.....6:00 PM Wed. Prayer Service.....7:00 PM</p>	<p><b>THE WORD@LAKESIDE CHURCH OF GOD</b> 9396 FM 1886 Fort Worth, TX 76135 <b>817-237-5500</b> 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</p> <p>Equip Sunday School at the WORD.....9:30 AM Empower Worship at the WORD.....10:45 AM Kids at the WORD.....10:45 AM PreK at the WORD.....10:45 AM Emanate at the WORD (Special Needs Ministry).....10:45 AM Nursery at the WORD.....10:45 AM Young Adults at the WORD.....6:00 PM Wednesdays Adult Bible Class.....7:00 PM The WORD Students (6th-12th grades).....6:30 PM Awana Kids at the WORD.....6:30 PM Life at the WORD Life Groups Various Times</p>
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TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

# The looming mental health crisis

**GLENN ROGERS**

*A native of Palo Pinto County, Glenn Rogers is the District 60 representative in the Texas House of Representatives. Rogers is a rancher and veterinarian. info@rogersfortexas.com*

Following World War II, mental health advocates began a movement in Texas addressing the issue of failing state hospitals. At the time, there were only seven state hospitals, which were overcrowded, prison-like and inadequately staffed.

Reformers pushed for the creation of community mental health institutes, where patients could receive better care and protection, contrary to what the former "insane asylum" system provided. In 1965, the Legislature passed a bill which created the Comprehensive Community Mental Health-Retardation Centers. Mental retardation is now referred to as intellectual disability and when the MHMR acronym is still used, it stands for "My Health-My Resources."

Over the years, mental health services have expanded and improved vastly, yet the shortage of effective mental health services is a growing crisis. Across House District 60 and throughout Texas, this issue is creating consternation among school administrators and teachers, law enforcement agents and mental healthcare providers.

Since the pandemic, teaching professionals overwhelmingly attest that mental health issues among students have sharply increased. Reports of threatened suicide and depression have risen and, in parallel, necessary disciplinary actions have risen. One district reported over 200 instances of suicide-out-

cry by students in one year – and a substantial percentage were elementary students. Local health authorities report an increased number of youths admitted into treatment and substance abuse counseling.

While many districts have one counselor or crisis intervention specialist at each campus, there are still insufficient resources to address this crisis. This is especially true for smaller districts that cannot afford to fund social workers. Pecan Valley Centers for Behavioral and Developmental Healthcare provides service for Hood, Somervell, Erath, Johnson, Palo Pinto and Parker counties. They have agreements with school districts which allow mental health staff on campuses. Their collaboration has been effective. Case workers can detect mental disorders early, and they can refer students to higher levels of care and students can avoid absences from school.

Jails across the district have seen an increase in their populations of inmates with intellectual disabilities, psychiatric disorders, and drug and alcohol addictions. One sheriff reported that 50% of the jail's inmates need mental health treatment. When a defendant is found incompetent to stand trial, they are required to be admitted to a state hospital for treatment. The issue, however, is that defendants are stuck on the waitlist for many months before they get admitted because the

beds at all the state hospitals are occupied.

As of June, the average wait time for a maximum-security bed was over 500 days and for a minimum-security bed the wait time was over 200 days across the state. The inadequate number of beds in state institutions is costly and dangerous for county jails. Inmates must voluntarily take medication and, unfortunately, many do not. This may create a dangerous environment for both law enforcement officials and other inmates. The cost for any inmates' medical treatment, mental or physical, is the burden of the county and very often, this can be an exorbitant cost.

Jail facilities are unequipped and unable to properly address mental health crises. Their staff often face abuse and mistreatment when dealing with those with psychological disorders. Pecan Valley Executive Director Coke Beatty believes there are solutions to relieve the burden currently on law enforcement. He suggests creating a Crisis Drop-Off Facility, a location where individuals currently in mental health crises could go after being arrested, rather than to the county jail. Mental health staff would be trained and equipped to deal with those with mental disorders or severe intellectual disabilities.

Beatty also recommends funding so sheriff's departments can hire more mental health deputies. They would be able to screen individuals immediately once they arrive on the scene and allow patrol units the time to deal with other crimes.

Pecan Valley Centers

wants to do more for their communities, but they are currently extended beyond their limits. Their ideal staff-to-client ratio is one case worker to 150 clients. Now due to extreme staff shortages, some counties have a ratio of one case worker to 400 clients.

It is time for the legislature to increase resources for local healthcare authorities. The situation is much different in a post-pandemic world, and mental healthcare workers need assistance. Caseworkers need higher wages and mental healthcare centers need more staff to effectively manage caseloads. The 87th Legislature provided \$400 million to renovate and expand the state mental health facilities. The 88th Legislature can take that farther by providing additional funding for private psychiatric beds since the state hospitals are full, allowing centers like Pecan Valley to contract locally for inpatient beds.

As Texans, we share a strong legacy of helping our neighbors. As a state representative, it is part of my moral obligation to help those in need and invest in services that will ultimately resort in less cost to the state of Texas and its citizens. Local healthcare centers need increased funding to continue providing dynamic care to our communities. As we enter the 88th Legislative session, an investment in enhanced mental healthcare will be a high priority.

God bless Texas!

## OBITUARIES

### Charles Markum III 1985 - 2022

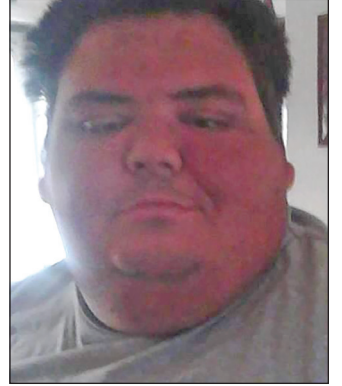
Charles Wesley Markum III, 37, passed away unexpectedly on Wednesday, October 19, 2022 in Azle.

He was born January 30, 1985, to Charles Wesley Markum Jr. and Lisa (Sill) Markum in Fort Worth.

Charles was a security guard employed by Allied Security. He enjoyed playing BINGO. Charles loved animals and especially his dogs, Rocky and Rosco. He had a big loving heart and was dearly loved by all who knew him.

He was preceded in death by his brother, Jeffery Markum; grandparents Dale and Nellie Sill; and uncle Dale Sill.

Charles is survived by his fiancé Angel Hammett; mother Lisa Markum; brother, David Markum; uncles,



Curtis Sill, Gary Sill and his wife Melissa; aunts Diana Robertson, Connie Markum, Didi Markum, Sandy Hurlley and Molly Markum; along with numerous cousins, extended family and friends.

*The Azle News, Nov. 9, 2022 Edition*

### Thomas Graetz 1955 - 2022

Thomas Edward Graetz Sr., 67, passed away, Tuesday, October 25, 2022 at a Fort Worth hospital.

Burial will be held at a later date in the Dallas Fort Worth National Cemetery.

He was born January 7, 1955 in New York to Adolph and Gladys (Brower) Graetz.

Thomas served proudly in the US Army for eleven years. He worked in the oil field industry for Schob Energy. He was a member of the Moose Lodge and was an avid NASCAR fan. Thomas enjoyed working with his hands and traveling. He was a loving husband, father and grandfather.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his son, Thomas Graetz, Jr.; and brother, Steven Graetz.

Thomas is survived by his



loving wife, Centerilla Graetz; stepsons, Robert Hein, Kevin Hein and Curtis Hein; stepdaughter, Sandra Talbert and husband, Kevin; sisters, Peggy Whitehouse and Elaine Graetz; and grandchildren, Mary and Kaleb.

*The Azle News, Nov. 9, 2022 Edition*

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# Is it too much to ask?

Just one time I would like for a politician – any politician – to give me one good reason to vote for him or her because of a really good policy idea.

And the entire advertisement would be devoted to their really good ideas without a single mention of their opponent.

Is that too much to ask? Maybe you've seen an advertisement like that, but I haven't. It seems to me that almost every person seeking office is fixated on giving all the reasons why a vote for their opponent will cause the world to spin off its axis.

"My opponent is evil incarnate. He supports complete anarchy. She eats puppies for



## BE AMAZING

By Gerry Lewis

Azle resident Dr. Gerry Lewis guides explorers to discover their AMAZING. He is an author, musician, and speaker, and a coach-sultant for individuals, churches, and organizations. More at [www.discoveryouramazing.com](http://www.discoveryouramazing.com).

breakfast. Everything you are afraid of is absolutely guaranteed to happen if my opponent is elected. The world as we know it is over."

As I am composing this post, election day is tomorrow. Thankfully, I have already cast my ballot through early voting so I won't have to go stand in line. By the time you are reading this, we—hopefully mostly—know the outcome of the elections.

Some people are elated today with the election of their preferred candidates. The world has been saved!

Others are in mourning. They are thinking about where to hide or they are stockpiling resources for the coming apocalypse.

I remember a local radio sports personality from a few years back who referred to his Monday broadcast after Dallas Cowboys games

on Sunday as "overreaction Monday."

We are now in the immediate post-election overreaction phase, which is really nothing more than posturing and positioning and pontificating in preparation for the next election two years from now.

It's a never-ending cycle of outrage and fear-mongering. Here's what I know for sure: Regardless of who won or lost on the ballot, we are all losers. We've lost civility. We've lost respect. We've lost conversation. We've lost optimism. We've lost kindness. We've lost justice. We've lost vision.

All those things still exist in theory but only in severely diluted and corrupt forms

where the rubber meets the road.

Have we passed the point of no return? Maybe.

Are you feeling encouraged yet? Amazing?

I don't know how amazing I am feeling today myself.

And that's actually the lesson. We are a little too fixated on how things make us feel.

Regardless of how I'm feeling on a particular day, I have not given up. In fact I refuse to give up.

Because my hope is not based on winning elections and getting my way, though I would certainly prefer both of those things.

My hope—and my amazing—is based on how I choose to live within the uncontrol-

lable context in which I find myself.

Sometimes I have light bulb moments in the middle of conversations, when I say things in a way that I have never articulated them before.

In a conversation earlier today I said, "Bridges can only be built by people that are capable of building them. And I am capable."

That doesn't mean that I have new skills, it just means I'm not willing to give up on the power of God's amazing love.

Join me? Be amazing today, my friend.

# Renaming my column would not be enough

Originally, the name of my column was carefully selected to give the reader a mental image of someone sitting on their front porch and visiting with friends. I hoped it to be a forum where neighborly discussions could take place and whether it be a message, a story or an anecdote, the reader would feel engaged.

With this edition of the Azle News, we celebrate Veterans Day and as I take keyboard in hand, I feel like the name of this column for today should be "My Bended Knees."

I suggest "bended knees" because each one of us should get down on our



## FROM MY FRONT PORCH

By Sam Houston

Sam Houston is a syndicated columnist and newspaper executive. He is also an author, actor, playwright and entertainment producer/promoter.

knees and be thankful for the service each one of our military veterans has performed in the name of our country. As hard as I try to imagine the deprivation at Valley Forge, the mud at Verdun, the cold at the Chosin Reservoir and the absolute carnage at Gettysburg, I know I cannot truly comprehend the depth of how our men and women

in uniform have sacrificed. Without being there, how could I possibly "know" the black volcanic ash of Iwo Jima, the deep blue waters of the Coral Sea or the sound of shells as they landed at Khe Sahn?

From Bunker Hill to Baghdad, our veterans have fought, suffered and endured so our flag might still wave

and so all of us could be free. Pitifully, I think we sometimes take that freedom and their sacrifice for granted.

The veterans have done such a good job of protecting us that many feel impervious to what fortunes might have been at Shiloh, Guadalcanal or on D-Day. How except for the bravery and sacrifice of a few, the history of the world might have shifted in an unimaginable way. Without a doubt, our country would not still be standing if not for the vigilance and dedication of our vets.

I think many times when discussing vets, the public focuses only on the men and

women who served on the battlefield, but the reality is that many vets never see combat. This does not in any way minimize their contribution. No matter their assignment, all of our vets serve vital roles and need to be appreciated, supported and thanked.

I was turned down for military service. I would have gone if I had been accepted. My father served, as did my uncles and nephew. I will always feel somewhat unfulfilled that I did not serve my turn, but it was not meant to be. I love my country and what she stands for. It is why there is a tear in my eye

as I write this column. The emotion and depth of my appreciation for our veterans is overwhelming.

Please enjoy our special veterans section. It makes me very proud to be a part of an organization that wanted to create a veteran's tribute and give all of us the chance to say, "Thank you."

God bless each one of you veterans and please accept our eternal thanks and appreciation.

Thought for the day: "Never was so much owed by so many to so few" — Winston Churchill.

Until next time.

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# ★ VETERANS DAY ★

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**BROWN, LAWRENCE**  
U.S. Army, 1963-1983



**CAREY, ANGELA**  
U.S. Army, Kuwait and Iraq, 24 years



**CHARBONNEAU, BOB**



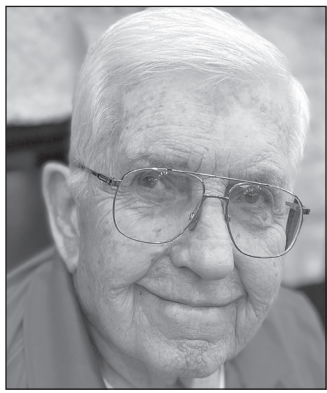
**CRAIG, RICHARD**  
U.S. Army, Afghanistan, 4 years



**DAVIS, RANDY**  
U.S. Army, E3, 1986-1989



**DAVIS, SHERRY**  
U.S. Army, E4, 1988-1990



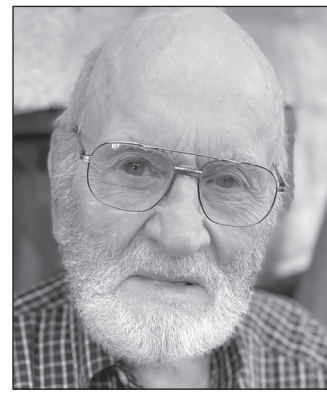
**FOUNTAIN, NORMAN**



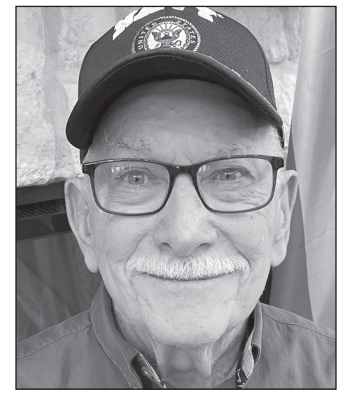
**HINOJOSA, RICARDO**  
U.S. Coast Guard, E3, 4 years



**HUEBSCH, SUMREA**  
U.S. Army, 10 years



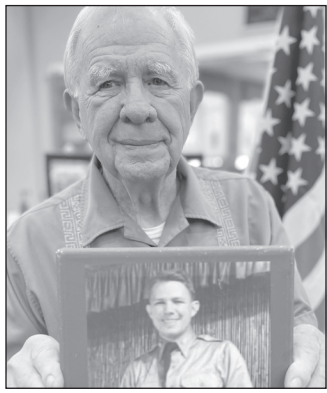
**MOUW, ORVIN 'DOC'**



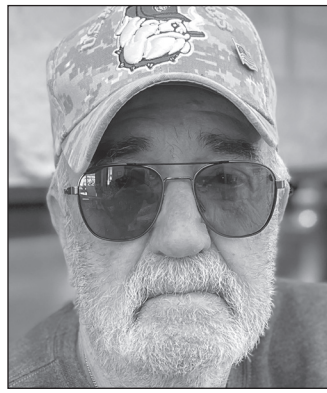
**MULDER, BILL**



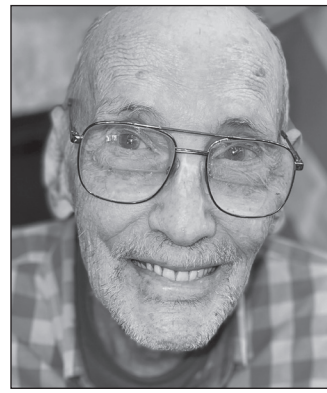
**PATE, DAYLA**



**PERRY, ROBERT**  
U.S. Army, Corporal 1953-1955



**ROSE, HAROLD**



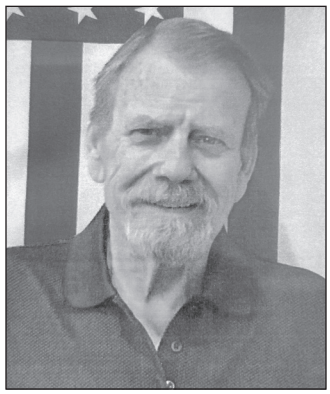
**SANDERS, HARVEY**



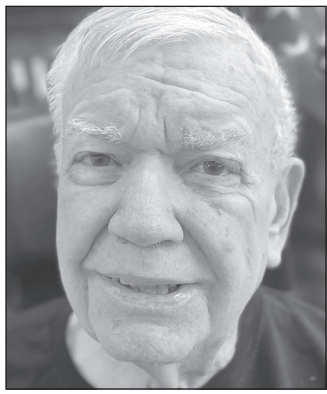
**SINK, ROBERT**  
U. S. Marine Corps, 4 years



**SMITH, DAVID**  
U.S. Air Force, Vietnam, 1966-1990



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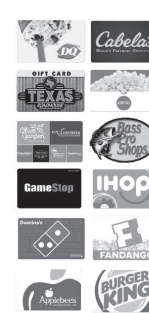
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# SCHOOL

FROM PAGE 1

The district's Long Range Facilities Planning Committee is examining current buildings to determine what should be placed in a new bond election that could go to residents next year.

## SOME HISTORY ON THE JUNIOR HIGH

The football field and stadium were built before the current high school came along. The junior high school took over the former high school campus in 1970, and additions have happened there since.

"I don't know that I could necessarily put a timeline on how much longer it's functional, because our maintenance guys and custodial crew do a great job of maintaining the building," said Matt Adams, AISD assistant superintendent of finance and operations, concerning the junior high. "It's definitely functional today. Part of the issue is it's been added on to multiple times, so there are several buildings. So, kids have to go in and out of buildings just to get to classes, which we all know in today's world is a bit of a safety concern."

He said the other issue is that some classrooms are too small for the student capacity.

"They were fine when you were putting 10 to 12 in a class; now that you're putting 20 to 25 in a class, they're just so small," he said. "And the same thing with the cafeteria (when it was built). We've got kids sitting out in the lobby and front foyer during lunches because the cafeteria is not big enough to seat 200 kids at a time."

The cafeteria seats about 140-150 students now. AJHS's enrollment is 585 students.

"And you can look at some of your programs, too, like band and choir, for example," Adams said. "Those spaces are real small for the number of students we have in the programs now."

## A LOOK AT THE COST

Adams said an estimated cost for a new junior high school campus would be about \$100-\$150 million. Costs are rising because of an increase in construction materials, Adams said.

"I was at a workshop last week and they were showing us numbers that just in the last three to four years, the price of structural steel has increased by 300%," he said in an interview on Nov. 3. "All of your HVAC units and equipment has increased by 250%. It's just material (cost rising)."

A new junior high school's construction would now take about 24-36 months for completion, Adams said.

The junior high has some other elements that need to be updated, such as restrooms, science labs and locker rooms. Some spaces could be upgraded, but a lot of those spaces need more capacity. The capacity of the campus shows to be 700 students, Adams said.

Adams said he couldn't say for sure that the school would need to be replaced in the next decade, but the

district will have to do something about capacity in the next 10 years, "whether that is replacing it with a new campus that is larger or continuing to add and expand the existing campus."

The district could continue to add to the campus, but ...

"You're going to deal with some of the same issues that we're talking about, though," Adams said. "There's nowhere to add like a wing to the existing building without substantial construction. It would be more just adding another building, and here's access to that building."

Grade configuration is something that the committee could recommend to the school board, and that would definitely affect the junior high school.

"Because if we move to a sixth, seventh and eighth (campus), then we have to decide are we going to expand Azle Junior High or build a new campus?" Adams said. "Because the way it's currently set up, they couldn't just take on another grade level."

Adding another grade level would mean closer to 300 new students attend-

ing classes at the building, Adams said.

"Because of supply chain issues and just labor issues - labor shortages - they're telling us that a construction project that five years ago would have a 12-month timeline now is more like on an 18- to 24-month timeline," Adams said.

## OTHER PROJECTS

Crews have started work on high school projects, which includes a new science wing. Some of the existing science labs are being renovated, and when all is said and done, the school will have 14 science labs that meet current Texas Education Agency standards. Also at the campus, the kitchen and cafeteria are being renovated, and then an additional welding shop is going in at the Career and Technical Education center. All projects should be completed, district officials hope, by the beginning of the 2024 school year.

Slabs have been poured for two-thirds of the new Hilltop Elementary building, Adams said, and walls are going up in the cafeteria/gym area.

# SHINE

FROM PAGE 1

of those things," said Karen Kimbrough, owner and therapist at the Survivors Studio who is helping coordinate the event for the church, about the buddies.

Plus, another 50 people are needed to volunteer for the event in other capacities, such as with coat check and registration and that food is being placed and ready to be served. About 20 people are needed to help with set-up and take-down at the Dream Center. Some of the volunteers doing other duties during the event will help with prep and takedown.

Kimbrough and Elisa Henkel, director of special needs ministry 1313 at The Edge Church of Azle, spoke about the event last week, explaining Night to Shine is for anyone in the area. The ministry's name comes from 1 Corinthians 13:13, about the everlasting virtues of faith, hope, and love, with the greatest being love.

"Probably about five years ago is when I started researching Tim Tebow and I found out about his Night to Shine," Henkel said. "I've always wanted to volunteer at one but never got the opportunity and so this is actually a dream of mine, for our church to actually host it."

She found out about the event on YouTube. She said the prom was a way for special needs people to have a good time.

Henkel said in her work with special needs people,

she sees how they can "light up the room" and how they make others feel blessed and loved.

"And I'm hoping that the volunteers will also get that same feeling out of it," she said about the prom. "Just being able to help not just the community but a community that has a disability or special need. That's what I'm really hoping for."

Henkel said her hometown, Wichita Falls, has been holding these events for about five years, and she has friends who have volunteered with the prom, and she has heard how much attendees enjoy the prom and the joy they get out of it.

The prom features a DJ, and music will be pop-oriented. Henkel and Kimbrough emphasized that music will be "clean." Karaoke also will be featured.

Volunteers have been sought through social media. People may access edge4all.com/nts-signup for information about volunteering, registration, donations and sponsorships. They may also access nighttosshineazle on Facebook for more information. All volunteers must undergo a background check and have some mandatory training. The training will be at The Edge Church.

A respite place will be provided at the prom for parents and caretakers of attendees with disabilities. Parents and caretakers will have a meal and get a chance to talk with others and relax while the children are at the prom.



PHOTO BY DON MUNSCHE

The band hall at Azle Junior High School also has tight space, AJHS Principal Brian Roberts said.



PHOTO COURTESY TIM TEBOW FOUNDATION

The event is a way for young people with special needs to have a good time.

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**Legacy Oaks of Azle**

**Holiday Christmas Market**

**LOOKING FOR VENDORS**

**December 1, 2022**  
**10 am - 4 pm**

Contact **Amanda Scott** or **Jacy Poe** at **Legacy Oaks**

**817-406-3259**

## LIBRARY

FROM PAGE 1

of which includes tax return prep from AARP, Tarrant Area Food Bank sign-up for various services and Lions Club Angel Tree drop-off. The library is open to new partnerships, McLane said.

The library offers an array of services, as people may also conduct research at the library and may borrow an item that is not available at the Azle Memorial Library by requesting it from another library through a consortium in the Parker County area. The borrower can have it sent to Azle to check it out here.

The library has an advisory board, and it meets eight to 10 times a year, and the board does look at the library budget before it is submitted to the council, McLane said. The board also reviews any policy changes, too.

During the public participation portion of the meeting, William Dubuis approached council to discuss drainage issues on South Broadway and Lakeview roads and told council he has lived on South Broadway since 1996. His family has lived on the property since 1938. He said he sent an email to Azle Mayor Alan Brundrett and City Manager Tom Muir recently about the flooding in his neighborhood because of the impact of, he said, local developments. He said he has to drive through mud every time it rains.

"I live on a paved street - I pay for paved streets," he said.

Brundrett told Dubuis

that Muir was out of town but would get back with him about his concerns in his email when he returns. The council could not respond to Dubuis' questions in the public portion of the meeting, Brundrett said. Dubuis wondered whether the developers were going to "run the city" and destroy streets and neighborhoods, and Brundrett responded to that rhetorical question in a sarcastic manner, which annoyed Dubuis, who said he was looking for solutions to problems that he said keep happening. Dubuis then thanked the council and departed the podium.

Also on Nov. 1, council members approved Leslie Simmons' application to the Crime Control and Prevention District Board, Place 6.

Also at the meeting, council had a discussion about amendments to the tree preservation ordinance. Council member Amy Estes asked that the item be placed on the agenda for discussion, which revolved around possibly changing the homestead exemption from 10 acres to 5 acres. After discussion, council took no action on it or gave any direction to city staff, and no amendments are planned at this time, said David Hawkins, director of planning and development for the city.

The meeting also featured proclamations for Animal Shelter Appreciation Week, Nov. 6-12; Municipal Court Week, Nov. 7-11; Youth Appreciation, first week of November; and Arbor Day, Nov. 5.

# Hygiene product drive continues

BY DON MUNSCH  
don@azlenews.net

Food drives help needy people meet their daily nourishment requirements.

But people also have a need for hygiene products, and the third annual Each One, Give One campaign has started collecting basic hygiene products for the Good N.E.W.S 4 Seniors organization that will distribute them to the local senior community. The campaign began Oct. 1 and runs through Nov. 30, said Ashley Sands, assistant director at Eagle Crest Villa.

"The concept of it is just basically that if every person gives one item, then our seniors living independently would be better off, just for that single donation," Sands said.

Items needed are shampoo and conditioner, toothpaste, deodorant, laundry detergent pods, dish soap, tissues (Kleenex), toilet paper and paper towels. Bins can be found at the following locations: Eagle Crest Villa Senior Living Community, Azle Chamber of Commerce, Azle News, Azle Manor Nursing Home, Northwest Physical Therapy, and Bransom Real Estate.

In giving an illustration of how the campaign helps, Sands said residents' stock of items can run out and not all of them can drive to the store to get their items.

"So they just have to make do until either a good Samaritan brings those things for them or a family member reaches out to help," she said. "A lot of seniors, they're living independently because they're extremely independent - they don't like asking for help."

The Good N.E.W.S. organization gives without having to be asked, she said.

The Good N.E.W.S. Living

at Home Program is a community-based system that strives to enrich the quality of life of local senior citizens by providing essential social support services, such as transportation, friendly visiting, shopping assistance, minor home repairs, light household chores, yard work, respite and community resources. That's according to a news release from Eagle Crest Villa in Azle, which is helping campaign for the hygiene donation event. Work to help seniors is all done through the help of selfless volunteers, the release stated.

# UTGCD to hold meeting next week

## FROM STAFF REPORTS

Upper Trinity Groundwater Conservation District's Regular Board meeting is set for 5 p.m. Nov. 17 at the Upper Trinity GCD office or via Zoom videoconference. The public is welcome and encouraged to remotely attend via online videoconference/teleconference. People can join the Zoom meeting at:

us02web.zoom.  
us/j/86568102226  
1 (346) 248-7799 - US  
Meeting ID: 865 6810 2226

The mission of UTGCD, established in November 2007, is to develop rules to provide protection to existing wells, prevent waste, promote conservation, provide a framework that will allow availability and accessibility of

groundwater for future generations, protect the quality of the groundwater in the recharge zone of the aquifer, ensure that the residents of Montague, Wise, Parker and Hood Counties maintain local control over their groundwater, respect and protect the property rights of landowners in groundwater, and operate the district in a fair and equitable manner for

all residents of the district, the district stated in a news release.

For more information about UTGCD, including meeting dates and well registration forms, visit the district's website at www.uppertrinitygcd.com or call the district's office in Springtown, 817-523-5200.

# Western Cross Ranch



PHOTO COURTESY AZLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Azle Area Chamber of Commerce hosted a ribbon cutting for Western Cross Ranch in Briar, Texas on Oct. 25. This organization provides essential therapy to Veterans and front line workers suffering with PTSD. They are always looking for volunteers.

## Missions Auction and Sale

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH

### Quilt Show & Vintage Sewing Machine Exhibit

Hosted by Love 'n Stitches  
(all proceeds go to Lottie Moon Missions offering)

#### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH FAMILY LIFE CENTER

Corner of 5th Street and Avenue A  
Springtown, Texas 76082

#### Silent Auction, Sale & Exhibits

Open at 6:00 pm

Live Auction begins at 7:00 pm

Many unique, one of a kind items will be available to purchase including quilts, table toppers, Christmas and wood crafts.

**FREE ADMISSION**

## LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICES

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PELICAN BAY, TEXAS, AMENDING ORDINANCE #246, PROVIDING FOR THE CONTROL OF ANIMALS, PURSUANT TO TEXAS HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE TITLE 10, CHAPTERS 821, 822, 823, 826 AND 828, PROVIDING FOR A REPEALER CLAUSE, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, PROVIDING FOR ENGROSSMENT AND ENROLLMENT, PROVIDING FOR A PENALTY CLAUSE, PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION, AND SETTING AN EFFECTIVE DATE WAS APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL AT THEIR REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING ON OCTOBER 25, 2022 BY A VOTE OF 3-0. A COPY OF THE COMPLETE ORDINANCE IS AVAILABLE IN THE CITY SECRETARY'S OFFICE AT CITY HALL.

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Zoning Board of Adjustment for the City of Azle will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, November 29, 2022, to consider a variance request to Section 11.3 Development Regulations, Setback Requirements of the City of Azle Ordinance No. 388 for the property located at 601 Alfred Drive, and also known as Lot 31, Azle Woods Addition, an addition to the City of Azle, Tarrant County, Texas. The purpose of the variance is to allow for the construction of a new detached carport to encroach the minimum fifteen-foot (15') side yard setback. The meeting will begin at 6:00 P.M. in the City Council Chambers located at 505 W. Main, Azle, Texas.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### TEXAS HEALTH HARRIS METHODIST HOSPITAL AZLE NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF HILL BURTON UNCOMPENSATED SERVICES

Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Azle, Azle, Texas will provide from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023 at least \$100,000 of Hill Burton uncompensated services. Inpatient services of the facility will be available on a first request, first served basis to eligible persons who are unable to pay for hospital services until this hospital's annual compliance level is met. Eligibility for uncompensated services will be limited to persons whose family income is not more than (Category A) of the current poverty income guidelines established by the Department of Health and Human Services. A person whose family income is above, but less than double the poverty guidelines (Category B) will be eligible for a 50% reduction from the usual inpatient hospital services. This notice is in accordance with 42 CFR 124.504 Notice of Availability of Uncompensated Services. We invite interested parties to comment on the allocation plan; 108 Denver Trail, Azle, Texas 76020. 817-444-8600.

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# Something funny 'Afoot' with Popcorn Players' new play

BY DON MUNSCH  
don@azlenews.net

The play within a play concept will be portrayed in "The Game's Afoot or Holmes for the Holidays," to be performed beginning this Friday at Popcorn Players in Azle.

Set during Christmas-time in the 1930s in Connecticut, the comedic play centers on an acting group that gathers at actor/playwright William Gillette's mansion. The play, written by Ken Ludwig, was first presented at the Cleveland Play House at the Allen Theatre in Cleveland, Ohio, in December 2011.

"They get together, and there's been a murder at the theater as well as Gillette getting shot on stage, shot in the arm," said director Carol Braden, in an interview before a rehearsal last week. "So they start talking about what's been happening and they think someone is trying to kill William Gillette."

Gillette has written Sherlock Holmes plays. Daria Chase, a theater critic, shows up at this party and she winds up dead - with a knife to the back, Braden said.

"Gillette kicks into that Sherlock Holmes mode," Braden said, and then the police show up and speculation begins as everyone is a suspect. The audience meets Aggie and Simon, a young couple, and then an older



PHOTO BY DON MUNSCH

Canton Brenneman, left, Ron Counts and Josh Holden rehearse a scene for "The Game's Afoot or Holmes for the Holidays," which will be presented by Popcorn Players in Azle beginning this week.

couple, Felix and Madge, and then Gillette's mother, Martha.

"So, all these people are suspects," Braden said, noting the speculating goes back and forth.

Braden describes the story as "hilarious" and "fun" and

is a murder mystery with lots of thunder and lighting.

"It's just absolute fun and people will be thoroughly entertained," Braden said.

She said it has been great directing the actors and seeing them transform into their characters.

"I have some very, very talented people to be working with," she said.

Monica Goth plays Martha Gillette, and she said her character is a "little bit dotty" who "flits and floats around - slowly." Ron Counts plays William, a man he said who is supposedly a "very good actor" who wrote the play and is very wealthy.

"And he's a little bit pompous - he's quite a bit pompous, actually, and he's full of himself," he said. "He thinks he's Sherlock Holmes."

He enjoys playing William because he's never been in Shakespeare and there's a lot of Shakespeare quoted in the play.

"It's a different role than I've played before," he said.

Previously, he's played a "crazy man in an insane asylum," Teddy Roosevelt and five or six characters in the "Greater Tuna" series, and two of those characters were women.

Rozanne Gann plays Daria, who is "critical of everyone, except herself, and she's very full of herself. Very secure - she is not insecure." She enjoys playing Daria, drawing laughs from others when she describes herself as a "kind and gentle person" playing this person who possesses a different personality.

The play is set for Nov. 11-13 and Nov. 18-20, with the

Friday and Saturday shows at 7:30 p.m. and the Sunday show set for 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$12 for students, seniors and military. The Sunday matinees are \$10. For more information, or to purchase tickets, go online at [www.azlearts.org](http://www.azlearts.org) or call the theater at 817-238-7529.

**CAST:**

**William Gillette:** Ron Counts  
**Martha Gillette:** Monica Goth  
**Felix Geisel:** Scott Nurmela  
**Madge Geisel:** Canton Brenneman  
**Simon Bright:** Eden Kuykendall  
**Aggie Wheeler:** Emily Ball  
**Inspector Goring:** Lisha Nurmela  
**Daria Chase:** Rozanne Gann



PHOTO BY DON MUNSCH

Canton Brenneman rehearses a scene with Scott Nurmela for Popcorn Players' new production, which begins its run Friday.



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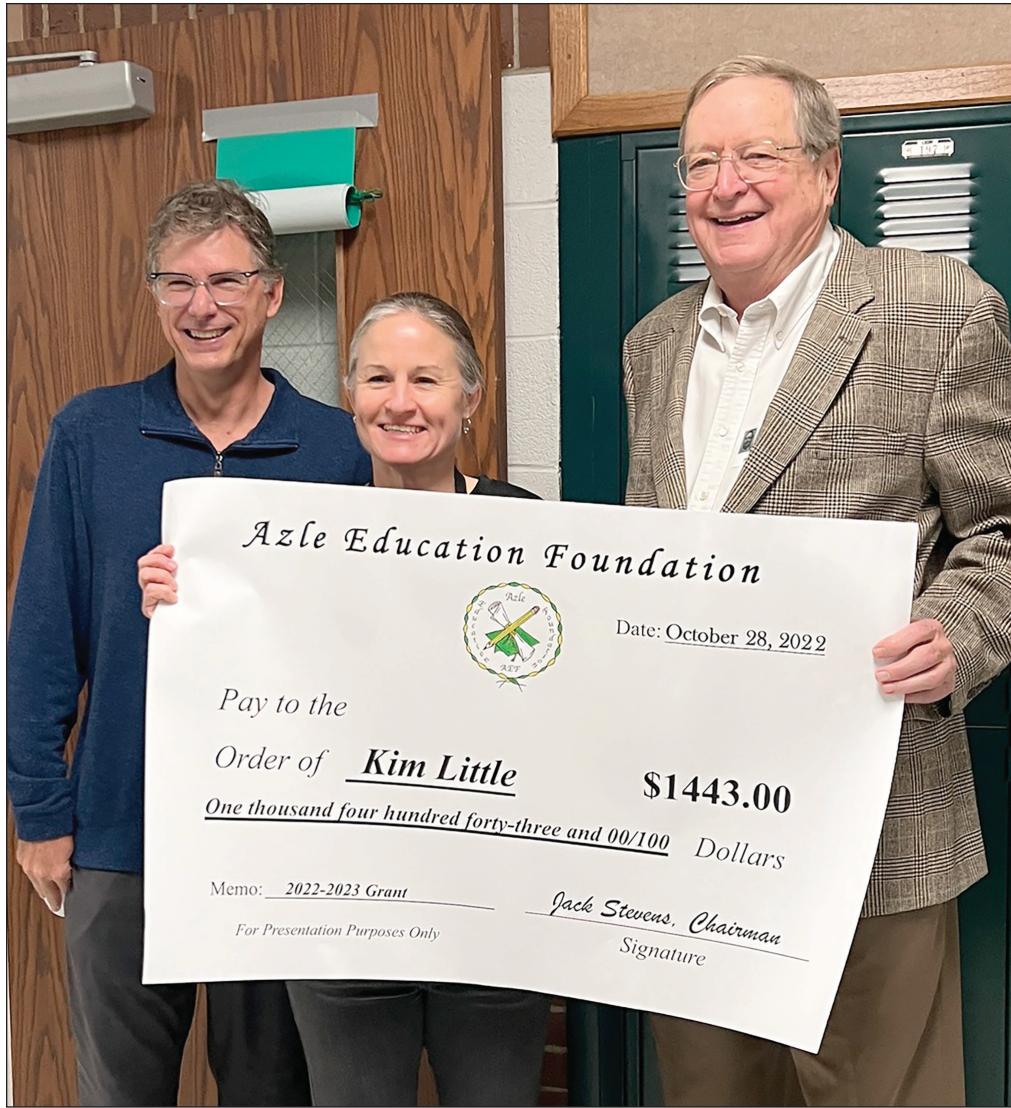
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**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT Dr. Jessica Brace 817-444-2170**



# Innovative Teacher Grants

AHS AND WALNUT CREEK PHOTOS COURTESY OF AISD FACEBOOK, WHILE HOOVER PHOTO COURTESY OF AZLE EDUCATION FOUNDATION FACEBOOK. Azle Education Foundation representatives visited Azle ISD campuses Oct. 28 and awarded more than \$42,400 in Innovative Teacher Grants. The grants can be used for a number of purposes to enhance the educational experience in Azle ISD. Shown here, among the teachers who were notified of their grants allocations, are Kim Little, English teacher at Azle High School (top); Stephanie Johnson, second grade teacher at Walnut Creek Elementary (top right); and Leslee Conditt, sixth grade English Language Arts and Reading teacher at Hoover Elementary School (right).



## Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

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### Kid Scoop Puzzler

#### Ghana: Hooting at Hunger

In parts of Ghana, people celebrate a festival called **Hooting at Hunger**.

Years ago, a severe famine broke out among the people. The people put all of their energy into growing yams and soon had a big crop. Their hunger ended, and, with great joy, they "hooted at hunger." This is the meaning of their name for their day of thanksgiving. Write down the letters on the correct path of the maze to the celebration's name.

### Kid Scoop Together

#### How Wheat Becomes Bread

Work with a family member to number the pictures in order to show how wheat grows from a seed to become bread. It takes workers at every step to get the bread to people.

- Seeds are planted.
- Wheat grows from seed.
- Grain is removed from the plant.
- Wheat grains are ground into flour.
- Flour is made into bread.

### Thanksgiving Around the World

People around the world are grateful for a good harvest. A good harvest in the fall means there will be plenty of food for all.

### Ancient Greece

Thanksgiving celebrations go back thousands of years in some parts of the world.

In ancient Greek mythology, baby Zeus was fed by a goat foster-mother named Amalthea. One day, he broke off one of her horns. Food began to pour out of the horn. This is the story of the "horn of plenty," a familiar symbol of Thanksgiving in the U.S.A. today.

Circle every other letter to discover another name for the "horn of plenty."

B O T O H R Y  
N B U L C N  
O M P S I F A  
C O

### China: Moon Festival

China's harvest celebration is called the **Mid-Autumn Festival**, the **Moon Festival** or the **Mooncake Festival**.

Families gather to eat different kinds of round foods that symbolize the moon. These include eggs and **mooncakes**. Tea is served in round cups.

Mooncakes are round pastries that are filled with a sweet filling.

All but one of these mooncakes has an identical twin. Can you find the unique mooncake?

### Canadian Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving Day in Canada is celebrated on the second Monday in October. It was originally celebrated by an English explorer, Sir Martin Frobisher. When his ship reached Canada, he gave thanks for a safe arrival.

What year did Sir Martin Frobisher reach Canada?

1039  
+ 539  
-----  
\_\_\_\_\_

Complete this math problem to reveal the year.

### Which Country?

On the first full moon in autumn, people in this country celebrate a thanksgiving holiday. Families get together to share food and give thanks for the harvest. In the evening, they take walks to enjoy the beauty of the full harvest moon. They call the holiday **Chuseok**.

Unscramble the letters to discover which country celebrates Chuseok.

H U S T O  
A E X K O  
O R

### Japan: Labor Thanksgiving Day

Long ago, people in Japan celebrated the harvest. As time went on, their day of giving thanks became a time to thank the workers who grew and harvested their food.

Today, Japan celebrates a Labor Thanksgiving Day. It's a day to show gratitude for the workers in the community. School children make colorful thank you cards and gifts for the police, firefighters and hospital workers.

Use the code to discover what the Japanese call their special thanksgiving celebration.

A H I J K N O R S

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Thank the Helpers

Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper thanking the community helpers such as police, firefighters, teachers, hospital workers and more.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Communicate ideas in letter format.

### Double Double Word Search

Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?

X	W	R	I	T	E	T	A	O	G
T	E	A	C	H	E	R	S	H	F
Y	B	P	O	L	I	C	E	O	O
F	T	S	E	V	R	A	H	R	O
U	R	S	K	L	A	W	E	N	D
L	W	L	A	T	I	P	S	O	H
L	A	L	A	B	O	R	C	R	M
Y	A	M	S	Y	J	C	R	O	P
C	E	V	G	N	I	M	R	A	F
D	S	S	A	R	R	I	V	A	L

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

### FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

#### Thankfulness is Caring

Use crayons or markers to create a newspaper advertisement to convince people to donate food or clothing to needy families during the holidays. Send your completed ad to the editor of the newspaper.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

### Write On!

## I'm Thankful!

Think back on things that have happened since last Thanksgiving. What are you thankful for that happened this past year?

### Erntedankfest

Germany calls its Thanksgiving Erntedankfest. People take to the streets in parades. Some carry harvest crowns made of grains, fruit and flowers.



## Azle volleyball season ends in tears

BY JEFF PRINCE  
jeff@azlenews.net

The Azle Lady Hornets made their third trip to the volleyball playoffs in as many years, and this time they were intent on moving beyond the first round.

Sometimes intentions don't pan out.

On Nov. 1, Azle and Arlington Heights met at a neutral location – Boswell High School – to determine the bi-district champion. In the first set, Azle trailed 18-14 when Taylor Fischer began to serve. She went on a streak, winning five serves in a row to put Azle ahead 19-18. Heights called a timeout, perhaps hoping to douse Azle's fire, but the ploy didn't work. Fischer resumed serving and pushed the score to 22-18 in favor of Azle before Heights regained the serve.

The Lady Hornets, however, relinquished their lead. After a back-and-forth war, Azle fell 29-27. The second set saw the Hornets fall 25-20.

A weak or uninspired team might have thrown in the towel, but not the Lady Hornets. They came alive. The girls on the court and on the bench, along with the large Azle contingency that traveled to Fort Worth for

the contest, became loud and intense. Azle played with ferocity and won the third set 25-17, setting up a crucial fourth set.

Christian Shepherd and numerous other students from Azle made the trip to cheer for the Lady Hornets, and they shouted support. Shepherd, a junior, said Azle's strong third set marked an impending turnaround.

"We're feeling pretty pumped right now," he said. "I was a little worried at first, but we came back, so it's all good."

The Lady Hornets began the fourth set with the same intensity, but Heights appeared to up its game, as well. A well-played set by both teams – hindered by a couple of questionable calls by the referees that went against Azle – ended with Heights on top 25-21 and Azle being bounced out of the first round of the playoffs again.

Head coach Elizabeth Snyder said the Lady Hornets entered the game with confidence, but their nerves appeared to kick in at times. Younger players will return next season ready to try again. The seniors, however, lost their chance at winning a playoff volleyball game while



Makenna Dillow plans to play more volleyball in college.



Taylor Fischer hits the hardwood while trying to reach a ball.



wearing Azle green. Several girls were in tears after the game.

"It was a great season," said Makenna Dillow, the hard-working libero and heartbeat of the team.

Dillow plans to continue playing volleyball in college.

Senior Cameryn Hoskins plans to attend Texas Tech University and study to become a general surgeon but doubts she will pursue volley-

ball. Hoskins typically wears a smile on her face during volleyball games, and she shed no tears after the loss.

"We played not as good as we could have, but we played our hearts out," she said. "In the end, it just didn't work out for us."

She shook off the questionable calls by the refs and looked ahead to whatever comes next.

"God has a plan for every-

thing, and if he planned for those questionable calls, they were meant to happen," she said.

She will be moving to Lubbock before long but won't forget the place she calls home or her final season of volleyball as a Lady Hornet.

"I gave it my all," she said. "I'm glad to be here. Azle is a great place."

PHOTOS BY JEFF PRINCE

Kendall Locke shows her disappointment at losing the bi-district title game.

# Azle Hornets close football season with loss to Burleson Centennial

BY JEFF PRINCE  
jeff@azlenews.net

The 2022 football season came to close last week for the Azle Hornets, who missed making the playoffs for the first time in five years.

On Nov. 4, Azle entered the final game of this challenging season with one final Mount Everest to climb – taking on the Burleson Centennial Spartans. The Spartans entered the game with an 8-1 record and one game behind undefeated Aledo in the District 3-5A-Division I standings.

Azle's season has been rockier, as its final 3-7 record can attest.

Final score: Centennial 42, Azle 10.

The Hornets finished in sixth place with a 3-5 record in the nine-team district. The top four teams make the

playoffs, with the Spartans, Denton Ryan and Justin Northwest entering the playoffs besides Aledo.

Azle head coach Devon Dorris said he enjoyed the season and the time spent training a large group of hard-working and devoted athletes.

"Making the playoffs is always one of our goals, and we didn't do that this year, and that is disappointing," Dorris said. "But what I can tell you about this team is that they were one of the most enjoyable teams to be around. We have so many great kids, and this will be a bunch we remember for a long time."

What stood out most about the team was its willingness to sweat and bleed Azle green.

"This team loved to practice," Dorris said. "They showed up with a great work

ethic, and they were a joy to be around."

After the season ended, Dorris told the team's seniors that he and the other coaches appreciated their effort.

"I told them we are not just their coach for the four years of high school," he said. "We will always be there for them, and I can't wait to see what they accomplish in the future."

This week, the coaches will be closing out the season by talking with the returning players, having one-on-one meetings, setting individual goals and discussing plans of action for those goals.

"We also talk with all the seniors about their future, their goals and how we can help," he said.

As for next season, the process of working on and building the 2023 team begins soon. "The kids will begin train-

ing next week to develop as an overall athlete," the coach said. "We will spend the next couple of months analyz-

ing all our film as a coaching staff. What we did good. What we need to improve on. Are there any schematic chang-

es we need to research and change? It is a never-ending process to develop our team, culture, and program."



PHOTO BY RICHARD SPRAGGENS  
Quarterback Jay Jones and the Azle Hornets practiced and played hard all season long.

## Azle Hornets 2022



AZLE HORNET VARSITY FOOTBALL SCHEDULE 2022			
DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	SCORE
8/26	Frisco Reedy	HOME	69-27 L
9/01	Grapevine	at GRAPEVINE	58-14 L
9/09	Denton Ryan	Home	63-14 L
9/16	Aledo	at ALEDO	55-20 L
9/23	Brewer	HOME	54-0 W
9/30	Northwest	at NORTHWEST	58-7 L
10/07	OPEN	OPEN	
10/14	Saginaw	HOME	28-21 W
10/21	The Colony	at THE COLONY	58-34 L
10/28	South Hills	HOME	73-6 W
11/05	Burl Centennial	at BURL CENTENNIAL	42-10 L

## Players Of The Week

OFFENSIVE



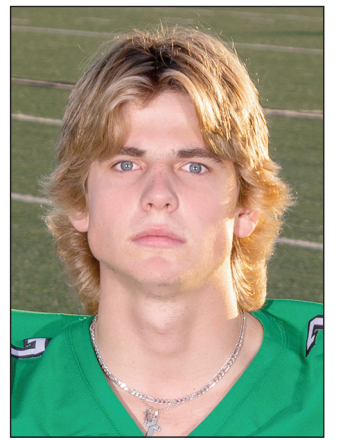
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# Jason Merrill working hard now for success in 2023

BY JEFF PRINCE  
jeff@azlenews.net

A tall, lanky kid wearing a Titleist cap and a Nike windbreaker was the only person on the practice green late one afternoon near the fieldhouse at Cross Timbers Golf Course.

Over and over, he hit balls with his pitching wedge, knocking them up in the air with a backspin so that the balls stopped quickly near the hole.

"The short game is the most important part of the game," said Jason Merrill, the top player on Azle High School's golf team. "Around the green, shots need to be making the hole. That's key."

Azle's golf team practices on Wednesday afternoons, and Merrill had spent the first hour following his coach's plan, hitting shots on the range using different clubs and with varying shot shapes. Then, Merrill worked on pitches and putting before heading out to the course to play a few holes.

"I'm just trying to work out the little knots," he said.

One knot he hoped to work out was ball striking.

"I need to work on being able to hit the ball consistently and being able to work the ball anyway I want to - left to right, right to left," he said. "If there is a tree, I can hit around it."

The senior is in his final year of high school and taking advantage of the fall golf season, when the athletes compete at tournaments and practice often as a sort of pre-season for spring golf, when district competition begins.

Merrill won a tournament earlier this fall, shooting a 76.

"That was pretty cool," he said.

In October, he finished in fourth place at the District 5-5A Fall Preview tourney and second place at the Brock Invitational. Then, on Nov. 5, he won first place at the Legends Classic, coming back from four strokes behind to win while setting a personal record on score with 70.

"Jason's game has come a long way since he was a freshman," said Azle head boys golf coach Brad Averitte. "He could always get himself around the greens, but now he is starting to get his irons dialed in. Recently, we had a discussion about getting to the next level in his game. For Jason, that

is going from scores in the mid-high 70s to getting under par. It is about up and downs. You're not going to hit every green in regulation in every round, so can you get up and down to save par? That is the difference... to go from mid 70s to under par. He's all in and has started to spend more time working on that exact piece of his game."

The coach described his protégé as receptive to critique and open to advice.

"He wants to get better," Averitte said. "His demeanor on the golf course is about as even keel as one can get. He understands that you're only as good as your next shot and that you can't go back and change what has already happened. That is something much easier said than done. I have much admiration for this young man and hopefully we can help him find a college to continue his joy of golf."

Merrill's goal is to improve his game enough this fall so that his team qualifies for the regional tournament.

"I'm really hoping we make it to regionals," he said. "That would be cool for my senior year."

Last year, the team didn't qualify for regionals, nor did any team member except Merrill.

"If we don't make it as a team, I'm trying to go individually," he said.

As a junior, he didn't play well enough at regionals to please himself. He wants to return this spring and improve his performance.

His motto is consistency.

"Going out there and playing well every time," he said, while lining up another chip shot on the practice green. "Lots of reps. That's what I'm doing right now."

He wants colleges to consider him for a scholarship, so he is "trying to get my score pretty low," he said. "My grades are pretty good. My golf game is headed in the right direction. I'm going to keep putting in the reps and see where it goes."

After he finished pitching practice, he grabbed a putter, dropped balls on the turf and lined up shots. He credited his putting for helping him win.

"That's why I'm working on it right now," he said. "That will drop your score more than anything. It's the most important thing."



PHOTOS BY JEFF PRINCE

**Above:** Practicing his short game at Criss Timbers Golf Course is helping Jason Merrill prepare for the spring golf season.

**Below:** Jason Merrill hopes to land a college scholarship in golf.



# SPORTS Roundup

BY JEFF PRINCE  
jeff@azlenews.net

## AZLE CHRISTIAN SET FOR BI-DISTRICT FOOTBALL PLAYOFF FRIDAY

The Azle Christian Crusaders will vie for the TAPPS District 2 bi-district title in six-man football.

The Crusaders will face Rockwall Heritage at 7:30 p.m. Friday at the Azle Christian field near FM 730.

In preparation for the contest, the Crusaders played a non-district game against the North Texas Spartans on Nov. 3, whipping them 57-12, in a game that was stopped on the 45-point mercy rule.

On Oct. 28, the Crusaders defeated Prestonwood 64-18

to claim the district title.

"The team was really locked in," said Azle Christian head coach Clayton Sanders afterward.

His players "understood the seriousness of the situation and rose to the challenge," the coach said. "No doubt, they played their best game of the season. This really is a very special group."

The game served as homecoming, and prolific running back Camden Logan was awarded the homecoming king crown. Laney Geeslin was named homecoming queen.

## AZLE HIGH CROSS COUNTRY

Azle High School senior Barak Geary finished in 48th place in the UIL Class 5A state cross-country championship Nov. 5 in Round

Rock. The state meet drew 150 contestants from across Texas.

Geary plans to continue running cross country meets in college, although he hasn't determined which university he will attend.

He ran 16:38 in Round Rock.

"It wasn't as fast as last year but they changed the course up some by taking out a bridge and it appears that added some time because almost everyone ran slower than last year," said AHS cross-country coach Keith Boenisch. "He was satisfied and so was I. He ran right around the same people from the regional race. He was glad to get it behind him. .... Now it's rest for three weeks and then start running for track."

## AZLE JUNIOR HIGH VOLLEYBALL

On Oct. 22, the seventh grade Azle Lady Hornets A-Team traveled to Mineral Wells to compete in the End of Season Tournament. Azle lost to Decatur in two sets, but the Lady Hornets played their hearts out.

"The girls played the best I've seen all season," said coach Kendra Longbrake. "We ended the season with the wonderful volleyball skills and teamwork."

Abbie Yochum notched her first block, and she and Finley Hard, Kimberly Licerio, Cameron Short, and Madison Holleman "played awesome in the back row," the coach said.

Hard, Holleman, Yochum, Rylie Brekel, Makannah Landon, Tori Moore, Addison Laudenhimer and Bailey Seward "killed it in the front row," she said.

Brenna Curry, Brekel and Seward were strong setters.

"A huge shoutout to our wonderful line judge — who was out due to an injury — Harper Petit," Longbrake said. "I am so proud of how much my girls have grown and how hard they worked this season."

## FORTE JUNIOR HIGH FOOTBALL

Forte's eighth grade Green squad shut down Azle's of-

fense en route to a 16-8 football victory, sealing its first winning season in recent memory with a 5-4 record. Forte completed its junior high sweep of Azle, having won the prior season as seventh graders.

The game opened at Hornet Stadium with neither squad managing much offense on the opening drives. Azle's drive ended when Forte defensive end Roman Fraser forced a fumble, recovered by nose guard Landyn Casey.

Later in the quarter, cornerback Joseph Cano intercepted a pass to rally Forte. The offense drove 63 yards in 10 plays, including 30 yards on a Cano reception from Brayden Ford and an 11-yard run by Ford, to set up Brayden Combs punching the ball into the end zone a minute into the second quarter. Combs also converted the 2-pt. conversion to make the score 8-0.

Azle answered quickly with its longest gain of the night, a 44-yard TD run. A 2-point conversion tied the game. That was the extent of Azle's offense on the evening. Forte's defensive front three of Fraser, Casey and Andrew Stringer were largely responsible for the 21 plays on the night where Azle was

held to no gain or a loss. Cano also swatted away several deep passes on the night to prevent damage from the air.

The defense ultimately set up Forte's winning drive late in the game, when Stringer and Jensen Jutson shared credit on a quarterback sack on Azle's penultimate drive, leaving Forte only 22 yards from the end zone. Forte grinded out the yards in six plays, with Ford scampering in on a right sweep with two minutes remaining in the game. Combs rumbled in the second attempt on the night to make the score 16-8.

Azle's last gasp saw little hope as Jutson batted down a pass behind the line of scrimmage, Casey smothered the quarterback after a short gain, Cano swatted away his last threat of the night, and Fraser forced a fumble behind the line of scrimmage to seal the win.

Forte's seventh grade squad fell to Azle 28-8. Cooper Johnson ran for Forte's lone touchdown, and the eighth grade's undermanned White team lost, 42-0.



PHOTO BY JEFF PRINCE

The Azle Christian flagrunners will be hoisting the school colors and letters at the bi-district football title game on Friday.

## Football Contest

### WEEK 12

Kyle Gathright and David Shaffer each picked the winners of 10 of 11 games, but Gathright came closest to the tiebreaker score to take first place and \$20 in this week's football contest. Shaffer earns second place and \$10. Six contestants predicted nine of 11 games with accuracy, but the one closest to the tiebreaker score was Wes Robinson with 40. He earns third place and \$5. This was the final week of the football contest, so we look forward to doing it again next season!

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| 15..... Carports/Patios    | 38..... Health/Fitness          | 60..... Professional Services | 83..... Houses for Sale                |
| 16..... Equipment Repair   | 39..... Help Wanted             | 61..... Personal              | 84..... Mobile Homes for Rent          |
| 17..... Carpet Service     | 40 ...Home Improvement          | 62..... Plumbing              | 85..... Mobile Homes for Sale          |
| 18..... Catering           | 41..... House Leveling          | 63..... Public Notice         | 86..... Mobile Home/RV Lots            |
| 19..... Cement Work        | 42..... House Cleaning          | 64..... Photography           | 87..... Rent Furnished                 |
| 20..... Demolition         | 43..... Hunting                 | 65..... Printing              | 88..... Rent Unfurnished               |
| 21..... Child Care         | 44..... Janitorial Service      | 66..... Roofing               | 89..... Wanted to Rent                 |
| 22..... Cosmetics          | 45..... Job Wanted              | 67..... Recycling             |  |
| 23..... Computers/Services |                                 | 68..... Storage               |  |

### RATES

*16 Words or Less:*  
**Combo (Azle & Springtown)**  
**Only \$10.00 per week!**

Over 16 words, add 20 cents per word  
**Extras such as Bold, Center & Border are available for a small fee**

**Classified boxed display ads also available for \$9.00 per column inch**

**(All ads must be paid in advance unless you have previously established credit)**

**CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINE:**  
**1:00 PM FRIDAY**

Most ads require payment in advance, but we do accept VISA, MASTERCARD, DISCOVER OR AMERICAN EXPRESS by phone.



Reach more than **8,000** households with **combo** advertising in the Azle News and the Springtown Epigraph.

*Nobody does it better!*

**006 Asphalt Paving**  
**BYRUM CONSTRUCTION**  
**Asphalt Paving**  
 •Driveways •Parking Lots  
 •Asphalt Repairs & Sealcoating  
 •Asphalt Millings •Gravel  
 Bruce Byrum  
 Azle, Texas **817-690-2429**

**024 Electrician**  
**BULLDAWG ELECTRIC CO.**  
 All types of electrical services and MH hook-ups.  
 Free Estimates. 817-675-4921  
 www.bulldawgelectric.com.  
 TECL#25253.

**035 Garden/Mowing Service**  
**COWBOY LAWN CARE.**  
 Residential, farm, gardens, landscaping, tree trimming. Free Estimates. 817-271-0450. Spring Specials.

**039 Help Wanted**  
 Azle ISD is currently accepting applications for a Licensed Plumber in the Maintenance Department. Prefer a minimum of 3+ yrs. experience.  
 Apply online at www.azleisd.net

**039 Help Wanted**

**008 Autos, Trucks**  
  
**Chevy Silverado, Year 2015, 8 cylinders, new tires, runs perfect, tool box on the bed, bull bars on the front. 172 k miles, asking \$ 14,500 Cel 817-703-1261**

**E-Conn Electric**  
 Service, Remodel, New Construction  
 Insured/BBB Accredited  
**817-615-7164**  
*Customer Satisfaction is our Goal!*  
 C/C ACCEPTED TECL20470

Azle ISD is currently accepting applications for a Licensed Electrician in the Maintenance Department. Prefer a minimum of 3+ yrs. experience.  
 Apply online at www.azleisd.net

Hiring: Oil & Gas workover rig hands and CDL tank truck drivers  
 Competitive pay, immediate openings  
 940-393-6655

Painter helper needed. Must be reliable, honest and have transportation. Pay based on experience. BOBBY MCWILLIAMS PAINTING 817-821-6377.

**ADS Steel Services**  
 Now Hiring  
**Experienced Fitters, Installers & Shop Labor**  
 Competitive Wages  
 Health Insurance  
 Paid Holidays & Vacations  
 apply in person at  
 7461 W Vickery Blvd  
 Ft Worth, TX 76116  
 817-763-8223

  
**KARL KLEMENT**  
**Parts Driver/Warehouse Associate**  
 Growing Parts Department with advancement opportunities. TXDL and approved driving record required. Monday-Friday work week  
**Lube Tech**  
 Experience a plus, but willing to train the right person. Must have valid TXDL with acceptable driving record. Must be responsible and dependable. Monday thru Friday work week  
**Custodian**  
 Performs custodial tasks throughout the building. Position can be full-time or part-time

**014 Campers & Trailers**  
  
**2017 Dutchman Voltage Excellent condition, 3 slide outs, sleeps 8. 5th Wheel Toy Hauler. \$67000.00 Call or text 817-437-2287**

**026 Excavating**  
**REED EXCAVATING**  
 • SITE PREPARATION • GRAVEL ROADS  
 • LOT CLEARING • PARKING LOTS  
 • LEVELING • DEMOLITION  
 • FINAL GRADE • STOCK TANKS  
 • LAND EROSION  
 Dump Truck Hauling **817-919-3696**

**035 Garden/Mowing Service**  
 McDowell Lawn Service  
 Mowing, edging, flower beds, fertilizer, tree trimming, residential or business. Weekly or bi-weekly.  
 817-437-9100

**ALL TYPES OF EXCAVATING**  
 Tanks • House Pads • Clearing  
**HASTY EXCAVATING**  
 Also ..  
 Sand • Top Soil • Gravel  
 817-523-7248 • 817-239-6215

**STUMP GRINDING**  
**Don't dig it! Grind it!**  
 1 or 100 - We can do it.  
 \$85 minimum within 5 mi.  
**817-237-5592**

**017 Carpet Service**  
**Alexander Carpet Care**  
**INSURED**  
**817-914-2822**  
**CARPET CLEANING**

**029 Fencing**  
 BOBBY'S FENCE. All types, Free Estimates, Over 26 years experience. 817-444-3213.  
 KILEY CHESNEY CONSTRUCTION  
 All Types Fences - Tractor Work  
 817-846-6645

**YARD SERVICES**  
**SKID STEER SOD INSTALLATION FENCING STUMP GRINDING**  
**817-371-8597**

MECHANIC NEEDED, SERIOUS INQUIRIES ONLY, START NOW, FULL TIME 40 HOURS, COMPENSATION NEGOTIABLE  
 Contact: Gary 817-999-4064  
 Elizabeth 817-752-2165 SILVER DOLLAR CUSTOMS

Need experienced tile helper. Must have own transportation. Call Willie at 817-366-4555.

**019 Cement Work**  
**Allen Chesney Concrete**  
 All Types of Concrete Work  
 Residential - Commercial  
 Foundations, driveways, sand, gravel, demolition, haul-off, retaining walls  
 817-271-4541

**030 Firewood**  
 Split Oak Firewood 4'x8' stack, 21 inch cut, delivered, \$180.00  
 817-550-3733.

**IRRIGATION REPAIR**  
 Residential/Commercial  
 License# L1007825  
 \$85 Service Call

**WANTED**  
 Property Maintenance Labor/Person  
 Gene Thompson & Associates  
**817-246-4646**

**Kiley Chesney Construction**  
 Dirt & Concrete Work  
 Driveways • House Slabs • Garages • Add-ons  
 Small Land Clean-ups • Gravel Driveways  
 Kiley Chesney, Owner  
 Springtown, TX • Mobile 817-846-6645

**032 For Sale**  
 For Sale By Owner  
 4-1.5-2 Home on 4.96 Acres with water wells and 199 Frontage.  
 \$420,000. 817-444-3084

**OUTDOOR SCENE**  
**682-553-1560**

**020 Demolition**  
**MCNEELY'S DEMOLITION & CLEAN UP SERVICE**  
**We Create Vacancy**  
 •Tear Down •Barns  
 •Removal •Houses  
 •Haul Off •Bobcat  
 •Mobile Service  
 Homes •Dirt/Gravel  
 •Garages Spreading  
**FREE ESTIMATES**  
**817-996-7887**  
 253 Eagles Way, Springtown

**034 Garage & Estate Sales**  
 Huge 3-Family Garage Sale  
 Thursday-Saturday 8am-4pm.  
 617 N. Ave. C, Springtown.  
 Moving Sale  
 1560 Chaparral Ln, Pelican Bay, Wednesday-Sunday. Samsung Dbl Door refrigerator, black glass top stove, tools, hayloft blocks, landscape rock, etc.  
 817-489-8147.

  
**Chad's Tree Service**  
 Trimming • Removals • Stump Grinding  
 Systemic Feeding • Brush Chipping • Cable Bracing  
**817-221-2201 • 817-246-5943**  
**817-800-6059** CELL  
*Insured for your protection* **FREE ESTIMATES**

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

**Rescue your Ballerina from the local Shelter and give her a Furever Home**



**Shelter animals have lots of unconditional love to share with their new best friends. Feel the Love - Adopt**

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

  
**Service Technicians**  
 HIRING BONUS available for all skill levels!  
 Seeking ALL LEVEL of Service Technicians; Lube Tech's to Master! Be part of our GROWING TEAM and advance within our Service Department as we offer a Competitive Salary with a full line of Benefits, including 401K. Mon-Fri, 5-day work week with paid vacation, training & holidays! **Up To \$5,000 Hiring Bonus for Skilled Technicians!**

**KLEMENT DISTRIBUTION, INC.**  
**(Hershey Ice Cream Distributor)**  
**No Positions Available At This Time**

**Karl Klement Properties, Inc.**  
**No Positions Available at this Time**

For consideration of all positions apply in person:  
**605 N. Business 287, Suite 102, Decatur, Texas**  
**OR CALL Human Resources Dept:**  
**Jodi Pettis or Lara Lancaster**  
**@ 940-627-6362 | hr.info@klementford.com**  
**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

**Lindsey State Jail Current Openings**  
**Correctional Officers • Assistant Foodservice Manager**  
**Recruiting Sgt. • Education Counselor**  
**Education Clerk • Academic Instructor**  
 PLEASE CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR JOB QUALIFICATIONS.  
 A New Correctional Officer Pay Increase will be as follows - Starting pay will be \$18.00 dollars per hour. After Six months' there will be a pay increase to \$19.00 per hour and at one year there will be another pay increase to \$20.00 per hour. Must have HS Diploma or equivalent, be able to pass a drug screen, have a clean background, and valid driver's license to be considered for a Correctional Officer.  
**Apply online at www.mtctrains.com or call 940-567-2272 and ask for the HR Department. Management & Training Corporation is an Equal Opportunity Employer: Minority/Female/Veteran/Disabled**

**817-270-3340 - AZLE**  
**817-220-7217 - SPRINGTOWN**

Deadline:  
 1:00 PM FRIDAY

# Classifieds

**039 Help Wanted**

Ash Creek Baptist Church is now accepting applications for the full time position of

**Receptionist/Music Secretary**  
 Stop by the church office to pick up an application between 8:30 - 4:30 then return it to the office for Dr. Larry Lormand.

Ash Creek Baptist Church  
 300 S. Stewart St  
 Azle, TX 76020  
 817 444-3219

**066 Roofing**

**EXPERIENCED ROOFING SPECIALIST**  
**FREE ROOF INSPECTIONS**  
*Insurance Claims, Licensed Local Business 34 Yrs*

**ECE CONSTRUCTION LLC**  
 cell 817-615-7164 | office 817-831-2600

**084 Mobile Homes for Rent**

Pelican Bay: 1524 Partridge, 1-1, stove/fridge, central heat, window unit, \$585/mo. \$400 deposit. Owner/Broker 817-988-9954.

Nice 2-2 SW, quiet area, Azle ISD, fenced yard. Qualified Tenants Wanted. 817-228-2414.

**PUBLISHER'S NOTICE**

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD tollfree at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

**040 Home Improvement**

**BILL ROSSER PAINTING & REMODELING.** Big Savings: \$100 off any job of \$1,000 or more. Painting, Carpentry, Porch Covers, Decks. FREE ESTIMATES. Call 817-304-9974; 866-374-3559.

**049 Masonry/Stonework**

**Silva Masonry, L.L.C.**  
 AZLE, TX  
**CONCRETE**  
 COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL  
 Landscape Designs, Outdoor Kitchens  
 Patios, Retaining Walls, Mailboxes

All Types Stone & Brick Work Free  
 New Construction • Remodels Estimates  
**817-308-6512**  
 email alvarosilva@verizon.net

**DIAMOND ROOFING & CONSTRUCTION**

**Commercial & Residential**

- Roofing
- Metal Roofing
- Carports
- Metal Buildings
- All General Contracting

**417 N. MAIN ST • SPRINGTOWN**  
**817-523-4137**  
 Here Before The Storm. Here Long After.

**086 Mobile Home/RV Lots**

Beautiful RV Spots available in nice, quiet area near Eagle Mountain Lake. \$400/mo. plus electric. Call for more information 817-228-2414.

**POJO RV PARK**  
 302 Allison Road  
 Springtown, TX 76082  
**817-925-3673**  
**30x60 RV Spaces Available**  
*One small inside pet allowed*  
 NEAR POJO STADIUM

**WORKHORSE HANDYMAN SERVICES.** Bathrooms, kitchens, remodels, water & sewer repair, mobile home repair, roof repair and well repair.  
**Quality at a reasonable rate. Call 817-874-6109.**

**052 Movers**

U.S. Army Retired-but not tired! Careful moving-Cheap.  
 Call Big Jim @ 817-237-5151.

**AT HOME ROOFING & METAL BUILDINGS**

**817-304-4224**

Tired of always replacing your roof? Call us for a metal roof quote.  
*We'll be here after the storm.*

**079 Welding**

*Our Business is Metal Buildings - And We're Good!*

**DESIGN FABRICATION ERECTION**

**Cozart METAL BUILDING SYSTEMS**

Fabrication and erection of quality metal buildings at reasonable prices, any size - any design  
**817-237-2282**  
 Office Fax 817-237-0904  
 Mark Cozart Jeremy Cozart  
 817-233-6668 817-237-2028

**087 Rent Furnished**

3/2/1 brick house in Azle for \$1650 per month and a \$1650 deposit. Background/credit check \$40 per person. 817-980-3066

**088 Rent Unfurnished**

3-2 Duplex for Rent in Springtown. \$1,200/mo. \$600 deposit, no pets. 817-980-3066.

**PYRAMID REMODELING.** PAINTING: Interior, Exterior, Tape & Bed, Texture, Popcorn Ceilings. FREE ESTIMATES. 817-944-7658.

**BOBBY MCWILLIAMS PAINTING 817-821-6377.** Interior/Exterior Painting Residential & New Homes. 50 years experience.

**057 Pets/Livestock**

Will pay top dollar for grazing and hay leases. Call 940-389-1936.

Free cats/kittens some spayed. Will help with \$ for neuter/spay. Call or text 817-229-3628.

**068 Storage**

INNERSPACE STORAGE. Hwy 199, Springtown. Now renting all unit sizes, 24-hour access. 682-842-1414.

**Need to sell your car? Call today and ask about our \$29.95 3-MONTH SPECIAL!**

Azle News 817-270-3340  
 Springtown Epigraph 817-220-7217

Room to Rent, females only, 1 bedroom \$325/Mo. All bills paid, call 682-290-5276.

1833 PELICAN DR. N.  
 2-2-1 \$1,195 MO. \$1,000 DEP.  
 1904 CORAL RD  
 2-1-1 \$1,195 MO. \$1,000 DEP.  
 1920 PELICAN DR. N.  
 3-2-1 \$1,495.MO \$1,000 DEP.  
 Gene Thompson & Associates  
 817-246-4646 gtax.com

**Kevin's Handyman Services**  
 40 Years Experience

- Carpentry
- Drywall & Painting
- Tile & Laminate Floors
- Doors & Windows
- Decks & Stairs
- Cabinets & Countertops
- No Job Too Small

Springtown and Surrounding Areas  
**231-445-1221**

**062 Plumbing**

**GRAHAM PLUMBING CO.**

Commercial-Residential  
 Serving Springtown, Azle, Boyd, Weatherford Area  
 M#15899  
**817-220-2469**  
 grahamplumbingco.com

**Ash Creek Storage**  
 Convenient Location  
 Corner of Main St. & Locust • Azle  
**817-444-3292**

**AZLE OAKS APARTMENT**  
 700 JARVIS • AZLE  
 817-444-1712

**1 & 2 Bedroom Unfurnished**  
 Accepting Applications  
 Rent based on income  
 TDD: 800-735-2989  
 This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



**Don't Break The Poor Little Piggy!**

*Find the money you need in our Classified Section today!*

**16 words for \$10**

**Devin's Handyman Service**

- Carpentry
- Cement
- Rock
- Granite
- Tile
- Painting
- Siding
- Insulation
- Kitchen/Bath
- Roof & Gutters
- Powerwashing
- Decks

**FALL SPECIAL 20% OFF with this ad!**

**Call Devin at 817-629-9608**

**069 Sand/Gravel**

HALL'S SAND, DIRT & GRAVEL  
 Quality Family Business Since 1938  
 CALL Cliff Hall  
**(817) 221-2681**  
 We go the extra mile to ensure you get more for your \$.  
 On House Pads, Driveways, Lot Clearing & Tractor Work, Etc.

**079 Welding**

**SOLID STEEL SOLUTIONS**

- Metal Buildings
- Steel Components
- Welding Supplies
- Concrete Supplies
- Fabrication Supplies
- Pipe Fencing
- Deer Blinds
- Deer Feeders

**8894 W Hwy 199 • Springtown**  
**817-220-0008**  
**www.SolidSS.com** **Open to the Public**

**046 Looking to Buy**

**LOCAL BUYER JIMMY DAN**

- Used/Damaged Campers
- Motorhomes
- Farm Equipment
- Trucks And Trailers
- Horse Trailers
- Boats
- Golf Carts
- Propane Tanks
- Fork Lifts
- Heavy Equipment
- ATVs • Misc.

**817-629-7531**

**062 Plumbing**

**LANDERS Plumbing Co.**  
**940-233-2862**  
 M-10078

**066 Roofing**

**Miles Roofing**  
 • Insurance Claim Specialists;  
 • Free Estimates  
**817-797-3420**

**079 Welding**

owner Rodney Vick  
 817-220-3044  
 fax 817-523-7639  
 cell 817-253-1614

**R & E Construction**  
 Metal Building Specialist

- Weld Ups/ Bolt Ups
- Pipe Fencing
- Concrete
- Horse Barns
- All Types Fencing
- Metal Roofs

Compare Pricing  
**NO JOB TOO SMALL**

**081 Business/Commercial**

40x50 building For Rent, 3 miles west of Springtown. 817-713-7495.

**088 Rent Unfurnished**

**GENE THOMPSON & ASSOCIATES HOMES and MOBILE HOMES FOR RENT**  
 gtax.com  
**817-246-4646**

**Need to sell your ATV? Call today and ask about our (\$29.95) 3-MONTH SPECIAL!**

Azle News 817-270-3340  
 Springtown Epigraph 817-220-7217

**WDC WELD-DONE CONSTRUCTION LTD.**

**Metal Building Erectors**

- Pre-engineered Weld-up
- Barns/Shops
- Arenas/Hangars
- Fencing

1220 E. Hwy. 199 • Springtown  
**817-220-2150**  
 www.weld-done.net

**082 RV's for Rent**

Nice 1BR RV in adult RV park. Great for older person on limited income. Starts at \$550/mo. All Bills Paid. Heritage RV Park 817-444-3760.

PLACE YOUR AD ONLINE:  
 azlenews.net  
 springtown-epigraph.net

OVER THE PHONE:  
 817-270-3340  
 817-220-7217  
 or EMAIL:  
 classified@azlenews.net

**Advertising Works!**

Rent unfurnished continued on next page...

**817-270-3340 - AZLE**  
**817-220-7217 - SPRINGTOWN**

Deadline:  
 1:00 PM FRIDAY

# Classifieds

**088 Rent Unfurnished**

## Cross Companies Residential Properties

Family-owned, family-run

**STEWART BEND** | **SILVER CREEK** | **RV PARK**  
 DUPLEX HOMES

**Stewart Bend Duplex Homes:** 2 & 3 bedroom units available at \$1,350 & \$1,450. Quiet, clean, non-smoking. CALL 817-401-1796.

**Silver Creek RV Park:** Designed for local long-term stays. Best common building in Azle, secluded and quiet, city water/sewer. \$475 with \$75 electricity allotment; ABP in winter. CALL or TEXT 682-499-8616 or email [scrvice@gmail.com](mailto:scrvice@gmail.com).

**Barton Cottages Tiny Home Community:** COMING SUMMER 2022! Email [BartonCottages@gmail.com](mailto:BartonCottages@gmail.com)



**Need to find a Home Improvement Specialist**

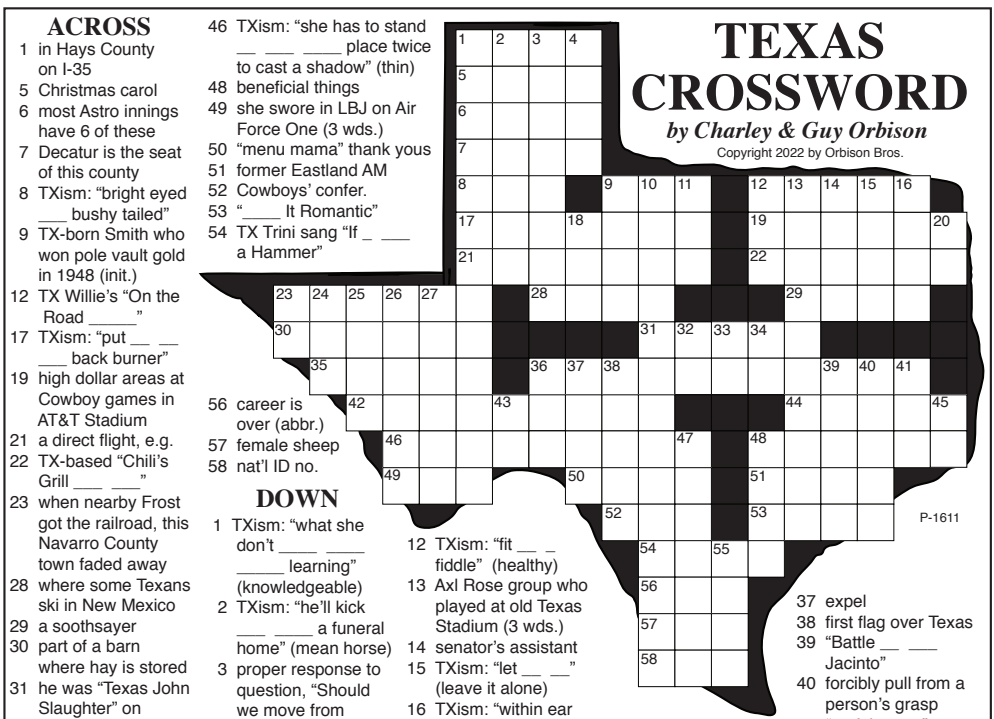
Find one in the Classifieds!



**Azle News**  
 817-270-3340  
**Springtown Epigraph**  
 817-220-7217

## TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison  
 Copyright 2022 by Orbison Bros.



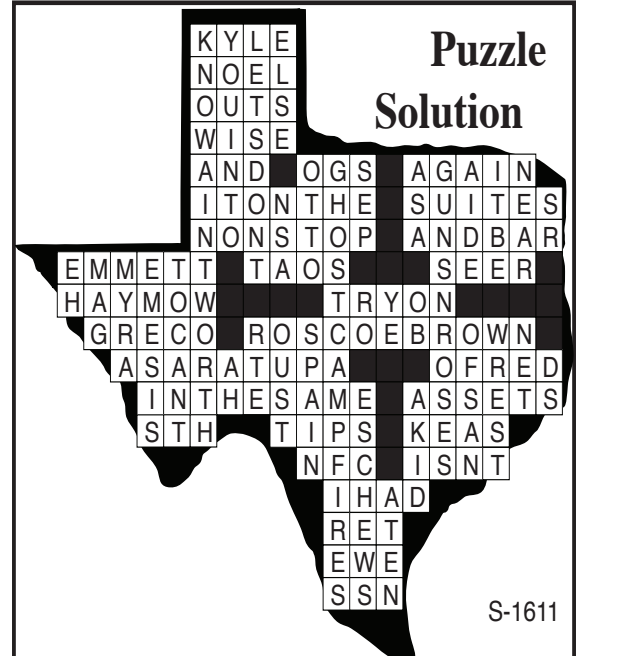
**ACROSS**

- 1 in Hays County on I-35
- 5 Christmas carol
- 6 most Astro innings have 6 of these
- 7 Decatur is the seat of this county
- 8 TXism: "bright eyed \_\_\_ bushy tailed"
- 9 TX-born Smith who won pole vault gold in 1948 (init.)
- 12 TX Willie's "On the Road \_\_\_"
- 17 TXism: "put \_\_\_ \_\_\_ back burner"
- 19 high dollar areas at Cowboy games in AT&T Stadium
- 21 a direct flight, e.g.
- 22 TX-based "Chili's Grill \_\_\_"
- 23 when nearby Frost got the railroad, this Navarro County town faded away
- 28 where some Texans ski in New Mexico
- 29 a soothsayer
- 30 part of a barn where hay is stored
- 31 he was "Texas John Slaughter" on television (2 wds.)
- 35 Al del \_\_\_ was an Oiler/Titan kicker
- 36 TX Barry Cobin was this deputy in "Lone-some Dove" (2 wds.)
- 42 TXism: "fast \_\_\_ \_\_\_ rafter"
- 44 TXism: "bowl \_\_\_ \_\_\_" (chili)

**DOWN**

- 1 TXism: "what she don't \_\_\_ learning" (knowledgeable)
- 2 TXism: "he'll kick \_\_\_ a funeral home" (mean horse)
- 3 proper response to question, "Should we move from Texas?" (2 wds.)
- 4 "anything \_\_\_ you need?"
- 9 this Premiering directed TX Prentiss in "In Harm's Way" some believe the Marfa lights are these (2 wds.)
- 11 Labor Day mo.
- 12 TXism: "fit \_\_\_ \_\_\_ fiddle" (healthy)
- 13 Axl Rose group who played at old Texas Stadium (3 wds.)
- 14 senator's assistant
- 15 TXism: "let \_\_\_ \_\_\_ (leave it alone)"
- 16 TXism: "within ear shot"
- 18 nat'l eavesdropper
- 20 last yr. in h.s.
- 23 Houston Rocket star, Elvin (init.)
- 24 "Texas Monthly," e.g. (abbr.)
- 25 this McDaniel was first black Texas Secretary of State
- 26 action of vomiting
- 27 TXism: "works from can't see \_\_\_ see" (hard worker)
- 23 Houston Rocket star, Elvin (init.)
- 32 Texas "Only the Lonely" singer (init.)
- 33 "\_\_\_ Olde Shoppe"
- 34 first 2 init. of 25th governor, Colquitt
- 36 a way to go (abbr.)
- 37 expel
- 38 first flag over Texas
- 39 "Battle \_\_\_ Jacinto"
- 40 forcibly pull from a person's grasp
- 41 "surf the \_\_\_"
- 43 TX Bob Wills: "\_\_\_ ha, take it away Leon"
- 45 this LB Darrin helped the Cowboys win 2 Super Bowls (init.)
- 47 abstains from
- 48 TXism: "happy as \_\_\_ on Santa's lap"
- 55 \_\_\_ gallon hat

## Puzzle Solution



S-1611

## MOVING?



Raise some extra money through the Classifieds with a Moving Sale.

**16 words for only \$10**

**Azle News**  
 817-270-3340  
**Springtown Epigraph**  
 817-220-7217  
 Hometown Papers!

## TEXAS STATEWIDE CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING NETWORK

# TexSCAN

**TexSCAN Week of Nov. 6-12, 2022**

**ACREAGE**

**AFFORDABLE LAND.** We have some of the best in Texas. Hill Country - Edwards, McCulloch, Schleicher, Coke, Val Verde counties, free ranging exotics. South Texas - Kinney, Duval, Live Oak counties - whitetail, hogs, Trans Pecos, Terrell, Val Verde - whitetail, javelina, quail. 30 year fixed rate financing, 5% down. [www.ranchenterprisesltd.com](http://www.ranchenterprisesltd.com), 800-876-9720.

**AUCTION**

**45th Annual Cattleman Bull & Female Sale** 12:00 Noon, Jan. 21, 2023, El Campo Livestock Exchange, El Campo, Texas. 100 bulls, 250 females, [cattlemansale.com](http://cattlemansale.com).

**EVENT**

**Christmas in Comfort** - Nov. 26, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Live music, food, gifts, Santa Land, lighted night parade, fireworks. 830-995-3131, [www.comfort-texas.com](http://www.comfort-texas.com).

**WORLD'S LARGEST GUN SHOW** - November 12&13 - Tulsa, OK Fairgrounds. Saturday 8-6, Sunday 8-4. WANENMACHER'S TULSA ARMS SHOW. Free appraisals. Bring your guns! [www.TulsaArmsShow.com](http://www.TulsaArmsShow.com).

**EMPLOYMENT**

**Like working with kids?** HANK Inc. seeks foster parents for Community Foster Homes caring for 6 kids. Home and vehicle provided in Devine and Hondo, Texas. 830-741-1206.

**GENERATORS**

**Prepare for power outages today** with a GENERAC home standby generator. \$0 Money Down + Low Monthly Payment Options. Request a FREE Quote. Call now before the next power outage: 1-855-704-8579.

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SPECIAL TO THE AZLE NEWS/SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

## From serving his country to serving his county



COURTESY PHOTO

Conley during his service on a sub tender supply ship for the U.S. Navy. Beside him is a torpedo sporting his mother's name.

### George Conley

BY JESSICA MCKINNEY  
jessica@azlenews.net

George Conley has been serving as a Parker County commissioner for Precinct 1 since 2008. He is known around Springtown and Azle for his sense of humor,

his eagerness to serve others, and for always leading the pledge of allegiance "loud and proud."

As a young man, Conley served on a sub tender supply ship for the U.S. Navy from 1976-1980. He was

SEE CONLEY, PAGE 17C.



COURTESY PHOTO

Conley spent his time with the navy overseas.



PHOTO BY DON MUNSCH

After an ambush in Iraq in 2006, Clint Keeley pulls bullets out of his vehicle. Keeley served in the Army for 21 years.

## Veteran liked certain appeal from the Army

BY DON MUNSCH  
don@azlenews.net

### Clint Keeley

Clint Keeley sums up his experience in Iraq in three words: scary, nerve-racking, sad.

He's not alone among service members who had difficulty dealing with the war in Iraq. But his experience in the military helped at the stage of life he has entered now.

Keeley grew up in Fort Worth and attended Happy Hill Farm for his three last three years of high school in Granbury. After high school, he joined the Army in 2001, just before 9/11. He wrapped up 21 years in the Army and retired and came back home. He joined the Army when he was 17.

Keeley, 39, of Azle, had a number of duty stations: Fort Polk,

Louisiana, (twice); Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Hawaii (twice); Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington state; Fort Dix, New Jersey; and Fort Bliss in El Paso. He had three deployments, all to Iraq: 2004-05, nine months; 2006-07, 15 months; and 2010-11, 12 months. His last rank was command sergeant major.

Keeley joined the Army for practical reasons.

"I knew college wasn't for me and I was looking for more of a sense of purpose," he said.

He also picked the Army for pragmatic purposes.

SEE KEELEY, PAGE 2C.

## Azle fire marshal: Service was 'best time' of his life

### Kenny Wilson

BY DON MUNSCH  
don@azlenews.net

Many people find their niche in the military.

Kenny Wilson is among those people.

Wilson, who serves as Azle Fire Department's fire marshal, was born in Abilene but grew up in Grapevine and attended Grapevine High School. He started volunteering as a fireman beginning in 1981 and did that until 1987, when the department stopped using volunteers.

"So, I went in the Air Force because myself and a friend of mine decided to go in to together; however, he backed out at the last moment and I just went ahead and went in," he said.

Wilson thought joining the military was a "good way to get my life started and get some good training." He had an older brother who had been in the Air Force and his father and grandfather were in the Army.

"So, it just seemed like the right fit," he said, noting that his father was stationed on a Navy radio ship.

Wilson was in the Air Force from 1984 to 1988 and was stationed at Carswell Air Force Base all four years.

"Nothing like joining the Air Force to see the world and coming right back home," he said. "My grandparents lived a mile from the base."

He served as a Security Police Law Enforcement Specialist and obtained the rank of sergeant. While



PHOTO BY DON MUNSCH

Kenny Wilson, an Air Force veteran, stands with dog Mila at the Azle Fire Department.

SEE WILSON, PAGE 3C.

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COURTESY PHOTO

Above, Clint Keeley and another soldier perform a mortar shoot, and, right, on Thanksgiving Day 2019 in Grafenwoehr, Germany, he is with his family: Left is spouse Shanna and children Christian, left, Madison, middle and Benjamin, right.

### KEELEY

FROM PAGE 1C

"Because I'd get too seasick with the Navy and the Air Force doesn't excite me," he said.

He further explained he wanted to join the Army because he wanted to jump out of airplanes and be a paratrooper.

"That was my calling - I wanted to jump out of airplanes," he said.

While in the Army, his three highest commendations were the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal with "V" device and the Purple Heart. As he looks back on his career, he said the sacrifices that sol-

diers and their families make stands out to him.

"The soldier joins the military, but their children never have any choice," he said. "And they go without their mom or dad all the time while they're deployed or in field training. They are willing to sacrifice and give up their parents for the nation also."

He said his wife Shanna celebrate their 20th year of marriage in December, and Keeley's oldest son, Jimmy, 23, was there during all the deployments. Keeley has 10-year-old twins - Madison and Christian - and 7-year-old Benjamin who were born after his last deployment.

Keeley is now a consultant with Propeller Consulting, and he enjoys the freedoms

that come with civilian life but said there's nothing quite like the close-knit community readily available that comes with living on an installation. He had a good experience in the service and would do it again in a heartbeat, he said.

"The military paid for my bachelor's and my master's degree, so it set me up for success, gave me skills to transition to private industry," Keeley said. "So, I just want people to know that there is a path to success because of military and I'm really thankful for it."

He earned his bachelor's in management from the American Military University and his master's in organizational leadership from the University of Texas at El Paso.



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# WILSON

FROM PAGE 1C

at Carswell, he was assigned to a specialized tactical team (SWAT) - referred to as emergency services team - and a competitive combat shooting team. The emergency services team activated several times, he said, including for nuclear protestors.

On the combat shooting team, he got to travel and attend competitions.

"I did that for about a year and a half," he said.

As a desk sergeant in the Air Force, his work entailed dispatching, overseeing the jail and taking reports over the telephone.

"But it took a lot of training for that qualification, and I was the youngest guy to obtain that at the time," he said.

After his stint in the Air Force, he was a police officer for Everman Police Department and spent a little over 10 years there. After that, he went to paramedic school and firefighting school. The police chief in Everman needed a fire marshal, and even though Wilson was a police officer, he was the fire marshal there,

as well.

"That kind of started my career going here," he said.

He's been at Azle for 22 years and has been the fire marshal since 2004.

"I enjoy it - it's a challenge" he said about the fire marshal. "Right now, we're going through a lot of growth so we have to deal with reviewing building plans, reviewing plans for life-safety systems and then we go out and do the inspection on all the new businesses, and then we follow up and we do annual inspections for all the businesses."

He added that his office is its own law enforcement agency and has its own caseload, and he works with specific cases dealing with fire, explosions and environmental cases.

Wilson loved his time in the Air Force, noting it was the "best time of my life" and regrets leaving the Air Force and wishes he had stayed. He made a lot of lifelong friends in the Air Force, including Bob Spohn with the Azle Police Department, as they served on the emergency services team.

"To this day, we still talk to people we served with," he said.

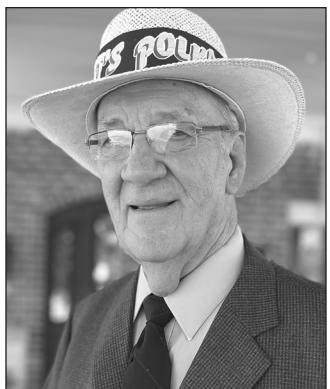
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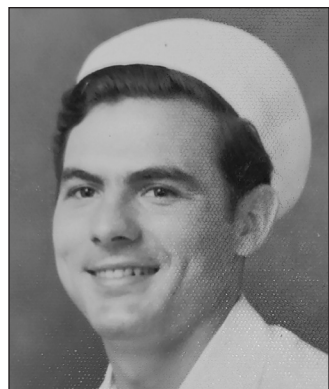
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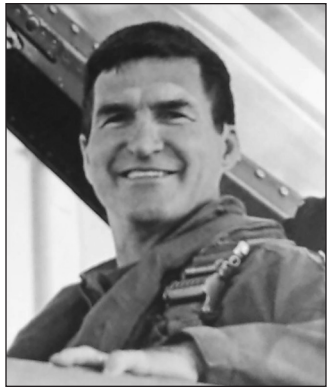
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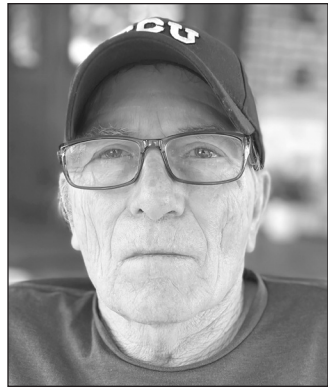
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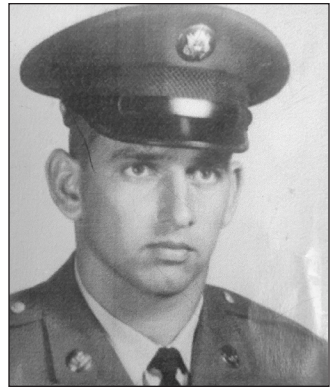
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U.S. Air Force  
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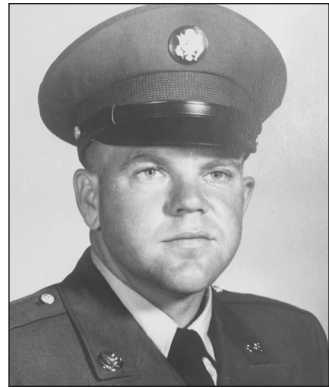
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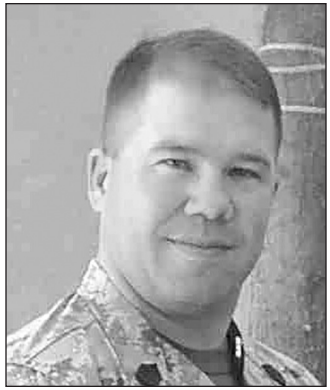
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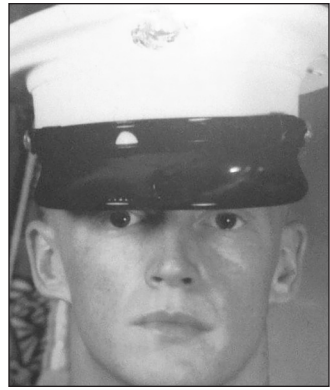
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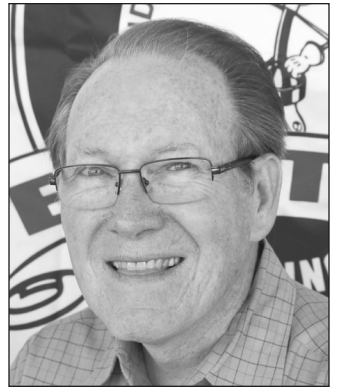
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# Springtown police officer, Army veteran reflects on career-long dedication to helping others

BY MADELYN EDWARDS  
madelyn@azlenews.net

Springtown Police Cpl. Ken Hopkins has always wanted to help people.

That goal drove him to enlisting in the U.S. Army when he was 18 years old.

"It was just something I always wanted to do," Hopkins said. "I've always wanted to be in public service and help people."

Hopkins served in the Army from 1986 to 1992. He's had several relatives who have served in the military, including his father, who spent about 32 years in the Air Force.

Hopkins worked as a medic assigned to an infantry unit, and he served in a field artillery unit during Operation Desert Storm. By the time he was deployed during Desert

## Ken Hopkins

Storm, Hopkins was promoted to sergeant and led a platoon of medics. He was awarded the combat medical badge for treating soldiers in combat.

Hopkins' job as a medic was to tend to soldiers both in combat and in field training exercises by treating their injuries, providing first aid and coordinating an evacuation if necessary. He compared the job of an Army medic to emergency medical services and first responders.

Hopkins has treated minor sprains, broken bones, gunshot wounds, injuries related to falling out of an aircraft without a parachute and vehicle-related injuries, among others.

"I've done every kind of injury you can think of," he said.

During his military service, Hopkins traveled around the U.S. as well as to Iraq, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia during Operation Desert Storm. He described his time in the Middle East as memorable.

"A lot of people don't realize there's different terrains out there. You got the Euphrates River valley, which is green and lush, and then you got all the desert stuff. Everybody just thinks it's all desert," Hopkins said.

Hopkins said it was a neat experience to interact with the local people in the Middle East as well as the foreign army units there.

"Until the bullets started flying and it wasn't fun no more," he said.

When Hopkins was deployed, he said he was nervous, but nonetheless, he did his job.

"It was tough leaving my family and going somewhere not knowing if that was going to be it, but I got on that plane, went and did my duty and came home, just like 99% of the rest of our military folks that do it every day," Hopkins said.

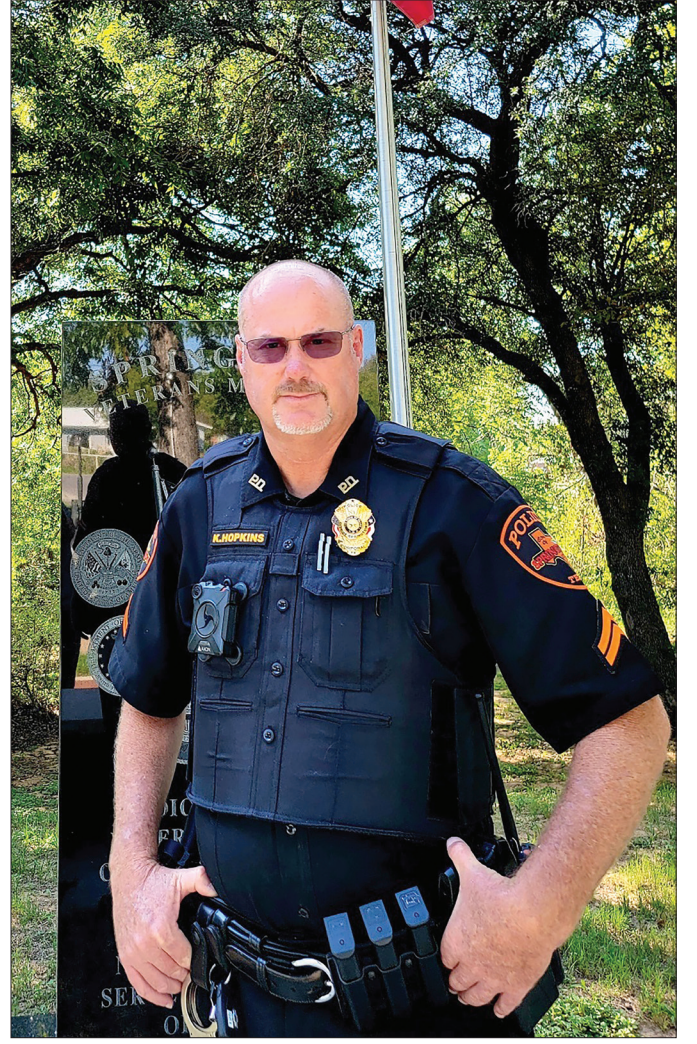
Hopkins wishes that everyone could have the chance to serve in the military. He said it gives people camaraderie, community, knowledge of what it's like to serve others and discipline.

"It gave me drive to always want to do your best and attention to detail and finishing what you start," Hopkins said.

Some of what Hopkins



COURTESY PHOTO  
Springtown Police Cpl. Ken Hopkins enlisted in the U.S. Army when he was 18 years old. Hopkins served in the Army from 1986 to 1992.



COURTESY PHOTO  
Army veteran Ken Hopkins has dedicated almost 30 years to law enforcement work at multiple police departments. He is currently a corporal at Springtown Police Department.



PHOTO BY MADELYN EDWARDS  
Springtown Police Cpl. Ken Hopkins chatted with locals at Springtown's National Night Out on Oct. 4 at Newby Pavilion.

learned in the military transferred well into his law enforcement career, which he has dedicated almost 30 years to at multiple police departments. His experience as a medic has been especially helpful when he has arrived on scenes with hurt people. He has been commended with life-saving bars while serving in law enforcement for performing CPR on people, stopping bleeding from gunshot wounds and doing rescue breathing on people until EMS arrived.

"Most of the time we get there before EMS anyway," Hopkins said, adding that sometimes service calls are different than how they were described on the phone. "It's a skill that has definitely transitioned."

To Hopkins, Veterans Day

is about recognizing military service members who did their duty and were willing to pay the ultimate sacrifice.

"I honor that day by honoring the people who along with me served," he said. "To me, it's a reflection on the people

that put their own personal lives on hold to go out and do a job that might have required them to even give their life for. And to me, it honors those people that were willing to put on the uniform and make that sacrifice."



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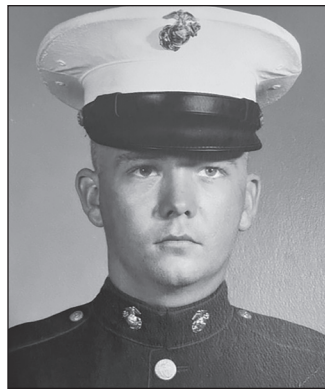
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# Bob Spohn turned Air Force stint into longtime Azle police career

BY JEFF PRINCE  
jeff@azlenews.net

Growing up in Reading, Penn., in the 1970s, Bob Spohn was tall and gangly and a target for bullies. "I was a skinny kid," he said. "I weighed 140 pounds. Six-foot tall. I got picked on all the time."

At 18, he wanted to become a police officer but couldn't join the police academy until 21. To prepare himself, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1984 and served four years. "I thought, 'Somebody needs somebody to stand up for them because nobody ever stood up for me or the other kids getting picked on,'" Spohn said. "I thought, 'I'm too young to be a police officer, but I'm not too young to be military police.' That's why I went into the Air Force."

After initial training, he was allowed to work with the Air Force security police division. "We did a lot of stuff like air base ground defense," he said. "We were the only ground force troops that the Air Force had."

He received training in firearms, grenade launchers and other weapons and tactical equipment. In 1987, he served a detail with the Secret Service to protect then-vice president Georgia H.W. Bush at a convention, and Spohn served on another detail to protect Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli defense minister, that same year.

By the time he was discharged in 1988, he was ready for a police badge. The Air Force had offered the police academy, and Spohn completed the course while on active duty. All that was

left to do was find a job. Spohn found his perfect match on the first offer. "When I got out (of the military), Azle was the first job I came across," he said. "I cannot say enough good stuff about the people in this community. We've started a lot of counseling initiatives, domestic violence initiatives, and done a lot of good things."

Some career police officers might consider Azle a starting point to lead to bigger and better things. Spohn found what he was looking for immediately. "A lot of my friends work for larger agencies like Fort Worth, but the thing I always enjoyed about Azle was the fact that I actually got to know people in the community," he said. "I made a lot of friends."

He has worn the Azle badge for 34 years and counting and



PHOTO COURTESY  
**Bob Spohn has worn an Azle police badge for 34 years and counting.**

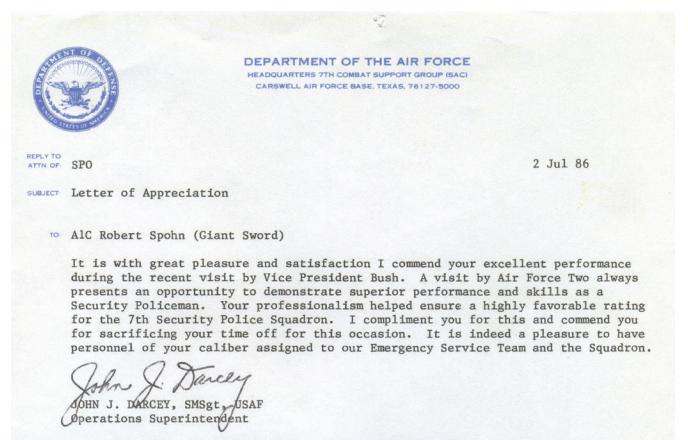


considers himself a Texan now despite his Pennsylvania birthplace. He went on a blind date not long after arriving here, and met Nancy, who became his wife. They will celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary next year.

The couple didn't have children but planted roots in the city and the police department. "The agency has become an extension of my family," he said.

Currently, Spohn is a police sergeant and field training coordinator and serves as best-practices accreditation manager at the Texas Police Chief's Association.

He hasn't been bullied in years, particularly after becoming an avid weightlifter and receiving many hours of training in self-defense.



Even in his 40s, he could still benchpress more than 350 pounds. Nowadays, he isn't as bulked up. Enforcing laws during a long police career has resulted in numerous injuries that can make it difficult to train with weights, and he is leaner but not meaner these days. He is reminded why he became a cop and why he loves his career every time he steps outside, he said.

"Azle has always been my city," he said. "The community has always been my people. I've been blessed by this community."



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# Reno resident, Air Force veteran discusses how military experience equipped him for the workforce

BY MADELYN EDWARDS  
madelyn@azlenews.net

Ted Lyon

Reno resident Ted Lyon joined the Air Force at age 18 for two reasons – to serve his country and learn a trade.

“I’ve always been patriotic for my country,” Lyon said. “Also, I was out of high school, and I needed a trade.”

Lyon was in the Air Force from 1994 to 1999.

Why did he choose the Air Force?

“I guess the number one reason is I’ve always liked airplanes. I’ve always liked aircraft,” Lyon said. “My dad is a mechanic. He’s been a mechanic his whole life and so I had some of the mechanical background, which put me in a job specifically in the Air Force.”

And that job was working as an aerospace ground support equipment mechanic. He worked on equipment used to test airplanes and prepare them for duty while grounded.

For example, Lyon and his

team would use air conditioners to cool the electronics working on a grounded plane. He worked with a wide variety of equipment, including hydraulic pneumatic air conditioning, air compressors, heaters and hydraulic cartons.

Lyon said the opportunity to learn and work on a variety of equipment was helpful to him and prepared him for jobs that he would have after leaving the Air Force. Though he currently works for Lockheed Martin, Lyon has taken multiple jobs since he left the Air Force, including as an automation technician at Nokia, as a flat belt conveyor mechanic at Williamson-Dickie Manufacturing Company and at DFW Skylink.

“I didn’t work on one specific thing. I worked on a whole variety of different things,” he said. “That



COURTESY PHOTO  
**Ted Lyon joined the Air Force at age 18 to serve his country and learn a trade. He served from 1994 to 1999.**

equipped me for the time when I got out of the Air Force and had to go out into the private sector to do different tasks because I was familiar with a whole variety of different things and that equipped me for that. It was a

SEE LYON, PAGE 9C.



PHOTO BY MADELYN EDWARDS  
**Reno resident and Air Force veteran Ted Lyon (right) smiles for a photo with his family. From left is his wife Krizhana and his daughters Grace and Hope.**



PHOTO BY DON MUNSCH  
**Joe Friske served in the U.S. Army for 10 years. He now works for Tri-County Electric.**

# Veteran was the first in family to serve country in military

BY DON MUNSCH  
don@azlenews.net

Joe Friske

Joe Friske was the first person in his family to accomplish something.

He was the first individual in the history of his family to serve in the military.

“It was unique – there was a lot of pushback from my family for joining,” said Friske, an Army veteran. “Because everybody went to college, and here I am, I joined the military instead.”

His family, though, is proud of his service, and Friske said he tried to talk one of his nephews from joining the military, but “that helped convince him

to join.” That nephew joined the Army and he recently got promoted to sergeant. He works at NATO headquarters.

Friske, fleet manager at Tri-County Electric Co-op, has worked at Tri-County for a little over 2 1/2 years. He grew up in northeast South Dakota and has been in Texas since 2003. He had been stationed at Fort Hood, near Killeen, from 1989 to 1994. He also was in Korea from 1994 to 1995 and Fort Irwin, California, from 1995 to 1998. He was in the

Army for 10 years and was a mechanic, doing tracked vehicle repair.

“It’s always been a lifetime goal of mine since I was kid to join the military,” he said. “I wanted to be a Navy pilot, but I wore glasses, so their recruiter said nope. So then I joined the Army, and then I had a high GT (General Technical) score, and they said, ‘We want you to go this school that’s about two years long.’ And I said OK, what’s the next (option) available? And they said we’ll we’ve got a mechanic (school). I grew up on a farm, so I was like, yeah, I

SEE FRISKE, PAGE 17C.

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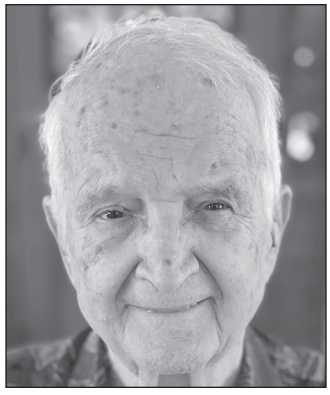
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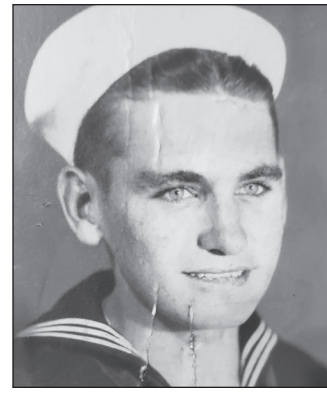
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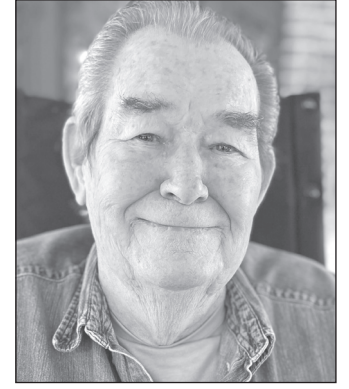
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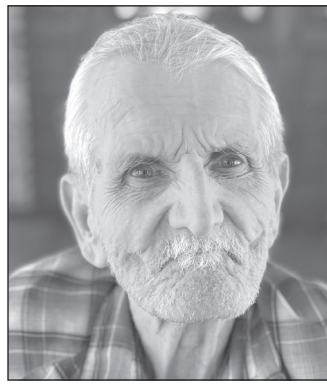
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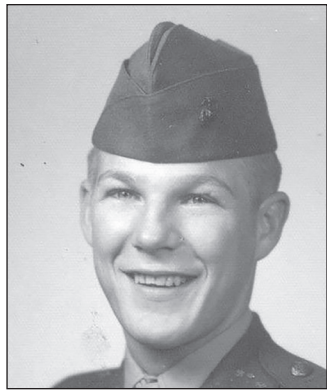
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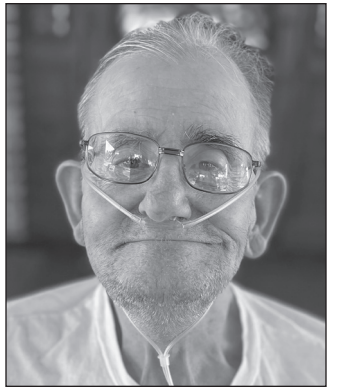
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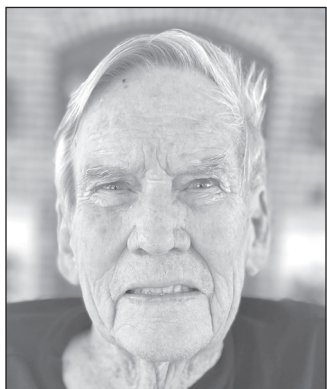
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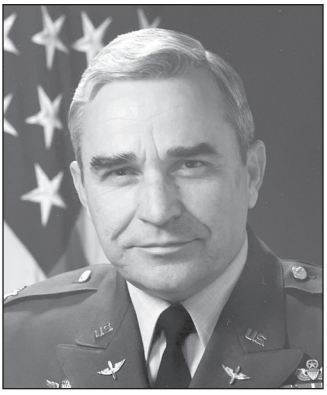
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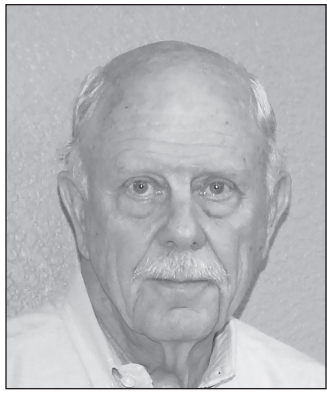
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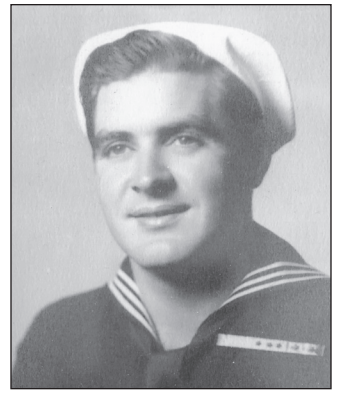
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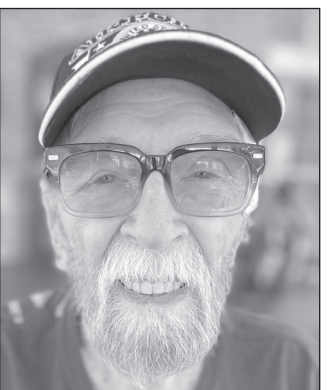
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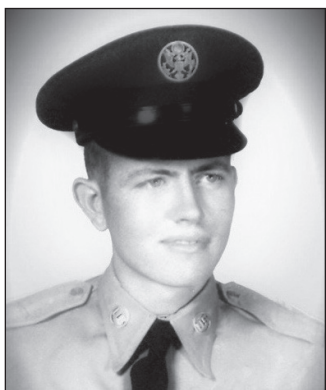
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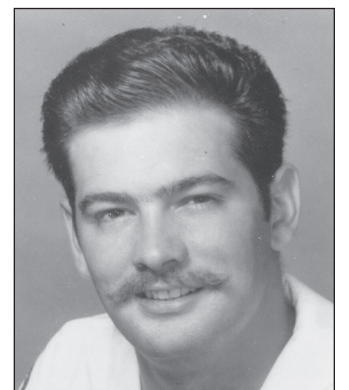
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**LYON**

FROM PAGE 6C

very educational experience.”

Having a variety of experience also helped him land on his feet when trouble would arise. Lyon recalled telling his wife, Krizhana, that he was getting laid off from his job at Nokia, and because of his diverse training, she was undaunted.

“And she said, ‘I’m not worried about it,’” Lyon said. “She said, ‘You know so much. You’re not going to have a problem finding a job.’ I love

fixing stuff, working on stuff, and that’s where it all began in the military.”

But his military experience wasn’t all about work. Lyon was also able to make friends and have fun while in the service. Of course, he said one of his best experiences in the Air Force was in 1998 when he married his wife. He met her at a party at his brother’s house, and they got hitched while he was between Air Force bases.

“I can’t exclude that (from the story). Boy, she’d be mad at me if I did that,” Lyon said playfully.

Lyon said he has no regrets about joining the Air Force. In fact, he would encourage others to join up.

“I encourage anybody to join the military because of the simple fact that it makes you grow up,” he said. “I was 18, and it pushed me to grow up fast and see the world outside. Coming from Mineral Wells, I saw stuff that I had never seen in my life, and it was a good experience.”

Lyon’s Veterans Day celebrations include going to church and recognizing other veterans in the congregation. He said he goes out of his way

to thank veterans for their service.

“I’m thankful for all the veterans, for everybody that has written the check, if you will. It’s been told to me a long time ago that you write the check and whether the government cashes it or not is up to the government, meaning that you’re willing to put your life down; you’re willing to die for your country. Whether that happens or not is, in part, out of your control,” Lyon said. “I admire somebody that is willing to sacrifice and do that. So, I have a real big respect for veterans.”

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# Vietnam veteran relies on family to thrive

BY JEFF PRINCE  
jeff@azlenews.net

At 14, Roy Dean Foster was devastated after his parents divorced in the early 1960s.

The emotional baggage he carried afterward was heavy, and at 17, Foster dropped out of North Side High School in Fort Worth and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. He attended basic training in 1966, learned basic infantry and was assigned to the mess hall as a cook.

His emotional baggage, though, continued to grow. He served until 1969, seeing plenty of action along the way. The military trained him

## Roy Foster

and others in his platoon to become killing machines and a "true piece of equipment that questions no orders," he said.

From January 1966 to January 1967, Foster was stationed near Marble Mountain south of Da Nang. He was medevacked after a North Vietnamese sniper fired into the military base where Foster was stationed, injuring his hand.

"I was in the barrel house, and a sniper was on the outside perimeter putting

rounds in there, and I got this finger crushed by a barrel of gasoline that fell," said Foster, who lives in Briar.

He received burns in the same attack and was sent back home to heal for months. The memories remain vivid all these decades later.

"If you've never been in a combat zone, you have no idea of what that's about," he said. "Just think of it this way: You can put the worst tornado, the worst hurricane, the worst traffic wreck and the worst fire all together and you might have some idea of what a combat zone is about. It makes an impression on you that you don't ever get over."

Foster comes from a military family and knows plenty of relatives who served, and he was proud to do his part. The repercussions, though, are still felt physically and emotionally.

"You live with that, and you have to go through life with your guard up," he said.

He and many others who served in the military struggled to keep emotions - particularly anger and depression - contained after their wartime experiences, he said.

"Through our documentation, they fully understand what PTSD is about," he said. "We had to pay those prices. I want people to know what we deal with in our lives after coming through one of those things."

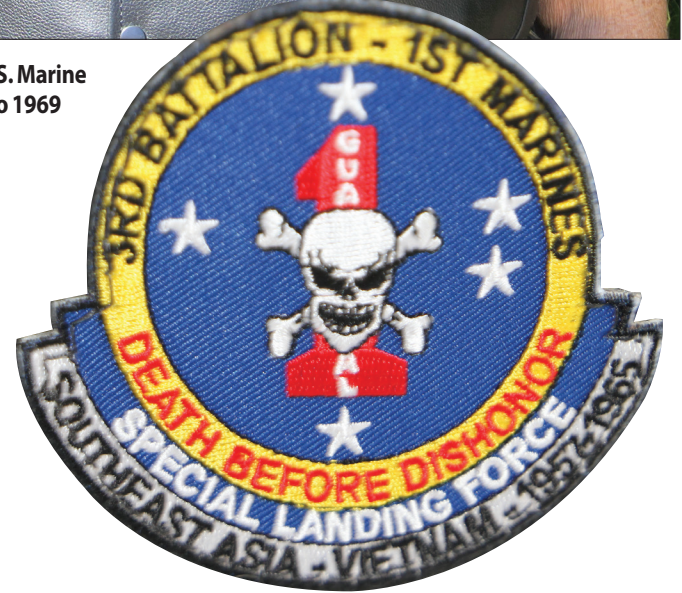
Resolution was made more difficult by the sometimes-scornful reaction from the public that Vietnam veterans endured upon returning stateside.

For Foster, finding peace meant letting go of hate.

"Over a period of time, if you let hate stay in you, and if you let a disease such as anger or whatever destroy you, you have to overcome that," he said. "The only way you can overcome that is that



Roy Dean Foster enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1965, served from 1966 to 1969 and saw combat in Vietnam.



you have got to communicate. You get it out of your system."

Foster credits his wife of 50 years, Judy Lynn Foster, and their daughters - Deanna, Laura, and Jessica - for helping him find happiness.

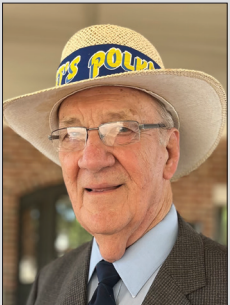
"I could not be me without the support of my wife of 50 years and my family, my girls," he said. "They carried a lot of brunt and a lot of things to help get through this."



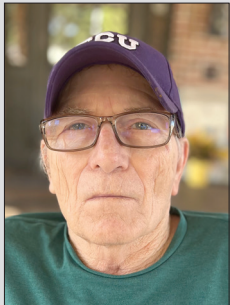
PHOTOS BY JEFF PRINCE

Patches and pins on Roy Dean Foster's leather vest help tell the story of his service.

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Bobby Baker



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Carmon Finney



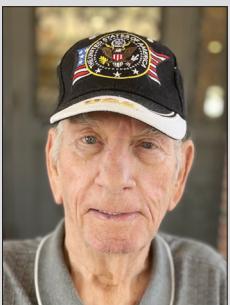
Dan Grant



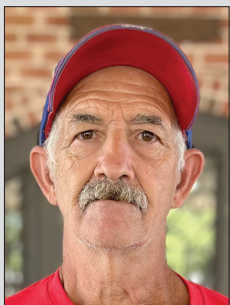
Billy Hamilton



Don Huggins



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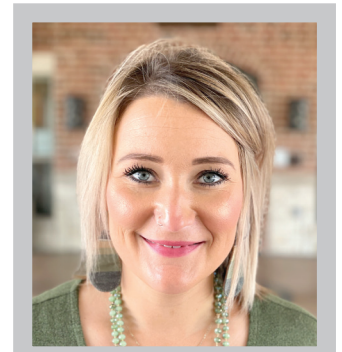
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# Veteran's Day Timeline

- 11 p.m. November 11, 1918**
- November 11, 1919**
- June 4, 1926**
- May 13, 1938**
- 1945**
- June 1, 1954**
- 1971**
- 1978**

The Great War (WWI) is formally ended when armistice with Germany was signed. U.S. President Woodrow Wilson addresses the nation on first "Armistice Day."  
 Congress adopts resolution for annual presidential proclamations and ceremonies.  
 Congress passes law to make November 11 a holiday "to be dedicated to the cause of world peace... known as 'Armistice Day.'"  
 WWII veteran Edmund Weeks leads delegation to extend Armistice Day to all veterans, not just those of WWI.  
 Congress passes law, replacing "Armistice" with "Veterans" for the national holiday, at the urging of veterans organizations.  
 Veterans Day moves to the fourth Monday of October, in line with the Uniform Monday Holiday Act.  
 Veterans Day is moved back to November 11 and becomes a day to honor all who have served.



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VETERANS DAY

2022

# Women soldiers: Serving in the Armed Forces since nation's birth

## FROM STAFF REPORTS

Women represent the fastest-growing population in both military service and the veteran community.

Today, in greater numbers than ever, women are stepping up to serve in new, critical and formidable roles contributing to our nation's national security.

But women soldiers are not new to the military. In the history of our nation, women have served alongside men since the Revolutionary War. When militias were forming and Gen. Washington's army was gaining numbers, mothers, wives, sisters and daughters accompanied their men, performing many of the service roles they would do at home—laundry, mending, cooking, tending to the sick.

Women became part of the victory, either by acting as spies or disguising themselves as men and fighting in the battles.

During the Civil War, women's military roles expanded. The role of battlefield nurse was formalized, and many women fought on both sides of the conflict.

By April 1917 during WWI, the U.S. Army Nurse Corps – formally established in 1901 – had 403 nurses in its active-duty ranks. But by June 1918, just over a year later, there were more than 3,000 American nurses deployed to British-operated hospitals in France. Conditions were often dangerously close to battlefronts, and while women could not vote, they were now serving openly in military service.

During this time, the “war at home” provided an opportunity for women to break out of traditional nursing and domestic military service. They began to replace the men who went overseas in much-needed jobs such as radio and telegraph operators, translators and other clerical duties. The Navy enlisted 12,000 “yeomanettes.”

When WWII began, men were sent overseas creating openings for non-combat stateside jobs. At this point, all four branches of the Armed Forces had women in their ranks, some 350,000 who served in uniform in that war.

At this point, in all four

branches of the Armed Forces, women's military units were permanently established.

**Army:** The Army formed the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, or WAACs, which was later renamed and restructured to form the active-duty Women's Army Corps, the WACS. The branch also formed the Army's Women Airforce Service Pilots, called WASPS.

**Navy:** The Navy formed the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service, WAVES.

**Marine Corps:** The Marines enlisted women in the Marine Corps Women's Reserve.

**Coast Guard:** The Coast Guard formed the Women's Reserve, SPARS, which stood for the Coast Guard motto – Semper Paratus – “Always Ready.”

In addition to clerical and medical jobs, women worked in cryptology, they drove trucks, they flew airplanes, they rigged parachutes and they trained their male counterparts in aerial combat tactics.

But women also served overseas in hazardous duty.

Some 57,000 women worked in the Army Nurses Corps. In total, 432 women were killed in the line of service during World War II and 88 were taken as POWs.

During the Korean War, some 120,000 women were serving in active-duty positions from 1950-1953. Although they could not serve in combat, they undertook new roles such as military police officers or engineers.

The Vietnam War saw the expansion of women's roles in the Armed Forces, allowing them to train for more technical jobs such as air traffic controllers and intelligence officers. By 1972, women were able to be promoted and even to command units that included men.

Since the Vietnam War, there have been many “firsts” for women as the military opportunities expanded, but soon it became routine for women to serve, to receive promotions and medals, to work in roles traditionally done by men.

By 2013, the ban on women serving in direct combat areas was lifted. By 2015, it was



PHOTO COURTESY USO.ORG.

**Airman 1st Class Jessica Keith, 17th Training Wing, renders a salute as the United States Flag goes by during the San Angelo Veterans Day Parade Nov. 6. Airman Keith participated in the parade to honor the men and women who have served before her.**

fully implemented, opening up thousands of jobs for women in the military, including the opportunity to train and qualify as Navy SEALs and Army Rangers.

More than 300,000 women have served in Iraq and

Afghanistan since 9/11, and more than 9,000 have earned Combat Action Badges.

Today, women make up 16% of our nation's Armed Forces, proudly serving in every branch of the U.S. military.

Source: uso.org.



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U.S. Army • 7 Years  
1999-2007



**MONTE W. MOORE**  
U.S. Army  
2 Years



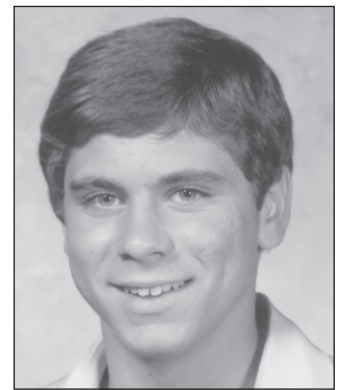
**BARRY NEFF**  
U.S. Air Force Sr. Master  
Sergeant • 1979-1999



**CLYDE NOAKES**  
Air Force Reserves  
1967-1973



**ROGER OWENS**  
U.S. Army  
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U.S. Navy  
1970-1981



**HAROLD PANKEY**  
U.S. Air Force Lt Colonel  
1948-1974



**TODD PARKER**  
U.S. Navy  
2005-2009



**ERIC PARRISH**  
U.S. Air Force • 2010-2016  
Air Force Reserves  
2016-Present



**PHILLIP COLE PAYNE**  
U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt.  
1999-2006



**CYNTHIA PAYNE**  
U.S. Army • 1991-2002  
Gulf War



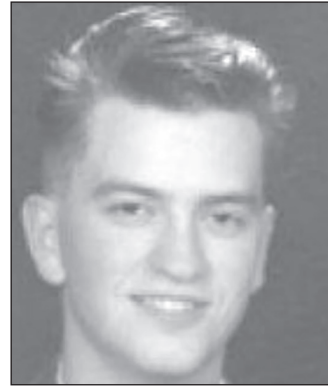
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**JOHN PECK**  
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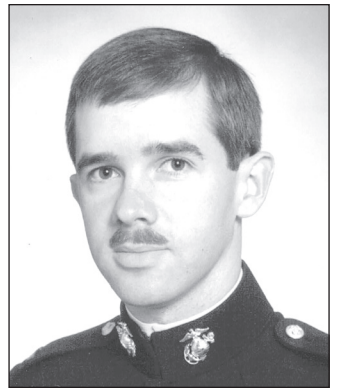
**OTTO ROESICKE**  
U.S. Army Air Corp WWII



**JOSEPH ROGERS**  
U.S. Air Force Capt 4 Years



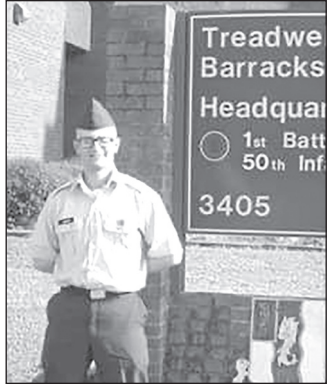
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Corporal, Army



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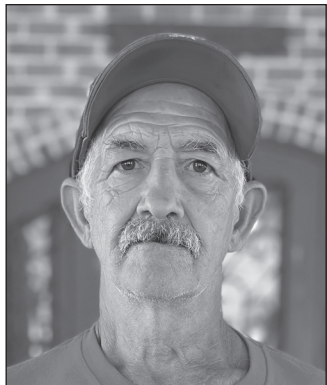
**BILL SELLMAN**  
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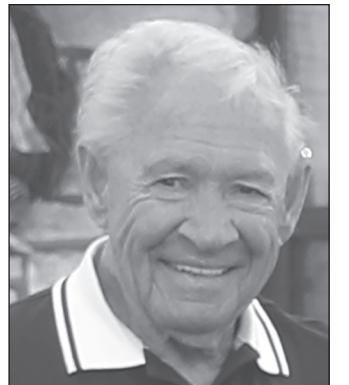
**DWAYNE D. SIMON**  
U.S. Army 1952-1954 Cpl. Band 179th & 5th



**GARY S. SMITH**  
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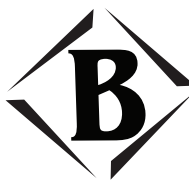
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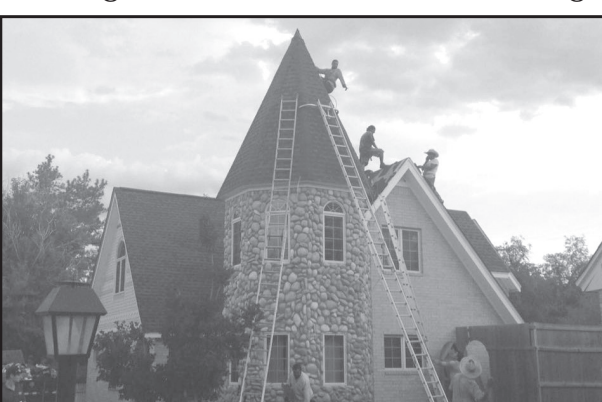
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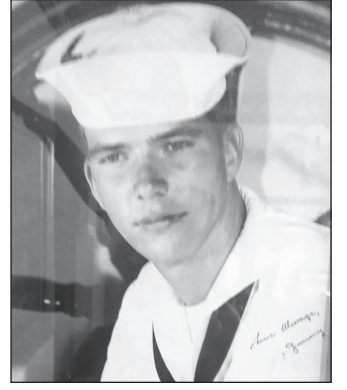
**DAVID SNEED**  
U.S. Navy  
Jan 1967 - Dec 1967



**DAVID WAYNE SNEED**  
U.S. Air Force  
1990-1994



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U.S. Coast Guard Ship  
Captain • 4 Years  
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U.S. Army 1968-1996 LtCol



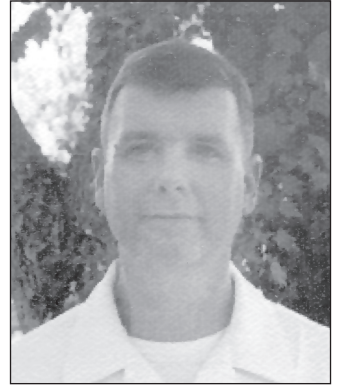
**ASHLEY STRICKLAND**  
U.S. Navy ABE3  
5 Years



**CHARLES STRICKLAND JR.**  
1966-1969 Combat Engineer



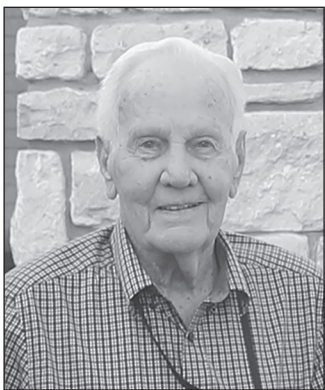
**JOHN SUTTON**  
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Petty Officer • 1996-2004



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**JAMES SWAN**  
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**FRANKLIN TAYLOR**  
Sergeant, Navy



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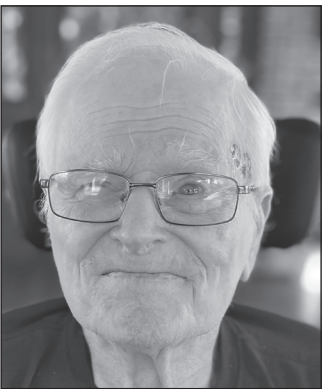
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U.S. Air Force • 1962-1982  
Vietnam • Bronze Star



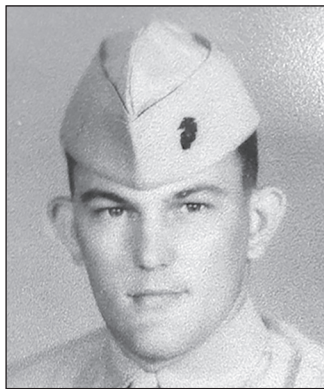
**DAVID UTTER**  
U.S. Air Force Sgt



**SHAUN WAITS**  
U.S. Marine Corp  
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**JERRY WALDEN**  
U.S. Air Force • 1965-1969  
Vietnam



**JERRY E. WALSTON**  
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# Five ways to really thank a veteran

BY JAY ANN COX  
Staff Writer

The U.S. is indeed a grateful nation. A 2019 survey by the Cohen Veterans Network with the Harris Poll showed that 91% of civilians have thanked a service member. However, nearly half of the veterans and active-duty service members polled (49%) were uneasy when told "thank you for your service." Mostly, they were uncomfortable because they were unsure how to re-

spond to civilian thanks.

Here are some ideas for how to support veterans and bridge that awkward gap that might be caused by the very best intentions.

Ask about their duties in the military, where they have been stationed and when they served. And then listen. It's as easy as striking up a conversation with any other stranger.

If your club or civic group has regular speakers at meetings, invite a veteran to speak

at the event. Veterans have great experience with crisis management and leadership, and maybe some funny stories to boot.

Hire a veteran or a military spouse for your business. Supporting military families through gainful employment helps active-duty spouses keep their skills sharp and provides veterans with that leg-up in the job market after their service.

Donate your time, money and even your frequent flier

miles. Local veterans and wounded warrior organizations might need legal or accounting pro bono hours. Many groups have raffles, auctions, fish fries that benefit veterans as well as their community. Check into the Hero Miles program at Fisher House (fisherhouse.org), which helps veterans and their families with transportation between home, medical centers and duty stations.

Use veteran-owned businesses or veteran entrepre-

neurs for goods and services. If you own a business or are responsible for purchasing decisions, consider adding these businesses to your supply chain.

Despite the unease some may feel when thanked, veterans have a decided need for validation of the sacrifice - for all the missed holidays, soccer games, school plays and anniversaries; for the loss of limbs and eyes; for the bones broken and com-

rades lost. So if all you have at the moment is "thanks for your service and sacrifice," go ahead and say it. It will be appreciated.

During an inspiring speech several years ago, former Green Beret John Wayne Walding, a wounded veteran, said his response to "thank you" is to simply reply "you're welcome. You, and this country, are worth it."



**JOHN WHITTAKER**  
U.S. Navy • 1961-1966



**MAYLYNN HURD WHITLOCK**  
U.S. Navy 4 Years



**BILL WHITE**  
U.S. Air Force 1959-1963



**DAVID WHITE**  
U.S. Marine Corps 1962-1966



**RICK WHITE**  
U.S. Air Force • 1988-1992



**CHARLES WHITLOCK**  
U.S. Navy • 4 Years  
U.S. Marine Corps • 4 Years



**RUSTY WHITT**  
U.S. Army Special Forces  
2003-2009



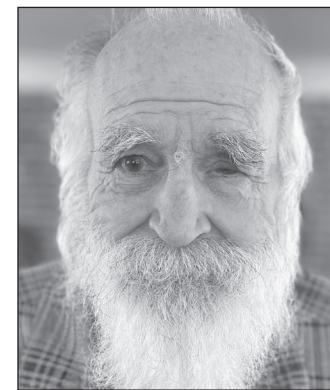
**JIMMY C. WILEY**  
U.S. Air Force • 20 Years  
1951-1971



**KIMBERLY WINSTON**  
U.S. Army 2007-2012  
Specialist



**DAVID L. WOOD**  
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**MARVIN WYLEY**  
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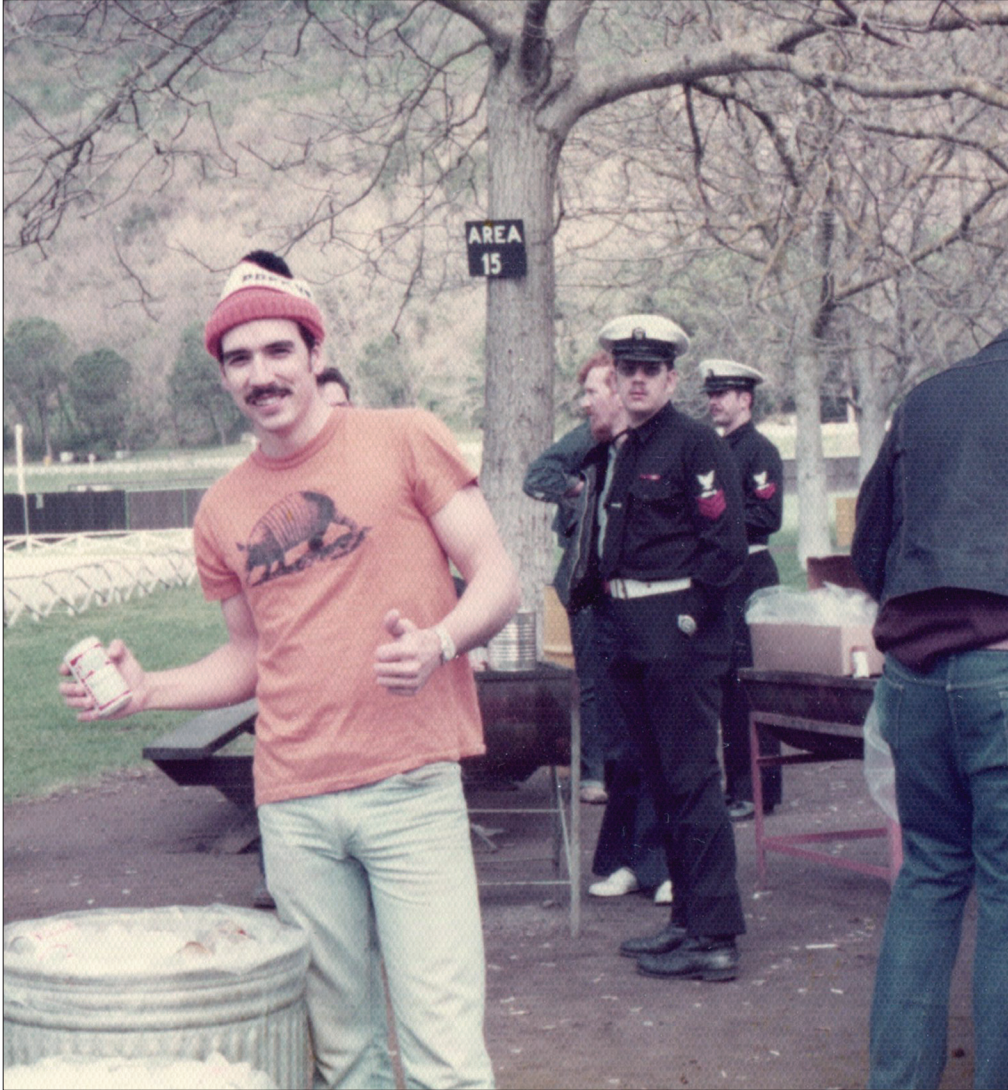
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COURTESY PHOTO  
One of Conley's favorite duty stations was in Italy.

**CONLEY**  
FROM PAGE 1C

a petty officer third class. "I was a torpedoman," he said. "We tended to the torpedoes of the submarines of the U.S. Navy. We made sure they were ready for action." Conley said that the most memorable part of his time in service with the Navy was all of the different countries that he was able to go, like Italy. "I was overseas the whole four years in different places," said Conley. "Two years in the Mediterranean Sea then two years in Guam." He said that what kept him

going while he was so far from home as he served in the Navy was the excitement of the job, the oceans that he crossed, and the different countries that they visited along the way. Working with torpedoes was an exciting part of the work he did in the Navy. His most memorable moment, he said, was when he went out on a submarine on an exercise shot of a torpedo and he was the one that was able to push the button to eject it at a target. Conley's own father served in the Army during the Korean War, and he feels that military service is something that "every young man"

should have to do for at least two years. "It teaches you respect for others," he said. After the Navy, Conley came home and started a water well company, which he ran for 30 years before running for county commissioner. He has been serving in that post now for 14 years. Conley has two daughters and four grandchildren who are all very special to him. Though he isn't traveling the world these days, he does get to spend time with them while he's closer to home. "I have lived in Springtown all my life — what a great place to live."

**FRISKE**  
FROM PAGE 6C

like mechanics." He said he liked the camaraderie and atmosphere of the service, a place where service to others is essential. "We knew we were there keeping our freedom for everybody," he said. "It's just always been my thing

- freedom." He joined the Army's delayed entry program. "I was 17 when I showed up for basic training, turned 18 when my first week of basic training," he said, noting he had basic training at Fort Dix, New Jersey. He is still friends with people he knew in the military, although everyone is scattered now. While in the military, his

job gave him an opportunity to meet people from a number of rank backgrounds. Friske, whose last rank was staff sergeant, was the head tracked vehicle inspector for all the rotation units that showed up to Fort Irwin. "I interacted with everybody, from the colonel on down to a private," he said. "I helped train them on how to work on the tracked equipment."

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For over 24 years of doing physical therapy I have had the opportunity to work with men and women from all branches of the United States Military. They all have a story to tell, and I am fortunate to be able to listen, learn, and understand what they all went through. I've been able to work one on one with combat veterans, cooks, mechanics, and real life jet fighter pilots (not the ones you see in the movies). To me, these are our nation's real-time heroes. Northwest Physical Therapy thanks all veterans, and greatly appreciates their service for the United States of America.  
- Shane Wall, Owner - Physical Therapist

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(left to right) Jackie "Jack" Smith, Staff Sergeant, USAF; Billy Myers, Tech Sergeant, 20 yrs. in USAF; Franklin Roop, Corporal, Army; James Swan, Army; Franklin Taylor, Sergeant, Navy; Shirley Hubbard, Civilian Civil Service, 32 yrs. in USAF; Kathleen Ramsey, Staff Sergeant, Army; John Peck, Corporal, Army

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