



# Azle News

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## Relic of USS Arizona on permanent display at AHS



The stories of that day will continue to be shared

BY JESSICA MCKINNEY  
azlereporter@azlenews.net

display in the school's lobby. This is the first piece of the World War II battleship to be placed on permanent display at a Texas high school.

March 30 was a night of emotion and pride at Azle High School as a piece of the USS Arizona was put on

SEE **USS ARIZONA**, PAGE 12A.

Randy Stratton (center), son of Pearl Harbor survivor Donald Stratton, was present at the ceremony at Azle High School. Photo by Jessica McKinney

## City continues work on Ash Street drainage project

BY DON MUNSCH  
don@azlenews.net

Azle city leaders continue to move forward with the Ash Street drainage project.

Rick White, public services director for the city, provided an overview of the situation.

"There's been an ongoing issue over there for several years that we've been working on," White said. "At the end of Ash, in the Park (Street) area, the drainage that goes through there is too small to carry the amount of water that comes down that street, so what we've got to do is reconstruct that drain-

age in that Park and Ash area to better carry that water."

Two 30-inch culverts exist at the drainage area at Park and Ash, but two new culverts that will be constructed are 5 feet by 3 feet in diameter, will be box-shaped in design and placed under the road. There will be various-sized culverts throughout the project, White said.

Construction bids on the project arrived March 24. The engineer will tabulate the bids and conduct due diligence on the companies, and then once all that work is finished, the engineer will make a recommendation that the city will deliver to council

for approval. Once the council approves the bids and the construction documents are drawn up and signed, then construction will start.

As far as the timeline, White hopes council can consider the bids in the first part of April, and then after all the contracts and paperwork are finished by the end of April, a notice to proceed will be issued in May and then shortly thereafter the contractor will start work, White said.

The project estimate is \$1.8 million, and bids could arrive below or over the \$1.8

SEE **ASH STREET**, PAGE 3A.



This is a view of Ash Street in Azle where a drainage project will be conducted.

Photo by Don Munsch

## They keep the lights on: Linemen toil no matter the conditions



Elijah Long, journeyman lineman, left, and Blake Creamer, apprentice lineman, right, work for Tri-County Electric Co-Op. Courtesy Photo Tri-County Electric

BY DON MUNSCH  
don@azlenews.net

Kevin Helton's line of work involves toiling in challenging conditions and situations for Tri-County Electric Co-op Inc. in Azle.

But the hard work and long hours deliver some significant satisfaction – helping restore electricity – as well as some perks.

One day on the job – a particularly tough, long job – Helton and his coworkers were treated to some Subway sandwiches, drinks and other refreshments by an appreciative customer.

"You go back and you tell them, hey, thank you very much," Helton said. "She's like, 'No, thank you.' They

**FOURTH IN** an ongoing series of stories about the jobs people do in Azle.

actually got to sit there and see what we had to go through. They made me feel good."

Helton and Shane Powell, both of whom are assistant line superintendents for Tri-County Electric, said their company has 10-12 openings now for linemen, and that covers all of the offices in the area. Powell has worked for Tri-County for six months and has worked in the line worker field since 2001, when he graduated from line school. He worked for United Power outside Denver. Helton has 27 years total at Tri-County.

Someone wanting to become a lineman enters a training program.

"It takes a strong person – physically and mentally," Helton said about what it takes to be a lineman.

Tri-County Electric Co-op provides all training for an individual starting as an apprentice, including pole climbing school, said Annie McGinnis, director of communications for Tri-County Electric. There are lineman schools throughout the nation that provide training, including climbing, but Tri-County does not require individuals to go through lineman school. Climbing school is just one component

SEE **LINEMEN**, PAGE 11A.



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Haylee Allphin (left) and Caden Christian were named as the first and second-place winners of the Optimist Club of Azle's essay contest. Club president Leon Williams (right) announced the winners during the Friday morning meeting. Not pictured: Katy Conwell. Photo by Jessica McKinney

# Azle Optimists name three essay winners

BY JESSICA MCKINNEY  
azlereporter@azlenews.net

Azle High School students were invited to take part in the Optimist Club of Azle's annual essay contest. There were 15 submissions for this year's contest and the top three essay writers were recognized at the club's meeting on April 1.

The topic for this year's essay was "How does an optimistic mindset change my tomorrow?"

Senior Haylee Allphin's essay won first place and

earned her a \$500 prize from the club.

Allphin said in her essay that "being an optimist is seeing the silver lining in all life endeavors no matter if it is good or bad and aiding everyone around you to be a better version of themselves."

The second-place essay was written by Caden Christian and won \$300.

Christian said in his essay that "an optimistic outlook on life would change my future by better preparing me for the hardships that I

will face on my journey to achieve my dream career."

Katy Conwell won third with her essay and earned a \$200 prize.

Conwell's essay concluded by saying that "an optimistic mindset will allow you to be so much happier."

"When you're always doubting yourself and beating yourself up, you will never see the joys in life. Tomorrow is not guaranteed but having a positive outlook on life will keep you excited to wake up the next morning."

# Azle Manor Walk-a-Thon



Residents and staff at Azle Manor held a Walk-a-Thon on March 30 to raise money for the dietary manager at Faith Community Nursing Rehab in Jacksboro. The employee's home was destroyed in the EF-3 tornado that went through her town on March 22, destroying the high school and several nearby homes. Her home was almost a total loss. Azle Manor was able to raise over \$2,500 to be donated to the employee to help in whatever way they need. Kip Kruger, administrator for Azle Manor, and a few department managers will be delivering the check on Wednesday. "It was wonderful to see how everyone joined in to participate in a cause greater than us," Kruger said. "It's important that we in health care give back to people in need. It's a testament that we're growing stronger together by the outpouring of the people that donated, supported and walked for the cause. I think the residents loved it the most."

Photo by Jessica McKinney

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ASH STREET, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.



This is a view of the intersection of Park and Ash streets in Azle.

Photo by Don Munsch

million tag. The city is obligated to accept the lowest responsible bid that also is the best value for the city, White said.

This project is mostly a concrete job, White said.

“We’re redoing the street all the way down to Lake Ridge and we’re redoing all in concrete, and then there’s a lot of concrete drive approaches and things that are going to be fixed, so it’s mostly a concrete job,” he said. “The prices on concrete are going through the roof because there’s so much construction going on.”

The project’s cost has risen from the initial \$680,000 to \$1.8 million, and that’s the entire project cost, White said. Jacob & Martin engineering firm had con-

ducted an informal estimate of what it thought it would cost before it did the survey work and the complete design, and there was more involved to the project than the company representatives thought, White said.

Plus, White said, there have been price increases that have happened with construction materials, such as concrete.

While a local resident, Jim Kirk, has appeared at city council meetings and lobbied city leaders to make changes in the project for various reasons, Azle’s city attorney scrutinized all contracts with Jacob & Martin and gave the city the green light to move ahead with the project, White said, and that was corroborated by City

Manager Tom Muir and City Attorney Cara White. Jacob & Martin has been the city engineer for several years, and the city has not had any complaints with its work, Rick White said.

Muir said Jacob & Martin does have experience with drainage projects – which J&M engineer Derek Turner verified – and Muir said he has found Jacob & Martin to be reliable. He said the project will “vastly improve” the drainage issues.

The construction begin date depends on a number of factors, such as obtaining materials and when the contractor can get a crew here to start working, Rick White said. The contractor will have 150 days to work on the project.

# Suspecting a cheating heart

Dear Frankie,

Rascal is my friend and neighbor. We have been sharing a ride to the dog park for years. Recently he has been spending a lot of his time with Maisie. The other day Rascal didn’t catch a ride because he went to a birthday party for his long-term girlfriend, Gigi. As soon as I came in the gate, Maisie ran over and started talking about Rascal. She said he constantly tells her how beautiful she is and how much he enjoys spending time with her. Maisie then asked if Rascal had told me they were dating. She could have knocked me over with a feather. When I had time to recover, I told her that Rascal wasn’t one for discussing feelings, so I wasn’t surprised he hadn’t said anything. I don’t know what I should do with this



## DEAR FRANKIE

By Geneva Woodruff

Frankie is a rescue dog and an emotional support animal for Geneva Woodruff. Woodruff is a retired educator.

information. Is it up to me to say something to Rascal, Gigi, or Maisie or not say anything?

Best, Apple

Dear Apple,

If what Maisie told you about them dating is true, I can see how difficult it would be for you to learn that your friend Rascal had been two-timing his girlfriend. Is it possible that Maisie makes more of Rascal’s comments than he intended? Saying you enjoy someone’s company and think they are beautiful doesn’t necessarily mean you are dating. Before you

jump to conclusions, you might observe how they behave with one another over the next few weeks. If you notice Rascal’s behavior toward Maisie seems more than casual, you might tell him, in private, what you have observed and ask him point-blank, “What is going on between you and Maisie?” How he behaves after that is up to him. There is nothing more for you to do. You have acted responsibly and respectfully to all involved: You have not accused him, tattled on Maisie, or looked the other way.

Best, Frankie

### Azle School Menu April 11-15, 2022

<b>BREAKFAST:</b> GRADES PK-4th \$1.55 GRADES 5-12th \$1.50 Employees \$1.85 Guests \$1.85	<b>LUNCH:</b> GRADES PK-12th \$2.65 Employees \$3.20 Guests \$3.55 Gold Card Guests \$3.15	<b>A La Carte Items</b> • Milk/Juice 75¢ • Bottled water \$1.00 • Ice Cream \$1.00
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**PreK - 4th**

**BREAKFAST: Everyday - Assorted Fruits and Cereal, Juice, White or Chocolate Milk, Graham Crackers, Toast,**  
 Mon Chocolate Toaster Pastry **Tues** Potato & Turkey Sausage Breakfast Burrito **Weds** Warm Breakfast on a Stick  
**Thurs** Vanilla Yogurt Cup w/ Graham Crackers **Fri** No school

**LUNCH: Everyday - Variety of milk. Your choice of 1 entree & 1 fruit or juice**  
 Mon Fish Nugget Sea Strapes w/Roll, Spaghetti Marinara w/Meatballs & Roll, Peppered Broccoli Florets **Tues** Chili con Carne w/ Kidney Beans & Cinnamon Roll, Scramble Eggs with Bacon and Toast, Crispy Tater Tots **Weds** Grande Cheesy Chicken Nachos, Grande Beefy Nachos, Seasoned Mexican Black Beans **Thurs** BBQ Sloppy Joe Sandwich, Chicken Nugget Potato Bowl w/Roll, Seasoned Curly Fries, Fresh Banana **Fri** No school

**GRADES 5TH - 8TH**

**BREAKFAST: Everyday - Assorted Fruits and Cereal, Juice, White or Chocolate Milk, Graham Crackers,**  
 Mon Egg & Bacon Breakfast Tacos **Tues** Cheesy Scrambled Eggs w/ Waffles **Weds** Iced Cinnamon Roll w/ Sausage Patty  
**Thurs** Mini Strawberry Cream Cheese Bagels **Fri** No school

**LUNCH: Everyday - Variety of milk. Your choice of 1 entree & 1 fruit or juice, rolls, crackers. Variety of burgers.**  
 Mon Spicy Chicken Patty Sandwich, Grilled Cheeseburger, Breaded Chicken Patty Sandwich, Juicy Hamburger, Pepperoni & Jalapeno Pizza, Classic Pepperoni Pizza, Sweet & Sour Chicken w/Brown Rice, Chicken Teriyaki w/Rice, Crispy Straight Out Fries, Seasoned Black Eyes Peas **Tues** Spicy Chicken Patty Sandwich, Grilled Cheeseburger, Breaded Chicken Patty Sandwich, Juicy Hamburger, Classic Pepperoni Pizza, Turkey Ham Hawaiian Pizza, General Tso’s Chicken w/Lomein Noodles, Kung Pao Chicken w/Lomein Noodles, Tomato Slices & Pickles, Steamed Crinkle Carrots, Crispy Tater Tots **Weds** Spicy Chicken Patty Sandwich, Grilled Cheeseburger, Breaded Chicken Patty Sandwich, Hamburger, Pepperoni Pizza, Pork Sausage Crumble Pizza, Teriyaki Meatballs & Broccoli w/ Brown Rice & Egg Roll, Chicken Teriyaki w/Rice & Egg Roll, Spiced Green Beans, **Thurs** Spicy Chicken Patty Sandwich, Grilled Cheeseburger, Breaded Chicken Patty Sandwich, Hamburger, Cheese Pizza, Supreme Pizza, Beef & Broccoli Meatballs w/Fried Rice, Zesty Orange Meatballs w/Rice, Shredded Lettuce, Tomato Slices & Pickles, Fresh Baby Carrots, Oven-Roasted Potato Wedges **Fri** No school

**HIGH SCHOOL**

**BREAKFAST: Everyday: Fruit • Cereal • Juice • Milk/Chocolate Milk • Graham Crackers**  
 Egg Scramble w/ Turkey Sausage & Biscuit • Scrambled Eggs w/ Biscuit • Turkey Sausage Patty w/ Biscuit • Hash Brown  
 Mon Egg, Turkey Sausage & Cheese Tornado **Tues** Egg, Turkey Sausage & Cheese Tornado **Weds** Blueberry Muffin w/ String Cheese  
**Thurs** Cinnamon & Sugar Donut Holes **Fri** Egg, Turkey Sausage & Cheese Tornado

**LUNCH: Everyday: Milk • Pizza • Salad. Your choice of 1 entree & 1 fruit or juice BALLPARK CLASSICS: Ham/Cheeseburger**  
 Breaded Chicken Patty Sandwich • Spicy Chicken Patty Sandwich • Golden Chicken Corn Dog  
 Mon Ground Beef Soft Flour Tacos, Cheesy Chicken Flour Tacos, Crispy Popcorn Chicken Wrap, Delicious Cheese Pizza, Classic Pepperoni Pizza, Spaghetti Marinara w/Meatballs, Cheesy Meatball Sub, Sweet & Sour Chicken w/Brown Rice, Crispy Kung Pao Chicken w/Brown Rice, Chicken Nugget Potato Bowl w/Roll, Cilantro Lime Rice, Classic Refried Beans, Peppered Broccoli Florets **Tues** Grande Beefy Nachos, Grande Homemade Cheesy Nachos, Grande Chicken Nachos, BBQ Diced Chicken Wrap, Veggie Pizza, Pepperoni Pizza, Southern Chicken & Dumplings, Tater Tot Casserole w/ Biscuit, Orange Chicken w/ Brown Rice, Chili Garlic Popcorn Chicken w/Rice, Country Fried Steak Potato Bowl w/Roll, Classic Refried Beans, Spiced Green Beans, Fresh Salsa **Weds** Scratch-Made Beef Enchiladas, Verde Chicken Enchiladas, Scratch-Made Cheese Enchiladas, Crispy Popcorn Chicken Wrap, Cheese Pizza, Pepperoni Pizza, Oven Baked Beef Lasagna w/ Breadstick, Aimee’s Chicken Spaghetti Casserole, Teriyaki Meatballs & Broccoli w/ Brown Rice & Egg Roll, Chicken Teriyaki w/Rice & Egg Roll **Thurs** Homemade Beef Burrito, Homemade Chicken Burrito, Homemade Bean & Cheese Burrito, Cheesy Turkey Melt, Delicious Cheese Pizza, Pork Sausage Crumble Pizza, Chicken Pot Pie w/ Biscuit, Chilled Chicken Fajita Sandwich, Sweet & Sour Chicken w/Lomein Noodles, Sweet & Sour Beef w/Lomein Noodles, Chicken Tender Potato Bowl w/Roll **Fri** No school

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J.D.’s Fireworks	All Attendees

## A huge thank you from all the Azle Lions Club members.

# AZLE AREA CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

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# Obituaries

## Lori Jean Barnhart 1951 - 2022

Lori Jean Barnhart, 70, passed away on March 28, 2022, at her residence in Azle, Texas.

Memorial service is at 6 p.m. on Friday, April 8, 2022 at Azle Methodist Church, 200 Church Street, Azle, Texas, 76020.

Lori was the youngest of two daughters to Amy and Kirk Strayer; born in Denver, Colorado on Sept. 16, 1951, raised in Kansas, then spent her adulthood in Fort Worth, Texas. She retired from Lockheed Martin in 2016 after 38 years of service.

Lori was an active member of the community, she involved herself in many social groups and touched many lives along the way. Lori was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, aunt, daughter, and friend; to know her was to love her.

She was preceded in



death by her parents.

She is survived by her loving husband, Greg Barnhart; stepchildren, Jessica Stephens, Jason Barnhart and his wife Sharia Barnhart; grandchildren: Tyler, Hunter, and Emmy Stephens; sister, Brenda Ryan and her husband Mike Ryan; numerous nieces and nephews; and countless close friends and family members.

*The Azle News,  
April 6, 2022 Edition*

## Carla Sapp 1962 - 2022

A funeral service for Carla Sapp, 59, of Azle, Texas, formerly of Glendive, will be 1:00 p.m. Mountain Time, Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at Zion Lutheran Church in Glendive, Montana with Pastor Brenda Frelsi. Visitation will take place one hour prior to the service at the church. Burial will follow at Dawson Memorial Cemetery, Glendive.

For those unable to attend, Carla's funeral will be livestreamed on the Stevenson Funeral Home website. Scroll below Carla's obituary. The livestream will be available 10 minutes prior to the service.

Carla passed away at her home on February 11, 2022.

Carla Nadine was born October 12, 1962 in Sidney, Montana, the daughter of Douglas and Patsy (Mastvelten) Barone. She was raised and educated in Baker, Montana and graduated from Baker High School with the class of 1981. Carla continued her education at Eastern Montana College in Billings, Montana.

In 1984, Carla went to work for Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative as a Customer Service Representative until July of 2000. She married Bruce Sapp on August 19, 2000 at Zion Lutheran Church in Glendive, Montana. Carla joined Bruce at his home on Eagle Mountain Lake in Azle, Texas. She embraced the Texas way of life and wore her Texas t-shirts proudly but never forgot her Montana roots. Carla began employment with Tri-County Electric Cooperative as their Member Services Representative in 2001. She liked her job and worked in various positions until she retired in 2019. Carla enjoyed yearly visits to Montana to visit relatives and going out to the farm to look for agates along the Yellowstone River.

She was fond of growing outdoor plants, especially tomatoes and transplanted Montana cottonwood trees. Carla was a very doting wife, always cooking a de-



licious meal and trying new recipes. She loved cats and loved taking care of them. Carla enjoyed shopping the stores of the Fort Worth area, collecting angel figurines, Zumba and going to painting workshops with her friends. She enjoyed sending cards to friends and relatives for almost every occasion and always sent out her Christmas letter every year. Carla was a kind and caring soul for many people. She was always willing to listen and be there to help out when needed.

Carla is survived by her husband, Bruce of Azle, Texas; sisters, Jan (Wes) Froehlich of Hillsboro, North Dakota; Teresa (Bill) Wade of Glendive, Montana; brothers, Doug (Rita) Barone of Casper, Wyoming; Tim (Dauphine) Barone of Mill Creek, Washington; father-in-law, Henry Sapp of Havre, Montana; sisters-in-law, Jenni (Tom) Scott of Worden, Montana; Patsy (Steve) Smart of Three Forks, Montana; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Douglas and Patsy Barone; grandparents, Elmer and Ruth Mastvelten, Rene and Minnie Barone; and mother-in-law, Juliet Sapp.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials in Carla's name be given to a charity of your choice.

Remembrances and condolences may be shared with the family at [www.stevensonfuneralhome.com](http://www.stevensonfuneralhome.com)

Stevenson Funeral Home - Dickinson, North Dakota

*The Azle News,  
April 6, 2022 Edition*

# The customer is not always right

## 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).

Hey, Google! Who said the customer is always right?

And what was he drinking?

Unfortunately, Google does not give a definitive answer to that question. "The customer is always right" has been attributed to Marshall Field, a retailer who started a famous department store in Chicago in 1852.

The phrase has also been attributed to Harry Gordon Selfridge who started Selfridge's Department Store in London. Those who point to Selfridge as the phrase-coiner say it originated in 1909.

Regardless of who said it first, we know it came into prominence in the early 20th century and became a motto of customer service. The idea was that customers should expect to have a superb experience when they shopped at one of these establishments.

In 1974, Burger King took the idea a little further with a new slogan to emphasize their superior customer experience over their rival McDonald's: "Have it your way."

If I'm the customer, I like being right and having things my way.

I'm not kidding! Spoil me. Pamper me. Make my life convenient.

No, not convenient; make my life abundant. Make me feel important.

And don't forget that you exist for my pleasure. You, customer service person, are here to serve me.

Can I get an AMEN! There's only one problem with that.

It's completely wrong.

There is not a single, solitary person on this planet that exists for my pleasure.

There is not a single, solitary person on this planet that exists for my convenience.

There is not a single, solitary person on this planet that exists for my abundance or sense of importance.

If my pleasure, convenience, abundance, or importance requires that

those things be minimized in someone else, then mine are illegitimate.

I suggest that we see ourselves not as customers to be served, but as contributors to the kind of community we want to live in.

The kind of community where anyone who serves me in a moment in time feels valued and appreciated for their efforts and their contribution to the community and where I serve them back with respectful treatment and affirming words of gratitude, recognizing that their service in this moment doesn't mean that they are my servants.

The kind of community where we move easily from giving to receiving and back to giving without any thought for who "deserves" the role of servant or consumer. We just serve each other according to the needs of the moment.

As we approach Easter, I'm thinking of the words of the Apostle Paul who wrote to the Philippians:

*Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! (Philippians 2:3-8)*

How amazing is that? If anyone deserved to be always served—to have it completely His way—it was the One who was God in the flesh. And yet, He served our greatest need. Let us have the same mindset. Be amazing today, my friend.

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# District begins stages for construction projects

BY DON MUNSCHE  
don@azlenews.net

The Azle ISD board at its meeting last month approved having the district administration negotiate the contract for work on schools related to passage of items on the November 2021 bond election.

Steele & Freeman, based in Fort Worth, was the contractor that was ranked first in the requests for qualifications process, and administration now begins negotiations with that company. "They've actually done

work for the district before," said Matt Adams, assistant superintendent of finance and operations. "They built the indoor (athletic) facility that's at the high school and they did some renovation work at the high school at that time, too."

Voters in the November 2021 bond approved improvements at the high school: expanding the kitchen cafeteria, building an additional welding shop, building a science wing with new science labs and renovating existing class-

rooms at the high school.

District officials will hammer out a contract with Steele & Freeman and then that company's representatives will start looking at drawings – the district is in the process of designing the project now – and then the project will be put to bid with all the subcontractors.

"Once those bids are accepted, then they'll start construction," Adams said. "I would say that at the earliest, construction will start sometime this summer."

Ten categories are ex-

amined when the district selected a contractor from the RFQ process, and of the 100 points that can be scored, Steele & Freeman had the highest number of points. A company is evaluated on items such as reference checks and experience. That experience includes not just school construction but experience working on a campus that is in operation, Adams said.

The bond approved in November was a little more than \$24 million.

Construction prices are

rising, and at last month's meeting, the board heard about factors affecting those costs. Sloan Harris, CEO and partner with VLK Architects, discussed costs and other issues, such as labor shortages, timelines and supply chain issues, in a separate agenda item.

Adams said these construction issues could affect some timelines and push back the completion dates, but the district will find a way to get them finished.

"From the bonds that passed in May to the bonds

package that we put together for November, there was at least some time in there that we could factor in some inflation," Adams said, explaining how the district plans for these issues that can emerge during projects.

Construction begins on the new elementary school early this summer and it will open in fall 2023. The new campus was approved in the May 2021 bond.

"We're actually closing bids on that project next week," Adams said March 24.

## BOOK REVIEW

# Major clean-up long overdue? There's a better way to declutter

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

The carpet in your living room is brown.

At least that's the way you remember it. You haven't actually seen it in a few years because you've got stuff from corner to corner, held down by furniture you don't sit on, anchored by things you don't use. Time for a major clean-up, and it can start with "Keep the Memories, Lose the Stuff" by Matt Paxton with Jordan Michael Smith.

Clean-up specialist, "hoarders" expert, and "Legacy List" creator Matt Paxton wasn't always a guy who deals with clutter.

Back when he was a new college grad, he was "selfish and self-indulgent" and was fired from his first job so he moved back in with his fa-

ther. Sadly, months later, his father died of cancer, and it was left up to Paxton to clear out the family home. Shortly after that, an elderly lady from church asked for help cleaning up. And then there was another request, and another, and Paxton learned each time. Soon, he had a better way to declutter – one that works.

The first step is to "uncover the stories behind the stuff." Have someone nearby to listen to why you kept something, to honor its role in your memories. Surprisingly, that makes it easier to relinquish items you don't need anymore.

Are you selling, moving, tossing, or just tired of a mess? Decide why you're decluttering and what your "finish line" will look like. Be sure to measure the space

where you'll put the things you're keeping, and "be smart about" using storage units.

Next, tackle the clutter in 10-minute increments, and promise yourself that you'll do that every day. Know where to ask for professional help; in fact, accept help, period. Get rid of any guilt you might be feeling. Learn how to eliminate paper, including extra pictures. Learn how to build a "legacy list." Embrace the beautiful power of donating. And know that there's a light at the end of the tunnel.

Says Paxton, "A new, simpler and better life awaits you when you do."

Unless you're a dedicated minimalist – a movement that author Matt Paxton says he's recently embraced – you probably have too many


possessions and too much clutter. And too little time and too much confusion, which is where "Keep the Memories, Lose the Stuff" comes in.

In a gentle way that's respectful and forgiving, Paxton (with Jordan Michael Smith) guides readers through more steps than one would expect in an effort to make decluttering and purging seem do-able. He also shows how getting rid of stuff can be soul-freeing, which could be attractive to even the most dedicated collector, and for anyone who's reluctant to even think about emptying a home or storage unit.

If you're downsizing, cleaning up or out, want to spring clean right, or you've just become the recipient of parental belongings, this

KEEP THE MEMORIES, LOSE THE STUFF

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Host of the Emmy-nominated LEGACY LIST WITH MATT PAXTON

MATT PAXTON WITH JORDAN MICHAEL SMITH

"Keep the Memories, Lose the Stuff" by Matt Paxton with Jordan Michael Smith  
c.2022, Penguin Portfolio | \$24.00 | 310 pages

book helps you take the first the Memories, Lose the tiny steps toward a clean, Stuff" is a book you want in clutter-free existence. "Keep your corner.

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## Week of April 4 - 8

# Deadline nears to register for elections, wildfire danger continues

### DEADLINE NEARS TO REGISTER FOR ELECTIONS

Eligible Texas voters who have not done so already have until April 7 to register to vote in the May 7 statewide constitutional amendment election, as well as any local elections for city, school districts and other local entities.

"In the upcoming May 7 election, every Texas voter will have the opportunity to vote on two proposed amendments to the Texas Constitution concerning property taxes, and many Texas voters will also be voting on mayoral, city council and school board candidates, as well as local propositions," Texas Secretary of State John Scott said.

Both propositions deal with property taxes. The first reduces the total amount of property tax imposed on elderly or disable persons. The second increases the homestead exemption on school taxes from \$25,000 to \$40,000.

### EARLY VOTING BEGINS ON APRIL 25 AND RUNS THROUGH MAY 3.

Texas also will have the opportunity to return to the polls on May 24 for the primary runoff election. Early voting begins on May 16 and ends May 20.

Runoffs are slated in the GOP race for attorney general and railroad commission, the Democratic contest for



### CAPITOL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders

Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches and Cedar Park. gborders@texaspress.com.

lieutenant governor and land commissioner, and county and district races.

Voters who participated in one party's primary in March can't cross over and vote in the other party's runoff election. However, persons who did not vote in the March 1 primary can vote in either party's runoff.

Anyone with questions about voting eligibility should contact their county's election administrator or the secretary of state's office.

### WILDFIRE DANGER CONTINUES IN MUCH OF STATE

The risk of wildfire across the state continues through this week. During the last week of March, state, federal and local firefighters responded to 192 wildfires that burned more than 173,000 acres, according to the Texas A&M Forest Service.

More than 500 firefighters from the service and through the Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System have been deployed across Texas, as well as personnel from 28 states.

"We want to ensure that the state has adequate resources to protect Texas' citizens and natural re-

sources from wildfire," Wes Moorehead, forest service chief, said. "We are working with other states to mobilize additional fire resources to Texas for assistance."

The highest risk of fire danger continues to be in West Texas and the Panhandle, according to the forest service.

### SCHOOLS SAVED FROM FUNDING CUTS DUE TO ATTENDANCE

Public school districts will not lose funding because of low attendance rates caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Texas Education Agency and Gov. Greg Abbott announced last week. Funding will be made available to school systems in Texas who normally would have had funding cut, since it is based on attendance rates.

"Providing this adjustment to the 2021-22 school year will ensure school systems have the funding they need to retain the best and brightest teachers and provide quality education to all public-school students across Texas," Abbott said. "We have made tremendous strides to return more of our students back to the class-

room and will continue in our efforts to do so."

Texas public schools are funded based on the number of students enrolled and their daily attendance. Currently, schools get a base allotment of \$6,160 per student annually. The average daily attendance is calculated by total students present divided by the required days of instruction.

During the pandemic, attendance dipped. The state will once again allow districts to toss out low attendance days to increase the average daily attendance and not lose funding.

### TEXAS TEACHERS PROTEST UNPAID TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

Texas teachers are rebelling against a new law that requires those who teach grades K-3 to complete unpaid a 60- to 120-hour course known as Reading Academies in order to keep their jobs next year.

The law, originally passed in 2019, set a deadline for completing the course by the end of the 2022-2023 school year, according to a report in the Houston Chronicle. Most teachers aren't compensated for their time taking the course, though some districts offer stipends.

The added pressures of teaching online during the pandemic have exacerbated a teacher shortage that spurred the Texas Education

Agency to recently form a task force to address the situation. From 2010 to 2019, the number of certified teachers in the state fell by about 20%, according to a study by the University of Houston.

"I just feel like a lemon just squeezing, squeezing, squeezing," said Christina Guerra, a special education teacher in La Joya Independent School District. "But there's no more, there's nothing that you squeeze out anymore. There's no more juice."

### COVID-19 CASES, HOSPITALIZATIONS DROP AGAIN

The number of new cases of COVID-19 reported in Texas during the past week dropped to 17,991, with 447 deaths reported, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University. Hospitalizations also continue to decrease, with 1,001 lab-confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations reported by the Texas Department of State Health Services.



Emergency crews across the state are still monitoring the risk of wildfires. In March, several Parker County Fire Departments operated at a 3 alarm grass fire off Fondren Lane in northwest Parker County. Forward progress was stopped at 75 acres.

Photo courtesy PCESD1

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# Azle ISD looks at incentives to recruit, retain teachers

BY DON MUNSCH  
don@azlenews.net

Azle ISD competes for the services of new and veteran teachers just like other school districts.

To attract new people, the district tries to increase the appeal of teaching here.

At the March Azle ISD board meeting, the board heard about proposed incentives for teachers and other employees.

"We've talked about various incentives each year," said Mark Kehoe, director of human resources for Azle ISD, in an interview last week. "I think that each year we look to try to stay competitive in the market. And with the teacher shortage, it's going to be difficult to fill all the positions and we want to make sure that we're competing for the best teachers."

Azle ISD seeks to recruit and retain the best teachers it can for its students, Kehoe said.

Coming out of college, many new teachers often put money and location as the top two priorities, while veteran teachers will not view salary as the first consideration, Kehoe said. They will more readily identify a subject area they will teach as being important, along with

the district, students, class sizes and quality of life.

"They have the questions to ask," Kehoe said.

Azle ISD sells its district on the community and its great support, along with the family atmosphere, he said.

## PROPOSED AISD INCENTIVES:

### • Health insurance

Health insurance contribution raised from \$225 to \$300 per pay period. That \$225 is the minimum state requirement.

### • TASB compensation analysis

This process reviews what the district pays employees and compares that to the market value, and the district will try to adjust salaries to meet market conditions.

"We're competitive with districts our size, but that's not necessarily how it works," Kehoe said.

The starting teacher, nurse, and librarian salary for the district is \$54,100. Districts compete with other districts of all sizes, so the salary size is not as much based on the size of a district.

"It's more (about) location," Kehoe said. "Your competition is more your area than it is necessarily the size of the district."

### • Strategic Compensation Grant/Teacher Incentive Allotment

"That's something (TIA) the commissioner has really pushed, to put aside funds, to try to create a program where effective teachers can earn up to \$100,000," Kehoe said. "We are in the process of implementing the teacher incentive allotment in our district."

It's a two-year process, he said, with next year being a data gathering year, so ultimately there wouldn't be any funds available until the following year. Funds contributed by the state will be based on demographics and location, so rural school district teachers will be paid more than, say, those in Azle.

"And that's to try to help those districts recruit," he said.

He added that House Bill 3 (HB 3), passed by the Texas Legislature in June 2019, established an optional Teacher Incentive Allotment with a stated goal of a six-figure salary for teachers who prioritize teaching in high needs areas and rural district campuses.

### • Unused Leave Policy

Employees with longevity who are retiring can earn additional money for unused local leave.

"That's an incentive that a number of districts have in policy and it's something that we're considering to reward our teachers who have been with us for a while," Kehoe said.

### • Teacher Referral Policy

Teachers can earn \$250 for each referred and hired teacher.

"That is something that we put in place, and that is something that we have implemented for this spring," Kehoe said.

This program is just for teacher positions, and the money will be paid for the teacher and the person who did the referral who are still employed at the end of the first semester next year, he said.

### • Benefits

The district is examining other ideas for benefits, such as Watchdog ID, which is a cybersecurity program.

In the future, the district will consider bi-weekly pay, which would benefit many auxiliary staffers, and a matching annuity-type program.

Azle ISD normally has a teacher turnover rate of 75-80, meaning those are positions that need to be filled between now and the next school year. Those numbers don't include auxiliary staff.

# GRADUATION



**GABRIELLA AMELIA BRENTZ**  
Belhaven University

The Brentz Family of Azle is celebrating the graduation of their daughter, Gabriella Amelia, from Belhaven University. Gabriella will receive a Bachelor of Science in accounting. Gabriella was an active player on her college soccer team. She played forward all three years she attended. Gabriella has accepted a position with Walker & Co. in Jackson, Mississippi, and plans to attend graduate school to reach her goal of becoming a CPA.

Photo courtesy

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## LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICES

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The City of Reno will be having public hearings for a special use permit applied for property 624 S Reno Rd, Springtown, TX 76082, to put a building on a 72 acre lot that is mostly located in the flood plain. P&Z meeting will be May 2, 2022 at 7PM and City Council Meeting will be on May 23, 2022 at 7PM. Both meetings will be open to the public for comments.

**NOTICE OF PUBLICATION OF HEARING ON MOTION FOR TERMINATION OF PARENT CHILD RELATIONSHIP**

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IN THE MATTER OF ASHLEE MARILEE LYNN PEREZ d.o.b. 02/20/2006 A Child under the age of 18 years

TO: BRANDI R. DURAN, aka BRANDY DURAN-PEREZ, nee' BRANDI R. COLLIER AND CARLOS R. PEREZ, PARENTS OF THE ABOVE NAMED CHILD.

1. LORINDA COLLIER and JOHN MARTINEZ, BY AND THROUGH UNDERSIGNED COUNSEL, HAVE FILED A MOTION FOR TERMINATION OF PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP PURSUANT TO TITLE 8 OF THE ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, RULES 4.1, 4.2 AND 5 OF THE ARIZONA RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE AND RULE 64 OF THE RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE FOR THE JUVENILE COURT.

2. THE COURT HAS SET A PUBLICATION HEARING ON May 18, 2022 AT 3:30 P.M. At Yavapai County Superior Court, 2840 N. Commonwealth Dr., Camp Verde, Arizona 86322 before the Hon. Anna Young for the purpose of determining whether any parent named herein is contesting the allegations in the Motion.

3. You and your child are entitled to have an attorney present at the hearing. You may hire your own attorney or, if you cannot afford an attorney, and want to be represented by an attorney, one may be appointed by the Court.

4. You have a right to appear as a party in this proceeding. You are advised that your failure to personally appear in court at the initial hearing, pretrial conference, status conference or dependency adjudication, without good cause, may result in a finding that you have waived your legal rights and have admitted the allegations in the Motion. In addition, if you fail to appear, without good cause, the hearing may go forward in your absence and may result in an adjudication of dependency, termination of your parental rights or the establishment of a permanent guardianship based upon the record and the evidence presented to the Court.

5. If you are receiving this Notice by publication, you may obtain a copy of the Motion for Termination of Parent-Child Relationship and Notice of Hearing by submitting a written request to:

Pennie J. Wamboldt, Esq.; Prescott Law Group, PLC; 116 N. Summit Avenue, Prescott, Arizona 86301. Ms. Wamboldt may be reached by telephone at (928) 445-1909.

6. Requests for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities must be made to the Court by parties at least three working days in advance of a scheduled court proceeding and can be made by calling (928) 758-0706.

7. You have the right to make a request or motion prior to any hearing that the hearing be closed to the public.

DATED this 30th day of March, 2022

Pennie J. Wamboldt, Esq. Prescott Law Group, PLC 116 N. Summit Avenue Prescott, Arizona 86301

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Applications for a permit to construct and operate a commercial facility on Eagle Mountain Lake have been presented to the Tarrant Regional Water District. The applicant for the commercial facility permit is Beaten Path Development II - Lakeside LLC. The proposed commercial facility (Fleming Pointe Day Dock) will be located adjacent to Lakeview Marina in Fort Worth, Texas and will serve residents of the Fleming Pointe development. Any interested persons may inspect this application at the Fort Worth Administrative Office.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE**

AZCO CENTERPOINT STORAGE, Will hold a public sale to satisfy tenants rent on Saturday April 9th, 2022 at 11400 FM 730 N Azle, Tx 76020. Sign-in at 10am, Bidding at 10:15am.

**ITEMS BEING SOLD TO SATISFY TENANTS RENT:**

A7 Jennifer Gatlin, A9 Bonita Beauvais, 10 Steve Sisk, B10 David Hunt, 120 Crystal Evans: Heirloom Hutch, Armoire, China Hutch, Elect. Recliner, Wash Machine, Linens, Baby Swing, Clothes, Kid's Toys, ECT.

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Independent Administration for the Estate of James Dean Stiles, Deceased, were issued on November 11, 2021, in Cause No. 2018-PR03401-1, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Tarrant County, Texas, to: Amber Nicole Buchanan.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. c/o: Stephen E. Haynes, Haynes Law Firm, P.C. 309 N. Fisk, Brownwood, Texas 76801

DATED the 31st day of March, 2022.

/s/ Stephen E. Haynes, Stephen E. Haynes, Attorney for Amber Nicole Buchanan  
State Bar No.: 24012806 Haynes Law Firm, P.C. 309 N. Fisk, Brownwood, Texas 76801  
Telephone: (325) 646-2821 Facsimile: (325) 643-3105 E-mail: shaynes@haynesfirm.com

**Notice of Public Sale**

Public boat sale to satisfy storage lien. Up for bids

**LEGALLY BELONGING TO:** James Charles Montgomery  
TX #6673HB, VIN# CL YC02770673 1973 30" Columbia

The Sale Will Be Held on April 9th, 2022. 1:00 PM, West Bay Marina, 6925 Liberty School Tap Rd. Azle, Tx 76020 (817)444-1622. Terms are cash/cashier's check at time of sale.

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ON FISHING

# Shad effective among live bait choices



**ON FISHING**

By Michael Acosta

As a licensed professional fishing guide, Michael Acosta shows you how to find them. He has been a licensed guide since 1998. michael.acosta@att.net

Live bait anglers anywhere know that having the right live bait can make the difference. Local catfish and striped bass anglers know this to be true on our local lakes.

On our area freshwater lakes, the primary forage for most species is gizzard or threadfin shad. Fishing with what the fish normally feed on is usually your best choice.

Live shad are not typically available at bait stores as they are difficult to keep alive. Live shad are normally caught with a cast net. Using a cast net if you are not proficient can be difficult and frustrating. Mastering the toss of one of these nets takes some time and practice.

Catching your own bait can be a chore, but when you have the desired bait of choice, it is worthwhile. There are other options if you don't want to catch your own bait. Minnows and bream are usually for sale at bait stores and they do work.

Generally once you pattern the bait fish out, you can load your bait well for

a good day of fishing. There will be tough days when the baitfish are difficult to find and there will be days that it will be easy to fill your live well. Our Lake Granbury has an abundance of baitfish and catching them is fairly easy once you know where and when they will be.

Some people start with a smaller net and work up to a larger net. The smaller net is easier to throw, but will reduce your chances of catching bait. Sometimes the bait will be so dense that the size of the net will not matter. Generally, though you will spend less time filling your bait well with a larger net. The largest legal cast net you can use in Texas waters has a radius of seven feet. Learning with a five-foot or 6-foot net and then working up does work for many folks.

Before you catch shad or other baitfish, you will need an aerated live well of some sort to keep your bait alive. There are a variety of tanks available for sale. An inexpensive homemade tank can be made out of an old drum or trash can cut down with a lid and a floating aerator.



Live shad can be caught with a cast net and then used for live bait.

Photo courtesy Michael Acosta

These floating aerators are available at most sporting stores. Trying to keep shad alive in a one-gallon minnow bucket will not work well. The bigger the water volume the better are your chances of keeping the bait alive. Typical shad tanks run from 20 to 50 gallons.

The water is warming and the fish are moving more and more into the shallows. You will have to learn based on the water temperatures and other water conditions

where the shad will be located. Right now, the warmer part of the day will have more baitfish shallow.

Of course, learn your areas that you throw in to avoid losing or seriously damaging your net. You will get hung up on occasion and sometimes your net will tear. I try to keep a couple spare nets on hand. Most small tears can be repaired. Nets can get expensive, so it is a good idea to be careful with them.

## FISHING REPORT

Possum Kingdom Lake stripers to 18 pounds are good on live shad near the Peanut Patch and farther north. Possum Kingdom largemouth are also good to 13 pounds plus near mid-lake. Lake Whitney stripers and sand bass are excellent near the Island, Bee Bluffs and the state park on live bait and Alabama rigs.

Attention Men and Women over 65 years old...

## Do You Want To Learn How To Stay Out Of Nursing Homes FOREVER?

Without Risking Your Health, Safety, Or Independence?

By Balance Expert Dr. Robert Moss

Do you feel guilty that your spouse is forced to be with you all the time because of your dizziness/loss of balance? Do you feel that your dizziness/loss of balance is always there no matter what you do? Do you feel that you are handicapped by your dizziness/loss of balance? Does your spouse stay with you in the shower so that you do not fall?

If you answer yes to any of these questions, please read further...

### CDC Reports: Falls Are The Leading Cause of Injuries In Seniors

If you have ever seen the Life Alert commercials then you have a picture in your mind of an elderly lady laying on the floor desperately trying to get up only to discover she is not able to.

Whether she is just weak, has broken a hip or caused some other serious injury this is a major concern for our elderly patients.



Working with seniors over many years it has become apparent that the greatest common fear is the fear of falling and not being able to get back up. This is not unreasonable as 1/3 of all adults over 65 will fall this year and each fall is potentially life changing.

### Falling should not be your lifestyle

Falls often lead to hospitalizations, serious injury or the need for assisted living of some sort. In the most severe cases a fall can lead to death.

If the fall, injury, and hospitalization isn't bad enough, frequent falls lead to loss of independence, limits in your daily activities, and increase your reliance on friends and family members to complete basic everyday tasks.

**With the right information and the right guidance many falls can be prevented, keeping you out of the hospital and Nursing Homes. Here is what one of my patients had to say:**

When I came to Moss, I had trouble walking due to no balance. I was not able to get in and out of a car, I was not able to do my activities. After my therapy I am able to walk and continue with my shopping and light house work. I can do this all un-assisted thanks to my therapy.  
- Evelyn Tinney



If you are embarrassed or reluctant to use a cane or walker because it makes you "look old" or if you feel like a burden to those around you because you need to hold on to someone when you walk or ask them to run your errands... MOSS Rehabilitation Center has prepared a FREE Report for you "The Top 8 Secrets To Improve Your Balance And Prevent Falls".

To get the guide Simply call this special number 817-220-MOSS (6677) to request the FREE Report OR if you want the report right now, please visit [www.springtownphysicaltherapy.com/balance-report](http://www.springtownphysicaltherapy.com/balance-report) and you can download it instantly.

# THE POWER OF GOD: The Gospel of Christ

## Easter Week 2022 April 10-17

Dinner @ 6:00 pm, Service @ 7:00 pm

**Sunday April 10th**  
10:45 AM

Jonah 3: 1-5  
'His Power Changes Nations.'  
Pastor: Randall Easter

**Wednesday**  
April 13th

2 Corinthians 5:17-21  
'His Power Creates a New Man'  
Pastor: Allen Nelson

**Monday**  
April 11th

Titus 3:4-7  
'His Power Regenerates'  
Pastor: Harold Smith

**Thursday**  
April 14th

Exodus 6:6-8  
'His Power Delivers From Slavery'  
Pastor: Allen Nelson

**Tuesday**  
April 12th

Psalms 96:1-4  
'His Power is Globally Effective'  
Pastor: Harold Smith

**Friday**  
April 15th

Jeremiah 31:31-34  
'His Power Unites'  
Pastor: Jonathan Murdock

## Sunday, April 17th 10:45 AM

Acts 2:41-47  
'His Power Births Men Into Churches'  
Pastor: Randall Easter

**BY THE WORD**  
Baptist Church  
200 W. N. Woody Rd.  
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SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

# Come visit the Azle Adult Activity Center

BY JACKIE "JJ" JOY

Some of the most popular items that have been served at the Azle Adult Activity Center are the hamburger and cobbler. Exciting news, both items are back on our menu. If you haven't joined us lately for lunch, now is a good time to visit. We ask that you call 817-444-0070 before 9:30 a.m. the day before you would like to eat.

Located at 601 Southeast Parkway in Ash Creek Park, the center is a good place to enjoy visiting and activities. Beside our regular activities, at 9 a.m. on Thursdays, we now have an art class. Bring your canvas, paint and easel to join the excitement of creating a masterpiece.

Our craft room is now open five days a week during our regular hours of 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. We have a lot of supplies, or you can bring your own project.

For those who enjoy working jigsaw puzzles, we now have those available. These are in room #7 along with domino tables.

Bingo is back each Tuesday following lunch. Since we serve at 11:30, we start bingo about noon.

For the past two years, we had to forgo the celebrating of our centers opening in 1986. This year we are celebrating 36 years by having our Open House/Resource Fair on Tuesday, April 26. There will be some local vendors to show older adults what they have to offer. Also, at 10:30 a.m., the Silver Sisters dance troupe will entertain. (This is a hamburger day with peach cobbler for dessert.)

If you have not seen the changes to our center and would like a tour, we will have someone available to show what we have to offer.

Since the pandemic shut us down in 2019, we have obtained the space formerly occupied by city offices. There has been remodeling done giving us room to grow. You will not want to miss this opportunity to see where we have expanded.

Coming up May 12 is the Ninth Annual Senior Synergy Expo sponsored by Tarrant County Judge Glen Whitley. Located in the Will Rogers-Amon G. Carter Jr. Exhibits Hall, you can pre-register at [www.SeniorSynergyExpo.com](http://www.SeniorSynergyExpo.com) or come by the center for a mail-in form. If you complete the registration by April 25, you will receive a free box lunch.

This Expo is full of health screenings, educational classes and entertainment. The event begins at 8:30 a.m. and will end at 1:30 p.m.

# AJH band earns superior rating at UIL



The Azle Junior High band earned a superior rating in both their performances at the March 30 UIL competition at Boswell High School. Photo courtesy

BY JESSICA MCKINNEY  
azlereporter@azlenews.net

The last two school years had a big impact on the band program at Azle Junior High. But this year, Kevin Chapman, head band director, is happy to say that they have lived up to their motto to get "Back to Real Band," and they did it with a win at the March 30 band UIL competition.

The AJH band hadn't been to a UIL competition — the band equivalent to STAAR tests — for two years because of the pandemic. Each band performs for judges and receives a rating based on that performance.

The AJH wind ensemble performed a concert

for three judges at Boswell High School. Then, they were handed a piece of music that was unknown to the band, were given seven minutes to learn the piece just by sight reading (not playing their instruments), and then perform the piece in front of another set of three judges.

The judges rate each band with divisions, the first division being the highest and considered "superior."

The AJH band earned a superior rating from all six judges.

"It is not easy to convince six different musical minds that a band is a first division 'superior band, but we did that for the first time in two years," said Chapman.

The AJH band program was performing outside of the norm because of the pandemic. This meant no live performances, band trips, and for many, no in-person practice.

"This year, we got back to 'real band,' making sure that the kids had a true band experience. We tried to make it the very best experience this group of band kids has ever had, knowing that they had never experienced what it was supposed to be all along."

Chapman and David Rollins, assistant director, are both "very proud of their accomplishments this year."

"We are even more happy that these kids are 'back to real band.'"

## Spotlight on BUSINESS



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Jennifer Stephens Tax Service, Inc. is located at 119 Industrial Ave. in Azle, inside the Sutton Printing office, and is available by phone and email. Information can be received through contactless secure drop mailbox at the office.

Jennifer Stephens is an accountant with more than 30 years of experience in the accounting and tax industry and ERO.

"I don't have customers, I have friends," says Stephens. She offers free consultations and will work up the return for free; nothing is owed until the return is signed and transmitted to the IRS.

"I diligently aspire to provide services within an environment of a 'Mom and Pop' business. I am 'old school' and can customize to a customer's needs," added Stephens.

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# Never forget those who helped you

BY DON MUNSCH  
don@azlenews.net



## MUNSCH'S MUSINGS

By Don Munsch

Don Munsch is the editor for the Azle News and Springtown Epigraph. He can be contacted via email at don@azlenews.net.

My college alumni magazine arrives in my mailbox a few times a year.

When I receive this publication, I usually turn to the obituary section to see who has passed on, including classmates and professors.

On a recent winter evening when I came home from work, the magazine arrived and I noticed the obituary section included a capsule for a professor, Matthew Bosio, who instructed me in my last year of col-

lege at Northwest Missouri State. He was 68. He died in September.

I found his obituary online and read about his work, family, faith and hobbies, and how his family said his legacy was twofold: his devotion to his son and his love for teaching.

Matt made a difference in my life, as he notified me

about an internship in Kansas City that I applied for and received before my last semester in college. I had a great experience working at that newspaper that summer.

But there is something else I will never forget. One day we were having a chat and Matt said something to me about my long-term abilities that stuck with me.

These thoughts came back to me as I recorded a message last week for the Azle High School Make Good Choices program. Business leaders were supposed to impart their ideas about making choices, and I wasn't sure what all I could offer, so my message centered on something Ferris Bueller said at the end of his "day off" in that movie from 1986, about how - my interpretation - life is a journey, not a race.

If I had another message I would give students, it would be to appreciate the people

who make a difference in their lives, especially their teachers, at whatever level of education or instruction they meet them. Never forget the people who look out for you. And they don't necessarily have to be a teacher, as they could be a mentor or someone they know in their family or community. Their small gesture or a kind word might make all the difference in the world - now or years from now.

The news about teachers lately - many are leaving the profession in droves - distresses me because not

only do they have to be replaced but also because they are leaving a legacy and an impression on people's lives that they may not be aware of, even if they only taught for a short time. Teaching is a wonderful profession, albeit one with stress and sometimes burnout, but the rewards can be immeasurable.

To this year's graduates, I say good luck and best wishes in your careers and lives.

And lastly... thanks, Matt.

Don Munsch is the editor of the Azle News and The Springtown Epigraph.

# Exciting news for high school graduates and their families

I don't think anyone would disagree that the last two years have been very tough on all of us. Covid appeared out of nowhere and in a moment changed our world. It almost instantly altered how people lived their day-to-day lives, how they went to work and how they viewed the world around them.

One of the most affected groups of people would be our high school seniors. No one can say they have had the "usual" high school experience. Many of our graduating class missed proms, sporting events, field trips and excursions. They did not attend "regular" school, as they were forced to utilize online learning. The experiences this group of young people have been forced to endure is truly sad. The pandemic altered their lives, and



## MY FRONT PORCH

By Sam Houston

Sam Houston is a newspaper executive, a columnist, author, actor and entertainment promoter.

they will be forever remembered as one of the "pandemic classes."

Perhaps no other time in one's life is looked on with greater anticipation than high school. It is a time of growing, awareness and spreading one's wings. It is so unique; it cannot be replicated by any other life experience. I think that is why so many look back and reflect upon their high school time with warm feelings. It is no one's fault, but this year's graduating class did not have the usual and expected high school experiences. They

have endured and overcame.

The Azle News recognizes the obstacles and losses associated with the class of 2022 and as such we are determined to make their graduation a big celebration. In the May 18 edition of the News, we will have a special section dedicated to the graduates that will include the photo and bio of each graduating senior. We will also be providing the graduation special section to the attendees of the various graduation ceremonies. Won't that make a great keepsake to mark the occa-

sion?

Many of the graduates will be leaving Azle to go to college, for work, and to start new lives. To allow them to keep in touch with their local community, the Azle News is providing each graduating student with a free six-month online subscription to the newspaper! Just our way of saying thanks for all the hard work. Congratulations. We are proud of you!

I hope all Azle "dials it up" and really celebrates these great young people who have endured so much. Let's make this graduation special. The class of 2022 missed a lot, so let's send them out with a big bang!

Thought for the day: An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest.

Until next time ...

# LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## BANNING BOOKS IS THE WRONG MOVE

Re: Letter published in the March 30 edition of the Azle News

I read the letter from the woman who found fault with a book carried in the Adult Graphic Novel section of the public library. The woman felt it was inappropriate because kids go into the library and she stated that she complained to the Azle library staff, the city mayor, city manager and city council members to no avail.

Are we now to remove all books that someone finds not to their liking? Again, the book in question is in the children's section - not the children's section. If the letter writer's complaint was valid, I can imagine one or more of the people

she complained to would take action.

I have to wonder if the woman complaining has a Bible in her home. It has stories of murders caused by jealousy, lust and greed. The Bible has stories of a number of immoral acts that would make her blush. Is she going to demand the Bible be removed from the library? Has she removed the Bible from her house so that her children do not get their hands on it?

The current trend of banning books from schools, libraries, etc., sets a dangerous precedent. Who gets to decide which books are banned and which are allowed, and how often will we change the standard?

Robert May, Azle

### Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

Find Kid Scoop on Facebook

© 2022 by Vicki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schinkel, Graphics Vol. 38, No. 19

### Kid Scoop Puzzler

#### Egg Patterns

Buzz Bunny has decorated his eggs with number patterns. Help Beeper figure out where to put each of the numbers left in the basket. Draw a line to where each egg belongs.

3	6	9	15
48	12	6	3
5	10	40	80
25	20	10	5

Standards Link: Math/Probability; Recognize patterns.

### Say What?

Some phrases people use don't mean exactly what they say. For example the saying, "It's raining cats and dogs," doesn't mean that cats and dogs are falling from the sky. It is a phrase people use to say it is raining hard.

These kinds of phrases are called idioms.

The Egg-quirer page has several idioms. Find the idiom that goes with each meaning below:

- Meaning: I was really surprised!  
Idiom: \_\_\_\_\_
- Meaning: To be afraid.  
Idiom: \_\_\_\_\_
- Meaning: Not to depend on one thing.  
Idiom: \_\_\_\_\_
- Meaning: Things are getting busy.  
Idiom: \_\_\_\_\_

ANSWERS:  
1. I nearly flew the coop!  
2. she is a bit chicken!  
3. don't put your eggs in one basket  
4. things really started hopping

Standards Link: Vocabulary; Apply knowledge of idioms to determine the meaning of phrases.

### The Bunny Buddies are Back!

Buzz and Beeper Bunny are back with all kinds of Easter fun!

If the activities on this page seem hard, find some bunny to help you. If it looks easy, help some bunny younger than you!

#### NATIONAL EGG-QUIRER

NEWS FROM THE HENHOUSE TO YOUR HOUSE!

### HEN HATCHES HUGE SURPRISE

COOPERVILLE - Last night, things really started hopping for Henrietta Hen. The young mother of 152 is \_\_\_\_\_ with excitement over the unusual \_\_\_\_\_ in her nest last night.

"I was just dozing off, around \_\_\_\_\_ when one of my eggs began to shake," Henrietta recalls. "Now I know why I didn't hear the tapping and \_\_\_\_\_ sounds the sweet beaks of my chicks usually make as they crack out of their shells."

When Henrietta's egg finally opened, a smiling \_\_\_\_\_

hopped out. "I nearly flew the coop!" Mrs. Hen said.

Although she is a bit "chicken" when it comes to all of the media \_\_\_\_\_ Henrietta's story will soon be made into a book and a movie.

"I guess I'll enjoy the fame while it lasts," Henrietta says. "However, I don't like to put all of my \_\_\_\_\_ in one basket."

#### Bunny Loses Basket

Mr. E.B. Rabbit has an Easter Basket all ready to deliver. But he can't remember where he put it. Take your pencil and show him the way through the maze to the basket. Don't retrace your route or cross any lines.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension; Follow simple written instructions.

#### Bonnet Bizarre

Only two of these bonnets are exactly alike. Can you find them?

#### Double Double Word Search

DECORATED BUDDIES OPINIONS HATCHING MOVIE MEDIA BONNET BASKET BEAKS COOP CRACK CHICKEN FACTS SHELLS EGGS

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

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

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

#### Stilly Scramble

The secret code to crack Beeper's riddle is hidden in the egg rows.

\_\_\_\_\_ is the letter A. The egg to the right of it is B. The next is C, and so on.

The alphabet follows in order from left to right, top to bottom. Each egg stands for one letter of the alphabet.

Standards Links: Decoding; Recognize letters of the alphabet. Reading Comprehension; Follow simple written directions.

#### What kind of Stories do bunnies Like best?

Extra! Extra! Facts vs. Opinions

Look through the newspaper for advertisements with an Easter theme. Circle the facts in yellow. Circle the opinions in green.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension; Distinguish between fact and opinion in expository text.

How many chocolate bunnies can you find on this page in one minute? How many can a friend find? Who found more?

### Write On!

## Easter Bunny Spotted

The Easter Bunny has been spotted, and you are the reporter covering the story.

LINEMAN, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.



Blake Creamer, apprentice lineman, works on a line.

Courtesy Photo Tri-County Electric

of training, both here at the co-op and in lineman school.

New employees learn the fundamentals of safety.

“You’re always going through safety training,” Helton said, adding that “safety’s a must.”

Linemen move into difference phases or steps of schooling. Classes teach people fundamentals of electricity to safety procedures to knowledge about rubber goods. Tri-County pays for training.

One does not need any specific education or previ-

ous experience to be a lineman.

“I tell you what I look for is a kid who’s mechanically inclined,” Helton said. “If they have any kind of mechanical skills, just from off the street, they’re going to make it.”

Prospective linemen can’t be afraid of heights and must be driven. A good attitude and work ethic also are desirable.

Linemen fix, maintain, move and build electrical lines. There are six crews at the Azle office that perform

a number of duties. Linemen have to be ready to move at any given moment and deal with challenging weather conditions and situations, including ice, wind and trees, lightning and tornadoes.

Line workers cope with everything from cold conditions to hot temps and humidity.

“To me, I’d rather work in the cold because you can always keep putting on (layers) to stay warm,” Helton said. “In the heat, you can’t take enough off.” Rubber sleeves and gloves espe-

cially can be an ordeal in hot weather. Face shields or head socks can also trap cold or heat. Plus, workers wear hardhats on top of those coverings.

Suffice it to say, the job is dangerous.

“I have a saying – you have to always know your next step,” Helton said. “You’ve gotta have a man that’s always on his toes and always thinking. His next step – what is he doing in his next step?”

The voltages linemen deal with can blow off a person’s arms and legs.

“One mistake in this line of work changes not only your life, but it changes everybody’s life,” Powell said, noting that includes one’s family, extended family and coworkers.

Powell and Helton emphasize the concept of “your brother’s keeper,” in which each lineman knows to watch out for others, have one another’s back and be aware of what their coworkers are trying to accomplish on a line.

The two men said one great perk of the job is re-

ceiving thanks from people after they have restored power to a residence. That included one instance when crews were at a house where a resident — a bed-ridden war vet — was especially appreciative of line workers’ efforts.

The time it takes to fix a line can vary, Powell and Helton said.

“It can go from five minutes from when you roll up there to ...” Helton said.

“All night,” Powell said.

“Yeah, all night,” Helton said. “I’ve rolled up on an outage where it’s just a fuse and there was a squirrel that got into it. So all I had to do was re-fuse it and it came back on and I (went) home.”

But then there are times when he has showed up at a job and “72 hours later, we’re still working on it.”

Line workers put in 10-hour days, but they are on call 24-7, 365 days a year. Line workers can be called out in the middle of the night.

Powell and Helton said they like Tri-County’s culture and family-like atmosphere. No women currently

work at Tri-County as line workers, but that does not preclude them from working, as women have worked in the line worker industry.

The line workers said they take pride in their work.

“Even firefighters need heroes,” Helton said.

McGinnis said her company gives line workers everything they need to be successful, from clothing to equipment to training.

And if there is an accident that happens – it’s very rare – there are weekly meetings and the accident would be discussed at each office so employees can learn from it, she said.

Each day is different, as a Friday can be hectic or laid-back, but no matter the day, line workers have to take care of their cooperative’s members, Helton and Powell said.

“It’s a very rewarding career,” Powell said. “I think it’s a fantastic avenue for somebody young coming up that is hard-working and driven and willing to accept challenges and learn new things.”



Kevin Helton, left, and Shane Powell have several decades of combined experience working in the line worker field. The two men work for Tri-County Electric Co-op Inc. in Azle. Line workers toil in trenches, underground vaults, on poles and in buckets and must cope with various kinds of weather.

Photo by Don Munsch

### National Lineman Appreciation Day is April 11

National Lineman Appreciation Day is April 11. Tri-County Electric Co-op employs 88 linemen – from apprentice through journeyman and line superintendents – to build and maintain its system of more than 9,600 miles of line, stretching across 16 counties of North Texas. These lines serve more than 100,000 members. To observe April 11, Tri-County Electric Co-op will honor its linemen with breakfast and other gestures, the company stated in news release. Tri-County Electric Cooperative provides electricity to more than 125,600 meters on 9,600 miles of distribution lines. The co-op, established in 1939, is a distribution electric cooperative that serves more than 99,800 members in 16 counties in the North Texas region.



Justin Baugus is an apprentice lineman for Tri-County Electric. Courtesy Photo Tri-County Electric



Jason Forbis is a journeyman lineman for Tri-County Electric. Courtesy Photo Tri-County Electric

USS ARIZONA, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.



From left to right: Brooke Schocke, Nikki Stratton, Teri Mann, JoAnn George, Randy Stratton, Harmon Moody, David South, and Don Graves.

Photo by Jim Stevens

Hundreds of people gathered in the AHS auditorium to commemorate the event, including many veterans — three of whom fought in the Pacific during the war — plus public officials, students and their families, teachers, and staff from Azle ISD and the Board of Trustees. The USS Arizona was bombed during the attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941 and sank.

The AHS wind ensemble opened the dedication ceremony with the National Anthem and Principal Randy Cobb welcomed those attending the ceremony and introduced the special guest speakers.

Brooke Schocke was introduced first. She is the AHS student who worked for two years to make it possible for the ship's piece to be put on display. Brooke gave a brief history of the events that happened on Dec. 7, 1941.

"On this Sunday morning at 8 a.m., 353 Japanese planes filled the sky above Oahu, Hawaii," said Brooke.

"The first bomb was dropped and headed toward the USS Arizona. This 1,800-pound bomb destroyed the deck and plummeted to the ammunition magazine, causing the Arizona to explode and eventually sink. Eleven hundred and seventy-seven crewmen were killed on the USS Arizona and 334 survived."

**STORIES OF SURVIVAL**

Attendees were able to listen to the stories of three of the survivors, as told through their family mem-

bers and friends.

First to speak was Teri Mann, whose uncle William Mann died during the attack. The best friend of Mann's uncle, Lauren Bruner, was also on board the ship during the attack and was one in a group of six men rescued from the ship as it sank.

"Lauren would survive the attack and he would spend months recuperating in the hospital, and ultimately return to duty and finish the war," Mann said.

"He was the second to the last man that left the Arizona and would become one of the last four remaining survivors, living into his late 90s. In all these years, he never forgot his Billy, telling me through tears ... nearly 80 years later that he never found another best friend."

Next to speak was JoAnn George, the daughter of Joseph George, who played a key role in helping to bring six men off of the Arizona.

George was on the USS Vestal, a repair ship that was moored next to the Arizona on that day in December. After the attack, and as the Arizona began to sink, George was ordered by his commanding officer to cut the lines that held the Vestal to the Arizona.

But as the smoke from the attack cleared, George saw that there was a group of men still standing aboard the Arizona and they were calling for help.

So, against orders, George threw a monkey's fist — a knot tied to the end of a rope to make it easier to throw — across the water to the men on the Arizona. They

secured the line and climbed safely across to the Vestal, even as George's commanding officer was yelling for him to cut the line.

One of the men who escaped the Arizona in that rescue died from his injuries weeks later, but the other five men lived and some even returned to service, including Donald Stratton.

Stratton's granddaughter Nikki Stratton shared his story.

"My grandfather was at his battle station when the big bomb hit, attempting to hit the high-altitude bombers as they flew past," Stratton said.

"Only six of the 10 men in the [battle station] survived the initial blast. My grandfather was one of them."

Stratton and his colleagues were trapped on the Arizona as it sank into the harbor.

"They were trapped on a sinking vessel that was rapidly heating up," she said. "It was worse than being trapped in an oven. ... They were burned and injured and trapped."

Once he was finally able, Don Stratton reenlisted in the Navy. He went through boot camp again because he was determined to continue fighting the war that began for the U.S. that day in Pearl Harbor.

Stratton and the others were saved by George's defiance.

"Joe's defiance will ripple across time for many generations to come," Stratton said. "The commanding officer said he would court martial Joe. But he didn't bend, and he didn't break. He stood tall, and again said no he wouldn't."



A piece of the battleship USS Arizona will remain on permanent display at Azle High School.

Photo by Jessica McKinney



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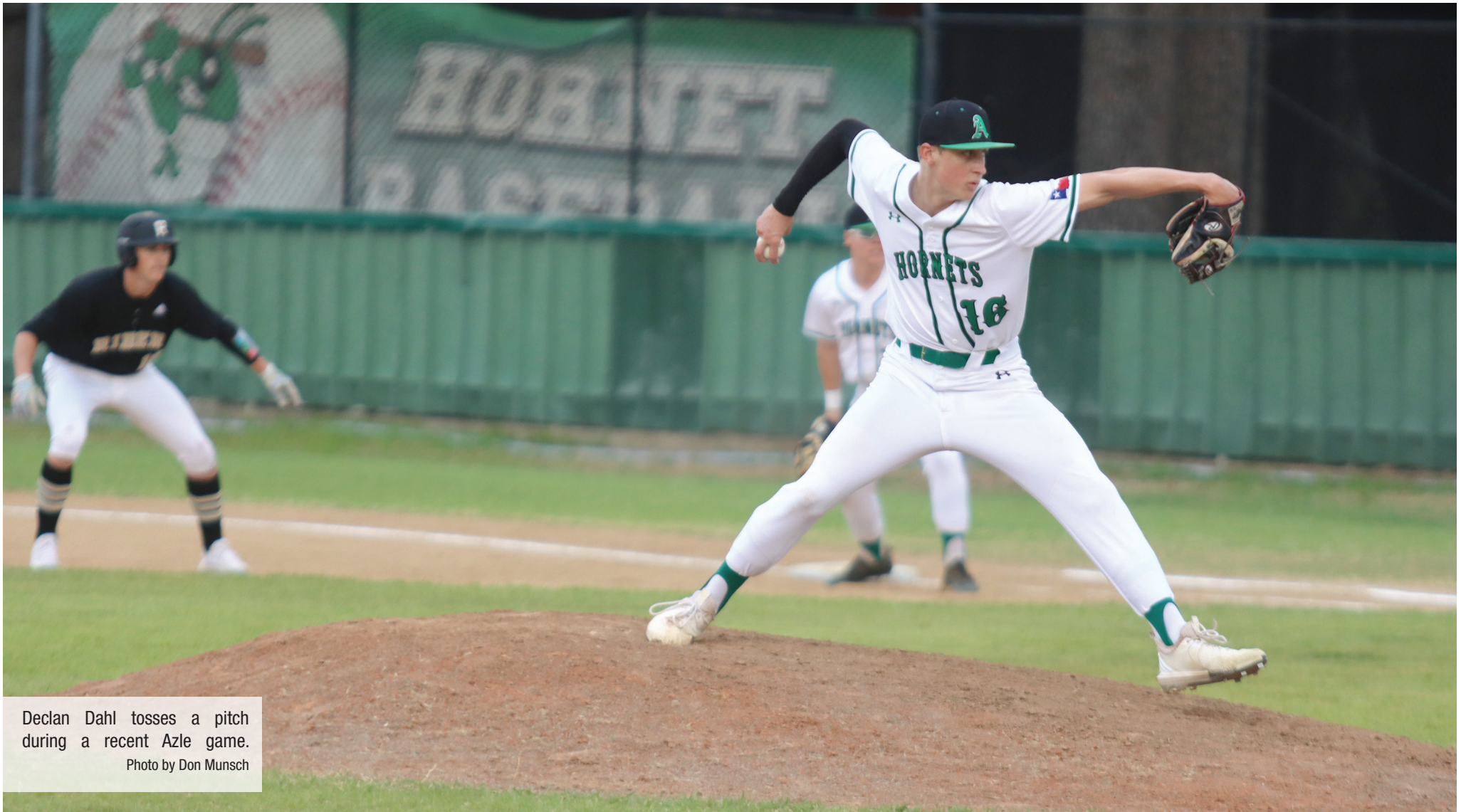
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# SPORTS

## Azle baseball team, coach win big games



Declan Dahl tosses a pitch during a recent Azle game. Photo by Don Munsch

**BY JEFF PRINCE**  
jeff@azlenews.net

The Azle Hornets swept Wichita Falls Rider in two games last week to improve their district baseball record to 4-0.

On April 1, the Hornets beat Rider 10-4 on the road. Pitcher Brenden Kamnick tossed 5-2/3 innings to earn the win on the mound, giving up one run on three hits and six strikeouts. At the plate, Kamnick drove in two

runs. Cayden Fowler knocked in four runs on two hits, and Gavin Green tallied two RBI on a double. Cooper Magee notched an RBI, as well. Grant Tune went three-for-five at the plate, and Bil-

ly Spratt was two-for-three. On March 29 at home, the Hornets beat Rider, 4-1. Declan Dahl dominated on the mound, giving up one unearned run in six innings while striking out 11 for the win. Cooper Sexton pitched

an inning of relief to earn a save. Magee knocked in a couple of runs with a clutch double. Cole Webb also punched in an RBI on a double. Fowler went one-for-three at the

plate with a double. The victories over Rider pushed Azle head coach Stephen Smith to 300 career victories. He earned those wins over an 18-year career. SEE AHS BASEBALL, PAGE 3B.

## Azle softball falls Falls by 10-run rule



Pitcher Casey Morrison tries to field a grounder while tossing a complete game and earning the win against Wichita Falls. Photo by Jeff Prince

**BY JEFF PRINCE**  
jeff@azlenews.net

The Azle Lady Hornets were powerful at the plate and mighty on the mound, knocking off Wichita Falls 11-1 in five innings on April 1 at home. First baseman Alyssa Holland led off the Hornet batters in the first inning, smashing a double to center-field, stealing third base and scoring on a bases-loaded walk. Azle took a 2-0 lead in

the first but had trouble finding hits for the next couple of innings. The girls struggled to adjust to Wichita Falls' off-speed pitching. Hornet batters were swinging under pitches, popping fly balls and making outs. "At the beginning of the game, we had a little bit of a hard time adjusting," said head coach Macy Pruitt. The coach talked to her team between innings about tweaking their swings, and

"that's when we started hitting the line drives and balls on the ground," she said. A big seven-run inning followed in the fourth. "They just played great," Pruitt said of her batters. The game marked the beginning of the second half of the district schedule. Beating Wichita Falls was a satisfying result for the Hornets. "The girls came out excited and ready to start the second half of district," Pruitt said. "They came out with a

lot of energy." With several games remaining on the schedule, the Hornets have an opportunity to improve their record. "I feel good," Pruitt said. **BIG HITTER** Kalle Vasquez was 3 for 4 at the plate with an RBI against Wichita Falls. The second baseman, a senior, was beaming after the game. She and her teammates hugged on their way back to the dugout.

"It's exciting hitting 3 for 4 three in a game, especially when everyone in the dugout is cheering for you," Vasquez said. "It's just a good feeling." One of Vasquez's hits was a line-drive triple to the left field fence. The senior is ready to finish up the regular season and plow into the playoffs. "I feel good about district," she said. "I know we're going to make playoffs. We can beat any team

if we put our minds to it. We just have to have the right attitude about it and stay positive about everything." **PITCHING PEARLS** Casey Morrison was two outs away from pitching a complete game shutout when a teammate's throwing error allowed Wichita Falls to score its only run in the fifth inning. Morrison was hoping for SEE SOFTBALL, PAGE 4B.

# Azle golfer qualifies for regionals while team shines

BY JEFF PRINCE  
jeff@azlenews.net

A trip to Lubbock is on Jason Merrill's calendar after the Azle golfer won second place at the district tournament and qualified for regionals.

On March 29, Merrill shot a 79 and 83 at the district tournament at Cross Timbers Golf Course. On April 18-19, he will compete at the

Class 5A Region 1 tournament at Rawls Golf Course in Lubbock. (The girls compete April 20-21.)

The Azle Green boys team finished in third place at the district tournament, which was an improvement of two places from last year.

"I was very pleased with the performance of the boys," said AHS head coach Brad Averitte. "We shot a

340 on day one and a 357 on the very windy day two. We got under 700 as a team total for the two-day event, and that is quite an accomplishment. This was an improvement of 47 strokes from last year."

The Azle White team bested 400 as a team on both days, an improvement of 71 strokes from last year.

"Just incredible growth,"

Averitte said. "We're very excited to see our growth for next year."

Six of the 10 golfers from this year's district tournament will return next season, including Merrill, the team's top golfer as a junior.

"We look to have continued improvement," Averitte said.

Next year's district alignment will be "just as tough, if not tougher" than this sea-

son, the coach said.

Aledo and Granbury, the district's two top teams, will remain, while two more tough teams – Saginaw and Northwest – will be added. Saginaw qualified for the regional tournament in its district last year, and Northwest is an improving team, Averitte said.

Wichita Falls Rider will remain in the district, as

well.

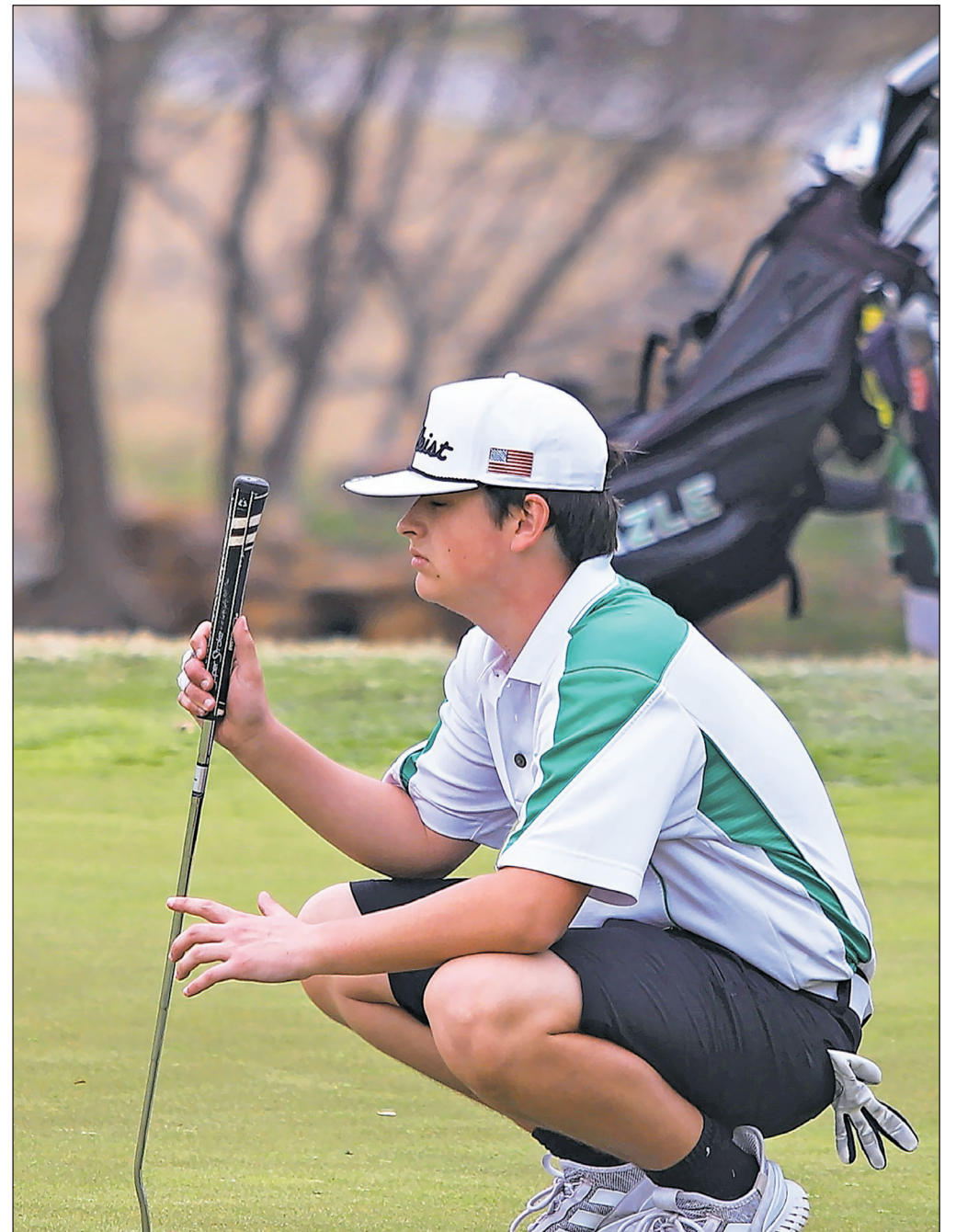
"Their top two golfers return," Averitte said. "One of them is going to regional, and the other is the alternate qualifier for regional."

Averitte isn't worried about the changes to the district. He and his golfers are excited about them.

"The added competition should make for some fun golf," he said.



Jason Merrill will compete at the regional golf tournament April 18-19 in Lubbock. Photo by Jeff Prince



Chandler Smith lines up a putt at the district tournament at Cross Timbers. Photo by Jeff Prince

# Azle's Mary Shaw qualifies for regional golf tourney

BY JEFF PRINCE  
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Azle High School's Mary Shaw shot an 83 on April 1 at the district tournament at Cross Timbers Golf Course.

That impressive score helped her earn a trip to the regional tourney set for April 20-21 at Rawls Golf Course in Lubbock.

Shaw is "non-stop," said AHS head coach Eddy Prather. "She dedicates a lot of her time to practice. She's worked very hard to reach regionals this year."

The Azle girls competing at the district tourney on

March 31 and April 1 included Shaw, a junior; Kenzie Hobbs, a sophomore; and Riley Free, Lauren Giles and Erin McMullen, all seniors.

"I was very proud of our girls," Prather said. "The girls battled back on day two and improved 27 strokes from day one."

Shaw led the team in scoring with an 86 and 83, and Giles shot a personal best on day two.

"We had a goal to beat Rider on day two, with them having a six-stroke advantage," Prather said. "We did by nine strokes."

The girls team shot well

but didn't qualify to make the trip to Lubbock.

"Even though our team will not advance, I am pleased at how we ended the season," Prather said.

"The three seniors will be missed. Riley Free and Erin McMullen played four years for me and have been great kids in the program. Lauren Giles is new to golf this season but picked it up nicely. Good Luck to all three of my seniors."

The coach is looking forward to the future.

"Mary Shaw and Kenzie Hobbs will return next year with the addition of 12 underclassmen," he said.



Mary Shaw earned a trip to the upcoming regional golf tournament in Lubbock. Photo by Jeff Prince



Erin McMullen smiles after two-putting for par on Hole 18 at Cross Timbers Golf Club. Photo by Jeff Prince

# Azle Christian baseball on a win streak



The Azle Christian Crusaders won a doubleheader against Texoma.

Courtesy photo

**BY JEFF PRINCE**  
jeff@azlenews.net

The Azle Christian High School baseball team won a district doubleheader over Texoma Christian last week, securing the first game

8-0 and the second 12-3.

The victories put the Crusaders at 4-2 in district play.

In the first game, pitcher Noah Rollins went the distance on the mound for ACHS, giving up one hit and striking out eight.

In the second contest, Kelton Schott pitched a complete game and struck out nine batters.

On April 1, the boys played a non-district game against Irving Faustina and won in a blowout, 17-3.

“Our bats came alive,” said ACHS head coach Ryan Rollins.

Camden Logan, Ty South, A.J. Rollins and Ryan English all had multiple hits.

“A.J. Rollins and Andy Wisniewski pitched well, and we

got a chance to get Jaxson Logan and Zane Thomas on the mound for the first time this year, and they did well,” the coach said.

Azle Christian (9-3) plays at 4 p.m. Friday at home against district opponent Bethesda Christian.

## AHS BASEBALL, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B.

as head coach at Azle, Hamilton and Paschal.

“To me, 300 wins means I have been blessed with great players, great assistant coaches, great mentors, great administration, great faculty and staff and great communities,” he said. “It takes everyone doing their part for teams to win, and I have been blessed to have had that in my career.”

The coach plans to “keep working hard and to help the young men in the baseball program con-

tinue to be great student athletes,” he said. “I want to see every one of them graduate high school and go out in the world and chase their dreams.”

The Hornets are 12-1 overall and 4-0 in district. Their only loss came on March 10 against Odessa in a tournament at Crowley High School.

The Hornets play a non-district game against Southwest at 1:30 p.m. Saturday at home.



**ABOVE:** Azle shortstop Grant Tune makes contact with the ball during Azle's district victory March 29 over Wichita Falls Rider.

**RIGHT:** Azle High School baseball coach Stephen Smith chats with the team's battery – pitcher Declan Dahl and catcher Billy Spratt – during the Hornets' game against Wichita Falls Rider on March 29. The Hornets won 4-1. Photos by Don Munsch





# DEVOTIONAL PAGE



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# Azle basketball girls collect awards at annual banquet



From left, Mia Carrizales, Summer Finney, Jessie Heath, Landri Seward, Karlee Locke and Kendall Locke earned awards for their strong basketball season.

Courtesy photo

## STAFF REPORTS

The Locke twins — Karlee and Kendall — were named Co-Outstanding Offensive Players of the Year at Azle High School's annual girls basketball awards banquet on March 28.

The Locke sisters were lauded for their grit, hard work, strong leadership and ability to score points during this past girls basketball season. The sisters are juniors and will return next season for more action and fun.

Fiery leader Mia Carrizales, a senior, earned the Most Valuable Player award and the Hustlin' Lady Hornet Award. She helped the Hornets win 21 games and finish just one game short of qualifying for the playoffs.

The team's other senior, Summer Finney, won the Outstanding Rebounder Award.

Jessie Heath, a junior, earned the Outstanding Defender Award.

Sophomore Landri Seward was honored with the Lady Hornets'

3D Award.

"We are very proud of all these young ladies and their success this season," said AHS head coach Mitzi Marquart.

# Azle rodeo trying to catch Decatur for top spot



Laurel Allred won first place in poles at the North Texas High School Rodeo Association rodeo over the weekend in Saginaw.

Photo by JoH Photography

## BY JEFF PRINCE jeff@azlenews.net

Laurel Allred won first place in poles, and Lindsay-Kay Reichert and Rylee Sisson took fourth and seventh places, respectively, over the weekend at the North Texas

High School Rodeo Association Arena in Saginaw.

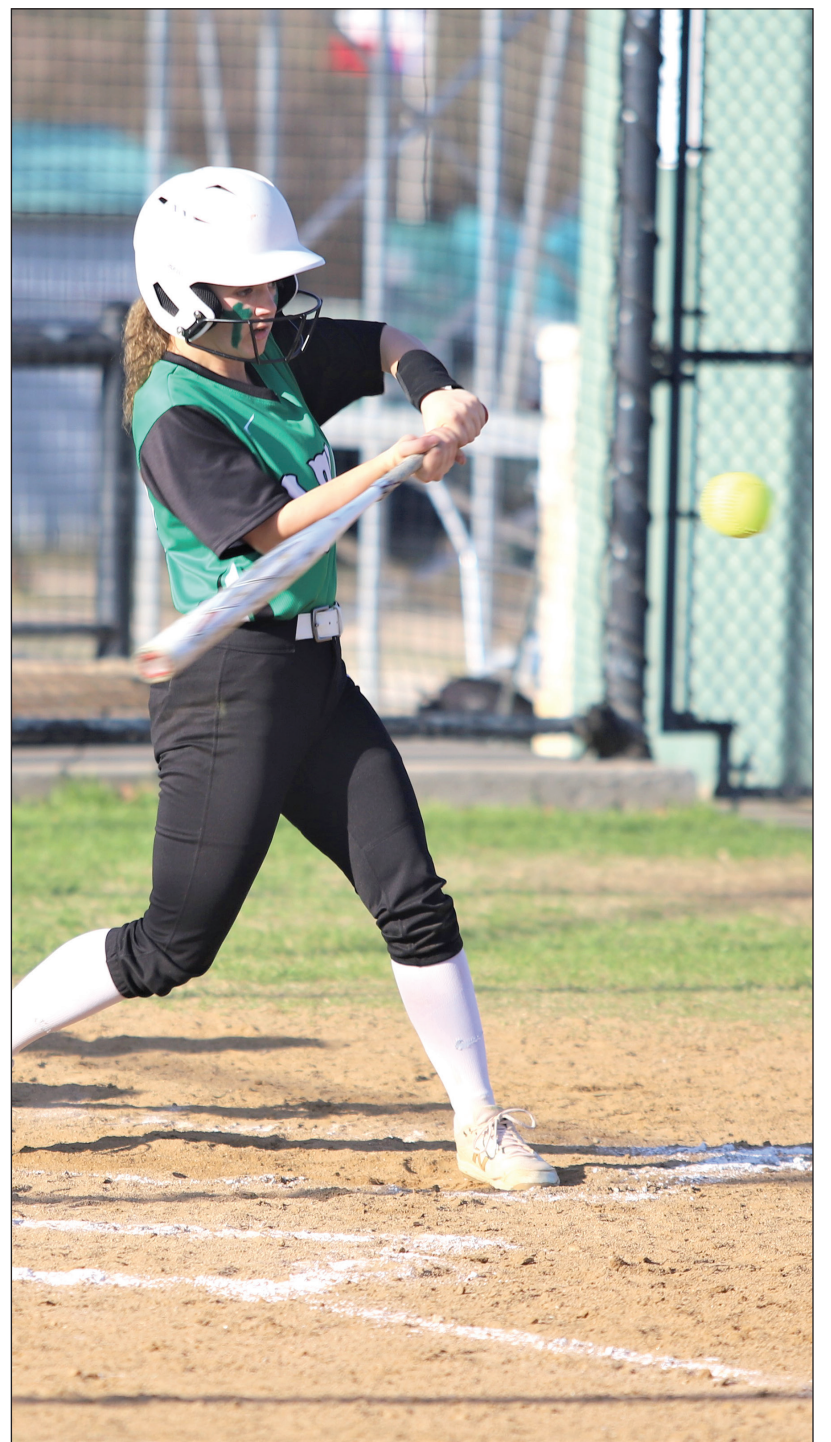
Those points helped Azle maintain its second place standing in the overall race for first place.

Currently, Decatur is in first place with 6,597 votes. Azle is in second place with 6,324.

Camdon Alvarez nabbed first place in chute dogging, and teammate River Cassel finished in eighth place.

Sisson won second place in barrels. In walk-up goat tying, Allred won sixth place and Mattie Sheriff took seventh.

## SOFTBALL, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B.



Kalle Vasquez went 3 for 4 with a triple at the plate

Photo by Jeff Prince

the shutout but wasn't concerned when Wichita Falls scored. The junior has pitched several complete game shutouts in her career.

"I've done better before, but it was good," she said of her performance.

The team is performing well as it nears the playoffs, she said.

"We're doing good so far," she said. "Our next few games, we just need to win those so we have a chance for the playoffs."

The girls made playoffs last year but lost in the first round.

This year's goal is to go "as far as we can get," Morrison said.



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*Quality Family Business Since 1938*

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We go the extra mile to ensure you get more for your \$.

On House Pads, Driveways, Lot Clearing & Tractor Work, Etc.

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**Azle News**

**Springtown Epigraph**

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**Now Hiring for Facilities Assistant II**

8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday – Friday Starts @ \$15.25  
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Pay Increase at 90 and 360 Days!

The Facilities Assistant II is accountable for maintaining a clean warehouse in an air-conditioned environment and ensuring cardboard and packing materials are appropriately recycled. Position may assist senior support staff with routine maintenance functions. These positions are located at the distribution center located at Beach Street and Meacham Blvd.

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Background/Drug Screen Required • HS Diploma or GED Required • Valid Texas Driver's License w/Safe Driving Record Required

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Inside Windows • Organizing

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**070 Septic Tanks**

**SPRINGTOWN Septic Service**

**682-715-7168**

Residential & Commercial

Email: [Springtownseptic@gmail.com](mailto:Springtownseptic@gmail.com)



**Eagle Crest VILLA SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY**

**NOW HIRING Full Time Personal Care Attendant**

10p-6a shift. New pay scale. Great company benefits.

Apply in person at 113 Denver Trail, Azle

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**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.

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**Metal Building Specialist**

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- All Types Fencing
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**NOW HIRING Activity/Marketing Director**

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**Silva Masonry, L.L.C.** AZLE, TX

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Here Before The Storm. Here Long After.

**Commercial & Residential**

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

Master Elite, BBB Accredited Business

SELL IT IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!

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**Now Hiring Class B-CDL Mixer Drivers**

- Production & Safety
- Bonuses Paid Monthly
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Apply in person at 1349 NW Parkway • Azle

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**Home Improvement Special \$100 Off**

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Tired of always replacing your roof? Call us for a metal roof quote.

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- Metal Buildings
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[www.SolidSS.com](http://www.SolidSS.com) **Open to the Public**

**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

**TKO Services**

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Eve's

- Roofs and Shingles
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- Bricks
- Decks
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- Swimming Pool Area
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- Sidewalk
- Driveway

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**Miles Roofing**

- Insurance Claim Specialists;
- Free Estimates

**817-797-3420**

**Save a Shelter Animal. Find your forever Friend**



Advertising Works!

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

Deadline:  
 4:30 PM Monday

# Classifieds

**081 Business/Commercial**  
 40x50 building For Rent,  
 3 miles west of Springtown.  
 817-713-7495.

**PARKWAY CENTER**  
**Hwy 199 Frontage**  
**Near Hospital**  
**1161 SE Pkwy Azle 1700 SF**  
**\$1200/mo.**  
**1169 SE Pkwy Azle 1000SF \$**  
**800/mo**  
**817-220-2021**

**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.

**083 Houses for Sale**  
 For Sale By Owner  
 4-1.5-2 Home on 4.96 Acres with  
 199 frontage \$420k.  
 817-444-3084

**086 Mobile Home/RV Lots**  
 Beautiful RV Spots available  
 in nice, quiet area near Eagle  
 Mountain Lake. \$350/mo. Call  
 for more information 817-228-  
 2414.

**POJO RV PARK**  
 302 Allison Road  
 Springtown, TX 76082  
**817-925-3673**  
**30x60 RV Spaces**  
**\$380/mo.**  
 Includes electricity,  
 water, sewer & trash  
 NEAR POJO STADIUM

*Hidden Meadow*  
**MOBILE HOME COMMUNITY**  
 Brand New Secluded Community • 3 miles from Springtown  
 • Brand new Single Wide Home available • No application fee  
 • For immediate move-in (Extra Large Lots)  
 • Why rent when you can rent to own? • No credit check  
**6501 W. Hwy 199, Springtown**  
**817-846-5997 • 817-228-0526**

**088 Rent Unfurnished**  
 3-2 Duplex for Rent in  
 Springtown. \$1,200/mo. \$600  
 deposit, no pets. Available 817-  
 980-3066.  
 3-2 DW on 1 acre in Springtown  
 for \$1300mo, \$1300dep, no pets.  
 817-980-3066  
 2-1-1 Triplex with privacy fenced  
 backyard. Freshly painted.  
 Very clean. Private drive for  
 triplex. Perfect for seniors,  
 close to all shopping. 1 small  
 pet allowed with \$200 pet dep.  
 Pet rent \$20mo. \$1,150mo and  
 \$1,150dep.  
 Credit/background required.  
 Proof of income and references  
 required. Non smoker. TEXT 817-  
 372-8626, DO NOT CALL, TEXT  
 ONLY.

**088 Rent Unfurnished**

**Azle Creek Apartments**  
 519 W. Main St. • Azle  
**1 Bed/1 Bath**  
**\$750/mo.**  
**All Bills Paid**  
**2 Bed/1 Bath**  
**\$925/mo.**  
**All Bills Paid**  
**817-598-0663**  
**or visit us online at**  
**aaapropertiesonline.com**  
**FIND US ON FACEBOOK!**

**AAA PROPERTIES, L.C.**  
 Quality Rentals  
 1510 Santa Fe Dr, Ste 100 Weatherford, TX 76086

**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.

*Hidden Meadow*  
**MOBILE HOME COMMUNITY**  
 3 bed/2 bath single wide  
 water/sewer paid  
 \$2000 min down  
 \$1170/mo plus lot rent  
 • Extra Large Lots  
 • Country Setting  
 • Free application  
**6501 W. Hwy 199,**  
**Springtown**  
**817-846-5997**

**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.

**ACROSS**  
 1 TXism: "sharp as a \_\_\_\_\_ awhile"  
 5 TXism: "chew \_\_\_\_\_ while"  
 6 Dallas TV station  
 7 TX Judith Ivey's "Lonely Guy" role  
 8 actress Taylor of TX-based "Giant," for short  
 9 TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ with the chickens" (retire early)  
 16 this TX Lisa sang "Stay (I Missed You)"  
 18 ending for United or Confederate States (2 wds.)  
 21 TXism: "all vine, \_\_\_\_\_ watermelon"  
 22 TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ donkey fly?" (no)  
 23 former Fort Worth baker: "\_\_\_\_\_ Baird's"  
 24 this TX John was a hostage in Iran for 444 days  
 30 Lubbock has an annual "Cowboy \_\_\_\_\_"  
 34 this Berlin wrote songs for TX Ginger (init.)  
 35 William Powell was a Texan in "How to \_\_\_\_\_ Millionaire" (1953)  
 36 aluminium \_\_\_\_\_  
 37 Houston steak-house: "\_\_\_\_\_ of Texas"  
 39 "The National Beer of Texas" (3 wds.)  
 43 "Fiesta Diez \_\_\_\_\_"  
 44 TXism: "If I was any \_\_\_\_\_ couldn't stand it"  
 45 TXism: "fair \_\_\_\_\_ middlin'"  
 46 religious group  
 47 boat with sails, e.g.  
 49 "Hell in Texas" poem says the devil put "horns \_\_\_\_\_"  
 52 first manager of the Texas Rangers, Williams  
 53 to Denton from Abilene  
 54 NBC sitcom of TX Crystal Bernard  
 55 "\_\_\_\_\_ Farms" in Gregg County (Christmas trees)  
 58 Dallas area: "\_\_\_\_\_ Plaza"  
 59 donkey  
 60 astrological lion  
 61 natl. ID no. (abbr.)  
**DOWN**  
 1 1966 TX Matthew McConaughey film "A Time \_\_\_\_\_"  
 2 the Red \_\_\_\_\_ Grande rivers are Texas boundaries  
 3 inhabitants  
 4 Abilene ABC TV  
 9 TXism: "from the get \_\_\_\_\_"  
 10 "Battle \_\_\_\_\_ Creek" was near Goliad  
 11 TX academic test (1991-2002) (abbr.)  
 12 prefix meaning "all"  
 13 Murchison animal refuge "Black \_\_\_\_\_ Ranch"  
 14 TXism: "let \_\_\_\_\_ rip!"  
 15 TXism: "his bulb glows kinda \_\_\_\_\_"  
 17 beau  
 19 TX Rex Reed, et al.  
 20 "do \_\_\_\_\_ as you can"  
 24 TX "Petter Pan" Martin (init.)  
 25 Houston Texans CEO, McNair  
 26 Corpus Christi AM  
 27 TX singer Tubbs  
 28 Crystal City has statue of "Pop \_\_\_\_\_ Sailor Man"  
 29 persevered  
 31 mafia, or crowd  
 32 pecan or apple  
 33 body rub  
 38 flower beginnings  
 40 TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ ninety" (small)  
 41 "art" in Mexico  
 42 Democrat who was in Texas House for 27 years (2 wds.)  
 48 TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ solid perfect"  
 50 kitchen floor often  
 51 TX Roy Orbison's "\_\_\_\_\_ the Lonely"  
 56 TX-based "Hud" star Patricia, et al.  
 57 flower holders

**TEXAS CROSSWORD**  
 by Charley & Guy Orbison  
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 P-1579

**088 Rent Unfurnished**  
**Spring Garden and Spring Garden V Apartments of Springtown**  
**NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR Disabled, Low Income and Senior Tenants, 62 years of age or older, handicapped/disabled regardless of age**  
**1,2,3 Bedroom Duplex Amenities Include**  
 Ceramic Tile, Ceiling Fans, Washer/Dryer Connections, Stove, Refrigerator and Dishwasher  
**\*Must Meet Housing Qualifications\***  
 Spring Garden.....817-523-7555  
 Spring Garden V....817-220-5585  
 This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

**FOR RENT**  
**1 Bdrm Springtown FOR RENT**  
**Water • Furnished NO PETS**  
**940-229-1045**  
**or 940-229-1046**

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 SHEETED ON TOADS  
 TED ENE WINGS  
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 S-1579

**TEXAS STATEWIDE CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING NETWORK**  
**TexSCAN**  
**LOG HOMES**  
 TextSCAN Week of April 3-9, 2022  
**ACREAGE**  
 Hunting/investment/recreational property. Starting at \$650/acre. Trans Pecos region. Also the Hill Country (Edwards, Menard, Coke, Val Verde Counties - free ranging exotics), South Texas (Duval County - whitetail, hogs). Large or small acreage. 30-year fixed rate owner financing, only 5% down. Call toll-free or email for individual prices and terms, www.ranchenterprisesltd.com, 800-876-9720.  
**EVENTS**  
 Texas Ladies State Chili Championship Cook-off - Saturday, April 9, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m., Max Starcke Park East. CHILI, Craft and Food Vendors, Music, Silent Auction, Raffles, Family Fun! Judging begins at 12:30 p.m. Sign up to be a judge at tisco.com/chili-judges-needed. More Info: visitisegun.com, 830-401-5000.  
 New Braunfels Area Car Club Swap Meet & Sunday Car Show - April 22, 23 & 24, 2022, Comal County Fairgrounds, 801 E. Common Street, New Braunfels. www.newbraunfelsareacarclub.com. Face Masks Encouraged.  
**GENERATORS**  
 GENERAC Standby Generators provide backup power during utility power outages, so your home and family stay safe and comfortable. Prepare now. Free 7-year extended warranty (\$695 value!). Request a free quote today! Call for additional terms and conditions. 855-704-8579.  
**WANTED**  
 Need Extra Cash - 1 Buy RVs & Mobile Homes - Travel Trailers, 5th Wheels, Goosenecks, Bumper Pulls. In Any Area, Any Condition - Old/New, Dirty or Clean! I PAY CASH. No Title - No Problem, we can apply for one. We go anywhere in Texas. ANR Enterprises, 956-466-7001.  
**TEXAS PRESS STATEWIDE CLASSIFIED NETWORK**  
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 NOTICE: While most advertisers are reputable, we cannot guarantee products or services advertised. We urge readers to use caution and when in doubt, contact the Texas Attorney General at 800-621-0508 or the Federal Trade Commission at 877-FTC-HELP. The FTC web site is www.ftc.gov/bizop.

PLACE AN AD IN THE CLASSIFIEDS TODAY!  
**817-270-3340**

**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 \$1,075 & \$1,175. Quiet, clean, non-smoking. CALL or TEXT 817-404-7143.  
**Silver Creek RV Park:** Designed for local long-term stays. Best common building in Azle, secluded and quiet, city water/sewer. \$450 with \$75 electricity allotment; ABP in winter. CALL or TEXT 682-499-8616 or email [scrvooffice@gmail.com](mailto:scrvooffice@gmail.com).  
**Barton Cottages Tiny Home Community:** COMING FALL 2021! Email [sales.stewartbend@gmail.com](mailto:sales.stewartbend@gmail.com) for information.

Save a Shelter Animal. Find your forever Friend

**Advertise in the Community Classifieds and raise some extra money for your next trip to the beach.**

**16 words or less is only \$10. Call us for more info.**

**817-270-3340 Azle or 817-220-7217 Springtown**