



# Azle News

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## Giving hope to students: Intervention counselors discuss jobs

BY DON MUNSCH  
editor@azlenews.net

CARING FOR  
THE DISTRICT

Counselors work on each campus in Azle ISD, offering help to students involving academic and personal matters.

The district also has two intervention counselors who seek to help students in other ways, including with various crises.

Hollee Reed and Kim Brown are intervention counselors for the district, beginning their jobs this year. The district used to have one crisis intervention counselor, but she left and the district added a new position this year in addition to replacing her.

Brown said she and Reed work hard to offer hope to students, teachers and administrators as they address specific issues and are presented with difficult situations.

Reed added that they let students know they are not alone, and as crisis intervention counselors, they offer support at school and connect students and families to outside community resources. As they visit with students, they ensure confidentiality at the highest level, Brown said.

"We split the district in half," Reed said, explaining how she and Brown manage the caseload.

Schools that feed into Forte Junior High School are Brown's schools and responsibility and all of the schools that feed into Azle Junior School are Reed's schools. The high school's students are split by alphabet, as Brown covers A-L and Reed does M-Z.

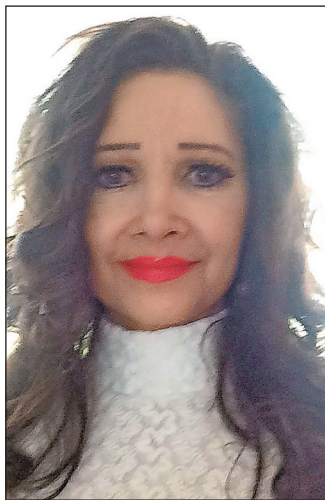
"And we serve students who are assigned to DAEP (Disciplinary Alternative Education Program)," Brown said.

THERE WHEN NEEDED

The Intervention counselors said crisis situations and trauma can surface at any time, and they are on call during the school day and after hours as needed.

"We are called in for crisis situations, primarily," Brown said.

Reed and Brown complete suicide assessments and are on the threat assessment team for the district. Every assessment is critical, Brown said, and she and Reed and take every comment seriously that involves the safety of



Kim Brown

students and staff.

Brown said there are specific protocols that are followed for suicide and homicide assessments, and the process does not end until parents are contacted, safety plans are put in place, referrals are made to outside agencies and so on.

"We follow it through all the way from the beginning to making sure all the students are safe," Brown said.

People typically call or text counselors when they need help with a student. The counselors can tag team when one counselor needs the other to cover her campus or students in her alpha-

SEE COUNSELORS, PAGE 5A.



Hollee Reed, standing in her office, is one of two intervention counselors for the Azle ISD. She and intervention counselor Kim Brown are called upon to help students in crisis. Photo by Don Munsch



From left to right, volunteers Jan Flavin, Ferrol Miller, Pat Geoff, and Peggy Helm help the Attic Reruns resale shop sort donations of quality used clothing and small household goods. Photo by Jessica McKinney

## THR Azle Auxiliary

BY JESSICA MCKINNEY  
azlereporter@azlenews.net

Hospital Azle Auxiliary have been waiting for more than a year to get back to work, and on March 4, they finally get to do that.

The auxiliary is a nonprofit organization operated by volunteers whose purpose

SEE AUXILIARY, PAGE 4A.

## Former Azle resident delves into history of Stockyards

BY DON MUNSCH  
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If you want to tell the story of Fort Worth, you should include the history of Fort Worth Stockyards. It's not called Cowtown for nothing.

J'Nell Pate, a former columnist for the Azle News and a former longtime Azle resident and a retired college professor, takes readers through a tour of the stockyards with descriptions and Carolyn Brown's photographs in the newly released book, "The Historic Fort Worth Stockyards," published by Texas A&M University Press. The book, released Feb. 8, traces the beginnings of the stockyards from the late 1800s until modern day, complete with its designation as National Historic District.

Pate dropped by the News' office last week to discuss the book. She had



J'Nell Pate of Bedford shows her newest book, "The Historic Fort Worth Stockyards." Pate had previously written a book about the Stockyards and completed her dissertation for her doctorate on the Stockyards. Photo by Don Munsch

written about the stockyards before in "Livestock 1888 by Texas A&M University Legacy: The Fort Worth Stockyards, 1887-1987," which was published in 1988 by Texas A&M University Press. Pate discussed the book. She had

SEE STOCKYARDS, PAGE 5A.



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INSIDE News 1-10A | Obituaries 6A | Sports 1-4B | Classifieds 6-8B |



# Azle battles in Coyote Area Math Championship

Azle High School was represented by 10 students who competed in the Pre-Calculus and Calculus Divisions Feb. 18 at Weatherford College's 20th annual Coyote Area Math Championship.

In the Calculus Division, Caden Christian placed ninth, Sammy Reyes placed eighth, and Holt Lee placed third. The team of Caden Christian, Brandon Fedor, Holt Lee, and Sammy Reyes placed second overall in the Calculus Division.

From left (front) are Brandon Fedor, Sammy Reyes, and Holt Lee and in back are Jeff Tschoepe (sponsor), Jesus Mesta, Gabe Evans, Eli Jordan, Ashlyn Hobbs, Nathan Nguyen, Caden Christian and Ash Forsythe. Photo courtesy



# 46 students graduate from Azle Hornet Academy



The Azle Hornet Academy celebrated the graduation of 46 students on Feb. 28 at the Azle High School auditorium. Hundreds of friends and family members were in the audience congratulating the graduates with handmade signs, shouts and cheers, and air horns blasting. To date, the Hornet Academy has helped 610 non-traditional students earn their high school diplomas. Photo courtesy

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# Operation Texas Strong helps homeless veterans 'rebuild'

BY JESSICA MCKINNEY  
azlereporter@azlenews.net

Peggy and Bobby Crutsinger embarked on a mission in January 2021 to help unhoused veterans rebuild their lives.

The couple, along with their children RJ, Caty, Jay and Chris, began communicating to their community for help in getting RVs for veterans. That's how Operation Texas Strong got started.

Bobby and Peggy said they were tired of seeing homeless veterans on the street and wanted to change that.

"We wanted to give back to the veterans because they served our country, and we want to serve them and help them get off the street ... we can help provide them a place to live and rebuild their life one RV at a time and it is their RV to call home," Bobby said.

The Crutsingers have been working with the homeless for seven years, feeding and giving away tents.

The first RV they were able to give went to a three-time war veteran who had been homeless for 26 years. A week before Christmas 2020, they were able to give him "his first home that he can call his," Bobby said.

It was an emotional moment for Bobby.

"I started the whole program with \$100 — \$50 to the driver (who picked up the RV) and \$50 in diesel."

To date, Operation Texas Strong has received 79 RVs from donors to be fixed up and given to unhoused veterans. Many of the RVs are moved by volunteers, most of them veterans themselves.

The nonprofit organization, which has a 501(c)(3) status, asks the community to donate any RVs that can be fixed up and made livable for veterans, plus any building materials, household goods, clothing and food to go along with them.

Right now, Operation Texas Strong is focused on veterans in Texas, with one of their RVs going to a veteran in El Paso just last week.

According to a report by Continuum of Care to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, there were nearly 2,000 homeless veterans in Texas

in 2020. Nationwide, the number of homeless veterans is over 37,000.

"We want to be working in other states soon, but we need people to help us," Bobby said.

People can send donations to the organization's address, 111 West Josephine St., Weatherford, Texas, 76086.

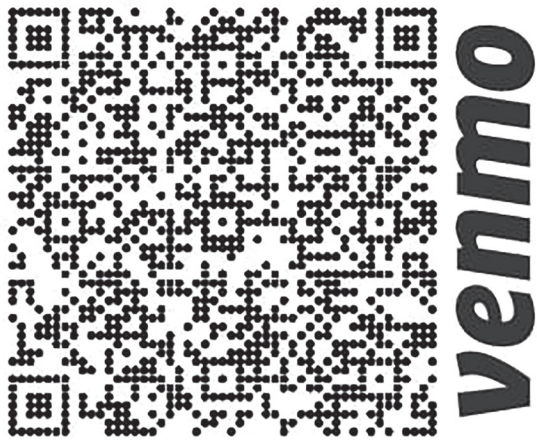
The organization also has a Venmo account set up for donations: @operationtexasstrong.

"My wife's dad is a Vietnam veteran that went to heaven four years ago, and we promised we will get all homeless veterans off the street in honor of him," Bobby said.

"He got tired of seeing homeless veterans on the street. Our veterans should never be homeless."



Peggy and Bobby Crutsinger started Operation Texas Strong in 2021 with a goal of helping to house all Texas homeless veterans with donated RVs. Photo courtesy



QR code to donate to Operation Texas Strong through Venmo.

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AUXILIARY, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.

is to support the hospital, either with hands-on support or with financial donations. They have been supporting the hospital in Azle since the 1970s.

The volunteers were not allowed to help at the hospital when COVID-19 forced administrators to clamp down on non-essential people being inside the building. Their bi-annual fundraiser Levis and Lace had to be canceled as well.

But the organization carried on in whatever ways they could.

They were able to raise money that would go to help the hospital, made their annual donation to the Good N.E.W.S. program, and last year, they were able to hand out 11 \$2,000 scholarships to high school seniors who were pursuing careers in health care.

They were able to reopen the Attic Reruns resale shop back in November. All sales from the shop help support the auxiliary's mission, as do sales at the hospital gift shop, Rainbow Inn. Both shops are run by volunteers.

But running gift shops and raising money isn't all the auxiliary does for the hospital in Azle.

"We help in any way we can," said Janice Flavin, an auxiliary board member. "We escort patients from registration to wherever they need to go in the hospital. We know where ev-



The Attic Reruns resale shop accepts donations of quality used clothing and small household goods. Proceeds from sales help fund the mission of the Texas Health Azle Auxiliary. Photo by Jessica McKinney

everything is." Another task they take on is emergency department call backs.

"We take the paperwork for patients who were released and we call them to ask about their experience," Flavin said. "We ask about any concerns or issues they had and address them the

best we can. We'll take notes for the ER director so they can follow up."

They also help with any "busy work" including filing and making copies.

During COVID, the auxiliary did what they could to help "lift the spirits" of the hospital employees, bringing them treats and things to

show their support and appreciation.

Now that they will be allowed to help in the hospital again, Flavin said they are ready to start getting more volunteers signed up.

"We always need volunteers for the gift shop in the hospital, escorts, and help at the Attic Reruns shop," she

said.

The community is invited to make donations of clothing, small household goods like dishes and small appliances, bedding and towels to add to the inventory at the resale shop, located at 714 Southeast Pkwy. in Azle, which is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m. to

12:30 p.m. Saturday.

Anyone can become an auxiliary member with a \$10 annual membership fee. For more information about volunteer opportunities or becoming a member, contact Jan Flavin at jan.flavin@icloud.com.

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### Kid Scoop Puzzler

Color each shape with a shamrock green. What is hidden in this box?

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Students follow simple written directions.

### How to Draw a LEPRECHAUN

### THINK GREEN!

## Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Although it began in Ireland, St. Patrick's Day is celebrated in countries around the world. People with Irish heritage remind themselves of the beautiful green countryside of Ireland by wearing green and taking part in the festivities.

**Standards Link:** Social Science: Students compare the beliefs, customs, traditions and social practices of various cultures.

### Shamrocks!

In Ireland, clover leaves are also called **shamrocks**. Fields of clover or shamrocks are part of what make Ireland's countryside so green.

Most shamrocks have three leaves. But sometimes one grows with four leaves. This is called a lucky four-leaf clover. Can you find one on this page?

**Standards Link:** Classification: Visual Discrimination.

### Shamrock Shoe Search

The leprechaun Seamus O'Scoop has hidden 10 shoes in these shamrocks. Can you find them all?

### How Big Are Leprechauns?

Can you read three shoe-lengths of news? Put your shoes end to end to measure three shoe lengths. Mark the length on a piece of paper. Now read a news story in today's newspaper. Using your measure, find the length of your news story. Did you read the length of a leprechaun?

**Standards Link:** Math: Measure the length of given objects.

**What Comes Next?**

Look for a pattern in each row. Draw the picture that comes next in the box at the end of each row.

**Standards Link:** Math: Students identify and extend simple patterns.

### How Did Leprechauns Get Their Gold?

Stories from Ireland tell about magical little people called **leprechauns** who make shoes for fairies. Fairies wear out their shoes quickly because they dance all night. Leprechauns sell a lot of shoes to fairies and the fairies always pay in gold. This is what the stories say. What do you think?

**Standards Link:** Social Science: Students compare beliefs of various cultures drawing from folklore.

### Double Double Word Search

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

SHAMROCK	H	A	L	A	C	I	G	A	M	Y
IRISH	S	P	P	H	Y	S	N	S	A	K
HERITAGE	K	I	N	T	S	L	E	D	C	C
GREEN	C	R	S	Y	E	I	E	O	A	U
FAIRIES	I	E	G	A	T	I	R	E	H	L
SHOES	R	V	F	D	I	M	G	I	T	S
SAINT	T	O	R	I	A	N	F	O	U	R
CLOVER	A	L	C	H	I	K	T	S	L	D
GOLD	P	C	S	E	I	R	I	A	F	D
MAGICAL										
LUCKY										
FOUR										
LEAF										
PATRICKS										
DAY										

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

### FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

### Lucky Shamrock Adjectives

Clip five words from the newspaper to describe St. Patrick's Day. Paste the words on a green shamrock. Write a sentence using each adjective. Select your favorite sentence and use it as the main idea for a paragraph.

**Standards Link:** Grammar: Identify and use adjectives correctly in writing.

### Write On!

## Four-leaf Clover

I knew my luck would change when I picked up a four-leaf clover.

*Finish this story.*

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**COUNSELORS**, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.

bet group at the high school.

**BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS**

Reed is in her 14th year of education. She has taught pre-K and kindergarten and was a school counselor prior to becoming an intervention counselor. Hailing from Fort Worth, she earned her undergrad degree from Texas A&M University and her graduate degree from Angelo State University.

Brown was a co-teacher for 13 years for algebra and biology at the secondary level and then obtained her master's degree in professional school counseling and was a school counselor for four years on a designated campus. She performed some crisis intervention last year on the campus level. She is from Weatherford

and received her bachelor's degree from Howard Payne University and then earned her master's degree at Lamar University.

Intervention counselors work closely with administrators, teachers and campus counselors. Anyone on campus can refer a student to the intervention counselors.

As part of threat investigations or critical situations, the intervention counselors may talk with students, parents, teachers, administrators, campus counselors and mental health professionals/facilities.

Brown said she and Reed don't step into the disciplinary side because they want students to feel comfortable about discussing what is happening. Besides dealing with suicide and threat assessments, intervention

counselors also help students deal with anxiety and stress. They also help students identify emotions and help them with strategies to cope.

If a staff member needs help, intervention counselors can make referrals.

**STAYING BUSY – VERY BUSY**

Brown said she and Reed work closely with the campus counselors and administrators, explaining it's a team effort and it takes everyone working together to help students navigate the effects of crisis and trauma. Brown said the number of students dealing with anxiety, depression, panic attacks and the effects of trauma might be surprising to some people.

"We are taking care of kids every day, helping

them figure out their lives," Brown said.

Reed said she and Brown will spend hours trying to find places to help students to get outside counseling so they don't have to wait months to get help. They have found places that do virtual outpatient services in the evening, and some places are expanding services they offer, just to accommodate families.

**OTHER SERVICES**

Intervention counselors discussed how they work with students and how they keep track with contacts they made with each student.

"We give the students our email address so they can reach out to us directly or they know they can tell their teachers any time and their teachers can reach out to us

and get in contact with us, if that's needed," Reed said.

Crisis intervention counselors present required trainings to teachers and administrators, and they oversee the state-mandated social-emotional curriculum. The purpose of this curriculum is to encourage students to identify and talk about their emotions along with providing individualized interventions.

The district piloted some programs last year, did a program district-wide this year, and counselors are looking for even more relevant programs for next year. Counselors meet once a month for the entire districts, and they get a chance to preview the programs that will be used.

Brown and Reed are on a high-risk alert team called Light Speed. They, along

with school resource officer Chance Kidd and AISD Police Chief Darren Brockway, are alerted if students post concerning comments about suicide or homicide. These alerts are monitored 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

These alerts provide a way to monitor comments in real time and have assisted in keeping students safe.

Brown said she and Reed must conduct appropriate follow-through in their jobs, explaining that if they promise to call a parent back, they will do that. The most satisfying aspect of their jobs is being able to help students who are going through difficult problems.

"And they know we care and love them," Brown said. "I agree 100%," Reed said.

**STOCKYARDS**, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.

iversity Press. The book won an award from the Texas State Historical Association as the best book on Texas history that year, according to the epilogue of this current stockyards book. Pate has written four books on Fort Worth history and her dissertation for her doctorate was on the Stockyards.

"I think anyone who likes the Old West would certainly enjoy it, because Fort Worth's part of that," Pate

said about her new book. "It's Western history."

Brown took many pictures of the stockyards and contacted Texas A&M Press, and the business advised her that she needed a text for the photos.

"Texas State Historical Association knew I had written a previous book on the Fort Worth Stockyards, so they said why don't you just condense it and just add what new things have happened since to go with her

photo book," said Pate, who lives in Bedford, adding she followed that advice.

Pate said the stockyards' setting fascinates her.

"I like the West, I've always like Western history – cowboys and Indians and that sort of thing," she said.

She likes history in general, and growing up in Arlington Heights, she lived near a theater that showed Westerns, helping her affinity for the American West to

grow.

Her family moved to the Fort Worth area when she was 4 years old and she has lived here since then. She said she's always been interested in the Stockyards, working as a volunteer at the Stockyards in the 1970s.

"There were a few of us wanting to push it and just wishing we could make a tourist attraction out of it," she said, adding there were a few tourists trickling in, but

it was "certainly not what it is today."

For her first book, she interviewed many people and spent months doing its research, condensing that information into this book, said husband Fred Barnes.

Pate said people can learn a lot of information about the people involved in the Stockyards in its beginning and how it became a tourist destination.

"They can learn a great

deal about how it made Fort Worth the city it is," said Pate, a former professor of history at Tarrant County College.

Barnes said the Stockyards has had four phases: beginning, demise, rejuvenation and its current form. The place is booming now, Pate said, but it was dead at one point.

The book can be obtained from [www.tamupress.com](http://www.tamupress.com).

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Uncle Jay's in front of his location at the Exxon Quickway on Boyd Road in Azle.

**Uncle Jay's Grub Shack**  
*Barbecue and Catfish*

Uncle Jay's Grub Shack is the new BBQ joint in town, but they're very well known in Arkansas, Missouri and Oklahoma. Uncle Jay's has been in Azle for three months and has already gotten people talking.

Uncle Jay's has even had the pleasure of serving Walmart corporate employees and executives back in Arkansas.

Uncle Jay works alongside his youngest son, Jerjuan Edwards inside their small BBQ restaurant located inside the Exxon Quickway at 1704 Boyd Rd. in Azle.

"We specialize in authentic BBQ and catfish," said Uncle Jay. "We make our own BBQ sauce and other sides. Our catfish is hand breaded upon order with our famous seasoning and technique for the most crispy and flavorful taste. People fall absolutely in love with our fresh in-house tartar sauce."

Uncle Jay says his catfish is "breaded with various seasonings and stuff and thangs," and that their tartar sauce is "a blend of mouth-watering household items

never thought of in tartar sauce."

Uncle Jay's unique BBQ sauce is award-winning, taking the top spots in an 18-year-old National BBQ contest in Louisville, Kentucky. His sauce won county, regional, state (Arkansas) and national competitions!

The pork butts and briskets go through a three-part process that maximizes its flavor and tenderness. The ribs go through a two-part pre-cooking process for optimum taste.

Right now, Uncle Jay's Grub Shack is running a lunch special you don't want to miss: Buy a pork sandwich, get a free side (coleslaw or baked beans) for only \$8.50 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Uncle Jay's is open Tuesday through Saturday 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. To find out what's on the menu, call 817-500-7316.

"We most certainly thank the very fine customers of Azle and abroad," Uncle Jay said. "We pride ourselves on taste, flavor and quality."

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# Obituaries

## Naomi Hearell Stewart 1928 - 2022

Naomi Hearell Stewart departed her earthly life on Friday, Feb. 25, 2022 in Weatherford.

Service is at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 5, 2022 at White's Azle Chapel. Visitation is at 9 a.m. Saturday, March 5, 2022 until service time at White's Azle Chapel. Interment: Azleland Memorial Park.

She was born to William and Kate Donnell on Sept. 18, 1928 in Munday, Texas. Naomi graduated from Azle High School in 1946 and shortly thereafter began a thirty year civilian career with the United States Air Force, retiring as a Contracting Officer for the 7th Bombardment wing. She married Robert Ford Hearell in 1952. Naomi and Ford made their home in Azle, where they were active in the VFW and church. They were charter members of the Azle Historical Museum Society and the Azteq Saddle Club. She and Ford gained local notoriety for their many Christmas party appearances as Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus.

In later years they relocated to Weatherford. After Ford's death in 2000, Naomi became active in Weatherford's Senior Citizens group, where she met her second husband, Bruce Stewart. They were married in 2004. Naomi and Bruce enjoyed golfing and traveling until his death in 2009.

Naomi was an animal lover and contributed to many causes benefiting



animals. She loved antiques and had an impressive collection of vintage toys. She was a member of Couts Memorial Methodist Church and enjoyed church activities as long as she was able to do so. She participated in the early development of the Doss Heritage Center. She took pride in her family and enjoyed her nieces and nephews.

Naomi was preceded in death by her parents; first husband, Ford Hearell; second husband, Bruce Stewart; sisters, Katherine Webb Kramer, Geraldine Raper and Pauline Owens; and stepson, Mark Stewart.

Survivors include: brothers, Charles Donnell, Tom Donnell and wife, Regina; sisters, Marian Vandergriff and Jane Stevenson and husband, Gene; stepchildren, Mike Stewart and Ann Runge; several nieces and nephews.

Naomi was loved and respected by all and will be missed.

*The Azle News, March 2, 2022 Edition*

## Delora Jane Conley-Walls 1957 - 2022

Delora Jane Conley-Walls died peacefully in Fort Worth, Texas, Jan. 22, 2022 due to complications from diabetes.

Celebration of life will be held March 5, 2022 at 11 a.m. at Azle First Assembly of God Church officiated by Pastor Tim Stevens.

Delora was born May 25, 1957 to her parents Bernie E. Conley and Jackie Jane Conley.

She was a retired school teacher and taught at The Rock Elementary School in Azle for 25 years. She was a member of Azle First Assembly of God Church for many years before moving to Ruidoso. She taught Sunday School and managed the nursery. She organized multiple Vacations Bible Schools, Ladies Day Out Spas, and planned and prepared meals for events. She dedicated her life to the service of Christ. After retirement she wrote three published books.

She was preceded in



death by her parents and grandparents Jack and Janie Bruton, missionaries to the American Indian Nations in New Mexico.

Survivors include her companion of 18 years Jeff Elan; stepson Richard Walls and stepdaughter Marlaina Walls Penrod; both of Ft. Worth; brothers Eddy Conley and wife Sophie of Mineral Wells, Grant Conley of Sanctuary, and John Conley of Ft. Worth; two grandchildren.

*The Azle News, March 2, 2022 Edition*

## Margaret Ann Haralson 1946 - 2022

Margaret Ann Culpepper Haralson, 76, passed away Saturday, Feb. 26, 2022.

Service is at 2 pm. Thursday, March 3, 2022 at New Faith Baptist Church in Aledo. Visitation at 1p.m. to service time Thursday, March 3, 2022 at New Faith Baptist Church in Aledo. Interment: Dicey Cemetery.

Margaret Ann was born Feb. 19, 1946 to Luther and Delia Culpepper.

She was preceded in death by her parents. husband, Otis Haralson; brother, Leroy Culpepper; sisters, Sue Marshal and Evelyn Culpepper.

Survived by her son,



Leslie Haralson, Jr.; grandsons, Leslie Haralson, Jr and Charles Haralson; and five great-grandchildren.

*The Azle News, March 2, 2022 Edition*

## Shelley Lee Duggan 1965 - 2022

Shelley Lee (Ellis) Duggan, 56, of Azle, Texas passed away at her family home after a short battle with cancer on Feb. 2, 2022.

A celebration of life will be at a later date.

Shelley spent her childhood in Chillicothe, Illinois before relocating to Texas after graduating. She worked for Azle ISD for 25 years and loved developing friendships with many coworkers and students. She enjoyed NFL football, Little League World Series, and bull riding. She planned many barbecues and family gatherings.

She is preceded in death by her father, Edward Ellis, and brother, Edward Ellis Jr.

Shelley is survived by her loving spouse of 17 years, Benjamin Anderson;



her mother Helen Ellis, two children Kevin Ellis, Natalie Duggan, as well as three stepsons CJ Ramos, Gary Anderson, Benjamin Anderson Jr. She had seven beloved grandchildren two adored cats Teeny and Toby, and many cherished friends.

*The Azle News, March 2, 2022 Edition*

## John Underwood 1951 - 2022

John Underwood, 71, passed away Thursday Feb. 24, 2022 in Weatherford.

Memorial visitation is Friday, March 4, 2022 from 6-8 p.m. Family Sharing Time: 7 p.m.

John was born Feb. 18, 1951 in Welch, Oklahoma, son of William Nelson and Doris Reed Underwood. John proudly served his country in the United States Army. He met and married the love of his life, Christy Phillips in 1973 and they would go on to spend 48 happy years together raising their family. Christy and John spent their early years in Nebraska, and would move to Azle in 1987. John was a registered Cherokee Indian, and was proud of his heritage.

He enjoyed working with his hands, and made a career out of doing so. He was resourceful and had a great talent for problem solving. He had a great sense of humor and loved to play jokes. While he had many interests, his first love was his family, of whom he was extremely proud.

He is preceded in death



by his parents; daughter-in-law, April Underwood; two brothers, Edwin and Arthur Underwood; and sister, Ethel Duschaneck.

Survivors include his loving wife, Christy; Children, Matthew Underwood, Sheila Rollins, Caprice Ladner (Chad); grandchildren, Tylor, Carly, Cory, Mikey, Niki, Nathyn, Noah, Jakob, Peyton, Logan, Adalyn, Hayden; brothers, Jim, Rod, Kenneth, William, and Jerry, all of Nebraska; sister, Willa Roeder, also of Nebraska, mother-in law, Wanda Phillips, of Azle; and many other extended family members and friends.

*The Azle News, March 2, 2022 Edition*

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### ... ATTEND THE CHURCH OF YOUR CHOICE THIS SUNDAY

<p><b>THE ABBEY CHURCH</b> Pastor: Paul Brownback 10400 Jacksboro Highway 817-238-1404 www.TheAbbeyChurch.com Morning Worship.....10:30 AM Community Groups.....Various Times</p>	<p><b>COMMUNITY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH</b> Pastor - Alton Davis 817-521-4510 1405 Reynolds Rd., Azle 817-444-7117 Directions: 730 N. to 1542 .5 mi. right on Cardinal, left on Reynolds Sunday School.....9:45 AM Morning Worship.....11:00 AM Sunday Evening.....6:00 PM Wednesday Evening.....7:00 PM</p>	<p><b>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> Pastor: Dr. Richard Reed 200 Church St., Azle 817-444-3323 Morn. Worship.....8:30, 9:45 &amp; 11 AM Sunday School.....9:45 &amp; 11 AM Youth (UMYF).....5:00 PM Sun &amp; 6:30 PM Wed</p>	<p><b>LEGACY CHURCH</b> Assembly of God Church Pastor: Gary D. Veazey Hwy. 199 &amp; Jaybird Lane 817-221-2983 Morning Worship.....9:15 &amp; 11:00 AM Kidz Zone.....9:15 &amp; 11:00 AM Weds Evening Legacy Group Legacy Youth, Kids All Services.....7:00 PM</p>	<p><b>THE WORD@LAKESIDE CHURCH OF GOD</b> 9396 FM 1886 Fort Worth, TX 76135 817-237-5500 thewordatlakeside.com Pastors: Brandon and Kelly Bohannon Worship Pastor: Christen Moody Family Life and Young Adult Pastors: Jodie and Mark James, Kids Pastor: Katie Pearson, Student Pastors: Taylor and Sheridan Tomlin, Creative Directors: Logan and Carrie Edwards, Connections Coordinators: Preston and Ashley Larrew</p>
<p><b>ASH CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH</b> Pastor: Dr. G. Wesley Shotwell 300 South Stewart St. 817-444-3219 www.ashcreekbc.org Sunday School.....9:30 AM Contemporary Worship-TMP.....10:45 AM Traditional Worship.....10:45 AM Evening Worship.....6:00 PM Wednesday Youth Refuge.....6:00 PM Wednesday Evening.....6:15 PM</p>	<p><b>CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH</b> 2233 Hwy 199 E. • Springtown 817-221-LIFE (5433) 817-755-0279 Sunday Worship Service.....10:00 AM Wednesday.....7:00 PM</p>	<p><b>HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> 800 Highcrest Dr. - Azle 817-444-3063 Saturday.....5:00 PM Sunday.....9:00 AM Sunday.....11 AM (Spanish) Daily Mass (M, T, Th, F).....8:00 AM Wednesday Mass Religious ED.....6:30 PM Confessions.....Sat 4 PM</p>	<p><b>SILVER CREEK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> Rev. Sheila Fiorella - Pastor 2200 Church Rd., Azle 817-444-1382 www.silvercreekumc.org Sunday School 9:30 AM • Worship 10:30 AM</p>	<p>Equip Sunday School at the WORD 9:30 AM Empower Worship at the WORD . 10:45 AM Kids at the WORD.....10:45 AM PreK at the WORD.....10:45 AM Emanate at the WORD (Special Needs Ministry).....10:45 AM Nursery at the WORD.....10:45 AM Young Adults at the WORD.....6:00 PM</p>
<p><b>AZLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH</b> (Disciples of Christ) Senior Minister, Ashley Dargai, Katie Medlin, Worship Minister 117 Church St. • 817-444-3527 Sunday School.....10:00 AM Morning Worship.....11:00 AM</p>	<p><b>CROSSROADS BAPTIST CHURCH</b> Pastor - Jon Baker Corner FM 730S &amp; FM 1886 817-755-0279 Transportation Available Worship Service.....10:30 AM Wed. Prayer Service.....7:00 PM</p>	<p><b>HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA</b> 4795 E. Hwy 199 - Reno 817-221-HOPE Follow us on Facebook for streaming services Sunday School.....9:00 AM Traditional Service.....10:00 AM</p>	<p><b>SILVER CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH</b> Pastor: Jay Ditty Minister of Music: David Musick Corner FM 730 S. &amp; Veal Station Rd. Church 817-444-2325 www.silvercreekbc.org Sunday School.....9:45 AM Morning Worship.....10:50 AM Evening Worship.....6:00 PM Wed. Prayer Service.....7:00 PM</p>	<p><b>Wednesdays</b> Adult Bible Class.....7:00 PM The WORD Students (6th-12th grades) 6:30 PM Awana Kids at the WORD.....6:30 PM Life at the WORD Life Groups Various Times</p>

**A church alive is worth the drive! For more information or rates on listing your church, call Johnna at 817-270-3340**



# Cruising back to Alaska as COVID fog lifts

One of the most popular vacations in the United States is an Alaskan cruise. After having no visitors for two cruise seasons (2020 & 2021), the ships are returning to Alaska ports this summer. The Alaska cruising season is May through September, with options being variable during the start-up and closing weeks every year.

There are two basic itineraries for Alaska: first, sailing the inside passage. This is usually a seven day cruise that is round-trip from Seattle, Washington. This voyage follows what is called the Inside Passage as it weaves its way through islands just offshore from the mainland. Stops are routinely in Ketchikan, Juneau (the state capital), Skagway, and Victoria, British Columbia. This itinerary has been expanded by some cruise lines (e.g. Princess) to include a ten-day round trip from San

**BY LEW WOODARD**  
lew@newvistatravel.com

Lew Woodard is a travel advisor with New Vista Travel.  
www.newvistatravel.com  
817-270-8357

Francisco.

Second, there is the north-bound seven-day cruise from Vancouver, British Columbia, to Anchorage, Alaska. This route can also be taken southbound, starting in Anchorage and ending in Vancouver. These voyages visit the same ports as the Inside Passage cruises but include closer looks at glaciers along the way. Many will include the jewel of this area, Glacier Bay National Park.

The one-way voyages are designed to allow the traveler to add a land tour segment to the beginning or end of the cruise, usually at the northern end in Anchorage. These voyages are called

Cruisetours. For example, after cruising from Vancouver to Anchorage, one can board a train or motor coach and go inland to Denali National Park, site of the highest mountain in North America, Denali, at over 20,000 feet high. Cruise lines often own the trains and wilderness lodges where visitors spend anywhere from three to 10 nights and cruise amenities may be included. All of this can be purchased as a single vacation adventure.

Visiting towns along the Inside Passage gives visitors a chance to see glaciers up close, meet sled dogs (and pups), see bears and moose, fish for salmon, watch lumberjack demonstrations, hike into the wilderness, learn about the cultures of people native to the area and participate in a variety of other adventure experiences. The entire trip includes watching for whales and for glaciers



Cruise ship (Holland America Line, Zaandam) in front of glacier in Glacier Bay.

State of Alaska/Reinhard Pantke

that may be 'calving' (large sections of ice breaking off into the ocean).

Life in some of these towns relies almost entirely on visits from cruise ships, so the past two years have been extremely difficult for their economies. You can be sure the local population

will be happy to see you and share what life is like in Alaska.

Because of Alaska's short cruise season (May – September), one should book in the fall months for the next Alaska season. Reservations peak during January and February, but there is still

time to find a great deal on an Alaskan cruise. In 2022, there are plenty of ships to choose from as some major cruise lines are positioning four or more ships to Alaskan itineraries. Now is the time to make a reservation to cruise this spectacular wilderness area.

## There is never time to fix the fence, but always time to gather up the cows

Been an interesting week here at the Hyde Media Group. As COO, I am compelled to deal with the day-to-day challenges that are ongoing in the operation of the newspapers. All businesses face daily tests and obstacles that must be overcome, but newspapering is the most challenging business I have ever experienced. Primarily, that's because the news never takes a day off. The news is relentless and no matter what else happens, whether it be employees being absent from work, inclement weather, or mechanical breakdowns, we must still capture "the news."

This past week has been a particular challenge. We had two delivery vans break down with sudden needs for repair. A loss of an employ-



### MY FRONT PORCH

By Sam Houston

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

ee made staffing an issue in our insert room. The weather wreaked havoc on delivering the papers we print for other newspaper customers in locations as far away as Gatesville, De Leon and Decatur. While frustrating, each one of these issues are every day normal occurrences in the big scheme of things and not unlike the many daily challenges we all face as we struggle to get through life.

This week's issues made me think of an old friend, Fred Schwartz, who was a housepainter. During his many years of painting hous-

es he became quite a "cracker barrel" philosopher. My friend H.T. introduced me to Fred when I was invited to join a group of men at their Friday night poker game. I learned this group of fellas were all reformed alcoholics, and they would play small stakes poker one night a week as a way to be accountable to one another and make sure they did not slip back into drinking.

Most of the men had not had a drink in more than 20 years but the temptation was always present. I previously knew several of the men,

and after much deliberation among the group of regulars, I was invited to attend the poker game as the first ever non-alcoholic participant. My price of admission was I had to bring enough Dr Pepper to satisfy the players for the evening.

While the poker game was entertaining, the interesting part of the game was the table conversation. This cast of characters had some interesting thoughts and perspectives on life. After several hands, the conversation got around to problems someone had experienced on the job that week. The person complained how they had been confronted with one catastrophe after the other and how the misfortunes had really created a lot of issues for them.

Fred listened to the comments and then added his thoughts by saying, "When the pressure is off is when the pressure is really on." I heard what Fred said, but I was unclear what the words meant. I looked at the old housepainter and curiously asked in a dumbfounded way, "huh?"

Fred responded by saying, "If you anticipate problems and do your best to prepare for them before they become problems, when the problems do occur you are ready for them and already have a solution. All that means, if you take care of things, plan, anticipate, and organize before an issue arises, most things never get to the point of being an overwhelming problem. Now do you understand? When the pressure

is off is when the pressure is really on. If you don't plan, then you really have pressure when something goes wrong. Get it?"

I have never forgotten those words spoken by the humble housepainter. Most folks never seem to want to take the time to fix things or plan because we are all so busy trying to get the day's work completed. Yet when equipment breaks down or a problem arises, we are forced to make time to deal with the crisis.

What is that old saying — an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure?

I think Fred may have been on to something.

Thought for the day: Plan ahead, after all it wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.

Until next time...

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# Waiting, watching, praying, and trusting

Good grief!  
If I put those words together with a face palm emoji, I'm describing my response to circumstances several times every single day.

Can I just admit up front that I am clueless about so many things going on in the world right now?

Yes, I can.

Do I wish a whole lot of other people would admit that they are clueless rather than spouting nonsense that just perpetuates the ridiculous opinions of knuckleheads?

Yep.

There are a couple of common problems that skew our perspectives and confuse our responses when we look



## 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).

at the current state of affairs — whether we're talking about what's happening on the other side of the world or across the street.

One problem is that we look for logical explanations for how we got here. We think somehow that if we can gather enough information to create a timeline and sequence of events, we'll be able to get a handle on the reason why things happen the way they do.

I think we shoot ourselves in the foot sometimes with the belief that "everything happens for a reason."

Is it possible that sometimes the reason is that some wackadoodle did something outhouse-rat-crazy?

Or maybe everything does happen for a reason and we are just not privy to the reason.

I'm clueless. I can't explain it and I'm not going to try.

Another problem is that we don't just need a logical explanation and sequence of events — we need a focus of blame. We LOVE blame.

We especially love blame if it reinforces our own biases. If we can identify a sequence of events that casts our political opponents in an unfavorable light ... well, woohoo! Gotcha!

Therefore, depending on who you listen to, the blame for the current situation in Ukraine — along with the accompanying complications around the world — can be laid primarily at the feet of Donald Trump ... or Joe Biden ... or Bob Jones.

Actually, I made that last one up. In our family, we've been blaming our dear de-

parted friend Bob Jones for eating the last cookie and other minor infractions for over 30 years.

I just needed a moment of levity in the middle of all of this mess.

That doesn't mean that I take it lightly. I've been to Ukraine four times since 2010 and had another trip planned for this year. I have friends there and have seen God move in amazing ways in the hearts of people through this music ministry/mission trips.

I'm praying for peace, for safety, for provision, for changed hearts.

My heart is heavy and I'm asking God to intervene miraculously.

It's hard to watch and wait.

It's easy to blame, pontificate and posture.

This morning, I read this: "You are my strength, I watch for you; you, God, are my fortress, my God on whom I can rely." (Psalm 59:9-10).

The Message renders that verse this way: "Strong God, I'm watching you do it, I can always count on you. God in dependable love shows up on time ..."

For most of us, all we can do right now is wait, watch, pray, and trust.

Perhaps that's what most of us ought to be doing.

Perhaps that's what is actually best.

Wait. Watch. Pray. Trust.

Be amazing today, my friend.

## BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT



Caroline Brewer Henderson was welcomed into the world on Dec. 28, 2021 by her loving parents, Samuel and Corrine Henderson, and sister Kemsley. The family currently resides in Palmer, Alaska. The newest addition to the Henderson family was 7 pounds, 10.2 ounces and 18.5 inches at birth.

Caroline is the granddaughter of Betty Jo Henderson of Azle.

## LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICES

Azle Independent School District is requesting Proposals from qualified bidders for: Food Service Management Company for the 2022-2023 school year. A Pre-Proposal conference will be held on March 9, 2022 at 2 p.m. (CST) beginning at the Azle ISD Administration Building at 300 Roe Street, Azle, Texas 76020 and concluding with a tour of campuses. The Pre-Proposal Conference is OPTIONAL for your bid to be considered. Visitors wishing to attend may RSVP to [beaster@azleisd.net](mailto:beaster@azleisd.net) with names of attendees no later than 2 p.m. (CST) Monday, March 7, 2022. Please note that vendors will be limited to four attendees for the Pre-Proposal Conference. Proposals shall be in a sealed envelope marked "Food Service Management Proposal, #22-03.23" and either mailed or delivered to Azle ISD Purchasing, Attention, Beverly Easter, 300 Roe Street, Azle, Texas 76020 no later than 2:00 p.m. (CST), March 29, 2022. Any proposal received after that time will be returned unopened. A copy of the Request for Proposal can be obtained by contacting Beverly Easter by phone at (817) 444-0805, or by email at [beaster@azleisd.net](mailto:beaster@azleisd.net). All other inquiries concerning this RFP must be made in writing to [beaster@azleisd.net](mailto:beaster@azleisd.net).

### ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS CITY OF AZLE, TEXAS ASH AVENUE RECONSTRUCTION

Separate sealed bids for the construction of **ASH AVENUE RECONSTRUCTION (Azle bid number 22-004)** will be received by the **City of Azle, Texas** until **3:00 PM on Thursday, March 24, 2022**, at City Hall, 505 W. Main Street, Azle, Texas, 76020, and then at said location publicly opened and read aloud. This project consists of removing and lowering approximately 1,730 linear feet along Ash Avenue and 480 linear feet along Park Street and replacing it with new concrete paving. This project also consists of Right of Way drainage improvements on both sides of Ash Avenue and Park Street as shown in the plans.

The Contract Documents consisting of Advertisement of Bids, Information for Bidders, Bid Proposal, Bid Bond, Contract, Performance and Payment Bonds, Maintenance Bond, General Conditions, Notice of Award, Notice to Proceed, Plans, Specifications, and Addenda (if any) may be examined at the following location:

JACOB & MARTIN, LLC  
1508 Santa Fe Drive, Suite 203, Weatherford, Texas 76086

The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities and to reject any or all bids. Bids may be held by the Owner for a period not to exceed 60 days from the date of bid opening for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the qualifications of Bidders prior to awarding of the contract.

Copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS must be ordered online at [www.jacobmartin.com](http://www.jacobmartin.com). Orders for CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may include hard copies for pick up, mail out or digital download via [www.jacobmartin.com](http://www.jacobmartin.com). Upon verification of online payment, hard copies may be picked up at Jacob & Martin, LLC, located at 1508 Santa Fe Drive, Suite 203, Weatherford, TX 76086. Cost for hard copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS will be **\$100.00**. Cost for digital download of CONTRACT DOCUMENTS will be **\$0.00**. Contractors must purchase a set of CONTRACT DOCUMENTS to be considered a registered plan holder eligible to bid the project. A certified check or bank draft, payable to the order of CITY OF AZLE, TEXAS, negotiable U.S. Governmental bonds (at par value) or a satisfactory Bid Bond executed by the Bidder and an acceptable surety in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the total bid shall be submitted with each bid.

City of Azle, Texas Alan Brundrett, Mayor February 23, 2022

Pursuant to Chapter 59, Texas Property Code, **ASH CREEK SELF STORAGE** which is located at 117 Locust St, Azle, Texas 76020 will hold a public auction of property being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale will be at 10:00 am. on March 19, 2022 at 117 Locust St, Azle, Texas 76020.

Property will be sold to highest bidder for cash. Deposit for removal and cleanup may be temporarily required. Seller reserves the right to not accept any bid and to withdraw property from sale. Property in each space may be sold item-by-item, in batches, or by the space. Property being sold includes contents in spaces of the following tenants, with brief description of contents in each space.

**Melody Hargrove:** household items, paintings, home décor, boxes; **Damon Bethurum:** Antique furniture, paintings, home décor, boxes; **Alexandra Black:** furniture, household items, clothes, tools, ice chests, storage bins.

The City Council of the City of Azle will conduct a public hearing at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 22, 2022 in the City Council Chambers at City Hall, located at 505 West Main Street to consider a request to amend the Planned Development (PD) Zoning and approval of a Detailed Site Plan for a 16.05-acre tract of land located at 1200 SE Parkway and also known as Lots 2R & 3R, Block 1 of the Lester Addition, Azle, Tarrant County, TX. The request is to approve an Amended Concept Plan and Detailed Site Plan for the development of a 252-unit apartment complex and 1 office building totaling 4,000 square feet. A concept plan was previously approved by City Council as part of a Planned Development Zoning Change on July 21, 2020.

### NOTICE OF PUBLIS SALE

Pursuant to Chapter 59, Texas Property Code, **KENNY'S MINI WAREHOUSE**, which is located at **10201 JACKSBORO HWY, FORT WORTH, TX 76135**, will hold a public auction of property being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale will be at 10:00 am, End At 2:00 pm on MARCH 12, 2022 at **10201 JACKSBORO HWY, FORT WORTH, TX, 76135**. For more information call Art 817-238-8309 cell#8 17-988-5719. Property will be sold to highest bidder for cash. Seller reserves the right to not accept any bid and to withdraw property from sale. Property in each space will be sold by the space. Property being sold includes contents in spaces of following tenants: **TENANT'S NAME** As shown on rental agreement: Craig Weichman C-132 Mark Schlotte D-146 Gary MacMillan E-203 Jeffery Wensel G-259 Patricia Thompson F-266 Jeremy Waldrop F-274 Jesse Carrington I-302 Household items. **VOID IF LIEN IS SATISFIED IN FULL BEFORE SALE.** All payments and notices should be mailed to 10201 Jacksboro Hwy, Fort Worth, TX, 76135.

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March 7-11, 2022

## Azle School Menu

<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
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

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 Shapes 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 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, Cheeseburger, Breaded Chicken Patty Sandwich, Hamburger, Pepperoni & Jalapeno Pizza, Pepperoni Pizza, Sweet & Sour Chicken w/Brown Rice, Chicken Teriyaki w/Rice 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, Steamed Crinkle Carrots, Crispy Tater Tots Weds Spicy Chicken Patty Sandwich, Grilled Cheeseburger, Breaded Chicken Patty Sandwich, Juicy Hamburger, Classic Pepperoni Pizza, Pork Sausage Crumble Pizza, Teriyaki Meatballs & Broccoli w/ Brown Rice & Egg Roll, Chicken Teriyaki w/Rice & Egg Roll, Shredded Lettuce, Tomato Slices & Pickles, Spiced Green Beans Thurs Spicy Chicken Patty Sandwich, Grilled Cheeseburger, Breaded Chicken Patty Sandwich, Juicy Hamburger, Delicious Cheese Pizza, Savory 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 Fluffy Banana Muffin w/ String Cheese Thurs Cinnamon & Sugar Donut Holes Fri No school

**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 Tues Beefy Nachos, Cheesy Nachos, Chicken Nachos, BBQ Diced Chicken Wrap, Veggie Pizza, Classic 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 Weds Beef Burrito, Chicken Burrito, Cilantro Lime Rice, Grilled Turkey Ham & Cheese Sandwich, Delicious Cheese Pizza, Pork Sausage Crumble Pizza, Scratch-Made Frito Chili Pie, Chili Cheese Fries w/Pretzels, Zesty Orange Chicken w/Fried Rice, Sweet & Sour Chicken w/Fried Rice, Chicken Tender Potato Bowl w/Roll, Classic Refried Beans, Steamed Crinkle Carrots Thurs Beef Enchiladas, Verde Chicken Enchiladas, Cheese Enchiladas, Breaded Chicken Patty Sandwich, Spicy Chicken Patty Sandwich, Golden Chicken Corn Dog, Grilled Cheeseburger, Juicy Hamburger, Crispy Popcorn Chicken Wrap, Delicious Cheese Pizza, Classic 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, Chicken Nugget Potato Bowl w/Roll, Classic Refried Beans, Peppered Broccoli Florets Fri No school.

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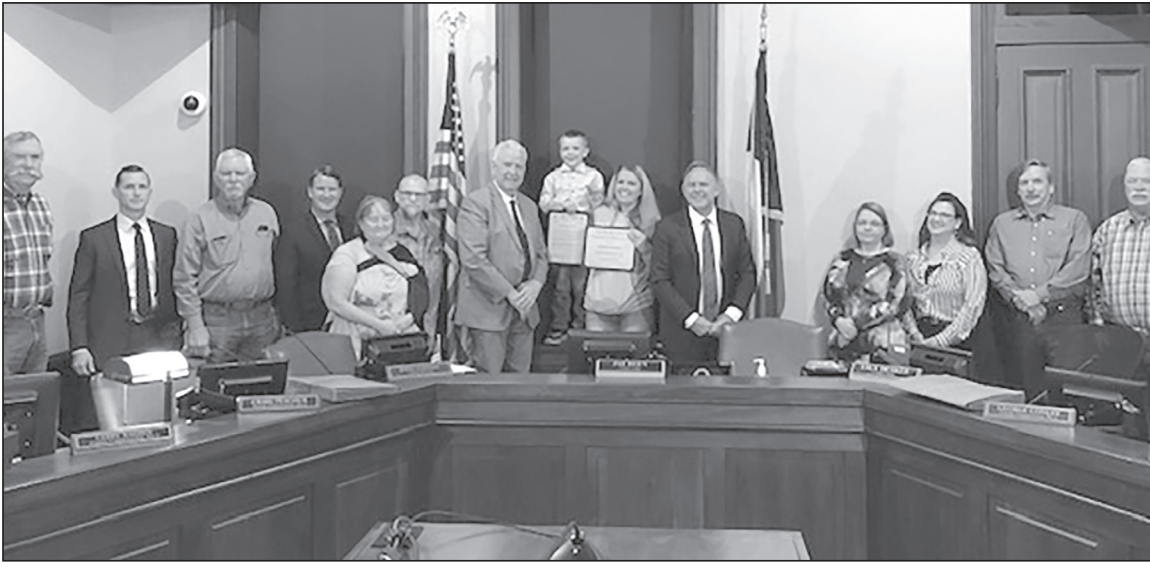
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## Lorena Parker honored by Parker County Commissioner's Court

**PARKER COUNTY** Sheriff Russ Authier presented a Life Saving Award to Lorena Parker in a recent Commissioner's Court Meeting for her heroic actions in saving the life of 7-year-old Conner Landers when he was viciously attacked by a dog on Jan. 21, 2022. Parker witnessed the attack occurring and was able to beat the animal off of Landers, even after the dog came after her, until she was able to get him to safety.

Photo courtesy PCSO

## Lamentations of a service dog

Dear Frankie,  
My mom has always been high-strung. Her doctor suggested getting an emotional support animal to help her feel calmer and more secure. She chose me to be her support dog because of my gentle and easy-going disposition.



### DEAR FRANKIE

By Geneva Woodruff

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

Firecrackers, thunder, cats, you name it, have never bothered me. When my mom and I first started traveling about ten years ago, the passengers at the airport carried on about how cute and well-behaved I was. Even the TSA agents were impressed that I could walk through the metal detector on my own and sit and wait on the other side until my mom joined me.

However, in the last three years, the reaction of some passengers towards us has been downright hostile. One person glared at us on our previous trip to show his disapproval, and another shook her head in disgust.

One guy had the nerve to ask my mom why she needed an emotional support animal? Do you think he asks wheelchair-assisted travelers why they need a wheelchair? I doubt it.

I can't tell you how upsetting this has been for my mom. I am afraid if these kinds of encounters continue, the stress will be too

much for her to travel by air.

*Travel Wieried, Pal*

*Dear Pal,*

I am genuinely sorry that you and your mom had to be the object of such insensitive and ignorant behavior.

I can't imagine the audacity of anyone asking a person with a disability why they required assistance. The airlines are not even allowed to ask a traveler to disclose their diagnosis.

People in airports who are rude to emotional support dogs and their owners have no idea what it takes these days to get permission from the airlines to travel. Airlines today require these passengers to submit an up-to-date letter from their physician, usually a psychiatrist, stating they have prescribed an emotional support animal for their patient.

Additionally, they need a current letter from the dog's veterinarian, saying the dog's shots are up-to-date, and the dog is healthy and well behaved. The airlines had to tighten their requirements for passengers travel-

ing with an ESA because too many people tried to pass off their dog as an ESA.

Finally, the airlines got wise to them and stopped their dishonest shenanigans. So, the days of fake ESA certificates and peacocks, pot-bellied pigs, and snakes traveling as an ESA are over.

I think the airline's new restrictions will eventually become public knowledge, and travelers in airports will become more respectful.

In the meantime, I suggest that when you travel with your mom, you sit close by her side and do whatever you can to keep her attention focused on you - yawn, offer her your paw, indicate you want to sit on her lap, lick her face.

You want to distract her as much as possible from seeing or listening to the other travelers. I know If you can get through the TSA security check on your own, figuring out how to keep your mom occupied before you board the plane will be a walk in the park.

*Best,  
Frankie*

## Beyond the Grimace

It was the fall of 1985. I was new to full-time Christian ministry, and I had been asked to share with any residents at Azle Manor who might want a visit. Everyone welcomed my offer to talk with and pray for them. I was enjoying every minute until I encountered someone who seemed quite unhappy with me.

My introduction went something like, "Hi, my name is David, and I would love to hear your story, and if you like, I would be happy to share my story of faith with you." The unified responses at first were, "Yes! Come on in, young man."

I encountered one person, though, who seemed harsh eye contact caused me to turn away. Though she was older than 90 and bound to a wheelchair, I felt nervous around her and wanted to bolt. I shared my introduction, and her response was a grimace accompanied by what sounded like a growl—no words. I quickly departed.

My heart was beating noticeably through my shirt, and I kept trying to convince myself that I was right to have walked away. We have all experienced times when we sense we have missed something,



### HOPE MATTERS

By David Shaffer

Dr. David Shaffer and his wife, Daniele, are Azle-area residents. David is director of Son Shine Ministries (equipfamilies.org) and chair of the Azle Area Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors (azlechamber.com). david@equipfamilies.org | 817-444-3777

and this was one of them. I eventually determined I would go back.

As I thought through the bizarre scene, I realized that she had never said I could not visit with her; it was just that she gave off that vibe. She would not talk, so I decided to respectfully share my story of how I became a Christian. She seemed agitated the whole time, but she never waved me off. I kept sharing. When I finished, I asked if she had ever received Jesus as her Savior. She seemed even more upset, but then she uttered these words that shocked me: "No, but I want to."

I prayed with her, and she struggled but sincerely repeated the prayer with me, even adding extra words to make it her own expression of faith. As we both wiped away tears, we hugged each other.

I later found out this special person's story. Her medical team had been struggling to keep her pain under control because the medication was causing other adverse health is-

sues. As a result, she was in constant pain. A week earlier she had been yelling out to counter the torrent of intense pain until someone told her she was keeping others awake. She determined not to yell out again. As pain would grip her body, she would grimace, venting her pain with little grunts.

I had completely misread her at first. She was not angry. Her facial expressions, though hard to discern, were really those of love.

This kind lady passed on to be with the Lord about a month later. That was nearly 37 years ago. I so look forward to meeting her again one day.

It is easy to misread people, especially those who are hurting. With all the challenges in the world today, I pray we look beyond the grimaces, seeking to understand and find the good in others in our community. May we not miss an opportunity to share matters of hope, such as God's love, to others in need.

# AZLE AREA CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

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# The 14<sup>th</sup> Azle FFA Alumni and Supporters Dinner and Auction

The 14<sup>th</sup> Azle FFA Alumni and Supporters Beans and Cornbread Dinner and Auction was held Feb. 26 at Forte Junior High School. The event raised about \$24,000. The money will go toward scholarships, sponsorship for the annual FFA awards banquet, purchase of animals that make sale at the Tarrant County Junior Livestock Show next week and other expenses.

**TOP LEFT:** Cindy, right, and Cheyenne Flynn, the latter of whom is a 2019 AHS grad, look at a bid sheet for a silent auction item.

**BOTTOM LEFT:** Jay Ewing, right, president of the Azle FFA Alumni and Supporters, takes bids from the crowd during the live auction.

**BOTTOM RIGHT:** Sarah and Jeremie Williams look over silent auction items.

Photos by Don Munsch



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## Azle basketball falls to Birdville in playoff opener

BY JEFF PRINCE  
jeff@azlenews.net

Azle High School's basketball boys did something this season no other Hornet roundballers have done in a decade: They won 22 games in a season and made the playoffs in back-to-back years.

Those accomplishments were the focal points for a Hornet team shocked by the lopsided 95-43 loss to Birdville in the bi-district playoff game on Feb. 22, played at Chisholm Trail High School.

"It does hurt to lose by that kind of score but just being with all the guys and what we've done this season — our accomplishments — we can't just take this one game and base our whole season off it," said senior Cooper Morgan.

Morgan is one of three seniors on the team who have played their last game in a Hornets jersey. He began playing basketball in first grade and continued for 12 seasons, winding up as the tallest kid on the Hornet team this year at 6 feet, 4 inches.

He wants to find a part-time job until he graduates



SEE BASKETBALL, PAGE 2B. Jayden Coffey reaches out to catch a pass against Birdville in the bi-district game.

Photo by Jeff Prince

## Day in life of Dylan Dorris is dizzying



BY JEFF PRINCE  
jeff@azlenews.net

Frequent visitors to Azle High School sporting events have probably seen Dylan Dorris.

The kid is everywhere.

There he is playing basketball. And there he is prowling courtside at a basketball game taking photos. And then he is there shooting photos of the varsity football squad. And then he is playing soccer.

Most recently, he was shooting photographs of the boys soccer team playing a home game and stopped long enough to describe that day's busy schedule.

That morning, he had risen at 5, eaten breakfast and

cleaned up. He arrived at Azle High School at about 6:30 for track practice, which lasted until 7:45 a.m.

"Then, I got ready for football," he said.

Last year, he played on the junior varsity squad and

hopes to make varsity next season. Offseason practice begins at first period at 8 a.m.

After football, Dorris showered and dressed for

**DYLAN DORRIS** shoots sports for the Azle High School yearbook when he isn't on the field competing.

Photo by Jeff Prince

SEE DIZZY, PAGE 3B.



## BASKETBALL, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B.

and then take off to college and “see what I can do out-side of high school,” he said.

The team’s other two seniors – Campbell Dotson and Mason Ford – shared similar thoughts about the game and the future.

“I’m grateful for all the opportunities I got,” said Ford, who played basketball all four years at Azle High.

Mostly, he will miss “all the friendships and the brotherhood that I made with everyone,” he said.

Dotson said it “hurts to go out a loser,” but that’s what happens to every team except for one – the state champ.

“We can’t take away from everything we’ve done this season,” he said. “This was a good season overall.”

Dotson treasures most the “relationships that I’ve built over this year and all the memories,” he said.

After graduation, he plans to go to college, earn a degree and “do something in wildlife.”

The underclassmen, led by junior shooting guard Gavin Dean, are eager to put the loss behind them and appreciate this season’s success.

“Our team accomplished a lot,” Dean said. “We lost a couple of easy games, but we just kept going through the season and stayed with our hard work. We did get to the playoffs. Some teams didn’t.”

So, what is next for Dean?

“Get in the gym,” he said. “We know what we’ve got to compete with next time we’re in district. We just got to get in the gym and keep working.”

Coach James Crafton is an intense competitor, and put

the loss in perspective after watching his team fall by that 52-point margin.

“The season was good,” he said. “It didn’t end the way we wanted tonight, but the kids played hard throughout the season. They gave a lot to each other. They have early morning practices, and they were always there battling for it. So, we’re really proud of the effort and what they did accomplish through the season.”

The Hornets lost to one of the top teams in the state. Birdville was 12-2 in District 6-5A and lost in the second round of the playoffs to Mansfield Legacy.

The Hornets, short in stature overall, played a style of basketball this season that relied on quick movement, full-court presses and long shots from three-point range. Those shots were on target for much of the season, but some of the shooters began slumping a bit toward the end of the season, which carried into the bi-district game.

“We had four pretty good days of practice, and we liked our opportunity, and it just didn’t fall our way,” the coach said.

The most satisfactory part of the job was “watching these kids grow,” he said.

Many of them played on a JV squad last year that didn’t win many games.

“We didn’t return very many varsity players, so that shows the work (last year’s JV players) put in during the offseason leading up to the season,” he said. “We all hate to lose. It eats at me, and it eats at them, but it doesn’t define us.”



MASON FORD squeezes off a shot from under the basket.



CAMPBELL DOTSON goes high for a jump shot against Birdville.



COOPER MORGAN is one of three seniors who have played their last game in a Hornets basketball uniform.

Photos by Jeff Prince



# Azle Christian basketball boys see playoff run end on last-second shot

BY JEFF PRINCE  
jeff@azlenews.net

The Azle Christian Crusaders faced St. Mary's Catholic High School in the second round of the playoffs and lost 62-60 on a shot at time expired.

"It was a great game," said Crusaders head coach Ryan Rollins. "We were big underdogs."

The Crusaders moved up to the larger TAPPS league this season and did well to make the playoffs in their inaugural push. Against St. Mary's, the Crusaders faced a top seed on the road.

"We played a great game," Rollins said.

Azle Christian held a slim lead for much of the game but made mistakes in the final minute, and St. Mary's managed a hail Mary for the win.

Azle Christian finished the season 14-13 overall and was 6-3 in district. The team will lose just one senior, Ty South.

South's departure will be a "big loss," the coach said, but added that "these boys are hungry and motivated."

He expects to see the team back in the playoffs a year from now.

**TY SOUTH** is the only senior on this year's Crusader team.

Photo by Jeff Prince



**DIZZY**, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B.

school, taking time to wolf down another breakfast snack before second period.

"After that, I went to all my classes," he said.

After the school day was over, Dorris changed clothes again for soccer practice at 4:15 p.m.

An hour later, he fetched his bags from the locker room and hustled over to Hornet Stadium to take photos of the varsity soccer boys

playing a game. He would submit the photos for inclusion in the yearbook.

Dorris left the soccer game early to attend a campus prayer group in a field-house for the first time.

"My friend told me he likes it, so I'm going to go try it out," Dorris said. "Once that's over, then I'm going to go to the (Hornets) basketball game in the competition gym and take

photos."

The basketball game was expected to end by about 8 p.m., at which time Dorris planned to ... go home?

Nope.

"I'm going to go to the gym and work out with one of my friends," he said. "A friend from Fort Worth is coming down, and we are going to work out together for about an hour and a half."

Their workout was expected to end about 9:30 p.m.

"Then, I'm going to go home and probably shower, eat dinner and go to bed about 10:30-ish," he said.

What did his next day look like?

Pretty much the same, except he wouldn't be working out late with a friend, so he might return home by 8 p.m. for dinner.

Last year, he played bas-

ketball in addition to track, football and soccer. Next year, he will skip basketball and focus on other endeavors.

"Next year, I'm hoping to do golf," he said.

He prefers staying busy over hanging around the house.

"I hate just sitting there and feeling lazy," he said. "I love being active and walking around and stuff. So, I

tend to keep busy. Keeps me in shape for all my sports that I do."

His dad is Derek Dorris, the head track coach and assistant football coach, and his uncle is Devon Dorris, the head football coach.

"My dad is proud that I do all the sports because, in high school," he said, "He did every single sport, so he was a lot busier than even I am."



# Azle rodeo bent on claiming top team spot



Laurel Allred won all-around cowgirl at the junior-senior rodeo.



Rylee Sisson placed in poles to help Azle's rodeo team earn points.

Photos by JoH Photography

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

Azle is within lassoing distance of Decatur in the rodeo team standings going into spring break.

“With five rodeos remaining, we are chasing that No. 1 spot for high-point team for the year,” said team

sponsor Kristy Scribner. Azle’s team improved its chances by performing well at the junior and senior rodeo held in Saginaw on Feb. 18-19, when Azle’s riders earned the high-point team award.

Laurel Allred won all-around cowgirl, and Hevenli Scribner nabbed rookie cow-

girl honors for the weekend. Currently, Decatur’s team has logged 5,848 points for the year. Azle is in second place with 5,694 points. One other team – Elite Christian – has compiled more than 5,000 points.

None of the other 80 teams participating in the North Texas High School Rodeo

Association have reached 4,000 points so far, and most are far below that number.

At the recent junior-senior rodeo, Airian Moore won first place in bareback, as he has done at most every rodeo this season.

Laurel Allred enjoyed a big day in the arena, winning first in poles, second in

barrels and fifth in walk-up goat tying.

Caitlyn Colley won seventh place in walk-up, and Mattie Sheriff took eighth place.

Lindsey-Kay Reichert won fifth place in barrels, and Hevenli Scribner nabbed sixth.

Scribner was fifth in poles,

and Reichert won ninth place. Rylee Sisson was 10th.

In chute dogging, Kasen Scarlato took 10th place.

The rodeo season is on break for spring, and competition will resume on the weekend of March 25-27.



**BRADEN MURRAY** blew away his personal best squat lift at the district meet on Feb. 25 at Boswell High School. Photo by Jeff Prince

# Powerlifting regionals

## Azle boys fight for chance

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

The regular season’s final qualifying meet is a place where powerlifters try to earn a trip to regionals, and Braden Murray was intent on being included among those attending.

Last year, he tore the labrum in his shoulder, and that situation derailed his sports for a year. On Feb. 25, he was competing at his first powerlifting meet of the year – the final qualifying meet of the regular season held at Boswell High School.

Murray squat-lifted 445 pounds on his first attempt and went for 500 on his second. He had never attempted to lift that much weight before, but he succeeded.

For his third try, he added

50 more pounds – and managed to lift it after a short struggle.

“He’s an animal,” head coach Bo Maines said, congratulating Murray on his return to the sport. “We’ve missed him, but he is back at it tonight and doing a really, really good job. That last lift, he jumped 50 pounds from his second one. Really, really impressive. Nice work.”

Murray wasn’t surprised. “I put my mind to it and did it,” he said.

He had been working out regularly during his injury recovery and is intent on making an impact at regionals.

In addition to powerlifting, Murray is a member of Azle’s co-ed competition cheer team, which earned fourth place at nationals at

Orlando recently. Traveling to the East Coast on his first airplane ride was a trip to remember.

“I had a blast,” he said. “Taking off was a little scary, but once you’re up there, it is almost like a car on autopilot.”

Kind of like lifting 550 pounds for the first time.

Kevin Nguyen won first place in the 165-pound class.

Other medal winners include Bradley Skydla, second place; Joseph Sandoval, Gavin Hacker and Vance Guthrie, third place; Hunter Ooten and Denim Fields, fourth place; and Drew Dorris, fifth place.

Those qualifying to compete at regionals so far are Hacker, Nguyen, Sandoval, Skrdla and Garrett Gouyton.





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Deadline:  
 4:30 PM Monday

# Classifieds

## TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison  
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**ACROSS**

1 TXism: "want it so \_\_\_ could spit"

5 "The eyes of Texas are \_\_\_ you..."

6 roller \_\_\_

7 captures \_\_\_

8 Texas' big oil \_\_\_ was 1894 to 1935

9 "drum" swimmer in the Gulf of Mexico

16 a small child

18 what Apollo 13 communicated to Houston on 4/13/1970

21 \_\_\_ Campo, TX

22 sharp & salty cheese

23 TX Strait hit: "\_\_\_ Let Herself Go"

24 tote with scales of justice imprint (2 wds.)

30 a Texas Tech athlete (2 wds.)

34 Texas Mexican restaurant: \_\_\_ Fenix

35 Lee Greenwood hit: "God Bless \_\_\_"

36 Abel's brother

37 part of a flower

39 UT's Lydia Jacoby won this 100 meter swim event in Tokyo

43 TXism: "wipe the \_\_\_ clean" (erase)

44 TX B.J. Thomas' "\_\_\_ Somebody Done Somebody Wrong Song" (1975)

45 TX Strait's "All My \_\_\_'s Live in Texas"

46 TXism: "best I \_\_\_ laid eyes on"

47 red blood cell deficiency

49 gave the meaning of a word

52 many parents learn the \_\_\_ of their child early

53 TX Blue Bell \_\_\_ cream

54 all-time record low for Texas oil was three \_\_\_ a barrel in 1902

55 investment profits

58 she was married to the 27th Texas governor: \_\_\_ Culp Hobby

**DOWN**

1 city named for Texas revolution president, David G.

2 group of beehives

3 TX Joe \_\_\_ of "Walking Tall"

4 lake near 1-down

9 first two letters of 55-across answer

10 constructed a wall to confine a river

11 H-E-B department

12 TX Gipson, writer of "Savage Sam"

13 "\_\_\_ you had to be there"

14 dir. to Port Lavaca from New Braunfels

15 Gen. Schwarzkopf of "Operation Desert Storm" in 1991 (init.)

17 type of many ovens

19 TXism: "was hornswoggled"

20 book by 12-down: "Old \_\_\_"

24 \_\_\_ Gov. Dan Patrick

25 this Belo founded the Dallas Morning News (init.)

26 fictitious sisters of Ima Hogg: Ura & \_\_\_

27 "\_\_\_ dias" (good morning)

38 covers with asphalt

40 \_\_\_ Colony, TX

41 TX Dan Jenkins book: "\_\_\_-Tough"

42 death penalty

48 nacional airline: "\_\_\_mexico"

50 along with the CCC, first relief org. of the New Deal

51 "Fanthorp \_\_\_ State Historic Site"

56 town on the border of Coryell and Hamilton counties

57 former TX company: Ling-\_\_\_-Vought

### Puzzle Solution

S-1571

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**EVENTS**

**Southeast Texas Boat, Sport & RV Show** - March 4-5-6, Ford Park, Beaumont, Texas. THE Place to buy your new Boat or RV! See 50 Boat and RV Brands in 1 Location! [SouthEastTexasBoatRVShow.com](http://SouthEastTexasBoatRVShow.com).

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