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\$1

Ballots are set for March 1 primaries

BY JESSICA McKINNEY

azlereporter@azlenews.net

The new year has begun and with it comes a new election cycle. Candidates for federal, state and county offices had until Dec. 13 to file for a place on the primary ballot.

The primary election narrows the field of candidates, allowing voters to designate their chosen candidate for their political party. The winners of the primary election will be on the ballot for the general election being held in November.

The offices up for election this year include:

- 38; 2-year term)
- Governor (4-year term)
- Lieutenant Governor (4year term)
- Attorney General (4-
- year term) • Comptroller of Public
- Accounts (4-year term) • Commissioner of Gen-
- eral Land Office (4-year
- Commissioner of Agriculture (4-year term)
- Railroad Commissioners (6-year term)
- Supreme Court (three; 6-year term)
- Criminal Court of Appeals (three; 6-year term)
- · State Board of Educa-

• U.S. Representatives (all tion (15; 2- or 4-year term)

- State Senators (all 31; 2- or 4-year term)
- State Representatives
- (all 150; 2-year term)
- Chief Justice of Courts
- of Appeals (6-year term) • Various Court of Ap-
- peals Justices (6-year term) • Various District Judges,
- Criminal District Judges (4year term) • Family District Judges
- (4-year term)
- District Attorneys (4year term)
- County Judges (4-year

SEE **PRIMARIES**, PAGE 3A.

2021 Year in Review

Part 1: January through July

BY JESSICA McKINNEY azlereporter@azlenews.net

JANUARY

Azle Police Department announced that crime rates in Azle were continuing their downward trend, with a 50% decrease over the previous seven years.

A three-alarm fire consumed a Parker County home on New Year's Day.

COVID-19 vaccines began rolling out to first responders, healthcare workers

and nursing home residents. Ken Haas, longtime Azle resident and charter mem-

ber of the Azle Rotary Club, mer business along South-

Drew Springer won the special election to become a 1971 Azle graduate, died the new State Senator for after contracting COV-District 30.

A suspected package thief was arrested following several reports of porch piracy.

the first livestock show of campuses, and a stadium the year.

FEBRUARY

The Porch Resale Shoppe began transitioning into its new location.

Azle PD busted an illegal

east Parkway.

Congressman Ron Wright, ID-19.

Azle ISD called for a bond election seeking money for a new elementary campus, Azle students won big at improvements to existing renovation.

> A weekend of belowfreezing temps resulted in days of loss of power and water for many area residents and businesses.

> > SEE **2021**, PAGE 3A.

Natalia Rueda is a member of the Azle High School cheerleading squad.

Courtesy photo

A happy new year in America

BY DON MUNSCH editor@azlenews.net

On New Year's Day, some Americans eat blacknew year, with the supersti- tal city, which has a popula- upcoming new year. tion being that black-eyed tion of 3.3 million while the peas bring good luck.

a different food.

Natalia is an exchange Beasley this year. Natalia new year, signifying good

U.S., including how their countries celebrate Christmas. This week's story is about an exchange student from Spain. eyed peas to welcome the hails from Madrid, the capi- luck for each month for the

Editor's note: Second in a two-part series on foreign exchange

students at Azle High School and their experiences here in the

madrid-population.

Natalia said there's a tra-girl from Japan. student at Azle High School dition in Spain in which who is staying with the people eat 12 grapes in 12 that fit our family," Chris said. family of Chris and Ericka seconds at midnight of the

Having an exchange stumetro area includes around dent in their home is noth-In Natalia Rueda's 6.5 million people, according new for the Beasleys, homeland - Spain - people ing to worldpopulation who have had two foreign ring in the New Year with <u>review.com/world-cities/</u> exchange students before – a girl from Germany and a

"We usually pick out kids

SEE **EXCHANGE**, PAGE 2A.

Changes to disabled veteran license plates began Jan. 1

STAFF REPORTS

A new state law will change the requirements for Texans with disabled veteran license plates who wish to park in spaces reserved for persons with disabilities.

Senate Bill 792 requires that as of Jan. 1, anyone parking in a disabled parking space must have a license plate or a disabled parking placard that features the International Symbol of Access (ISA). Currently, disabled veteran license plates do not feature the ISA, and all Texans with these plates are permitted to use disabled parking.

Texans with disabled vet-





Disabled veteran plate without International Symbol of Access, SEE **PLATES**, PAGE 4A. above, and a disabled veteran plate with the symbol, below.

Families, students benefit from exchange

BY DON MUNSCH editor@azlenews.net

to find Natalia Rueda, an ex- this year. change student from Spain. NWSE requires back-Karen Sweet, Northwest ground and reference Student Exchange area coor- checks for host parents and dinator who is based in Fort students, and host parents Worth, said her organization must be 25 years and older places around 250 exchange and be American citizens.

in a normal, non-pandemic year. Seventeen students The Beasley family used have been placed with Northwest Student Exchange families in the Metroplex

students a year nationally, Exchange students must be between 15 and 18 ½ years old. Many answers to questions about the program may be found here: nwse. com/host-an-exchange-student/faq/.

> "We have organizations in the different countries that we partner with, so

SEE HOST PARENT, PAGE 6A.



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EXCHANGE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.

"Because (daughter) Katey likes cheer. So, if they want to do cheer in the program, we try to pick those girls out that are in cheer when we do that. Because Azle is really good about opening their doors up for the kids to do any sports or anything they want to do. They just let them be a guest on the teams, which is really don't do that."

Natalia is on the cheer squad at AHS and said she loves being in the activity. She wanted to be in the exchange program since she was 10 years old. Her sister was an exchange student a few years ago, staying in Utah and having "an amazing experience," Natalia said.

"I wanted to learn how life was here, not only from what we see in the movies," she said.

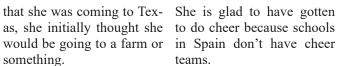
something.

"Cowboy hats and everything," she said.

high school, and she said cheerleading. AHS is much different from her school back home.

nice because a lot of schools class to class here, because ruary in Florida. in Spain it's the teacher who moves from one class to another," she said. "And here, ney, too," she said. the classes are also more interesting. You can choose more. In Spain, everybody does the same classes. Here, you have, like, more options. And I really like it."

She has especially loved her floral design class. She also likes the psychology class - she has friends in that class – and she likes that teachers at AHS are close When she became aware to students and are helpful.



"I love football games," she said, explaining what She loves Texas and the she has liked most about

She looks forward to some upcoming cheer competi-"I like that we move from tions, including one in Feb-

> "I'm so excited for that, because we're going to Dis-

Natalia also participates in student council at AHS.

MEXICAN FOOD – THUMBS UP

There exist some differences between her homeland and the U.S., such as food, music and school, Natalia said. Activities for students in Spain are conducted outside of school. Natalia also is glad to have come to the U.S. because of the food, specifically Mexican food.

"I love food," she said, adding that she loves barbecue and that she has sampled Japanese food here, too. She said Spain doesn't have a holiday similar to Thanksgiving, a day of a feast for Americans.

She has been to Schlitterbahn with the family and visited San Antonio and stayed at a ranch for a couple nights. They also went to the Alamo and the River Walk. Locally, Natalia visited Six Flags Over Texas for Holiday in the Park. The family also attended a Dallas Cowboys game this season. Natalia was here for 20 days before school started, and Chris said he thinks it's a good idea for students to have an adjustment time before school starts.



Chris and Ericka Beasley, right center and right, with daughter Katelyn, left, and exchange student Natalia Rueda, left center, stand in the Beasleys' living room before Christmas. Photo by Don Munsch

CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

In Spain, the Three Wise Men are observed more than Santa Claus, Natalia said. Spain's annual Three Kings Festival, called Fiesta de los Reves, is held on the evening of Jan. 5 and includes colorful street parades, a cake with a surprise hidden inside and a vibrant display of brightly illuminated costumes, according to theculturetrip.com/europe/spain/ articles/everything-youneed-to-know-about-spainsfiesta-de-los-reyes/.

The celebration runs from Jan. 5 until the next day when children unwrap their

In Spain, Natalia said gifts also are opened on either Christmas Eve or the morning of Dec. 25, and with her

family, gifts are opened on she likes to participate in the night of Dec. 24, and on mountain biking and going Dec. 25, the family will eat to the movies. the leftover food from the night before. The family has a ing a host parent because Christmas tree, as is the tradition with American families, affect someone in a posiand on the night of Jan. 5, people put their shoes under one a chance to experience the tree for them to be filled. culture. Her homeland does not have the stocking tradition.

On Christmas Eve, she said her family will enjoy lamb shrimp, and cheesecake.

Natalia and host mom Ericka recently made tamales an activity Natalia enjoyed. She didn't know what tamales were until she cooked them. She enjoyed them.

EXPOSURE TO ANOTHER CULTURE

Back home, Natalia said

Ericka said she likes beshe has an opportunity to tive way and to give some-

"I like how our family expands," Chris said, adding that they like how daughter Katelyn gets to experience and some seafood, such as different cultures and her grades and social skills improve.

> "She and Natalia are always laughing and playing something – a board game – or doing something," Chris said, adding it's rough when the foreign exchange students in his home leave to go back home.

Courtesy photo

Natalia Rueda, left, attended a Dallas Cowboys game earlier this

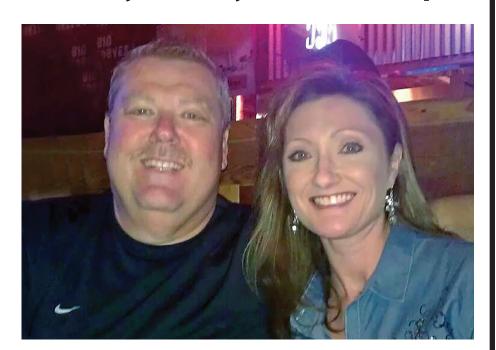
season in Arlington. She posed here with Chris and Katelyn Beasley.

Come-And-Go

SAVE THE DATE

Keception

CO-SPONSORED BY THE AZLE AREA MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE AND THE AZLE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Thursday, January 13, 2022 • 4-6 pm



Rick is officially retiring from the City of Azle effective January 1, 2022, after serving as its Police Chief since March 2015; and Shelia is leaving her post as Executive Director of the Azle Area Chamber of Commerce on January 15, 2022, after serving in that role since March 2016. The Pippins have supported the AAMA over the years in helpful and meaningful ways, and we look forward to this opportunity to thank them.

404 West Main Street, Azle



2021, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.

MARCH

Sheriff Larry Fowler died at the age of 82, having served in his post for 16 years.

Christina Starnes, a teacher at Forte Junior High, was arrested on chargest of sexual assault of a student.

Five members of Azle High School FCCLA competed at regionals and moved forward to state competition.

Pelican Bay mayor Bill Morley died unexpectedly after serving the city for seven years.

Azle ISD teachers and staff began receiving the COVID-19 vaccine.

Russ Authier was appointed as Parker County sheriff following the death of Larry Fowler.

Azle Composite Squadron, Civil Air Patrol, credited their steady membership growth to its Great Start program.

APRIL

Pelican Bay Police Department investigated felony animal abuse allegations when a family's dog was grievously injured.

Azle High School inducted 45 new members into its chapter of the National Honor Society.

Azle Rodeo Team qualified for the North Texas High School Rodeo Association finals.

A construction worker drowned in a heavy equipment accident along the banks of Eagle Mountain Lake.

Azle ISD board voted to end the mask requirement for students and staff.

AHS Track and Field earned two area titles and qualified for six other events for regional competition.

Three AHS students qualified for national competition

for Future Business Leaders of America.

A family in Parker County lost its home when it was overturned by high winds in a late spring storm, but it was soon replaced by a generous donor.

The May election brough new council members to the city of Azle and one bond proposition was passed for

Residents in the Ashwood Park neighborhood had to deal with flooding after storms moved through with heavy rain.

Tristan Range, member of Scout Troop 243 and the Azle Composite Squadron, earned the rank of Eagle Scout.

Jasmine Howard was named Valedictorian and Lee Stimson Salutatorian for the AHS Class of 2021.

New Azle city council members Randa Goode and Stacy Peek were sworn in for the start of their two-year

The Parker County Sheriff's Office building flooded as a result of heavy rainfall.

Optimist Club of Azle awarded 15 scholarships to AHS students.

JUNE

Storms moving through Azle caused Ash Creek to rise, flooding area businesses and Central Park.

Tommy's Shop celebrated 45 years in business.

High and Forte Junior High to COVID-19 restrictions. Math and Science teams competed in state.

rescued by boat after Ash Creek flooded her home af- Johnson for 20 years and Lt. ter the recent storm.

The Azle Animal Shelter Humane Association, longtime supporter and fundraising organization for the shelter, disbanded.

Azle Hornets win the HSU LineMAN challenge and move on to compete at

The Azle Senior Center opened its doors once again after being closed for more than a year due to COV-

Royce Wood, accused of shooting a Wise County police officer in June, was apprehended in Arkansas.

JULY

The annual Follow the Flag event drew thousands to Azle Central Park to celebrate the Fourth of July with music and fireworks.

AASHA donated \$270,000 to the city of Azle to be used for the Azle Animal Shelter with an eye toward expansion.

Emilou Shrake of the Azle Composite Squadron earned the Brigadier General Billy Mitchell Award and the rank of Second Lieutenant, one of the biggest achievements for Civil Air Patrol.

Shannon Hart announced his departure from the Azle ISD Board of Trustees after

serving 15 years in his post. Brookshire's in Azle unveiled its newly renovated store to the public.

Azle Opry fired up the band once again after being Students from Azle Junior closed for many months due

Azle Fire Chief Will Scott was recognized for 25 years A homeowner had to be of service to the department, along with engineer Billy Steve Lemming for 25 years.

> YEAR IN REVIEW PART 2: AUGUST-DECEMBER In next week's paper

PRIMARIES, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.

- County Courts at Law (4-year term)
- County Attorneys (4year term)
- District and County Clerks (4-year term)
- District Clerks (4-year
- County Clerks (4-year
- County Treasurer (4-
- year term) County Surveyors (4-
- year term) County Commissioners
- (4-year term) • Justices of the Peace (4-year term)
- Constable (4-year term) Texas added two new congressional districts this year as a result of 2020 census data. District 37 is in the Austin area; District 38 is outside of Houston. State legislators approved the new districting map in October.

For the governor's race, there are seven Republicans running against incumbent Greg Abbott in the primary. Five Democratic candidates — including Beto O'Rourke — are vying for their party's nomination in the upcoming primary race.

The race for lieutenant governor and attorney general has several challengers for those seats in both parties.

U.S. Rep. Kay Granger is one of three candidates

Trey Hunt — has filed for ty voters. the seat.

State Rep. Charlie Geren was the only Republican to file for the primary, so he INFORMATION will likely face off against Democratic candidate the general election.

VOTER INFORMATION

All voters must be registered before the deadline of Jan. 31 to be able to vote in the March 1 primary elec-

To verify if you are eligible to vote, visit https:// www.texas.gov/living-intexas/texas-voter-registration/. You can also use this link to update your name or address for your voter registration.

Voters who want to vote applications no later than year term. Feb. 18. The applications date, not the postmark date.

Early voting runs from es 4, 5, 6 and 7. Feb. 18-25 and Election Day is March 1.

they are registered to vote. April 26. This includes Azle City Parker County voters, and from April 25 to May 3.

running for District 12. One Hornet Academy, 1010 democratic candidate — Boyd Rd. for Tarrant Coun-

CITY AND SCHOOL **BOARD ELECTION**

The cities of Azle and Mimi Coffey — the lone Pelican Bay, Reno, the town of Lakeside, and the Azle for the District 99 race in Independent School District will have spots up for election in May.

> The first day to file an application for candidacy is Jan. 19. The filing deadline is Feb. 18 at 5 p.m.

In Azle, council places 1, 2 and 5 are up for election in May. Pelican Bay city council places 1 and 2 and the mayor are up for election. City of Reno will have an election for places 1, 3 and 5. In the town of Lakeside, places 1, 3 and 5 will be on the ballot. Each city by mail must submit their council position is a two-

The AISD Board of Trustmust be received by that ees will have four spots up for election in May — plac-

The deadline to register to vote in the May 7 elec-Voters can cast their bal- tion is April 7. Applications lots at any polling location for mail-in ballots need to within the county in which be received no later than

The early voting period Hall, 505 W. Main St. for for the May 7 election runs

LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICES

Baja boat and Roadrunner trailer are being sold together to satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale to be held online at selfstorageauction.com

Facility is located at 9270 Boat Club Rd. Fort Worth, TX 76179. Bidding will open January 24, 2022 and conclude February 3, 2022. Seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale. Boat and trailer sold AS IS to highest bidder. Sale includes the property of Scott Selkey. Property being sold is a 1996 Baja 290 boat AGCA3379G596 and 1995 Roadrunner trailer RR56811.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

To satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale to be held at Azle Southeast Storage, 1004 Southeast Parkway; Azle, TX at 10:30am 1-14-2022 Property to be sold to the highest bidder for CASH. Property includes contents of the following tenant: Kyle Busch: household items Tammy Sanderford: ousehold items Natalie Stephens : household Items

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Town of Lakeside Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing on Thursday January 13, 2022, at 7:30 p.m. at 9834 Confederate Park Rd, Town Conference Room. Videoconferencing video/ audio feed may be accessed at the link below: ttps://us02web.zoom.us/j/6842173328?pwd=Y 2ZiVk1rUVNPaUIxQ2dQNkh4VkNGUT09 or by calling 346-248-7799, Meeting ID 684-217-3328 Passcode:3NF3EN To consider a variance to Ordinance 359 Section 151.025.01 (C) (2); "No portion of it may be located

within 15 feet of the surveyed front, or rear surveyed property line or ten feet of a surveyed side property line, 4321 Oakridge Rd, lot 3 block 25 of Ella Young Addition. Board may take any action deemed necessary. Questions can be directed to Norman Craven, Town Administrator at 817-230-

TIM'S TOWING SECOND NOTICE STORAGE LIEN

The following vehicle and/or property will be disposed of within applicable laws of the state of Texas if not reclaimed within 30 days: Year 2005 Make Nissan model titan vin 1N6AA06A55N540971 lic# 8759172 CA Impounded at 704 NW PARKWAY AZLE TX 76020 Charges are \$272 for towing, storage charges accrue daily at the rate of \$21.03 per day plus tax, impound charge of \$21.03 and a notification charge of \$50. Tim's Towing (817)441-2166

Vehicle Storage Facility License #0653457VSF. Direct unresolved complaints regarding the storage of a vehicle to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation, P.O. Box 12157, Austin, Texas 78711, 512-463-6599, towing@license.state.tx.us; http://www.license.state.tx.us"

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Chris Akers - Worshipful Master Rocky Gralla - Secretary Clint Hall - Treasurer



THURSDAY 412 Commerce St.

Rotary

(across from Azle Post Office)

Meets 2nd TUESDAY 6:30 PM 412 Commerce, Azle e-clubhouse.org/sites/azle_tk/ Curren McLane - president

817-689-0074



Azle Boy Scout Troop 243

Meets Mondays 7 PM Azle First Assembly of God **1020 Southeast Parkway** troop243azle.org



10328 Jacksboro Hwy Fort Worth TX 76135 817-237-1819 www.emphc.org Mon 12-6 PM Thurs 12-6 PM SE HABLA ESPAÑOL

Azle School Menu

GRADES PK-4th \$1.55 GRADES 5-12th \$1.50

GRADES PK-12th \$2.65 Employees \$3.20 Guests \$3.55 Employees \$1.85 Guests \$1.85 Gold Card Guests \$3.15

. Bottled water \$1.00

• Ice Cream \$1.00



BREAKFAST: Everyday - Assorted Fruits and Cereal, Juice, White or Chocolate Milk, Graham Crackers, Toast, Mon Mini Cinnamon Rolls Tues Maple Mini Waffles Weds Turkey Sausage Breakfast Pizza Thurs Vanilla Yogurt Cup w/ Graham Crackers Fri Chicken Biscuit Sandwich

LUNCH: Everyday - Variety of milk. Your choice of 1 entree & 1 fruit or juice Mon Cheese Quesadilla, Grande Turkey Taco Nachos, Salsa, Seasoned Mexican Black Beans Tues Orange Chicken w/ Brown Rice, Popcorn Chicken Rice Bowl **Weds** Beefy Macaroni Marinara w/ Roll, Breaded Chicken Patty Sandwich, Crinkle Cut Fries **Thurs** Chicken Fajitas w/Flour Tor-

tilla & Spanish Rice, Chicken & Cheese Tamales w/Rice & Beans, Cheesy Mexican Mix Refried Beans Fri Meatloaf Mashed Potato Bowl w/Biscuit hicken Nugget Potato Bowl w/Biscuit, Steamed Crinkle Carro

GRADES 5TH - 8TH BREAKFAST: Everyday - Assorted Fruits and Cereal, Juice, White or Chocolate Milk, Graham Crackers, Mon Blueberry Muffin Tues Cheesy Egg & Potato Breakfast Tacos Weds Fluffy Jumbo Waffles w/ Turkey Sausage

Thurs Egg & Cheese Biscuit Sandwich Fri Chocolate Donut Holes LUNCH: Everyday - Variety of milk. Your choice of 1 entree & 1 fruit or juice, rolls, crackers. Variety of burgers.

Mon Breaded Chicken Patty Sandwich, Pepperoni Pizza, Beef Burrito, Chicken Tenders w/Roll, Country Turkey Ham Sandwich, Spanish Brown Rice, Crinkle Cut Fries, Seasoned Refried Beans Tues Breaded Chicken Patty Sandwich, Cheese Pizza, BBQ Diced Chicken Wrap, Oven Baked Beef Lasagna w/ Breadstick, Golden Chicken Corn Dog, Crinkle Cut Fries, Steamed Corn **Weds** Veggie Ranch Wrap, Breaded Chicken Patty Sandwich, Veggie Pizza Cheesy Chicken Quesadilla, Meatloaf Mashed Potato Bowl w/Biscuit, Steamed Crinkle Carrots **Thurs** Turkey Sandwich, Breaded Chicken Patty Sandwich, Pepperoni & Jalapeno Pizza, Chicken Alfredo w/Breadstick, Chili Dog, Crinkle Cut Fries **Fri** Turkey Ham & Cheese Sala, Spicy Chicken Patty Sandwich, Meatlovers zza, Beef LoMein w/Vegetables, Country Fried Steak Potato Bowl w/Roll, Crinkle Cut Fries, Peppered Broccoli Florets

HIGH SCHOOL

BREAKFAST: Everyday - Assorted Fruits and Cereal, Juice, White or Chocolate Milk, Graham Crackers, Egg Scramble w/ Turkey Sausage & Biscuit, Scrambled Eggs w/ Biscuit, Turkey Sausage Patty w/ Biscuit, Hash Brown Mon Blueberry Muffin Tues Cheesy Egg & Potato Breakfast Tacos Weds Fluffy Jumbo Waffles w/ Turkey Sausage Thurs Egg & Cheese Biscuit Sandwich Fri Chocolate Donut Holes

LUNCH: Everyday - Variety of milk, assorted pizza & salads. Your choice of 1 entree & 1 fruit or juice BALLPARK CLASSICS: Hamburger, Cheeseburger, Turkey Bacon Cheeseburger, Breaded Chicken Patty Sandwich, Spicy Chicken Patty Sandwich, Golden Chicken Corn Dog

Mon Mozzarella Chicken Quesadilla, Turkey Ham, Turkey & Cheese Sub, Classic Pepperoni Pizza, Veggie Pizza, Chicken Fajita Baked Potato w/Biscuit, (egetable Garden Salad w/Roll, Orange Chicken w/ Brown Rice, Country Fried Steak Potato Bowl w/Roll, Classic Refried Beans, Peppered Broccoli Florets, resh Salsa **Tues** Grande Beefv Nachos. Turkev Ham & Cheese Jalapeno Cheddar Wrap, Cheese Pizza, Pepperoni & Jalapeno Pizza, Chicken Caesar Salad w/Crackers, Oven Baked Beef Lasagna w/ Breadstick, Teriyaki Beef & Broccoli w/Brown Rice & Egg Roll, Popcorn Chicken Potato Bowl w/Roll, Classic Refried Beans, Spiced Green Beans, Fresh Salsa **Weds** Seasoned Beef Quesadilla, Turkey & Cheese Jalapeno Cheddar Wrap, Pork Sausage Crumble Pizza, Classic epperoni Pizza, Fish Shape Nugget & Chips w/Roll, Cobb Salad w/Roll, Chili Garlic Chicken Stir Fry w/ Rice, Chicken Nugget Potato Bowl w/Roll, Classic Refried Beans, Steamed Crinkle Carrots, Fresh Salsa **Thurs** Verde Chicken Enchiladas w/ Spanish Rice, Tuna Salad Wrap, Cheese Pizza, Pork Sausage Crumble Pizza, Chef Salad w/Crackers, Pulled Pork BBQ Sandwich, Beef LoMein w/Vegetables, Chicken Tender Potato Bowl w/Roll, Classic Refried Beans, Steamed Corn, Fresh Salsa **Fri** Chicken Nachos w/Spanish Rice, Veggie Ranch Wrap, Turkey Ham Hawaiian Pizza, Veggie Pizza, Chicken Alfredo w/Breadstick, Chicken Taco Salad, Red Thai Veggie Stir Fry w/Brown Rice, Beef Finger Potato Bowl w/Roll, Classic Refried Beans, Garbanzo Beans



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12 MONTH



The Greatest Black Friday Ever

Papaw was so lonely.

We lost Mamaw (Mrs. Sweetie's mom) in March 2009 one day before Papaw's 79th birthday.

We worried about him a lot over the next few months because he was on the ranch all alone.

No one to call if he got his the tractor broke down in the joy.

noon) and supper (at 6:00) giving gathering at Papaw's ready when he came in.

No partner for the regular motor home.

And then he started gohusband a couple of months



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.

before Mamaw's passing. We were so glad he had

truck stuck in the mud or if someone's company to en-

No one to have dinner (at to our 2010 family Thanks-

It was Black Friday and the preacher. Papaw and Elsie had decided that at 80 ily. ing out to eat once in awhile and 81, they wanted to spend with a long-time friend of their remaining years tothe family. Elsie had lost her gether as husband and wife. Since the wedding hap-

pened the day after Thanksgiving, we joked that Black Friday was easier to re- had to shed some clothes time to heaven. She celebratmember as an anniversary and sit in front of a fan! Fast forward a few months than the actual date.

> black Fridays before Papaw passed in September 2020.

was a gift to the whole fam-

welcome.

Actually "warm" was litand sparkly. She was a jewel nursing home. in every way.

Her personality and great wouldn't be a lengthy stay. cooking kept those of us who coming back — even if we relocated once more. This ments together this year.

They almost made it to 10 and moved into a retirement/ February 2020, just a month meaning. Those 10 years were not before the covid shutdown. was wise.

For just over a year, El-Her soft-spoken gra- sie stayed in the same little ciousness and humor made apartment with her wid- so. their home a place of warm owed daughter-in-law as her roommate.

erally true. That tiny woman approached, it became apwore a sweater in the sum- parent that she needed more cluded unexpected blessings. mer! And it was usually red care, so she relocated to a

On Christmas Eve, in the They had sold the ranch ally in the presence of Jesus.

It gives "I'll be home for assisted living community in Christmas" a much deeper

game nights or trips in the there was a wedding. I was just precious for them; Elsie As usual, Papaw's timing least for me, Black Friday avoid saying regrettable has been a celebration of the words. gift of Elsie.

As we begin a new year, I'm excited about the oppor- friend.

As the 11th Black Friday tunities before us. This year will be amazing and will in-

It is also true that—just like almost every year— We all knew that, at 92, it someone we love will depart this life in the year ahead.

That's a good reminder to

were more warm-blooded middle of the afternoon. She make the most of our mo-

To see every encounter as ed the birthday of Jesus actu- part of God's amazing gift of

To say, "I love you" often. To avoid saying words we will regret and say "I'm sor-For the past 11 years, at ry" quickly when we don't

To be the blessing and I imagine it will always be encouragement we want to receive.

Be amazing today, my

Azle ISD continues to strive to make a difference

Reflecting upon 2021, I am reminded of how special it is to be a part of our amazing Azle ISD family of students, staff, parents and community. We truly have a unique school district—one in which we all care about others and strive to help and assist those in need. The recent holiday season exemplified this with our students, staff and parents helping others with various acts of kindness. From food drives to angel trees, and much more, we continue to exhibit the Azle ISD Motto This One."

In 2021, with the passing of Proposition A in both from the May 2021 election will start soon.



AZLE ISD

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

Mr. Smith just completed his 27th school year in Azle ISD, with 13 years in campus administration and six years as a district administrator. In June 22, 2020 he

was named Superintendent of Schools by the Azle ISD Board of Trustees. He is thankful for the passion and dedication exhibited by Azle ISD faculty and staff and is extremely proud of the work Azle ISD has accomplished and the impact they will continue to make in the lives of our students.

challenges.

the May and November began over the break, with election cycles, our com- renovations starting at both munity approved a total of Hoover and Eagle Heights. \$70,917,000 in bond funds. Plans for Liberty and El-The support of the items ementary #6 are in the comidentified in these projects pletion stage, with construcallows us to address many tion expected to start in early of "It Makes a Difference to current needs and growth spring. The planning process for the high school renova-Construction on projects tions approved in November

associated with the volatile Bond Referendum. construction market.

have not slowed down new the school year. Prior to the hardworking employees.

items approved in both elective the district, new housing detions, but knowing others velopments are quickly proportant to keep in mind we in the early planning phase, still have needs at various including the possibility of campuses throughout the two new apartment comdistrict. We will continue to plexes. Our recent demogaddress the needs along with rapher report indicates new the rapid growth by working home activity for 2021 will with our Board of Trustees be a record-setting year. The and community-based Long demographer forecasts Azle Range Facilities Planning ISD to add roughly 400 new Committee. We remain com- residential units annually for mitted to being good stew- the next three to five years. ards of funds while navigat- This exceeds the projections ing through the challenges shared during the May 2021

As we kick off 2022, this Rising construction costs marks the halfway point of home construction within the break, our weekly COVID

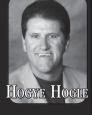
We are thankful for the Azle ISD boundaries. Across numbers were running in the single digits. The recent trend in confirmed cases, were not approved, it is im- gressing, with several more along with the new Omicron variant, is concerning. As we have done since March 2020, along with previous surges in cases and new variants, we will continue to monitor the situation and make necessary adjustments based on recommendations from the CDC, state and local public health departments and TEA. All while making sure we continue to meet the educational and public health needs of our almost 7,000 Azle Hornets and 1,000 dedicated and

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Things That I Have Learned

Not too long ago, Ed Johnson, who's a good friend of mine, and I were discussing and trying to come up with as many old sayings as we

If you think about it, most sayings are based on someone else's experiences and lessons to be learned from those experiences. Probably because of our backgrounds. most of the sayings that we were able to come up with were based in agriculture.

We would be here most of the day if I listed all of the sayings that we came up with, but I am going to use a couple of them today because of their continued relevance to our lives today: "plant your corn early" and shines."

Everyone has their own interpretation of the meaning of these but my understanding when I would hear them as a "kid" was as follows:



AG 101 By Jack DeShazo

Jack DeShazo has decades of experience

beaten into the ground by etc. a hail storm you still have time to replant them. The ba-

day when the time "may" relates to getting your field parents, relatives, teachers, tional anthem and the flag,

or garden corn seed planted friends and other respected early to benefit from the people should also become early spring rains before old sayings. The following the weather gets dry. It also are just a few that have had means if you get your crops an impact on my life as an planted early and they hap- individual, agricultural scipen to be flooded out or ence teacher, parent, citizen,

I can still hear my dad telling me and also showsic meaning is to plan ahead ing me by example to: shake and also have a backup plan. a person's hand firmly and "Make hay while the sun look him/her in the eye, be shines" is simply saying a person of your word, work get your work done while hard, if a person is paythe conditions are right, ing you to do a job make "make hay while the sun and don't wait for another sure they get their money's worth, sweat and dirt are be right. Even though these nothing to be afraid of beare old sayings they still cause they are a badge of apply to our daily lives. honor when it comes to hard While thinking about these physical work, stand and I realized that many of the take your hat/cap off and put "Plant your corn early" things that I was told by my it over your heart for the na-

take your hat off when you my class are probably goare inside a building and tip ing to be successful with or your hat to the ladies.

One of my mom's sayings would come from the recollection of her bringing me to reality very quickly when as a pre-teenager I had made a negative comment about someone else and her response was "do you think they are any less precious in God's eyes than you?" Or after getting a poor grade in geometry class instead of chewing me out, she simply said "you can do better than that, can't you?"

shake-a-person's-The hand firmly rule was pretty important to most of the men I knew. My high school Agriculture teacher, Mr. R.W. Simmans, would tell us to not hold the other person's hand like a dead fish, but grab it solidly and firmly. As a young teacher, one of my fellow agricultural science always a pleasure to have in ents by the successful prod-

without me; it's the other students that really need me, and they were the ones that I was truly there for.

I also learned along the way that we never know what that student, fellow teacher or for that matter anyone is having to deal with at home or elsewhere; so, try a little understanding and cut them some slack.

Another teacher fact that I learned along the way is that the most obnoxious and difficult student in your class was somebody's sweet little baby at one time, and something may have happened along the way that changed that and maybe I could make a difference. When the birth of my first child was fast approaching, I began to panic because I didn't know anything about being a good parent. So, I sought out adteachers told me that like it vice from folks who had or not, the students that are proven they were good par-

ucts they had produced.

The first thing I was told was that I knew more than I thought I did because I had been helping to raise the kids in my classes for the past 15 years. Other pieces of wisdom that I received were: you never finish being a parent, a suspicious parent is a good parent, never say "not my little Daniel or not my little Sally - they would never do that" and maybe the best one was "if you want to be your child's best friend when he/she is 30, then you can't be their best friend when they are 15 - you have to be the parent."

These are just a few of the things that I have learned along the way. So after spending your time reading this article, you are wondering what all of this has to do with agriculture. Well, let's just say that it pertains to being an agricultural science teacher and trying to be a positive influence for others.

'til next time.

PLATES. CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.

eran plates wanting to use disabled parking spaces beginning in 2022 may apply for a disabled parking placard or for a new disabled veteran license plate with the ISA if the veteran meets the eligibility requirements for an ISA after Jan. 1. Applicants may submit their paperwork at their local county tax assessor-collector's office. Current placards will remain valid; however, the new requirements must be met at time of renewal.

ELIGIBILITY FOR DISABLED PARKING PLACARDS OR LICENSE PLATES WITH THE INTERNATIONAL SYMBOL OF ACCESS

Placard and plate eligibility is based on a medical condition that meets the legal definition of a disability. "Disability" means a condition in which a person has:

- Visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye with correcting lenses.
- Visual acuity of more than 20/200 but with a limited field of vision in which the widest diameter of the visual field subtends an angle of

20 degrees or less.

Mobility problems that substantially impair a person's ability to move around; these problems can be caused by:

- Paralysis.
- Lung disease.
- Uses portable oxygen.
- Cardiac deficiency.
- Wheelchair confinement.
- Arthritis, neurological, or orthopedic condition.
- Foot disorder.
- Other medical condition causing a person to use a brace, cane, crutch or other assistive device.

A parking placard or plate is only valid when being used by the person with the disability or someone who is driving the person with the dis-

It is a violation of state law to use the placard or plates for a disabled parking spot without the person with the disability in the vehicle. The ISA is only valid when being used by the person with the disability or someone who is driving the person with the disability. People who misuse disabled parking placards are subject to fines of up to \$1,250 and/or up to 50 hours of community service.

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Hituaries

Higinio Pena Jr 1956 - 2021

Higinio Pena Jr. passed away on Jan. 1, 2022.

Visitation will be held Friday, Jan. 7, 2022, 1 p.m. at Azle & Lake Worth Funeral Home followed by a funeral service at 2 p.m.

Higinio was born on Sept.13, 1956 in Houston, Texas to Higinio Pena, Sr. and Josephine Petroccini Pena.

Higinio is survived by his wife of 40 years, Susan Terry Pena; daughter, Savannah Pena Shannon and Candace Pena Diaz; brothers, Ricardo Pena and Alex Pena; sisters, Christina Pena and Maira



Pena Gutierrez; grandsons, Ethan, Kade, Austin, and Bodhi; and a host of extended family and friends.

> The Azle News, Jan. 5. 2022 Edition

Kevin Ryan Jessup 1987 - 2021

Kevin Ryan Jessup, 34, passed away Sunday, Jan. 2,

Service is at 10 a.m. Friday, Jan. 7, 2022 at White's Azle Chapel.

Visitation is from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 6, 2022 at White's Azle Funeral Home. Interment: Azleland

Memorial Park, Reno. Kevin was born Jan. 17, 1987 in Fort Worth to Gary Wayne and Kimberly Aileen Schroeder Jessup. He graduated from Azle High School in 2005. Kevin was a big fan employed by Sterigenics in Jessup. Fort Worth for the last 10

Kevin was preceded in death by his mother, Kim-



berly Jessup in 2008.

Survivors include his father, Gary Wayne Jessup; brother, Jason Walter Jesof The Stars. He had been sup; grandmother, Bonnie

> Kevin will be missed by all who knew him.

> > The Azle News, Jan. 5, 2022 Edition

Not to sound ungrateful, but...

Dear Frankie.

How would our moms like it if they went to the hairdresser and their hair was washed with dog shampoo? I bet they wouldn't.

It upsets me how far hudog clothing. Or, however, that sheep saying goes.

You get my point. I know we are lucky to have wonderful human families. I don't mean to sound ungrateful. It's just that you could gag from the smell of that lavender shampoo and spray the groomer uses. You should hear how the groomer carries on about only usand natural products.

My mom, of course, laps



DEAR FRANKIE

By Geneva Woodruff

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

mans take the idea that we store every other day. This age? If ever there was a are children dressed up in stuff takes about four weeks despicable human activity to fade before I get back to for recreation, this is it. But smelling like my ol' doggy that's a topic for another self. Then, wham, two weeks column. later back to the groomers.

> Am I alone on this? Disgruntled, Henry Dear Henry,

I see from the picture into your own paws. on your letterhead that ing dogs.

I don't know how you can communicate your feelings to your mom. This is a matter you need to take

When outside, you are a beagle. Beagles around on the grass — or are known for their acute if it's winter, the snow. On sense of smell. That's what rainy days, ask to go out ing the purest, most organic, makes them excellent hunt- often. I understand how unpleasant walks in inclement Can you imagine hunt- weather can be, but they it up. She's at the health ing for sport in this day and are the closest you will get

to a shower.

If you walk in parks, go under low bushes pine if you can find them — and brush against the needles. When at home, hang out by the garbage can and take naps on top of old toys or blankets you have slobbered on for years.

I think you get a general idea — rub out the bad smells, hang out by the good ones. None of these strategies will restore your essence in a few days. However, they might get you back to your ol' self, say in three weeks.

Hey, it's better than four. Sorry, I don't have a quick solution to offer.

Best, Frankie

HOST PARENT, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.

over the course of our 30 years, we've partnered with various (countries)," Sweet said, adding that it can vary year to year, and because of the pandemic, her organization didn't place students from certain countries in the last couple of years.

Sweet has been a host parent five times and has been a friendship family for eight - college-age individuals -

on the weekends. The visits she said. were a way to get the students exposed to American families and have a place to go on holidays and so forth.

The benefits of being a host family to an exchange student is that people "immediately gain an international son or daughter," Sweet said.

"When they're taking in other international students an exchange student, they care for that student equally who have visited her home as if it's their own child."

When people become host broader world perspective.

loves most is giving young people a chance at a life- rest of their lives." changing experience.

students are getting exposed this fall. to other families even if

they aren't hosting them

"I love seeing them mafamilies, they also acquire a ture and develop and gain confidence," she said. "This "And I love that," she really is a life-changing exsaid, adding that what she perience that I think that they take with them for the

She said her organization She said she talks to ex- will soon begin its placechange students who tell her ment season for 2022-23 how much they love their and new exchange student experience. The exchange profiles will be posted for





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Equip Sunday School at the WORD......9:30 AM

Wednesdays

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Children's Church After Music Service

Returning a holiday gift? Here are four tips to get you started



BY ASHLEY INGE ashley@hcnews.com

gift returns.

your Christmas presents, or as stressful if returning a gift maybe there were a couple absolutely want or need.

You're not alone.

known for returns, and it has TopCashback.com has some also become an annual tradi- tips on how to make the re- day return overload? Try tion for consumers.

by TopCashback.com found them out below: that 86% of Americans thirds of consumers will heading to the store. return at least one gift this

holiday season.

The weeks leading up to Christmas can be daunt-As Christmas ends, anothing for people trying to find er holiday tradition begins the right gift for that special someone. But the weeks fol-Maybe you loved all of lowing Christmas can be just (after 7 p.m.). store credit.

The month of January is Rebecca Gramuglia from for the item. turn process easier on both making a list of all of the A recent survey conducted you and your wallet. Check items you need to return and

- Understand return polishopped online this holiday cies and deadlines. Make season. According to Com- sure to collect all of the necmercial Real Estate Services essary items and paperwork connecting to your email and and Optoro, a complete re- and research the return politurn solutions website, two- cies and deadlines before on each item's deadline for
 - Steer clear of peak return

times. Avoid returning gift items during peak times, like right after Christmas or on a weekend. The best times to return items are early mornings or weeknight evenings

- Be bold ask for the - whether it's exchanging gift receipt. Before making you would prefer to return in clothing in a different size a return, don't be afraid to exchange for something you or returning an appliance for ask your gift giver for the receipt as this will help to Luckily, consumer expert ensure you get a full refund
 - · Stay organized. Holiwhere. For more tech-savvy individuals, there are apps like ReturnQueen that can handle the return process by will then give you reminders making a return.

Resolve to get involved

BY JESSICA McKINNEY azlereporter@azlenews.net

If the top of your list of New Year's resolutions includes being more involved in your community and finding volunteer opportunities, then there are ways to get it done right here in Azle.

began accepting donations again on Jan. 4. The store p.m. had to put a hold on accepting donations at the end sible for bringing in donaof October because of the tions from outside and sortoverwhelming number of ing the items into designated items it had to process.

cleaned and organized and ready for new donations to of the current volunteers,

munity — but they're going to need a lot of hands to help get those donations sorted over the next few months.

Karen Norseworthy and Kristie Cooper are looking for people who can volunteer their time on Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Fridays be-The Porch Resale Shoppe tween 1 and 5 p.m., and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2

categories for pricing before vides free clothing and small Now, the warehouse is they go to the sales floor.

Nancy Lee Stevens, one

be delivered from the com- said she enjoys spending her time volunteering at The Porch because, she "likes getting things orderly."

"It's fun to me," Stevens said. "My favorite thing is walking out (on the sales floor) and seeing that something I just put out is already gone."

All items that are donated to The Porch benefit the Community Caring Cen-Volunteers will be respon- ter. Each item sold helps fund the food pantry, which feeds hundreds of families each month, and also prohousehold items for clients.

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Cynthia Payne,

MNAA, ASA Stacy Payne, Office Manager

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Azle Christian Church 117 Church St., Azle

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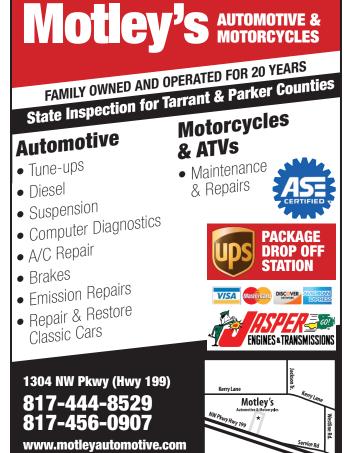












Monday - Friday 8:30 am - 6:00 pm

Segue enters Azle hospital market

BY DON MUNSCH editor@azlenews.net

A business seeking to help people with their needs following discharge from an Azle hospital will start soon.

Eric Ogea, state director of Segue Health Partners Texas, recently discussed his business working with Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Azle. Segue is based in Memphis.

Segue will work with Texas Health Azle and has started partnerships with Texas Health hospitals in Denton and Bedford. All three hospitals are affiliated with Texas Health Resources.

Tonya A. Sosebee, chief operating officer/chief nursing officer at Texas Health Azle, said the partnership with Segue is beneficial to the patients and the hospital.

"We're looking forward to partnering with Segue to assist with this post-acute management," she said in an email.

She added that Segue is still hiring staff to assist with the additional coverage areas, "so we haven't actually had a patient enroll in the started."

Company officials explained what services Segue offers. Medicare will not pay hospitals for readmissions that occur within 30 days following discharge, and this is done to disincentivize hospitals from prematurely discharging patients and to incentivize a proper continuum of care for the patient following discharge. Thirty-day readmissions also have an impact on a hospital's quality scores, which are used to determine its overall Medicare reimbursement. Segue Health partners with hospitals to provide services and ministries that provide tangible benefits to both the patient and the hospital.

"Readmissions across the U.S. are fairly high – they're in the double digits," Ogea said. "They'll average anything from 13% to 17-18%. Medicare wants it below 10%. So, over the years, the hospitals have tried to do a lot of what's

School begins.

Draw a line from each box to the time line to make a "Day in My Life" timeline.

Eat lunch.

Do homework.

Eat breakfast.

What time do you do each of these things?

called transitional care management.'

Hospitals have tried to accomplish this management in-house but "programs come and go," Ogea said. Segue has a program that will partner with hospitals to help them achieve what they need to do to keep those Medicare patients from readmissions.

"So, what we do currently is we monitor those Medicare patients that are coming out of the hospital for 30 days," Ogea said.

Segue has a care coordinator who works in the hospital alongside the care transition teams at the hospital to know which patients are being discharged from the hospital. Once the list of names has been obtained, Segue will determine whether patients want Segue's help with the transitional care program. If the patient says yes, then Segue schedules a nurse practitioner to visit a patient's home two to three days after discharge. Segue bills Medicare for these home visits. And there's no cost to the patient because Medicare is being billed.

There are three main areas that program, but we're excited to get create high readmission rates, Ogea said.

"The largest (reason) is that the patients that are coming out of discharge do not understand their discharge orders, and right along with that, a lot of them still don't have their PCP (primary care physician)," he said.

Another factor causing a lot of readmissions is medication errors, Ogea said. A lot of Medicare patients are already on a number of medications and when they leave the hospitals, they're given more medications, he said.

A third factor is the social aspect of their lives. Segue has a ministry side of its operations, in addition to clinical portion.

"That's another reason why we send a nurse practitioner in the home," Ogea said. "Because there we get to see the social life of the patient. Typically, if a patient has a follow-up with their PCP or their specialist, that doctor doesn't understand their home living conditions. All they're seeing is just the clinical side of it. So, when we go into homes, we're able to see the living conditions."

Over the five years since it began, Segue has been able to decrease readmission rates, Ogea said. Again, there is no charge to hospital, as Segue is a medical practice in each of the states it is in, he said.

"With Segue being able to come in there and partner with them, then it relieves the hospitals' staffing and it just helps that part of it," Ogea said. "We're solely responsible for that patient for that 30 days. It's a wonderful thing. They love the partnership."

Ogea explained that when a nurse practitioner will visit a patient in his or her house two or three days after discharge, they will read the discharge orders and review medications. The nurse practitioner will do a medication reconciliation to

ensure that the patient is getting his or her medicines and vitamins and review that information with the patient. Follow-up visits are scheduled with the patient's PCP and other specialists. And then Segue will follow up with that patient another two to three times before the 30 days are up, Ogea said.

"And from a ministry side of it, we are also seeing what other opportunities are in that community where we can connect that patient either back with their family or maybe their church, maybe other nonprofit organizations within that community, to help that patient in any social way that we can," he said.

In addition to an operational report, Segue produces a ministry report every month that is provided to the hospital leadership team detailing the ministry needs it fulfilled. Those needs can range from helping a patient purchase medicines to acquiring food to providing safety fixtures in the home to transportation to doctor's appointments, among other needs.

"So, it gives us a very wellrounded opportunity to minister both clinically and then spiritually to them," Ogea said. The company allows employees to use their health care and live out their faith daily, he said.

"That's what really drives us," he said. The company has a national ministry director, John Shamblin.

Segue started in Oxford, Miss., and still serves those hospitals there, where the company has enjoyed "great success," Ogea said. The company has grown by word of mouth. Segue began in Texas in June, and Ogea joined the company the same month. The company has seven employees (including the medical director) in Texas, and 40 employees company wide. Typically in every hospital, there is one care coordinator and two nurse practitioners, Ogea said.



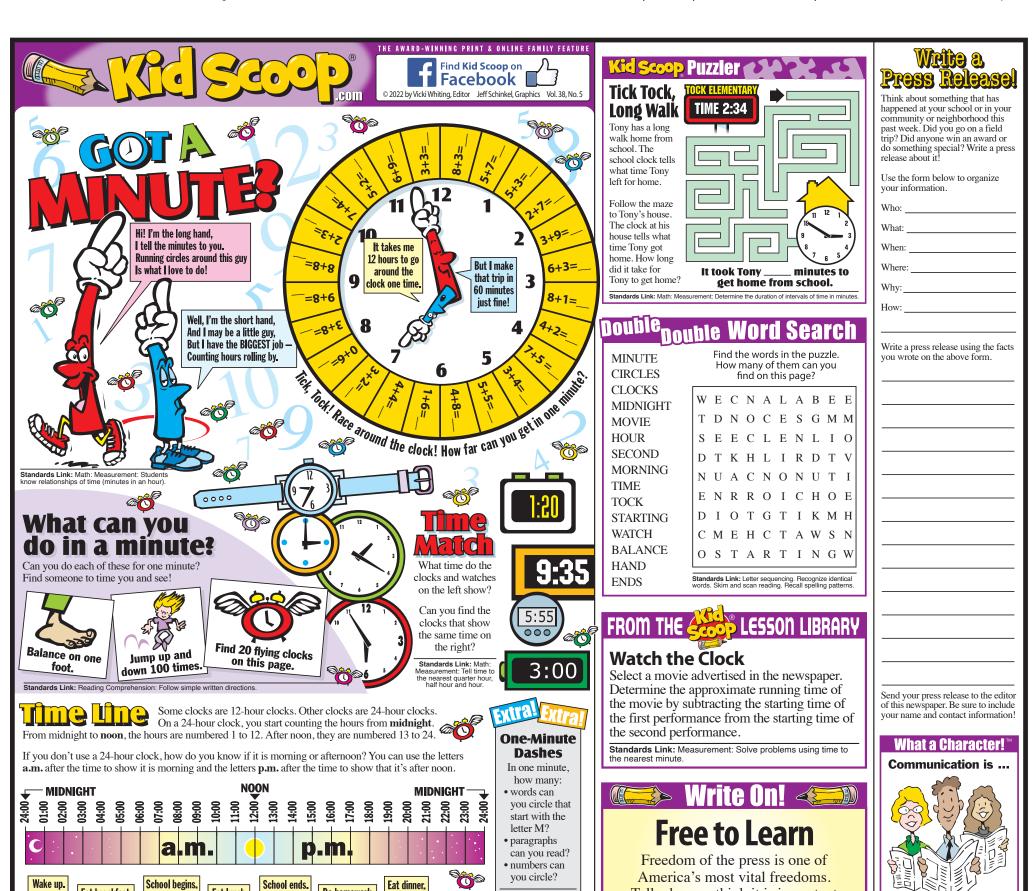
This summer, Seque was able to extend its care to Texas, starting with Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Denton. Seque will work with Texas Health Azle and has started partnerships with Texas Health hospitals in Denton and Bedford. Courtesy Photo

Tell why you think it is important

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Standards Link:

Go to bed.

Azle's Locke sisters prove double trouble for opponents



Karlee Locke, left, and her identical twin sister, Kendall, take a breather on the bench.

Photo by Jeff Prince

BY JEFF PRINCE jeff@azlenews.net

The identical twins have differ-

Kendall Locke was born a few deeper. And her hot button can be pushed easier than sister Karlee's.

temper during Azle High's game against Nolan Catholic. She had knocked a ball loose from an op- said. "She gets riled up real fast." rected toward them but "shook it been a hindrance. Kendall has

ponent, grabbed it and was heading for a layup. Instead, a Nolan olic to badger them. She had Catholic girl grabbed her jersey and yanked her around in an obvi-

Kendall's eyes lit up, and she deminutes earlier. Her voice is a bit livered a snappy warning. The referee called a technical foul on her.

After the game, Karlee didn't On Dec. 17, Kendall flashed that mince words when discussing her sister's technical.

Karlee expected Nolan Cath- off," she said. warned Kendall during pre-game voke her, particularly after her jerwarmups.

"I told her not to let them get in her head, because I knew they were coming out to do that," Karlee said. "They saw us before the game and were pointing us out on the court."

"I thought it was dumb," she the aggressive behavior being di-

Kendall let the other team prosey was grabbed and yanked.

"That made me mad," she said. "You don't grab on me. I got in her face a little bit and told her to get off me. I should have just laughed and walked away."

Karlee was "kind of upset" about upon in future games, she said.

The fire in Kendall's belly hasn't

been named all-tournament twice this year, and the Lady Hornets are playing as well as any team in District 5-5A. A week ago, they won an eight-team tournament at Castleberry High School after beating Life Waxahachie, Wyatt and Mineral Wells.

"I was very proud of our team She learned a lesson to draw this tournament as we fought through the harder side of the

SEE **LOCKE SISTERS**, PAGE 4B.

Springtown's Zane Bell logs plenty of assists on basketball court and at Brookshire's in Azle



When he isn't studying or playing basketball, Zane Bell stocks shelves and carries out groceries at Brookshire's in Azle. Photo by Jeff Prince

BY JEFF PRINCE jeff@azlenews.net

Zane Bell landed on the hardwood court with a thud after colliding with a Decatur player during an action-packed basketball game on Dec. 21 in Springtown.

The senior jumped back to his feet to run down the court but was limping. He persevered and began guarding an opponent with inten-

A few moments later, the Decatur coach called a timeout. Bell showed signs of limping again as he strode toward the sideline.

that night and worked through the pain the next day at Brookshire's grocery store, where he stocks shift. On Monday morning, it was shelves and bags groceries and carts them to the parking lot for customers.

scribes a senior year jampacked with school, sports and work: "All day, every day," he said with a Azle and Springtown. About six

Here's an example of a recent at the Azle location. weekend: Bell played a grueling, two-hour basketball game on Fri- he said. day night, rose early Saturday for 9 a.m. practice, drove to Brook-

Bell played through the pain shire's after lunch and worked a full shift and returned to the grocery store on Sunday for another back to school and practice.

Bell has attended Springtown public schools his whole life and He has a little saying that de- began playing basketball in elementary school.

Brookshire's has stores in months ago, Bell began working

"I live a little closer to this one,"

SEE BELL, PAGE 3B.

Azle wrestlers dominate district quad meet

BY JEFF PRINCE jeff@azlenews.net

Azle Hornet varsity wrestling teams - boys and girls - went a combined 6-0 at Thursday's quad meet that pitted them against Aledo, Saginaw and Springtown.

Watching the matches from a sideline was Lady Hornet wrestler Pella LaFever, fresh off her

championship victory at the Bring the Hammer Invitational in Cabot, Arkansas. The Lady Hornets took second place as a team at that tourney in mid-December, and LaFever earned the team's only hammer trophy. She beat out 15 other wrestlers for the championship title.

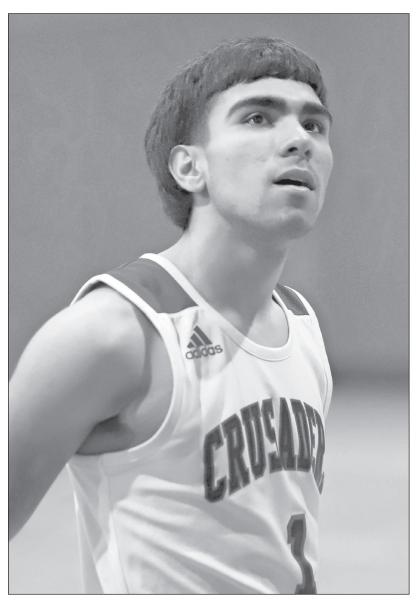
LaFever displays the hammer

SEE WRESTLING, PAGE 2B.



Pella LaFever is a menace on the wrestling mat for the Lady Hornets. Photo by Jeff Prince

Azle Christian boys find highs, lows in Blum



A.J. Rollins scored 14 points against Aquilla.

Photos by Jeff Prince

BY JEFF PRINCE jeff@azlenews.net

The Azle Christian Crusaders ference basketball games to prepare for district play.

tournament and were dealt a quick

The 1A TAPPS Crusaders took on the 4A TAPPS Waco Reicher 56-51. Catholic in the first game, and those three extra As made a big difference.

Reicher dominated from the

"We just really had a bad game," the Crusaders. "We turned the ball 11 and Andy Wisniewski with 8. over too much and missed way too many free throws."

Final score: Reicher Catholic 53, tian (4-5) in Flower Mound.

Azle Christian 33.

Zach Miles led the Crusaders in scoring with 8.

"He really found his role coming have another 10 days of noncon- off the bench as a scorer," Rollins

Azle Christian bounced back in Last week, the Crusaders trav- its second game against Aquilla eled to Blum to participate in a High, with the team playing its "best game of the year," Rollins

The Crusaders came out on top

"Everybody on the team contributed, and we really played as a team," he said. "We moved the ball well and played great defense down the stretch."

A.J. Rollins scored 14 points, said Ryan Rollins, head coach of followed by Camden Logan with

> Azle Christian (5-8) will play at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 7 at Temple Chris-



Camden Logan makes a jump shot.

WRESTLING, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.



Elias Ramirez tosses his Springtown opponent at the recent quad meet. Photo by Jeff Prince

trophy on the mantle at her family

"It just looks nice to have it there," she said.

Her name and championship information are engraved on the sledgehammer's wooden handle. Sometimes, LaFever takes the hammer with her to the gym for inspiration.

At Thursday's meet, LaFever sat on a sideline and yelled encouragement to her teammates. She had missed the weigh-in because of a prior appointment and couldn't wrestle, but attended the meet to support her teammates.

"I don't get that time to actually be on the mat, so it's a disappointment, for sure," she said. "But there's not much I can do about it. I don't mind sitting this one out."

Girls on the other teams were most likely relieved to see LaFever wearing street clothes. She can look intimidating with her bold red hair growing wild in some places and being shorn to the scalp in oth-

LaFever, a junior, has competed in individual contact sports for five years. She spent two years learning Brazilian jujitsu before joining the wrestling team as a freshman. She plans to continue wrestling through high school and into col-

Add theater to the list of things she enjoys at school. Also, LaFever takes college courses while simultaneously working on her high school diploma.

"A lot of my classes have a lot of work," she said. "It's very time consuming."

High school courses, college courses, theater rehearsals, wrestling practices – when does she have time to breathe?

"If you catch me at the right time of the year, I have cross-country, wrestling and theater all stacked on one another, and I'm up at the school for maybe 12 or 13 hours," she said. "It keeps me busy."

If 12-hour days at high school sound like a drag, you're not LaFe-

"I enjoy spending my time there," she said. "If I didn't have fun, I don't think I'd spend that much time at the school."

The same goes for Elias Ramirez, a junior who wrestles in the boys 195-pound category. He began wrestling as a freshman but stopped midseason due to family problems.

"Now, I'm back, and I'm ready to go," he said.

He won his three matches at the quad meet with little trouble. Wrestling matches are a great way to spend an afternoon, he said.

"I enjoy the competition and the friendships I make," he said.

Releasing steam during hand-tohand combat can feel pretty good.

"It's basically a sport where you can go out there and beat the crap out of a kid and not get in trouble for it," he said with a smile.

Ramirez grew up in a rough area in Fort Worth before relocating to Azle in the fifth grade.

"My mom had to move because my brother was getting in a little bit of trouble," he said. "We moved here with my aunt, and she basically helped us out. And now I'm an Azle Hornet."

He prefers Azle to his old neighborhood.

"I can actually go outside around 10 o'clock at night and not be scared," he said. "I like that. And everybody's just friendly here. They brought me in with open arms."

He played football in junior high but said it "didn't fit" him. Wrestling suited him better.

"I found a new sport, and it is Azle wrestling," he said. "Every year you have to compete for your spot. Your spot is not solid. Every year, you have a kid that's coming after you. That's what I love about it. I love the competition."

Azle girls will take on Benbrook, Boswell and O.D. Wyatt at a quad meet at 5 p.m. Jan. 6 in Azle High School's main gym.

The Azle boys will compete at The Nest Boys Tournament starting at 6 a.m. Jan. 8 in the Azle main gym.

Azle roundballers focus on fundamentals as district looms



BY JEFF PRINCE jeff@azlenews.net

The Azle Hornets enter 2022 as a team seeking chemistry while growing stronger after dealing with difficult blows.

A recent wallop came after the gut-busting 83-81 loss to Castleberry at a tournament in Mineral Wells. The Hornets fell in overtime in their first game. They responded by beating Benbrook, Stephenville and Mineral Wells and nabbing third place.

"The team responded well from the overtime loss as we tried to focus on getting better on the fundamentals," said Terry LaPrade, assistant coach.

Jayden Coffey and the Azle Hornets begin district play on Jan. 14 at home. Photo by Jeff Prince

BELL, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B.



Zane Bell, known for his high-energy playing style, drives hard for a basket.

Photo by Jeff Prince

Azle fast food restaurant but wasn't thrilled about the gig. This year, he applied at Brookshire's and found a better match. He stocks groceries on shelves and sacks them for customers.

"I love this job," he said.

His supervisors make the job en-

"When you go to jobs, you hear, 'Oh, the managers are really cruel' and stuff, but here I really like them," Bell said. "They help you.

Last summer, Bell worked at an They don't just tell you what to do. They do it with you. We get done faster."

The brass appears to hold Bell in similar regard.

"He's very helpful," said Joanna Childers, a customer experience team leader at the store. "He does his job and is polite to everybody. He is just he's an awesome person. Very smart."

Bell's favorite part of the job is "interacting with the people." Brookshire's provides free grocery

carry-outs, and part of Bell's time tablished himself as a dependable at high school, and he plans to is spent in three-minute conversations about weather and whatnot with customers on the way to the parking lot.

He will graduate from high school soon but hasn't solidified plans for afterward. The kid is enmeshed totally in the present.

"I'm kind of worried about the season right now," he said.

The Porcupines at the Christmas break are 6-8 overall and 0-1 in district competition. Bell has es-

shooter and passer and plays with fire and fury.

He plans to attend college and hopes his basketball skills help pay the way, although he is uncertain about where or when he will go. If he receives no scholarship offers, he will try out for the basketball team at whatever college he attends, he said.

Any more than that about his future, he isn't certain. The world changed during his last two years tackle it with the same determination he brings to sinking baskets and stocking produce.

"It's a lot different from, like, two years ago," he said, referring to a pre-pandemic era. "When somebody graduated, they could get any job they want. It's going to be a little more difficult to get

LOCKE SISTERS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B.

bracket," said head coach Mitzi Marquart. "One of our team goals was to bring home a first-place trophy this season, and these ladies accomplished that. We had a great team effort all three days."

Karlee and Kendall Locke, both juniors, were selected tournament co-MVPs. Brittany Cato was named All-Tournament.

"These honors were well deserved, as all three had a very good tournament," the coach said. "They lead our team in multiple categories."

Kendall and Karlee grew up in Azle, began playing basketball together in the first grade and never stopped. They have developed a sixth sense on the court.

"We can find each other in the court really well," Karlee said. "Sometimes, I just feel her. Our passes are kind of crazy. Sometimes she makes passes to me, and I don't know how she does it."

Kendall refers to her sister as her wingman.

"We see each other wherever we go," Kendall said. "We've been playing for so long. We know how to work together all the time."

The sisters make sure to spread passes to teammates. In that way, the entire team is becoming sisters, Kendall said.

"We've played with these girls for a while now," she said. "They know how to play with us. We know how to play with them. We run our plays right, get them the ball and get some points on the board."

The sisters' intuitive relationship extends to other sports, including volleyball. The Locke sisters helped the Lady Hornets win 21 volleyball games and make the playoffs this season.

Growing up in a small town has been idyllic, filled with love and support, they said.

"Everyone just rolls together for every sport," Karlee said. "We have friends up in the stands for every game. The student section kind of gets big for home games, especially whenever boys and girls both play here. You have a community behind your back, so everyone knows who you are, and they always want to cheer you on through it all. It's a fun place to grow up. I like Azle."

Sometimes friends confuse the identical twins, although most can tell them apart. It's their opponents on the basketball court that become puzzled most, particularly those trying to guard the sisters.

Karlee is No. 5. Kendall is No. 10. Looking at their faces instead of their numbers can cause problems.

"The other team will look at us and be, like, 'Oh, who do I have? Five? Ten?" Karlee said. "It's kind of fun to mess with other teams. I laugh about it."

Both girls are ready for district competition to begin after a long preseason. Currently, the Lady Hornets have won most of their nonconference games.

"I have hope for this team," Kendall said. "We are a good team. We've been playing together for a couple years. We have new girls who are sophomores, but they are ready to play. Once district starts, we can really get at it and make our way to at least the top two."

Making the playoffs this season would bode well for the future. The Lady Hornets have just two seniors on the team. Most of the

players are juniors or sophomores.
"We have a young team, a lot to
grow with," Kendall said. "It'll be
good for the next couple years."

Azle (16-6) plays its district opener at 6:15 p.m. Jan. 7 at Wichita Falls (2-8).

Top right: Karlee Locke tries to steal the ball from an opponent.

Bottom right: Kendall Locke fires off a shot. Photos by Jeff Prince







Azle DEVOTIONAL PAGE





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817-237-7919 **JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES** KINGDOM HALL OF **JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES** 212 Pearson Lane, Azle

817-221-2242 **LUTHERAN** THE EDGE CHURCH - AZLE 1313 SE Parkway, Azle

817-237-4822 **HOPE LUTHERAN (ELCA)** 4795 Hwy. 199, Reno

817-221-HOPE **METHODIST BOYD UNITED METHODIST**

FM 730 North in Boyd 940-433-5334 FIRST UNITED METHODIST

817-444-3323 LIGHTHOUSE FELLOWSHIP 7200 Robertson Rd., Fort Worth 817-237-2758 SILVER CREEK

UNITED METHODIST 2200 Church Rd., Azle 817-444-1382 FIRST UNITED METHODIST

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THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS (THE MORMONS) THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST

OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS 1010 Timberoaks, Azle 817-237-5075

PENTECOSTAL GRACE CHAPEL UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH 3508 Shawnee Trail, Lake Worth 817-237-4844

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817-752-8255 **OTHER ALIENTO DE DIOS** 2233 E. Hwy 199, Springtown 817-521-4694 **BETTER LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH**

3131 E. Hwy 199, Spt 817-677-2300 **CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH** 2233 Hwy 199 East, Springtown 817-221-LIFE (5433)

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HILLTOP FAMILY CHURCH 1227 Old Cottondale Road. Springtown, 817-220-7177 THE HOUSE OF PRAYER 1356 Reno Rd., Springtown 817-221-2551

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at Flatrock Rd, Azle 817-313-1793 LIGHTHOUSE CHURCH 6409 FM 730 S., Azle 817-444-4311 LIGHTHOUSE HARBOR CHURCH 1960 Long Circle, Pelican Bay

817-444-3547

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6B

Azle News Wednesday, January 5, 2022

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Ad Classifications

1 Air Condition/Heating 2Antiques 3Appliances 4Appliance Repair 5Arts/Crafts 6Asphalt Paving	24
7Auctions	29Fencing
8Autos, Trucks	30 Firewood
9 Auto Repair Service	31Free
10Backhoe Service	32 For Sale
11 Boats, Motors	33Furniture
12Bookkeeping	34 Garage 8
13 Business	Estate Sales
Opportunity	35 Garden/Mowing Svo
14 Campers/Trailers	36 Hauling
15Carports/Patios	37Hay
16Equipment Repair	38Health/Fitness
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ĺ	84Mobile Homes
1	for Rent
,	85Mobile Homes
,	for Sale
1	86 Mobile Home/RV Lots
1	87Rent Furnished
1	88 Rent Unfurnished
,	

... Wanted to Rent

035

RATES

16 Words or Less:

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Help Wanted

039

Local Builder/Developer looking for experienced Help. Must have a valid driver's license. Knowing how to operate machinery, being mechanically inclined and have carpentry skills are a plus. Send resumes to: tommymileshomes@ vahoo.com.

Local Pool Company is hiring a Pool Technician/Helper. Pay is depending on experience and skills. Call 817-613-8253.

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039

Help Wanted



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Body Shop Technician

Commission. Must have experience.

Body Shop Porter

Performs duties throughout the Body Shop. Must be responsible, dependable and have a valid TXDL. Monday to Friday work week.

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Must have valid TXDL with acceptable driving record. Overtime available and room for advancement. Monday-Friday work week.

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035 Garden/Mowing Services

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079

Classifieds

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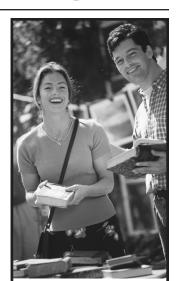
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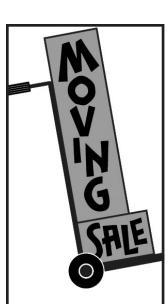
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Classifieds

088 Rent Unfurnished

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Jan. 2-8, 2022

ACREAGE

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EVENTS

Bob's Baseball Tours - Field of Dreams Tour Aug. 15-21, 2022: Home games for Chicago (Cubs Sox), Brewers and Twins. Also a visit to the Field of Dreams movie site. Tour begins/ends in Minnesota. New York/New England Fall Foliage Tour Sept. 26-Oct. 2, 2022: Home games for New York (Yankees/ Mets) and Red Sox. Guided Tour of NYC, free time in Boston, Trolley Tour in Maine, travel through White Mountain National Forest in New Hampshire & scenic train ride in Vermont. Tour begins/ends in Newark, NJ. Tours include deluxe motor coach transportation, additional sightseeing opportunities and quality game tickets/hotels. FREE brochure: 507-217-1326.

GENERATORS

GENERAC Standby Generators provide backup

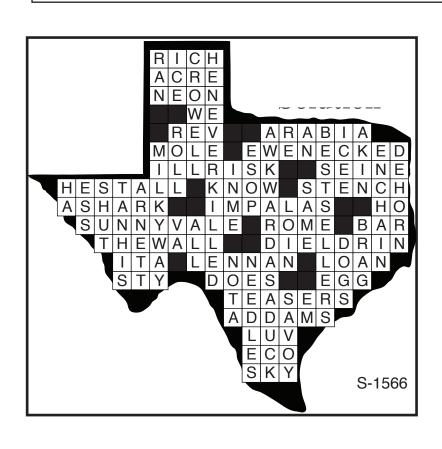
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ACROSS 45 Texans may use a credit **TEXAS** TXism: "sitting in union for a car high cotton" 46 pigpen **CROSSWORD** 5 former Fort Worth 47 TXism: give milk?" (no) red light district: "Hell's Half_ TXism: "couldn't find an by Charley & Guy Orbison under a sitting hen" 6 TXism: "_ Copyright 2022 by Orbison Bro idea" (inspiration) (ignorant) 7 TX George Strait's 49 puzzes that require thought: "brain Really Shouldn't 52 TX-born Carolyn Jones Be Doing This" was this Morticia on TV 8 engine surge 9 OPEC member: Saudi 15 burrowing pest 16 describing a defect in some horses (hyph.) it for the 53 1970s biscuit" (take a Houston chance to benefit) Oilers slogan: 21 fishing net 43 Ya Blue" 22 TXism: " 54 not harmful to in the saddle" environment: (reliable, genuine) -friendly' 27 TX Strait's "If I 55 TXism: "___ pilot" Me" (1991) 11 TXism: "frisky as (preacher) 28 stinky smell unsaddled horse" 29 blacktip in the Gulf **DOWN** 12 TX Larry McMurtry (2 wds.) wrote these (2 wds.) 1 TXism: "burned "tender" or "sir" 30 African antelopes some boot leather" 13 it came before TX 54 ending (cut of meat) 32 Santa's word 2 "Blue Bell" is Texas-7-11's Slurpee 34 it provides care to 55 33 in Dallas County 14 TXism: "_ veterans (abbr.) made _ cream on U.S. 80 (similar) 3 Foard County seat 35 TXism: " 36 in Wise County 4 TX Clay Allison's 15 our solar system's and no cattle" (fake) on U.S. 287 galaxy (2 wds.) 22 laugh word 37 "no ____, just fact" grave marker: "_ 37 most Texans love 23 feminine suffix 40 TXism: "let sleeping 16 a benefit that gives stocks to employees _-B-Que 24 TXism: "park your man who did not lie" 38 TXism: "sling it on 43 TXism: "_ tonque" (need killing" (abbr.) and see 8 cinnamon _ 17 bind up 25 TXism: (none) hide" (spank a boy) if it sticks" 18 removal of a cow's 44 growths on East 9 TXism: "_ 39 banned insecticide head projection 26 this TX Cobb was Texas pine trees 41 TXism: "call _ 20 TX Gary Morris the "Wild Man of water' 50 in Fannin County day" (stop working) the Tenor Sax" 10 this TX Ely was sang "The Love on highway 56

She Found



TV's "Tarzan" (init.)

County



51 "Hook '__ Horns!"

difference'

28

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