



# Azle News

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## Planning department head discusses report

BY DON MUNSCH  
editor@azlenews.net

Most people realize Azle is booming, and city leaders learned at last week's Azle City Council meeting just how much activity is occurring here with residential building.

There was almost \$20 million in estimated single-family housing construction for new single-family homes in Fiscal Year 20-21, said David Hawkins, city director of planning and development.

The city of Azle's Planning and Development department oversees a number of activities and programs, and its director described its achievements from the

last fiscal year at the Dec. 21 Azle City Council meeting.

Hawkins provided an overview of the department and some data from Fiscal Year 20-21.

Planning and Development features three departments: community development, code enforcement and economic development. Community development manages such as areas as planning, permitting and inspections. Three other people besides Hawkins work in the department: administrative assistant Debbie Clayton, permit clerk Madra Messick and code enforcement officer Michael Gra-



SEE GROWTH, PAGE 4A. Many new homes are going up in Azle, including these properties at Graystone Ridge off South FM 730.

Photo by Don Munsch

## Foreign exchange students getting into the spirit



Cintia Godo, left, and Jule Hinrichs display their Azle school spirit.

Photo courtesy Riley Bruner

BY DON MUNSCH  
editor@azlenews.net

Fahrenheit and Celsius. Miles and kilometers.

They're just two kinds of measurement conversions two Azle High School students had to get accustomed to when they arrived in America from Germany for the 2021-22 school year.

But the measurements weren't the only differences they had to get used to here.

Three Azle High School students discussed experiences they have had here - including the current school year - and what it's like to celebrate Christmas in their native homelands.

Cintia Godo and Jule Hinrichs are from Germany

**Editor's note:** First in a two-part series on foreign exchange students at Azle High School and their experiences here in the U.S., including how their countries celebrate Christmas. This edition's story centers on two students from Germany. Next week's story will be about a student from Spain.

and live with the families of Riley Bruner and Sara Gashi, respectively. Cintia is originally from Hungary but moved to Germany. She lives in Bruchsal, which is located in the southwest part of Germany and not far - about an hour - from the border of France. Jule hails from Oldenburg, which is in the northwest part of the country. Both students plan to attend college.

Natalia Rueda, who also plans to attend college after high school, is from Spain

and lives with the family of Chris Beasley.

### EVERYTHING'S BIGGER IN TEXAS

"I would say that everything is pretty huge in Texas," Jule said, pointing out how Homecoming was one of the main activities she has experienced.

She participated in cross-country and is on the track team and the theater club.

SEE EXCHANGE, PAGE 2A.

## Service club memberships need to grow to survive

BY JESSICA MCKINNEY  
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Three long-time service organizations in Azle have maintained a steady membership since they were chartered, but with members getting older, and fewer younger members joining, how long will those clubs stay alive?

Service organizations and volunteerism have been a part of the American fabric from the very beginning. It is so much a part of the

American culture that Alexis de Tocqueville, a French political scientist, noted the trait during his travels in the early 1800s.

In his book "Democracy in America," de Tocqueville said, "The love and respect of your neighbors must be gained by a long series of small services, hidden deeds of goodness, a persistent habit of kindness, and an established reputation of selflessness."

Across the country, service organizations have

seen a decline in new membership, which has many fearing for the future of their clubs within the communities they serve.

Three national service organizations have been a part of the Azle community for decades. The Rotary Club and Optimist Club both started their local chapters in 1979. The Azle Lions Club was chartered in 2001. Members live and work in Azle and the surrounding

SEE CLUBS, PAGE 8A.

## Health officials expecting post-holiday surge in COVID cases

BY JESSICA MCKINNEY  
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North Texas is not out of the woods yet when it comes to COVID-19. With so many families returning from holiday gatherings with friends and family, a spike in cases is expected.

"Unfortunately, the number of patients coming in with respiratory complaints has gone up quite a bit over the last week," said Tonya Sosebee, chief operating officer/chief nursing officer at Texas Health Azle.

"We're at 35% COVID positive again for hospitalized patients. ... Yes, we will most certainly see a spike after holiday gatherings and the upcoming New Year's Eve activities.

This is the case in the DFW area as well as other areas of Texas, such as Houston. Please get vaccinated and the booster shot, wear your mask in public and socially distance where able."

Parker County had 538 active cases as of Tuesday, with 146 new positive tests since last Thursday. So far, there have been 24,733 recoveries from coronavirus and 354 deaths in the county.

In Tarrant County, the number of active cases was 5,301 before Christmas Eve. As of Dec. 27, that number has risen to 7,597. Approximately 368,669 Tarrant County residents have recovered from the virus since the start of the pandemic - 2,106 in Azle.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Variant Data, about 86% of cases in our region are the omicron variant. Because of the high percentage, Dr. Steven Welch, medical director for Parker County Hospital District, said that "there is very high likelihood that there are multiple cases of COVID-19 in Parker County that are due to the omicron variant." There have been confirmed cases of the omicron variant in Tarrant County.

Azle ISD had eight test-confirmed COVID cases the week leading up to winter break. The district has not had more than 15 positive

SEE COVID SURGE, PAGE 4A.

Don't miss this issue of Heritage Magazine!

### IN THIS ISSUE:

- Beware of Shadow Creek
- Boy Cheerleader Jonah Nadeau
- Moe's Cafe
- Jim Bob Nation
- Inside Our House

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Azle News



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EXCHANGE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.

Theater students are performing “You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown” in January.

“I’m taking some fun classes that we don’t have in Germany, like forensics,” she said, noting the class was forensic science.

Cintia pointed out that students here get to choose their classes; back home, students didn’t get to choose classes until they were in the 11th and 12th years of school.

“Both have pros and cons, but I really like that you can choose your interests,” she said.

Jule’s high school back home had 500 students. AHS has more than 2,000 students.

“So, it’s very overwhelming, but it’s fun,” she said.

Students have the same classes every day here, she said.

“In Germany, we have them once a week,” she said.

Also, German schools don’t offer extracurricular activities, as those are held outside the school.

“There’s not that much of a high school spirit,” Cintia said about German schools. “I think that’s my favorite thing – the high school spirit.”

Cintia participates with the Emerald Dazzlers, the school’s dance team, and has had fun with the group, noting one of her best friends is in the group. She said she loves Texas and American life, although there are differences.

“It’s different that we get to spend our time with so many different students,” Cintia said, noting that she has eight classes with 30 different people each period,

which allowed her to meet many people.

“We spend more time in school here than we do back in Germany, because you get out at 1 or 2 p.m. usually and you go into your sports and hobbies outside of school,” she said.

Cintia said she is “not the biggest fan of Texas weather,” explaining she was “dying in the summer” and she misses the snow right now. She also misses the German Christmas markets and walking around the city and seeing the Christmas lights.

The two students perceived Texas in a certain way before they came here.

“When I came here, I thought it was like in the movies,” Jule said, explaining she thought people wore cowboy hats and boots everywhere, even at the airport. “But then I came, and I realized, no, actually not.”

Students noticed fried food is popular here. They both have enjoyed Whataburger and Chick-fil-A, and Cintia loves bagels and biscuits and gravy.

Students also have had to contend with a different dress code, as Cintia said schools back home don’t have dress codes.

“I got a new wardrobe since I came here,” she said.

The students said they miss public transportation that they had back home, as they could hop on a train and be anywhere in five to 10 minutes. Overall, they have enjoyed getting to fully experience the culture here.

**CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS**

“All my family is Hungarian, so we mix in the German with the Hungarian tra-

ditions,” Cintia said.

She said Santa Claus doesn’t bring presents; rather, it’s baby Jesus doing that duty with the help of angels. The day of Dec. 6 is St. Nicholas Day in Germany.

“We don’t have stockings, but on Dec. 6 you have to clean out your boots and put them by the window or by the door, and then in the morning, you will find some treats and oranges if you were a good kid this year,” Cintia said. “So, that’s what St. Nicholas brings you.”

Germans put up Christmas trees, but Cintia said her family decorates the tree on Christmas Eve.

“We celebrate Christmas on Christmas Eve and that’s when, like, the whole family comes together,” Jule said.

“My family goes to church and then we have a big meal. We sing Christmas carols and then we open the presents. When you guys celebrate Christmas, we call it like the first celebration day. That’s when we usually go to our grandparents.” Children will play with their toys on this day and have a big dinner.

For Christmas dinner, Cintia said her family will eat duck, cabbage and mashed potatoes, while Jule said her family eats various kinds of fish and mashed potatoes. Their homeland does not have a Thanksgiving holiday, so celebrating that day was a new experience here in the U.S. They did say Germany does have a day of thanks for farmers for harvesting the food over the summer, but it’s not really a day of celebration like Thanksgiving. It’s more like a harvest festival, usually

held the last weekend in October.

“It’s not that big of a deal,” Jule said.

Germans decorate their homes for Christmas, but not as much as people here, the German students said. Advent calendars are huge back home, they said, and Christmas markets also are popular back home.

Cintia and Jule are learning American traditions, such as how Bruner’s family eats tamales on Christmas Eve, Bruner said.

The two families have enjoyed a number of activities with their students. For Gashi, Cintia is the fifth foreign exchange student she has had in her home.

“So I have five international daughters is what I

say,” she said. The other students have been from Denmark, Czech Republic, Italy and South Korea.

She was single when she started out as a host parent and was interested in companionship and thought it would be interesting to have an exchange student in her home. She is the local coordinator for the Council on International Educational Exchange.

“I’ve really had fun with it,” Gashi said. “I like meeting people from other places and other cultures.”

She said all the students she has had in her home have been “fantastic” and she plans on making visits with them in the summer.

One former exchange student was scheduled to be

here for Christmas.

Cintia is Bruner’s first exchange student living in her home.

“We love her,” she said. “We have two young boys, so we did not know how they would exactly take to a new person coming and living (here). I explained it to them beforehand, but they really didn’t understand until she got here. And now, I’m really not sure how they’ll take to her having to go back home, because they are inseparable from her. They look up to her and they love her. We love her. We trust her. It’s been really nice to have another girl in the house. I will say that – it’s really nice to have another girl to talk to.”



Azle High School students Jule Hinrichs, left, and Cintia Godo are exchange students from Germany, with Godo being originally from Hungary. Their host moms are Sara Gashi (Hinrichs), left, and Riley Bruner (Godo). Photo by Don Munsch

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# Wise County man charged with aggravated kidnapping, felony assault, sexual assault

## STAFF REPORTS

A Paradise man was arrested on charges of charges of aggravated kidnapping, sexual assault, assault/family violence impeding breath and parole violation, according to the Parker County Sheriff's Office.

Deputies with the sheriff's office arrested Anthony Glenn Gravely, 44, Dec. 19.

The charges stem from an incident that began on Dec. 17, at 4:30 p.m., when a woman who lived just outside of Springtown arrived home and discovered Gravely outside her residence.

The woman told sheriff's deputies that she had a relationship with Gravely but did not expect him to be at her residence. Gravely followed the victim into the residence and became enraged when he asked to move in with her and she told him no and that he needed to leave. The victim stated she told Gravely she was going to cook dinner and she said he responded by shouting at her, then grabbed her by the throat, forced her into the bedroom and wouldn't let her leave.

The victim reported to the deputies that she tried to leave but Gravely took her keys and cell phone away from her and locked her in her bedroom and would not

let her out.

At around 8 p.m., when Gravely went into the bathroom, the victim was able to escape from the bedroom and left the residence. Gravely chased and caught her down the street at a house where she was banging on the door and yelling for help, but it was unknown to her that the house was unoccupied at the time. Gravely caught her and physically dragged her back to her home, she told deputies.

She said that once they were back inside her residence Gravely grabbed a knife, but later put it away.

The victim told authorities that during the night Gravely threatened her and physically and sexually assaulted her.

At approximately 10 a.m. on Dec. 18, a family member of the victim went to the residence to check on her because she did not show up for work. The family member received no reply at the door and began forcing his way into the home through a window when the suspect and victim presented themselves. The victim was able to escape the residence and was transported from the residence by the family member.

Gravely was gone when deputies arrived. Deputies



Glenn Gravely

ties searched the area for hours but were unable to locate him. Deputies located Gravely the next morning walking in the area and arrested him on a Texas Blue Warrant (parole violation). Charges were later added for aggravated kidnapping, felony assault, and sexual assault.

"This is a very brutal case," Parker County Sheriff Russ Authier said. "No woman should ever have to go through this. It's unconscionable and we need to send a clear message to the world that the women of Parker County will not be subject to this kind of treatment. The citizens of our county will not put up with it."

Gravely remains in the Parker County Jail as of Tuesday morning on \$500,000 bond on the local charges and a no bond on the parole warrant.

# Reno City Council elects officers of new Community Activity Events Committee

BY MADELYN EDWARDS  
madelyn@azlenews.net

Reno City Council established a Community Activity Events Committee, and the group has approved officers to organize citywide events.

The council previously discussed establishing such a committee at a meeting in October, and deputy pro tem Hernando Herrera was charged with getting the committee started.

At the December meeting, Herrera said he had received

four applications for officers, and the council voted on which applicants filled the positions of chairperson, co-chairperson, treasurer and secretary. Ted Lions was approved for chairperson in a 3-2 vote with Granville "Randy" Martin and Jeff Davis opposing, and Lynda Stokes was approved for co-chairperson in a 4-1 vote with Herrera opposing. Brenda Spradlin was approved as treasurer, and Amy Sawyer was voted in as secretary, both in unanimous votes.

Herrera, who nominated Lions for the chairperson position, described the new committee's chairperson as "already involved, is an individual who has lived out here for over seven years, an individual who has been to every council meeting since his residency here."

Mayor Sam White told Lions to make his first report at the January council meeting. The city usually has a fall festival, and White said he'd like to have a spring festival as well.

# How to make New Year's resolutions that stick

BY JAY ANN COX

Many people take the start of the New Year as the perfect time to plan and start new habits. Let's face it, these often go by the wayside after a few days. Here are some suggestions for resolutions that might just be habit-forming.

## DO SOMETHING EASY.

Start things off with a win. Make this resolution one that can be accomplished in the first week or even the first day of the year. "Buy a new loafah." "Call Mom."

## DO ONE THING NOW.

"Add one vegetable to dinner every day." Nothing could be easier. Your black-eyed peas on New Year's Day count as a vegetable, especially if you make them into Texas Caviar or eat them with greens. That's two vegetables!

## PAIR A NEW TASK WITH AN ONGOING ONE.

"Take daily vitamins." For example, if you drink coffee every morning, associate a new habit with washing out the coffee cup. Take your vitamins then, or do five squats, text your mom—whatever your resolution might be.

## DO SOMETHING WITH A FRIEND.

Having someone to grind it out with makes a difficult task a little easier. The fancy term is "accountability partner," which might take the fun out of it. But it's great fun to join forces with a friend to accomplish a goal.

## MAKE THE LIST MAKING PART OF YOUR RESOLUTION.

(No, that's not cheating.) Try bullet journaling. Also

known among its fans as "bujo," bullet journals are very specific types of lists and list making — writing things on special ruled paper with coded symbols, its own set of stickers and different colored pens to make your journal beautiful. For those who keep a planner, try bujo and see if this is something you will enjoy.

## CATCH YOURSELF DOING SOMETHING DESIRED, THEN RETRO-FIT A RESOLUTION FOR IT.

Any time you can add something to your list and immediately cross it off, your list and your habit building is all the better for it. Now go call your mom, add it to the list and give yourself a big fat DONE. You both will be the better for it.

## LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICES

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE**

**ON JANUARY 7, 2022, AT 8:00 AM, A&A MOBILE HOME TRANSPORT INC. WILL BE HOLDING A PUBLIC AUCTION ON THE HOMES LISTED BELOW. ANY PERSONS WITH ANY INTEREST IN THIS HOME NEEDS TO CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT 817-237-1370. THE SALE WILL BE HELD AT 12125 JACKSBORO HWY. FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76135.**

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**Notice of Public Sale**

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

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**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: household items, Natalie Stephens : household Items

## Azle School Menu January 3-7, 2022

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

**BREAKFAST: Everyday - Assorted Fruits and Cereal, Juice, White or Chocolate Milk, Graham Crackers, Toast,**  
Mon Vanilla Yogurt Cup w/ Graham Crackers **Tues** Golden Sausage Morning Roll **Weds** Chocolate Toaster Pastry  
**Thurs** Potato & Turkey Sausage Breakfast Burrito **Fri** Warm Breakfast on a Stick

**LUNCH: Everyday - Variety of milk. Your choice of 1 entree & 1 fruit or juice**  
Mon No school **Tues** No school **Weds** Frito Chili Pie, Cheesy Turkey Melt, Crispy Tater Tots **Thurs** Ultimate Grilled Cheese w/Tomato Soup, Stoppio Joe Sandwich, Peppered Broccoli Florets, Sweet Diced Peaches, 100% Apple Juice Cup **Fri** BBQ Beef Rib Sandwich, Chicken Nuggets w/Roll, Vegetarian Mashed Potatoes, Fresh, Vegetable, Carrots & Celery, Raw, Juicy Mandarin Oranges, 100% Apple Juice Cup

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**GRADES 5TH - 8TH**

**BREAKFAST: Everyday - Assorted Fruits and Cereal, Juice, White or Chocolate Milk, Graham Crackers,**  
Mon Fluffy Pancakes **Tues** Oatmeal w/ Peaches **Weds** Egg & Bacon Breakfast Tacos  
**Thurs** Mini Strawberry Cream Cheese Bagels **Fri** Iced Cinnamon Roll w/ Sausage Patty

**LUNCH: Everyday - Variety of milk. Your choice of 1 entree & 1 fruit or juice, rolls, crackers. Variety of burgers.**  
Mon No school **Tues** No school **Weds** Spicy Chicken Patty Sandwich, Turkey Sausage Pizza, Teriyaki Beef & Broccoli w/Brown Rice, Country Turkey Ham Sandwich, Grilled Cheese Sandwich, Shredded Lettuce, Tomato Slices & Pickles, Crinkle Cut Fries, Peppered Broccoli Florets **Thurs** Breaded Chicken Patty Sandwich, Delicious Cheese Pizza, Chili Cheese Fries w/ Pretzel Rods, Spicy Chicken Nuggets w/Roll, Turkey Ham & Cheese Wrap, Spiced Green Beans, Shredded Lettuce, Tomato Slices & Pickles, Crinkle Cut Fries **Fri** Spicy Chicken Patty Sandwich, Classic Pepperoni Pizza, Beef Finger Potato Bowl w/Roll, Spaghetti Carbonara, Cobb Salad w/ Crackers, Crispy Tater Tots, Shredded Lettuce, Tomato Slices & Pickles, Garbanzo Beans

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**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 Fluffy Pancakes **Tues** Oatmeal w/ Peaches **Weds** Egg & Bacon Breakfast Tacos  
**Thurs** Mini Strawberry Cream Cheese Bagels **Fri** Iced Cinnamon Roll w/ Sausage Patty

**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 No school **Tues** No school **Weds** Ground Beef Soft Flour Tacos, Crispy Popcorn Chicken Wrap, Delicious Cheese Pizza, Classic Pepperoni Pizza, Large Spaghetti Meatsauce, Chicken Caesar Salad w/Crackers, Crispy Kung Pao Chicken w/Brown Rice, Chicken Nugget Potato Bowl w/Roll, Classic Refried Beans, Peppered Broccoli Florets, Fresh Salsa **Thurs** Grande Beefy Nachos, BBQ Diced Chicken Wrap, Veggie Pizza, Classic Pepperoni Pizza, Vegetable Garden Salad w/Roll, Cheesy Broccoli Baked Potato w/ Biscuit, Orange Chicken w/ Brown Rice, Country Fried Steak Potato Bowl w/Roll, Classic Refried Beans, Spiced Green Beans, Fresh Salsa **Fri** Homemade Beef Burrito, Grilled Turkey Ham & Cheese Sandwich, Delicious Cheese Pizza, Pork Sausage Crumble Pizza, BBQ Ranch Chicken Salad w/ Roll, Salisbury Steak w/ Sautéed Onions, Rice & Roll, Beef LoMein w/Egg Roll  
Chicken Tender Potato Bowl w/Roll, Classic Refried Beans, Steamed Crinkle Carrots, Fresh Salsa

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## AZLE AREA CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

<p><b>Texas Health</b> Harris Methodist Hospital AZLE</p> <p><b>Volunteers Needed</b> TexasHealth.org/ Volunteer/Our-Process</p> <p><b>RAINBOW INN GIFT SHOP</b> Inside Hospital 108 Denver Trail Azle 817-444-8651</p> <p><b>ATTIC RERUNS</b> NOW OPEN! FRI 9-4 SAT 9-1 714 SE Pkwy Azle 817-270-3690</p>	<p><b>Good N.E.W.S.</b> Living at Home Block Nurse Program</p> <p><b>Volunteer Caregiver Training Classes</b> Classes open to public at no charge</p> <p><b>Our Volunteers Make a Difference!</b></p> <p><b>Caregiver Volunteer Meeting</b> 1st Monday of Each Month at 6pm <b>817-444-2300</b> 412 Commerce St.</p>	<p><b>Rotary Club of Azle</b></p> <p><b>MEETS AT NOON THURSDAY</b> 412 Commerce St. (across from Azle Post Office)</p>
<p><b>The Finish Line</b></p> <p>STOP! Addiction wants to destroy you &amp; everyone around you.</p> <p><i>With Jesus there is Victory over addiction.</i></p> <p><b>GET BACK IN THE RACE!</b></p> <p>Meetings held every Friday from 7:30PM-9:30PM at The Church at Azle 1801 S. Stewart • Azle • 817-401-8513 <a href="http://www.ourfinishline.com">www.ourfinishline.com</a></p>	<p><b>Faced with a DRINKING Problem?</b> <i>Perhaps Alcoholics Anonymous can HELP.</i></p> <p><b>AA</b></p> <p><b>Daily meetings at Noon &amp; 6:30 pm Sunday at 3 pm</b> <b>229 S. Stewart St. • Azle 817-332-3533</b></p>	<p><b>Azle Lion's Club</b></p> <p>Meets 2nd TUESDAY 6:30 PM 412 Commerce, Azle <a href="http://e-clubhouse.org/sites/azle_tk/">e-clubhouse.org/sites/azle_tk/</a> Curren McLane - president <b>817-689-0074</b></p>
<p><b>Post your clubs or organization meetings here!</b></p> <p><b>Only \$100</b> for 52 weeks of advertising</p> <p>Call Johnna for details: <b>817-270-3340</b></p>	<p><b>SERVOLUTION NETWORK</b></p> <p>LET'S START A COMMUNITY WIDE REVOLUTION THROUGH SERVING.</p> <p>FOR QUESTIONS CALL: <b>833-4WE-SERV</b> <b>833-493-7378</b></p> <p>VISIT: <a href="http://WWW.SERVOLUTIONNETWORK.COM">WWW.SERVOLUTIONNETWORK.COM</a></p>	<p><b>Azle Boy Scout Troop 243</b> Meets Mondays 7 PM Azle First Assembly of God 1020 Southeast Parkway troop243azle.org</p>
<p><b>Optimist Club of Azle</b></p> <p>Meets every FRIDAY at 6:45 AM Moe's Country Kitchen 316 W. Main, Azle</p>	<p><b>Azle Lodge No. 601</b></p> <p><b>Floor School or Work 7:30 PM THURSDAY NIGHT</b> Chris Akers - Worshipful Master Rocky Gralla - Secretary Clint Hall - Treasurer</p>	<p><b>Eagle Mountain Pregnancy Help Center</b></p> <p>10328 Jacksboro Hwy Fort Worth TX 76135 817-237-1819 <a href="http://www.emphc.org">www.emphc.org</a> Mon 12-6 pm Thurs 12-6 pm SE HABLA ESPAÑOL</p>

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GROWTH, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.



Many of the properties at Graystone Ridge are nearing completion.

Photo by Don Munsch

ham. “The overall arching responsibility for the department is to oversee the entire life cycle of a city, and that basically consists of land use planning, home and building construction, property and building maintenance as well as redevelopment opportunities as a city approaches build-out,” Hawkins said. “That’s usually the next step in the life cycle for a city.”

On the community development front, the Planning and Development department oversees the comprehensive master plan, ensures compliance of ordinances with state laws and manages long-ranging planning and reviews development applications, among other responsibilities.

For development applications, the department handled 29 plats of various kinds - such as preliminary and final - and six zoning changes in FY 20-21.

Under permits and inspection conducted by Planning and Development in 20-21, there were 163 new single-family residential permits. There were 413 permits overall, and those other permits included alterations and one-stop work, such as plumbing and mechanical.

On the commercial side, nearly \$3 million in new construction was completed, Hawkins said. Sixty-seven permits were issued. Three were for new construction. Total value of construction, with under construction buildings and renovations and reinvestments thrown in, was \$7.7 million.

“That’s a good number

considering they were during the COVID period,” Hawkins said.

Code enforcement endeavors to prevent the invitation of urban blight, according to the presentation, and the list includes the removal of high grass, weeds, litter, trash and debris. Code enforcement personnel also oversee the maintenance of vacant or abandoned properties. Those employees also communicate with residents and property owners about ordinances and code violations.

“The end goal with all of this with code enforcement is seeking voluntary compliance,” Hawkins said.

The city has one code enforcement officer and had 1,650 cases in the FY 20-21. The most common violation during the last fiscal year was high grass/weeds/brush, with 457 cases.

During that time, the officer issued 15 citations and had 10 liens filed. The code enforcement officer also assists the public works department with various issues, tipping off the department on matters such as illegal construction, Hawkins said.

“He’s always going above and beyond what the typical code enforcement officer does,” Hawkins said. “We’re very thankful for that.”

Lastly, with economic development, Hawkins’ department works with developers, brokers and consultants on development opportunities.

Hawkins said the city has a web-based property management site - called Azle Sites (azlesites.com) - in which property owners can

advertise their properties in the city and let people know there’s infrastructure available and what types of business they’re looking for. The economic development program, among other features, also supports the Municipal Development District and assists with helping the MDD in reaching its goals and objectives in its 10-year economic development action plan.

Hawkins outlined some projects that finished construction or are under construction as well as those businesses that have had reinvestments or renovations. Of the 42 certificates of occupancy issued, 35 of them were for new businesses.

“So, as soon as someone leaves, we’ve got some new businesses that are coming into town to replace those,” Hawkins said. “So, that’s a good number to have.”

After an executive session, the council approved the purchase of lots of land in Wayne Dunaway’s Addition and a tract of land at 225 Church St., subject to the surveys being satisfactorily reviewed by City Manager Tom Muir.

The property is a little less than six acres, Muir said. It is the former site of Azle Manor, the senior living community. Muir said later in an email that he wasn’t sure when the community moved or when the building was demolished but the site has been vacant during his six years here. The council has not determined exactly what will go there, he said, but council members have discussed a community center.

# Azle Composite Squadron announces January Cadet Great Start class

## STAFF REPORTS

Signups begin soon for the TX456, Azle Composite Squadron, Civil Air Patrol’s next Cadet Great Start.

The class begins Jan. 11. Signups are required to ensure proper planning of resources.

Interested teens may sign up through the squadron website (www.azle.cap.gov) or Facebook page (www.facebook.com/azle-cap), or they can send the squadron an email at azle@txwg.cap.gov.

TX456 holds the classes three times a year, with up to 12 participants in each class. This class will begin as a training flight and work through their first rank of airman with the John Curry Award at the end of the five-week course.

Upon completion of the Great Start class, the training flight will join the rest of the squadron and participate in activities related to leadership, character development, aerospace, emergency services, safety, fitness, STEM, and other topics.

In addition, these cadets become eligible to attend Encampment, which helps further develop their leadership skills, expands their knowledge of Civil Air Patrol and opens the doors to

National Cadet Special Activities in aviation, military, leadership, and technology.

The Great Start program will give teens and their parents a comprehensive introduction to life as a Civil Air Patrol cadet.

Previous graduates of the program, when asked about their experience, said they were warmly welcomed by everyone and said they appreciated the patience and leadership shown by the higher-ranking cadets who taught many of the classes.

They also mentioned having respect for the leadership shown by the senior members who were able to explain topics in more detail when necessary and keep the classes running smoothly and on schedule.

In the five-week-long course, prospective cadets are introduced to various elements of the CAP Cadet Program: leadership, aerospace education, physical fitness, character development and emergency services.

Teamwork is a central theme of the class with many activities requiring the prospective cadets to work together - sometimes one-on-one, sometimes in groups. In addition to these teamwork activities, they observe teamwork in action

between the higher-ranking cadets and senior members of the squadron.

From learning to wear the uniforms properly to interacting with other ranking cadets and senior members, teens emerge with self-confidence, goals and equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary for completing their first Achievement, the John Curry award.

Major Gen. John F. Curry served as CAP’s first National Commander in the early days of World War II. Under his leadership, CAP aircrews conducted missions of national importance including aerial search missions, border observation, towing aerial targets for the Navy and searching for Nazi submarines.

Earning the John Curry award signifies a cadet has displayed a positive, optimistic attitude and is enthusiastic and team oriented. Along with the award comes a voucher that may be used to purchase a cadet’s needed uniform items.

By completing the Cadet Great Start program and its membership requirements along with achieving their first rank, cadets will be eligible for an orientation ride in a CAP aircraft with an experienced CAP pilot.

SURGE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.

cases since the middle of September.

Be Well Primary Care has two free testing sites available in Azle through the end of the month and at least into the first few weeks of January. One is located at Ash Creek Park and the other outside of the Azle ISD administration building. Staffing issues may affect the sites’ hours the rest of this week.

Parker County will continue to have a free drive-through testing site at Heritage Park in Weatherford at least two days a week.

The Texas Department of State Health Services said Monday that it has run out of the monoclonal antibody

treatments at the regional infusion centers in Fort Worth, Austin, El Paso, San Antonio and The Woodlands and did not expect to have another shipment until January, according to an Austin American-Statesman story. The monoclonal antibody sotrovimab has been a key treatment in fighting the omicron variant.

Anyone who had an appointment scheduled will be alerted. Those who have been diagnosed with a non-omicron variant can still receive other monoclonal antibody treatments, however.

The CDC announced Monday that it is “shortening the recommended time for isolation from 10 days

for people with COVID-19 to five days, if asymptomatic, followed by five days of wearing a mask when around others.”

“The change is motivated by science demonstrating that the majority of SARS-CoV-2 transmission occurs early in the course of illness, generally in the one to two days prior to onset of symptoms and two to three days after,” CDC reported on its website. “Therefore, people who test positive should isolate for five days and, if asymptomatic at that time, they may leave isolation if they can continue to mask for five days to minimize the risk of infecting others.”

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Windstream participates in a government benefit program called Lifeline to make residential telephone or broadband service more affordable to eligible low-income individuals and families. Eligible customers are those that meet eligibility standards as defined by the FCC and state commission. Residents who live on federally recognized Tribal Lands may also qualify for additional Tribal benefits if they participate in certain federal eligibility programs. The program offers a monthly discount limited to one discount per household and can either be applied to wireline or wireless. If applied to wireline the discount can be applied to either your voice or broadband service. The monthly discount is up to \$5.25 per month for voice only service or up to \$9.25 per month for broadband service.

Windstream's basic local service rates for residential voice lines range from **\$16 to \$26** per month depending on your service location. Specific rates will be provided upon request. For the broadband Lifeline discount to apply, a customer must subscribe to a Windstream service that meets the minimum standard requirements as defined by the FCC.

For the purposes of the Lifeline program a household is defined as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. Lifeline service is not transferable, and only eligible consumers may enroll in the program. Consumers who willfully make false statements to obtain Lifeline telephone or broadband service can be punished by fine or imprisonment and can be barred from the program. If you live in a Windstream service area, please call 1-800-347-1991 or visit [www.windstream.com/Lifeline](http://www.windstream.com/Lifeline) with questions or to request an application for the Lifeline program.

032906N2

Windstream participa en un programa de beneficios del gobierno llamado Lifeline para hacer que el servicio residencial de telefonía o banda ancha sea más asequible para las personas y familias elegibles de bajos ingresos. Los clientes elegibles son aquellos que cumplen con los estándares de elegibilidad según lo definido por la FCC y la comisión estatal. Los residentes que viven en tierras tribales reconocidas por el gobierno federal también pueden calificar para beneficios tribales adicionales si participan en ciertos programas federales de elegibilidad. El programa ofrece un descuento mensual limitado a un descuento por hogar y se puede aplicar a la línea fija o inalámbrica. Si se aplica a la línea fija, el descuento se puede aplicar a su servicio de voz o banda ancha. El descuento mensual es de hasta \$ 5.25 por mes para el servicio de solo voz o hasta \$ 9.25 por mes para el servicio de banda ancha.

Las tarifas básicas de servicio local de Windstream para líneas de voz residenciales oscilan entre **\$16 y \$26** por mes, dependiendo de su ubicación de servicio. Se proporcionarán tarifas específicas bajo petición. Para que se aplique el descuento Lifeline de banda ancha, un cliente debe suscribirse a un servicio de Windstream que cumpla con los requisitos estándar mínimos definidos por la FCC.

A los efectos del programa Lifeline, un hogar se define como cualquier individuo o grupo de individuos que viven juntos en la misma dirección y comparten ingresos y gastos. El servicio Lifeline no es transferible, y solo los consumidores elegibles pueden inscribirse en el programa. Los consumidores que deliberadamente hacen declaraciones falsas para obtener el servicio telefónico o de banda ancha Lifeline pueden ser castigados con multa o prisión y pueden ser excluidos del programa. Si vive en un área de servicio de Windstream, llame al 1-800-347-1991 o visite [www.windstream.com/Lifeline](http://www.windstream.com/Lifeline) con preguntas o para solicitar una solicitud para el programa Lifeline.

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# Turning 30... Again.

There was a significant birthday celebrated just a few days ago.

Yeah, that one. The one that changed history. The one that is celebrated around the world. The one that gives meaning to everything.

There was also another birthday celebrated the day before that birthday.

The significance of that birthday was significantly less significant, but it did matter to a small group of people.

Yes, on December 24, 2021 I turned 30.

For the second time.

Holy senior citizen discount! I'm 60!

How in the world did this happen?

In my mind, I'm still a



## 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).

young buck. As a result, my mind can sometimes write checks that my body can't cash.

I remember—vaguely—the first time I turned 30. I was the young, new(ish) pastor of Eagle Mountain Baptist Church. And it seemed like I gained more pastoral credibility with that birthday.

A pastor in his 30s certainly is more qualified than one in his 20s.

A decade later I hit 40. I

had completed a doctorate and had celebrated 10 years as pastor of EMBC. I was on a roll. More than double the average tenure of Baptist pastors, a post-graduate degree, and in my 40s. I was almost considered wise. The future looked bright.

When I hit 50, I had transitioned into a new ministry working with a network of churches and pastors. Once again, my credibility increased as one whose role was more mentoring and ad-

vising than producing.

But in the back of my mind was this lurking awareness: 50 is halfway to 100. I'm not likely to live to 100 so I'm already on the back side of middle-aged.

About the time I turned 55, I heard that most churches would not call a pastor over the age of 55. Not that I wanted to be a pastor again, but that statistic told me that I was past the point of gaining credibility with each new decade.

Now I'm 60 and people are asking more often when I'm going to retire.

That's a question I'm pondering more frequently even when people aren't asking it.

My much younger sister told me 60 is the new 40.

My slightly younger brother responded that 40 must be getting stinkin' old then. This is the curse of being the eldest.

Another friend told me that I should party like I'm 58. That seemed doable.

All my friends who turned 60 earlier in the year are getting revenge for the harassment I delivered on their respective birthdays. It's been fun.

I figure in a few more years I'll be able to hide my own Easter eggs. In the meantime, I've decided to throw myself a 60th birthday party.

Since my friends were otherwise occupied on Christmas Eve, I'm throwing myself a 60th birthday

bash on January 28th. I'm doing a concert of some of my favorite songs from over 45 years of ministry through music.

If you're reading this, you're invited. You can find more information at [drgerylewis.com/60thbash](http://drgerylewis.com/60thbash)

If you're not reading this, never mind.

Here's what I know: my first 60 years has been an amazing journey. I know there are not nearly as many ahead as there are behind, but I'm still looking forward to what's ahead.

Thanks for letting me share the journey with you in 2021.

See you next year.

Be amazing today, my friend.

# Strengthening Relationships

My wife, Daniele, and I serve in a local organization called Son Shine Ministries, a Christian nonprofit that supports churches, families, and individuals with marriage and family training.

We encourage those with whom we meet to be honest and real, without feeling the need to present an unrealistic, fake version of themselves or their marriage. As tremendous as marriage can be, an ongoing 24-hour-a-day relationship with anyone requires work, and it can often be messy.

In my doctoral studies at Dallas Theological Seminary, I conducted research based on methodology that I encountered in an excellent marriage ministry called



## 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](http://equipfamilies.org)) and president of the Azle Area Chamber of Commerce board ([azlechamber.com](http://azlechamber.com)). [david@equipfamilies.org](mailto:david@equipfamilies.org) | 817-444-3777

re/engage. That method involved 1) going over a lesson individually (not with your spouse), then 2) sharing your answers with your spouse, and finally 3) coming together to discuss the lesson with a small group of other couples who had done the same.

I had written a study on Galatians (one of Paul's letters in the New Testament), which, by the way, had nothing to do with marriage. My

idea was that I could use the same method as re/engage to test whether couples' marriages would strengthen as they followed the same three steps.

As the studies were conducted, the data supported my hypothesis that marriages would improve as a result. Three key measures were improved: communication, improved conflict resolution, and increased overall marital satisfaction.

Why, you may ask, did this method help marriages, especially when the couples were learning about a book of the Bible that had nothing to do with marriage?

Interviews with participants highlighted that 1) the individual study helped them "find their voices" and be able to think through their feelings and beliefs on their own; 2) the couple time involved respect and support as each shared and were truly heard without judgment; and 3) the time in community helped couples know their personal experiences, including the common challenges of marriage, were not unique.

The couples whose marriages strengthened the most

prioritized their weekly time together and maintained love, kindness, and respect for each other through the process. No one did it perfectly, of course, but the ones who thrived simply put their hearts into it and were present, making the effort even when it was difficult.

As we approach a new year, it may be an ideal time to assess our most important relationships: 1) Individuality: Have you found your voice? Are you able to communicate what you want in your relationships? 2) Mutuality: Do you listen to your spouse or close friend, seeking first to make sure you understand what they are sharing and the emotion attached to it? Do they listen

to you the same way when you share? 3) Community: Do you (and your spouse) have a small group of supportive friends with whom you can grow together?

Dr. Tim Kimmel in his book *Grace-Filled Marriage* identifies the importance of community: "I think it's also extremely difficult to maintain an attitude of grace toward our spouse if we're trying to do it in isolation, with just us two." My hope is that we all will consider taking steps to strengthen our relationships in community in 2022.

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# Obituaries

## Violet Joyce Schaefer 1934 - 2021

Violet Joyce Schaefer, 87, a loving and devoted wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister and friend to all that met her was called home to her Heavenly reward on Dec. 21, 2021.

Memorial service was held Monday, at 11 a.m. December 27, 2021

Memorials: In lieu of flowers donations may be made to National Kidney Foundation, Alzheimer's Association of Fort Worth and Azle Animal Shelter.

Violet was born to August Louis Rummel and Esther Theresia Schoppa Rummel on May 4, 1934, in a small farmhouse in Thalia, Texas. She grew up on a cotton farm with her parents and sisters, Doris Jean and Faith Lavoy. The girls all attended Northside Elementary and Crowell High School. While in high school Violet "Vi" to her friends excelled, not only in the classroom but was also a twirler in the band, a varsity volleyball player and she won the title of Ms. Crowell at the age of 15. Her beautiful smile and sparkling eyes let everyone know she was a beauty queen all of her life.

Vi retired at the age of 80 after 31 years with Azle ISD as the high school receptionist. Her quick wit, charm and candor made her a natural to



be in control of the school's "Nerve Center". She knew the answer to everyone's question and would often throw in a joke and her two cents along with it. Superintendents and principals alike often asked "What does Vi think?" before making big decisions.

Vi was a very talented lady in many ways. Her perhaps biggest and most overlooked talent was in the kitchen. She could make delicious meals from almost nothing. To elaborate dishes suited for royalty. If she had ever printed and sold her recipes, she would have been a millionaire.

Violet was preceded in death by her parents; sister; ex-husband, James Ray Bice; son, Monty Ray Bice; and grandson, Conrad Lee Bice.

Survivors include her husband, Leonard Nicholas Schaefer; sister Lavoy Bivens children, Brenda Bice Riley and husband, Kim, Treva Bice Kilcoyne, Jeff and Kim Schaefer, Julie Schaefer, Koan and Sherry Bice, Darren and Helen Schaefer and Dawn and Railton Elliott; 16 grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren.

The Azle News, Dec. 29, 2021 Edition

## Virginia Ruth Bass 1936 - 2021

Virginia Ruth Bass (Roper) passed away Tuesday, December 14, 2021.

Graveside Services were held at 1 p.m. Monday, December 27, 2021 at Jaybird Cemetery.

Virginia Ruth Roper was born October 18, 1936 in Fort Worth to Walter and Blanche Ward. She met and married the love of her life in August of 1955. She was a child of God and is now rejoicing at home with her Savior and her husband.

Preceded in death by: parents; and husband, Billy Glenn Bass.

Survivors include her daughters, Glenda Bass, Brenda Harrist (Jimmy), and Debbie McIlroy (Jim); grandchildren, Betsy De-



Anda, Tammie Herring (Cody), Jennifer Steele (Jeremy), Kacey Ulrich (Nick), Halston Harrist (Sarah), Jody McIlroy (Tammie), Cole McIlroy (Brittany); 15 great-grandchildren; and many other extended family members and friends.

The Azle News, Dec. 29, 2021 Edition

## Joy Ann Meadors 1936 - 2021

Joy Ann (Walston) Meadors, 85, of Azle passed away Friday, Dec. 10, 2021.

Joy was born in Fort Worth July 16, 1936 to Roy Baucom and Inez Walston.

Inurnment: Wednesday, December 29, 2021 at Oran Cemetery. Arrangements by White's Funeral Home in Azle.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Roy and Inez, her brother, Glenn, and her husband Bill Meadors

Joy is survived by her brother, Jerry Walston, children, Theresa, and Kelly, her



grandchildren, Dustin and Sara, and her great-grandchildren, Kodie and Elye.

The Azle News, Dec. 29, 2021 Edition

## The Impact of Legends



### MY FRONT PORCH

By Sam Houston

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

Growing up I was an avid fan of the St. Louis Cardinals. Many a night I would stay awake, laying under the covers listening to my transistor radio as Hall of Fame announcer Jack Buck would call the game. I had been instructed by my mother to be sleeping and getting my rest for school the next day, but I could not help but lay there in anticipation of the last out of the game and Jack Buck saying his immortal call: "That's a Winner!". Those are very poignant and precious youthful memories to me.

Recently, Hall of Famer Lou Brock, and Hall of Famer Bob Gibson passed on; two Cardinals legends which were some of my favorite childhood heroes. I watched or listened to them play hundreds of games and took from them their competitive spirit under pressure, their desire to win, and their commitment for excellence. They were my "friends" (at least in my heart) and I learned a lot about how to go through life by watching them play. Knowing they have now passed on makes me feel a profound loss: a sense that something is gone which will never be replaced. They were two men of color in a time when color mattered, but it did not for me. To me they were simply great men and I wanted to play like them, be like them and win like they did.

Now they are gone, it makes me wonder and

recollect about the other people who impacted me. My folks and grandparents of course, but the teachers, coaches, youth leaders, Sunday School teachers, neighbors and friends who helped to formulate who I am, how I think, and what I value. As I think about all the influences I have had and the impression they had upon me, I am thankful for their willingness to shape me and formulate me into all I have become.

So, who looks up to you? Have you considered who your actions and words impress and what type of impression you are making? We all have a responsibility and a duty to our community and our world to help those who come behind us, and to be the type of example so when our time comes to "cross that river" they will know our impact was for all things good, decent and respectful. As you go forward this week, stop and think what sort of example you are making for your children, grandchildren, neighbors and friends. We all need to do our part just like Sweet Lou Brock and Bob "Hoot" Gibson did for me. Sometimes legends are wearing a uniform and playing on a ball diamond, but more times they are mothers, fathers, neighbors, teachers and friends.

Thought for the day: The quickest way to double your money is to fold it over and put it in your back pocket!

Until next time!



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## Azle News

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<p><b>THE ABBEY CHURCH</b> Pastor: Paul Brownback 10400 Jacksboro Highway 817-238-1404 www.TheAbbeyChurch.com</p> <p>Morning Worship..... 10:30 AM Community Groups..... Various Times</p> <p><b>ASH CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH</b> Pastor: Dr. G. Wesley Shotwell 300 South Stewart St. 817-444-3219 www.ashcreekbc.org</p> <p>Sunday School..... 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship-TMP..... 10:45 AM Traditional Worship..... 10:45 AM Evening Worship..... 6:00 PM Wednesday Youth Refuge..... 6:00 PM Wednesday Evening..... 6:15 PM</p> <p><b>AZLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH</b> (Disciples of Christ) Senior Minister, Ashley Dargai, Katie Medlin, Worship Minister 117 Church St. • 817-444-3527</p> <p>Sunday School..... 10:00 AM Morning Worship..... 11:00 AM</p> <p><b>AZLE FIRST ASSEMBLY of GOD</b> Pastor: Tim Stevens 1020 S.E. Parkway, Azle 817-237-4903</p> <p>Sunday School..... 9:30 AM Morning Worship..... 10:30 AM Wednesday Evening..... 7:00 PM</p>	<p><b>COMMUNITY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH</b> Pastor - Alton Davis 817-521-4510 1405 Reynolds Rd., Azle 817-444-7117 Directions: 730 N. to 1542 .5 mi. right on Cardinal, left on Reynolds</p> <p>Sunday School..... 9:45 AM Morning Worship..... 11:00 AM Sunday Evening..... 6:00 PM Wednesday Evening..... 7:00 PM</p> <p><b>CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH</b> 2233 Hwy 199 E. • Springtown 817-221-LIFE (5433)</p> <p>Sunday Worship Service..... 10:00 AM Wednesday..... 7:00 PM</p> <p><b>CROSSROADS BAPTIST CHURCH</b> Pastor - Jon Baker Corner FM 730S &amp; FM 1886 817-755-0279 Transportation Available</p> <p>Worship Service..... 10:30 AM Wed. Prayer Service..... 7:00 PM</p> <p><b>THE EDGE CHURCH - AZLE</b> 1313 S.E. Pkwy, Azle 817-237-4822 Missouri Synod</p> <p>"Love God - Serve Others - Share Jesus" Traditional Worship..... 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship..... 11:00 AM</p>	<p><b>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> Pastor: Dr. Richard Reed 200 Church St., Azle 817-444-3323</p> <p>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>HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA</b> 4795 E. Hwy 199 - Reno 817-221-HOPE Follow us on Facebook for streaming services</p> <p>Sunday School..... 9:00 AM Traditional Service..... 10:00 AM</p> <p><b>HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> 800 Highcrest Dr. - Azle 817-444-3063</p> <p>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>SOLID ROCK BIBLE CHURCH</b> Pastor - Bill Gay - 817-304-7443</p> <p>Coffee and Donuts..... 9:00 AM Sunday School..... 9:30 AM Morning Worship..... 10:30 AM Children's Church After Music Service Wed. Prayer Meeting..... 6:30 PM Wed. Bible Study..... 7:00 PM</p>	<p><b>LEGACY CHURCH</b> Assembly of God Church, Pastor: Gary D. Veazey Hwy. 199 &amp; Jaybird Lane 817-221-2983</p> <p>Morning Worship..... 9:15 &amp; 11:00 AM Kidz Zone..... 9:15 &amp; 11:00 AM Weds Evening Legacy Group Legacy Youth, Kids All Services..... 7:00 PM</p> <p><b>SILVER CREEK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> Rev. Sheila Fiorella - Pastor 2200 Church Rd., Azle 817-444-1382 www.silvercreekumc.org Sunday School 9:30 AM • Worship 10:30 AM</p> <p><b>SILVER CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH</b> Pastor: Jay Ditty Minister of Music: David Musick Corner FM 730 S. &amp; Veal Station Rd. Church 817-444-2325 www.silvercreekbc.org</p> <p>Sunday School..... 9:45 AM Morning Worship..... 10:50 AM Evening Worship..... 6:00 PM Wed. Prayer Service..... 7:00 PM</p> <p><b>ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> 5953 Bowman Roberts RD 817-624-2184 Daily Mass - Mon-Fri 8 AM Reconciliation..... Sat. 2:45 or by appt Weekend Masses..... Sat. 4:00 PM SUNDAY..... 8:00 &amp; 10:00 AM Spanish..... 12:30 PM</p>	<p><b>THE WORD@LAKESIDE CHURCH OF GOD</b> 9396 FM 1886 Fort Worth, TX 76135 817-237-5500 thewordatlakeside.com</p> <p>Pastors: Brandon and Kelly Bohannon Worship Pastor: Christen Moody</p> <p>Family Life and Young Adult Pastors: Jodie and Mark James, Kids Pastor: Katie Pearson, Student Pastors: Taylor and Sheridan Tomlin, Creative Directors: Logan and Carrie Edwards, Connections Coordinators: Preston and Ashley Larrew</p> <p>Equip Sunday School at the WORD..... 9:30 AM Empower Worship at the WORD..... 10:45 AM Kids at the WORD..... 10:45 AM PreK at the WORD..... 10:45 AM Emanate at the WORD (Special Needs Ministry)..... 10:45 AM Nursery at the WORD..... 10:45 AM Young Adults at the WORD..... 6:00 PM</p> <p><b>Wednesdays</b></p> <p>Adult Bible Class..... 7:00 PM The WORD Students (6th-12th grades). 6:30 PM Awana Kids at the WORD..... 6:30 PM Life at the WORD Life Groups Various Times</p>
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**A church alive is worth the drive! For more information or rates on listing your church, call Johnna at 817-270-3340**

## ON FISHING

## Crappie fishing is hot in the winter

For many people looking to catch crappie, the winter is the best time to chase these tasty little slabs. Most chase the crappies when they move in the shallows to spawn, but catching crappie in the winter is enjoyed by many.

Crappies, as I mentioned above, do spawn in the spring and are much easier to find in large quantities at this time. But the truth is crappie can be caught any time of the year. The key to catching more crappie in the winter months is just like fishing for any other species. You need to understand their seasonal habits and how to locate them.

Right now many anglers are catching limits of crappie in the river above Lake Whitney on small minnows and jigs. There are a lot of anglers all over the river chasing them. Look for the deeper holes in the river with structure and you will find them. Lake Granbury crappie fishing has been good as well all year and some great reports have been coming from the upper ends from Hunter Park to the river near Tin Top.

To catch winter crappie, start your search along old submerged creek and river channels or points and drop-offs in the 15- to 30-foot depths. Using a good quality depth finder will help make this job easier. What you want to be on the lookout for is brush/structure along these channels. Crappie will be holding somewhere around that structure. Some days the crappie might be holding tight to the brush

**MICHAEL ACOSTA**  
michael.acosta@att.net

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

or trees. If this is the case, you'll have to work a jig in tight. This is where a graphite rod and light line will come in handy so you can "feel" your way around. You might lose some jigs and fish, but that is part of fishing timber.

Using a minnow during these times can be tricky as the minnow will tangle you up in the trees or brush. Find an open space where you can present the bait close to the trees/structure and not lose your tackle. If you don't have a boat, look at deep water marinas/docks. Fish these marinas and you will catch fish. Just make sure you have permission to fish the docks. Another place bank fishermen can try for winter crappie is anywhere a bridge crosses over a lake. In some cases, the bridge will be over a creek or river channel. This is where you'll have to experiment with minnows below slip floats to find the depth the crappies are holding.

Crappies are usually near structure, but this is not always the case especially in summer and winter when they are deep. They may be suspended in deep water. Work several depths until you find where they will bite. The best bridges are the ones with piers out in deep water



near the edge of the channel. Try drifting jigs or minnows right up against those piers. Vary the depth of your crappie jig and minnow until you find the crappie. Winter crappies are not as aggressive chasing bait as they are during the spring. This means you'll have to move your bait slowly or very little. They also can be light biters during the winter. Many times you'll just feel a little extra pressure on the line when they hit. Again, a good sensitive graphite rod with real light line will help you put fish in the boat.

If you're using a slip float, I suggest the tiny quill or

pencil floats. Watch them closely because it can be difficult to tell when you're getting a hit or if the minnow is swimming around.

On really warm winter days, you may find crappie a little scattered on flats next to river and creek channels. This is the time to drift with several rods out looking for that bite. This December has been real warm, so this may be the preferred option to work a lot of water.

Now is the time to look for these winter crappies. They are there and many are catching limits. Dress for the weather and we will see you on the water.

## FISHING REPORT

On other reservoirs, Lake Whitney crappies are being caught in the river near Kimball Bend. Whitney striped bass are good under the birds on the main lake and some good catches are reported in the river near Lakeside. Possum Kingdom Lake striped bass are good to 12 pounds on Umbrella Rigs fished from the Peanut Patch to Costello Island. Possum Kingdom largemouth bass are good in numbers with an occasional fish to 8 pounds.

## Used vehicle prices at record highs, COVID-19 cases spike

## STATE STEPS UP DUI ENFORCEMENT DURING HOLIDAYS

The Texas Department of Transportation has kicked off its statewide "Drive Sober. No Regrets" drunk driving prevention program for the holidays. Throughout the month, TxDOT has released videos of people who deal with the daily consequences of driving while impaired, either as an offender or survivor.

The stories and facts about drunk driving can be found at SoberRides.org.



## CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders

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

"It is our hope that these moving, first-hand accounts will encourage all of us to make the right choice and not ever drive after drinking or doing anything that can alter our judgment," said TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams. "We don't want to turn a happy time of

year into one that could be marked by tragic loss caused by someone's poor decision to drink and drive."

During the December holiday season last year, there were 2,462 DUI-alcohol related traffic accidents, killing 93 people and seriously injuring 215.

## TEXAS TO DISTRIBUTE ADDITIONAL \$123.3 MILLION IN ED FUNDING

The state will invest an additional \$123.3 million in federal funds provided through pandemic relief legislation.

"The state of Texas remains committed to students and their success in our education systems — that includes ensuring parents have an option to send their kids to a high-quality charter school and providing direct support to families with children who have special needs," Gov. Greg Abbott said.

This final round of funding includes money for students with severe cognitive disabilities; charter school grants; financial aid for nursing students; short-term credential training for front-line health care workers; initiatives to improve student enrollment and retention; financial aid programs for higher education; cybersecurity enhancement; and aid for those seeking commercial driver license training.

"For some of our most at-risk students, this significant new round of funding will prioritize getting families across Texas direct access to special education and other targeted supplemental services to support their children's varied educational needs," said Mike Morath, Texas education commissioner.

## USED VEHICLE PRICES AT RECORD HIGHS

The average listing price for a used vehicle topped \$27,000 for the first time, according to a report from Cox Automotive. A primary reason, according to a story in the San Antonio Express-News, is the relative scarcity of new vehicles because of supply-chain disruptions and an initial drop in demand when the pandemic struck.

For example, Toyota stopped production at all its plants across North America and in Southeast Asia, except for its San Antonio factory. The company had hoped to return to full production in December but has again suspended work at some plants as a shortage of computer chips has stymied vehicle production.

The spike in used vehicle prices has benefitted car owners looking to sell.

"With the way the market is right now, I've seen people make money on their vehicles, especially with diesel. It's crazy," Zachary Gilman, a salesman at the Jordan Ford dealership in Live Oak, told the Express-News.

## COVID-19 CASES SPIKE; OMICRON VARIANT SPREADS

As Texans continue to navigate life during a nearly two-year pandemic, the number of new cases of COVID-19 rose during the past week to 51,479, an increase of 41% from the previous

week, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University. The number of new deaths dropped to 266, a decrease of 44%, however. Researchers have said that while the omicron variant is more contagious than the delta variant that sparked the last wave, its symptoms thus far are not as severe.

The number of lab-confirmed hospitalizations of COVID-19 patients stayed at about the same level as the previous week, with 3,376 reported by the Texas Department of State Health Services.

The number of Texans who are fully vaccinated stood at 16.36 million as of Sunday, which is 56.1% of the state's population. In addition, 4.35 million of the state's residents have received an additional dose, according to DSHS.

## MORE FUNDING FOR OPERATION LONE STAR

The state's Public Safety Office has awarded an additional \$38.4 million in funding to cities and counties along the Texas-Mexico border for law enforcement efforts. That amount doubles the funding provided for those counties since last March.

The funding is for specialized law enforcement equipment, labor costs including overtime, construction of additional communication towers and increased jail capacity and travel costs for law enforcement personnel from non-border counties that provide assistance.



The interactive Consequence Spinner on SoberRides.org shows potential scenarios during the holidays to help you make better decisions. Screenshot from SoberRides.org

**CIVIC CLUBS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.**

around 45 members. The average age of members is 58, and only a small number of members are under 40.

One of the group's most notable programs is the dictionary program, which gives dictionaries to every third-grader in Azle ISD. Charter member Ken Haas implemented the program 20 years ago, and Rotarians have vowed to continue the program after Haas passed away earlier this year.

The Rotary Club honors select Azle High School students throughout the school year and awards scholarships to graduating seniors.

Rotary members meet at noon on Thursdays at the One Azle Building, 412 Commerce St., for lunch and a special program. Weekly meetings are typically only one hour.

For more information about Rotary Club and how to get involved, visit [www.rotary.org/en](http://www.rotary.org/en).

**FRIEND OF YOUTH**

The Optimist Club first began in 1911 and has continued to grow to several thousand clubs around the world. Their primary focus is to "bring out the best in youth."

The Optimist Club of Azle holds an annual Youth Appreciation Banquet in January, honoring 20 children from Azle ISD schools.

Every month, the club honors two AHS students as their Young Texan and Texanne, recognizing their achievements in school. Scholarships totaling nearly \$20,000 are given out to graduating seniors each year.

The club contributes to an AISD program that provides weekend meals and snacks to students to ensure their nutritional needs are met.

The annual Penny Race fundraiser encourages students to bring their spare "pennies" in to raise money for the programs provided

by the Optimist Club of Azle, including the food backpacks.

The club has maintained a steady membership of around 30 members with ages ranging from 30-60. Members can expect to commit to a few hours each month for meetings, fundraisers and other programs, and elected officers and board members meet for two hours each month.

Members meet at 6:30 a.m. every Friday at Moe's Café at 316 W. Main Street for breakfast, interesting programs and "good fellowship with your friends and neighbors."

For more information on the club and to find out how to become a member, visit [www.azleoptimist.org](http://www.azleoptimist.org).

**WE SERVE**

"Lions Clubs around the world strive to be a leader in community and humanitarian service," said currently Lions Club president Curren McLane. "This is done through volunteer work, disaster relief, improving the health and well-being of our communities and more."

The Azle Lions Club primarily serves the children of Azle through different programs, including the annual Back the Pack program.

"Each fall, we purchase school supplies in bulk at wholesale prices and fill backpacks with supplies according to each Azle school supply list," McLane said. "We then sell the backpacks at a much cheaper rate than one would be able to pay if they bought the supplies themselves."

The club also provides backpacks full of supplies for AISD students who cannot afford to purchase their own.

The Lions Club hosts the Angel Tree program each Christmas, this year ensuring that more than 650 children in Azle had Christmas

gifts. The club partners with Esilor Vision Foundation to help provide free eye exams and glasses to area children as well.

Annual golf tournaments and pancake breakfasts are a couple of the fundraisers that Lions Club hosts to help fund their projects.

Members of the Lions Club range in age from 30-70 and they have maintained

a steady membership of around 30 members.

Meetings for the Lions Club take place at 6:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month at the One Azle Building.

There are no meeting attendance requirements, so members who cannot attend evening meetings are encouraged to give their time during fundraisers and events to help support the

club.

For more information about Lions Club, visit [www.lionsclub.org/en](http://www.lionsclub.org/en).

McLane is one of the younger members of Lions Club, so she shared her feelings about the importance of being an active member of civic organizations in Azle.

"Any organization that has participation from people with a variety of ages, background and skills will have a

better chance of thriving and coming up with fresh ideas," she said.

"It's so important for the younger generation to start playing a role in our community so that it continues to thrive and is the best possible place in which people can live and work. ... I encourage all young adults to find out what matters most to them and find a way they can make a difference."



Azle Rotary Club honors AHS students every month during the school year.

Photo by Jessica McKinney



Optimist Club of Azle recognizes two students from Azle High School during their Friday meetings.

Photo by Jessica McKinney

## Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

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### The Search For Goldilocks Planets

Earth is a "Goldilocks" planet. It's neither too hot nor too cold for liquid water, which is a key ingredient for life. Part of what makes Earth **just right** is its distance from the sun!

Hey there! I'm Goldilocks! You probably have heard my story: I went into the home of the Three Bears and found a bowl of porridge that was not too hot, not too cold, but **just right!**

Because of my well-known story, scientists use the name Goldilocks to describe a planet that is **just right** for life as we know it on Earth!

If a planet is **too close** to its sun, it's too hot for life. But if a planet is **too far away** from its sun, everything is frozen. Around many stars there's a **Goldilocks Zone** where there is the potential for water on a planet's surface.

Choose a spacecraft and race against a friend to see who gets to the Goldilocks planet first.

Which Goldilocks astronaut is different from all the others?

**Extra! Extra! Just Right**

Look through the newspaper for pictures and words that reflect your community. What kinds of things make your community a place that is "just right" for living there?

Standards Link: Students describe the physical and human geography of their local community.

### Kid Scoop Puzzler

Kepler-16b is a distant planet that exists just outside a Goldilocks zone. It was first discovered in 2011.

Some scientists have given it the nickname Tatooine, Luke Skywalker's home planet in *Star Wars*. Why does Kepler-16b remind them of Tatooine? Use the secret code!

1=B 2=I 3=N 4=O 5=R 6=S 7=T 8=U 9=W

2	7					
4	5	1	2	7	6	
7	9	4	6	8	3	6

### Double Double Word Search

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

GOLDSLOCKS  
POTENTIAL  
PORRIDGE  
DISTANCE  
PLANET  
EARTH  
RIGHT  
STORY  
WATER  
JUST  
ZONE  
COLD  
BOWL  
FOOD  
HOT

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

### FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

#### Make It Better

Newspapers are called watchdogs of the community, investigating and reporting on things that need changing or improving. Look for an article about something that needs to change in your community and write a letter to the editor.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Students write persuasive letters citing evidence.

### Write On!

## Cold Poems

Write a poem about the cold. What's the best part of winter weather? Do you enjoy cold weather or do you prefer the warmer days of spring?

### Kid Scoop Together: Zott or Nott?

Circle all the aliens from the planet Zott using these clues: Aliens from Zott each have at least three eyes, but no more than six. They have antennas, but never curly or wavy ones. Their clothes have stripes, but only vertical ones.

A

B

C

D

E





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

Photo by Jeff Prince

## Springtown's Zane Bell logs plenty of assists on basketball court – and at Brookshire's

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 intensity.

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

Bell played through the pain that night and worked

through the pain the next day at Brookshire's grocery store, where he stocks shelves and bags groceries and carts them to the parking lot for customers.

He has a little saying that describes a senior year jam-packed with school, sports and work: "All day, every day," he said with a smile.

Here's an example of a recent weekend: Bell played a grueling, two-hour basketball game on Friday night, rose early Saturday for 9 a.m. practice, drove to Brookshire's after lunch and worked a full shift and returned to the grocery store on Sunday for another shift. On Monday morning, it was

back to school and practice.

Bell has attended Springtown public schools his whole life and began playing basketball in elementary school.

Brookshire's has stores in Azle and Springtown. About six months ago, Bell began working at the Azle location. "I live a little closer to this

one," he said.

Last summer, Bell worked at an 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.

SEE BELL, PAGE 3B.

## Freshman enjoys transition from player to trainer

BY JEFF PRINCE  
jeff@azlenews.net

Elaina Conner wanted to try something new after she left middle school and began attending Azle High School this year as a freshman.

"I played basketball in seventh grade and eighth grade but decided I needed a change of scenery," she said.

She can't specify what motivated her exactly to quit playing.

"I just needed a change," she said.

Over the summer, she thought about what she wanted to do next and came up with an idea. Now, she hangs out on the hardwood court like before but no longer wears a basketball uniform.

"I decided to come and try athletic training instead," she said.

Conner sits at the end of the bench and makes sure water bottles are filled with chilled water for the girls



Elaina Conner fills up a water bottle before a recent game.

Photo by Jeff Prince

SEE CONNER, PAGE 3B.



Caleb Smith hopes to make All-State in band this year.

Photo by Jeff Prince

## Azle's Caleb Smith blows trombone on way to railroad career

BY JEFF PRINCE  
jeff@azlenews.net

Azle High School senior Caleb Smith expects to be barreling along railroad tracks one day, seeing the world from inside a steel horse.

"It's what I wanted to do my entire life," he said. "I am hoping to become an en-

gineer."

Trains inspire him.

"I've had a fascination with them - just moving so much weight and having so much power at your control," he said.

A guy can't ride the rails 24-7. Smith will rely on other activities to make up his life, and one of those things will include blasting out

notes on a bass trombone. He began playing the instrument in eighth grade at the suggestion of a teacher.

"I fell in love with it," he said.

He has stuck with it for five years and become so adept that he won second-chair status at the region-

SEE SMITH, PAGE 2B.

SMITH, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B.



Caleb Smith plays bass trombone at the recent Sounds of the Season performance by the Azle Jazz Orchestra. Ryan Wright is standing next to Smith.

Photo by Jeff Prince

al band competition on Dec. 11. Clark and Henry Lalonde qualified to compete at the area contest Jan. 8 in Coppell. The top players at regional will qualify to play at the All-State concert Feb. 12 in San Antonio.

Bass trombone sounds like a regular trombone but with a lower tone. One of Smith's bandmates, Ryan Wright, plays regular trombone and credits Smith's deep notes with enhancing the music's bottom end.

"He is a phenomenal player," Wright said. "We rely on him so much for all of our bass notes."

Smith loves playing his instrument, and it shows in his performances, Wright said.

"He has worked very hard," Wright said. "He has put in so many hours to be where he's at with this regional music. He studied three pieces of music for three months, and every single day he was in a lesson room practicing it."

Earning second chair is "insanely good," Wright said. "We are all so happy for him. It's a really great thing that he's made this."

Smith wasn't expecting to qualify for area. He was nervous when he entered the regional audition room but collected himself quickly and settled into a peaceful musical groove.

"I surprised myself," he said. "Once I got to the room, I kind of just calmed down more than usual. I

thought I'd be nervous, but it just kind of came out."

Azle's coordinator of performing arts, Aaron Martin, said Smith practiced diligently to improve his skills.

"He is a wonderful young man that works super hard and has made incredible strides in the last year," the director said.

In December, Smith and Wright stood side by side at the high school, performing Christmas songs with the Azle Jazz Orchestra. The group is composed of some of the district's most talented students, who pass auditions to become members. The purpose of the orchestra is to develop students' potential and foster an appreciation for an American art form – jazz.

Before long, Smith will graduate high school and establish his railroad career and, in time, a family, he said. The trombone will move further down his priority list but remain a hobby.

"I definitely want to do this on my own time when I can and make some extra bucks where I could," he said.

Train driving and trombone playing will most likely occur outside of Azle. After living here his whole life, Smith is ready to breathe new air.

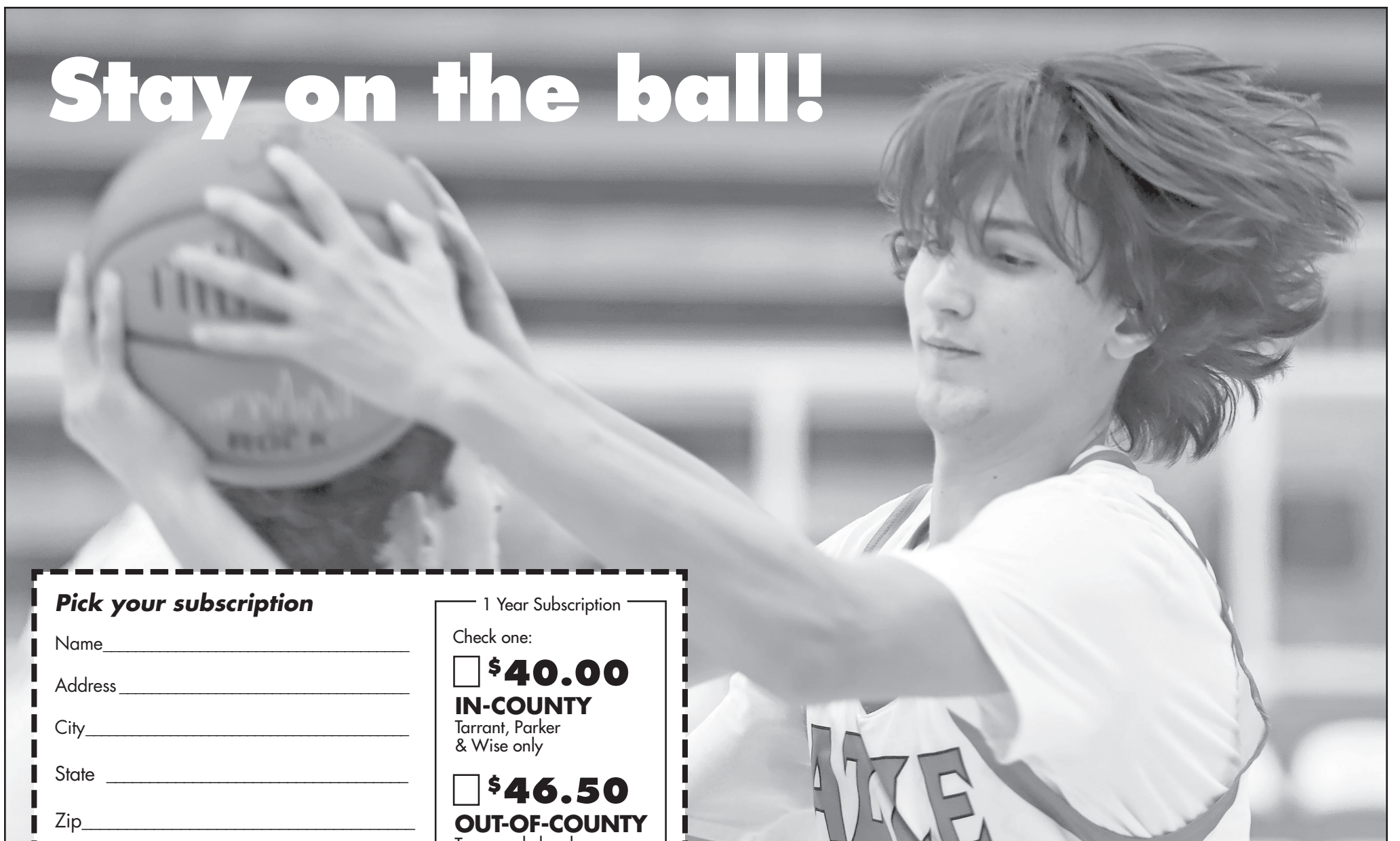
"I do plan to move away, we see some different stuff, experience new things," he said. "It's definitely a little scary, but I just feel ready to move on."

Smith, Lalonde and Wright are part of a growing number of students finding success in band. At the regional contest, 11 band members earned spots in the Regional 5A Band, and three younger students earned spots in the 5A/6A ninth grade band.

"This is the largest number of students that we have had make the region band in quite a while," Martin said. "The students that auditioned, whether they made the bands or not, are leaders within our band program, and they are leading our program in the right way. Thank you for your hard work. We are very proud of you all."

Students qualifying to participate in the 5A Region 30 Band clinic and concert include:

- Alyssa Quick, eighth chair
- Henry Lalonde, first chair (area qualifier)
- Nathan Quick, 11th chair
- Kayla Cockerline, 17th chair
- Natalie Cain, third chair
- Holt Lee, third chair
- Andrew Roecker, fifth chair
- Caleb Smith, second chair (area qualifier)
- Jhonathan Carmane, sixth chair
- Kylin Crofford, sixth chair
- Isaiah Davidson, 15th chair
- 5A/6A Ninth Grade Region 30 Band
- Jocelyn Olund, third chair
- Isaac Lalonde, third chair
- Eyvinder LeFever, fifth chair



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AZLE

# Game Faces

Azle Rowdies raise school spirit and get the students cheering at games. Top, Emelia Bazan, middle, Rowdies senior captain Micah Cook, and bottom is Josh Leonard.



## CONNER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B.

during breaks. Her duties include wrapping ankles, cleaning up messes and doing whatever needs doing.

"I help all the girls," Conner said. "I wrap anything whenever they are hurt. I hand out water bottles."

Head coach Mitzi Marquart said the team benefits from Conner's diligence.

"Elaina has done a great job for us and always with a smile on her face," Marquart said. "She is willing to step up and help us anywhere needed. We are excited she has joined us."

Conner attends practices and games like before but feels more useful in her new role than when she was a player.

"You are not always guaranteed that you can actually play, but with training, you're guaranteed that you can actually help out," she said. "I make sure all the girls stay hydrated because some of them don't bring their own water bottles."

She misses playing but plans to stay on the bench as a trainer. She would like to continue being a student trainer for her remaining three years at high school.

"I really like the people that I work with, and I like helping out," she said. "I've always liked helping out."

Her decision to switch from player to trainer might



Packed up and ready to hydrate!

Photo by Jeff Prince

create a lasting impact on her life.

"I would like to go into training when I'm older," she said. "Choosing this

would be helping me get onto a career path. I can't really explain it. I just really like doing it. I have a good time."

## BELL, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B.



Zane Bell ignores a sore ankle and listens to his coach during a timeout.

Photos by Jeff Prince

"I love this job," he said. His supervisors make the job enjoyable.

"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. 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 an awesome person. Very smart."

Bell's favorite part of the job is "interacting with the people." Brookshire's pro-

vides free grocery carry-outs, and part of Bell's time 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 established himself as a dependable 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 at high school, and he plans to 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 a job."

AZLE

# Game Faces



From left to right: Brittany Cato, Vielka Gonzalez, and Mitzi Marquart.



From left to right: Karlee Locke, Mia Carrazales, and Brittany Cato



Kendall Locke



Summer Finney



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

039 Help Wanted MAINSTREAM (group home for adults with developmental disabilities) is hiring part-time Direct Contact Staff for 17-hour weekday shifts (2nd & 3rd shifts) or 24-hour weekend shifts. Paid training, starting pay is \$7.75 hourly. Good potential for full-time employment. Call 817-270-2747, Monday-Friday, 9A-3P.

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New Correctional Officer Pay is \$15.00 per hour. Please check the web site for Job Qualifications. Must have HS Diploma or equivalent, be able to pass a drug screen, have a clean background and valid driver's license to be considered for a Correctional Officer. Apply online at www.mtctrains.com or call 940-567-2272 and ask for the HR Department. Lindsey State Jail

Concrete Services, Patios, Driveways, Sidewalks, Retaining Walls, Foundations, Stone Walls. Free Estimates. 817-371-8597.

030 Firewood LEON'S TREE SERVICE. Split Oak and Pecan wood. Pickup or delivery. 817-371-8597. 032 For Sale ZBrother used Embroidery Machine with Disney features, plus extras, PE170D \$250/obo; Teeter Inversion table \$200/obo 682-229-8528

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

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

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Auto Techs and Transmission R&R Men, Top Pay for Top Skills. Call or come by 201 E. Hwy 199, Springtown, 682-615-7250. Rainwater Transmission & Auto Repair.

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

Deadline:  
 4:30 PM Monday

# Classifieds

**039 Help Wanted**

### Driver/Light Duty General Laborer

We are a full-service Landscape and Irrigation installation company specializing in large scale projects, typically apartment complexes, commercial, senior living, churches, and student housing around the DFW area.

Minimum Requirements:

1. Must be 25 years of age or older
2. Valid driver's license and good driving record
3. Must be able to communicate clearly and effectively
4. Good work history
5. Physically fit and capable of working in a construction project environment including a predominately fast paced outdoor environment.

The day will start out in Azle, TX and from there travel to, from, and around the DFW area will be required. The day will end back in Azle, TX. Company vehicle will be provided. This position will be driving with the Construction Manager.

Some light duty general laborer duties to be performed while at job sites.  
 Example: Loading/unloading trailers, light maintenance on equipment, organization of supplies, some landscape duties as needed.

The positions starting pay will range from \$15-\$17 an hour depending on qualifications.

Benefits include:

1. Weekly pay
2. Overtime pay
3. Holiday pay (after 90 days)
4. Vacation (after a year)
5. Company vehicle

**Willing to train the right person**

Please email your resume to [shyla@greenworldincusa.com](mailto:shyla@greenworldincusa.com) or call 940-433-2639.

### TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison  
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**ACROSS**

- 1 first man
- 5 a LBJ daughter
- 6 TX Rico Rodriguez was on \_\_\_\_\_ "Modern Family" narrow opening
- 7 TXism: "restless as a \_\_\_\_\_ in church"
- 8 TXism: "scarce \_\_\_\_\_ around a hog trough"
- 16 TXism: "quick as \_\_\_\_\_ York minute"
- 18 TXism: "slow as \_\_\_\_\_"
- 21 dir. to Comanche from Junction
- 22 "\_\_\_\_\_ in Peace"
- 23 TX Steve Miller sang "Living in the \_\_\_\_\_"
- 24 TX B.J. Thomas sang "The Eyes \_\_\_\_\_ York Woman"
- 30 high schoolers
- 34 42nd and 44th governor, Bill (init.)
- 35 this TX Graves was TV's "Christy Love"
- 36 TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ it under your hat"
- 37 TX atheist Madalyn Murray \_\_\_\_\_
- 39 the forced removal of someone from their home
- 43 the crowd's \_\_\_\_\_ killed eight people at 2021 Houston Astroworld concert
- 44 Martin County seat
- 45 TXism: "let '\_\_\_\_\_ rip!"
- 46 Texas horned \_\_\_\_\_
- 47 a Mexican name
- 49 TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ a sparrow feather"
- 52 "Texas \_\_\_\_\_ snake"
- 53 Egyptian snake
- 54 TXism: "she \_\_\_\_\_ talk a wagon out of a ditch"
- 55 Dallas' Mexican newspaper: "\_\_\_\_\_ Texas"
- 58 funnel \_\_\_\_\_ (tornado)
- 59 45th governor, Richards noted technology univer. in Cambridge, Mass.
- 61 "Traveling Wilbury tune sung by TX Roy Orbison: "Not Alone \_\_\_\_\_ More"

**DOWN**

- 14 \_\_\_\_\_ Jo, TX (abbr.)
- 15 Dallas univer.
- 17 days when a lot of Texans don't have to work
- 19 TXism: "got a heart \_\_\_\_\_ Texas"
- 20 Native Americans believed "Enchanted Rock" was this
- 24 Cowboys 5th quar.
- 25 the San Saba is a spring-\_\_\_\_\_ river
- 26 ex-Mav's Tarpley Greek team
- 27 parent whose kids have left the home: "empty \_\_\_\_\_"
- 28 "Mission San Francisco de la \_\_\_\_\_"
- 29 a hardwood some furniture is made of he designed the Texas capitol (init.)
- 31 originally born
- 32 partially reusable spacecraft
- 38 TXism: sticks like tar on \_\_\_\_\_
- 40 TX Tanya's "One Love \_\_\_\_\_ Time" daughter of Craig in 57-down
- 42 Mabank's "\_\_\_\_\_ Library"
- 48 oil countries org.
- 50 UT students have won 88 \_\_\_\_\_ medals
- 51 TX-based 1963 film with Paul Newman
- 56 Andes pack animal
- 57 Craig Coyne to TX George W.: \_\_\_\_\_-law

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- Cement
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- Powerwashing
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 ask for Doug  
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Spaces Starting at \$450/mo. All Bills Paid  
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