

Holiday

GIFT GUIDE 2021

FEATURED THIS WEEK:

Holiday Gift Guide 2021, featuring upcoming events, local businesses, gift ideas, and more.

SECTION C



Azle News

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Wednesday, November 24, 2021 • Volume 70, Number 26 • AzleNews.net • \$1

Junior high band helps feed the community



Following a food drive at their school, AJH band students Jack Graeber (left) and Keagan Stuart delivered 460 pounds of food to the Community Caring Center on Nov. 15. Courtesy photo

BY JESSICA MCKINNEY
azlereporter@azlenews.net

Azle Junior High band teacher Kevin Chapman had a challenge for his students: help others in the community.

Starting Nov. 1, his students were asked to bring in food items that could be donated to the Community Caring Center, and in two weeks, they responded with a whopping 460 pounds of food.

"Everyone helped out to help others in our community," Chapman said. "We hope that this instills the trait

of caring and giving to others in need. We are so very proud of the big hearts that our kids have in our band family."

Keagan Stuart, band president, and Jack Graeber, band student, personally made the food delivery to the center on Nov. 15.

Linda Williams, center director, said that it was a "wonderful donation of items to go immediately on our shelves. We love kids joining in the efforts and helping those in need."

The center will collect items for their Christmas food boxes through Nov.

30. Their goal is to be able to provide a box of holiday food for each of their families, so they are working toward making 550 boxes this year. Cash donations of \$30 can also be made to help with food boxes.

ITEMS NEEDED:

- Canned green beans
- Canned yams
- Cranberry sauce
- Cream of mushroom soup
- Fried onions
- Cake mixes and frosting
- Pie fillings and crust
- Chicken broth
- Instant potatoes and gravy
- Cornbread mix

- Stuffing mix
- Christmas candies
- Marshmallows
- Hot cocoa
- Ham or turkey

For more information about how to contribute to the Community Caring Center or to volunteer, visit communitycaringcenter.com. The food pantry will be closed through Nov. 28 for Thanksgiving but will reopen for their regular schedule — Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 to 11:30 a.m. and Thursday 4 to 6:30 p.m. — on Nov. 29.

Senior angels not to be forgotten this Christmas

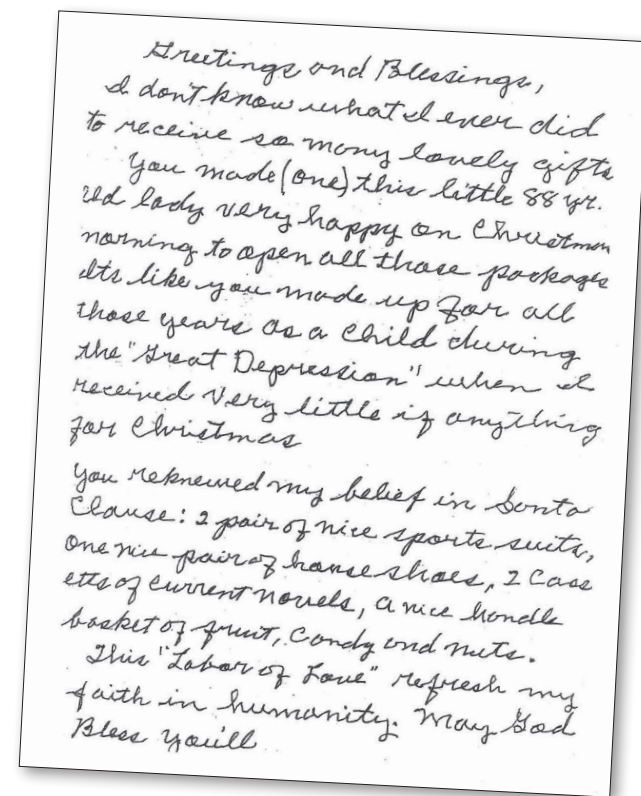
BY JESSICA MCKINNEY
azlereporter@azlenews.net

As Thanksgiving approaches, it's time for the community to start choosing children from the Angel Trees around town. But one often overlooked group during the holidays are the seniors who spend Christmas at home.

The Good N.E.W.S. program in Azle is changing that.

This year, the organization, which specializes in providing assistance to homebound seniors in and around Azle, had about 155 seniors needing to be adopted by the community for Christmas. And the community showed up, claiming all of the individuals who are asking for just a little something extra this holiday season.

SEE ANGELS, PAGE 3A.



This letter was written by an 88-year-old woman who benefited from the Good N.E.W.S. program in Azle.

Reno hires new police chief

BY DON MUNSCH
editor@azlenews.net

Reno City Council has appointed a new police chief.

The council didn't have to look far to find that new chief.

Scott Elsner, chief of the Pelican Bay Police Department, was appointed Reno PD chief at a special city council meeting Nov. 18. Council met in an executive session for a little more than an hour before announcing its decision for Elsner to be the chief, not

interim chief, as what was to be considered on the agenda. Compensation also was set at \$62,500.

He served as chief in Pelican Bay since June. He had been at the department for two years.

"We need a chief, and we can't have an interim for a police chief because it ties his hands and we have too much legal (work) going on (and) it needs to be handled by a chief," said Mayor pro tem Granville Martin.

Reno has been without

SEE CHIEF, PAGE 6A.



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HAPPY THANKSGIVING!



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Pregnancy help center's mission: 'love and protection of life'

BY JESSICA MCKINNEY
azlereporter@azlenews.net

In 2019, 41.4% of babies in Texas were born to single mothers, according to the Center for Disease Control. That's about 156,325 babies.

Bringing a child into the world can add greatly to any financial strain that women and teens are enduring on their own. Many turn to organizations to help supplement their needs to care for their babies as best they can.

Eagle Mountain Pregnancy Help Center is one local organization that has been stepping up to help since 1999.

"Eagle Mountain Pregnancy Help Center is a non-profit, Christian, pro-life, abstinence-only ministry, supported by donors," said Karen Ogea, board president.

The center is "welcoming opportunities to meet and speak to area ministries about the Center's visibility in the local communities," said Ogea.

"We believe that God formed each life in the mother's womb and created us wonderfully" referring to Psalms 139:13-14.

The center is free to clients and does not discriminate against race, age, or religious affiliation.

"The mission of the Eagle Mountain Pregnancy Help Center is to provide clients

with necessary information so they can make fully-informed decisions about potential pregnancies," Ogea said.

"Our services are meant to offer a safe and loving place for women and children in need, and include spiritual, physical and emotional support, such as post-abortion trauma, pregnancy testing, proof of pregnancy forms, lay counseling, prayer, maternity home and adoption referrals, maternity and baby supplies, parenting skills training, Bible studies and life-skill classes."

EMPHC does not require clients to meet certain qualifications to be eligible for services. Most clients are aged 16 and older, both married and unmarried.

"Those clients who wish to receive ongoing supplies are encouraged to participate in life-skill classes and Bible studies to gain points for items they desire and need," said Ogea. "Our goal is to supply needed help, resources and supplies to families in need."

The center helps an average of 400 clients each year and distributes an average of 13,000 diapers annually.

The organization relies on the support of donors, including churches, area ministries, non-governmental organizations and individuals, to keep their mission going within the community.

"The Center asks for on-

going prayer and help in spreading the message that we are here to serve the area as a pro-life Christian ministry," Ogea said. "Volunteers are welcome to apply. Diapers in large sizes are an ongoing need, and so we certainly appreciate donations in this area, as well as clothes for the family and useful household baby items."

EMPHC accepts new and gently used maternity and baby items, including pack-and-plays, strollers, breastfeeding pillows, play mats and baby gates. Anything that can be used for the care of babies is appreciated.

"God has required His people, called by His name, to protect innocent life in whatever ways he affords us," said Ogea. "As a wife, mother, grandmother, former public school educator, and home educator, I share the Center's passion and calling to share Christ's great mission in the love and protection of life. We pray the Lord continues to sustain the Center and influence the lives of all who enter. We are here to offer hope."

For more information about the services provided, how to help, or to make a donation visit www.emphc.org, or call 817-237-1819. Clients may also visit the center during opening hours, Monday and Thursday, noon to 6 p.m.



Third graders at Silver Creek Elementary were learning about gravity as students tested out their capsules for a huge egg drop event with their teachers. Courtesy photo



It takes a team to keep Eagle Mountain Pregnancy Help Center going. Judith Ross (left) serves as director; Ginger Thomas, office assistant; Joann Stull, translator/interpreter; and Ember McAlpin, assistant director. Not pictured: Karen Ogea. Courtesy Photo

AZLE

Winter Wonderland

Saturday, December 4th • Noon - 5:00 PM

The Optimist Club, Azle Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Azle News invite you, your friends and family to join us for a wonderful community Christmas celebration.

2021 theme: "Azle Winter Wonderland"

Azle Christmas on Main Vendor Show
12 - 5 PM • W. Main Street
Vendor booths will be open for holiday shopping. Help us support local businesses this season.

Children's Christmas Event at 404
404 W. Main Street • 2 - 5 PM

Brought to you by the Azle Optimist Club, the Azle News, and the Azle Area Chamber of Commerce this event will include activities for the children of Azle. Register for bike giveaways, pick up a cookie kit to decorate with family at home, and get a chance to see Santa. There will also be ornaments, candy canes, coloring books, and reindeer food to take home.

Simultaneous City Christmas Tree Lightings at 6:30 PM
Azle Historical Museum • 124 W. Main Street
Azle City Hall • 505 W. Main Street

Join the Mayor of Azle and other community leaders for the lighting of the City Christmas Tree at the Azle Historical Museum. Join other officials for the City Hall Tree Lighting.

Main Street Business Decorating Categories :
Most Christmas Spirit • Best Theme "Azle Winter Wonderland"
Most Creative • Best Light Display • Best Overall

Winners will be announced at the Azle Historical Museum at 6:15 pm.

believe

Songs of Christmas

Official Tri-County Christmas Extravaganza

Chris Golden
Son of William Golden of the Oak Ridge Boys

The Webster Brothers

Elle Gray

R&R Event Center
3605 E. Hwy 199, Springtown
817-307-5718
(Next to Legacy Church)

Saturday December 4th
2 pm - 4 pm
Admission \$15
Concession Open

District judge Westfall to run for Tarrant DA

STAFF REPORTS

Former Tarrant County Prosecutor and 15-year Texas District Judge Mollee Westfall has resigned her Judicial Bench to vie to be Tarrant County's next District Attorney. Westfall filed her papers to seek the Republican nomination in the expected March 2022 primary.

The District Attorney position became open when D.A. Sharen Wilson announced she will retire at the end of this term.

"In a time where law enforcement is under attack and even being defunded in

many places," Westfall said, "I have spent less money operating my court while handling more cases. I have been a conservative judge in every sense of the word."

John Cayce endorsed Westfall saying, "She has an incredible work ethic, and she is a model of fairness and honesty. She is exactly the kind of person you want in that important position."

Westfall and her husband Greg have an adult son and daughter. They live in Fort Worth and are active in their church and community.

ANGELS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.

They aren't asking for expensive gifts. Many asked for gift cards for restaurants or Amazon, bubble baths and lotions, bath robes and slippers, and maybe a new shirt or pants.

These are small items to many of us, but for them it might be the only new thing they get that is not a necessity but a simple comfort.

Although all of the senior angels have been adopted this year, Terri Bartlett, director of the program, said that there is still a year-round need for donations of items such as shampoo and conditioner, laundry soap and light bulbs.

"And gift cards," Bartlett said. "Not big ones, just increments of \$10 for places like Brookshire's or Walmart. Those really help cover little expenses for things that our seniors might not have the extra money for, like a prescription copay or pet food."

Good N.E.W.S. is also looking for volunteers to help deliver the Christmas gifts.

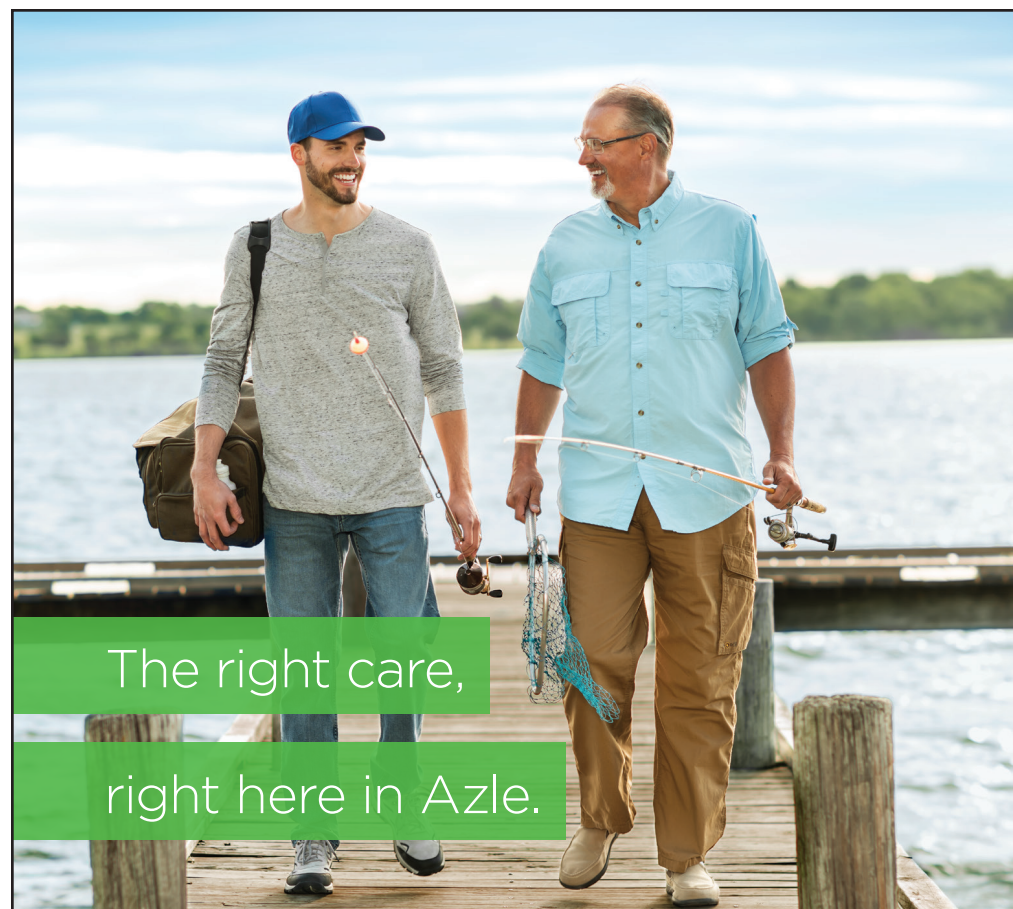
To find out about volunteering or to make a donation that benefits local seniors, visit goodnews4seniors.org, or stop by the office at 412 Commerce Street, in the One Azle building.

Ribbon Cutting for Burkes Outlet



The Azle Area Chamber of Commerce hosted a ribbon cutting for Burkes Outlet on Thursday, Nov. 18. Burkes Outlet is located in the old Bealls building at 104 N.W. Parkway in Azle. They have favorite clothes, shoes, home goods and more at great prices.

Photo by Azle Area Chamber of Commerce



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RAM free clinic coming to Fort Worth

FREE MEDICAL, DENTAL AND VISION CLINIC ON DEC. 11-12

STAFF REPORTS

Remote Area Medical - RAM® - a major nonprofit provider of pop-up clinics delivering free, quality dental, vision and medical care to underserved and uninsured individuals - will be in Fort Worth, next month, on Dec. 11-12 to provide free care.

The two-day clinic, in collaboration with University of North Texas Health Science Center (HSC) at Fort Worth and Hillwood, will be held at 13901 Aviator Way, Fort Worth, TX, 76177.

All RAM services are free, and no ID is required. Dental, vision, and medical services will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis.

"Remote Area Medical is glad to help bring free services to those in need in the Fort Worth community," said RAM CEO Jeff Eastman. "This has been a challenging time, and access to healthcare is more important than ever before. Thank you to all the volunteers who are coming to help those in need."

This will be RAM's first clinic in the Fort Worth area.

To fulfill its goal of treating as many people as possible, RAM is still in need of licensed dental and vision professionals to volunteer their time throughout the weekend, including dentists, optometrists and ophthalmologists.

"HSC looks forward to collaborating with RAM and Hillwood to provide free medical, dental and vision care to residents in need," said David Mansdoerfer, Special Assistant to the President at HSC.

"We are actively looking for community partners and professional volunteers - both clinical and non-clinical, to support this effort. If you are looking for a way to help your neighbors in need, this is a great way to do it."

Services available at the two-day free clinic will include dental cleanings, dental fillings, dental extractions, dental x-rays, eye exams, glaucoma testing, eyeglass prescriptions, eyeglasses made on-site, women's health exams, flu shots, full lab services, and general medical exams.

The patient parking lot

will open no later than 12:01 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 11, and remain open.

As patients arrive at the parking lot, they will be provided with additional information regarding clinic opening processes and next steps. Patients should be prepared with their own food, water, medicines and clothing when arriving early. Bathrooms will be provided. Clinic doors open at 6 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 11. This process will repeat on Sunday, Dec. 12.

"Hillwood is proud to partner with HSC to host this Remote Area Medical clinic at Alliance in Fort Worth," said Mercedes Bolen, Vice President of External Affairs. "Due to its easy access to major roadways, Alliance serves as an easy access point by those in need in Tarrant and Denton County, and even beyond the metroplex. We are honored to support our community by partnering to bring these critical medical services to those who need it most."

RAM encourages everyone who would like services, especially dental ser-

vices, to arrive as early as possible. In some situations, such as inclement weather, volunteer cancellations, or other circumstances outside of RAM's control, the parking lot may open earlier or a smaller number of patients may be served.

*Clinic closing time may vary based on each service area's daily capacity. Please check RAM's clinic FAQ page for more information.

In response to COVID-19,

RAM has developed and incorporated new disinfecting and safety processes. All patients will be required to wear a face covering and must undergo a COVID-19 screening before entering the clinic. Guests and family members of patients, including pets, will not be allowed to enter the building.

New air flow and capacity limitations have also been put in place to ensure the safety of patients, staff and

volunteers. Since RAM's founding in 1985, more than 863,000 individuals have received free services.

Email RAM's Volunteer Manager Mary Brown at marybrown@ramusa.org, if interested in volunteering at this clinic.

For more information about volunteering at a future RAM pop-up clinic or to donate, visit www.ramusa.org or call 865-579-1530.

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND INTENT TO OBTAIN WATER QUALITY PERMIT RENEWAL

PERMIT NO. WQ0012909001

APPLICATION. Eagle Mountain RV Park, LLC, 8600 Iron Gate Court, Fort Worth, Texas 76179, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to renew Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No. WQ0012909001 (EPA I.D. No. TX0097853) to authorize the discharge of treated wastewater at a volume not to exceed a daily average flow of 6,000 gallons per day. The domestic wastewater treatment facility is located at 12280 Bud Cross Road, Fort Worth, in Tarrant County, Texas 76179. The discharge route is from the plant site directly to Eagle Mountain Reservoir. TCEQ received this application on June 4, 2021. The permit application is available for viewing and copying at John Ed Keeter Public Library, 355 West McLeroy Boulevard, Saginaw, Texas. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For the exact location, refer to the application.

<https://tceq.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=db5bac44afbc468bbd4d360f8168250f&marker=-97.504166%2C32.950833&level=12>

ADDITIONAL NOTICE. TCEQ's Executive Director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application. After technical review of the application is complete, the Executive Director may prepare a draft permit and will issue a preliminary decision on the application. **Notice of the Application and Preliminary Decision will be published and mailed to those who are on the county-wide mailing list and to those who are on the mailing list for this application. That notice will contain the deadline for submitting public comments.**

PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC MEETING. You may submit public comments or request a public meeting on this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or to ask questions about the application. TCEQ will hold a public meeting if the Executive Director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING. After the deadline for submitting public comments, the Executive Director will consider all timely comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. **Unless the application is directly referred for a contested case hearing, the response to comments, and the Executive Director's decision on the application, will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments and to those persons who are on the mailing list for this application. If comments are received, the mailing will also provide instructions for requesting reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision and for requesting a contested case hearing.** A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in state district court.

TO REQUEST A CONTESTED CASE HEARING, YOU MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN YOUR REQUEST: your name, address, phone number; applicant's name and proposed permit number; the location and distance of your property/activities relative to the proposed facility; a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the facility in a way not common to the general public; a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period and, the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing." If the request for contested case hearing is filed on behalf of a group or association, the request must designate the group's representative for receiving future correspondence; identify by name and physical address an individual member of the group who would be adversely affected by the proposed facility or activity; provide the information discussed above regarding the affected member's location and distance from the facility or activity; explain how and why the member would be affected; and explain how the interests the group seeks to protect are relevant to the group's purpose.

Following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for reconsideration or for a contested case hearing to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. **If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material water quality concerns submitted during the comment period. TCEQ may act on an application to renew a permit for discharge of wastewater without providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if certain criteria are met.**

MAILING LIST. If you submit public comments, a request for a contested case hearing or a reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision, you will be added to the mailing list for this specific application to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk. In addition, you may request to be placed on: (1) the permanent mailing list for a specific applicant name and permit number; and/or (2) the mailing list for a specific county. If you wish to be placed on the permanent and/or the county mailing list, clearly specify which list(s) and send your request to TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE. For details about the status of the application, visit the Commissioners' Integrated Database at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid. Search the database using the permit number for this application, which is provided at the top of this notice.

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION. Public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at <https://www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/>, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address, and physical address will become part of the agency's public record. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Public Education Program, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040 or visit their website at

www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from Eagle Mountain RV Park, LLC at the address stated above or by calling Mr. Michael P. Reince at 817-228-0526.

Issuance Date: July 15, 2021

Financial Fundamentals

FREE 4 Evening Series • Mondays 6-7 PM • Light Refreshments

There is a lot of uncertainty in the world and especially in the economy. Strengthen your financial skills so you are ready for whatever the world throws your way!

November 22 - Making your credit score work hard for you. We will discuss how to access and read credit reports, what to do with incorrect information and how to build and boost your credit score. We will also discuss how to manage your debts so your score works hard for you.

November 29 - Budgeting and saving made easy. We will discuss how to keep track of your money in today's digital banking environment, how to create a monthly budget, how to budget your paychecks and how to save for emergencies.

December 6 - How and when to borrow money. We will discuss different types of loans that are available. How and when to borrow can significantly impact your credit and ability to borrow in the future.

December 13 - Preparing to buy a home. Whether you want to buy a home in 2 months or 2 years there are steps you can take now to prepare for that BIG purchase! Having more knowledge will help you understand the process and be less stressed out! Plus, you might just get a better deal on your mortgage!

Join us for all the evenings or just one. We welcome everyone!



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LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF ONLINE AUCTION

Pursuant to Chapter 59, Texas Property Code, **BLACKLOCK STORAGE** which is located at 9355 Jacksboro Highway, Fort Worth, Texas 76135 will hold an Online Auction for property being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien. **Online Auction will be held on Friday, December 3, 2021 at StorageTreasures.com.**

Property will be sold to highest bidder. Deposit for removal and cleanup may be temporarily required. Seller reserves right to not accept any bid and to withdraw property from sale. Property being sold includes contents in the space of the following tenant, with brief description of contents.

James Casteel: Household items.

PUBLIC NOTICE

TEXAS HEALTH HARRIS METHODIST HOSPITAL AZLE

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF HILL BURTON UNCOMPENSATED SERVICES

Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Azle, Azle, Texas will provide from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022 at least \$100,000 of Hill Burton uncompensated services. Inpatient services of the facility will be available on a first request, first served basis to eligible persons who are unable to pay for hospital services until this hospital's annual compliance level is met. Eligibility for uncompensated services will be limited to persons whose family income is not more than (Category A) of the current poverty income guidelines established by the Department of Health and Human Services. A person whose family income is above, but less than double the poverty guidelines (Category B) will be eligible for a 50% reduction from the usual inpatient hospital services. This notice is in accordance with 42 CFR 124.504 Notice of Availability of Uncompensated Services. We invite interested parties to comment on the allocation plan; 108 Denver Trail, Azle, Texas 76020. 817-444-8600.

REQUEST FOR INVITATION TO BID

Notice is hereby given that the City of Azle, Texas, will receive sealed Bids at Azle City Hall, 505 W Main St, Azle, TX, until **11:00am local time on Thursday, December 9th, 2021** for our Street Rehabilitation Program #22-003. Bids will be opened and read aloud publicly following the close of the Bid period.

Bidders may receive a copy of the invitation to Bid from the City's website at www.cityofazle.org. For additional information, please contact Michelle Stevens/Purchasing Agent at 817-444-7003 or by email at mstevens@cityofazle.org.



Azle News

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Thank you!



AG 101
By Jack DeShazo

Jack DeShazo has decades of experience in the agriculture field.

Ah, Thanksgiving is here! That holiday when many of us gather with family and friends, celebrate being together and hopefully remembering the original intent of the celebration. That intent being the recognition and expression of our thankfulness to God for His watching over and taking care of us and providing our sustenance. In most homes the gathering centers around the dinner table with lots of eating and visiting going on. Listed below are some of the Texas Agricultural Products that will be contributing to your Thanksgiving meal, along with their annual production numbers. As a sidenote—these numbers came from several references so they won't match up exactly but, they are close and the message is still clear.

- Turkeys 5,270,968 hd.
- Broilers 4,455,000,000 lbs.
- Eggs 504,825,000 dozen
- Beef 4,685,000 hd.
- Pork 52,559,000 lbs.
- Lamb 8,910,000 lbs.
- Milk 1,300,000,000 lbs. (151,162,000+ gallons)
- Wheat 4,284,000,000 lbs.
- Corn 16,013,200,000 lbs.
- Rice 1,506,000,000 lbs.
- Potatoes 711,500,000 lbs.

- Peanuts 488,000,000 lbs.
- Pecans 37,500,000 lbs.
- Carrots 400,000,000 lbs.
- Cucumbers 47,500,000 lbs.
- Onions 330,000,000 lbs.
- Squash 8,900,000 lbs.
- Oranges 114,000,000 lbs.
- Pumpkins 99,900,000 lbs.
- Grapes (wine) 28,360,000 lbs.
- Cantaloupes 222,000,000 lbs.
- Watermelons 782,000,000 lbs.
- Sugar Cane 2,104,000,000 lbs.
- Honey 7,560,000 lbs.
- Sunflower seed oil 33,000,000 lbs.

And if while sitting around your dinner table you are wearing cotton or wool based clothing here are Texas' annual production records for those fibers:

- Cotton 3,033,600,000 lbs.
- Wool 1,700,000 lbs.

To have such a productive Agricultural base we are truly a blessed state and nation! While enjoying the fruits of the labor of our agriculturalists, processors, transporters, marketers, etc. an occasional thank you is appreciated by these. Plus, a thank you to the Lord who provides is also due. Enjoy your Thanksgiving!
‘til next time.

Council discusses rental facilities

BY DON MUNSCH
editor@azlenews.net

The height of the pandemic changed the way companies and cities conducted business, and Azle was no exception, including in how it handled rental of city buildings.

Azle City Council members discussed the rental of facilities at their meeting Nov. 16. Rental of city facilities was suspended when the pandemic emerged in March 2020. After state and county mandates and other restrictions were lifted, restrictions on facility rentals were loosened as well, and those were primarily the pavilions, gazebo and other facilities, city officials said in the council agenda packet.

A few months ago, council members said they did not want to reopen the B.J. Clark Building for rental, but they did want to let the seniors have exclusive use of the building, which the council was reminded of at the Nov. 16 meeting. City staff has asked for additional direction on how to proceed with other buildings, especially the Emanuel Building.

City Manager Tom Muir says he didn't have enough staffers to sanitize buildings, and cleaning is necessary after each usage. He said later in an interview with *the News* that he has just four parks employees. The parks department manages the buildings, but they don't have time to sanitize buildings after every rental.

During the meeting, council members discussed how people who rent the buildings could be required to pay for sanitizing buildings. Muir didn't think it would be unreasonable to ask people to pay

for cleaning.

Staff will investigate and update policies concerning building rentals and bring information to the council at a future meeting, likely later in December. Staffers will check other cities to see what they're doing with their facilities.

"A lot of cities still are not renting out their facilities," Muir said in the interview with the newspaper.

Council heard a presentation on the library for fiscal year 2020-21 from library director Curren McLane, who said the library has 56,395 items in its collection and has 16,020 registered borrowers. The library has seen a substantial increase in visitors in the last few months, with summer programs helping to explain the spike in numbers.

Almost 160,000 items were borrowed in the fiscal year, and most of the borrowed items were books – 64%. The library saw a dip in movies being borrowed, down to 18% of the items loaned. McLane thinks the increase in streaming services has prompted the drop. McLane also discussed library programming and resources offered as well as community partnerships during her presentation.

Major Brian Kilian of the Azle Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol gave a presentation about his organization and its activities and functions. He said his group has 44 members, with 30 of them being cadets ranging in age from 12 to 18. Civil Air Patrol's membership numbers have grown from six people two and a half years ago, when the group moved to First Baptist Church.

"We've brought in some new programs and we're growing in

leaps and bounds," he said. "I expect to about double in size next year."

Civil Air Patrol, an auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, has three missions: cadet programs, aerospace education and emergency services. Most of the programming here with the squadron centers on cadet programs and aerospace education. The organization is a leadership and character development program for young people. The local outfit is funded through donations and conducts fundraisers, and because of its rapid growth, it probably will have to start requiring annual dues, Kilian said.

Also at the meeting, council approved appointing Royal Ward to the Library Board's Place 1 position. Council also approved Rich DeOtte to serve on the Tarrant County Appraisal District Board of Directors. No action was taken on any candidates for the Parker County Appraisal District Board of Directors. A candidate will be considered at the next meeting.

Council discussed the composition of the Municipal Development District's Board of Directors. Currently governing the board are four council members and three citizens. The council gave direction to city staff to pull the MDD from the website as a board for which people can apply. As citizen members resign, if and when they resign, their openings would be replaced by council members so there will be cohesiveness in the future, as the council members said they would be better able to fulfill their vision for the city with the council managing MDD.

Spotlight on BUSINESS NOVEMBER

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Happy holidays! Hope everyone stays safe in your travels during this season.

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ON FISHING

Catching Sand Bass In Winter

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

For most of the year, I discuss sand bass and striped bass fishing (mostly striped bass). Many anglers focus on catching white bass, or as we call them in Texas, sand bass. Let me talk a little more about catching this species in the winter here on Lake Granbury. Much of this will apply anywhere you chase these hard-fighting (for their size) gamefish.

Sand bass, as I have mentioned in the past, are a roaming schooling species. They will frequent several areas of the lake, and they will migrate not only during their spawning season but also in autumn when falling temperatures are right.

Sand bass will migrate in the fall up major feeder creeks and others may stay near other creek entrances where baitfish are present. Others may not migrate and stay near feeding flats or points near the main lake. The youngest fish are least likely to migrate. During the spawning run, typically in February and March, sand bass will spawn in these same feeder creeks/ rivers. Some will actually spawn on main lake points as well. I do know that a large percentage of fish run upstream to shallow sandbars and holes to spawn. Fish congregating in this smaller area make them easy to catch on most days during the spawning run.

Sand bass on Granbury and on most any lake are fairly easy to catch once located. Numbers of good fish are being caught in the main lake and in the river above Granbury. If the birds do not point

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.

you to active fish, then you will have to use your electronics to locate baitfish and structure where these fish hold out.

Recently, sand bass can be caught on feeding flats in 7 to 15 feet of water on the flats near Blue Water Shores, DeCordova, Indian Harbor and in the river near Tin Top. Gulls on many days will point you right to them. I personally have not been up in the river, but I hear some good mixed reports.

When fishing a river or creek, your best chances are near the deeper holes near turns and bends in the river. When you locate these "holes," it is good to work the deep water, the ledges or slopes and any flats above/near the deeper water to find active fish. They will be there somewhere. On colder mornings, the baitfish congregate in the deeper holes as that will be the warmest place. As the sun warms the day, movement to the shallow flats will occur as the shallower water will heat up quicker. Bouncing a slab or small jig off the bottom in any of these locations will put fish in the boat.

Typically, I use 3/4 to 1 oz chartreuse, white or silver slab or small jigs in the same colors, bounced off the bottom. The colder it gets the less movement you need to impart to the jig/slab. For the jig presentation, I like to use a 1/4-ounce jig head with a 3-inch grub like a 3-inch crystal shad-colored Bass Assassin. Typically, I like to dye



the tail of the Bass Assassin with chartreuse dye. You can buy the chartreuse grub or you can dye them yourself. Typically, the colder it gets; the jig will tend to outperform the slabs on most days. Right now, the slab will still dominate.

Road runners and/or tail spinners (Little Georges) are also effective most any time of the year. Try tying a crappie jig 12 to 18 inches above the slab, and you will be able to catch two at a time. When the first fish gets on, keep

the line in the water and you will feel the second fish load you up. You could even go with more than two if you really want it to get interesting. Just remember, you still have to take them off one at a time.

White bass in Texas are keeper size at 10 inches. You can keep 25 per person per day. I typically like to keep them when they are at least 12 inches where you can get a decent filet. Sand bass fishing is a blast anytime of the year, and winter season is a good time to go.

FISHING REPORT

On other lakes, Lake Whitney striped bass are good on the main lake on swim baits, jigs and live shad near the island and upstream near Steele Creek. Limits of striped bass are common on Possum Kingdom with some bigger fish to 15 pounds possible under the birds from South D&D to the State Park.



This special season gives us time to reflect on all of life's blessings that make each year better than the last. At Pinnacle Bank, we have so much to be thankful for. Most of all, the relationships we've built with our customers and our community. Thank you for allowing us to be your banking partner.

Wishing you a wonderful and warm Thanksgiving, from all of us at Pinnacle Bank.

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Remember when lunch boxes were a status statement?

Not sure the last time I saw a kid with a lunch box? Seems like now days young Mothers use plastic Tupperware like containers to store the food items for their children and then place them in a Wal-Mart sack, or a backpack for transportation. My mother and father called the instrument which carried their lunch to school a "dinner bucket". It was a metal container whose lid slid down and sealed shut and prevented the soup or stew within from being spilled. It was a very utilitarian instrument, made to keep the food clean and fresh, but with no frills. The only thing "individual" about Mom's "buck-



MY FRONT PORCH

By Sam Houston

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

et" was her name was etched on the bottom so she could identify hers from those of her classmates as they all looked pretty much identical, a dark metal container with a simple handle.

When I started school back in the early 60's, Madison Avenue and marketing had come to the school lunch box, and it became an item for individual expression. A female child might have a

"Barbie" lunchbox or if she was a music fan, one which was adorned with an image of the Beatles or Monkees. A girl might even have a lunchbox which adorned the photo of the latest heart throb from "Teen Magazine", like Bobby Sherman or David Cassidy. For my male classmates, we were more interested in having a Gi Joe lunchbox, or "The Rifleman", or for me, a simple

astronaut lunchbox with was adorned with images of outer space. In my day, the Gemini and Apollo launches were something monumental and I wanted a lunch box to reflect my excitement with the space race against the Russians. Each year the start of school meant a mad rush to the department store to pick out a new lunch box with the latest and coolest design and logo. It was a way for a student to reflect who they were and what was important to them. It was clear evidence they were "cool"!

By the time I got to middle school, the lunch boxes had literally disappeared, and if you brought a lunch (which


was really a not cool thing to do), you brought it in a brown paper sack. For the life of me, I cannot remember the last time I even saw a brown paper lunch sack. Instead of being an item of expression, the item which carried children's lunch meal drifted into the background. Guess kids took to move over ways of expressing themselves like bellbottom jeans, tie dyed shirts, long hair, beads and sandals. (Remember this was the 60's). Personally, I think the lunch boxes were a better choice.

I still have my astronaut lunch box and it sits on a shelf in my office at the newspaper. It serves a nos-

algic reminder of the "space age" but also as a symbol to come to work each day and let the day reflect the person you are and the things which are important to you. Trends come and go, and fashions are in one day and out the next. Lunchboxes may never return and be "cool" again, but a man should always let the world around him reflect what is important to him and what he admires. Now that is a trend, I want to be a part of!

Thought for the day: Fake is the new trend and some people I know seem to be right in style!


Until next time...



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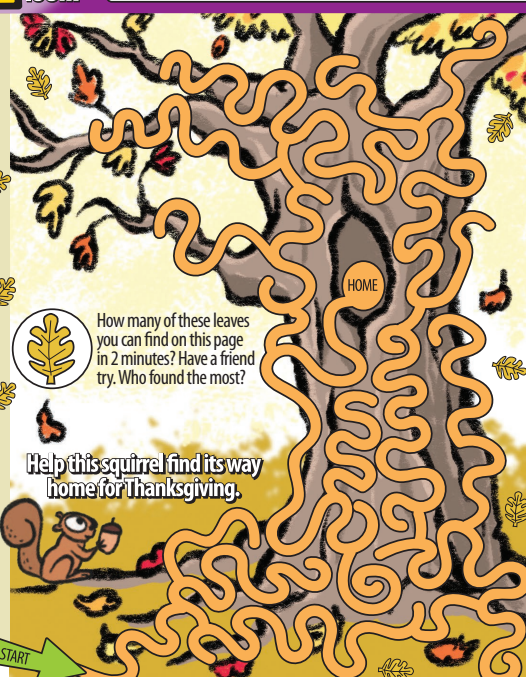
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Talk Like a Pilgrim

Plymouth Patuxet Museums in Plymouth, Mass, can help you talk like a pilgrim! In the 1600s, the pilgrims spoke English, but a little differently than we do today.


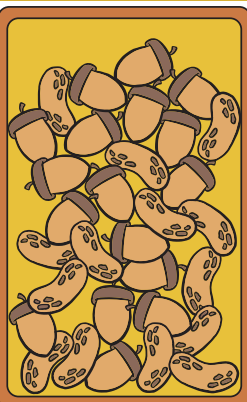
The Museum has gathered some of the words, greetings and phrases that would have been used by pilgrims. Compare them to how we would say the same thing today. Practice these at home and you can talk like a pilgrim, too!

TODAY	PILGRIM TALK
Hi! How are you?	What cheer?
Excuse me.	Pray pardon me.
Congratulations!	Huzzah!
Goodbye!	Fare thee well!
Cat	Mouser
Pants	Breeches
Skirt	Petticoat
Stew	Pottage
Pillowcase	Pillowbere



How many of these leaves you can find on this page in 2 minutes? Have a friend try. Who found the most?

Help this squirrel find its way home for Thanksgiving.

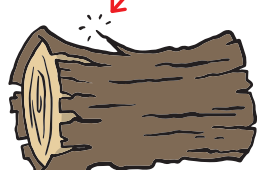



Pilgrim Riddles


The Plymouth Patuxet Museums collected riddles from the 1600s. Draw a line from each riddle to the picture it describes.

EXAMPLE: I went to the woods and I caught it, I sat me down and I sought it, but since I could not find it, home with me I brought it? What is it?


ANSWER: A splinter!




Who is he that runneth through the hedge, his house on his back?




What is higher than a house and yet seems smaller than a mouse?



What is full all day and empty at night?



What is ten men's length and ten men's strength and yet ten make it stand on its end?



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Visit Plimoth.org to learn more!

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Use the letters in the word **THANKSGIVING** to make new words.

Mix up the letters any way you like. You can use a letter twice in your new word only if it appears twice in the word Thanksgiving. How many words can you make?

5-10 words: **GOOD** 11-19 words: **GREAT!** 20-39 words: **AWESOME!** 40 words or more: **WORD MASTER!**

Standards Link: Spelling; Spell grade-level words correctly.

Double Double Word Search

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

PILGRIMS	G T A O C I T T E P
PETTICOAT	B C H E E R R N L S
PRACTICE	R H P R A C T I C E
BREECHES	E U R A M E M G E L
PLIMOUTH	E Z A T T O I H F D
PATUXET	C Z Y N T U U T A D
RIDDLES	H A T H E E X S R I
HUZZAH	E H E D G E G E E R
MOUSE	S M I R G L I P T S
HEDGE	
NIGHT	
CHEER	
PRAY	
THEE	
FARE	

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

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Newspaper Riddles

Select a picture in the newspaper. Write three to five clues that would help someone identify that picture. Write these clues as a riddle and see if a friend can read your riddle and find the picture looking through the newspaper.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Write descriptively.

Write On! Thanksgiving Poetry

Write a poem about Thanksgiving. Include family, friends, food and anything for which you are thankful.

Kid Scoop Together: FAMILY TIME

Thanksgiving is a time to talk!

After you eat some of your Thanksgiving meal, take a break from feasting to find out about the older people at the table.

Snoop into the past of one or more by asking "When you were my age ..."

1. What did you eat on Thanksgiving, and who did the cooking?
2. How did you celebrate Thanksgiving?
3. What were you thankful for?
4. Did you have a pet?
5. What were your hobbies?
6. Did you watch television? What was your favorite show?
7. What chores did you do around the house?
8. How did you get spending money?
9. What did you like to spend it on?
10. What was your favorite story your grandparents told you?

Standards Link: Speaking Comprehension; Ask for clarification of stories and ideas.

SPORTS

Azle's Holt Lee earns first-chair all-state jazz band



Holt Lee is now a first-chair all-state bassist.

BY JESSICA MCKINNEY
azlereporter@azlenews.net

For the rest of his life, Holt Lee can say he was the best in Texas.

That bragging right comes from being named first-chair bassist in the Texas Music Educators Association All-State Jazz Band in 5A/6A competition recently.

It also comes after years of practice.

"First-chair all-state has been my dream since freshman year," Lee said.

Making all-state is hard enough. Earning first-chair is near impossible.

More than 30 regions are scattered around Texas, and each holds its own individual all-region auditions. The regional contest was held on Sept. 18 at Boswell High School. Area recording sessions were next on Sept. 29.

The first-chair bassists from area contests competed for all-state. Only the top two were selected

SEE LEE, PAGE 2B.



Photo by Jeff Prince Right: Holt Lee began playing electric bass in the sixth grade.

Courtesy photo

Tennis garners district awards



Samantha Thurston's tennis prowess has earned her Newcomer of Year in District 5-5A.

Photos by Jeff Prince



Brent Burgess, left, and Peytie Chambers, right, received all-district recognition.



BY JEFF PRINCE
jeff@azlenews.net

Imagine playing your first tennis match in district competition, and your team's fate rides on whether you win or lose.

That's what happened to Samantha Thurston.

In September, the Azle and Brewer tennis teams were tied 9-9 in the district opener when Thurston, a junior, faced her opponent for the tournament's final match. Thurston fell behind, rallied, cut into her opponent's lead, tried to stage a comeback but came up short.

"She fought very hard to try to come back and win," head coach Hayden Huff said.

Rather than become discouraged, Thurston worked hard at practice. Now, two months later, she's been named Newcomer of the Year in District 5-5A.

Huff credited Thurston's "astounding work ethic and superior sportsmanship on and off the court."

Thurston's teammates received recognition, as well.

Peytie Chambers, a sophomore, earned second-team all-district recognition.

"She is such a hard worker," Huff

said. "During district, she would go out on the court and take care of business. She was determined to move her feet and do her absolute best each and every time."

Brent Burgess, a junior, was awarded honorable mention.

"He was able to step up and get wins for us no matter where he was placed," the coach said.

In fall, tennis is played as a team sport. Athletes compete in singles and doubles, but scores are compiled as a team, and tournaments are won or lost as a team.

In spring, the season becomes an individual sport, with athletes winning or losing on their own.

LEE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B.

all-state, and only the best player earned first chair.

“Earning a chair in any of the all-state ensembles is difficult,” said band director Aaron Martin. “Students have to start learning the music in the summer. A good deal of the work takes place independently. The all-state jazz band only takes two bass players out of 5A and 6A schools combined. This is a tremendous task and incredible accomplishment.”

The regional contest is daunting. Contestants are given four pieces of audition music to learn in advance before performing.

At the all-state contest, the musicians play four pieces in a recording room. Three of the pieces involve reading music, and one is improvised.

“You get one take on all of them,” Lee said.

During the improvised section, Lee showed off a variety of techniques he has learned over the years. He has played bass since he was 12.

“What I do is try to incorporate all of it,” he said. “I’ll do some bass walking and then go up on the neck and play some high notes and sound like a guitar. Slap the bass. Make different sounds to show them all my skills.”

As a freshman, he didn’t fare well enough at regionals to qualify for the state contest. That’s when he set a goal to win first-chair status before he graduated.

He earned trips to state as a sophomore and junior and came close but didn’t nab first-chair.

Until this year.

Earning first chair doesn’t mean he is better than everyone else, he said. It means the judges believe he out-performed the others that day.

“Music is so subjective, especially the improv part,” Lee said. “It’s not like running a race where, if you’re the fastest, you win. You can be an amazing bass player, and so can the other guy, but if someone just likes the way he plays more, he is going to beat you.”

Meeting his goal took four years and hundreds of hours of practice. Pinning down first chair made it all worthwhile.

“It feels like confirmation for all of the hard work that I’ve been putting into bass since sixth grade,” he said. “The summers I’ve spent just waking up and playing bass. The hours I’ve spent learning my jazz music for these auditions.”

The person who was surprised least by Lee’s success is his band director. Martin considers Lee one of the best students he has ever taught.

“Not only is he an incredible musician, but he is among the top students academically in the school,” Martin said. “More than these things, he is just an amazing human. He is kind and works with others to help them be the best they can at their musical endeavors. He is the kind of person that gives to others in need even when it is inconvenient, all while maintaining his personal high standards. He does all of this while maintaining a humility that is genuine.”

Lee will play with the all-state



Lee performing during an Azle High School game.

Photo by Jeff Prince

jazz group at the TMEA convention on Saturday, Feb. 22, in San Antonio.

Lee hopes to parlay his first-chair selection into a college scholarship, preferably at the University of North Texas in Denton. The school is home to the One O’Clock Lab Band, an ensemble of the Jazz Studies division. The band has received numerous Grammy Award nominations over the years.

“It will look really good on an (college) application to say I was the best bass player in Texas this year,” he said. “That will help me maybe get a scholarship to pay for some of the college and save me

some money.”

Lee’s latest goal?

“If I go to UNT, I want to play bass for the One O’Clock band, which is one of the best jazz bands in the world,” he said.

Don’t count on Lee ever tossing out his sheet music, joining a rock ‘n’ roll band and hitting the club circuit. He has the chops to pull it off but said riding the rock train is “a little too risky for me.”

He isn’t even certain he will pursue music.

“I still don’t know if I even want to pursue music, because I just I don’t know how I’m going to feel about doing it as a profession as an

adult making money,” he said. “I don’t know if I want to pursue a more stable option. But I will say out of all the things I’ve tried in my 17 years, music is the thing that makes me the happiest.”

His father has advised him to “do something you want to do every day,” Lee said.

That occupation has yet to be determined, but Lee’s band director is certain of at least one thing – Lee will make an impact.

“Whatever Holt decides to do in life, whether he goes into the music field or the medical field, he will be successful, and he will change the world for the better,” Martin said.

Azle’s Game Faces

Moments captured during Azle’s 2021 football season



Alyssa Alviar

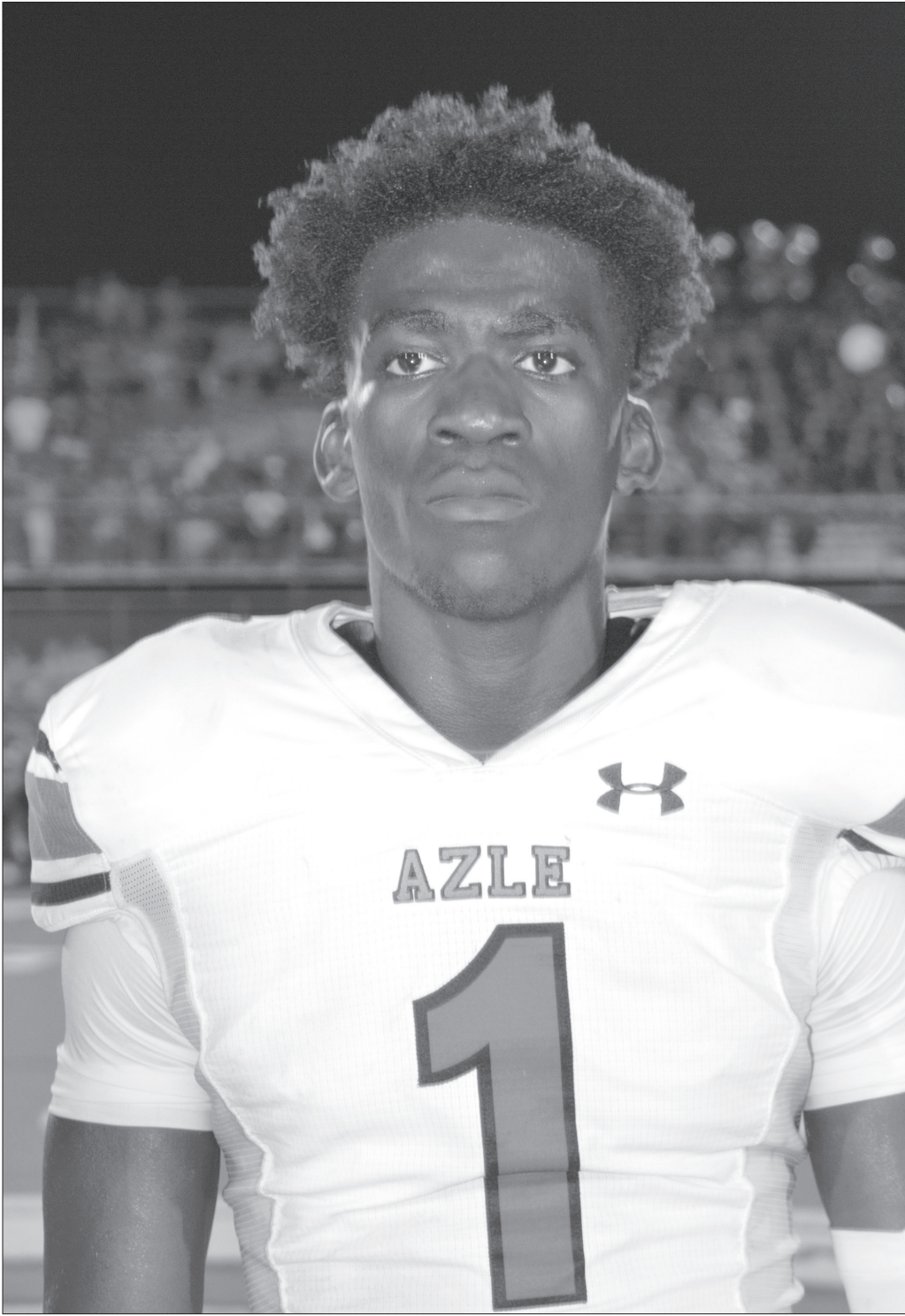


Samantha Davis



Ashlie Lewis

Photo by Jeff Prince



Bernock Iya



Drew Dorris



Isaiah Fuller



Rowdy Dawson

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Connor Bennett

Photos by Jeff Prince

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3..... Appliances 26..... Tool Rental 48... Maintenance/Repairs 71..... Sewing/Alterations
4..... Appliance Repair 27..... Excavating 49... Masonry/Stonework 72..... Sewer Service
5..... Arts/Crafts 28..... Exterminating 50... Mobile Home Service 73..... TV/Radio
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9..... Auto Repair Service 32..... Free 54..... Music Lessons 77..... Wanted
10..... Backhoe Service 33..... For Sale 55..... Miscellaneous 78..... Well Drilling
11..... Boats, Motors 34..... Furniture 56 Party Planning/Events 79..... Welding
12..... Bookkeeping 35..... Garage & 57..... Pets/Livestock 80..... Lots/Acreage
13..... Business 36..... Estate Sales 58..... Piano Service 81..... Business &
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14..... Campers/Trailers 38..... Hauling 60..... Professional 83..... RV's for Rent
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16..... Equipment Repair 40..... Health/Fitness 62..... Plumbing 85..... Mobile Homes
17..... Carpet Service 41..... Help Wanted 63..... Public Notice for Rent
18..... Catering 42..... Home Improvement 64..... Printing 86..... Mobile Home/RV Lots
19..... Cement Work 43..... House Leveling 65..... Photography for Sale
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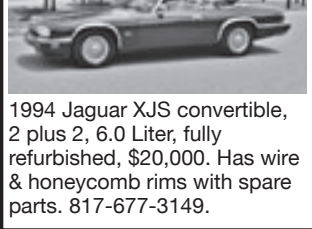
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KLEMENT

Certified Technician
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- No Job Too Small

Springtown and Surrounding Areas
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049 Masonry/Stonework



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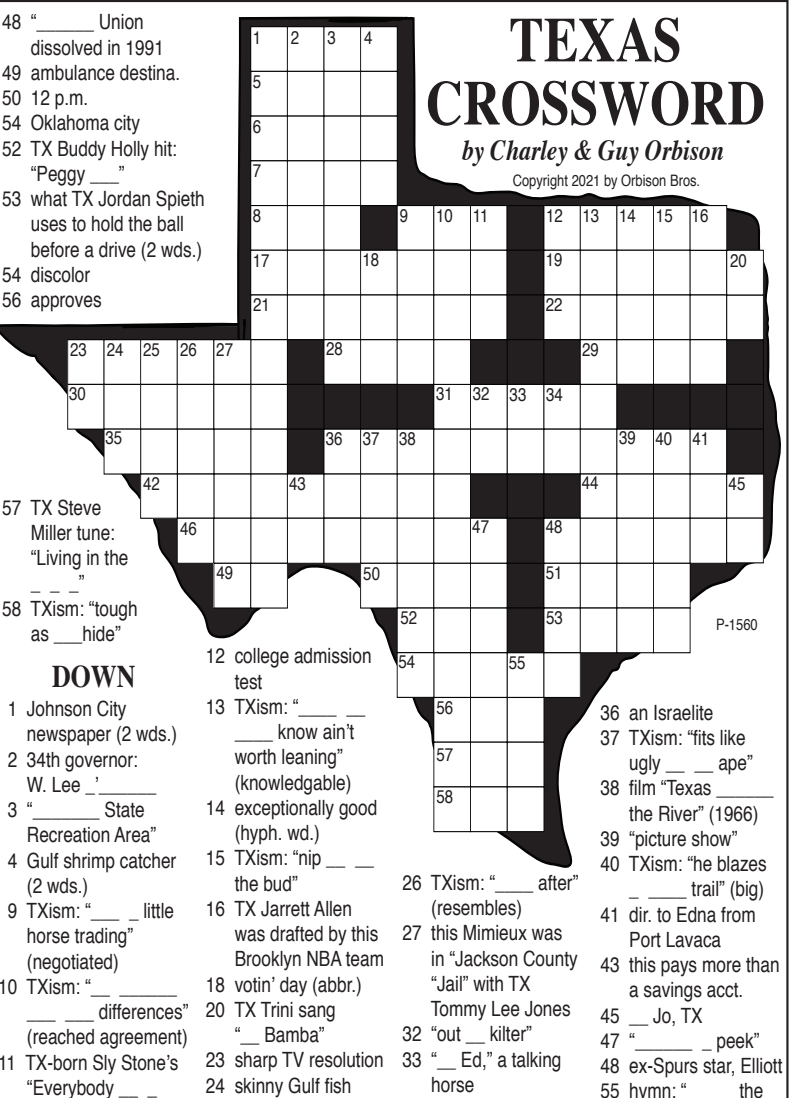
ACROSS

- on the border in Starr County
- in Concho County on U.S. 83 and 87
- "couldn't ___ less"
- TXism: "let me chew ___ awhile"
- "get ___ of" (trash)
- intoxication offense in Texas (abbr.)
- this Bernie was the first Texas Southern player to win a NBA ring
- Greek gods, e.g.
- TXism: "busier than ___ in a boomtown"
- first name of "Lady Bird" Johnson
- TX Tanya daughter Presley ___
- once the opening of Lufkin hushpuppy event: "Gentlemen, ___ 'grease"
- TXism: "it's ___ bout" (close)
- "Hamiltons"
- TX Jaclyn Smith 1985 film (2 wds.)
- TX Ann Sheridan was the "___ Girl"
- TX Alex Caruso was an L.A. ___
- she was "Sue" in TX Roy Orbison's "The Fastest Guitar Alive" (2 wds.)
- shyness
- "ups and ___"
- Austin university (2 wds.)

DOWN

- Johnson City newspaper (2 wds.)
- 34th governor: W. Lee ___
- "___ State Recreation Area"
- Gulf shrimp catcher (2 wds.)
- TXism: "___ little horse trading" (negotiated)
- TXism: "___ differences" (reached agreement)
- TX-born Sly Stone's "Everybody ___ Star" (1969)
- ___ Union dissolved in 1991
- ambulance destina.
- 12 p.m.
- Oklahoma city
- TX Buddy Holly hit: "Peggy ___"
- what TX Jordan Spieth uses to hold the ball before a drive (2 wds.)
- discolor
- approves
- college admission test
- TXism: "___ ___ know ain't worth leaning" (knowledgeable)
- exceptionally good (hyph. wd.)
- TXism: "nip ___ the bud"
- TX Jarrett Allen was drafted by this Brooklyn NBA team
- votin' day (abbr.)
- TX Trini sang "___ Bamba"
- sharp TV resolution
- skinny Gulf fish
- slightly open door

TEXAS CROSSWORD
 by Charley & Guy Orbison
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36 an Israelite
37 TXism: "fits like ugly ___ ape"
38 film "Texas the River" (1966)
39 "picture show"
40 TXism: "he blazes ___ trail" (big)
41 dir. to Edna from Port Lavaca
43 this pays more than a savings acct.
45 ___ Jo, TX
47 "___ peek"
48 ex-Spurs star, Elliott
55 hymn: "___ the Light"

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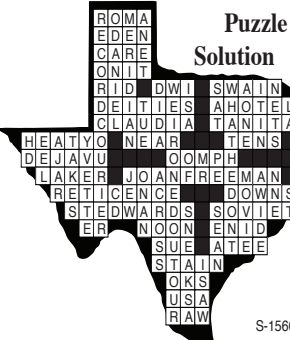
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Holiday

GIFT GUIDE 2021

Celebrate Christmas in a 'winter wonderland'



BY JESSICA MCKINNEY
azlereporter@azlenews.net

Sleigh bells ring, are you listening?

Christmas is fast approaching and with it comes the annual Christmas on Main Street celebration on Dec. 4, with the theme "Azle Winter Wonderland."

Through the end of the month, businesses along

Main Street will begin to set up their decorations for the Main Street Christmas Decorating Contest, getting the community into the holiday spirit.

Decorated trees will be set up on either end of the street — one in front of City Hall and the traditional Optimist Club Christmas tree in front

SEE **AZLE**, PAGE 2C.



Old-Fashioned Christmas is back

Performers, vendors and book sale featured

BY MADELYN EDWARDS
madelyn@azlenews.net

Springtown's Old-Fashioned Christmas will make a return this year after being canceled last year amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

The event will take place from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 11 on the Springtown square. Similar to the Wild West Festival, the event will

feature multiple vendors selling a variety of items, such as custom knives, homemade quilts and food items like jams, jellies and pickles, said Denise Taylor, city secretary and downtown coordinator.

Taylor said the event hosted 55 vendors in 2019, and as of Monday, about half of that amount have signed up for this year. About

eight food trucks have also signed up to be at the event. The deadline for vendors to sign up for booths is Dec. 2, and the application is available on the city's website.

Old-Fashioned Christmas will also feature multiple performance groups from local schools, Taylor said. The Springtown High School Showstoppers are expected to perform as well

as choir groups from the elementary schools, intermediate school, middle school and high school. A DJ has also been hired to play Christmas music during the event.

The Springtown Public Library will also host its book sale during Old-Fashioned Christmas in

SEE **SPRINGTOWN**, PAGE 8C.

Merchants ready for Christmas

BY DON MUNSCH
editor@azlenews.net

Be patient.

That was the message of a merchant in Azle as the Christmas shopping season is upon us.

"Bear with us with the supply chain," said Chase Robbins, manager of Ace Hardware. "It's been frustrating, but slowly but surely, we're getting stuff in."

Shoppers can stroll along Main Street in Azle and find items to their liking this season, ranging from clothing to handmade items, at Azle merchants, who've had to weather the storm with COVID-19 and now, to some degree, the supply chain

challenge.

Merchants in Azle and Springtown work hard to ensure that people don't have to travel far for Christmas gifts this Yuletide season.

At Springtown Flower Shop, 311 E. Highway 199, the store offers various gifts in addition to flowers. Fresh Christmas arrangements are the most popular item during the Christmas season, said co-owner Carmen Rogers, who operates the store with co-owner Judy McBryde.

"Last year, we about ran out of greenery because we were so busy," Rogers said. "I hope that's the way we are this year with that."

The store offers an array of gifts, including candles,

saucers, lotions and soaps, Myra bags and gift baskets, such as one those featuring food, such as jams and jellies. Baskets can be delivered, with a local charge of \$7.50.

"I don't have Christmas stuff yet because our Christmas greenery hasn't come in," Rogers said, noting it would be the first week of December. The greens are used to make fresh arrangements.

With the supply chain causing delays in stores keeping supplies in stock, Rogers said stocking glassware and wet foam products has been an issue.

SEE **MERCHANTS**, PAGE 2C.



Maria Schmidt stands next to some items in the Ceramic Store in Azle. Customers can paint their items or ask Schmidt to do it for them.

Photo by Don Munsch



Carmen Rogers stands next to a gift basket that Springtown Flower Shop will sell this Christmas season. The store offers local delivery.

Photo by Don Munsch



Hope's Bazaar manager Jennifer Mello, left, and Hope's Bazaar store volunteer Cely Payan relax on a bench outside the store in Azle.

Photo by Don Munsch

CHRISTMAS ON MAIN, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1C.

of the Historical Museum — awaiting the time when the holiday lights will shine bright in Azle once again.

Christmas on Main Street is being hosted by the Azle Area Chamber of Commerce, the Azle Lions Club, Azle Optimist Club, Azle Historical Museum, City of Azle Parks and Recreation and Azle News.

The Christmas fun runs from noon to 5 p.m. and will include vendor booths set up along Main Street, a Christmas Car Show outside of 404 Main Place and indoor children's activities inside 404 Main Place.

There will be more than 40 retail and food vendors set up along Main Street, welcoming holiday shoppers who are ready to "shop small and shop early" this year.

The children's festivities will begin at 2 p.m. and include cookie and ornament decorating, coloring books, cookies and cocoa, candy canes, and pictures with Santa.

The most exciting part of Christmas on Main Street is the bike giveaway, and this year will be the biggest yet with 120 bikes being given away to kids of all ages. The drawing takes place at 4 p.m. outside of 404 Main Place.

Once all of the fun winds down, everyone is invited down to the Azle Historical Museum for cookies, cider, music and Santa from 4 to 6:30 p.m. while awaiting the tree lighting and start of the annual lighted Christmas parade.

During the festivities, the



In 2020, the Optimist Club of Azle were unable to get their usual tree, so the Reeds donated a tree from their property. "That tree, grown right here in Azle, is now decorated and standing proudly in front of the Azle Historical Museum." said the Optimist Club of Azle.

Photo courtesy of Optimist Club of Azle

winners of the Azle Main Street Decorating Contest and the Parade contest will be announced in the categories of Best Overall, Most Christmas Spirit, Best Theme, "Azle Winter Wonderland," Most Creative and Best Lighted Display.

Parade winners will be presented with a trophy and sign to display on their floats.

At 6:30 p.m., Mayor Alan Brundrett will be joined by State Rep. Charlie Geren and other community leaders outside of the museum to count down for the lighting of the community

Christmas treat the museum and outside of City Hall, signaling the start of the Christmas parade.

The parade will run from outside of the museum, down Main Street and along Industrial Avenue and Central Drive before coming to an end behind the Azle ISD administration building.

If you are interested in being a vendor or parade participant, signups end Nov. 27. Contact the Azle Area Chamber of Commerce for more information at info@azlechamber.com or call 817-444-1112.

MERCHANTS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1C.



Carrie Rush shows off a shacket at her store, CRush Boutique, in Azle. Her store sells an array of women's clothing.

Photo by Don Munsch

"The earlier you order, the better, as far as flowers or anything like that," Rogers said. "You can order three weeks early if you want."

Springtown Flower Shop will be open until noon Dec. 23. Store hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday.

At the Ceramic Store at 248 W. Main St. in Azle, owner Maria Schmidt said her store has molds for everything.

"I do everything here — nothing comes from China," she said.

People special-order items for Christmas, such as Christmas trees, gnomes and cowboys, to name a few. People start ordering items for Christmas in June, Schmidt said.

Farm trucks with inserts are popular now, with an example being a classic pickup with an item in its bed, such as a Christmas tree. Special-

ty items, such as the Grinch from Dr. Seuss, rest on her shelves.

"Bring me a pattern and I can just about do anything," Schmidt said.

With the supply chain problem continuing and supply shortages, Schmidt said the only hurdle she has faced is receiving paint.

"It takes a couple of weeks longer than what it used to," she said. "But that's it. Otherwise, everything that I have on my shelves, if I was having to order at all, I wouldn't have anything on the shelves. But because I make everything here, I can get it out."

People may find something on the shelf and they can paint it themselves or ask Schmidt to do it. Schmidt's business holds classes, and at a recent class she had expected about 30 people to attend.

Store hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Sat-

urday.

At Hope's Bazaar at 141 W. Main in Azle, shoppers can peruse the store for various resale items, from clothing to jewelry to home decor. The store offers clothing from children's to teens to men's and women's. Donated furniture is kept at a warehouse off site.


The supply chain crisis is not a factor.

"In our store, everything is brought in on donations," said Jennifer Mello, store manager. "We get donations from the community, from local stores and boutiques. So it's not all just used stuff. There is some new stuff."

Last year, Albertsons donated a lot of Christmas décor, and Hope's Bazaar will sell that inventory this year, with Mello saying it will sell it cheaper than at most places. The store supports Future Hope & Healing Center,

SEE MERCHANTS, PAGE 7C.





A SAVIOUR IS BORN!

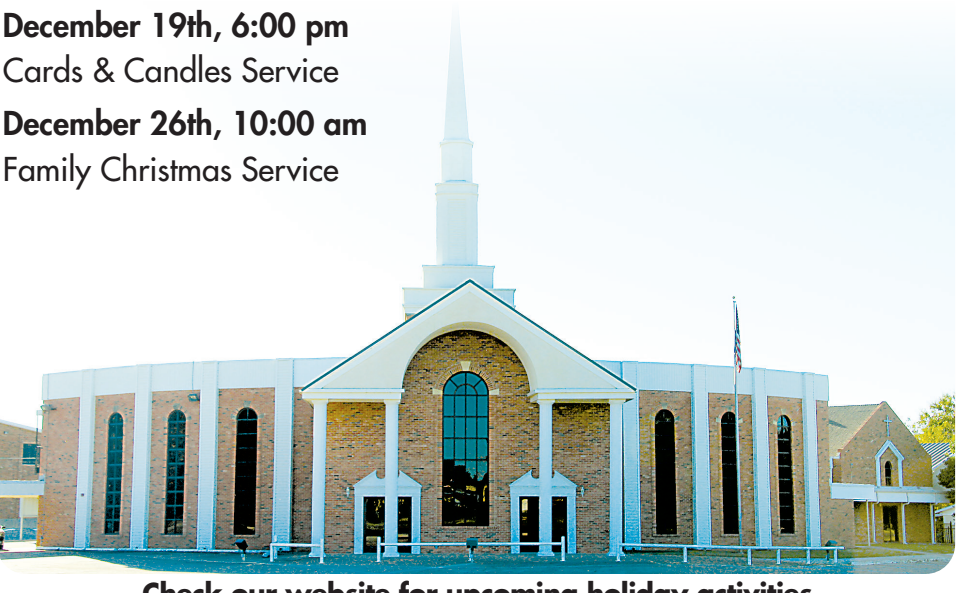
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'Tis the season for gingerbread cookies

STAFF WRITER

Tradition plays a big role during the holiday season. Food is at the center of many families' traditions, which may include big family dinners and Sunday brunches together.

Holiday baking sessions also hold a sacred spot in many households. Such sessions are a great opportunity for adults and children to have some fun in the kitchen and create some tasty treats the whole family can enjoy.

Baked goods devotees may find it hard to imagine the holidays without gingerbread, and this recipe for 'Soft Glazed Gingerbread' from Elisabeth M. Prucitt and Chad Robertson's 'Tar-

tine' (Chronicle Books) can ensure the whole family enjoys this holiday season staple.

To make the dough, stir together the flour, cocoa powder, ginger, cloves, cinnamon, baking soda, salt, and pepper in a mixing bowl. Set aside. Using a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, beat the butter on medium-high speed until creamy. Slowly add the granulated sugar and mix on medium speed until the mixture is completely smooth and soft. Stop the mixer and scrape down the sides of the bowl with a rubber spatula as needed. Add the egg and mix well.

Add the molasses and corn

syrup and beat until incorporated. Stop the mixer again and scrape down the sides of the bowl. Add the flour mixture and beat on low speed until a dough forms that pulls away from the sides of the bowl and all the ingredients are well incorporated. Remove the dough from the bowl, flatten it on a large piece of plastic wrap into a rectangle about 1 inch thick, cover the dough with the plastic wrap, and refrigerate overnight.

Preheat the oven to 350 F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper on a non-stick liner.

Unwrap the dough and place on a floured work surface. If using a plaque with a design, roll out the dough 1/3-inch thick, lightly dust the top with flour, press your cookie molds over the dough, and then cut out the shapes with a small knife and place on the prepared baking sheet, spacing them about 1 inch apart. Alternatively, using the mold as a guide, cut around it with a small knife, flip the mold over so the design is facing you, and place the dough over it, pressing it into the design. Unmold the shapes onto the prepared baking sheet, leaving about 1 inch between them.

If using a patterned rolling pin, lightly dust the lined baking sheet with flour and transfer the dough to the pan. Lightly dust the top of the dough with flour and roll it into a rectangle about 1/3-inch thick with a plain pin. Then, using the patterned



pin, roll over the dough with enough pressure to ensure a clear impression of the design. Trim the sides with a small knife. It is not necessary to cut into smaller sizes before baking.

Bake the cookies until lightly golden along the sides but still soft to the touch in the centers, 7 to 15 minutes. The timing will depend on the size of the individual cookies, or if you have made a single large patterned piece that will be cut

after baking.

While the cookies are baking, prepare the glaze. In a small bowl, whisk together the confectioners' sugar and water until smooth.

When the cookies are ready, remove from the oven and let cool in the pan on a wire rack for about 10 minutes. Then, while the cookies are still warm, using even strokes, brush a light coat of glaze on the top of each cookie, evenly covering it. Let the cookies cool

completely. When the glaze dries, it should leave a shiny, opaque finish. If you have used a patterned pin to make a single large plaque, cut into the desired sizes with a small, very sharp knife. The cookies will keep in an airtight container in a cool place for about 2 weeks. They do not freeze well, however, as the glaze becomes watery when they are thawed.

SOFT GLAZED GINGERBREAD

Yields 12 to 20 cookies

DOUGH

- 3 3/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon cocoa powder
- 4 teaspoons ground ginger
- 1 1/2 teaspoons ground cloves
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1 cup unsalted butter, at room temperature
- 3/4 cup plus 2 tablespoons granulated sugar
- 1 large egg
- 1/2 cup blackstrap or other dark molasses
- 2 tablespoons light corn syrup

GLAZE

- 1 cup confectioners' sugar
- 2 tablespoons water

Shop locally on Plaid Friday and Small Business Saturday

STAFF WRITER

What better ways to celebrate the diversity, uniqueness and creativity of independent, local businesses than by supporting them during the busiest shopping season of the year?

Plaid Friday was conceptualized in Oakland, Calif., several years ago in an effort to encourage holiday shoppers to slow down and shop locally at small businesses rather than partake

in the frenzy of the traditional Black Friday rush at big box retailers. Similarly, Small Business Saturday™ was founded by American Express in 2010 as a community-centric day to support local businesses. Small Business Saturday was the catalyst for the generalized Shop Small™ movement, which encourages consumers to patronize small businesses.

Local businesses are at

the heart of their communities. In a 2015 survey by the Urban and Land Institute, researchers found that more than half of respondents said they wanted a neighborhood where they wouldn't need a car very often. More than 40 percent specifically noted the desirability of local shopping and entertaining as main features. A neighborhood with a Main Street or thriving local shopping hub can

be a big draw. Consumers make these neighborhoods a reality.

Every time they grab a coffee from a local cafe, purchase a piece of artwork from a neighborhood artist or dine at a family-run restaurant, shoppers are supporting local business owners and strengthening their communities. Here are some ways to make shopping small a priority

this holiday season.

- Take inventory of Plaid Friday and Small Business Saturday sales by keeping up on local social media. Build holiday shopping lists around the offerings at local businesses.
- Dine out at local restaurants or shop smaller food merchants.
- Visit a local tree farm. When decorating for the holidays, support the farm

or local nursery that grows Christmas trees and makes their own wreaths and garlands.

• Keep your money in your community at a local bank or credit union rather than a large national bank. Local banks may have special promotions to boost savings for holiday gifting. The holiday season is the perfect time to support small, local businesses.

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Merry Christmas!

Toy buying tips when shopping for kids

STAFF WRITER

Shopping for gifts for kids makes many shoppers nostalgic for their own childhoods. Few adults can forget the joy of finding the perfect gift under the tree on Christmas morning. Recreating that magic for a youngster can be as joyous for gift givers as it is for kids. That's especially so when shoppers make it a point to give safe, age-appropriate gifts.

Whether shopping for their own children or their grandkids, nieces or nephews, shoppers can keep these tips in mind to ensure they give toys that are as safe as they are fun.

- **Speak to Mom and Dad first.** When buying for a grandchild, niece or nephew, shoppers should first ask Mom or Dad for suggestions. Parents will know which types of toys their children like, and they'll also know the child's level of maturity. Some kids may not be mature enough to play with otherwise age-appropriate toys, while others may be mature beyond their years and enjoy more complex toys than their age would suggest. Parents will know

what makes a good toy and what doesn't.

- **Learn what to look for on labels.** Toy labels are great sources of information, but shoppers must know what to look for. The American Academy of Pediatrics notes that toy labels include information about age-appropriateness (i.e., 'Ages 3 & Up') as well as directions regarding how to use the toy. If the instructions seem a bit complex for the child the item will be for, look for something else. Children's toy labels also include additional information that consumers may not be familiar with. For example, toys labeled 'ASTM F963' meet the latest safety standards from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. An 'ASTM D4236' label indicates the materials associated with the art toy have been reviewed and deemed safe by a toxicologist. More information about toy label requirements can be found at cpsc.gov. The AAP advises that electric toys should only be given to kids if they include the UL label. That means the toy has been certified by the global safety certification company UL, LLC.

- **Avoid certain features.** The AAP notes that toys that are loud, shoot objects into the air or contain small pieces pose a threat to children. Especially loud toys can damage children's hearing, while projectiles can increase the risk of eye injuries or choking. Toys with small pieces also pose a choking risk to young children who may try to put the pieces into their mouths.

- **Err on the side of caution.** Consumers who are uncertain about the safety of a given toy, even after reading its label, should err on the side of caution and only give toys they're confident won't pose a safety risk. Even toys that may seem safe could be dangerous to kids who might otherwise seem old enough. For example, the AAP advises against giving kids under 12 hobby kits and chemistry sets. That's because such kits may contain dangerous chemicals that even pre-adolescents are not old enough to handle safely.

Shoppers must consider a host of factors when looking for safe toys for kids this holiday season.



The most popular gift 25 years ago

STAFF WRITER

It's easy for adults to experience a little nostalgia when holiday shopping for their children. The holiday season has long been considered a special time of year, and much of that magic can be traced to the joy kids feel when unwrapping gifts from mom, dad and, of course, Santa Claus. Many parents who now have youngsters at home grew up in the 1990s. When

such moms and dads are shopping for holiday gifts this season, they might wonder what was the must-have item for them back when they anxiously awaited the arrival of Christmas morning? According to Insider.com, who worked in conjunction with the Strong National Museum of Play in Rochester, New York, 1996 was the year of 'Tickle Me Elmo.' This ticklish toy was the most sought-after item

of the 1996 holiday season, and it was so popular that retailers experienced shortages. Those shortages led to some surprising sales on the secondary market, with figures that will undoubtedly drop some jaws even now, a quarter century after the Tickle Me Elmo craze erupted. Though the Tickle Me Elmo doll retailed for around \$30 in 1996, some parents intent on getting their youngsters the most

in-demand gift that year reportedly spent more than \$1,000 on a single doll. To put that latter figure into perspective, data from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis indicates that the average price of a new car in 1996 was \$18,525. And according to Yahoo! Finance, drivers in the market for a used car in 1996 could have purchased a 1986 four-door Oldsmobile for just over \$2,600.



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Jennifer Hudman M.D., P.A.

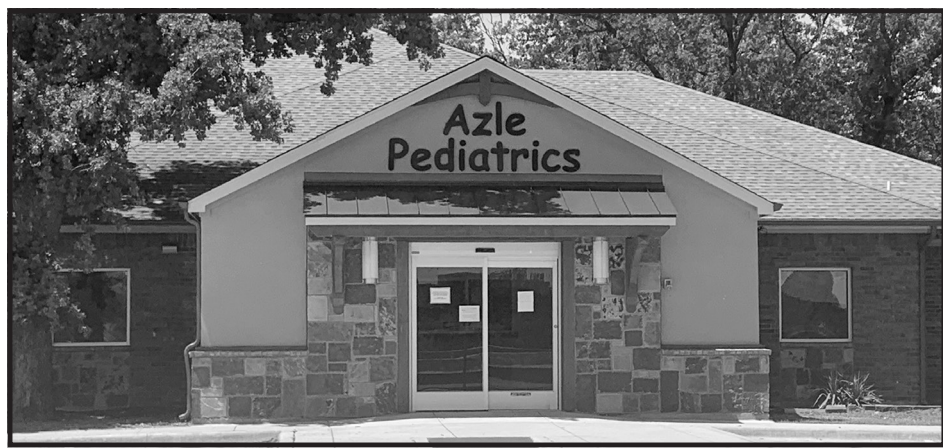
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3. Only newspaper coloring sheet will be eligible for judging. No color copies.
4. All entries must be postmarked or delivered by noon to Azle Pediatrics, 604 S.E. Parkway, Azle, Texas 76020 on Friday, Dec. 17, 2021
5. All entries become property of Azle Pediatrics.
6. Entries will be judged on neatness, use of color, creativity and overall appearance.

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 PHONE: _____



Gifts to excite the family athlete this holiday season

STAFF WRITER

Holiday shoppers know that few things can match the joy of finding the perfect gift for a loved one. Whether that loved one is a tiny tot who can't wait to unwrap this year's must-have toy or an adult hoping to find the latest gadget under the tree on Christmas morning, the thrill of giving a great gift is part of what makes the holiday season so enjoyable.

Friends and family members may fall into certain categories, and that can make holiday shopping a little easier. For example, loved ones who can't wait to sit down with a good book would no doubt appreciate a new e-reader or the latest bestseller. When it comes to gifting the family athlete, the following ideas can provide the inspiration shoppers need to put a smile on the face of fitness-minded friends and family members.

- **Weighted vest:** Weighted vests have gained popularity in recent years. Available from a variety of manufacturers and for athletes

of varying skill levels, weighted vests can be ideal for athletes who want to burn more calories and build strength during their workouts. This can be an especially useful gift for endurance athletes who want their training sessions to mimic the challenges posed by nature or difficult competitive terrains.

- **Noise-canceling headphones or earbuds:** Many athletes relish their workouts not only as opportunities to zero in on their fitness goals, but also as chances to block out distractions and clear their heads for an hour or two each day. Noise-cancelling headphones or earbuds effectively block out external noises, allowing athletes to direct all of their focus on their workouts and training sessions.

- **Energy drinks:** Though it might not seem like the most exciting gift to unwrap on Christmas morning, energy drinks are vital to many fitness enthusiasts' athletic endeavors. For example, endurance athletes may appreciate a tub of

Osmo Active Hydration Performance Drink Mix, which contains an optimal ratio of sucrose, glucose and electrolytes, helping athletes improve their endurance and power while reducing instances of cramping and fatigue. Energy drinks make for a perfect stocking stuffer.

- **Home gym equipment:** Pandemic-related gym closures turned athletes into their own personal trainers, and some may not want to return to local fitness facilities even now that they've safely reopened. Home gym equipment can help athletes continue to build their own private home gyms, making items like kettle bells, dumbbells, weight benches, and resistance bands great items to put under the tree this holiday season.

It's never been easier to shop for the family athlete during the holiday season. A heightened focus on fitness ensures there's something for every type of athlete on your holiday shopping list.



Home gym equipment can make for a great gift this holiday season.

Homemade food gifts

STAFF WRITER

Gifts from the heart are among the most coveted and appreciated come the holiday season. Hobbyists from all walks of life can turn their passions into handmade gifts, but few gifts may be as welcomed as those that can be eaten.

Cooking and baking ramps up during the holiday season. People can turn extra time in the kitchen into opportunities to create festive treats that are ideal for gifting. But which items are the best of the best? Even though tastes are singular, these items will appeal to most foodies and others on your gift list.

- **Jams and preserves:** Fruit jams and preserves are versatile foods. They are as at home on toast and biscuits as they are as fillings in cookies and tarts. Jams and

preserves can be made with relatively few ingredients and work well with seasonal fruits.

- **Cinnamon rolls:** Warm, sticky and full of aromatic spice, cinnamon rolls are the perfect comfort foods. These rolls do not typically have a long shelf life, so be sure to present them promptly before they get stale.

- **Pancakes (or cookies) in a jar:** If you have a fantastic recipe that you can't resist sharing, try turning it into a gift. Measure and package the ingredients into mason jars, tie with ribbons and include directions for preparation and cooking.

- **Mini bundt cakes:** Fruit cakes may be a holiday standard, but bundt cakes make for great and traditional offerings as well. Miniature bundts filled with chocolate chips, dried fruits or even

those soaked in a favorite boozy-butter glaze can be moist and delicious.

- **Chocolate barks or fudges:** Seasonal flavors can come to life in chocolate treats. White chocolate filled with peppermint pieces or dark chocolate and cherry chunks are tasty pairings. Break apart portions of the bark or cut the fudge with cookie cutters and gift inside cello bags tied with ribbons or in cardboard candy boxes.

- **Cocktail syrups:** Create spicy or sweet syrups that are tailor-made for enhancing cocktails. Anyone on your gift list can then become a master mixologist.

- **Shortbread cookie ornaments:** Circular shortbread cookies can be decorated with royal icing to look like Christmas ornaments. They can be eaten or even placed on trees to complete holiday

decor.

- **Festive cookie pops:** Cookie pops can be made by mixing homemade or pre-purchased crumbled cake with frosting or softened cream cheese and formed into balls. Insert a lollipop stick and dip the balls into melted chocolate or candy melts. Sprinkles, nonpareils or luster dust can be used to enhance the covered pops.

Food gifts are perfect for the holiday season. Handmade treats from the heart show loved ones how just much you care.



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Holiday gift ideas from Woodcraft for work areas, project skills and family fun

STAFF WRITER

Give family and friends who are makers holiday gifts to bring comfort and efficiency to their work areas, provide new project challenges and add some family fun for good measure. Visit your local Woodcraft store, check the Woodcraft catalog or go online at woodcraft.com to learn more about the products described here plus thousands more.

WORK IN COMFORT AND SAFETY

Bring light to any work area with the NEBO Bright 6000 Lumen LED Light. No batteries, rewiring or charging required for this powerful, energy efficient light that fits into any standard household light socket. Adjustable LED panels can be tilted 90° for light direction.

The Kreg Mobile Project Center KWS 1000 is a workbench, sawhorse, assembly table, and clamping station all in one – a versatile work space for DIY, repair and woodworking projects. It is easy to set up and folds to 6½” thick for storage.

Sharpen circular saw blades, knives of all kinds, scissors, gardening shears and loppers, lawn mower blades and more indoors or outside with the M.Power 5N1 Double-Sided Diamond File with Handle.

Frameless Pyramid Itek Safety Glasses protect the wearer’s eyes in applications and environments where a full field of vision is ideal, if not essential.

WOODBURN A GIFT AND MORE

Woodburning, also called pyrography, involves burning a pattern into wood or other material such as leather. Patterns may then be colored or otherwise embellished. Woodburning is an easy way to add your personal touch to gifts and ornaments. Learn how to make ornaments in this Woodcraft blog: <https://bit.ly/woodburnornaments>.

The Wall Lenk 10-in-1 30 Watt Woodburning Tool and Accessories make it easy to begin woodburning and can also be used for soldering, leather craft, stencil, and Styrofoam cutting.

Learn the basic woodburning concepts and tips and techniques to inspire your creativity in Learn to Burn by award-winning artist and pyrographer Simon Easton.

HANDY HELPERS FOR FINE FINISHING

Gift your favorite finisher with the Earlex Super Finish Max Sprayer that has its 450-watt motor built into the sprayer to create a self-contained HVLP system. It is ideal for custom-made furniture, cabinets, trim, spindles, craft projects, and even fences and walls. It works with oil- and water-based finishes. To learn more about this sprayer, read the blog or watch this video: <https://bit.ly/SuperFinishMax>.

To help reduce overspray, Wagner Spraytech Spray Shelters are ideal. Small shelter (2½’ x 3’ x 3¼’) and medium shelter (4’7” x 4’7” x 5’6”) each have a built-in floor. Large shelter (6’ x 9’ x 5.5’)

has no floor so use of a drop cloth underneath is recommended.

The lightweight Elipse Respirator OV/P100, available in two sizes, has an active carbon filter that makes it the perfect respirator for finishers. It is approved for paint vapors up to 5,000 parts per million, solvents, and Cyclohexene. It also offers protection against other dangerous fumes.

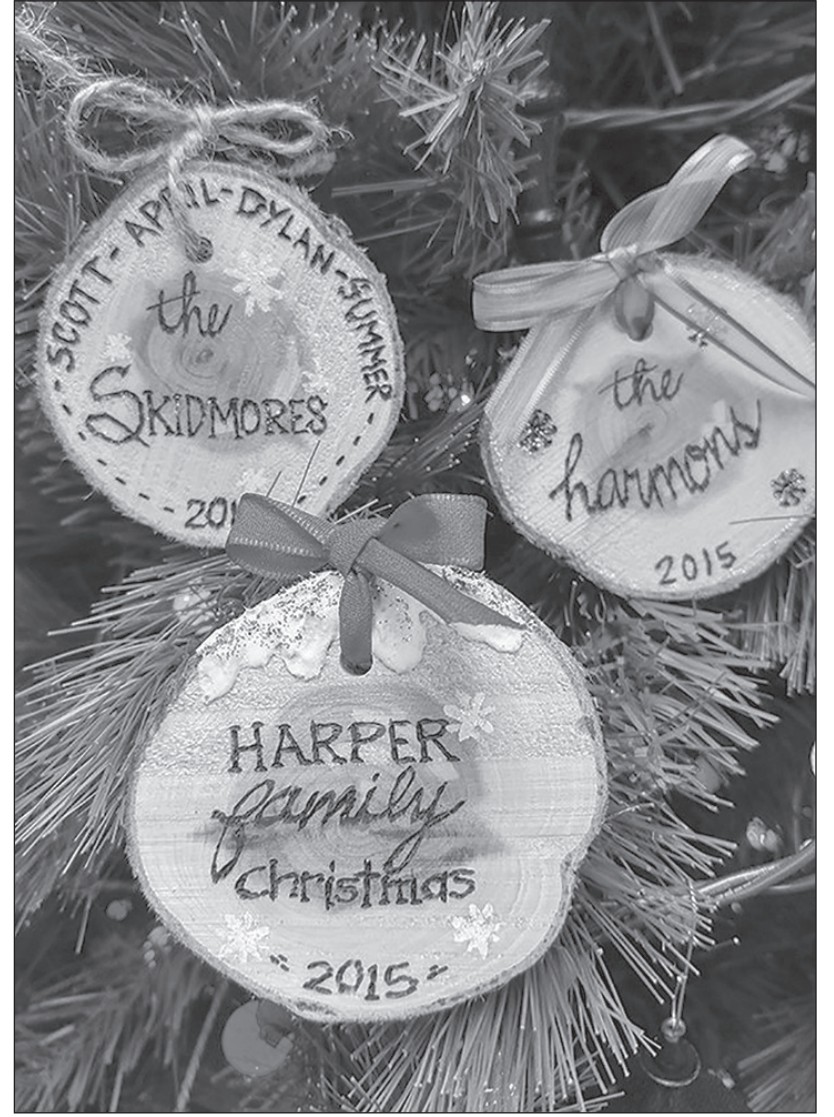
For finishing by hand, Redtree Onyx White China Bristle Brushes work for solvent-based coatings, including enamels, varnishes, urethanes, lacquers, and shellac. Redtree Brush Matey Synthetic Bristle Brushes work for water-based coatings.

Author Teri Masaschi shows how to choose, use and apply the perfect finish in Foolproof Wood Finishing, Revised Edition. Readers learn step-by-step as they work their way through 51 proven and easy-to-follow finishing exercises.

FUN FAMILY ASSEMBLY PROJECTS

SawDust Bros. Bird Feeder and Birdhouse Kits are perfect family projects to encourage birds to move into the neighborhood. Kits include precut pieces, Cedar shakes for the roof, window trim, detailed instructions, fasteners needed to complete the birdhouse or feeder, and in some cases, Plexiglas. Paint or decorate to suit any style.

PlaySTEAM Rubberband Aeroplane Science Planes Biplane and the High Wing Plane, Low Wing Plane and Seaplanes are educational kits that provide the perfect



Woodburning produced the attractive pattern on these pretty Christmas ornaments.

outdoor family project. Children age 14 and older will learn about aeronautics and physics as they assemble and fly a plane using the included booklet.

For those who like knives, the Camillus Titanium Fulgur Liner Lock Folder Blade Kit is easy to

make. Blade is made of cutlery grade stainless steel. Choose wood or man-made knife scales (sold separately) to shape, mount and finish a custom handle.

Visit your local Woodcraft store or woodcraft.com for more gift ideas and products.



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Phillips, Leslie Dawn (Artist)
Pinnacle Bank
Pinnacle Civil Services, LLC
Porch, The
Probuild Construction, Ltd.
Prosperity Bank
PurEmerald Floor Care, LLC
Purple Care
Queen Bee's Garden
Rae's Bookkeeping
Rainbow Inn Gift Shop - Texas Health Harris Azle
Ranch Cowboy Country Church, The
Ray Ivey
Reata West Apartments
Red's Burger House
Redemption Barbell
Reliable Year - Round Tax Services
Reliant Energy-Kiesha Mosley
Resource Lighting, LLC.
Rhino Waste Removal
Rockwell American
Ronnie Feemster
Roofing Reimagined
Rothenberger, Rouel
Roys Barber & Style Shop
RS Roofing
Rural Gas Supply
S. Grace Neal, Neal Legal, P.C.
Safe Harbor Counseling Center, Inc.
Salon Galleria
Segue Health Partners
Select Construction, LLC
Senator Jane Nelson
Sent Mortgage
Servolution Network
Servpro of West Fort Worth

Sharp Tile & Flooring Services
Sign Gypsies Azle
Silva's Insurance Agency
Silver Creek United Methodist Church
Silver Dollar Customs
SKC Designz LLC dba The Skinny Armadillo Printing Co.
Smokey T's BBQ
Son Shine Ministries
Sonic Drive In - Azle
Sorrells Custom Homes
Sorrow Family Insurance
South Estates Realty
Southern Honey Giftique
Southwestern Comfort Air and Heat LLC.
SporTherapy Azle
Springtown Silver Sales
Stacey's Mobile Notary Services
State Representative Glenn Rogers
Sterling Smiles of Azle
Steve's Notary Service
Stonewall Center
Stoney Ridge Villa
Surepoint Emergency Center Azle
Sutton Printing Company
Tarrant County College NW Campus
Tarrant Regional Transportation Coalition
Taxpros
Texas Classic Insurance
Texas Designer Flooring, LLC
Texas Electric and HVAC
Texas Farm Bureau Insurance
Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Azle
Texas Karate Institute Select
Texas Plumbing Repair 24/7
Texas Turbine, Inc
The Cut- Azle
The Edge Church Azle
The Old Liberty Schoolhouse
The Orchard Event Venue & Retreat
The Red Arrow Group, LLC
The Shaken Baby Alliance
The Wrex - A CoWorking Space
The Word @ Lakeside
The Working Cup
Timco Plumbing
Tommy's Shop
Tri-County Electric Cooperative
Triple M Storm Shelters, LLC
Trophy RX Pharmacy
Troy Byron - Integrity Financial Group
Tuula Westlake-Forward Contracting
Tyler A. Harden, Attorney, P.C./Stewart Title
Upbring Head Start
Upper Trinity Groundwater Conservation District
Verlux Homes
Victory Christian Center
Wal-Mart
Weatherford Chamber of Commerce
Wells Wrecker Service
Werry Theory
Whataburger, Inc.
WHCO Controls
White Beard's BBQ
White's Funeral Home
Wise Ready Mix Inc.
Workforce Solutions - Weatherford
XTO Energy Inc.
Young Sprouts Creative Learning Center, LLC

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MERCHANTS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2C.

which helps victims of domestic violence.

The store features a number of items, so Mello said there wasn't one item that sells better than any other else.

"More and more people are starting to learn about us, so they're starting to donate a lot more, so we're getting a lot more items in that can be Christmas gifts at a very low price," she said.

Eventually, a space in the store will be rented for vendors, Mello said. The store is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday.

Across the street at CRush Boutique, 142 W. Main, which sells a variety of clothing, owner Carrie Rush said she expects shackets – a shirt/jacket combination – will be popular this Christmas season. Women's clothing and accessories can be found at the store. Rush anticipates a good Christmas season.

"I'm noticing people are getting back out there to try to help the small businesses, the local small businesses," she said.

Small Business Saturday arrives Nov. 27.

"We get a lot of people that come out just to support us, and they want to do some of their Christmas shopping early," Rush said.

The height of the pandemic was a scary time, Rush said, but it prompted regular customers who would call Rush to help her business.

"That was just Azle for you," she said fondly.

The store will do special ordering, Rush said. T-shirts sell well each Christmas season.

Regarding the supply chain, she said people should order or buy early for something they especially want, because she can see there could be delays. For something she would normally stock, she said if something is unavailable, she said will move on to ordering something else.

Her store is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday.

At Laura's Pharmacy, 232 W. Main St., owner Laura Temple said the hot Christmas-related item is the toy line from Melissa & Doug. The company makes an array of toys, including those made of wood, and they trigger especially nostalgia about toys of yesteryear, said Temple.

Apart from mentioning the toys, Temple predicts her store will win the Winter Wonderland Main Street competition. The store is open from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday.

Away from Main Street, Ace Hardware was awaiting Christmas lights, which are popular, obviously. Robbins said the store hadn't received them in early November because of supply chain issues.

When were they ordered? "March," Robbins said.

Lots of other items besides lights have been hard to stock, he said, including anything from overseas, such as spray paint.

Power tools are a huge Christmas gift for customers, he said, along with Traeger Grills. EGO items, lawn equipment machines that are battery powered, are the big brand at Ace.

"It's really the game-changer now," he said about the battery-operated equipment, noting that trimmers, chain saws and blowers are some of the other items. Gifts cards are available at the store.

Micro headlamps, among other items, also are popular. The store, at 505 N. Stewart St., is open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday.

Shoppers can find Christmas lights at Hometown Building Centers in Springtown, 409 E. Highway 199. Shoppers also can find other Yuletide and non-Christmas items as well. An 8-foot children's stocking full of items hangs in the front of the store. Customers can sign up to win the stocking, with the drawing coming in a week.

Store manager Toni Whitten said the store is gearing up for winter,



Laura Temple stands next to some Melissa & Doug toys at her store, Laura's Pharmacy, in Azle.

Photo by Don Munsch

which means pipe insulation, pipe protection and heat bulbs will be demand.

With the supply chain causing delays, she said the store goes through different vendors to ensure they get everything they can. The store can special order items, and if customers can find an item in the store, they can go to the company website and order it there and free shipping is provided to the store. Store hours are 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday.

Back on Main Street in Azle, Marie Kisner, who operates Ain't That Something, said her store offers Christmas décor, wreaths and other items. The store sells a "little bit of everything," Kisner said, including car fresheners, jewelry, vintage records, furniture and handmade items, from wood to metal to brick.

"Personalized gifts are kind of our specialty, or just unique items that you're not going to find most any other place," she said. "And

it's not stuck on a truck or on a ship in China."

She said she ordered bags in July and they arrived in November, so the store has been recycling bags and receiving donations of bags.

"We try to keep our prices down because it's Azle, and so far, the wood has gone up a little bit and the metal has gone up a bit, but besides that, we're still at the same prices we were in 2019," she said.

The store, at 341 W. Main, is open 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday.

People do purchase furniture at Christmas-time, said Judy Ray, owner of Highland Furniture in Springtown, 133 E. 1st St.

The furniture people buy covers every room of the house, from the dining room to the bedroom to the living room. The store has been open for 31 years.

"Absolutely. I sell off the floor," she said, responding to a question about whether the supply chain has been an issue. "I'll special order,

but I'm not promising when it will come in."

Store hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday.

Slice Dessert Bar, located at 151 W. Main Street in Azle and 417 E. Highway 199, Suite 5, in Springtown, sells made-from-scratch cupcakes, cakes and pies. Some pies and cakes can be purchased by the slice. Alex Jones, manager of the Azle store, said pies are popular, including the chocolate pecan pies. Whole cheesecakes are popular, too, this Yuletide season.

"We've had a lot of orders for those," he said.

Carrot cake also ranks among the popular items at Christmas. The store sells out of cupcakes each day. Slice accepts special orders. Gift cards are available. The store is open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. in Azle and 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. in Springtown. Tuesday through Saturday. For more information on Slice, access slicedessertbar.com.

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SPRINGTOWN, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1C.

the annex building across the street from city hall at the corner of Main Street and Second Street. Library director Andie D'Avignon said the library hasn't been able to have a book sale since the last one was canceled during the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. The book sale funds the library's children's programs.

Though there's no way to get an accurate head count of the event, Taylor said hundreds of people visit Old-Fashioned Christmas throughout the day, and she guessed 800-900 usually attend.

Residents are welcome to come out to the event to have a good time and support local events, Taylor said.

"It's a good place to do Christmas shopping local, and you're helping your local economy along with your fellow Springtown residents that come and display their wares," she said. "You can come and see some really good entertainment."



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