

Thursday, May 6, 2021

# The Springtown Epigraph

## Man breaks into Reno home, assaults woman

### Flees when woman attacks back with wooden stick

A Springtown man was arrested Monday, May 3, after breaking into a Reno home and attacking a woman.

Brian Earl Campbell, 45, broke into the home of his former girlfriend, who was asleep at the time, and began attacking her, according to Reno police.



Brian Earl Campbell

intersection of Sandy Lane and South Reno Road.

Police recognized the man as being a fugitive with existing felony arrest warrants for similar offenses that occurred in February and April.

Campbell was arrested and taken to John Peter Smith hospital where he was treated for his injuries before being taken to Parker County Jail.

Campbell was being held Tuesday on bonds totaling \$16,151 for existing warrants (burglary of a habitation, continuous violence against a family member) and for burglary of a habitation, continuous violence against a family member, failure to appear/bond jumping and for driving on the wrong side of a divided highway.

Neighbors who witnessed the event told police they heard the woman screaming and saw Campbell pull her into the house.

During the attack, the woman grabbed a large wooden stick and started hitting Campbell on his head so he ran away, police said.

Reno police, assisted by Springtown officers and Parker County deputies, located the man at the in-

## Mid-year budget on track for Springtown

BY SUSAN McFARLAND  
sptreporter@azlenews.net

City financials are on track and on budget despite a challenging year and damages suffered in the winter storm.

Springtown City Council held a workshop and special meeting April 29 to discuss mid-year budget adjustments and funding options for infrastructure improvement projects.

Beverly Griffith, deputy city administrator, discussed the operating budget for fiscal year 2020-2021 and said revenue in the general fund was above what was forecasted as sales tax continues to come in strong, permits have made budget for the year, and fees and other areas such as the library are doing better than expected.

"From a revenue side, we are doing very well," Griffith said.

"On the expenditure side, almost all departments are under budget."

As of March 31, revenue in the general fund was \$2.17 million and expenditures were \$1.42 million. The projected year-end revenue is set at \$3.38 million with expenditures at \$2.89 million.

The water and sewer fund is on budget as well, despite increased expenditures due to the winter storm.

The enterprise fund as of March 31 had revenues of \$960,502, less expenses of \$822, 533 leaving \$137, 969 in the fund. The projected year-end revenue is set at \$2 million with expenses expected at \$1.98 million.

"Based on all of this, I am not going to recommend any formal budget adjustments," Griffith said.

Griffith also gave council an update on capital improvements

that have an estimated cost of \$6.3 million.

The program scope includes upgrading the sewage treatment plant capacity to 1.5 million gallons per day, pump station improvements, pipeline assessment, purchasing generators for water treatment facilities and city hall, removal of the lift station and re-locating sewer lines, SH 51 street lights and wastewater plant improvements.

Sources of funding for the project is Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) certificates of obligation series 2017 (\$1.32 million), and certificates of obligation series 2021 (\$2.5 million), authorized by council in February, leaving \$2.47 million to be funded.

Griffith said further sources of

SEE SPRINGTOWN, PAGE 4A.

## SISD drops mask/social distancing requirements at indoor events

BY SUSAN McFARLAND  
sptreporter@azlenews.net

Masks and social distancing will no longer be required at indoor events and activities (including extra-curricular activities) at Springtown Independent School District. Mask mandates at all outdoor events and activities had previously been lifted.

The district's board of trustees approved the change of procedures during their April 26 meeting.

Superintendent Mike Kelley

said the proposal stemmed from a desire to allow visitors to attend end-of-year ceremonies.

Trustees also voted to cancel final exams for high school students.

Kelley said cancelling final exams is a product of having quite a few virtual students and testing environments that are not all equal.

"As final exam grades are a significant portion of the overall average for a class, we believe cancelling the exams may help ensure a more even playing field," Kelley

said.

In a memo from Kelley to trustees, the superintendent said the district's leadership team, while reviewing the academic handbook, had discussed the impact semester exams have on grade averages at the secondary campus.

"Several expressed concern about the level of confidence we could or should have regarding the validity and fairness of high-stakes tests we are unable to adequately proctor," Kelley said.

SEE SISD, PAGE 4A.

## Springtown sailor completes Navy career



Lt. Tori Moffitt performs her final salute as she is "piped ashore" at a ceremony held March 11, honoring her in retirement following a 27-year career in the U.S. Navy.

STORY ON PAGE 3A

Photo released by U.S. Navy, courtesy Rebecca Burke Shaw

## New mayor chosen for Reno

Voters agree on tax increase for emergency services, say no to school upgrades

BY SUSAN McFARLAND  
sptreporter@azlenews.net

Reno has a new mayor, Parker County Emergency Services District No. 1 will receive more money to pay for upgrades and new firefighters, but the majority of voters did not support the Springtown Independent School District's bond election.

According to unofficial results for the May 1 election, 307 voters cast a ballot for a mayor in Reno, the Parker County ESD1 proposition drew 4, 448 voters and 1,276 people voted in the Springtown ISD bond election.

### RENO

In Reno, four people were on the ballot for mayor, being vacated by Eric Hunter, who first won election to the seat in 2017 after serving several terms as a council member.

Of the votes cast, Sam White took a significant lead ahead of the other candidates, garnering 196 votes. Roen Cox received 56 votes, Granville (Randy) Martin III received 49 votes and Gilbert Morrow had six people vote for him.

Unopposed Reno council members Hernando (Hern) Herrera and Kathleen (Katie) Tucker received 237 and 238 votes respectively.

White said he wanted to thank the citizens of Reno for coming out to vote and including those who supported him.

"I am looking forward to working with the citizens of Reno and excited about being a part of this team," White said. "I am ready to lead us into the next generation of growth, as things are going to change."

White said he wishes for more community involvement as the

city grows.

"We still need to keep it country living," he said, referring to the slogan, "country living to community driven."

White's strategy while campaigning was to have small meet-and-greet events to work directly with citizens and hear their input.

White has been in the area since 1978 and moved to Reno over a year ago. He has been married 25 years and has five children, 10 grandchildren and one great grandchild. He has more than 30 years of management and leadership experience ranging from infrastructure needs and project management to large budget accountability, according to a candidate response submitted to *The Springtown Epigraph*.

His goal for Reno is to help manage the growth including budgetary accountability while maintaining the country envi-



Sam White Photo courtesy Sam White

ronment that Reno was built on. White also wants to diversify power options to water supplies and implement a more in-depth emergency management plan.

### PARKER COUNTY ESD1

By passing the Parker County

SEE ELECTION, PAGE 5A.

Volume 58,  
Number 5

\$1.00

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# Dispatcher receives two awards for active shooter call

Parker County Sheriff Russ Authier presented Parker County Dispatch Telecommunicator Ricky Huff with two awards for Telecommunicator of the Year for his quick actions and ability to remain calm during a 911 active shooter call.

Huff received the North Central Texas Council of Governments Regional Telecommunicator of the Year Award along with the State Telecommunicator of the Year Award from the National Emergency Number Association.

Authier said Huff was employed with Springtown Police at the time of the incident and came to work for the Parker County Sheriff's Office in November 2020.

Sheriff Authier said Huff, 19, was a new dispatcher, taking the initial call 11 minutes after his shift began June 9, 2020. Huff took the call at 6:11 p.m. referencing a domestic disturbance call in the 800-block of Harris Road in Springtown, where the call quickly escalated to an active shooter resulting in a murder/suicide, requiring Hall to dispatch a multi-agency response including Parker County Regional Special Weapons and Tactics Team, sheriff's deputies, officers from Springtown and Reno Police agencies as well as Texas Department of Public Safety state troopers.

Once Huff had all units enroute, he notified all deputies and officers of the suspect's location and that he was armed.

"Ricky remained on the line with the caller obtaining as much information as possible for all law enforcement officers," Authier said.

The caller informed Huff that she was hiding from the suspect as he maintained his composure, making multiple attempts to calm the caller and get her to escape the residence. Huff heard the suspect enter the room, confront the caller and heard a single gunshot before the call disconnected. The suspect then began shooting at officers on scene, striking



Ricky Huff (l) and Parker County Sheriff Russ Authier  
Photo courtesy PSCO

and injuring several law enforcement officers.

Huff continued to remain calm making continual status reports with all law enforcement personnel for personal safety checks and dispatching additional emergency personnel to the scene.

Authier said during an active shooter call it is vital to every deputy on scene for the telecommunicator to remain focused.

"Every dispatcher is aware of the seriousness of the scenes they are sending their law enforcement officers into," said Authier. "Regardless of the unseen danger, they must remain calm because they are the first lifeline for every deputy and emergency responder. Ricky is definitely deserving of this award. No one could have expected a more calm and collected, professional performance from even a veteran dispatcher."

Huff was nominated by Springtown Police Sgt. Jason Cobb, who wrote a nomination

letter to the North Central Texas Council of Governments which in turn, submitted it to the National Emergency Number Association about Huff's actions stating, "Throughout this incident Ricky displayed the highest levels of professionalism and composure despite the unsettling nature of the events that unfolded," Cobb wrote. "Professionally handling a call of this nature as efficiently as Ricky did would be a challenge for even the most seasoned telecommunicators officers, but factoring in his age and level of experience makes Ricky's performance all the more impressive."

Authier echoed Cobb's nomination as he presented the award to Huff this week stating, "We are so very proud to have you on our team, Ricky. Your actions and abilities saved lives that day. You are an asset to the sheriff's office and all agencies under our telecommunications umbrella."

# Sheriff promotes Matthew Fox to CID investigator

Parker County Sheriff Russ Authier announced the promotion of Deputy Matthew Fox to investigator with the Criminal Investigations Division.

Fox was born in Louisiana. His family moved to North Texas where he was raised. He is proud to be a second-generation law enforcement officer, according to a Parker County Sheriff's Office news release.

Fox attended Dallas Police Academy. Once he earned his peace officer certification, he joined the patrol ranks in the Dallas Police Department, serving for three years. He also worked as a patrol deputy for the Iron County Sheriff's Office and as a federal law enforcement officer for the U.S. Forest Service Law Enforcement and Investigations for two years.

Fox attended the Federal Academy Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) in Glynco, Georgia in 2017, earning his certifications in Land Management Police Training and the drug enforcement training program. Fox earned his bachelor's degree in Government Security Management from American Military University Charleston, West Virginia 2018.

Fox is a proud U.S. Army veteran, where he served as a sniper second leader from 2006 until 2012. He continued his military service after an honorable discharge by joining the Army National Guard as a forward observer until 2018.



Inv. Matthew Fox (l) with Parker County Sheriff Russ Authier  
Photo courtesy PSCO

Fox returned to Texas to raise his family, joining the Parker County Sheriff's Office in November, 2020.

Fox is a family man who cares deeply for his family and community. He has been married to his wife, Meagan for 15 years. Together, they have two young boys.

He has a heart for volunteering with the Toys for Tots program, serving children during Christmas. Fox also enjoys riding motorcycles with his wife and spending time with his family at gatherings in his spare time.

"I enjoy serving my community and making it a better place for my family and those around me through my service and volunteer efforts," Fox said.

Fox's new position with the Parker County Sheriff's

Criminal Investigations Division will involve investigating assigned cases ranging from animal cruelty and murders to burglaries and thefts, focusing on identity thefts and fraud cases.

"I am looking forward to my new position in hopes of contributing to Parker County through my service by protecting our rights and investigating fraud and thefts," he said.

Authier said Fox's training and law enforcement background will aid the agency and the Criminal Investigations Division.

"Matthew has been an asset to the sheriff's office in patrol," Authier said. "He has a passion for investigations, and we are confident in his abilities as our newest criminal investigator."

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# PCSO offering special needs decals for vehicles and residences

Parker County residents with special needs family members will now be able to put a sticker on their car alerting police or emergency responders that someone in the vehicle may not fully understand what is happening.

Parker County Sheriff Russ Authier made a public service announcement April 28 regarding the vehicle stickers, which are red and yellow and state, "ATTENTION, A special needs person may be in this vehicle, be aware that simple commands may not be understood."

Authier said the stick-

ers are free to the public and can be picked up at the Parker County Sheriff's Office, 129 Hogle Street, in Weatherford, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"We are making these stickers available to Parker County citizens who may have a family member, or loved one, who may not be able to understand simple commands the way we do during a traffic stop or emergency response situation," the sheriff said.

Authier said the stickers were made in hopes of alerting first responders when a person has difficulty com-

municating due to medical or mental issues when they make contact with a special needs individual who may not be able to communicate with law enforcement about their medical condition.

"It can assist our deputies when making contact with that individual who may be diabetic, hearing impaired, who may have dementia, Alzheimer's, Autism or Asperger's Syndrome or any type of cognitive disability," Authier said. "The inability to communicate with law enforcement may be the difference in obtaining emergency medical assistance in a vehicle crash,

medical or mental health episode, or even a traffic stop. We want to ensure the public that we are making every effort to educate our deputies with the newest technology and training available. We need the public's assistance in helping our staff recognize citizens who may not be able to relay that information in emergency situations."

Authier said placing a sticker on your car is a voluntary task and that telecommunications will keep a log for the data system of those who wish to be placed on the log.

"To receive a decal you



Photos courtesy PCSO

are not required to submit your vehicle's license plate or description," Authier said. "That is solely at the discretion of the vehicle owner."

Also available, stickers for homes that state, "ATTENTION, A special needs

person may be in this residence, be aware that simple commands may not be understood."

Authier wished to thank Anne and Darren Carbone from ACDC Banners, Signs, Decals & Designs for providing the decals at their cost.

# Springtown sailor completes Navy career

Springtown native Lt. Tori Moffitt retired from the U.S. Navy on April 1, following 27 years of honorable service to her nation and plans to return home to Texas in the coming months.

A 1994 graduate of Springtown High School, Moffitt, daughter of Vicky Brown, enlisted in the Navy and reported to boot camp in Orlando, Florida, immediately following graduation. She began her career as a machinist's mate, but joined the naval oceanography community by transitioning to the rate of aerographer's mate in 1998.

Over the 17 years of her enlisted career, she completed numerous tours around the world, both at sea and

ashore, including four ship deployments in support of Operations Southern Watch, Iraqi Freedom, Global War on Terrorism, and Continuing Promise, and a shore-side deployment in Djibouti, Africa, in support of Joint Task Force Horn of Africa.

Moffitt says her greatest career accomplishment was selection to serve on the Joint Presidential Weather Support Unit for President George W. Bush from 2005 to 2008, after which she was promoted to the rank of U.S. Navy Chief.

In 2011, Moffitt was commissioned as a naval officer after selection to and completion of Limited Duty Officer school in Newport, R.I. In the decade that followed, she

served in various leadership capacities, but says she is most proud of her time serving in Key West, Florida, as the maritime operations meteorologist for Joint Interagency Task Force South, the Presidential task force for counter-narcoterrorism.

From 2017 until her retirement, Moffitt was stationed at Stennis Space Center in southern Mississippi, and most recently served as staff security manager for Commander, Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command. Though she retired before officially promoting, she was selected for the rank of Lt. Cmdr. in 2020.

Throughout her career, Moffitt has remained focused on continuing her

education by completing a certification in operational meteorology in 2005 and then bachelor's degree in geoscience in 2008 from Mississippi State University, followed by a master's degree in environmental policy from University of Maryland University College in 2015, and an Executive Master of Business Administration in leadership from Liberty University in 2020.

Upon her return to Texas later this year, she plans to continue her education and begin her next career by studying American Sign Language interpretation and enrolling in the emergency medical technician program at Tarrant County College in Fort Worth.

# LOCAL ARRESTS

The following individuals were arrested by Springtown Police Department or list addresses in Springtown and were arrested by various law enforcement agencies on felony and/or DWI charges April 28-May 2.

**Faith Alexandra Hamilton**, 57, was arrested April 28 for possession of a con-

trolled substance less than 1 gram in Penalty Group 1, a state-jail felony.

**William Robert Jordan**, 48, was arrested April 30 for possession of a controlled substance between 1 and 4 grams in Penalty Group 1, a second-degree felony.

**Cameron Edward Dowell**, 27, was arrested May 2 for driving while intoxicated.

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

funding could come from additional certificates of obligation (\$776,391), funding from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (\$695,544), and federal allocation of funds (\$1 million).

Next steps include bringing a resolution to the May 27 city council meeting for intent to issue certificates of obligation, publications in the newspaper June 10 and 24, awarding the sale of

certificates of obligation in July with proceeds arriving to the city in August.

Council members also executed a contract with Pacheco Koch Consulting Engineers, Inc. to process an application with Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to apply water treatment residuals to land.

City Administrator David Miller said the two lagoons at the water treatment plant

fill up rapidly and it costs the city about \$60,000 per year to regularly pump the ponds.

Miller said the city currently has about 20 acres of land next to the water treatment plant which could be used for discharge if the TCEQ application is approved.

"If we get this approved, this will save a lot of money," Miller said. "It makes good financial sense."

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

"Given that some of the students might be completing tests at home while others test in a classroom environment, we believe it would be in the best interest of all parties that the requirement to administer semester/final exams be suspended this spring."

Students enrolled in dual credit courses will follow the grading guidelines and procedures published by the college or university awarding the credit.

Trustees also conferred

on the bond proposal, including a discussion regarding Maximum Compressed Tax Rate (MCR).

Kelley noted that Senate Bill 2 from the 2019 Texas legislative session provided property tax relief expectations and that the district's maintenance and operations (M&O) tax rates would be compressed.

"This process began last year, and further reductions to our tax rates will be driven by increased taxable property values in the dis-

trict," he said.

Assuming school funding laws don't change this session and taxable property values increase, the district's total tax rate will be reduced by at least 8 cents - 6 or more cents on M&O side, and about 2 on the Interest & Sinking (I&S) side, Kelley said.

"Should the bond proposal be approved, I&S rates would climb enough to pay off the new debt," Kelley said.

**PARKER COUNTY INDICTMENTS**

Parker County Grand Jury indicted the following residents April 23.

**Enrique Guerra**, 18, was indicted on charges of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, a first-de-

gree felony.

**Zachary Jacob Smith**, 31, was indicted on charges of possession of a controlled substance less than 1 gram in Penalty Group 1, a state-jail felony.



Guerra



Smith

**PCSO mourns death of patrol captain**

Parker County Sheriff's Office on Wednesday announced the loss of Reserves Patrol Capt. Gary Beavers.

Sheriff Russ Authier said Beavers was an exemplary deputy who served his fellow deputies and the citizens of Parker County for 44 years.

"He was the instrumental leader of our reserve unit," Authier said. "He was respected and valued among his fellow deputies and peers."

Beavers always had a smile on his face, no matter the obstacles he and his unit faced. He performed his duties cheerfully and had a gift for making others smile, Authier said.

Beavers began his reserve law enforcement service at the Parker County Sheriff's Office in May 1977, before Texas mandates required a peace officer's certification. Once state mandates were necessary, Beavers soon obtained his peace officer's certification by voluntarily attending the police academy. He quickly moved through the ranks of the Parker County Sheriff's Office, serving as reserve patrol lieutenant and earned the rank of captain in 2006.

Beavers was always eager to volunteer working the Peach Pedal, Ride for Heroes, Aledo Christmas



Reserves Patrol Capt. Gary Beavers

Photos courtesy PCSO

Festival, rodeos, many law enforcement fundraisers and community events.

Close friend and current reserve patrol Lt. Rick Campbell said Beavers was a monumental figure in the lives of every deputy who served with him and under him.

"He had some pretty amazing stories over the course of serving more than 40 years," Campbell said. "He mentored every deputy. Many who served under him went on to choose a career path in law enforcement. He touched so many people's

lives. The Reserves Unit was actually a ministry for him."

Campbell said Beavers was a pillar in the North Side Baptist Men's Ministry group, recalling when Beavers invited him and his wife to attend church, soon becoming members themselves.

Authier said Beavers will always be a part of the sheriff's office.

"He led our deputies with integrity and by his heart," Authier said. "He will be sorely missed at the sheriff's office, not just as a captain, but also as a true friend."

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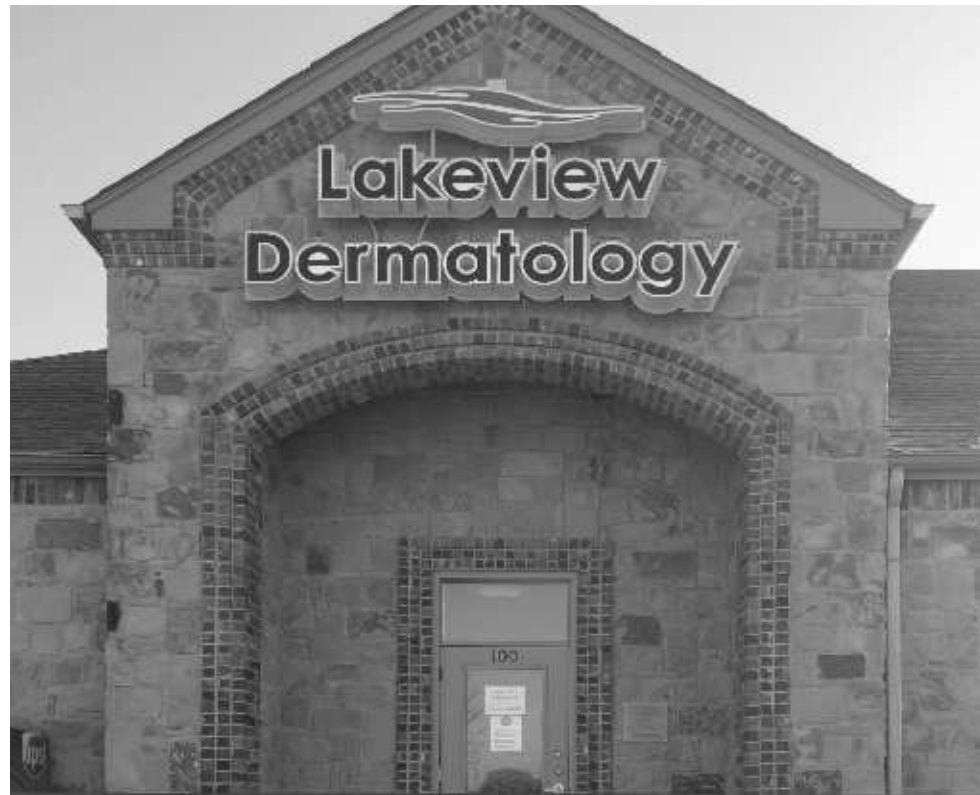
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Lakeview Dermatology is the culmination of Dr. Matthew Mittelbronn's dream of opening his own practice. They opened their doors in 2019 and have been providing service to area residents ever since.

"Lakeview Dermatology provides personalized, comprehensive skin care for residents of Lake Worth, Azle, Springtown, and surrounding areas. We welcome patients of all ages. Our clinic specializes in medical and surgical dermatology, and offers a wide range of cosmetic services as well."

Dr. Mittelbronn is well versed at treating common skin conditions such as acne and eczema, and he also has extensive experience treating skin cancer and complex skin disorders.

Matthew Mittelbronn, MD studied engineering at the University of Texas in Austin before pursuing a career in medicine. He obtained his Doctor of Medicine degree at Louisiana State University before completing a residency in dermatology at Tulane University School of Medicine.

After marrying his college sweetheart, Dr. Mittelbronn and his wife returned to Texas, practicing dermatology in Temple before settling in Fort Worth. Dr. Mittelbronn served as the head of the dermatology

department at John Peter Smith Hospital before leaving to pursue his dream of opening Lakeview Dermatology.

Lakeview Dermatology offers services that involve the treatment of all aspects of the skin, hair and nails. These can include common conditions like acne and rosacea, to more rare skin conditions such as lupus and blistering disorders.

"Surgically, we treat various skin cancers, including basal and squamous cell carcinoma, superficial melanoma and dysplastic moles, as well as a variety of benign lesions like skin cysts and lipomas."

Lakeview Dermatology also offers cosmetic services such as Botox, Juvederm, chemical peels, laser facial rejuvenation, rosacea, hair and tattoo removal, and vascular lesions, among others.

Lakeview Dermatology is located at 3918 Telephone Rd., Suite 100, in Lake Worth, across the street from Tractor Supply. They are currently accepting new patients. To schedule an appointment, call 817-752-5256. They are open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"We offer the same high-quality care without the hassle of driving to the city. Let Lakeview Dermatology be your partner in the health of your skin!"



Dr. Matthew Mittelbronn

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

ESD No. 1 proposition, the district's sales and use tax will increase from ½ percent to 1 ½ percent where the rate is not already at the state maximum sales tax rate of 8.25%.

"We are honored to receive the support our citizens have provided in approving the sales tax proposition," said Parker County ESD1 Chief Stephen Watson. "This funding approval will empower us to improve service and do more to keep up with the rapid growth. It is truly an honor to serve such a wonderful community."

Funds generated from the increase will be used for hiring more firefighters including in Springtown, adding and relocating fire stations, replacing aging fleet and equipment, and sharing the burden of funding public safety for all who receive service including visitors and non-property tax paying residents.

"Parker County is a dynamic place, bringing many hazards such as wildland fires, major transportation thoroughfares, oil and gas installations, frequent severe weather, and rapid suburban growth, some of it in areas with limited water supply," Watson said. "We hold in high regard that our citizens have entrusted us with the responsibility to protect their lives and property, despite such dynamic challenges."

Watson said despite rapid growth, Parker County remains a family oriented destination, and retains the small town feel in its communities.

"We seek to do our part to preserve those characteristics as the fire department," he said. "Our citizens are always welcome to contact us or visit any of our firehouses."

**SISD**

The district's \$38.5 million bond proposal included a new elementary school, additional classrooms at the middle and in-

termediate schools, and an expanded welding shop at the high school.

SISD Superintendent Mike Kelley said recent release of higher-than-expected property valuations appears to have reduced the community's support for the plans.

"Although we may have missed an opportunity to secure extremely low bond interest rates to fund facilities projects, Springtown ISD is home to an exceptional staff that will continue to provide high quality instruction," Kelley wrote May 1 on district's Facebook page. "I have complete confidence our administrative team and trustees will help me prepare plans to ensure adequate learning environments are immediately available to our students."

"The positive steps our district has already taken to make certain long-term facilities goals can be met should not be abandoned, but our efforts will be refined with new feedback from our stakeholders."

Growth is coming, so going forward community members will be key in helping the district shape a response to emerging needs, Kelley said May 3.

In January, district enrollment was 3,674, the highest January enrollment since 2007.

Kelley said participation in the district's Kindergarten Round-up early enrollment drive has been significantly higher than in prior years, and that may be one of the grade levels that spikes the most based on demographers' projections.

"Across the district, we are already planning to add teachers at every elementary grade level as we prepare for next year," he said.

Kelley said regardless of whether the bond passed or failed, meeting immediate facilities needs was going to require some creative thinking.

"Obviously a new school couldn't be completed over

a summer, and even the proposed campus-level additions would require some time," he said.

Kelley said there is a chance the homes being completed in the next 12 months will be purchased by families with lower-than-average "students-per-household" rates, and the district may not see a spike in enrollment that would dictate bringing in portable buildings immediately as a short-term solution.

"In the long-term, however, we will be forced to either bring in portable buildings or build new brick-and-mortar campuses/classrooms," he said.

Kelley said no one disputes that growth is coming to our area.

"Sadly, a lot of misinformation circulated on message boards during the election," he said.

Kelley said Senate Bill 2 from the 2019 legislative session created revenue caps for school districts at 2.5%; without voter approval, districts cannot legally generate additional revenue beyond that cap.

"Some opponents of the bond believed the district proposed to add bond debt to the 2020 tax rate with no adjustment made for the increased total taxable value of the district. We called for the bond in February, long before the Parker County Appraisal Districts mailed their newest information; we never planned to 'double-dip' on appraisal increases, nor could we," he said.

The SISD May 2008 bond proposal was decided by 1,215 voters; the May 2021 election was decided by 1,276.

"We are going to work very hard to solicit input from a very broad base over the next few weeks and months and refine our plan to meet the needs enrollment growth will present, both short-term and long-term," Kelley said.

# Local Food Pantries

**FOOD PANTRIES OPEN DAILY:**

- **Community Caring Center**  
317 Commerce St. Mon, Tues, Weds and Fri 9-11:30 a.m. and Thurs 4 - 6:30 p.m.
- **Our House (Old Reno Hardware)**  
1530 East Reno Road Thursdays 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- **Positive Impact Ministries**  
1300 Liberty School Rd., Pelican Bay meals and food boxes Weds and Sat 4 p.m.
- **Blessing Boxes**  
(Take what you need, leave what you can)
  - One Azle Building at 412 Commerce Street, Azle
  - First Baptist Church of Castle Hills at 401 Beverly Road, Azle
  - Neal Legal at 1005 SE Parkway, Azle
  - Brace Chiropractic at 237 W. Main Street, Azle
  - Azle Christian Church at 117 Church Street, Azle
  - The Church at Azle 1801 S. Stewart Street, Azle
  - Café 10:31 404 Main Street, Azle
  - La Junta Fire Department 4480 E. Hwy 199, Springtown
  - Positive Impact Ministries 1300 Liberty School Road, Pelican Bay
  - Community Ministry at Nine Mile 7240 Nine Mile Bridge Road, Fort Worth
  - Dan's Smokehouse 2521 Harwell Road, Weatherford
  - Alvin Ord's Sandwich Shop at 400A E. Hwy 199, Springtown
  - Rayl Park 3402 Pueblo Trail, Lake Worth

**Upcoming food pantries**

- **Saturday, May 8**  
Springtown Area Community Connection  
Christway Baptist Church  
7673 SH 199, Springtown  
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- **Tuesday, May 11**  
Neighbor to Neighbors  
413 S. Main Street, Springtown  
8 a.m. to noon
- **Tuesday, May 11**  
Tarrant Area Food Bank  
Our House  
1530 E. Reno Rd., Azle  
4 to 6 p.m.
- **Tuesday, May 11**  
Tarrant Area Food Bank  
1300 Pelican Cir., Azle  
4 to 6 p.m.

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## LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICES

**NOTICE TO BIDDERS**

SEALED PROPOSALS addressed to the City Council of the City of Springtown, Texas will be received at the **Springtown City Hall, 200 N. Main Street, Springtown, Texas 76082, until 2:00 PM on Thursday, May 13, 2021**, for the purpose of furnishing all plant, labor, materials and equipment and the performing of all work required in the **Walnut Creek Sanitary Sewer Improvements** and other improvements incidental thereto, at which time and place the proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud in City Council Chamber, Springtown City Hall and retained by the City for tabulation, checking and evaluation.

BIDS shall be submitted in sealed envelopes upon the blank Bid Form in the Contract Documents booklet. The entire Contract Documents' booklet must be returned in a sealed envelope with the following forms filled out and signed; Bid Form, Disadvantaged Business Enterprises Form, Conflict of Interest Questionnaire, Local Government Officer Conflicts Disclosure Statement, Vendor Compliance to State Law form, Contractor Compliance to Texas Sales Tax Code form. The Bid Bond for five (5%) percent of the total bid must be included in the sealed envelope with the bid. The sealed envelope shall be marked **Walnut Creek Sanitary Sewer Improvements - DO NOT OPEN UNTIL 2:00 PM on Thursday, May 13, 2021**.

A non-mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at 2:00 PM on Thursday, May 6, 2021 at the Springtown City Hall, 200 N. Main Street. Representatives of the Owner and Engineer will be present to discuss the project and answer any questions. The Engineer will distribute to prospective bidders of record such Addenda, as the Engineer considers necessary in response to discussions or inquiries arising at the conference.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS and contract documents may be examined and obtained without charge at the Springtown City Offices, 102 E. Second Street, Springtown, TX 76082. No hard copies of the Bidding Documents will be made available. It is the responsibility of the interested party to print the Bidding Documents. Neither the Owner nor the Engineer will be responsible for full or partial sets of Bidding Documents, including any addenda, obtained from other sources. Each Bid must be submitted on the prescribed Bid Form and accompanied by Bid security as prescribed in the Instructions to Bidders. The Successful Bidder will be required to furnish the additional bond(s) prescribed in the Bidding Documents.

In case of ambiguity or lack of clearness in stating proposal prices, the Owner reserves the right to adopt the most advantageous construction thereof, or to reject any or all bids. No bid may be withdrawn within forty-five (45) days after date on which bids are opened.

CITY OF SPRINGTOWN, TEXAS

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE**

Sale of property to satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale to be held at 104 Adalida Lane, Springtown, Texas 76082 at the facility **STORAGE BRIGHT**. Bidding will open on May 21, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. and conclude at 10:30 a.m. Clean up deposit is required.

Seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale. Unit items sold as-is to the highest bidder. Property includes the contents of space(s) of the following tenant: **Jaclyn Kott**: Lawn mower, furniture, children's toys, kitchen appliances and clothes.

**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS**

**City of Reno/Parker County**

The City of Reno/Parker County of City of Reno/Parker County is soliciting proposals to provide engineering/architectural/surveying services for potential projects financed by the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. Please submit 1 copy of your proposal and a statement of qualifications for the proposed services to the address below: Attn: Scott Passmore, City Administrator - 195 W. Reno Rd, Azle, TX 76020. Statement of Qualifications must be received by the City of Reno/Parker County no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 20, 2021 to be considered. The City of Reno/Parker County reserves the right to negotiate with any and all individuals or firms that submit proposals and may award one or more contracts to one or more service provider(s). Section 3 Residents and Business Concerns, Minority Business Enterprises, Small Business Enterprises and Women Business Enterprises, and Labor Surplus Area firms are encouraged to submit proposals. The City of Reno/Parker County of City of Reno/Parker County is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Servicios de traducción están disponibles por petición.

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The City of Reno/Parker of City of Reno/Parker is soliciting proposals to provide administration and/or planning services for programs and/or projects financed by the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. Please submit your proposal of services and a statement of qualifications for the proposed services to the following email address: scott.passmore@renotx.gov Proposals must be received by the City of Reno/Parker no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 20, 2021 to be considered. The City of Reno/Parker County reserves the right to negotiate with any and all individuals or firms that submit proposals and may award one or more contracts to one or more service provider(s). Section 3 Residents and Business Concerns, Minority Business Enterprises, Small Business Enterprises and Women Business Enterprises, and Labor Surplus Area firms are encouraged to submit proposals. The City of Reno/Parker County of City of Reno/Parker County is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Servicios de traducción están disponibles por petición.



# State shows largest numerical population gain, Abbott gets bill allowing to-go alcohol sales from restaurants

Texas stands to gain two seats in the U.S. House of Representatives after results of the 2020 census released last week show the state had the largest numerical gain of any state since the 2010 census.

The population increased by nearly 4 million in the past decade, to 29.14 million. That's a population increase of 15.9% in 10 years — third highest by percentage in the nation, behind Utah and Idaho. The state's clout in the House will increase to 38 congressional districts, with redistricting likely coming this fall.

The increase has been driven for the most part by increases in the state's Hispanic population, which accounted for half of the growth in the past decade, according to the census. As the Texas Tribune pointed out, annual increases in Hispanic residents in Texas have been greater every year since 2010 than the combined growth among white, Black and Asian residents.

## ABBOTT GETS BILL ALLOWING TO-GO ALCOHOL SALES FROM RESTAURANTS

Restaurants can continue to sell alcohol to go after both chambers passed a measure making Gov. Greg Abbott's pandemic declaration permanent. Abbott is expected to sign the measure.

When restaurants were forced to close their dining areas last March, the measure allowed beer, wine and mixed drinks to be sold along with takeout and delivery food orders. While pandemic restrictions on in-dining seating have been lifted, many restaurants continue to rely on takeout and delivery options.

The Texas Restaurant Association reports 700,000 restaurant workers in Texas lost their jobs in the early weeks of the pandemic, with thousands of restaurants permanently shuttered.

## ERCOT ANNOUNCES INTERIM CEO

The Electric Reliability Council of Texas has picked



## STATE CAPITOL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders

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

Brad Jones to be interim CEO for the Texas grid operator. Jones has more than 30 years of industry experience, including two stints with ERCOT.

The previous CEO was fired after the widespread power blackouts during the February winter storm, and nearly half the board resigned. Under ERCOT's bylaws, Jones can serve as interim CEO for up to a year.

ERCOT falls under the umbrella of the Public Utility Commission. Its newest member and chairman, Peter Lake, was recently confirmed by the Texas Senate.

## STATE RELEASES \$11.2 BILLION IN FEDERAL FUNDING FOR SCHOOLS

The state's top leadership announced last week the release of \$11.2 billion in fresh federal funding to help public schools "address student learning loss and costs incurred as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic."

Two-thirds of the nearly \$18 billion allocated by the feds is now available under grants administered by the Texas Education Agency. The remaining one-third in funding will be distributed contingent upon approval by the U.S. Department of Education.

Texas already had received roughly \$2.2 billion in federal funding to help school districts respond to COVID-19. School districts and others have been calling for the state to release

the money so they could begin budgeting for the next school year. The federal government requires the state to maintain both public school funding and money for public colleges and universities at the same levels as in the three years before the pandemic to tap into the K-12 stimulus dollars.

## VACCINATION PACE SLOWING; NEW COVID-19 CASES, DEATHS STEADY

The Texas Department of State Health Services reported the number of Texans who have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine reached 11.1 million Sunday. As in the rest of the country, the pace has slowed — up just a bit over 4% from the previous week. A total of 7.92 million state residents are now fully vaccinated — more than one-fourth of all residents, according to DSHS.

Meanwhile, a total of 23,054 cases of COVID-19 were reported last week, a drop of about 600 people; 353 deaths were reported,

down just slightly from the previous week, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University. Lab-confirmed cases of COVID-19 patients hospitalized dropped slightly to 2,648, according to DSHS.

## TEXAS GETS \$79 MILLION TO PROTECT COASTAL AREAS

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality announced last week the state will receive an additional \$79 million as part of the RESTORE Act, which is the law passed in response to the 2010 Deepwater Horizon blowout and the resulting massive oil spill. The money will be used for land acquisition for coastal conservation; shoreline protections; restoring water quality and freshwater inflows on the Texas coast; and restoration of high-quality coastal habitats in the Texas portion of the Chenier Plain complex, which extends from Galveston Bay to Vermillion Bay, Louisiana.

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

<p><b>ASH CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH</b>                  Pastor: Dr. G. Wesley Shotwell                  300 South Stewart St. <b>817-444-3219</b>  <b>www.ashcreekbc.org</b></p> <p>Sunday School..... 9:30 AM                  Contemporary Worship-TMP ..... 10:45 AM                  Traditional Worship ..... 10:45 AM                  Evening Worship ..... 6:00 PM                  Wednesday Youth Refuge..... 6:00 PM                  Wednesday Evening..... 6:15 PM</p> <p><b>LEGACY CHURCH</b>                  Assembly of God Church                  Pastor: Gary D. Veazey                  Hwy. 199 &amp; Jaybird Lane <b>817-221-2983</b></p> <p>Morning Worship..... 9:15 &amp; 11:00 AM                  Kidz Zone..... 9:15 &amp; 11:00 AM                  Wednesday Evening Legacy Group                  Legacy Youth, Legacy Kids                  All Services..... 7:00 PM</p> <p><b>THE ABBEY CHURCH</b>                  Pastor: Paul Brownback                  10400 Jacksboro Highway <b>817-238-1404</b>  <b>www.TheAbbeyChurch.com</b></p> <p>Morning Worship..... 10:30 AM                  Community Groups ..... Various Times</p>	<p><b>SILVER CREEK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b>                  Dr. Vaughn Baker - Pastor                  2200 Church Rd., Azle <b>817-444-1382</b></p> <p>Sunday School..... 9:30 AM                  Worship ..... 10:30 AM                  Sunday Youth..... 10:00 AM</p> <p><b>SILVER CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH</b>                  Pastor: Jay Ditty                  Minister of Music: David Musick                  Corner FM 730 S. &amp; Veal Station Rd.                  Church <b>817-444-2325</b>  <b>www.silvercreekbc.org</b></p> <p>Sunday School..... 9:45 AM                  Morning Worship..... 10:50 AM                  Evening Worship..... 6:00 PM                  Wed. Prayer Service..... 7:00 PM</p> <p><b>CROSSROADS BAPTIST CHURCH</b>                  Pastor - Jon Baker                  Corner FM 730S &amp; FM 1886 <b>817-755-0279</b>                  Transportation Available</p> <p>Worship Service..... 10:30 AM                  Wed. Prayer Service..... 7:00 PM</p>	<p><b>COMMUNITY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH</b>                  Pastor - Alton Davis 817-521-4510                  1405 Reynolds Rd., Azle <b>817-444-7117</b>                  Directions: 730 N. to 1542 .5 mi. right on Cardinal, left on Reynolds</p> <p>Sunday School..... 9:45 AM                  Morning Worship..... 11:00 AM                  Sunday Evening..... 6:00 PM                  Wednesday Evening..... 7:00 PM</p> <p><b>HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH</b>                  800 Highest Dr. - Azle <b>817-444-3063</b></p> <p>Saturday..... 5:00 PM                  Sunday ..... 9:00 AM                  Sunday ..... 11 AM (Spanish)                  Daily Mass (M, T, Th, F) ..... 8:00 AM                  Wednesday ..... 6:30 PM                  Confessions..... Sat 4 PM Wed 5:30 PM</p> <p><b>AZLE FIRST ASSEMBLY of GOD</b>                  Pastor: Tim Stevens                  1020 S.E. Parkway, Azle <b>817-237-4903</b></p> <p>Sunday School..... 9:30 AM                  Morning Worship..... 10:30 AM                  Wednesday Evening..... 7:00 PM</p>	<p><b>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b>                  Pastor: Dr. Richard Reed                  200 Church St., Azle <b>817-444-3323</b></p> <p>Morn. Worship ..... 8:30, 9:45 &amp; 11 AM                  Sunday School..... 9:45 &amp; 11 AM                  Youth (UMYF) ..... 5:00 PM Sunday &amp; 6:30 PM                  Wednesday</p> <p><b>CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH</b>                  2233 Hwy 199 E. • Springtown  <b>817-221-LIFE (5433)</b></p> <p>Sunday Worship Service ..... 10:00 AM                  Wednesday ..... 7:00 PM</p> <p><b>THE EDGE CHURCH - AZLE</b>                  1313 S.E. Pkwy, Azle <b>817-237-4822</b>                  Missouri Synod                  "Love God - Serve Others - Share Jesus"                  Sunday School/Bible Study ..... 9:00 AM                  Light Breakfast ..... 10:00 AM                  Worship ..... 10:30 AM</p> <p><b>ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH</b>                  5953 Bowman Roberts RD <b>817-624-2184</b>                  Daily Mass - Mon-Fri 8 AM                  Reconciliation ..... Sat. 2:45 or by appt                  Weekend Masses ..... Sat. 4:00 PM                  SUNDAY ..... 8:00 &amp; 10:00 AM                  Spanish ..... 12:30 PM</p>	<p><b>AZLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH</b>                  (Disciples of Christ)                  Senior Minister, Rev. Dr. Alan Lobaugh                  Ashley Dargai, Minister of Practical Theology;                  Katie Medlin, Minister of Family Life                  117 Church St. • <b>817-444-3527</b></p> <p>Sunday School..... 10:00 AM                  Morning Worship..... 11:00 AM</p> <p><b>HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA</b>                  4795 E. Hwy 199 - Reno <b>817-221-HOPE</b>                  Follow us on Facebook for streaming services</p> <p>Sunday School..... 9:00 AM                  Traditional Service ..... 10:00 AM</p> <p><b>SOLID ROCK BIBLE CHURCH</b>                  591 S. Reno Rd,                  Springtown, Texas 76082                  Pastor - Bill Gay - <b>817-304-7443</b></p> <p>Coffee and Donuts ..... 9:00 AM                  Sunday School..... 9:30 AM                  Morning Worship..... 10:30 AM                  Children's Church After Music Service                  Wed. Prayer Meeting..... 6:30 PM                  Wed. Bible Study..... 7:00 PM</p>
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## Porcupines to play F.W. Carter-Riverside in bi-district round of UIL playoffs

BY QUINTON LILLEY  
editor@azlenews.net

The Springtown baseball team used its' final regular-season game to do exactly what they'll need to do this upcoming post-season – win.

A three-game skid saw the Porcupines fall from first place to third in District 7-4A.

But SHS ended their regular season with a solid win last Friday afternoon at Decatur 3-1.

With the win, SHS moved to 21-9 overall and put them back in a tie for second place with Decatur at 8-4 in district.

The game Friday was

mostly a defensive battle that Springtown found a way to win.

SHS took a 2-0 lead in the first inning, thanks to a single from Aiden Vickers that drove in both Tristian Pressley and Matt Lockard.

From there, it was a pitching duel most of the game as Landon Foster was on the mound for Springtown.

SHS did give up a run in the fourth inning but added a run on a Lockard ground out that helped Scout Richards score in the top of the seventh inning.

The run by Richards proved to be vital as SHS took a 3-1 lead and held on to it in the fi-

nal frame for the victory.

As a team, SHS had seven hits in the contest and just one fielding error.

SHS was led at the plate by Pressley who had two hits and an RBI. Five other players added a hit apiece including Lockard, William Gleason, Vickers who also had two RBIs, Foster, and Richards.

Foster also pitched all seven innings allowing just seven hits, one run, and a walk.

Both Decatur and Springtown elected to do a coin flip to determine who would be District 7-4A's second and third seeds, with SHS taking the tie-breaker.



Springtown High pitcher Cristian Hernandez has been a vital part of the Porcupines team in 2021 not only pitching in the starting rotation, but also hitting and playing third base as well. Photo by Quinton Lilley



Springtown High's infielders meet on the mound with coach Josh Ward during a recent District 7-4A home game. SHS is now heading to the playoffs where they'll face their first post-season opponent in two years. Photo by Quinton Lilley

As of Monday afternoon, District 8-4A was locked in a three-way tie for seeds two, three, and four.

But after tie-breakers were handled Monday night, SHS will play Fort Worth Carter-Riverside this coming weekend in the opening round of the playoffs.

The Eagles come into their matchup with Springtown boasting a 10-8 record overall after going 6-4 in district play.

Carter-Riverside finished third in District 8-4A and have won six of their last seven games.

The Porcupines are 3-3 in their last six.

Springtown didn't play

Carter-Riverside in the pre-season so it will be the two teams' first matchup this year.

SHS' last playoff appearance came in 2019 when they finished fourth in District 8-4A before losing in the bi-district round to Brownwood two games to none.

Porcupines coach Josh Ward said his team will need to focus on the things they can control going into the postseason.

"I think this week we will need to just play our game and try not to get caught up in the playoff atmosphere. If we play to our potential, use our speed to our advantage offensively then I feel really good about our chances."

As is the case in most baseball games pitching will be a key factor as well and Ward feels his pitchers are ready to perform at their best moving forward.

"Our pitchers have done a good job all year long, we just need to make sure we play good defense behind them."

Springtown's playoff series with Carter-Riverside will take place Friday night at 7 p.m. and Saturday at noon. If a third game is needed it will take place Saturday at 3 p.m.

All games are being held at Keller Central High School and tickets for the contest must be purchased on Keller ISD's athletic website.

## Lady 'Pines earn impressive win over Benbrook in 1st round

BY QUINTON LILLEY  
editor@azlenews.net

For the last six weeks, Springtown's softball team has battled in one of the state's toughest districts.

District 7-4A offered three top-25 Class 5A teams including No. 10 Argyle, No. 15 Decatur, and No. 24 Krum, all of which finished above Springtown but helped them prepare for the postseason.

Based on the high level of competition SHS finished fourth in 7-4A, but upset District 8-4A's first-place team in Benbrook this past weekend with a 2-0 sweep.

Benbrook came into their series with the Lady 'Pines on a 10-game win streak as they went undefeated in district play but that all came to a screeching halt in the bi-district round with Springtown dismantling the Bobcats 19-2 on Friday and 12-4 on Saturday.

The playoff series was held at Boyd High, and SHS took full advantage early in game one.

Springtown consistently used their speed on the bases and attacking pitches early in at-bats to overwhelm Benbrook's pitching.

Karley Haynes got the game started quickly with a single on the first pitch of the night, and then she scored on a single by Sara Crews.

Camryn Slocum then had a double that brought in Crews

to give SHS a 2-0 lead. Later in the inning, Haylee Sanborn scored on a single from Katrina Ray and SHS led 3-0 by the end of the first inning.

The offensive explosion continued for SHS in the second inning as Sara Crews hit a double allowing Haynes to score and then Jayden Grubis broke the game open on a 2-run homer to center field.

By the end of that inning, SHS was up 7-0.

After a quiet third inning for both teams, SHS added five more runs on a single from Shaylee Mann, a single from Sanborn, and a ground out RBI from Cheyanne Atchley.

Later in the fourth, Haynes and Crews added two doubles and the score was 12-0 heading into the bottom of the fourth.

Benbrook was able to score two runs in the bottom of that frame but that's all they got as SHS cruised to a 19-2 victory.

SHS had 20 hits in the game as Crews led the way with four hits and five RBIs.

Sanborn also had four hits and two RBI.

Summer Conway was also vital to the win for SHS as she had three stolen bases.

Crews pitched all five innings and had seven strikeouts on the night.

Game two was a much tighter contest early on as SHS took a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the first thanks to a fly ball from Grubis that helped Haynes score.

Both teams were scoreless in the second inning, but Benbrook tied the game at 1-1 in the top of the third, followed by a run from SHS.

With Springtown leading 2-1 in the bottom of the fourth, Haynes tripled as both Lauren Brandt and Angelina Ray scored.

Benbrook was able to respond in the top of the fifth with two runs cutting Springtown's lead to 4-2.

Then in the bottom of the fifth, Slocum hit a solo homer and Angelina Ray doubled to centerfield as two more runs scored. SHS took an 8-3 lead and went on to score four more runs in the sixth inning as they took the win and the series victory.

Slocum led the way in game two with three hits, a homer, and four RBIs. Both Crews and Sanborn also had two hits each.

With the win, Springtown moves on to the area round to face Vernon.

The Lady Lions won a one-game playoff series over Brownwood 3-0 to get to the area round and have a 17-7-1 record overall. Vernon also finished 8-2 in District 5-4A just behind Iowa Park.

The Vernon series begins Friday at 6 p.m., Saturday at 5 p.m. (and 7 p.m. if necessary). All games will be held at Henrietta High School.



Springtown High huddles up before game one of their opening round playoff series win in Boyd last Friday night. Karley Haynes (below) had a stellar performance with three RBIs and three hits. Photos by Quinton Lilley



### CORRECTION

In a previous article published April 15, *The Epigraph* incorrectly identified the Springtown High 4x400-meter relay team.

The 4x400 participants were Maegan Hutchison, Sarah Crews, Britney Tyree and Gabby Reynolds.

*The Epigraph* incorrectly identified Brinklee Dauenhauer as a participant on that relay team as opposed to Maegan Hitchison.

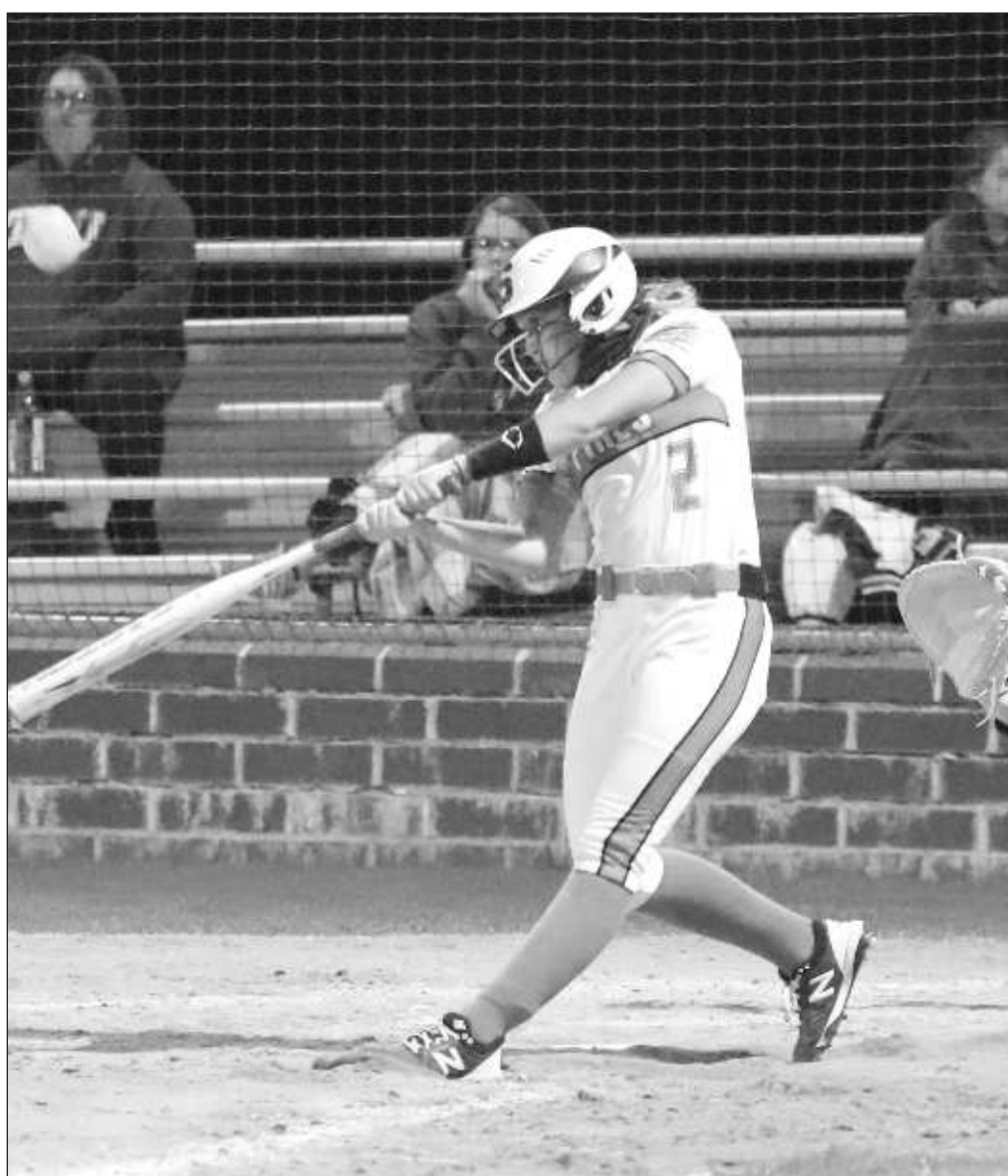
As a staff we sincerely apologize for this misprint.



# Congrats to the Springtown softball team for advancing to the UIL area round!!!



The Springtown High softball team won their first round playoff series over Fort Worth Benbrook thanks to their impressive speed, hitting, and quality defense. A special congrats are in order for these young women and good luck this weekend in the UIL area round.



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## Future Farmers of America

Usually when the topics of Agriculture and young people are combined two very prominent youth organizations come to mind. These are the FFA and the 4H, two like minded organizations when it comes to their basic goals, but also fairly different in the organization, leadership and running of them. Today we will spend some time discussing the FFA organization and then next week will be the 4H's turn.

Many people instantly recognize the high school age young people when seen wearing their blue and gold FFA jackets. And then others will be heard saying "who are those kids wearing those silly looking, short, corduroy, purple and yellow jackets, they must be cold."

Well, anyone who has worn the "Blue and Gold" in cold weather will instantly agree on the lack of warming qualities of the jackets. The jackets are not worn for warmth, but are the uniform of FFA members and will instantly draw the at-

tention of former members and individuals in the know within Agriculture and leadership training circles. First off, the colors are not purple and yellow, they are officially National Blue and Corn Gold. They are proudly worn by members of what at one time was known as the Future Farmers of America.

Many prominent people have worn the "Blue and Gold" beginning with one ex-U.S. president, a multitude of state and national legislators, CEOs of major businesses, college and university professors and leaders, city and town leaders, doctors, lawyers, pharmacists, scientists, public school teachers, writers, artists, musicians, all of the way through the also hard working, dirt under the finger nails everyday law enforcement officers, firefighters, welders, truck drivers, tractor and equipment dealers, members of the military, grocery store owners, farmers, ranchers, etc., etc.

You get the point, they're everywhere, they're everywhere. The beginning of the Future



**AG 101**  
By Jack DeShazo

*Jack DeShazo has decades of experience in the agriculture field.*

Farmers of America actually goes back eleven years before its founding with the Smith-Hughes Act of 1917. Smith-Hughes provided funding to the states in order for vocational education to be taught in the public schools. The areas of vocational training targeted were Agriculture, Industrial Trades and Home Economics.

Now, let's fast forward to 1928 when in Kansas City, Missouri the Future Farmers of America was established as a youth organization for public school Vocational

Agriculture students. And as they say "the rest is history". From the very beginning in order for an FFA Chapter to exist a public school must have a current curriculum in Vocational Agriculture which has evolved into Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources. In order to be an FFA member a young person is to be enrolled and active in the AFNR classes.

As the demographics of our nation changed so did the Future Farmers of America organization, which is now known as simply FFA, the program and organization became so varied that the name Future Farmers no longer fully described the full membership. The National FFA Organization today boasts over 760,000 members in 8,739 chapters.

Texas' FFA membership has grown to over 115,000 members in 1,032 chapters. Over 30 AFNR classes are offered in six major areas including Animal Science, Plant Science, Agribusiness, Applied Agricultural Engineering, Environmental and Natural Resources and Food Science and Technol-

ogy. ANFR classes and FFA members can be found in small rural Texas schools, mid-size schools and all of the way up to high school programs in the largest Texas cities. And yes; Azle, Springtown and Boyd are among the many, many area schools that have active and successful ANFR programs and FFA Chapters.

I left what many FFA members and former members classify as the best for last, the FFA activities.

FFA members can be found competing in livestock shows, leadership development events (LDEs), Career Development Events (CDEs) which used to be known as judging contests, Public Speaking Events, Agricultural Mechanics competitions, Leadership Conferences, Conventions along with thousands of individual local chapter projects and activities.

There are also fifty-one areas that FFA members can and do apply for proficiency awards in beginning at the chapter level with some winners advancing all of the way to the national level of

competition. The Texas FFA Association awards over \$1,000,000 in scholarships to deserving FFA members each year.

Being a former FFA member and Agricultural Science teacher I could write at least several more columns about the FFA while extolling the benefits of membership, but won't.

However, I will add this, many high school students discover Agriculture when they are students in one of the AFNR classes along with benefits of FFA membership. I, just like many others discovered Agriculture quickly after being born, I discovered FFA when I was in the sixth grade and looked forward to being in the program for the next 3 years. I have been blessed to have had many opportunities in my life and one of my proudest was when in October 1971 I first put on my blue and gold FFA jacket with my name on the front and Azle on the back. My life has never been same! FFA membership can and will offer many rewarding opportunities. 'til next week.

## Be very afraid.

**P**hobia. (According to [dictionary.com](http://dictionary.com))  
Noun.  
An intense, persistent, irrational fear of a specific object, activity, situation, or person that manifests in physical symptoms such as sweating, trembling, rapid heartbeat, or shortness of breath, and that motivates avoidance behavior.

2. An aversion toward, dislike of, or disrespect for a thing, idea, person, or group.

According to The Recovery Village, an online site that deals with mental health and addiction issues, the top 12 phobias prevalent among people in the United States are:

**Arachnophobia** (Fear of spiders)

**Ophidiophobia** (Fear of

snakes)

**Acrophobia** (Fear of heights)

**Aerophobia** (Fear of flying)

**Cynophobia** (Fear of dogs)

**Astraphobia** (Fear of thunder and lightning)

**Trypanophobia** (Fear of injections)

**Social Phobia** (Social anxiety disorder)

**Agoraphobia** (Fear of a situation where escape may be difficult)

**Mysophobia** (Fear of germs)

**Claustrophobia** (Fear of small spaces)

**Glossophobia** (Fear of public speaking)

You notice that death is not one of the top fears.

That reminds me of the old Jerry Seinfeld routine



**BE AMAZING**  
By Gerry Lewis

*Azle resident Dr. Gerry Lewis guides explorers to discover their AMAZING. He is an author, musician, and speaker, and a coach-sultant for individuals, churches, and organizations. More at [www.discoveryouramazing.com](http://www.discoveryouramazing.com).*

where he said that most people at a funeral would rather be the one in the casket than the person who stands up to speak!

While those are the most common phobias, they are not the most commonly mentioned in popular culture.

I hesitate to mention those that I have in mind because I don't want this post to turn into something political. Consequently, I am asking you to read all the way to the end before you decide what you think about what I'm writing today.

The phobias I have in mind relate to the second part of the dictionary definition with which I began today.

I do not speak for anyone else, but here's what I want people to know from me: The fact that I do not agree with, approve of, or support something does not mean that I hate the people involved, nor does it mean that

I fear the people involved.

But there is something that I desperately fear. It is not an irrational phobia (I have one of those—birds) but it is the thing I fear most.

The thing I fear most is that my behavior, words, or attitudes would cause people to have a distorted picture of Jesus.

I am a fully committed, unapologetic follower of Jesus. People who know me know that. I want everyone with whom I come in contact to know that.

But the terrible truth is that people who claim to be Christians have done despicable things that have resulted in a distorted view of what it means to be a follower of Jesus—and even a distorted view of Jesus Himself.

This is why it is so impor-

tant to me to be constantly and consistently being transformed into the likeness of Jesus, so that He is living His life through me as me.

The fear that I will mess up and get in trouble with God is not something that haunts me because I know who I am in Christ.

But the holy fear that I will misrepresent Him keeps me deeply seeking the development of His character in me.

The amazing life to which He calls us and for which He made us has very little to do with getting our way.

It has everything to do with what we are becoming because of His life in us.

Be very afraid of missing your amazing by fearing the wrong things.

Be amazing today my friend.



**The Springtown Epigraph**

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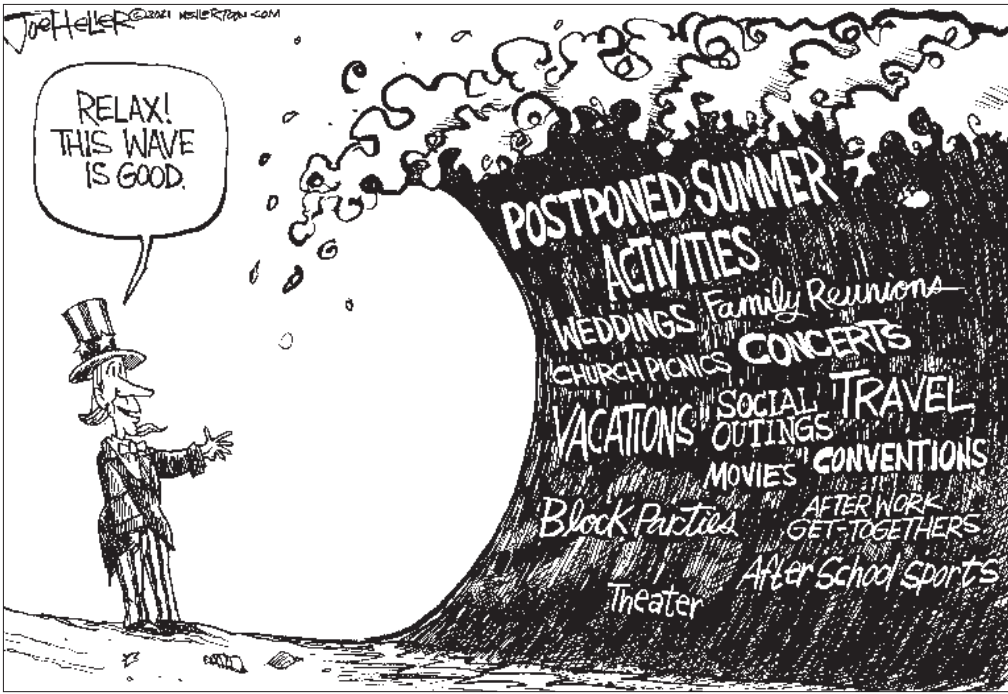
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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## TO SUBMIT CALENDAR ITEMS

The community calendar is a free listing in The Springtown Epigraph to inform readers of programs, special meetings and non-profit events. The event should be open to the public and free to attend. Information should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event for consideration. Email the who, what, when, where and why to [spreporter@azlenews.net](mailto:spreporter@azlenews.net), with "calendar item" in the subject line. Calendar information runs in chronological order as space is available.

## THURSDAY, MAY 20

### • Parker County Sheriff's Office Bi-Annual Blood drive

From 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the south parking lot of the sheriff's office at 129 Hogle Street in Weatherford. Sign ups are available at [www.carterbloodcare.org](http://www.carterbloodcare.org) but appointments are not required. For more information, contact Jessica Vandygriff at 817-594-8845.

## SATURDAY, MAY 29

### • City Of Springtown Memorial Day Observance

From 10 to 11 a.m. at Springtown Veterans Park, corner of Walnut Creek and Lake Drive.

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*\*Menus are subject to change.*

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High School	\$3.00
Reduced	\$0.40
Adult	\$4.25

*Students may prepay for their meals.*

---

**PK - 12th GRADE** BREAKFAST: **Everyday** - Various Juices & Cereals, Toast, Milk Variety, Fruit, Jelly Assortment, Buttermilk Biscuit, Variety of milk is offered every day for breakfast and lunch.

**Monday** Toast, Variety of Cereal, Eggstravaganza **Tuesday** Toast, Variety of Cereal, Mini Pancakes  
**Wednesday** Toast, Variety of Cereal, Scrambled Eggs, Fruit  
**Thursday** Toast, Variety of Cereal, Dutch Waffle, Fruit **Friday** Toast, Variety of Cereal, Breakfast Stick, Fruit

---

**PK - 8th GRADE** Lunch: **Everyday** - Choice of one meat, two vegetables, and one grain/bread with milk. Variety of milk is offered every day for breakfast and lunch.

**Monday** General Tso's Chicken, Green Beans, Fresh Baby Carrots, Rice **Tuesday** Steakfingers, Mashed Potatoes, Green Peas, Fruit, Roll **Wednesday** Popcorn Chicken, Mixed Vegetables, Broccoli, Fruit, Roll **Thursday** Chicken & Waffles, Broccoli Florets, Corn, Fruit **Friday** Cheese Pizza, Chili Style Beans, Cucumber & Tomato Cup, Fruit

---

**9th-12 GRADE** Lunch: **Everyday** - Choice of one meat, two vegetables, and one grain/bread with milk. Variety of milk is offered every day for breakfast and lunch.

**Monday** General Tso's Chicken, Sweet & Sour Chicken or Stuffed Breadsticks **Tuesday** Chicken & Waffles, (Original or Spicy) Broccoli, Fresh Baby Carrots, Fruit, Roll **Wednesday** Steakfingers, Popcorn Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Green Peas, Fruit, Roll **Thursday** Lasagna or Chicken Nuggets, Burrito Bean & Cheese, Fresh Broccoli Florets, Refried Beans, Fruit **Friday** Cheese Pizza, Pulled Pork Sandwich, Glazed Baby Carrots, Coleslaw, Fruit

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

TK's Country Pools is hiring Laborers. Basic construction knowledge and hand tools required. 817-677-2494.

We are seeking an EXPERIENCED REGISTERED DENTAL ASSISTANT/ RECEPTIONIST! Requirements/ Job Description:-A current, valid RDA license in the State of Texas.-Ability to take digital x-rays and use of intra-oral cameras.-Perform Laboratory functions such as pouring & trimming models, constructing custom trays and fabricating temporary crown/bridges.-Ability to prepare and clean treatment rooms, instruments, and tray set-ups in an efficient and thorough manner.-Management of dental supplies and monitoring of equipment for routine maintenance. Answer phones, make appointments, call and verify insurance.

Experience with Dentrix software or similar is needed. Monday-Friday part-time and in the future full-time. Mondays and Wednesdays 8-5 pm, Tuesdays and Thursdays 7-4 pm, Fridays 8-12pm.

Please email your resume and your salary requirements to mcrearydental1@yahoo.com.

Concrete removal company needs Full-time Class A-CDL Driver. Local - No Long Hauls. 817-919-0597; 214-435-2342.

Concrete removal company based in Azle needs a Full-time Tool Truck Driver. Start Now. Call 817-919-0597; 214-435-2342.

Concrete removal company based in Azle needs General Laborers immediately. Start Now. Call 817-919-0597; 214-435-2342.

Full-time position for an experienced Auto Technician. Mon-Fri, 8A-5P, Flag based pay (\$19-\$21 per hour), must have own tools. Must have exceptional knowledge of paint and body repair. Must be detail-oriented. 817-265-5474.

\*\*Rock Star Needed\*\* for Physical Therapy Clinic

This position may be for you if you are a positive, dynamic, self-motivated, well-organized, task oriented, reliable, dependable, lifelong learner mentality, solution-oriented ROCK STAR who loves the idea of working with patients to create a MAGICAL experience. This position is NOT for you if you require micro-management, spend more time focusing on problems than solutions, engage in office drama and gossip, have no interest in helping patients have a great experience, don't like the field of physical therapy, and are unable to take charge of your environment and role.

Looking to be part of a growing physical therapy practice with "MAGICAL Values"? Do you provide exceptional customer service? Do you want to work in a fun positive environment?

We need a Rock Star who loves people, possesses strong communication skills. Email (robert@springtownphysicaltherapy.com) your resume and put why you think you are the right person in your letter of interest, and put Rock Star Tech in the subject line.

039 Help Wanted

Need experienced Construction Help. Pay based on experience. Guaranteed 40 hours. Call Phillip 817-980-3584.

Laborers needed for house moving company. Valid TX Driver's License required, no felonies. Must pass drug screen. 817-444-6516.

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HELP WANTED - SUMMERTIME SHOP HAND. Looking for someone to mow, weedeat, handle and organize shop materials, etc. Must have two forms of ID and reliable transportation. Starting pay \$12-\$13 per hour. Please call 817-220-8658.

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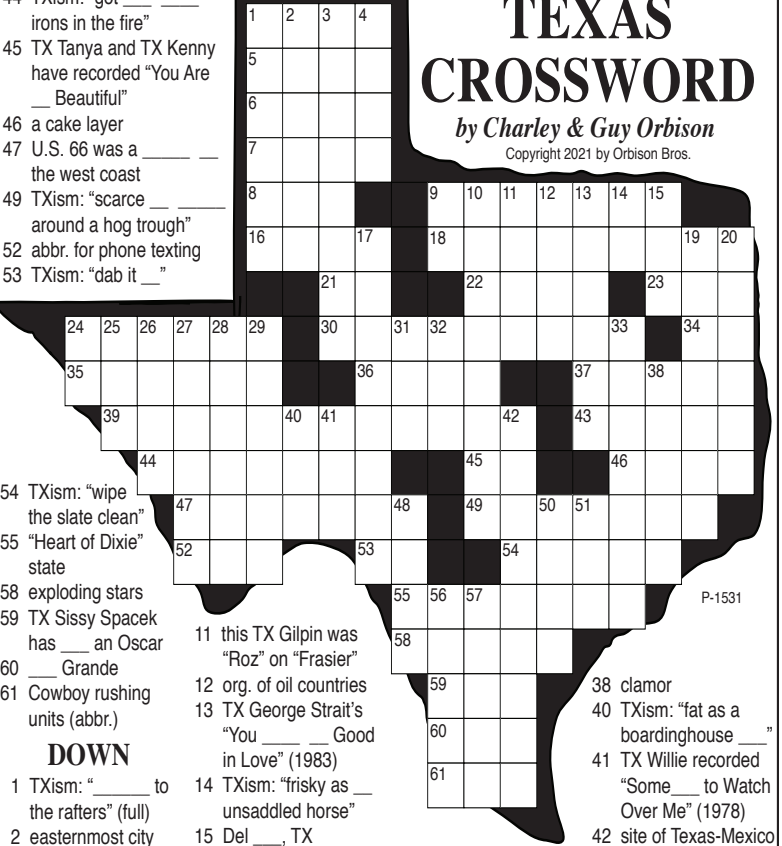
**ACROSS**

- Livingston's county
- Texas has been \_\_\_ state in elections since 1980
- a dog's kennel
- most TX families are close-\_\_\_
- TXism: "he could strut sitting down" (big \_\_\_)
- TXism: "rare \_\_\_ bears in Texas"
- famous gambler in early Texas, Lottie
- you can bet on \_\_\_ at Lone Star Park
- TX Buddy Holly 1958 hit: "Rave \_\_\_"
- cookie sandwich
- Lennon's wife
- "as \_\_\_ velvet"
- TXism: "he's a \_\_\_ shy of a load" (crazy)
- TX Jim Reeves 1959 hit: "He'll Have to \_\_\_"
- TX Betty Buckley TV show: "Eight Is \_\_\_" (1977-81)
- TX Jennifer Love Hewitt 1998 film: "Can't Hardly \_\_\_"
- Henry Hager is a \_\_\_-law of TX George W.
- "Gulf \_\_\_ Waterway"
- film of Baylor grad Clu Gulager: "A Force \_\_\_"

**DOWN**

- TXism: "\_\_\_ to the rafters" (full)
- easternmost city in Texas
- Gov. Connally won the "\_\_\_ Merit" in WWII
- Center AM
- TXism: "chompin' \_\_\_ the bit"
- TXism: "\_\_\_ \_\_\_ deadbeat's memory"
- TXism: "got \_\_\_ irons in the fire"
- TX Tanya and TX Kenny have recorded "You Are \_\_\_ Beautiful"
- a cake layer
- U.S. 66 was a \_\_\_ the west coast
- TXism: "scarce \_\_\_ around a hog trough"
- abbr. for phone texting
- TXism: "dab it \_\_\_"
- this TX Gilpin was "Roz" on "Frasier"
- org. of oil countries
- TX George Strait's "You \_\_\_ Good in Love" (1983)
- TXism: "frisky as \_\_\_ unsaddled horse"
- Del \_\_\_ TX
- TXism: "there's more than \_\_\_ \_\_\_ skin a cat"
- train locomotives
- an OU player
- dir. to Port Lavaca from New Braunfels
- intelligence agcy. of the U.S. Navy
- typeface
- private teachers
- TXism: "nervous as \_\_\_ at a shotgun wedding"
- private eye
- TX Mark Chesnutt tune: "She \_\_\_"
- "two-\_\_\_ nag"
- TXism: "\_\_\_ \_\_\_ baby's bottom"
- clamor
- TXism: "fat as a boardinghouse \_\_\_"
- TX Willie recorded "Some \_\_\_ to Watch Over Me" (1978)
- site of Texas-Mexico ferry (2 wds.)
- TXism: "fits like ugly \_\_\_ ape"
- Mardi \_\_\_
- Dodge truck
- TX Alan who drew up the 2000 "Music City Miracle" play
- TXism: "plow around the stump"

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**082 RV's for Rent**

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Nice 1BR RV in adult RV park. Great for older person on limited income. Starts at \$550/mo. All Bills Paid. Heritage RV Park 817-444-3760.

**084 Mobile Homes for Rent**

Pelican Bay: 1941 Gale Drive, 2-2, CH/A, stove only, \$795/mo. \$400 deposit. Owner/Broker 817-988-9954.

New large 2BR homes starting at \$925/mo. with lawn & trash service. 730 N & Peden Road area, no pets, non smoking. Text 817-504-2746.

**086 Mobile Home/RV Lots**

Covered & uncovered spaces and rental units in Adult Park, store rooms, mail service, paved roads. 5 miles south of Azle on FM 730. 817-444-3760.

**088 Rent Unfurnished**

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**086 Mobile Home/RV Lots**

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**PELICAN BAY:** 1512 CORAL CUT OFF, 2-1, \$925/mo. \$400 deposit. Gene Thompson & Associates, 817-246-4646. gtax.com.

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# Congrats to the Springtown rodeo team for qualifying for the NTHSRA Finals!!



The SHS rodeo team finished second out of more than 60 teams in the North Texas High School Rodeo Association. And good luck to the eight team members heading to finals! The event will be held May 21-23 at NTHSRA, 6229 Windy Ryon Way in Saginaw.



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**The Lube Center**

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The merchants on this page support our youth in all their activities. Support them by shopping at home - every chance you get.



## Things Heard and Seen

“I’m not surprised. People get away with all kinds of horrible things.”

“Things Heard and Seen” is a gothic horror based on the Elizabeth Brundage novel “All Things Cease to Appear.” It was adapted for film by Shari Springer Berman and Robert Pulcini (“American Splendor”), and stars Amanda Seyfried (“Mamma Mia!”), James Norton (“Little Women”), and Natalia Dyer (“Stranger Things”).

### THE PLOT

The Claires move out of Manhattan to the Hudson Valley, where George (Norton) has accepted a position as an assistant professor at a liberal arts college.

Catherine (Seyfried) is trying to find a way to connect to her new home and neighbors while her husband spends his days building a somewhat cult following among his female students.

The spirits of the home’s previous owners soon make themselves known, but for what purpose?

Soon, the tangled web of George’s lies begins to overwhelm them, and what lies ahead could be the end of the Claires.

### WHAT WORKED

The actors do an excellent job of telling a story that leaves you uncertain where the twists will come, or how they will weave together in the end.

### WHAT DIDN’T WORK

The film can be a slow burn, leaving viewers wondering if there will ever be an answer to all of the questions that pop up along the way.

### SUMMING IT UP

This is a horror film that is more horror-lite. There are no big jump-out-of-your-seat moments, and the tension is slow to build, but at the conclusion, it all comes cryptically together.

“Things Heard and Seen” is currently streaming on Netflix.



### Things Heard and Seen

# 6

2021  
TV-MA  
2 hours 1 minute  
Starring: Amanda Seyfried, James Norton, Natalia Dyer



Streaming on Netflix

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