

STORYTIME IS BACK
AT THE LIBRARY

Page 2A



PORCUPINES SLIDE INTO
AREA ROUND
TO FACE GRAHAM

Page 8A



Thursday, May 13, 2021

The Springtown Epigraph

Mobile vaccines available for businesses, organizations

Gov. Greg Abbott's office recently announced the launch of the State Mobile Vaccination Team Call Center. The governor, along with the Texas Division of Emergency Management and the Texas Military Department, organized the program to help everyone in the state have an opportunity to get vaccinated.

Texas businesses or civic organizations can call 844-90-TEXAS and select Option 3 to schedule a visit from a state mobile vaccine team to vaccinate employees, visitors, or members. To qualify for a visit, a business or civic organization must have 10 or more employees, visitors, or members who voluntarily choose to be vaccinated. Homebound Texans are

also encouraged to call the hotline and select Option 1 to request a state mobile vaccination team to visit their home.

"Vaccines are the most effective tool in Texas' fight against COVID-19, and we are committed to making COVID-19 vaccines even more widely available to Texans across the state," Abbott said. "The State Vaccine Call Center will help connect businesses and civic organizations with these life-saving shots and ensure that more Texans have an opportunity to get vaccinated. I urge organizations and businesses to call 844-90-TEXAS and schedule a visit from a state mobile vaccine

SEE **VACCINE**, PAGE 2A.

Celebrating heroes

Springtown Chamber honors helping hands

BY SUSAN McFARLAND
sptreporter@azlenews.net

From delivering propane, food and water to cooking free meals for those without power, many in the community came together to help others during the Covid-19 pandemic and the winter storm. Those community members were celebrated during the Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce annual dinner and awards ceremony May 6 at the Covered Bridge Venue.

During Celebrate Springtown, several honorees received the Judy Smerud Spirit of Springtown award. This special recognition is usually given to one person or entity who displays the most sense of community pride through involvement and



sponsorship of community projects and events.

In the past along with the Spirit of Springtown award, others were recognized for Woman of the Year,

Man of the Year, Organization of the Year, Business of the Year, Chamber Member of the Year and

SEE **CHAMBER**, PAGE 3A.

Springtown food bank to open Saturday

Volunteer staff eager to serve

BY SUSAN McFARLAND
sptreporter@azlenews.net

A drive-through food bank will be held in Springtown from 9 a.m. to noon, Saturday, May 15, at Neighbor to Neighbors, a non-profit organization helping needy families living in Springtown or within the boundaries of the Springtown Independent School District.

The pantry, located just inside the gates of the Springtown Cemetery at 413 S. Main St., is normally open 9 a.m. to noon. This month,

the pantry is opening on a Saturday to help those who cannot make it to the pantry during the week.

Connie Ellis, director of the organization, said this first Saturday will be a trial run, to see how many people come. Pending the outcome, the organization could open on more Saturdays in the future.

Neighbor to Neighbors provides food, clothing, accessories, diapers, toiletries and household items to those who qualify. Those who receive food stamps automatically qualify.

To get help, clients must meet

income requirements and show proof of income, a photo ID for those 18 and older, a Social Security card for children 17 and younger and proof of address.

On May 11 about 45 families came for help at the pantry, and 19 deliveries were made to homebound recipients, Ellis said.

Maurine Hampton, a volunteer for the past seven years, was one of several helping to keep things organized and running smooth.

Hampton, like the other volun-

SEE **NEIGHBOR**, PAGE 5A.

Community comes together for National Day of Prayer



Scott Stripling lifts his hand to worship while Gary Veazey, Pastor of Legacy Church, prays during the National Day of Prayer service at Hilltop Family Church in Springtown. Stripling, provost at The Bible Seminary in Katy and director of excavations for the Associates for Biblical Research at ancient Shiloh, Israel, was keynote speaker at the May 6 event.

Photo by Susan McFarland

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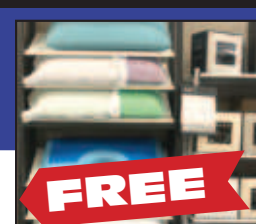
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Stories, music, crafts

Face-to-face fun returns to library

BY SUSAN McFARLAND
sptreporter@azlenews.net

Storytime is back at the newly-updated Springtown Public Library. The first in-person session was held May 7 and will continue each week on Fridays at 10:30 a.m. at the library, located at 626 N. Main Street.

Each session includes a story (or two), music and a craft. After closing because of the pandemic, the library offered a virtual storytime and had craft kits for pickup.

Andie D'Avignon, library director, said virtual storytime went well but nothing beats face-to-face interaction. "I'm just glad to see everyone back inside," D'Avignon said. "I've missed our patrons."

Some services, such as curbside book delivery, will still be available even

though the library officially opened back up to the public April 6.

"We will continue doing that. A lot of patrons enjoy it," she said.

Some library goers even let staff make the selection, calling in and saying, "Just find me some books," and being delightfully surprised by the stack the staff delivers, D'Avignon said.

Shelves now have more to offer, as the library received more books and newer copies of older books as part of a recent update. Other changes to the newly organized library include new signage, new computer tables and chairs, and dedicated parking for curbside pick-up.

Springtown resident Elizabeth Taylor was glad storytime was back at the library. "When they had storytime

previously, we were here almost every weekend," she said.

Taylor said she waited until her children—William, Rebecca and Katherine—were in the car and on the road before she told them they were getting to return.

"They were very excited," she said.

D'Avignon was happy to see the Taylor family and other families who came for storytime. Staff even greeted children by name as they entered the library.

"We know our patrons," D'Avignon said. "It's a small town, we're all like family."

The small-town feel and the warm welcome people receive when entering is what keeps them coming back.

Cherrish Morris, library clerk, is the newest employee at the library. She started

as a patron and participated in activities such as the reading challenge, then became a volunteer before accepting a paid position.

"It's a fun job," she said. The Springtown Public Library is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. To receive a library card, a parent or guardian will need to bring a drivers license and proof of local address.

The library is part of the Parker County Library Association, so Springtown library cards can also be used at Azle Memorial Library, Weatherford Public Library, East Parker County Library in Aledo, and Boyce Ditto Public Library in Mineral Wells. Patrons can also re-



The Taylor children (l-r) Rebecca, 4, William, 6, and 2-year-old Katherine jump to music played during the Springtown Public Library storytime.
Photo by Susan McFarland

quest items from those libraries to be sent to Springtown Public Library.

For updates on programs, such as the Summer Reading Challenge (which begins June

1), follow the library on Facebook, Instagram or visit www.springtownlibrary.com.

For questions, call 817-523-5862 or send an email to spl@cityofspringtown.com.



Janet Witter, library clerk, reads to children May 7 at the Springtown Public Library. Photo by Susan McFarland

VACCINE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.

team. Here in Texas, COVID-19 vaccines will always be strongly encouraged and always voluntary."

Abbott and TDEM originally launched the State Mobile Vaccine Pilot Program

in January 2021 to ramp up COVID-19 vaccination efforts in underserved areas of Texas. Since the program's initial launch, the responsibilities of State Mobile Vaccine Teams have been

expanded to meet various COVID-19 vaccination needs of communities across the state. These teams are made up of members of the Texas National Guard and coordinated by TDEM.

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LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICES

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: **Jaelyn Kott**: Lawn mower, furniture, children's toys, kitchen appliances and clothes.

TIM'S TOWING SECOND NOTICE STORAGE LIEN

The following vehicle and/or property will be disposed of within applicable laws of the state of Texas if not reclaimed within 30 days: Year: 2008, Make: Ford, VIN#: 1FMCU93Z78KA56402 License#: NONE. Towed from 1812 SANTA FE, WEATHERFORD, Texas 76086. Impounded at 399 NEWFIELD LANE, SPRINGTOWN, Texas 76082. Charges are \$255 for Towing, Storage Charges accrue daily at the rate of \$20 per day plus tax, Impound Charge of \$20 and a Notification Charge of \$50. **TIM'S TOWING (817)523-1098**.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The City of Springtown will conduct a public hearing on May 27, 2021 at 7 p.m. Springtown Municipal Courthouse Annex Building, located at 200 N. Main Street, Springtown Texas 76082, to consider the annexation of the following real property into the corporate limits of the City, at the request of the property owner:
24 acres situated in the Yoakum Valentine Survey, Abstract No. 1691, Parker County Texas, being said tract being the same tract of land recorded in Instrument 202025405, Deed Records, Parker County, Texas. The property is generally situated north of Walnut Creek Drive, east of Williams-Ward Road. A depiction of the area proposed for annexation is available at City Hall and is posted on the City's website.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On May 27, 2021 at 7 p.m. the City of Springtown Zoning Board of Adjustments will hold a public hearing and consider a variance request to allow the construction of an accessory structure within required rear setback for Part of Lot 4, Pearce Addition also known as the Roundtree Addition, City of Springtown, Parker County, Texas, also known as 401 North Avenue A. This meeting will take place in Council Chambers at the Springtown Municipal Courthouse Annex Building located at 200 N. Main Street, Springtown, Texas.

Quilters show appreciation for nurses

BY SUSAN McFARLAND
sptreporter@azlenews.net

With National Nurses Week May 6 to May 12, quilters in Parker County decided to thank some nurses for their selfless dedication to the care of others.

"The past year has been challenging and stressful for nurses, yet they have persevered to provide care and comfort to those in need," said Mary Williams, publicity chairperson, Quilter's Guild of Parker County (QGPC).

So, when the Weatherford Healthcare Center asked the QGPC to provide quilts to give to their nurses, "guild members stepped up and enthusiastically donated quilts for that cause," Williams said.

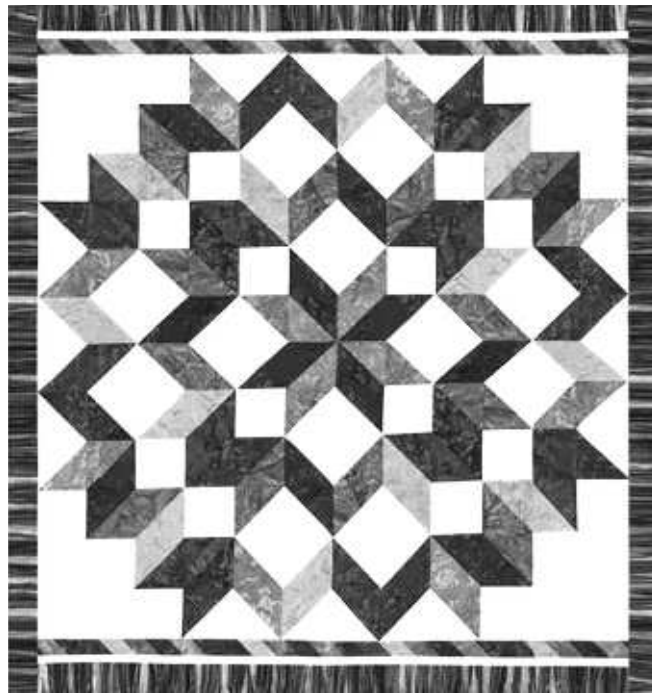
Lynn Main, chairperson of the QGPC Comfort Quilt Program, delivered 35 quilts to Rhoni Fields, CMA/human resources staffing, at Weatherford Healthcare on May 7. The quilts, all handmade by guild members, were added to gift bags of other items provided by

the Weatherford Healthcare Center and presented to the nurses May 10 to show how much they are appreciated.

The QGPC meets monthly. The May 20 meeting and program will be held at 6:45 p.m., May 20, via Zoom. The program this month is a video by Donna Jordan, who will demonstrate the Carpenter's Wheel pattern from start to finish.

"She will guide us through choosing the fabrics, cutting the pieces and finally stitching them together. Her guidance makes this traditional quilt pattern (also known as Star of Bethlehem and Carpenter's Star) a breeze to make by using half-square triangles," Williams said. "The end product will be a full-size quilt which can be as colorful as you wish!"

To attend, email your request including your name and phone number, to qgpc2000@gmail.com. To learn more about the QGPC, visit quiltersguildofparkercounty.org or find them on Facebook.



A quilt with a Carpenter's Wheel design, the quilt pattern being taught by Donna Jordan at the QGPC May meeting.



Lynn Main (left) of the Quilter's Guild of Parker County presents quilts to Rhoni Fields (right) of the Weatherford Healthcare Center for National Nurses Week appreciation.

Photos courtesy Quilter's Guild of Parker County

CHAMBER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.

Ambassador of the Year.

Organizers this year decided on giving 15 Judy Smerud Spirit of Springtown awards in place of the other awards. Springtown Independent School District Superintendent Mike Kelley, master of ceremonies, presented the awards.

Those recognized included SISD, Springtown Family Health Center, The Springtown Bread Lady—Jennifer Lanham, Springtown Police Department, Parker County Emergency Services District 1, the city of Springtown, Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Azle, Brookshire's Food and Pharmacy, Chadwell & Son Gas Co. Inc., Tri-County Electric Cooperative Inc., Walnut Creek Special Utility District, Corn Fed Catering, Umbra Winery at La Buena Vida Vineyards, Tuscany's Italian Restaurant, and Alvin Ord's—Mistie Rivera.

Judy Smerud was the Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce director from 1985 to 2005. She was involved with the community and its activities, spearheaded many events and developed hundreds of personal relationships along the way.

Amy Walker, executive director of the chamber, said Smerud was a woman of wisdom, integrity and selflessness, made many contributions to the community and

was a treasured citizen.

"I knew Judy, and she was involved in every aspect of this community. She was active in different organizations within our school district. She was just a wonderful lady," Walker said. "She was a sweet lady who loved this community."

Also at the event, Kelley presented the Hometown Hero award to the Darrell Mathis family.

"Very few are recognized as a Hometown Hero," Kelley said. Darrell Mathis really left an impression on his community."

Mathis, senior pastor at Hilltop Family Church, died Dec. 17 following a courageous battle with COVID-19 at age 61.

Hilltop Family church Pastor Brent Coplen, who was a personal friend and worked with Mathis for 17 years in ministry, said he was "the real deal."

"He was a hero. He was very strong and had great abilities," Coplen said. "He was a warrior, a person to be admired and one who shows great courage."

Coplen said Mathis taught him how to be a great father and he loved being a pastor.

"He liked preaching, he liked to talk. He knew how to deal with people, and was not afraid to do things he was called to do. He was very heroic," Coplen said.

Spotlight on BUSINESS

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The staff members contribute to the soothing atmosphere as well. Every resident at Eagle Crest is known by name and loved by all, and the staff works hard to make sure it feels like home.

Administrator Heather Holman spends her days being out and about at the facility.

"I enjoy getting out and visiting with our residents."

The residents at Eagle Crest Villa personalize their spaces with their own belongings and décor, which helps complete the sense that they are truly at home here.

Residents enjoy a variety of activities, from jigsaw puzzles to bird watching,

gardening and reading, movie matinees and exercise.

Eagle Crest provides transportation to and from local doctors and medical appointments. There are also two visiting physicians available for those residents who are more comfortable seeing a doctor at home.

Three delicious home-cooked meals are served each day, restaurant-style, in the dining room. Residents can enjoy fresh fruits and vegetables from the salad bar with each meal. Snacks, coffee and tea are available throughout the day.

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Eagle Crest Villa is located at 113 Denver Trail in Azle, across from Texas Health Harris Hospital.

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Optimist club honors SHS students

BY SUSAN McFARLAND
 sptreporter@azlenews.net

The Springtown Optimist Club honored four high school students during the May 11 meeting as the Young Texan/Texanne for April and May.

Once a month during the school year, the club honors local students as the Young Texan/Texanne, giving them recognition for maintaining a high level of scholastic performance, participating in civic and church activities, community involvement and extra curricular activities.

Rachel Farmsworth, 17, is named Young Texanne for April. She plans on attending college in Weatherford and is undecided on a major but leaning toward a teaching degree with a minor in art. Her high school activities include TAFE, instructional practices, NHS and VASE art competition. Her honors include a dual physics class.

Bryan Landaverde, 17, is named Young Texan for April. He plans on attending Texas Tech University and majoring in architecture. He participated in band and his honor classes include math, physics, history, English and

Spanish. Sydney Wade, 17, is named Young Texanne for May. She plans on attending Texas A&M University and majoring in philosophy. Her high school activities include band, TAFE, TFME, FCCLA and Spanish Club. Her honors include dual credit and AP classes.

Collin Vining, 17, is named Young Texan for May. He plans on attending Texas Tech or A&M University and majoring in engineering. He participated in wrestling and was in honors pre-calculus.

All four students spoke during the meeting, answering a few questions about themselves.

What is your favorite class? Why?

Farmsworth: Art, because I love art and being creative and expressing myself.

Landaverde: Dual history, I love learning about history, it just excites me.

Wade: My favorite class is band because I am able to express freely, it has shaped me as a person and I enjoy the challenges it brings me.

Vining: My favorite class is dual English because it isn't too hard but it isn't too easy.

Which teacher has made the greatest impact on your life thus far? Why?

Farmsworth: Mrs. Combs, my first-grade teacher, because in elementary school I struggled and she did after school tutoring every week to help me.

Landaverde: Mrs. Seabourn, she has allowed me to talk and rant to her and is always pushing me.

Wade: My band teacher, Mr. McLellan, has made the greatest impact on my life because he always pushed me to become a better player and never gave up hope.

Vining: Coach Cooper because he has been a great teacher my sophomore year and he has also coached me for three years.

A great moment that has happened to you at Springtown High School:

Farmsworth: When I decided to be more involved in school.

Landaverde: Going to state for marching band my freshman year.

Wade: In band, sitting and waiting for results at competition. We were nervous and then when we get the results we were all excited.

Vining: One great moment



Springtown High School students (l to r) Collin Vining, Rachel Farmsworth, Bryan Landaverde and Sydney Wade show certificates honoring them as Young Texan/Texannes during the Springtown Optimist Club meeting.

Photo by Susan McFarland

I've had at SHS is figuring out I made the wrestling team my freshman year.

Where will you be in 10 years and what will you be doing?

Farmsworth: I will hopefully be a teacher, married and raising a family.

Landaverde: I honestly do not know, hopefully would have served in the Navy and then be in the architecture business.

Wade: By this time, I should have my PhD and will be teaching philosophy at the

university level. In 10 years, I plan on still being in Texas but the location is up for debate, perhaps West Texas.

Vining: In 10 years I plan on being out of college and pursuing any job that I want, if I do not already have one.

After graduation how do you want people to remember your time at SHS?

Farmsworth: I want to be remembered for my kind words and for making people feel welcomed and appreciated.

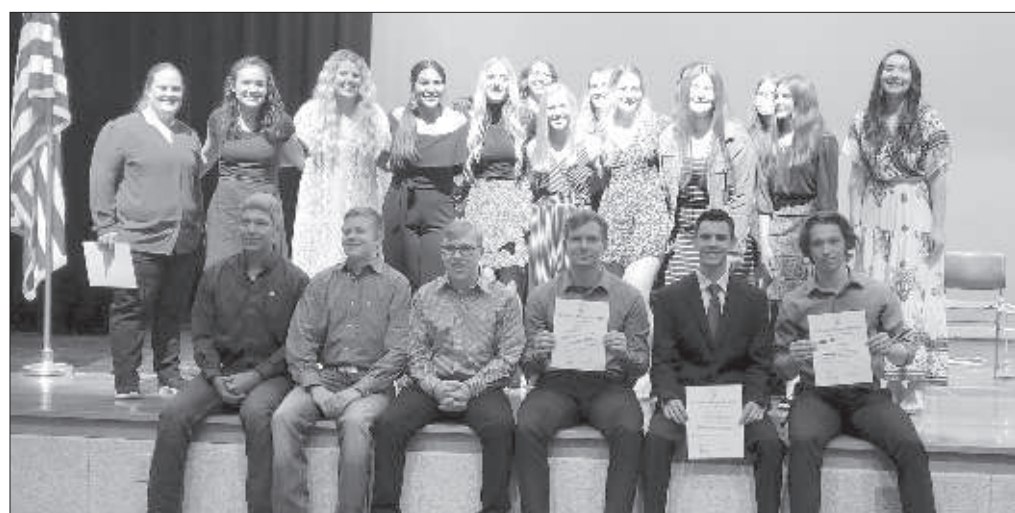
Landaverde: That I was

good student and a motivational figure for those going through hard times.

Wade: I want people to remember me as kind, dependable and over-all a good person. I do not care if they remember me as being one of the smart kids because that is not what's important. I just want people to remember me for who I am, not my test scores.

Vining: I want them to remember my time as hard-working, fun, and memorable.

2020 and 2021 NHS students honored during induction ceremony



Springtown High School students in the National Honor Society were honored during an induction ceremony May 11 at the SHS Auditorium. Because of the pandemic, NHS students from 2020 were not able to have a ceremony so this year's event included inductees from 2020 and 2021. Selection for the NHS is based on four criteria: scholarship, leadership, service, and character. To fulfill the scholarship requirement, students must have a cumulative scholastic average of 95. Left: NHS 2020 inductees. Right: NHS 2021 inductees.

Photos by Tootie Hall

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

PROJECT: A&P Mechanical, Inspection Authority and/or Aircraft Maintenance Services at the Pleasanton Municipal Airport
 Sealed REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS will be received at City Secretary's Office, 108 Second Street, City Hall Building, Pleasanton, Texas, 78064, until 4:00 p.m. (local time/CT) on Friday, May 14, 2021 and shall include acknowledgement of any addenda submitted.

The City of Pleasanton is issuing this Request for Proposal (RFP) in order to solicit and receive Proposals from qualified firms interested in leasing a maintenance hangar for the purposes of providing A&P mechanical services at the Pleasanton Municipal Airport (KPEZ).

Please submit one (1) marked original and three (3) exact duplicate copies of your complete proposal, labeled and clearly marked **Request for Proposals (RFP) for an A&P Mechanical for the Pleasanton Municipal Airport**. Bids sent via courier must be sealed in a separate envelope inside of the mailer.

POINT OF CONTACT: All inquiries regarding this RFP must be made, in writing, to Andres Aguirre, at aaquirre@pleasantontx.gov. The City shall not be responsible for any verbal communication between any employee of the City and any potential firm. Only written requirements and qualifications will be considered. The City of Pleasanton reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, to waive irregularities, and to accept the proposal deemed the most advantageous to the City.

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NEIGHBOR, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.



Connie Ellis (l), director, and Margaret Mottram, volunteer, at Neighbor to Neighbors.

Photo by Susan McFarland

teers, has helped in many areas of the pantry. Her role May 11 was pulling food from the refrigerator to be bagged and loaded on carts for deliveries.

"Just knowing that people are being provided for and they have what they need is nice," Hampton said. "I've met so many who lost their jobs and are trying to get back on their feet. They are so grateful there is somewhere to go for help during this hard time in their life."

Volunteer Joy Rickman started helping out about two months ago. She said everyone is so friendly; it makes it easy to come back.

"I just want to help people," said Rickman, who enjoys assisting clients with clothing and household needs.

Along with receiving groceries during their visit, each family member can pick out one outfit including shoes, accessories and undergarments. The clothes closet also has pajamas, toiletries, pet food, household items and diapers.

"If there is something we don't have that a client needs, we'll try and find it for them," Rickman said.

Norma Jean Ford, 90, has been a volunteer at Neighbor to Neighbors for 21 years. This week, she was pulling dry goods off the shelves to be bagged.

Like some of the other volunteers, Ford was once a client.

She said right after she



Maurine Hampton pulls refrigerated food to be bagged for pantry clients.

Photo by Susan McFarland

moved to Springtown in the year 2000 she visited the pantry.

"I needed some help so I came for groceries," Ford said. "I asked if they needed any help, they said 'Yes,' so I started and just kept coming back."

Marty Eudaly, a volunteer of six years, mostly works outside loading groceries into cars. He also does the heavy-lifting for the staff and makes deliveries to the homebound.

"I just do whatever they need," he said.

Eudaly made 10 deliveries on May 11.

A 94-year-old volunteer

made nine deliveries that day. Margaret Mottram has been volunteering at Neighbor to Neighbors for 16 years.

Mottram said she was "raised real poor," so she "loves giving back."

To receive food, clothing or household items, or to make a donation, call 817-523-6095. Neighbor to Neighbors also takes monetary donations through PayPal using the email address n2n76082@gmail.com and is listed as a charity for a percentage donation when shopping through Amazon or eBay.

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 May 4-May 9.

Brian Earl Campbell, 46, was arrested May 4 for stalking, a third-degree felony.

Clayton Dane Rea, 37, was arrested May 4 for deadly conduct discharging firearm, a third-degree felony; and for tampering/

fabricating with physical evidence with intent to impair, a third-degree felony.

Desmond Leon Sage, 42, was arrested May 4 for organized retail theft between \$2,500 and \$30,000, a state-jail felony.

Johnathan Ray Coslett, 30, was arrested May 6 for two counts of possession of a controlled substance between 1 and 4 grams in Penalty Group 1, a second-degree felony.

Shelby Adam Thompson, 36, was arrested May 7

for assault causes bodily injury to a family member, and assault family/household member impeding breath or circulation, a second-degree felony.

David James Henson Jr., 30, was arrested May 8 for public intoxication.

Lucas Ryan Henderson, 41, was arrested May 9 for unlawful carrying of a weapon and for possession of a controlled substance between 4 and 200 grams in Penalty Group 1, a first-degree felony.

LOCAL INDICTMENTS

Three locals indicted by Tarrant County jury

Tarrant County Grand Jury indicted the following residents April 23-May 5.

Aaron Edward Syma, 40, was indicted April 23 on charges of assaulting a family/household member by

impeding breath or circulation, a third-degree felony.

Christopher Daniel Cabell, 43, was indicted May 3 on charges of evading arrest and detention with a previous conviction, a state-jail felony; and on charges of unauthorized use of a vehi-

cle, a state-jail felony.

Aubrey John Bivins, 36, was indicted May 5 on charges of possession of a controlled substance between 4 and 200 grams in Penalty Group 1, a first-degree felony.

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 15**

Neighbor to Neighbors

413 S. Main Street, Springtown

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LOCATION:
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If you need any further information, please feel free to contact Helen at 682-229-9561.

Tiny dancers

Local dance teams to compete in world championship

BY SUSAN McFARLAND
sptreporter@azlenews.net

Miss Twister Dance Company Pink Sparklers and Blue Sparklers are set to compete at World Dance Championship July 26 at Meadowlands Exposition Center in Secaucus, New Jersey.

Miss Twister Dance Company, located in Bridgeport and Springtown, is owned by Kylie Stegman and the competition director is Christian Moran.

Tisha Philpot, whose daughter Emma is competing, said the two teams of

14 dancers have had a very successful season, "bringing home multiple platinum and overall awards" including the coveted Golden Ticket award, which provides the girls the opportunity to compete against other competitive dance teams across the country.

Miss Twister Dance Company made the announcement last month on its Facebook page: "The news just keeps on getting better over here...we had a very happy wake-up call this morning to find out that we had received not one, but TWO GOLDEN TICKETS to the World Dance Champi-

onship in NYC this summer!! Congratulations to 'Alice' and 'Kings and Queens!'

"Alice" received 2nd Overall in their age and level, along with an Entertainment Award. 'Kings and Queens' placed 3rd overall in their age and level. We honestly did not expect this and are just beaming with pride for all of our dancers!"

Golden Ticket invitations are given out at all Star

Dance Alliance Regional and National competitions to top scoring routines. SDA is an alliance of the top international dance competitions.

The World Dance Championship, considered the best-of-the-best in dance competitions, is a week long elite competition where dancers from countries from all around the world compete head-to-head to become World Dance Champions.



Pink Sparklers: Emma Philpot, Emmersyn Moran, Bo Taylor, Ellery Sargent, Sloane Stegman, Blakely Geiger, Brynna Haselden, Bella Stone

Photos courtesy Nina Price Photography of Paradise



Blue Sparklers: Briley Woodard, Karly Mann, Kaitlyn Read, Danika Whitaker, Reagan Thomas, Madison Mussulman

Photos courtesy Nina Price Photography of Paradise

Calendar

May 20 - June 1, 2021

TO SUBMIT CALENDAR ITEMS

The community calendar is a free listing in The Springtown Epigraph to inform readers of programs, special meetings and nonprofit 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 sptreporter@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** is 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 but appointments are not required. For more information, contact Jessica Vandygriff at 817-594-8845.

SATURDAY, MAY 29

• **CITY OF SPRINGTOWN MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE** is from 10 to 11 a.m. at Springtown Veterans Park, corner of Walnut Creek and Lake Drive.

• **SUMMERFEST ON THE SQUARE** is from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Springtown. Kick off the summer by joining businesses on the Square for the second annual Summerfest on the Square. Located in Historic Downtown Springtown, enjoy an afternoon of fun with the family! The event includes a car show, local food vendors, snow cones, and live Texas Country music.

TUESDAY, JUNE 1

• **SPRINGTOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY SUMMER READING PROGRAM REGISTRATION** begins June 1 for the 2021 Summer Reading Challenge. The program, for ages 4 to 17, runs through July 31 and includes prizes for reaching accomplishments. To sign up, go to the Springtown Public Library, located at 626 N. Main St. Business hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, call 817-523-5862.



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Say it now.

“I had to check to be sure this wasn't my funeral.”

So said my friend, Alton, at his retirement celebration last Saturday.

Alton actually retired last fall after 26 years as Executive Director of Riverbend Retreat Center in Glen Rose, Texas but his official retirement celebration was delayed due to covid issues. (I suppose 2020 will largely be remembered as a year of loss and delay).

During Alton's tenure, the name changed from Tarrant Baptist Encampment to Riverbend Retreat Center, many new facilities were constructed, over 646,000 people attended camps, retreats,



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.

and conferences, and—most significantly—over 14,000 people came to know Jesus

personally.

Alton and I actually met at the camp in the summer of 1985 when we were both on staff at churches who brought kids to summer camp. I continued to take kids there for all the years I was either a Youth Minister or Pastor—from 1985-2007.

During Alton's tenure as director, I was there many times as a camp pastor, worship leader, and conference speaker. I even got to lead worship a couple of years ago at the camp's 50th anniversary celebration (because they needed an old dude to sing old camp songs).

Friends, colleagues, and former staffers gathered last Saturday to honor Alton's leadership, vision, compas-

sion, and commitment to Jesus. It was a combination of belly laughs, tears, and heartfelt words of appreciation.

It truly makes sense that, when they finally let Alton speak, he made the funeral comment.

The truth hit me at that moment.

I have probably been to more funerals in the past two years than any two year period in my lifetime. Though I haven't been a pastor in almost 13 years, I probably have spoken or sung at more funerals in the past two years than any two year period when I was a pastor.

I have also written many memorial tributes in my weekly posts.

When a loved one dies, we often have regrets about the things we did not say to them while they were alive. And even if we don't have regrets, we wish there were things we could say again—just one more time.

Last Saturday I determined that there are things I want to say to and about significant people in my life while they are still around to be blessed by my words.

Some of those things will be done privately—in conversations, notes, texts, and the like.

But there are also people I want to recognize publicly because of what I have learned from them that I want to pass on to other people.

You'll see some of those in my weekly posts in the months ahead.

You may not know the people personally, but I'll try to share some lessons that will be meaningful regardless.

Part of the journey of Amazing to which God has invited each of us is the people whose paths intersect with ours along the way.

My encouragement to you today is to think of those people who are still around to hear your words of affirmation and appreciation and say those words now.

Be amazing today, my friend.

Agriculture organizations teach life skills

Well, I promised last week that we would visit today about the other premier Agricultural youth organization, the 4H. But before we do this let's make some comparisons between FFA and 4H.

FFA membership can begin as early as the seventh grade in a public school with the student's entrance into the Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources (AFNR) program. The Junior FFA program, when offered, can begin at the 3rd grade level and continue up until the start of the student's AFNR career.

FFA membership can continue through the individual's third year after high school graduation. Participation in 4H activities can start as early as kindergarten age through 2nd grade in Clover Kids with 4H membership



AG 101 By Jack DeShazo

Jack DeShazo has decades of experience in the agriculture field.

beginning at the 3rd grade level and continuing through 12th grade and even beyond to age 21. The FFA organizational chart begins at the individual chapter level with the local High School Agriculture Teacher being the Advisor and adult leader. The organization then continues through district, area, and state associations onto the national level.

Texas FFA leadership is associated with the Agriculture Teachers Association of Texas and on the national level is loosely tied in with the U.S. Department of Education. 4H begins with individual community clubs with volunteer adult leaders which then continues to the county level with the County Agricultural Extension Agent-4H & Youth Development being in charge of county and local club activities. The county 4H clubs are then organized into districts which ultimately are guided and led by the state Land Grant Institution, which in our case is Texas A&M University, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. State 4H programs then are associated with the National 4H Council.

Now let's do a little visiting about 4H history and activities. The 4H organization was originally organized in Jacksboro, Texas in 1908.

The beginnings of 4H were Corn Clubs for the boys and Tomato Clubs for girls. From these meager beginnings the organization has evolved into 6.5 million members, ages 5 to 21 nationwide. Personally, my knowledge of the 4H program is not nearly as strong as that of the FFA program so I reached out to Kayla Neill, Parker County Agriculture Agent, 4H and Youth Development for more complete information about the organization and its activities. Kayla summed up her view of the Parker County 4H's program goals in the following quote; "it's seeing young people taking on a project that they might not be familiar with and watching them grow and gain knowledge in that particular area."

She also stated that one of the primary goals of 4H is to teach Life Skills. This is accomplished through project work in various areas

including Livestock, Food & Nutrition, Fashion & Interior Design, Photography, Small Engines and Rocketry.

Success in these projects is accomplished through the 4Hers participation in workshops, exhibitions, clinics, presentations and contests whereby they exhibit their knowledge gained through these experiences. There is a heavy emphasis on Leadership Development. Parker County 4H also offers Curriculum Enrichment programs to Parker County Schools in the areas of Horticulture, Embryology, and Dental Hygiene.

Kayla also stated that one of the proudest accomplishments of the Parker County 4H is the ability to offer and award an annual \$10,000 scholarship to an outstanding graduating high school Parker County 4H member. This scholarship can be used to help offset community college, 4 year college/uni-

versity or trade school expenses.

4H members are also eligible for competition for many other awards and scholarships on even higher levels than county. I think it can honestly be stated that active membership in the FFA and/or 4H programs is definitely a huge stepping stone to leading a successful life.

FFA and 4H Trivia – Regardless of what you might have heard young people can be members of both the FFA and 4H at the same time. Also, there is absolutely nothing wrong with the idea of FFA chapters and its members working together with 4H clubs and its members. And one final trivia fact, the National FFA headquarters, until a few years ago was on what at one time was a part of George Washington's farm near Alexandria, Virginia.

'til next week.

'Constitutional carry' bill close to becoming law

It is a near certainty that Texans will be allowed to carry handguns without a license in the near future as House Bill 1927 passed both chambers and heads to a conference committee to hash out amendments added in the Senate version.

Gov. Greg Abbott has said he would sign the bill, which means Texans would no longer be required to obtain a license to carry a handgun either openly or concealed.

Ultimate passage of the bill means Texas would join at least 20 other states with similar laws.

A University of Texas/Texas Tribune poll indicates most Texans oppose unlicensed carry and support criminal and mental background checks before all gun sales.



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: gborders@texaspress.com.

DROUGHT CONDITIONS CONTINUE TO IMPROVE ACROSS STATE

Much-needed rain in April has continued to ease drought conditions, according to the Texas Water De-

velopment Board.

Midland, for example, received 2.2 inches last month, more than the previous six months combined. Right now, 65% of the state is experiencing drought conditions, mainly in South and West Texas.

More rainfall in early May should improve the drought situation even more, according to TWDB.

OUTREACH PROGRAMS AIMED TO BOOST VACCINE RATE

As the rate of COVID-19 vaccinations continues to slow, several outreach programs are attempting to reach Texans where they work and live.

The Texas Division of Emergency Management and the Texas Military Department have opened the State Mobile Vaccination Team Call Center. Texas

businesses or civic organizations can call 844-90-TEXAS to schedule a visit from a state mobile vaccine team.

To qualify, a business or organization must have 10 or more employees, visitors or members who wish to be vaccinated.

"Vaccines are the most effective tool in Texas' fight against COVID-19, and we are committed to making COVID-19 vaccines even more widely available to Texans across the state," Abbott said. "The State Vaccine Call Center will help connect businesses and civic organizations with these life-saving shots and ensure that more Texans have an opportunity to get vaccinated."

The Texas Department of State Health Services is inviting pediatric health care providers to enroll in the COVID-19 vaccine program, in anticipation of the

expansion of the Pfizer vaccine emergency use authorization to include adolescents 12 years and older.

DSHS sent a letter to more than 3,000 pediatric providers who already give vaccines to children.

With vaccine supply exceeding demand, DSHS will now fill vaccine orders as they come in and discontinue allocating the vaccine weekly. The vaccine is available more widely than ever at hundreds of Texas locations.

OAK TREES STILL RECOVERING FROM WINTER STORM

Winter Storm Uri didn't just wreak havoc on homeowners and businesses that suffered from broken pipes and the extended power outage. The Texas A&M Forest Service notes that oak trees across the state are slow in

leafing out, prompting many property owners to contact horticulturists, worried their trees have died.

Maybe so, maybe not, says veteran TFS forester Courtney Blevins. He advises property owners to wait before taking down an oak tree that still might come to life. "I think most of the oaks are going to come through okay," Blevins said. "If your tree is leafing out really late, it's obviously stressed. But most trees die from a combination of stressors, not just one thing."

Blevins and longtime horticulturist and syndicated columnist Neil Sperry both say there is no hurry to take down an oak tree, even if it is actually dead. The best time to plant is in the fall or early winter, and even dead trees rarely pose an immediate danger.

The Springtown Epigraph

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Letters to the editor are welcomed, but are printed on a space-available basis and may be edited for space or style requirements. Letters must be signed and include an address and the writer's phone number. Anonymous letters will not be published. Letters should be brief (300 words or less), typewritten or emailed. Letters endorsing political candidates, third-party letters, and letters that have appeared in other newspapers will not be published. Writers are limited to two letters monthly. The deadline for letters to the editor is 5 p.m. Monday.

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Porcupines advance to area round for rematch with Graham

BY QUINTON LILLEY
editor@azlenews.net

There's a saying that claims "all things in life come full circle" and for the Springtown baseball team, that idea couldn't be more true.

After winning their bi-district playoff series last weekend, they'll face the team they began the season against in the Graham Steers.

Springtown got to the area round thanks to a two games to none sweep over Fort Worth Carter-Riverside this past weekend in Keller.

The Porcupines won both games in dominating fashion 12-0, 12-0 at Keller Central

High School.

Game one on Friday, saw SHS take a 2-0 lead in the first inning thanks to a ground out by William Gleason, then Aiden Vickers singled to bring in Matt Lockard.

The second inning was a big one for the Porcupines also as they scored four more runs. Tristian Pressley got that frame started with a double that drove in Scout Richards and another run as well. Later in the frame, Cristian Hernandez hit a sacrifice fly out that drove in Pressley and Matt Lockard scored on another Gleason ground ball.

By the end of the second inning, SHS lead 6-0.

The third inning served as insurance when Springtown added five more runs and put the game out of reach.

Vickers scored on a Landon Foster ground ball, Foster scored later in the frame on a single, and Seth Lopez followed suit scoring from second.

Later in the inning, Hernandez hit a single to the outfield, and Pressley scored making it an 11-0 lead for SHS.

From there, the Porcupines cruised to victory.

In total, SHS had 10 hits and no fielding errors. Vickers and Pressley led the way with three hits apiece while Pressley also had three runs scored and two RBIs.

Hernandez pitched all seven innings for SHS as he struck out seven, allowed just one hit, and two walks with no runs scored.

In game two on Saturday, it was more of the same as SHS took a 3-0 lead in the first inning behind a ground-out fielder's choice from Gleason as Lockard scored, then Vickers singled to right field and Hernandez scored.

After a scoreless second inning, Springtown used a huge third inning to blow the game open as the Porcupines scored six runs in the frame.

Springtown High pitcher Landon Foster (left) had an impressive performance in game 2, as he allowed one hit and no runs to score in five full innings.

Photo by Quinton Lilley



Springtown High centerfielder Matt Lockard slides in to third base during game 2 of the Porcupines bi-district playoff series win over Fort Worth Carter-Riverside last Saturday afternoon. Photo by Quinton Lilley

The first came on a Lockard single as Pressley scored, then Vickers hit a single to left driving in Hernandez, and Foster hit a ground ball as Gleason scored.

The final two runs of the inning came on a single that brought in Seth Lopez and then another single was hit to left field as Brayden Fox scored from second.

By the end of the third SHS led 9-0. From there, Springtown's defense took over and the team cruised to a series-clinching win.

Landon Foster pitched a strong outing as he allowed just one hit, and had one strikeout in five full innings.

SHS coach Josh Ward complimented his team for their efforts over the weekend.

"Last week overall I thought we did a good job of handling the playoff atmosphere. I knew going in that we were the better team but emphasized all week that we still had to go out and show it, and we did just that. I'm proud of the effort and energy these guys showed all week and happy that we could bring home on the second bi-district baseball win in school history."

With the victory, Springtown will now face Graham who they beat in a tightly contested game back on Feb. 23.

That game was Springtown's season opener and the Porcupines won 3-2 thanks to a game-winning single by Hernandez.

Coach Ward said his team will need to improve their

performance this week if they expect to win again.

"We will really look to raise our level of play another step. Doing little things right, cutting down on mistakes, and allowing the other team to get free bases whether it's through walks or errors. It will be the team that makes the fewest mistakes that will come out on top."

The Steers won District 5-4A with a record of 8-2 and are 24-8 overall.

Springtown and Graham will have game one this Friday in Springtown at 7 p.m. Game two will take place in Graham on Saturday with first pitch set for noon.

If a third game is needed it will take place immediately after game two.

Lady 'Pines season ends in area round

BY QUINTON LILLEY
editor@azlenews.net

The 2021 Springtown softball team has had an impressive run.

The team won a school softball record 21 games and made it to the second round of the playoffs for the first time in over a decade.

After a big bi-district series win over Benbrook two weeks ago, the Lady 'Pines season came to an end this past weekend at the hands of Vernon.

While both games were tight contests, Springtown ultimately lost two games to

none by scores of 2-0 and 4-1.

Despite the loss, SHS coach Scott Mann said he was extremely proud of the way his team performed this season.

"I was very pleased with how we played over the course of this season. We had some ups and downs but way more ups. The seniors this season laid a huge stepping stone for years to come and I couldn't be more proud of them as well as this team as a whole."

Game one was held Friday night in Henrietta and saw SHS get off to a slow start.

Vernon took an early 1-0 lead and their defense and

pitching pretty much took care of the rest.

Springtown earned no hits in the game and Vernon took the victory 2-0.

Then on Saturday in game two, Vernon again took an early lead as Springtown trailed 3-0.

After three scoreless innings, SHS finally got on the board in the fourth frame thanks to a solo home run by Camryn Slocum.

Unfortunately, that was the only run Springtown produced as Vernon's pitching and defense took over and the Lady Lions went on to win 4-1.

Mann said his team's struggles with Vernon's pitching style was a crucial factor in the loss.

"Their pitcher was really difficult to adjust to. She has a different style of pitching than we have seen all season. Her spin and movement kept us off balance and we never could get a grasp on it."

In a two-game span, SHS had just two hits, no RBIs, and scored just one run.

SHS also had four errors in

Springtown High shortstop Camryn Slocum (left) takes a lead off second base during a recent playoff game. Slocum scored SHS' only run in their series loss to Vernon on a solo home run in her final game as a Porcupine.

Photo by Quinton Lilley



Springtown High pitcher Sara Crews swings at a pitch during a recent playoff game. Crews was a vital part of the teams success all season long contributing at the plate and on the mound as the teams number one pitcher. Photo by Quinton Lilley

game one that allowed Vernon to keep control of the momentum.

"We made some errors early in the game that cost the majority of their runs. We allowed six runs and only three were earned with two of those that possibly never would have happened if we made outs in front of those," Mann said.

With the 2021 season coming to an end, SHS will look to reload for next year.

Springtown will lose third baseman Shaylee Mann, second baseman Jayden Grubis, and utility player Emily Roberts out of their starting lineup to

graduation.

Each of those players has started the last three years together.

But Mann feels his underclassmen can use their example as a path to continue next year.

"I hope the younger girls use this as fuel and want to improve on this season. I believe the past four to five years each group has laid the groundwork to get where we are right now. We have to keep working in the off-season, playing as much as we can and be ready when our season gets here next January."

In closing, Mann said he thanked all of his seniors for

the sacrifices they made for the program and that they'll be missed.

"I could not be more proud of their effort and attitude they brought each day. It was tough to end our season the way we did, but they're more important things coming as they now prepare for the next phase of life. Hopefully, over these past four years, they've been able to take some life lessons they have been taught and use them along the way."

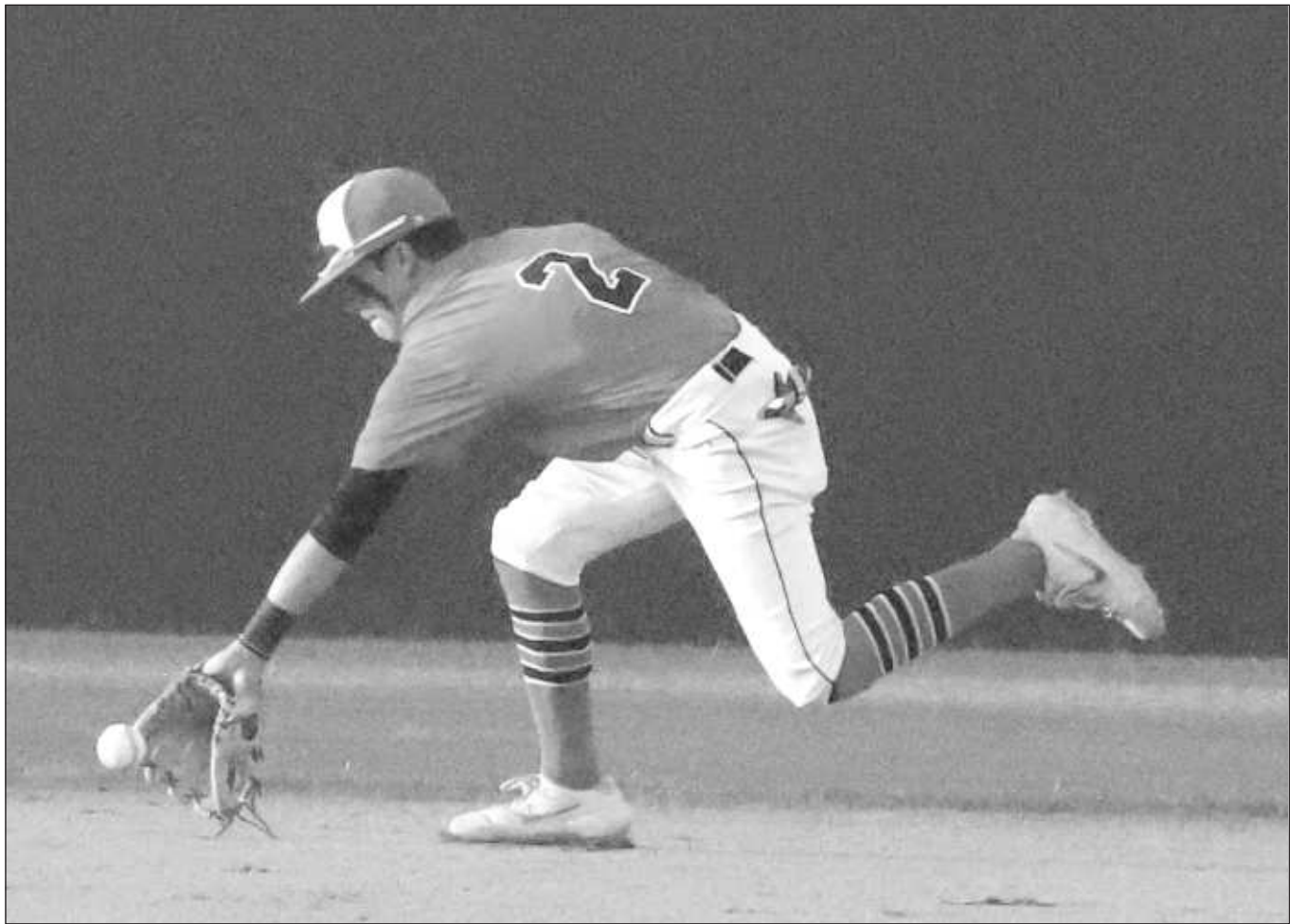
Springtown finishes their season 21-11, and Vernon moves on to the UIL Region I quarterfinals as they'll face Springtown's district rival Argyle this week.

Congrats to the Springtown baseball team for advancing to the UIL area round!!



The Springtown High baseball team won their first round playoff series over Fort Worth Carter-Riverside thanks to their strong hitting and speed on the basepads. The Porcupines will face Graham in a rematch of their season opener this weekend with games beginning Friday night.

PHOTOS BY QUINTON LILLEY



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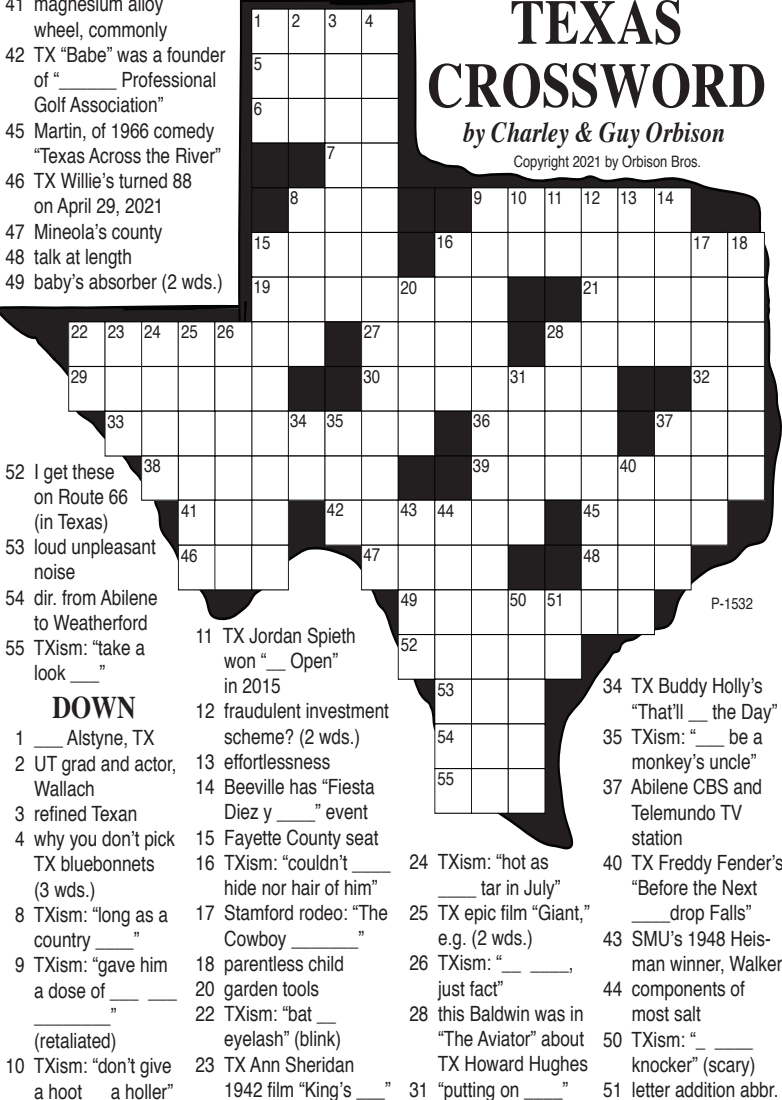
ACROSS

- Oldham County seat
- TXism: "it costs an arm and a leg"
- this Vance founded the Alley Theatre in Houston
- TX tech co.
- TXism: "separate the ___ from the boys"
- "casas," south of the border
- tall Texas tales
- Gen. Foulois started the "___ Squadron" in Texas
- TXism: "enjoyed about ___ I can stand" (bored)
- willow that grows in wet habitats
- put things in order
- "up ___ good" (misbehaving)
- card cheat has ___ his sleeve
- unscented (2 wds.)
- TXism: "___ himself to death in a revolving door" (idiot)
- "Live Free or Die" state (abbr.)
- Fort Hood saw a lot of post ___ after "Desert Storm"
- Duncanville star David who pitched for Braves & Rockies
- Korean car maker
- this TX Linda starred in 1948 film "Unfaithfully Yours"
- Field Scovell was "___ Bowl"
- magnesium alloy wheel, commonly
- TX "Babe" was a founder of "___ Professional Golf Association"
- Martin, of 1966 comedy "Texas Across the River"
- TX Willie's turned 88 on April 29, 2021
- Mineola's county
- talk at length
- baby's absorber (2 wds.)
- TX Jordan Spieth won "___ Open" in 2015
- fraudulent investment scheme? (2 wds.)
- effortlessness
- Beeville has "Fiesta Diez y ___" event
- Fayette County seat
- TXism: "couldn't ___ hide nor hair of him"
- Stamford rodeo: "The Cowboy ___"
- parentless child
- garden tools
- TXism: "bat ___ eyelash" (blink)
- TX Ann Sheridan 1942 film "King's ___"
- TX Buddy Holly's "That'll ___ the Day"
- TXism: "___ be a monkey's uncle"
- Abilene CBS and Telemundo TV station
- TX Freddy Fender's "Before the Next ___ drop Falls"
- SMU's 1948 Heisman winner, Walker
- components of most salt
- TXism: "___ knocker" (scary)
- letter addition abbr.

DOWN

- ___ Alstyne, TX
- UT grad and actor, Wallach
- refined Texan
- why you don't pick TX bluebonnets (3 wds.)
- TXism: "long as a country ___"
- TXism: "gave him a dose of ___" (retaliated)
- TXism: "don't give a hoot ___ a holler"

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Monster

Boy. Man. Human. Monster.

“Monster” first made its debut at the 2018 Sundance Film Festival, and has been waiting in the wings ever since. Based on the novel of the same name by Walter Dean Myers, it was written for the screen by Colen Wiley and Janece Shaffer. The film is directed by Anthony Mandler, who previously worked on music videos with the likes of Rihanna and the Jonas Brothers.

The film stars Kelvin Harrison Jr. (“Luce”) as a 17-year-old aspiring filmmaker who finds himself charged as an accessory to felony murder, which he vehemently denies being any part of. His parents are played by Jeffrey Wright (“The Goldfinch”) and Jennifer Hudson (“Dreamgirls”). Rounding out the cast is A\$AP Rocky (Rakim Mayers), John David Washington (“Tenet”), Jennifer Ehle (“Pride and Preju-

dice”), and Paul Ben-Victor (“Goliath”).

THE PLOT

Steve Harmon (Harrison Jr.) is a young artist trying to find his story. Growing up in Harlem in a middle-class family, he has grown up confident that his future will be what he makes it.

One night, a robbery-gone-wrong ends results in the death of the store owner, and four young men charged with felony murder, Steve being one of them.

He claims he is innocent, but he must convince not his family or his overworked public defender, but the twelve people who sit in judgment of him.

Will the truth of that night come to light, and will Steve be free to live the life he expected of himself? Or will a skewed view of the truth end all of that?

WHAT WORKED

The acting is fantastic. Harrison Jr. is well on his way to an Oscar win if his early work is any indication.

WHAT DIDN'T WORK

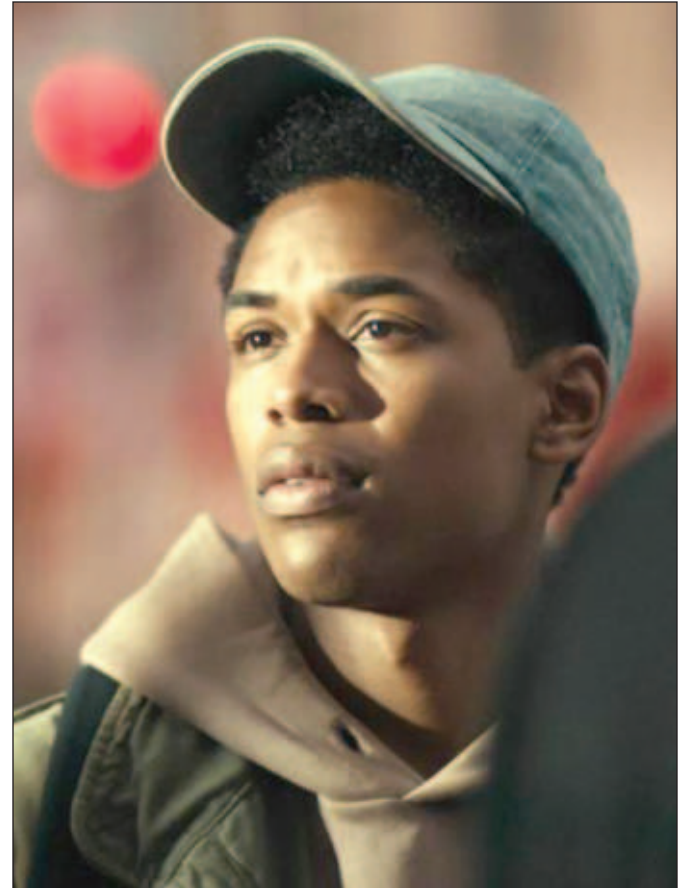
The style choice of jumping between the stark black-and-white films of Steve the student, the colorful images of his life before, and the courtroom procedural can hamper the flow. While the main characters are given plenty of depth in this film,

the supporting roles feel a little flat, which could have taken this film to a whole other level.

SUMMING IT UP

This is definitely worth the watch. The acting is amazing, and even though we don't get an amazing Jennifer Hudson ballad thrown in (can't mama be singing while she cooks?), it is a great film to add to your weekend watch list.

“Monster” is currently streaming on Netflix.



Monster

2021
TV-MA

Length 1 hour 38 minutes
Starring: Kelvin Harrison Jr., A\$AP Rocky, Jennifer Ehle, Jennifer Hudson, Jeffrey Wright

Streaming on Netflix

7



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