



Springtown moves forward on zoning, preliminary plat for new subdivision

BY MADELYN EDWARDS
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The Springtown City Council approved a zoning change and preliminary plat for a new housing subdivision. Some residents had voiced concerns about the plan.

Last week, the council unanimously approved the zoning

change to Single Family Residential 2 on a 24-acre property east of Williams-Ward Road and north of Walnut Creek Drive. The subdivision will have 92 single-family residential lots which average 9,200 square feet.

Two residents, Jesse Blakely and Beth Podell, brought up concerns at the council meeting about

the underground springs and how water flows through the property. Blakely and Podell spoke at the September council meeting when this zoning case was tabled after they raised their concerns.

Springtown City Administrator David Miller said the city engineer is aware of the issues mentioned by Podell and Blakely, and more

engineering work will be done. The preliminary plat for the project met requirements from the city ordinance.

When it came time to vote on the preliminary plat, which is a map showing features of a proposed subdivision, not all the council members voted for approval. Council member Ted Martinez

abstained from the vote, signaling to residents who opposed the development that their voices were heard and not dismissed. He said he couldn't move forward on the plat given the concerns from residents.

"Whenever citizens have con-

SEE ZONING, PAGE 3A.

Kids, parents have fun at Lions Club's Halloween Bash

BY MADELYN EDWARDS
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Kids in Halloween costumes with their parents lined up outside the Springtown Middle School football field on Friday as the sun began to set.

On the field and around the track games and bounce houses were set up for kids to play and win candy.

"I love it," said Cassidy Burke, who brought her son and nephews to the event. "I think this is great for these kids. It's so busy, so I love the environment."

The Halloween Bash is hosted by the Springtown Lions Club. It brought in around 800 people, and sold out on wristbands and prizes in the duck pond, said Lindsey Miles, Lions Club executive board secretary and cheer commissioner. This is the second year of the bash.

The money raised, under \$5,000, goes toward high school senior scholarships and meals to families in need for Thanksgiving, Miles said. The senior scholarships were added as a target of the fundraising when planning of the bash switched from the service board to Lions Club's cheer, football, volleyball and basketball teams.

"We put it all together in a week,

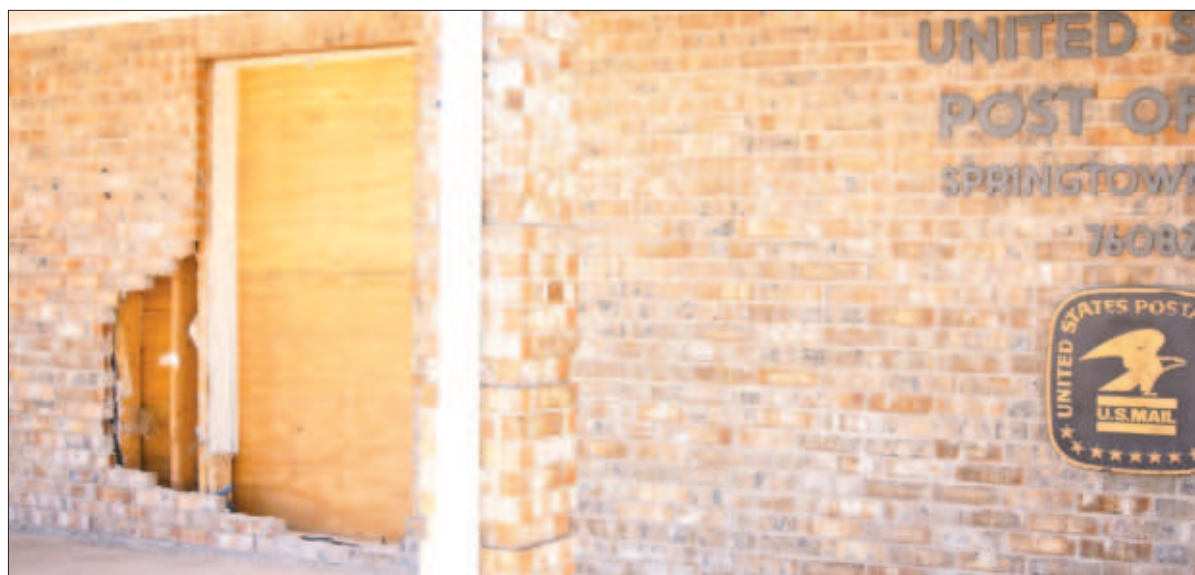


Erica Weber hands a piece of candy to Robert Beech, 6.

Photo by Madelyn Edwards

SEE HALLOWEEN BASH, PAGE 3A.

No one hurt after driver crashes into post office



A woman crashed into the Springtown post office last week.

Photo by Madelyn Edwards

BY MADELYN EDWARDS
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No one was hurt when an elderly driver ran her vehicle into the Springtown Post Office last week. Repairs are planned soon.

The woman mistook the gas

pedal for the brake and crashed through the wall in the post office. Police Chief Cres Salazar said her vehicle turned off upon impact.

"Poor thing, she felt so bad about it," Postmaster Angela Davis said.

The woman is not facing any

charges, nor does this case have to go through the medical advisory board to determine her ability to operate a vehicle, Salazar said.

"She was coherent," he said. "She was scared, but she was

SEE POST OFFICE, PAGE 3A.

Voters reject Springtown ISD bond

BY MADELYN EDWARDS
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Voters struck down Tuesday night the Springtown ISD bond that would have paid for a new elementary school.

According to Parker County's unofficial results, 1,011 voters, or 51.35%, voted against the bond, while 958, or 48.65%, voted for the bond.

"That a majority of voters did not support the bond proposal is disappointing," Superintendent

Mike Kelley wrote on a SISD Facebook post.

Kelley also said that participation in Tuesday's bond election was higher than May's bond election with a similar proposal. He attributed the higher turnout to "the hard work key community members provided as they rallied voters to be more involved in Springtown ISD."

SISD's \$41 million bond would have allowed the district to build

SEE BOND, PAGE 3A.



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Sheriff Authier talks crime, jail to chamber luncheon attendees

BY MADELYN EDWARDS
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Parker County Sheriff Russ Authier stopped by the Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce luncheon last week to talk about the state of the sheriff's department

and answered questions from attendees.

With the growth in Parker County, Authier said there hasn't been a big uptick in crime.

"The traffic brings more crime. More people is more crime," he said. "We're very

aggressive in traffic enforcement, which is drug trafficking as well because drug traffickers drive cars. That's where we catch them usually."

"Our partners here at the cities, they're very aggressive in their traffic en-

forcement," he continued. "Springtown, (Chief) Cres (Salazar) does a great, great job."

Authier talked about the absence of Department of Public Safety troopers, who have been called by Gov. Greg Abbott to seal the border in Del Rio to prevent migrants from entering the country, which left a "void in this county for traffic enforcement." The sheriff's office has purchased gear, like traffic radar units and speed trailers, to fill this role while DPS is away.

The sheriff's department response times to priority 1 calls is over 12 minutes, which is down from previous years.

"Twelve minutes is a long time, but you have to put things into perspective," Authier said, explaining that it takes 28 minutes at best to get from one end of the county to the next.

"We're going to keep trying to get that even lower," he said. "But if you call for help, we're on our way."

Authier fielded a few questions about the Parker County Jail, which he said is planned to be expanded. Last week he said the jail was nearing capacity, housing 437 when capacity is 461. He described the jail as "quiet" and "clean."

"It's adequate for the moment, but we are planning for that day where it's not going to be," he said. "More population, more crime, more criminals, it's just go-



Sheriff Russ Authier

Photos by Madelyn Edwards

ing to happen."

Authier gave credit to the county commissioners for giving a pay raise to the sheriff's department.

"Our guys are experienced deputies. They know where the crooks are, they know what the crooks drive, they know if those crooks have warrants," he said. "You cannot buy that kind of experience. Those are the kind of people we need to keep here, and I think with a pay raise that the commissioners got those guys, that's going to help that tremendously."

"It's gonna make all of us safer, and my family lives here too, so it's going to make my family safer," he added.

Authier was appointed as sheriff earlier this year after the death of former sheriff Larry Fowler.

"We're doing a lot of great things, but there was a lot of great things in place," Authier said. "(Fowler) put some great things in place. We have a great team. A lot of that is due to Larry Fowler. We're continuing with his legacy."



Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce executive director Amy Walker.



Springtown High School principal Melissa Hutchison.

Vocational students recognized



The Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce recognized three Springtown High School vocational students at the luncheon last week: Sarah Kinnard, of Business Professionals of America and Ryder Stephen and Summer Conway, both of Future Farmers of America.

Photo by Madelyn Edwards

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Parker County Judge Pat Deen seeks a second term

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Parker County Judge Pat Deen is running for a second term.

"I am honored to have the overwhelming support of family, friends, local business and elected officials in seeking my 2nd term as your County Judge," Deen said. "It has been one of the greatest honors of my life to serve the citizens of Parker County. I am proud of all we have accomplished by working with our residents, cities, (Texas Department of Transportation), (North

Central Texas Council of Governments), school districts, and our business community to better plan for and manage growth."

Deen said the hiring of a full-time fire marshal and emergency operations manager is proof that he has prioritized public safety.

"With effective leadership, we engaged the community to work together while pushing the Governor's office to protect our freedoms and keep our economy open."

"I will continue to manage Parker County as a strong fiscal conservative," he said.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

WHY DID THE BOND FAIL?

Dear Editor,

Why did the Springtown ISD Bond Issue fail again? Significant is the opposition vote at 51% this November, compared to 60.5% in May. I believe that shift indicates many voters perceived merit in the proposal. However, more voters perceived dis-

stress at the onerous level of property taxes.

Buying gold at the price of silver is a no-brainer, unless you can't afford the price of silver.

Simply put, ISD's in Parker County must broaden their funding sources and/or reduce their expenditures. Adding to their dilemma, as we attempt to dodge potholes on county roads, is the

need to adjust the mix of property tax distribution.

My aim is not to harm the Springtown ISD, it's capable administration and especially its extraordinary teaching staff, but to assist our ISD in "running the hurdles." Unfortunately, our lot in life is to face the hurdles, but we'd much prefer a "hundred-yard-dash to the finish line."

James Sutton

ZONING, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.

cerns, I want them to feel that their concerns are being heard," Martinez said after the meeting. "Ultimately, I'm a citizen, too, and if I feel like at least my concerns are not just put to the side, then at least my voice was heard."

Developer of the subdivision, Don Sneed of DSCI, Inc, tried to answer questions from Martinez, who wanted to ensure that the zoning was appropriate for the future of the project and considered issues with underground water. The back-and-forth discussion between Sneed and Martinez

was interrupted by an abrupt transition into executive session.

After closed session, the council voted to approve the zoning.

After the meeting, Sneed said he was grateful for the council's action.

"I think everything was clarified from the last meeting that we had," he said. "There was some confusion, but everything was clarified good, and I think council handled it well."

Regarding the concerns about underground springs and water level brought up by residents, Sneed said the

builders will address that in the deciding type of foundation. The next step in the process is getting the water line set up at the new subdivision, Sneed said.

At last week's meeting, the council also approved rezoning and replatting an area adjacent to the Taco Time convenience store on Farm-to-Market Road 51 to make way for new high-flow diesel pumps. The council approved a site plan for the Quills Up development which is expected to construct a gym and coffee shop near Springtown High School.

BOND, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.

a new elementary school and add new classrooms to Springtown Intermediate School and Springtown Middle School as well as add a new career and technical education/welding shop to Springtown High School.

The bond election was meant to meet a need for space because of growing enrollment. According to the district's website, the district welcomed 3,911

students in August, which is more than 10% higher than August enrollment in 2020 and significantly higher than other August enrollment totals in the past 10 years.

"Please be assured that the District is fiscally sound and prepared to move forward when stakeholders voice readiness to address growth in Springtown ISD," Kelley said in the post. "Our leadership teams

will work hard to retain and recruit an exceptional staff to serve the many students who are currently enjoying broad success...and those who are on their way to becoming Porcupines! In the coming months, we will collaborate with parents and community members in an effort to meet the District's growing needs. Thank you to everyone who participated in the election."

POST OFFICE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.

cleared, she's fine."

Davis said the wreck took place around 3:45 p.m., which is right before the office closes.

"It's a blessing that no one got hurt," she said. "That's what I'm happy about, that the lady who was driving did not get hurt and that no customers in our lobby got hurt. It could have turned out quite differently."

The part of the building

that the woman, in her 70s, hit was the inside lobby, Davis said, and the owner of the building will repair the damage as soon as possible. The accident took out a window and a blind, but the building is safe to use.

Davis said she'd like to see cement balusters installed to prevent accidents like this in the future.

Davis praised the work of the first responders who helped clean up after the

wreck.

"I really have to give kudos to the Springtown Police Department and the firefighters," she said. "They removed all of the debris and threw it in our dumpster. They boarded it up. They didn't have to do that. They went above and beyond of what any kind of requirement they are ever responsible for. I really, really appreciate that."

HALLOWEEN BASH, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.

and it turned out pretty good," Miles said.

Parents described attending the event as a way for their kids to have fun for Halloween.

"The boys loved it (last year), and they made sure we came again," April Beech said.

Keisha Wash said her family tries to make it to all the events in Springtown,

and this one is no different.

"I'm very happy we came," Wash said. "The lines are a little long, but (that's) expected."

Curtis Johnson showed up to the event with his kid who received a flyer for the bash from his teacher.

"It's a cool little event for him to be able to get out and have some fun and see some of his friends," Johnson said.

Jessica Sanchez, who brought her kids out to the event, called the event "safety for the kids."

Bryana Arnold said she came out with her daughter to "let her trick-or-treat and have some fun" and called the turnout for the event "amazing."

Sean Harper, who bought his grandkids, said, "Seeing smiles on their faces is the funnest part."

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If the fall, injury and hospitalization isn't bad enough, frequent falls lead to loss of independence, limits in your daily activities, and increase your reliance on friends and family members to complete basic everyday tasks. **How humiliating is it to ask someone to get your groceries or drive you to the doctors office?**

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- Evelyn Tinney



Ask yourself the following questions:

- Do you want to avoid spending the rest of your life in a nursing home?
- Do you feel unsteady when you walk or get up from a chair or bed?
- Do you feel like a burden to those around you because you need to hold on to someone when you walk or ask them to run your errands?

If you answered **YES** to any of the above questions (or have a stubborn spouse or parent who is in denial) you need to take action **NOW**. **You don't have to live in fear of falling. You can take steps to improve your balance.**

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1. You'll learn a quick do-it-yourself test to determine your risk for falling.
2. The most common locations for falls and where they occur in your home.
3. And, things you can do today to make your home safer.

Call this special number **817-220-6677** to reserve your seat. Due to COVID precautions we only have **10 FREE** Workshop seats available so call to reserve yours now. If you are not worried that you or someone you love will fall then you have no reason to call for this **FREE** workshop. **If, however,** you think it is possible that you or a loved one could be at risk of falling... you do not want to ignore this **FREE** information!

Register at <http://www.springtownphysicaltherapy.com/balance-ws> OR **CALL This Special Number 817-220-6677 to reserve your seat.**

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Nov 8-13, 2021 PK through 12th Grade

*Menus are subject to change.



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EC-12th Reduced	\$0.30
Adult	\$2.25
LUNCH PRICES	
PK-4th Grade	\$3.00
5th-8th Grade	\$3.25
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 Mini Pancakes, Toast, Variety of Cereal, Fruit, Juice **Tuesday** Chicken Biscuit, Toast, Variety of Cereal, Fruit, Juice **Wednesday** Scramble Eggs, Toast, Variety of Cereal, Fruit, Juice **Thursday** Breakfast Pizza, Toast, Variety of Cereal, Fruit, Juice **Friday** Cinnamon Roll, Toast, Variety of Cereal, Fruit, Juice

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 Chicken & Waffles, Cucumber & Tomato Cup, Chili Style Beans, Pear Cup **Tuesday** CK Fried Steak Sand, Glazed Baby Carrots, Fresh Broccoli Florets, Apple **Wednesday** Stuffed Breadsticks or Hamburger, Fresh Baby Carrots, Green Beans, Strawberries **Thursday** Steakfingers, Mashed Potatoes, Green Peas, Blueberries, Roll **Friday** Pepperoni Pizza, Chicken Nuggets, Mixed Vegetables, Tater Gems

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 Crispy Chicken Tenders, Spicy Chicken Tenders, Fiesta Sticks, Sweet Tater Tots, Roll **Tuesday** Rotini Spaghetti, Chicken Nuggets, Garden Salad, Roll, Glazed Baby Carrots **Wednesday** Crispy Chicken Sandwich, Cheeseburger, Tater Gems, Fresh Broccoli Florets **Thursday** Egg Stravaganza, Sausage or Chicken Patty, Hash Brown Patties, Biscuit & Gravy **Friday** Pepperoni Pizza, Corn Dogs, Cucumber & Tomato Cup, Green Beans

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Be somebody's angel this Christmas

Springtown Chamber collecting applications for angel tree program

BY MADELYN EDWARDS
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The Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce is gearing up for the holiday season of giving by readying the angel tree.

Applications are being taken for children and senior angels. Seniors must be 65 or older and show proof of residency, proof of income, social security, disability, and an identification card. Child applications require proof of age, that they are in Springtown schools, income verification and proof of residence. Senior applications are due on

Nov. 12, and child applications are due Nov. 19.

Senior angels will be on the tree for public adoption starting the week after applications are due, around Nov. 15. Adopters must turn in gifts for angels by Dec. 10 for both child and senior angels, and distribution will take place the week after that.

Chamber Executive Director Amy Walker said seniors tend to ask for gift cards to buy gas, fast food or groceries. The senior angel tree program averages about 60 seniors.

"They ask for household items, coffee makers, pots

and pans, towels, blankets," Walker said. "Then we can dig a little further, and they will say, 'Oh, well yeah, I could use a new dress or a purse.' Or one year we had a gentleman that really would have loved to have had a pair of boots, and he didn't want to put that down because he thought it was too much, and we said no, let's put it down, and he got a pair of boots."

Seniors especially might not have family around to celebrate the holidays with, which makes their gifts particularly meaningful, Walker said.

"A lot of these senior citizens are alone for the

holidays," she said. "They don't have family nearby that can help. So, it makes you feel so good to be able to provide a nice gift for somebody that may not get anything otherwise."

Seniors can apply for the angel tree program at the Springtown Chamber of Commerce at 112 S. Main St. from 10 a.m. to noon and 2-4 p.m. Monday through Thursday or call 817-220-7828 for more information.

To schedule an appointment to apply for the children's angel tree program, call the program organizers at 817-925-6685 or 817-454-7178.

The Optimist Club holds monthly meeting with new schedule



The Springtown Optimist Club honored the Young Texan/Texanne for October and November. Left to right: Ethan Scott, Aubrey Mueller, Todd Smith and Kaidence Inzunza. Photo by Madelyn Edwards

BY MADELYN EDWARDS
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The Optimist Club rang in their first monthly morning meeting of the year Tuesday.

Last month, the club decided to change the meeting times from lunchtime twice a month to mornings once a month on the first Tuesday. The club used to do morning meetings before this year.

"It feels like we're back home," former club president Denise Taylor said. "I like early morning meetings. It fits my schedule better. I don't have to stop in the middle of the day to do the lunch meeting."

Including the four Young Texan and Texanne honorees and their families, about 17 at-

tended the club meeting.

Taylor said seven or eight of the people present were members of the club, and four couldn't attend because they were on vacation.

The club recognized four Springtown High School juniors as the Young Texan and Texanne for October and November. Kaidence Inzunza and Todd Smith were the October honorees, and Aubrey Mueller and Ethan Scott were recognized for November. The students made mostly A grades with few Bs, and they are involved in extracurricular activities, like band, National Honor Society and athletics.

The next Optimist Club meeting is Dec. 7 at 7 a.m. at Howell's Western Café.

Lock vehicles to avoid burglaries, police says

BY MADELYN EDWARDS
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"Lock, lock, lock," said Springtown Police Chief Cres Salazar, denying thieves access to your car.

Four vehicle burglaries were reported from July 1 to Oct. 1, Salazar said last week, and in all those cases the doors were unlocked with no signs of forced entry. No arrests were made.

The crime usually happens between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m., mainly in the summer on the outskirts of town. Thieves, who are thought to be mostly teenagers, will take loose change and other valuables in the vehicle, like computers and tools, Salazar said. People who burglarize vehicles often wear gloves as to not leave fingerprints and get caught. The chief wouldn't call

these burglaries in the last few months a trend.

"Unfortunately, it's not anything that's out of the ordinary," Salazar said. "It happens constantly."

He also advised being aware of surroundings and that people should consider getting internet cameras for outside the home.

For products like computers, having serial numbers to those stolen devices

is also helpful in tracking down criminals. With a serial number, Salazar said the item can be tracked at local pawn shops.

"Pawn shops are required by law to enter everything they possibly can on an item that's got a lot of worth, a lot of value," he said.

"It is good idea for people to put down their serial numbers for other items that have value," Salazar added.

Spotlight on BUSINESS NOVEMBER

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We have a great assortment of candles, lotions, soaps, and spa baskets. Wind chimes for your auditory pleasure, leather cigar cases for a smoke to go, charcuterie boards and wine supplies for the next time the girls are over — we carry it all, plus so much more!

We haven't forgotten our Porcupine fans either — shop our shirts, hats, and school spirit items! All of these things can be de-

livered locally, at a minimal charge.

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We are getting new items every day. The Springtown Flower Shop should definitely be on your list of places to shop for the upcoming holidays! In fact, we'll be opening the shop on Saturdays during the months of November and December for your shopping convenience.

Stop in at 311 E. Hwy. 199, Springtown, Texas. You can visit our website at www.springtownflowershop. If you don't see what you like, call 817-220-0033 and we'll be happy to help you with a selection.

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Theater students collect 158 items from Halloween food drive



Gentry Phillips, Thespian officer and honor society member, and Nolan Roark, Thespian officer, both led the food drive that collected 158 non-perishable items on Sunday. Courtesy of Rebecca Phillips

BY MADELYN EDWARDS
madelyn@azlenews.net

Springtown High School members of Thespian Troupe 1494 of the International Thespian Society (ITS), the honor society for high school theater students, collected 158 non-perishable items on Sunday that it will donate to Neighbor to Neighbor as part of Treat So Kids Can Eat (TOTS Eat) food drive.

TOTS Eat is a national community service program

for ITS-member schools to collect canned and dry goods for local charities and food banks. Since the campaign began in 2003, Thespian troupes have collected and distributed over 4 million pounds of food to help their neighbors in need.

"I am so proud of these students. In addition to their regular schoolwork, and their commitment to the fall production of 'The Audition' and our musical, 'Frozen,' and all that entails in terms of rehearsals, they

truly believe in the motto of TOTS Eat, 'Because hunger is a very scary thing,' and made time to collect food," Troupe Director Rebecca Phillips said. "They work to make their community better both on stage and off."

Springtown High School National Honor Society and Thespian students will continue the food drive through Nov. 12, and a contest will be held for which advisory period class collects the most non-perishable items. The winning class will get a pizza party.

Proclamation of appreciation



Springtown Mayor Greg Hood recognized Marilyn and Richard Fackler with a proclamation of appreciation at the city council meeting on Thursday evening for their work with the Springtown Legends Museum. Photo by Madelyn Edwards

New officers pinned



Two new Springtown police officers were pinned with badges at the Springtown City Council meeting on Thursday evening. Officer Weldon Procter was pinned by his grandfather Mark Stone, and Officer Victoria Waldrop was pinned by her fiancé Josh Thomas, who works with the North Richland Hills police force. Photos by Madelyn Edwards

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DIRECTIONS: On South Side of Eufaula, OK Take Hwy 9 East approx. 1.4 mi to Driveway to Auction Property on Rt. Lots of Pasture Parking.

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6½ Acres located just outside of Eufaula on Hwy 9 with a 75x50 Shop with sprayed insulation in the ceiling, 75x20 leanto with 2 - 12' OHV and sprayed insulation and 75x18 leanto, concrete floors throughout. Property is fully fenced and has 75x50 concrete slab. Single phase electric and Eufaula City water. Lots of possibilities!
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3. Drawing for the 14 turkey winners will begin **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2021.**
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6. Employees of this paper or contest sponsors are not eligible.

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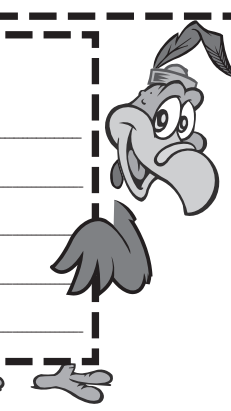



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Where Would We Be Without Texas Agriculture?

Three Ag 101 columns back we started talking about the parts of Texas where the production of particular Agricultural products could be found and why. Those three columns were preparatory for today's column, you may want to refer back to those for today's column to fall into place.

Let me first say that cattle & calves (beef purposes), forage (hay and grazing), honey and horses are four Agricultural products that are common throughout Texas. That note is just so you don't think that I'm leaving these out of my listings below.

Now with that being said let's look at the individual ecoregions to see what other Agricultural products each area specializes in producing. The predominant Agricultural production in the Piney Woods ecoregion of East Texas consists of timber, Christmas trees, poultry & eggs, nursery & greenhouse plants, milk, vegetables, melons, tree nuts and swine.



AG 101

By Jack DeShazo

Jack DeShazo has decades of experience in the agriculture field.

Moving to the Post Oak Savannah region we still find the production of timber, Christmas trees, pecans vegetables, melons, potatoes, sweet potatoes, greenhouse & nursery plants, swine, poultry and milk. We then add aquaculture (catfish & other aquatics), corn, cotton, and fruit trees.

Moving further East into the Blackland Prairies (dark clay type soils) the production of poultry, Christmas trees, milk, and tree nuts continue with the addition of sheep & goats; there tends to be more of an emphasis on cotton, corn, soybeans, beans, peas, wheat and grain sorghum in the blacklands.

Now we move into our home ecoregion of the Cross Timbers where we continue to find fruit trees, pecans, milk production, swine, nursery and greenhouse

plants, sheep & goats, wheat and aquaculture. We can also add oats to our list of products and emphasize hay production.

The Edwards Plateau (Hill Country) again finds fruit trees, pecans, cotton, corn, wheat, vegetables & melons and swine. Because of climatic conditions you begin to see sheep and goats slowly taking some of the cattle numbers.

The Gulf Prairies of Southeast Texas increases emphasis on crop production of wheat, cotton, corn, grain sorghum and nursery & greenhouse plants while adding sugar cane and rice production to the list. Aquaculture, sheep, swine and of course cattle production continues as animal agriculture production in this ecoregion.

In the South Texas Plains

region there also is more plant crop production taking place consisting of cotton, corn, wheat, grain sorghum, sugarcane and soybeans. In the area North of Laredo and Southwest of San Antonio there is an area known as the Winter Garden consisting of Dimmitt, Frio, LaSalle, and Zavala counties, parts of Atascosa, Maverick, and McMullen counties and small bits of Bexar, Medina, Uvalde and Wilson counties.

Because of mild Winter temperatures and the ability to irrigate, vegetables are produced year round in the Winter Garden. In the Lower Rio Grande Valley the counties of Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy, Brooks, Jim Hogg, Kenedy and Starr traditionally produce over \$200 million worth of citrus annually including grapefruit, oranges, lemons, tangerines, tangelos and pomelos.

However extreme Winters cold spells such as this past February can take out nearly the entire citrus business through freeze damage to the trees. The result of

weather such as this takes several years of recovery time. This brings us to the Westernmost ecoregion of the Trans Pecos, also the driest and hottest. Livestock production in this area is pretty well limited to cattle and sheep & goats.

Because of the limited precipitation of this area poorer quality vegetation is produced for grazing. Considering this it is more understandable why sheep and goats tend to have a higher ratio when compared with cattle than most of other areas of Texas. There is some dairy production to be found in this ecoregion. Crop type production can be found in the Trans Pecos when water can be provided by irrigation. Those crops consist of cotton, pecans, nursery & greenhouse plants, melons and eggs.

Now let's move onto from one temperature extreme to another, the Rolling Plains and High Plains. The Rolling Plains finds production of cotton, wheat, rye, and grain sorghum with a spring

of guar and sesame. Aquaculture and nursery & greenhouse plants are also found in this area. Sheep, swine, dairy cattle and beef cattle are the livestock species found in the both the Rolling Plains and High Plains, with a huge number of cattle being fed out in feedlots for beef production.

Over 2.5 million head of feedlot cattle are fed in just ten panhandle counties radiating out from Amarillo, that's nearly 90% of the Texas feedlot cattle production. Rather large dairies are also found in these two ecoregions with a reported 68% of Texas milk production taking place on the High Plains. The High Plains also boasts production of cotton, wheat grain sorghum in addition to peanuts.

Okay, I'm out of space again. Hopefully I have shown the enormity and variety of Texas Agriculture. Also, hopefully you will see the importance of Agriculture to our economy and of course to our survival. 'til next time.

Veterans: Your service makes ours possible

BY JEFFREY L. MCINTYRE
Special to the Epigraph

Each year on Nov. 11, we honor military veterans — those in our communities who have served in the United States Armed Forces. Perhaps this year, you will partake in a Veterans Day parade, post something thoughtful to social media and even tell a veteran you know "thank you for your service."

This year with thousands of troops returning home from Afghanistan and other deployments, we have an opportunity and, I would say, an obligation to do more than simply express our gratitude. We need to repay their sacrifices by doing our

part to make sure they have sustainable lives back at home.

According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, each year, nearly 200,000 service members transition from the military back to their civilian communities. They join the more than 19 million Americans who identify as veterans (approximately 2 million Texans), many of whom rely on a second career after their military service. But it is not as easy as sending out a resume for these people.

Over two-thirds of today's veterans report difficulties adjusting to civilian life and said that they do not know where to go or who to contact to get help. Addition-

ally, Veterans face complex barriers in their transition from military service including inadequate financial resources, expiration of benefits and issues related to wellness or disability. The physical and mental toll that deployment can take is a sacrifice with which I think we can all sympathize.

And, despite these challenges, the fact is that veterans contribute greatly to business and their community through their uniquely honed mix of work ethic, leadership and resilience. Many have received extensive training in the military and have valuable technical skills, leadership abilities, and numerous soft skills including time manage-

ment, team orientation and a strong work ethic, which are in high demand by employers.

We are one of those employers. As the president of Texas operations within SouthWest Water Company, which employs many across the state — including around 10% who have served our country — I can say that veterans are incredibly valuable members of our team.

With careers in water and wastewater systems, they are continuing their public service by working to provide and ensure safe, reliable water service for their community. We are honored to offer careers in water and wastewater that are stable with good salaries and ben-

efits — with solid prospects for the future since people will always need access to water and the infrastructures that support it.

Another fact is that 25% of all veterans live in rural communities, where there are customarily fewer employment and professional development options available to provide economic security. The great news is that water and wastewater jobs are available in every part of the country — serving the smallest and largest communities.

This Veterans Day, I call on employers across Texas to make the effort to reach out and work with your area's veteran services offices and nonprofits to ensure they

know about your job opportunities and that they have the support they need to be competitive in the hiring process.

And to those who have served in the United States Armed Forces at any time in their lives, I not only thank you for your service, I stand in solidarity with your post-military career potential, because I know that without your service, our service would not be possible.

Jeffrey L. McIntyre is the president of Texas operations within SouthWest Water Company, which provides service to 43,000 water connections and 17,300 wastewater connections across the state and has been in operation here since 1996.

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Embrace the Space



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.

I'm imagining a conversation with myself today.

Me: Why such hurry? Why such stress?

Self: Dude! Are you not paying attention? How could you even ask those questions?

Me: Well, I get that these are challenging times—perhaps even unprecedented in our lifetime, but ...

Self: If I hear "unprecedented" one more time, somebody's getting a bloody nose!

Me: I'm sorry. I did not mean to offend.

Self: Yeah, I know. That's not how you roll. It's just frustrating.

Me: I know. But it should be safe to ask those questions just between us.

Self: True. Just don't do it out loud in public or people will think we're nuts.

Me: Deal. So, is it ok for me to ask those questions again? About hurry and stress?

Self: Sure. I guess things have been crazy for so long that it's easy to get caught up in the whirlwind. I just feel like I need to do something to help.

Me: I get it. Seriously, I do. Too often I wonder if anything I'm doing matters to anyone—if I'm making any impact at all.

Self: What if "impact" is not the goal?

Me: What do you mean?

Self: What if it's not about your impact, but instead it's about your contribution?

Me: You mean like simply doing my part with what I have?

Self: That's a good starting place. Remember what you preached in that church a few days ago?

Me: Psalm 23?

Self: That's it. "The Lord is my Shepherd ... He causes me to lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside quiet waters. He restores my soul."

Me: Seems like I might have mentioned that we

need to learn to operate out of a posture of rest. To slow down. To cease striving and struggling. To let God return us to what we were made for, remind us that He is with us, and renew our vitality.

Self: Have you thought that maybe you should practice what you preach?

Me: You've got a point there ... Hey! Wait a minute! Didn't we start this conversation with ME asking YOU why you were hurried and stressed?

Self: It's almost like it's impossible to tell where one of us starts and the other stops.

Me: So, if we were going to mention some practical ideas that might help some other people learn to take a step back from hurry and stress, what would we suggest?

Self: Is this like when Mrs. Sweetie says, "We" need to do something?

Me: Don't go there.

Self: Good call.

Me: I've got a practical idea: Learn to embrace the space.

Self: Space? You mean like Captain Kirk's rocket ride?

Me: No, not that space. I mean the space between activities and responsibilities. I mean learning to embrace moments of stillness and solitude—maybe even boredom—without snatching up your phone to scroll through social media.

Self: But I might miss out on something important.

Me: Important? Like the comments that raise your blood pressure and tempt you to go off on a rant? That kind of important?

Self: Be quiet. I'm embracing the space.

Me: Ok. Let's just sit on the porch for a bit and take a few deep breaths. Watch the deer grazing across the road. Feel the gentle breeze. Thank God for shepherding us.

Self: That would be amazing.

BOOK REVIEW

Annie, her horse Tarzan take 'The Ride of Her Life'

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

They said it couldn't be done.

You were too old, too frail, too young, too inexperienced, too female. You lacked the know-how to do it right. You just plain couldn't, which was all the impetus you needed, all the catalyst required to make sure you at least tried. In the book "The Ride of Her Life" by Elizabeth Letts, just a little effort was all it took ...

Things seemed to be looking up, that fall of 1953.

Sixty-two-year-old Annie Wilkins and her eighty-five-year-old Uncle Waldo were "just about to get ahead" on their little farm near Minot, Maine. Their livestock were thriving, there was enough feed to last the winter and though Waldo wasn't in very good health, Annie could split wood to keep them warm. It would've been enough but when winter hit hard, Annie caught the flu and while she was bedridden, Waldo died.

Life had never been easy for Annie, but she knew no different. An only child, she'd left school "at the end of sixth grade" and went to work on the farm then. But now there wasn't much to work – the barn was empty, "the farm was always hungry," and she only had her little dog, Depeche Toi, to keep her company. She tried growing crops for a local factory but really, she had

"few and stark choices."

Years ago, her parents dreamed about traveling. Annie's mother always wanted to see California, but never lived long enough. Annie had a little money but what she lacked was guts.

But not for long. She began to plan.

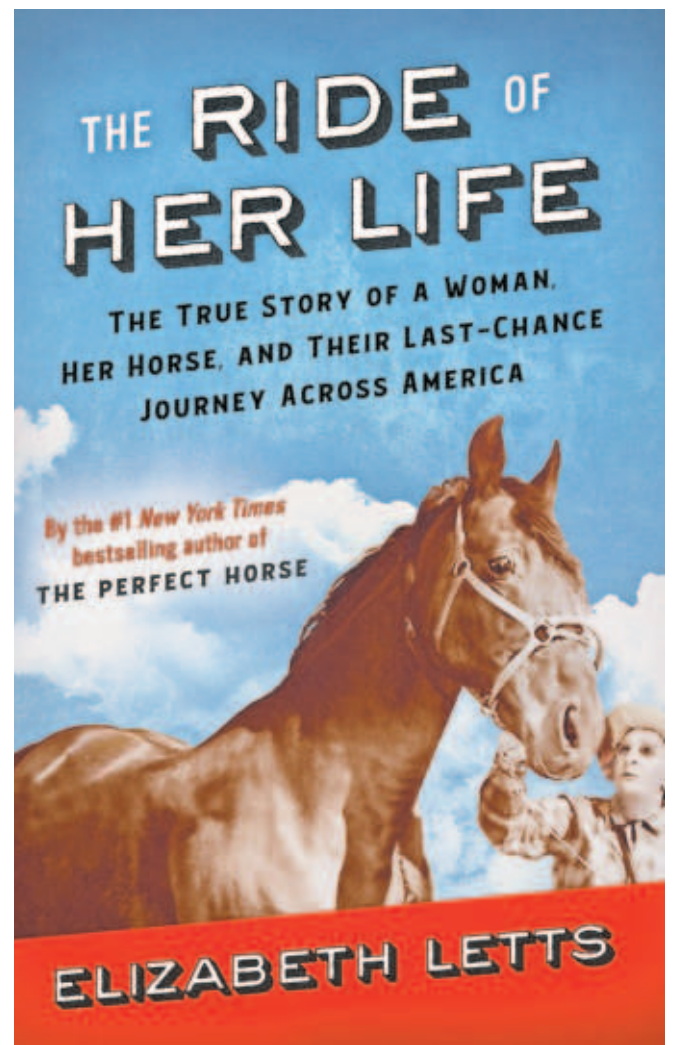
Though it'd been decades since she'd been astride a saddle, she sent a postcard to a nearby stable in search of a "tough horse"; there, she found a gentle ex-race horse named Tarzan who took to Depeche Toi right off. Annie fixed up an "ancient" saddle that was left in her barn, packed what she figured were essentials, and chose "several layers of clothing" to wear.

And on Nov. 4, 1954, Annie Wilkins pointed her horse's nose westward ...

Hard to imagine, isn't it? In today's world, it would be pure folly to even try. And yet, author Elizabeth Letts gives readers so much insight that we're captivated and even charmed by this tale, and "The Ride of Her Life" becomes the book we need now.

In a way, in fact, it's a dual pleasure.

The tale of Annie Wilkins (whom Letts consistently, warmly calls by her first name) is so pure of heart that you simply have to love it. Wilkins didn't know what she didn't know, but she still managed to travel by horseback more than 2,600 miles, all through the kindness of strangers.



"The Ride of Her Life" by Elizabeth Letts
c.2021, Ballantine Books \$28.00 / \$37.00 Canada 321 pages

That that was possible is the second appeal here, as Letts tosses in reminders of America, 1954. It's idyllic, gracious, and wonderfully sentimental.

Readers who'd love an easy, gentle story that's entirely true will want to cozy up with this one for a long winter's read. "The Ride of Her Life" is so good, you'll never want it done.



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Parker County Commissioners Court will conduct a Public Hearing at One Courthouse Square, Weatherford, Texas on November 8, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. to get input on the redistricting of Commissioner Precincts by adjusting the lines. At the conclusion of the hearing, Commissioners Court will adopt changes to Parker County Commissioner Precinct boundaries.

The Springtown Epigraph
Your trusted news source

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Garden on the Go

LONG LIVE TEXANS
PARKER COUNTY

1st SATURDAY	2nd SATURDAY	3rd SATURDAY	4th SATURDAY
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Obituaries

Ethel Springfield 1928- 2021

On 29 October 2021, Ethel Lorene Daniel Sorrels Springfield made her heavenly journey to join our Lord and Savior. She passed away peacefully at home at the age of 93.

The celebration of Ethel's life was held at Ash Creek Baptist Church in Azle, Texas on Wednesday, November 3, 2021 at 2 p.m.

Ethel was born in Durant Oklahoma, October 3, 1928, to Dewey and Cora Daniel and moved to Ft. Worth at the age of five with her parents and siblings.

She married Leonard Robert Sorrels in 1947. They had two children, Kathleen and Robert. They were married for thirteen years until his death in 1960.

In 1963 she married William Hendrix Springfield and they had two children, Carmen and Terry. They lived in Springtown and celebrated 55 years of marriage until his death in 2018.

Ethel had a strong work ethic that began when she dropped out of school in the eighth grade to start working and help her family. She worked various jobs until she met and married her first husband. After having two children she went in search of employment once again. She went to work as a dishwasher in the Federal Aviation Agency cafeteria. While there she began to help and learn all the workings of the various food stations. When the government contract came up for renewal she put in a bid and won the contract. For the next eleven years she was the owner/manager of the FAA cafeteria but declined putting in another bid in 1959



due to Leonard's illness. Ethel could COOK and she loved to cook. Even as a stay-at-home wife and mother her cooking abilities never went to waste on the farm. Many families and friends have enjoyed her pies, cobblers, and multiple meals.

But if asked, she would tell you her crowning achievement was her children, she never wavered on sharing her wisdom, wit, humor, fun and love.

Ethel was preceded in death by husband Leonard Robert Sorrels Sr.; son Terry James Springfield; grandson Eric William Christian; and husband William Hendrix Springfield.

Her survivors are her daughter Kathleen Sorrels Christian and husband, Gary; son, Leonard Robert Sorrels Jr. and wife, Kathy; daughter, Carmen Springfield Rogers and husband, Kelly; grandchildren: Robby Sorrels, Wade Christian, Tammy Murphy, Sadie Cason, Kyle Rogers, Baley Rogers; fifteen great grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

*The Springtown Epigraph
Nov. 4 2021 Edition*

Janet Cumby 1947- 2021

Janet Leigh Cumby passed away Tuesday, October 26, 2021 in her home surrounded by family.

Janet was born in Dallas Texas, November 8, 1947 to George Rayburn Leigh and Helen Carolyn Leigh Boldebook. She lived in Arlington Texas most of her life. She moved to Springtown in 2009. She worked at Lockheed-Martin for a little over 50 years. She began scuba diving in her 40's and became a divemaster, she loved to travel. In later years she loved to paint and make jewelry.

She was preceded in death by her brother Ben Leigh and her parents.

Survivors include her daughter Alyssa and husband Danny Merrell of



Springtown Texas; son Kevin and wife Laura Cumby of Richmond Texas; grandchildren Kylee Eastman, Marissa Harmon, Taylor Harmon, Molly Cumby, Casey Merrell, Hudson Cumby; great grandchildren Collyn Harmon, Blakely Harmon, and Beckham Adams.

*The Springtown Epigraph
Nov. 4 2021 Edition*

Cherry Markgraf 1932- 2021

Cherry Ann Markgraf, 89, passed away Saturday, October 30, 2021.

Graveside services were held at 10 a.m. Wednesday, November 3, 2021 at Ash Creek Cemetery.

Visitation was held Tuesday, November 2, 2021 at White's Azle Funeral Home.

Cherry was born in Springtown to Thelma and Jessie Springfield October 18, 1932. She was a member of Hilltop Baptist Church in Springtown. Cherry loved her family and traveling.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Roy Wayne Markgraf; six brothers and sisters.

Survivors include, sons, Michael Wayne Markgraf (Shari), Danny Markgraf



(Melinda); grandchildren, Shawn (Denise), Jessica (Jim), and Jess; and great-grandchild, Riley; brother, Don Springfield; and sister, Marzella Stevens.

She will be missed by her family and friends.

*The Springtown Epigraph
Nov. 4 2021 Edition*

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Celebrating Halloween in Springtown

Springtown Lions Club's Halloween Bash included games that kids could play to win candy and bounce houses. There were around 800 people at the event. Proceeds will go to help families in need for Thanksgiving and high school scholarships.



THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

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KID SCOOP'S FINANCIAL LITERACY SERIES

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Captain Allowance says, "Kids learn from both the **GOOD** decisions ... and the **BAD** ones!"

Rats! I blew all my money on candy!

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Sometimes things kids want cost **more** than they **earn**. By learning to get through the tricky **allowance gap**, kids discover that with financial **power** comes financial **responsibility**!

Allowance Gap

Leonard has a goal. He wants to buy a pair of sneakers that cost \$25. But he only gets \$3 a week for his allowance. Help Leonard make a plan to buy the shoes.

Week	Savings	Earnings	Total
Week 1	\$	\$	\$
Week 2	\$	\$	\$
Week 3	\$	\$	\$
Week 4	\$	\$	\$
Week 5	\$	\$	\$

Each week, Leonard could save \$ _____

Leonard could work for extra money by doing chores at home and for neighbors. He could earn \$ _____ per week for doing extra chores.

Following your plan, how many weeks would it take Leonard to reach his goal? _____ weeks

Make a plan to reach one of **your** goals!

Standards Link: Economics: Students understand that since people cannot have everything they want, they must make choices about making purchases of goods and services.

How would you spend it?

Imagine that you get \$3 per week for allowance. What would you do with your money?

Pretend you want to buy three of the items at right. Come up with a plan, like Leonard's, that will help you reach your goal.

Flip Flops \$5

Combo Crayons \$3

Rubber Bracelet \$1

Monster Pen \$4

Video Game \$29

Backpack Bear \$4

Squashy Putty \$2

Extra! Extra!

Twenty Big Ones

Look through the newspaper or your newspaper's website for numbers that add up to exactly 20. Then write them out in order from largest to smallest.

Standards Link: Number Sense: Calculate numbers to 20.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

What is a numismatist?

Use the coin code at right to reveal the answer.

● = A

● = C

● = E

● = I

● = L

● = N

● = O

● = R

● = T

Standards Link: Vocabulary: Learn the definition of grade-level appropriate words.

Double Double Word Search

ALLOWANCE

OBSTACLES

NEIGHBORS

ENDLESS

LIMITED

SUPPLY

CHORES

WISDOM

SHOES

SOARS

SPEND

POWER

ASKED

EARN

COST

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

A	S	R	O	B	H	G	I	E	N
M	L	E	O	D	T	N	Y	E	L
S	E	L	L	S	N	P	L	D	I
R	N	A	O	C	O	E	P	E	M
A	D	C	R	W	A	Y	P	K	I
O	L	T	E	N	A	T	U	S	T
S	E	R	O	H	C	N	S	A	E
R	S	H	O	E	S	E	C	B	D
E	S	M	O	D	S	I	W	E	O

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

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

ABCDad

Find words in the newspaper that start with each letter in your dad's name (or an uncle, grandparent, or a friend's name). Use these words to write a poem about that person.

Standards Link: Writing Applications: Write in a variety of forms and genres including poetry.

Write On!

A penny saved is a penny ...

How would you finish this sentence?

Kid Scoop Together:

A Phrase That Pays

Complete the quote below by replacing the missing vowels. Use the lines below the quote to write what you think this quote means. Then, share what you wrote with a parent and talk about it.

“It is g _ d to h _ ve m _ n _ y and the th _ ngs that m _ n _ y can b _ y, but it’s g _ d too, to ch _ ck up once in a wh _ le and m _ k _ s _ re _ y _ u hav _ n’t l _ st the th _ ngs m _ ney c _ n’t b _ y.”

— George Lorimer

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow multiple-step written directions.

Kid Scoop-doku™

Complete the grid by using all the letters in the word MONEY in each vertical and horizontal row. Each letter should only be used once in each row. Some spaces have been filled in for you.

N			M
		M	
M	O	N	E
		E	
E			O

Looking for a vacation deal? A cruise may fit your pocketbook

BY LEW WOODARD
lew@newvistatravel.com

Lew Woodard is a travel advisor with New Vista Travel.
www.newvistatravel.com
 817-270-8357

We all need, and want, vacations. It often seems like we never get enough of them, or they seem to be inexplicably short, whether that is real or imagined. When the opportunity is finally there to take a vacation, we want the best value for each dollar spent.

Everyone has their own idea of what a great vacation is and there are many options to choose from — something as simple as a weekend at the lake, to the more complex offerings of international travel. To get the best value for the vacation you want, examining the options and the costs can help with making a decision that allows you to truly relax and enjoy yourself.

That cruises are too expensive compared to other options is a common misconception. Cruising is often a solid value for the dollar. Cruise costs can vary greatly, but in the end, they are often less than many other vacation options, even some simple ones. That is primarily due to the costs that are included in the cruise fare.

Basic cruise fares include the stateroom where you will sleep, meals in the main dining room and many other specialty dining options. For example, many cruise ships offer an upgrade to a higher-end steakhouse experience for an extra charge. On Carnival cruises, guests can enjoy a burger and fries at Guy's Burger Joint that is included in the basic fare. (That is the same Guy Fieri of Food Network fame.) You can eat as many freshly-made burgers as you can handle, all included in the basic fare. Is it popular? Guy's serves an estimated 1,000 burgers per day on each Carnival ship.

Not everything onboard is included in the base fare. Port taxes and fees are additional, as are gratuities, shore excursions, spa services, alcoholic and some other beverages, purchases made while ashore, and gift shop purchases while onboard. If you choose a ship that is considered premium (Princess) or luxury (Regent Seven Seas) class, then many of these expenses will be included in a somewhat higher basic fare. Many luxury class ships even include the cost of airfare to and from the port of debarkation.

Compare the costs of a mainstream cruise to a quality beach resort or condo rental vacation (not an all-



On Carnival cruises, guests can enjoy a burger and fries at Guy's (Guy Fieri) Burger Joint, included in the basic fare. Guy's serves an estimated 1,000 burgers per day on each Carnival ship.

inclusive resort) for a family of four for seven nights. Consider the cost of the hotel/condo, three meals per day per person, groceries, snacks, entertainment, theme parks, and any other activity you would normally seek while on vacation. Most of these items are already included in a cruise fare. Plus, on a cruise, you

will get to relax at sea, visit exotic ports of call, and you don't have to prepare any of the meals yourself.

A cruise may not always be the least expensive vacation option, but there is a good chance it will be your best overall value.

Contact your travel advisor for help in sorting out the details.



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Sound of Springtown heading to state contest



BY JEFF PRINCE
jeff@azlenews.net

Springtown High School's marching band won the UIL Area D contest in Pflugerville over the weekend, earning a coveted trip to the state contest.

The band played at noon on Saturday and was selected to participate in the final later that day. About 12 hours after their first performance, the Sound of Springtown band members returned to the field, played and marched their hearts out.

It was after midnight when band members heard the good news – they'd earned the highest scores from judges and won the area championship.

Springtown's marching band made it to the UIL State Marching Contest in 2003, 2005, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018 and 2020. The band made it to the state final in 2012, 2016 and 2018.

The top six bands from the area contest will advance to the UIL State Marching Contest on Tuesday, Nov. 9, in San Antonio.

The Sound of Springtown is marching all the way to the state contest.

Photo by Jeff Prince



Cody Brackeen and the offensive line opened holes for Springtown's runners. Photo by Jeff Prince

Porcupines welcome Gainesville to final game of regular season

BY JEFF PRINCE
jeff@azlenews.net

Springtown High School, battling back after losing its first two district football games, has evened its record at 2-2 and secured a playoff spot heading into the final game of the regular season.

Beating Gainesville on Friday won't likely improve Springtown's seeding for the playoffs. A victory, though, will give the Pines a three-game win streak heading into the playoffs. Last week, the Porcupines traveled to Iowa Park to take on Burkburnett, and put the hurt on the Bulldogs. Quarterback

Hudson Hulett played a steady game, tossing two touchdown passes and no interceptions and running for 57 yards and a TD.

Matt "Mister Everything" Lockard led the offense in rushing with 137 yards and a TD. Josef Yosten churned out 46 yards and a TD, and freshman Darren Sweely carried four times for 34 yards – an 8.5-yard average per carry.

The receivers enjoyed a big night. Bryce Hollingsworth paved the way with four catches for 72 yards and a TD. Speck "Tabulous" Behle caught a TD pass.

Dawson Jones was a

tackling machine with 13. Brodee Trejo made seven tackles. Colin Tidwell added six, and Yosten and Pancho Moreno posted five apiece.

The defensive pass rush made a big impact on the game. Four Porcupines players made sacks -- Hollingsworth, Jones, Moreno and Tidwell – and William Gleason intercepted a pass.

Final score: Springtown 35, Burkburnett 6.

Next up, the Pines play their final regular-season game before embarking on a playoff run.

Springtown (2-2) plays at 7 p.m. Friday at home against Gainesville (1-3).

Lady Pines win 25th game to grab bi-district volleyball title



Emma Martinez and her teammates play Stephenville next.

Photo by Jeff Prince

BY JEFF PRINCE
jeff@azlenews.net

Five years have passed since Springtown High School's volleyball team last won 25 games in a season. On Tuesday, the Lady Pines reached that difficult mark, topping a Fort Worth-based team in straight sets at Wilkerson-Greines Activi-

ties Center to earn a bi-district championship.

The Pines swept Young Women's Leadership Academy 25-8, 25-14 and 25-7.

Leadership Academy had finished in second place in District 8-4A, and was seeded to play Springtown, which finished behind Decatur and Argyle in District 7-4A. Despite their seeding

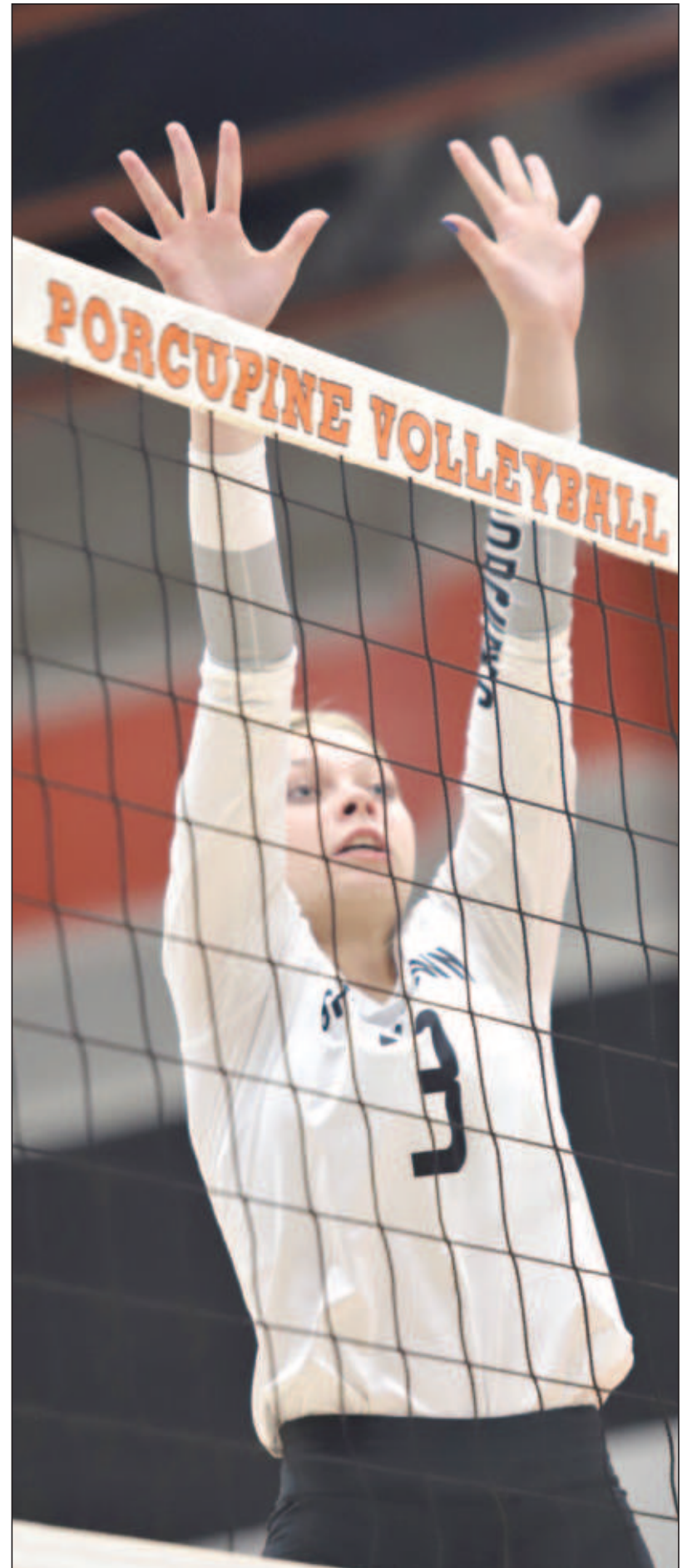
and hometown advantages, the Lady Cardinals couldn't contain Springtown's talented roster led by seniors Railey Druzman, Skylar Holland, Emma Martinez, Landree Merriman and Angela Pando.

It seemed like only yesterday these same girls

SEE LADY PINES, PAGE 2B.



Skylar Holland is one of five seniors on the Lady Porcupines.



Stoli Cox is one of several young players poised to fill the void left by departing seniors.



A teary Angela Pando hugs teammate Sterlyn Smith.



Railey Druyman hugs her favorite teacher Ashley Watson after the game.



Landree Merriman anticipates leaving the nest at an emotional Senior Night.

Photos by Jeff Prince

LADY PINES, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.

were celebrating Senior Night in Springtown....

ROAD TO THE TITLE

Tears ran down Merriman's cheeks, and her voice cracked while she stood in front of a full house at the Springtown gymnasium and considered life without her volleyball besties. It was late October, and Springtown's Lady Pines had just swept Krum in three games. The victory tied the Pines with Argyle for second place in what is one of the region's toughest districts.

The win was big since the district's top two teams earn seeding and homefield advantages that can make the difference between a successful playoff run or an early exit. The Lady Pines, still emotional after beating Krum, held the post-game Senior Night ceremony for Merriman and the team's other graduates in waiting – Druyman, Holland, Martinez and Pando.

By the end, most everyone was crying.

"Growing up with all these people and finally ending it is really hard, but I know we will all come back together again one day," Merriman said.

The tall senior had blocked many balls over many years with these girls, and their accomplishments didn't come easy. Merriman would be lying if she said quitting had never crossed her mind. Standing beside her teary teammates, she expressed gratitude that she'd persevered.

Her advice for athletes thinking about quitting: "Don't do it," she said. "In the end, you will make the best memories ever."

SCRAMBLE CONTINUES

Decatur won the District 7-4A championship with a 12-0 record. Springtown and Argyle finished 9-3 in conference games, tied for second.

Teams that finish first or second earn helpful seeding advantages for playoff pairings. Teams that finish third or fourth play tougher teams in the first playoff round (bi-district).

Springtown and Argyle both wanted that second-place advantage. A tiebreaker match would determine their fates. These two rivals have been pummeling each other for years and know each other well. Everyone expected a battle.

Back in September, the Pines had knocked off Argyle in five sets. In October, the teams met again, and Argyle surprised Springtown by winning three straight sets.

That set up the tiebreaker on Oct. 29.

Argyle won three of five sets. The Lady Pines came through in a big way on Tuesday.

What comes next after a bi-district title and win No. 25? The Lady Pines head to the area title match and hope to find win No. 26.

It won't be easy. Springtown faces the Stephenville Honeybees, champions of District 6-4A, a team that went undefeated in district play and has won 30 games so far. Two years ago, Stephenville won 34 games and made it to the regional quarterfinals before losing to – hello! – Argyle.

It's a small world in the playoffs, and the Pines hope to keep making it smaller and smaller in their quest for a state title.

Springtown hosting fundraiser rodeo



Camden Alvarez. Springtown cowboys and cowgirls will be putting their talents on display at the annual Springtown Fundraising Rodeo this weekend.

BY JEFF PRINCE
jeff@azlenews.net

Participating in rodeos can be physically demanding and stressful. Or they can be relaxing and fun. Sometimes, they can be all those things at once.

One thing, though, never changes – participating in rodeos requires money.

The Springtown team relies on an annual fundraising rodeo to help stock its coffers, and

the event is being held this weekend. The team hopes to raise about \$6,000 and is encouraging residents to come watch the rodeo and support the team.

“This is our one fundraiser for the year,” said James Heil, the team sponsor.

Last year’s event raised \$4,500, but it was a down year due to COVID. Heil hoped to host two fundraising rodeos this season to raise more money, but it didn’t work out due to scheduling.

The team will rely on plenty of help from volunteers to ensure the rodeo runs smoothly. Dozens of people are needed to manage the arena, work the gate and concession stand, oversee a silent auction and run the rodeo, but Springtown’s team has fewer than 10 members. Azle’s team, by comparison, has about 30.

“With the size of the team -- we’re only nine kids – it’s a lot of work on the kids and the parents,” Heil said.

Several members of the Azle rodeo team and their families volunteered to help this weekend. Springtown and Azle might be rodeo rivals, but Heil characterized the Azle volunteers as “amazing” and “good people.” Mutual backscratching isn’t uncommon among rodeo teams, even rivals, in a sport known for its camaraderie.

“It’s been really helpful,” Heil said. “The (Azle) kids are bringing some friends and parents, and

so it’s going to be a group effort to pull it all off.”

Springtown’s team participates in the North Texas High School Rodeo Association and is currently ranked No. 5 out of more than 80 teams.

The annual Springtown Fund-raiser Rodeo is at 8 p.m. Friday and 4 p.m. Saturday at the North Texas High School Rodeo Association Arena, 6229 Windy Ryon Way, in Fort Worth. Admission is \$7.

Anthem time



Springtown flagrunners show their patriotism during the National Anthem.

Photo by Jeff Prince

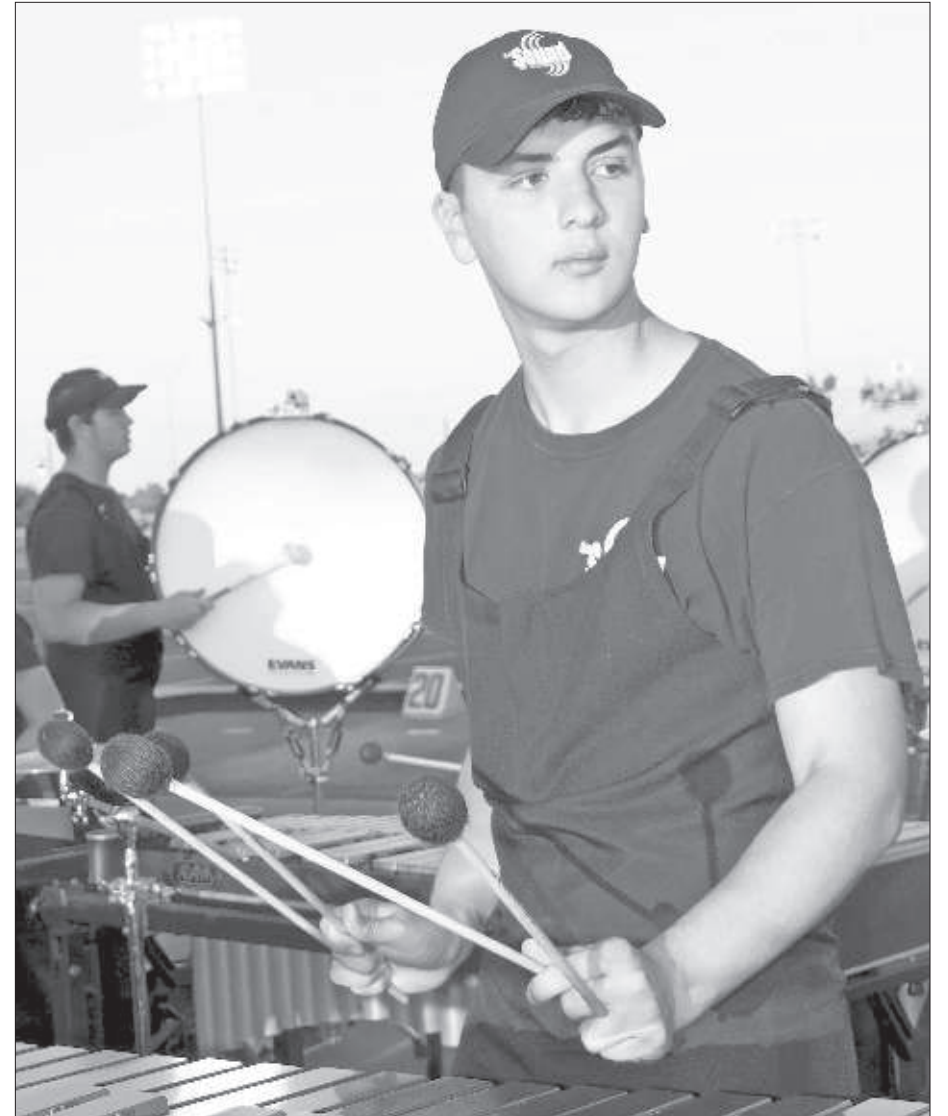
Football Contest WEEK 10

A three-way tie for first place meant the tiebreaker game was required to determine this week’s winners of the football contest. Brett Horton and Eddy and Margaret Swanzy each picked the correct winner in 11 of 13 games. The tiebreaker game was Dallas vs. Minnesota, won by the Cowboys with a total of 36 points. Margaret Swanzy guessed closest with 48 points, earning her first place and \$20. Horton was second with 49 points, earning \$10. Eddy Swanzy placed third and earned \$5. Next week marks the final football contest of the year, so if you want to have fun picking games and perhaps earning some mad money, fill out an entry form!

Sound of Springtown sounds better than ever



Strike up the band! Springtown High School's marching band, that is. Congratulations to the Sound of Springtown for winning the UIL Area D band contest in Pflugerville over the weekend and nabbing a ticket to the biggest show around - the state contest. Springtown's marching band has made it to the UIL State Marching Contest seven times since 2000 and qualified for the final three times but has never won the state title. That could soon change, as the current edition of Sound of Springtown is well trained, highly choreographed, performs a quality show and is hungry to nab the big trophy.



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Highland Furniture

North Side of the Square
Springtown - 817-220-5570

Hilltop Family Church

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Springtown - 817-220-7177

Howell's Cafe

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Maverick Iron & Supply

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Springtown - 817-220-6677

Pinnacle Bank

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Deadline for entries 6 pm Friday at Highland Furniture. Winners can pick up their checks at the Epigraph office after Thursday.

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1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. _____
 5. _____
 6. _____
 7. _____
 8. _____
 9. _____
 10. _____
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There are 13 games listed in advertisements on this page. To enter, pick the winner and write the name of that team in the appropriate blank on the official entry form.

Deliver the form to Highland Furniture on the north side of the Square by 6 PM Friday.

Entries will be tabulated weekly and the results published in that week's issue of the Springtown Epigraph. Winners may pick up their checks at the office after Thursday. The first place winner each week will receive \$20, the second place winner \$10 and the third place winner \$5. The tiebreaker will be used to determine placings. In case of a tie, the money will be divided equally. To pick the tiebreaker, predict the total number of points in the selected game and enter in the appropriate space on the official entry form. All entries become the property of the Springtown Epigraph. Please write clearly and be sure to enter your pick in the correct blank. Second tiebreaker decided by whoever picks Azle and Springtown games correctly.

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Help Wanted continued next page...

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 Must be Growth Minded, have strong knowledge of automobiles (Ford experience preferred). Previous customer service experience with a valid TXDL and acceptable driving history.

Body Shop Painter Helper
 Assists Body Shop painters and performs other duties as needed throughout the Body Shop. Must be responsible and dependable with a valid driver's license. Monday-Friday work week.

Body Shop Technician
 Commission. Must have experience.

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

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

KLEMENT
 Certified Technician
\$2,500 Hiring Bonus
 Compensation based on experience and certifications. Must be dependable and responsible with a good work ethic.

Service Porter
 Performs duties throughout the service department. Must be responsible, dependable and have a valid TXDL. Monday through Friday.

Service Advisor
\$2,500 Hiring Bonus
 Must be committed to customer satisfaction and be honest and dependable. Previous experience preferred, but willing to train the right candidate.

KLEMENT DISTRIBUTION, INC.
 (Hershey Ice Cream Distributor)
Route Driver
\$2,500 Hiring Bonus
 No CDL required, but must have valid TXDL with acceptable driving record. Monday through Friday. Fun work environment! Promote from within advancement opportunities. Flexible time-off schedules, often 3-day weekends during summer months.

Karl Klement Properties, Inc.
Motorcycle Restoration Tech
 Restoring Bultacos. Full or Part time hours available.

Maintenance Helpers
 Show us you have what it takes!
 On the spot job offers. No experience required.

For consideration of all positions apply to:
Alyssa Jacobs, Assistant H/R Manager
 605 N. Business 287, Suite 102, Decatur, Texas
 hr@klementford.com
 940-627-6362
 We offer Benefits, Paid Holidays, Vacation & Training

Classified/Circulation Position

This is a full-time position working Monday-Friday 8 AM - 5 PM with employee benefits and 401k.

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Azle News
 Apply by sending resume to publisher@azlenews.net

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Facilities Assistant II
 Monday - Friday
 7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. pays \$15.25 per hour
 3:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. pays \$15.90 per hour (with shift premium)

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Janitorial Assistant
 Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
 \$14.00 per hour

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People and Parts
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Facilities Assistant II
 Monday - Friday
 7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. pays \$15.25 per hour
 3:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. pays \$15.90 per hour (with shift premium)

Apply Today! Check out www.tti.com/careers for specifics.

040 Home Improvement
BILL ROSSER PAINTING & REMODELING. Big Savings: \$100 off any job of \$1,000 or more. Painting, Carpentry, Porch Covers, Decks. FREE ESTIMATES. Call 817-304-9974; 866-374-3559.

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 Your *Hometown Papers!*

039 Help Wanted

WANTED
 Property Maintenance Labor/Person
Gene Thompson & Associates
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039 Help Wanted

KARL KLEMENT
 Service Manager - \$5,000 Signing Bonus with Ford Experience.
 Decatur, Wise County

- Must be Growth Minded
- Strong Knowledge of Automobiles
- Previous Customer Service Experience
- Ford Experience Preferred
- Valid TXDL & Acceptable Driving History

We offer competitive salary, benefits including 401(k), paid training, holidays and vacation time.

To apply, please contact:
Jodi Pettis or Alyssa Jacobs
 940-627-6362

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Come Grow With Us...Literally

Seeking an experienced or student horticulturist to plant, grow and care for Poinsettias in Decatur/Wise County.

- Must be capable, passionate and reliable
- Salary and work schedule are negotiable
- Training and continuing education provided

To apply, please contact:
Jodi Pettis or Alyssa Jacobs
 940-627-6362
 or submit your resume to hr@klementford.com

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Janitorial Assistant
 Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
 \$14.00 per hour

Apply Today! Check out www.tti.com/careers for specifics.

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TKO Services
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Roofs and Shingles
 Bricks Decks Concrete Cleaning
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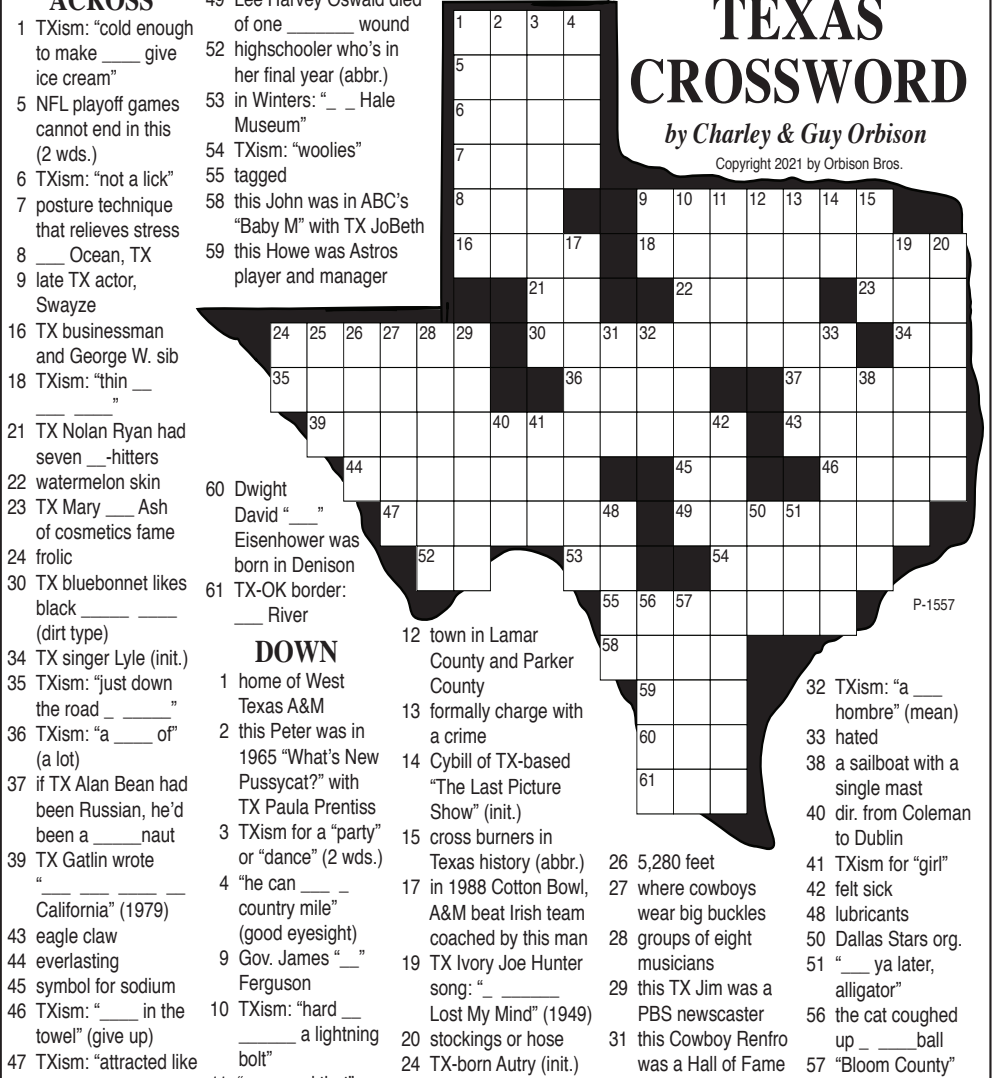
ACROSS

- 1 TXism: "cold enough to make ___ give ice cream"
- 5 NFL playoff games cannot end in this (2 wds.)
- 6 TXism: "not a lick"
- 7 posture technique that relieves stress
- 8 ___ Ocean, TX
- 9 late TX actor, Swayze
- 16 TX businessman and George W. sib
- 18 TXism: "thin ___"
- 21 TX Nolan Ryan had seven ___-hitters
- 22 watermelon skin
- 23 TX Mary ___ Ash of cosmetics fame
- 24 frolic
- 30 TX bluebonnet likes black ___ (dirt type)
- 34 TX singer Lyle (init.)
- 35 TXism: "just down the road ___"
- 36 TXism: "a ___ of (a lot)"
- 37 if TX Alan Bean had been Russian, he'd been a ___naut
- 39 TX Gatlin wrote "___ California" (1979)
- 43 eagle claw
- 44 everlasting
- 45 symbol for sodium
- 46 TXism: "___ in the towel" (give up)
- 47 TXism: "attracted like ___ a magnet"

DOWN

- 1 home of West Texas A&M
- 2 this Peter was in 1965 "What's New Pussycat?" with TX Paula Prentiss
- 3 TXism for a "party" or "dance" (2 wds.)
- 4 "he can ___ country mile" (good eyesight)
- 9 Gov. James "___" Ferguson
- 10 TXism: "hard ___ a lightning bolt"
- 11 "___ and that"
- 12 town in Lamar County and Parker County
- 13 formally charge with a crime
- 14 Cybill of TX-based "The Last Picture Show" (init.)
- 15 cross burners in Texas history (abbr.)
- 17 in 1988 Cotton Bowl, A&M beat Irish team coached by this man
- 19 TX Ivory Joe Hunter song: "___"
- 20 stockings or hose
- 24 TX-born Autry (init.)
- 25 scholarly writing style

TEXAS CROSSWORD
 by Charley & Guy Orbison
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32 TXism: "a ___ hombre" (mean)

33 hated

38 a sailboat with a single mast

40 dir. from Coleman to Dublin

41 TXism for "girl"

42 felt sick

48 lubricants

50 Dallas Stars org.

51 "___ ya later, alligator"

56 the cat coughed up ___ ball

57 "Bloom County" artist, TX Breathed

040 Home Improvement

Devin's Handyman Service

- Carpentry
- Cement
- Rock
- Granite
- Tile
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046 Looking to Buy
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940-233-2862
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817-220-7217 - SPRINGTOWN

Deadline:
 4:30 PM Monday

Classifieds

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- Metal Buildings
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WAREHOUSE FOR LEASE. 3100 E. Highway 199, Springtown. 5195 sf, 3 phase electric, LED lighting, 16 ft. ceiling, roll-up doors, heat & air and adequate. Large propane tank, ADT prewired for doors, \$2,995/mo. Tenant also responsible for electricity, trash, common area maintenance, water. Call Alana Long with Williams Trew 682-321-2151 or alana.long@williams-trew.com.

SELL IT IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!

088 Rent Unfurnished

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084 Mobile Homes for Rent

Pelican Bay: 1524 Partridge, 1-1, stove/fridge, central heat, window unit, \$585/mo. \$400 deposit. Owner/Broker 817-988-9954.

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Barton Cottages Tiny Home Community: COMING FALL 2021! Email sales.stewartbend@gmail.com for information.

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www.weld-done.net

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088 Rent Unfurnished

2021 Home in Azle. 3BR, 2BA, 2-Car Carport with attached 10x20 Storage. \$1,800/mo. \$1,800 deposit, Credit/Background Check, No Pets. Available September 1st. 817-980-3066.

2-2 house, large kitchen, 2 large baths, 2-Car Carport, appliances, dishwasher, etc. Laundry room, quiet area, close to shopping and Hwy 199, no pets, \$1,300/mo. 817-444-3636.

3-2 Duplex for Rent in Springtown. \$1,000/mo. \$500 deposit, no pets. 817-980-3066.

3-2 brick house in Azle. \$1,400/mo. \$1,400 deposit, no pets. 817-980-3066.

1916 PELICAN DRIVE N., 3-1, \$1,195/mo. \$500 deposit; 1912 PELICAN DRIVE N., 3-2, \$1,295/mo. \$500 deposit; 1512 CORAL CUT OFF, 2-1, \$1,095/mo. \$400 deposit. Gene Thompson & Associates, 817-246-4646. gtax.com.

3-2 Duplex. Just refurbished, quiet area, no pets, close to shopping. \$1,300/mo. 817-444-3636.

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AUCTION

Real Estate & Public Auction • On-Site & Online Bidding Fri., Nov. 12, starts at 9:42 a.m. Real Estate: 6 1/2 acres located just outside of Eufula, OK on Hwy 9 with a 75x50 shop, 75x20 lean-to and 75x18 lean-to, concrete floors throughout. Open Houses: Mon., Nov. 1st & 8th, 3-5 p.m. Dozers, semi trucks, dump trucks, trailers, pickups, 4-wheelers, telehandler, skid steer, loader, tractors, mowers, tools, equipment, guns and ammo. Two auction rings. Auctioneer's Note: Company FOS is liquidating equipment & assets. Items are in good condition. Lots of items not listed. For more info & pics visit ChuppsAuction.com. Chupps Auction & Real Estate, 918-630-0495.

Timberline Ranch Dispersal Auction - 30 Horse Drawn Carriages, Western Memorabilia, Estate Furnishings, Equipment. Bid through Nov. 10th at CapAuctions.com. Lic 13489, 15% BP: 888-300-0005.

EVENTS

World's Largest Gun Show - November 13 & 14 - Tulsa, OK Fairgrounds. Saturday 8-6, Sunday 8-4. WANENMACHER'S TULSA ARMS SHOW. Free appraisals. Bring your guns! www.TulsaArmsShow.com.

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