



## Patience is gone: Walnut Creek SUD customers, staff look for solution to billing problem

BY MADELYN EDWARDS  
madelyn@azlenews.net

Walnut Creek Special Utility District customers are raising their voices about water bills costing hundreds of dollars, while the utility district is looking toward a solution to its faulty transmitter problem.

Candice Chandler moved into her home between Azle and Springtown in the Briar area about a year ago, and she noticed that she was receiving a lot of \$35 bills detailing a water usage of zero gallons. When she inquired about the issue to the Walnut Creek Special

Utility District, she was told that sometimes the meters have transmission errors where the transmitter doesn't send the data from the meter to the billing department. When that happens, estimate bills are sent out.

According to the SUD's website, the monthly minimum bill costs \$35.70 for water usage of zero to 2,000 gallons. From there, the rates include three tiers: \$6.11 per 1,000 gallons for usage between 2,001 and 10,000 gallons, \$6.95 per 1,000 gallons for usage between 10,001 and 20,000 gallons and \$7.90 per 1,000 gallons for usage over 20,000 gallons.

**"You would have a sinkhole in your yard if you were using 65,000 gallons..."**

- CANDICE CHANDLER

After receiving a few \$35 water bills, Chandler then received a \$400 bill, which detailed usage of 65,000 gallons over a month's time, she said.

"You would have a sinkhole in your yard if you were using 65,000 gallons, so what they end up telling

you when you go up there – and you have to almost beat this information out of them – is they tell you that's really not for one month, that's playing catch up from all these months back," she said. "So, they're saying that could go all the way back six months, that usage."

Chandler isn't alone in facing this issue. Resident Erin Heersma said she also received an \$830 water bill after not being charged for water usage for two months, and resident Robin Kidd said that she received a \$313 bill that was blamed on a water leak that Kidd said didn't occur. Kidd also said when she requested a rereading of her meter the staffer who came out didn't get out of their vehicle.

Both Kidd and Heersma said they have heard of similarly expensive water bills among their neighbors and on Facebook com-

SEE WATER BILLS, PAGE 5A.

## Residents, visitors enjoy Christmas festival

BY DON MUNSCH  
AND MADELYN EDWARDS  
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Kanon Childress and his family took advantage of the crisp, cool temperatures Saturday to partake in the Old-Fashioned Christmas festival in Springtown.

Santa Claus, accustomed to the bitter cold of the North Pole, was another visitor who enjoyed

SEE OLD-FASHIONED CHRISTMAS, PAGE 9A.



Kanon Childress, 4, of Springtown visited Santa Claus to discuss his Christmas wish list. Over 300 children visited with Santa.

Photo by Don Munsch

## SISD approves a one-time payment for district staff

BY MADELYN EDWARDS  
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Springtown ISD employees will receive some extra money before heading into the holiday break, thanks to a resolution passed by the school board on Monday.

The board voted to use federal grant funds, called the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund, to give to school district staff in a one-time payment. Employees working as of Sept. 1 and still employed as of Dec. 17 are eligible for the stipend.

Full-time employees will receive \$750 while half-time staff will get \$500. Bus drivers and cafeteria workers are being considered full-time employees. The payments are going to be awarded to employees on Friday.

The resolution acknowledges

that the "employees have worked tirelessly during especially challenging conditions in order to continue providing an education to the District's students."

The resolution also states that the board wants to "recognize and show appreciation to employees" through the payments. The purpose of the payments is "to promote staff morale, reward employees for their commitment and performance despite considerable hardships caused by the pandemic, promote and encourage employee retention, help the District to be more competitive in annual compensation without creating a continuing obligation, and make the District more competitive in recruiting new and future employees."

Board Secretary Chris Gilley called the board's decision a "no-

SEE SISD, PAGE 3A.



## Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce monthly luncheon

Springtown High School sophomore Carolina Williams, in costume as the character Elsa from "Frozen JR," visits with the Reno Elementary School fourth-grade choir on Dec. 9 during the Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce luncheon.

Photo by Madelyn Edwards

MORE PHOTOS, PAGE 2A.





Reno Elementary School music teacher Sandra Boyd directs her fourth-grade choir during their performance at the Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce luncheon.



Springtown High School sophomore Carolina Williams belts out the last notes of "Let It Go" as her character Elsa from the high school's production of "Frozen JR." at the Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce luncheon.

# Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce monthly luncheon

The Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce held its monthly luncheon on Dec. 9 at the Springtown ISD Administration Building. Luncheon attendees saw performances from the Springtown High School varsity choir, the theater department's rendition of "Let It Go" from the high school's production of "Frozen JR." and the Reno Elementary School's fourth-grade choir.

Photos by Madelyn Edwards



The Springtown High School varsity choir performs "Deck the Halls" and "Carol of the Bells" at the Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce luncheon.



Reno Elementary School fourth-grade choir performed "Santa Claus is Coming to Town," "Up on the Housetop," "Silent Night" and "Feliz Navidad" at the Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce luncheon.



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**GOSHEN CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SINGS FOR SISD**

Goshen Creek Elementary School second graders sang Christmas carols for the Springtown ISD school board on Monday evening. Photo by Madelyn Edwards



**SHS PERFORMS 'FROZEN JR.'**

Springtown High School students performed in the production of "Frozen Jr." last week, which included two performances for the public and multiple local school performances for more than 3,200 students. Photo courtesy of Rebecca Phillips

**Toy Drive**

**Neighbor to Neighbors hosts toy drive for local kids**

BY MADELYN EDWARDS  
madelyn@azlenews.net

Springtown's Neighbor to Neighbors food pantry and clothes closet will hold a toy drive ahead of the upcoming Christmas holiday.

Neighbor to Neighbors is accepting unwrapped toys for local kids in need. The drive will take place from

8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 20-21, at Neighbor to Neighbors, located at 413 S. Main St. It is accessible through the driveway across from Dollar General and El Cerrito Mexican Restaurant Grill.

For additional donation days and times, contact Neighbor to Neighbors food director Joy Rickman at 817-938-1344.

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

brainer."

"The teachers have been through a lot. We've still got COVID challenges," Gilley said during the meeting.

Superintendent Mike Kelley said that the stipend also serves as a recruitment effort that may attract future staff and educators.

"If they see that our board recognizes the effort and the challenges we've

endured, they'll know that, 'If I go there, Springtown is going to take care of me as an employee,'" Kelley said.

He also said that pay scales have been improving for years, and the district strives to remain competitive.

"We want to show our continued track record of taking care of those employees," said Board President Rick Beall.

**Weatherford man charged in slew of Springtown-area vehicle burglaries**

**FROM STAFF REPORTS**

A Weatherford man was arrested last week in connection with several recent vehicle burglaries near Springtown, authorities said.

Jarrod Matthew Harle, 24, of Weatherford was arrested by Parker County Sheriff's investigators on Dec. 8. As of Dec. 9, Harle remained in custody at the Parker County Jail. His bond has not been set.

Parker County Sheriff Russ Authier said Sheriff's Criminal Investigations

Division began an investigation in October after more than a dozen cases of vehicle burglaries were reported.

The investigation also included cases of identity thefts and theft of firearms, which were connected to the vehicle burglary cases.

"In the span of two weeks, the suspect broke into 14 vehicles, taking personal items, weapons, wallets, currency and debit and credit cards," Authier said in a news release.

The break-ins occurred

west of Springtown in the neighborhoods of Goshen Road and East State Highway 199. Several victims and witnesses provided security footage depicting the suspect, who was later identified as Harle, according to the reports.

Sheriff's investigators obtained tips from a social media request seeking public assistance that aided in the identification of Harle as the suspect of the burglaries.

Also according to investigators:

On Nov. 11, Harle was identified as a passenger in a vehicle pursuit by Parker County Sheriff's deputies in Springtown. Harle was interviewed and admitted to committing multiple vehicle burglaries in the Springtown area. Harle was also found to be in possession of more than 30 debit and credit cards along with identification cards taken from the victims' vehicles.

Sheriff's investigators obtained warrants for the arrest of Harle on 14 counts of vehicle burglary and

theft. Harle was paroled in May on several previous charges of burglary of a vehicle. Based on Harle's previous convictions, the current charges were enhanced to state jail felonies.

Harle was taken into custody Dec. 8 at a motel in Azle. At the time of Harle's arrest, sheriff's investigators located multiple items reported stolen. Harle was arrested on the Parker County warrants, an outstanding warrant for credit card/debit card abuse out of Young County and a pa-

role violation warrant. Authier said additional charges are pending in this ongoing investigation.

"The best deterrent in vehicle burglaries is prevention," Authier said. "Many of the victims reported their vehicles were left unlocked. We urge citizens to remove all valuables from your vehicles and lock your doors. Especially during the holiday season, if you are Christmas shopping, place your purchased items in your trunk or out of sight."

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BOOK REVIEW

# Cop shop tell-all about dumb criminals

BY TERRI

SCHLICHENMEYER

License and registration?

Yep, you've got that, and lucky you do because the folks in the car with the pretty blue and red lights on the roof probably won't take "no" for an answer. You need to walk the straight-and-narrow with them — sometimes quite literally — and don't think they won't tell. In the new book "Got Warrants?" by Timothy Cotton, even good cops can spill the beans.

Police Officer Timothy Cotton didn't much cotton to writing another book like his last one.

His first book based on the Bangor (Maine) Police Department's Facebook page was popular, but Cotton was afraid of burning out. Were people tired of reading about

"real police reports about real situations that... officers run into"?

No, not a bit. Little did Cotton know that the department had fans and that people would be clamoring for more dumb criminal stories — tales like that of the couple "engaged in the age-old art of interpersonal-relationship building," loud enough to bother the neighbors. Or the man who said "he wasn't afraid of jail" and so he was... escorted to jail. Sometimes, the BPD deals with folks in various states of undress (and those viewing them, surreptitiously or not). Many calls start out innocently but don't end up that way.

Some calls are made over concerns of the consumption of "loudmouth soup." Others come from estab-

lishments that kindly allow patrons to "pass the time between short sips from long-necked bottles." Calls might come from passers-by, concerned about someone lying beneath a bridge with a similar bottle.

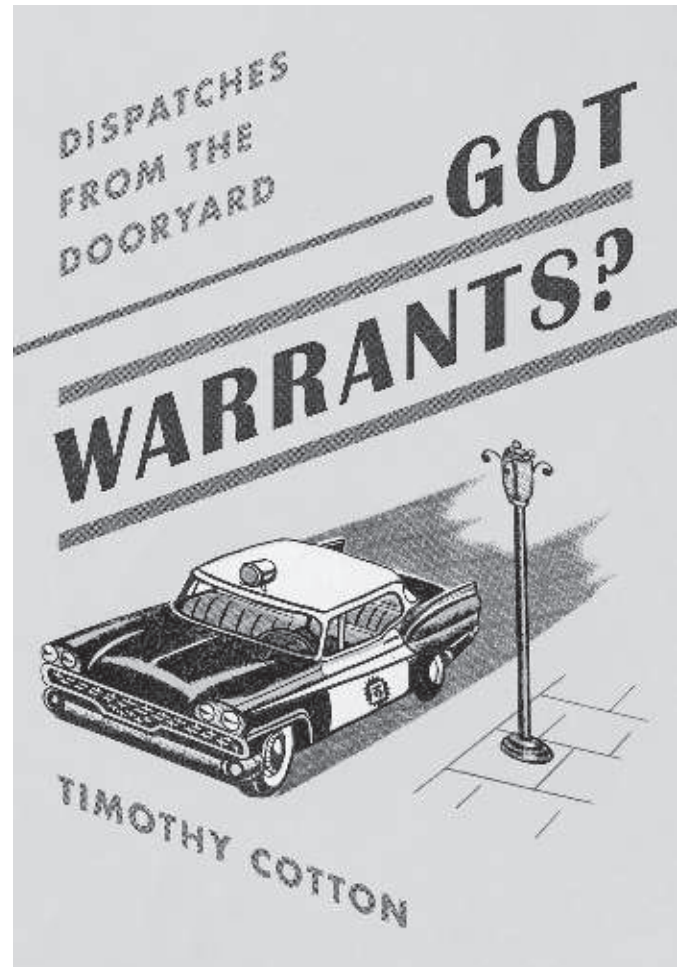
It's a good bet that said bottles are at fault for an awful lot of calls, in fact.

But before you start to think this is all fun and games, know that there are lessons inside this book. If you've got a few outstanding warrants hanging over your head, for instance, don't annoy the lady upstairs. Choose your friends wisely. And if you need the cops to help with your vehicle, don't leave bags of white powder lying on the passenger's seat.

Television is full of crafty criminals who elude detec-

tives for months. Murder mysteries are chockablock with them — and yet, when it comes to crime, sometimes, you just gotta shake your head. "Got Warrants" will make it positively rattle.

That's because the stories that author Timothy Cotton tells are "dam sure ... dumb." Most of them have Adult Beverages at root while others include illegal substances, neither of which are known for good decision-making. Cotton also writes of more gentle calls: noise complaints, small misunderstandings, and a dog he calls Bob who just wanted to play. Readers may become weary of too many annoyingly awful, abominable alliterations and snicker-y groaners, but the humor here is otherwise clear, and clearly enjoyable.



"Got Warrants? Dispatches from the Dooryard" by Timothy Cotton c.2021, Down East Books \$24.95 / higher in Canada 224 pages

There are no big shoot-outs inside this book, no lengthy car chases or major drug busts, and nothing give this book to Grandma or a teen with a passion for law enforcement; for them, and for you, "Got Warrants?" is just the ticket.

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 Springtown ISD will hold a public meeting at 6:00 p.m., Monday, January 3, 2022 in the Springtown ISD Board Room located at SISD Administration 301 E. 5th Street Springtown, Texas 76082. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss Springtown ISD's rating as determined by the state's financial accountability system.

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF DEBORAH DEE MORONG, DECEASED:**

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of DEBORAH DEE MORONG, Deceased, were issued to BARBARA G. O'BRIEN on the 8th day of December, 2021, in Cause No. 21P474, County Court of Parker County, Texas, which is still pending, and that BARBARA G. O'BRIEN now holds such letters. All persons having claims against said estate are required to present the same within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Claims should be billed to BARBARA G. O'BRIEN, Executor, at the Law Office of Wendi E. Andino, PLLC, 1005 Fort Worth Highway, Weatherford, Texas 76086, care of Wendi E. Andino.

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**WATER BILLS**, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.

munity pages.

“They are getting bills for hundreds of dollars,” Walnut Creek SUD general manager Steve Harris said. “It’s for water that they’ve used, that they weren’t billed for at the time they used it.”

Harris said that the customers can pay out their bills, and late fees are being waived for estimated bills. Customers can also read their meters themselves and call it in to the SUD, he said.

In regard to water leaks, Harris said it’s common for leaks to occur without customers realizing it.

Chandler claimed that the SUD would charge customers for months of water usage so the usage will fall into the most expensive billing tier, though she said this issue was fixed when she pointed it out. On one instance, she said the SUD’s office manager called her “nitpicky.”

“My problem is the customer service there is horrible. I get called names for asking questions. It’s basically, ‘pay your bill or we’ll cut your water off,’” she said. “Some of the people that are on such tight budgets will have to sell their house just to get out. They have a monopoly on us. We have no choice.”

Harris said she was said to be “nit picking,” not “nit-

picky.” He stood by his staff and said in the utility business, customer service complaints are a given.

Some customers have had an estimated bill for six or eight months, Harris said, and staff tries to flag those customers for a manual meter read. Although the entire crew at Walnut Creek SUD reads meters, two people have been hired specifically for manual meter reading.

Staff pulls out bills that include estimated charges for several months of water usage and place them in the correct tiers, Harris said.

“We don’t automatically do it for every one of them because of the inability to get it all done; it takes a pretty good while to take that bill and dissect it, but we go through and pick out the ones that were estimated the longest and that has a big unusual bill, and then anybody who calls and questions it, we go back and look at theirs specifically,” he said.

Walnut Creek SUD Board President Frank Henderson said he would like to see the bills broken down by month so that customers don’t receive exorbitant bills.

“I suggested trying to figure out a way when we see one of those, instead of that big bill, that big number on the bill, adjust it by however many months it’s been

estimated, adjust it month by month,” Henderson said. “We’ll have to add it to the regular bill, but it won’t be that great big bill.”

**FAULTY TRANSMITTERS**

The problem in billing is the malfunctioning transmitters, and it’s not a new problem – there were signs of faulty transmission regarding billing in December 2019, according to a previous Epigraph article.

Walnut Creek SUD got the transmitters about three and a half to four years ago from the company Smart Earth Technologies. The system changed from a drive-by transmission system, which uses receivers in trucks to drive around and pull in the data, to a cellular system. Harris said on Monday that only 40% of the 6,000 transmitters are working properly.

“The company that furnished those, they changed a few of them and they kept promising they were going to get it fixed, and now they have become unresponsive,” he said. “We’re hung out on a limb.”

Henderson said the SUD switched transmitter systems because of a software compatibility issue, so Harris looked for a new system and found one with Smart Earth

Technologies. That system was approved by the board, and Henderson said the system just hasn’t worked out.

“This has not worked out like it was presented,” Henderson said. “We are working on it. We’re concerned, and we’re trying to come up with a solution.”

Harris is getting new transmitters, which use the drive-by system, with another company to compensate for the faulty transmitters. As of Monday, he thinks this system will fix the billing issues, and test drives were being done to see if the system works to transfer meter reads into the billing system. Months have been spent to integrate the software with the billing system.

“If that all works, then this problem is going to get better daily,” Harris said. “Understand we still have to go physically visit about 4,000 locations and change a device, so it’s not going to happen in a week.”

Harris hopes to have the system fixed, with new transmitters installed, by June.

To seek a resolution to the billing problem, Chandler wrote two petitions to the Walnut Creek SUD board. The first one, dated in October, asked for more transparency in billing. Because multiple months were

charged for in a single bill, the petition asked for bills to detail monthly usage and the tier rates charged for that usage.

The second petition, dated in November, asked for a decrease in the water rates by 20% and to waive \$9 late fees backdated to Nov. 1.

“After listening to Deihl Representative Danny Pardon speak at the meeting on November 15, 2021 about the bugs in data transmission from meters to billing it seems obvious these errors, overcharges, and false data is causing major hikes in water bills,” read the Nov. 19 petition.

Chandler presented the October petition to the board at the meeting last month. She claimed that the office manager tried to prevent her and a group of six to eight other residents from entering the meeting, citing that there wouldn’t be a way to social distance amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Henderson allowed the group to enter the meeting and gave Chandler extended time to talk.

Henderson also met with Chandler and other residents in a meeting last week. Chandler said Henderson maintained that the rates don’t need to be lowered and the residents were asked to be patient while the bill-

ing problem was addressed.

“They just say, ‘be patient, be patient,’” she said in an interview after the meeting. “Nobody has any more patience. This is ridiculous.”

Harris also expressed frustration with this situation.

“I know it has been going on a long time. A lot of these things are beyond our control,” he said. “We’re diligently working to try and get it fixed, and I think we are on the verge of having a solution in place.”

Henderson said he explained to the group at the meeting last week that the SUD is “trying to work things out.”

“It’s just a process, and we don’t like it anymore than they do,” he said.

Henderson also said he doesn’t think lowering rates is necessary, but the focus should be on fixing the transmitter problem.

Chandler plans to attend the board’s next meeting at 4 p.m. Monday Dec. 20, at the SUD office at 1155 W. State Highway 199.

Harris said the meeting would include an update regarding this issue, and Henderson said that those willing to speak need to sign up before the meeting to get on the agenda.

*Spotlight on* **BUSINESS** **DECEMBER**

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# It's A Wonderful Life

Ok, it's Christmas time, and most of us have seen the Jimmy Stewart and Donna Reed Christmas classic movie "It's A Wonderful Life", most likely those of us who are at least slightly seasoned even have it memorized. I also think most of us will have to admit that even though the entertainment media has worn it out, there is still a great message there.

At this point most of y'all are thinking this is an Agriculture column, why is he talking about some worn out movie? Ok, give me a chance, I'll try to make the connection.

This week's article does involve cows and taking care of them, which makes it an Agricultural column, right? It also involves hurdles that pop up along the way and folks who happen to be in the right spot while we are in the process of trying to make sure those cows' needs are met.

About a year and a half ago I wrote about a couple of people who at different times were there to pitch in and give me a much-welcomed hand in dealing with the things that happen while "doing our agricultural thing." Things such as calling to let me know that we had cows on "the road" late at night and/or early in the morning (it's never in the middle of a nice warm day), getting those cows off of the road even before I could get there, staying to help fix fence when they sure didn't have to, calling at late at night just to say "your cows are making a lot of noise, just wanted to let you know in case there was something going on", or I think one of your cows is across the fence in our pasture but don't worry about it just get her when



**AG 101**  
By Jack DeShazo

Jack DeShazo has decades of experience in the agriculture field.

you can, etc, etc.

I assure you that I do have a couple of points in this article and hopefully they will make sense if you'll just stay with me. This may also be more understandable if I also include the fact that, just as many people do, we have a few cows on a place that is not at "the house", they are 10 miles away, which means that we can't be there every hour of the day to make sure that everything is alright.

Now, many of y'all are probably thinking "this guy is always having problems, he must be a poor manager." Well, I will not claim to be a great manager, admit to being a poor manager or anything in between.

Let me comment on my use of the word manager, an agricultural enterprise whether it be small or large is a business and/or hobby, whichever it is there needs to be the opportunity of a profit being made occasionally or at least some type of positive production coming from that enterprise, so the caretaker does need to be a manager. Also, if there is no chance of that profit or positive outcome the "manager/caretaker" will most likely lose interest and find something else to do.

Now let me get back to the poor manager statement, if you are involved in Agriculture, things happen. When dealing with livestock, plants, soil, rainfall (too much or too little), freezing temperatures, 100+ degree temperatures, things beyond your control are go-

ing to happen and if you will really think about it most of these things listed above are beyond our control.

Livestock can be temperamental, my oldest son asked me a couple of years ago about the two new dents in the side of my truck, my answer was the one on this side was from feeding cows, the one on the other side was from the horses.

Y'all please keep in mind that if livestock can do that to a truck, they can also hurt you. Dry weather may bring on a lack of grass for grazing, cattle have to eat so a source of nutrition has to be added (cubes, cake, hay), this involves equipment which can fail. Fence wire and fence posts break, fence chargers fail, frozen pipes burst, stock tanks freeze so ice has to be broken, stock tanks dry up thus water has to be hauled, sometimes a cow gets trapped in the mud of the drying up stock tanks and they have to be rescued/retrieved, sometimes alive and sometimes dead.

My point is that if you are going to be involved in Agriculture things happen, they are not time clock scheduled and they have to be taken care of. A lot of people will say "that sounds difficult, sounds like you might get dirty, sweaty or cold, sounds like you could lose money doing that, why would you do that? Well, a high percentage of people do it because they love it, it's in our blood and maybe even in our genetics. It's a wonderful life!!



Example number one; God puts people in our lives at certain times and places. Last week I found a cow in the mud of a drying up tank, she was not getting out by herself, I was by myself and this was not going to be a one person job. I headed to "the house" to get some help and needed equipment. As I approached the gate leading to the road there stood Robby on the other side of the fence. I had seen him before but hadn't met him. I did know that there was a skid steer on the place, I asked him if it was his, he said yes, he asked if I had a cow missing, I said yes, I've got one in the mud; I asked if he could help me get her out and he said sure.

One and a half hours later thanks to Robby and his skid steer we had a live cow out of the mud, a cow that at today's prices is worth easily \$1500. When offered money

for his help his answer was, no, glad to be able to help and let me know if you need help again. A good man!

Example number two, while hauling water to the cows on the place with the drying up stock tank the starter on my truck quit me. After purchasing a new starter I figured out that my once nimble and skinny fingers could no longer reach the engineer designed, ingeniously placed top stud on the old starter to remove it.

My next move was to call my nephew Dustin (nephew not by blood but by honor, if it matters) who spent the next 2-3 hours getting the top stud (did I mention the precise placement of that top stud) out and the new starter in place.

He would not allow money to change hands, only a meal at a local eating establishment accompanied by good conversation was ac-

cepted. Please allow me to also include my friend and mechanic Daryle as another one who has been there at the right time on several occasions, who when asked if I could bring the truck in for a final once over, his answer was "sure, bring it in whenever." Wow, good people!!

Back to my point: God puts people in our paths for a reason, sometimes we may not realize that He has done it or understand it, but He does. In opposition to what we hear on the radio and see on TV, there are tons of good people out there. Even though we may disagree on politics and/or other things I honestly cannot think of many people, actually none, that I couldn't say to them "hey, I need a hand, can you help me" and their answer would be "sure, I'll be there."

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE!!!!  
'til next time.



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ON FISHING

# Winter techniques: strolling and dead sticking

Winter season has been slow to arrive this year, but the cooler water temperatures are falling into the 50s and winter patterns will typically be the primary mode for catching fish. There will still be some warmer days that may require a back stop or two, but in general the

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

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

winter season is here.

Avid anglers know that some of the best fishing of the year is in the winter. Winter is the season when striped bass and hybrid striped bass can be caught on a variety of artificial presentations. It is also a great time of the year to look for those lunker bass as well. Many crappie anglers focus on the winter as well. These winter presentations usually involve very little movement or really slow movement of your bait to draw a strike. The slow movement I use more than most is

called "dead sticking."

The "dead sticking" pattern I am talking about is basically using a jig head with a soft plastic bait of some type that is lowered where baitfish are congregated. You can essentially hold the bait still with very little movement and eventually it will get hit. The colder it gets the less movement you impart on the bait. This is similar to crappie fishing with small jigs, it's just that the jigs are bigger and the predators are bigger.

Another option is to use your trolling motor and slowly drag your bait at the desired depth through the fish. This is called strolling and is typically done using swim baits like sassy shad type baits. You can work more water with this option. My most favorite dead

sticking baits include shad or chartreuse colored five-inch jerk baits. A wide variety of colors will work. I like dying the tail of a shad colored soft plastic with chartreuse dye and threading this bait on a 3/4 ounce jig head. Chartreuse is always a good color to use. Swim baits or sassy shad type tails work well also. The "glow" color swim bait is a favorite among many.

Once you start catching fish with this method, you will be hooked. The more fish you catch the better you will build confidence in this pattern. As with any fishing, there are times you have to be patient. When the bite does come on, look out.

Dead sticking works best when the bait fish are huddled together on those colder days. You are looking for

active feeding fish mixed in with the baitfish. Typically the baitfish are relatively lethargic this time of the year, hence the slow presentation. When a predator does swim through a school of baitfish, the baitfish will scatter and your artificial bait will be the easy target left.

All fish are cold blooded as we know and they don't have to eat as often in the winter as they do in other seasons. This can be true, but when they do feed they tend to gorge themselves. The fish you catch during the winter will be extremely healthy and obese. This is also the best time of the year to catch and release. Survival rates in the cold water are much higher than in the summer.

If the fish are really active and the birds are point-

ing you right to the fish, try hanging these jigs with soft plastics under the surfacing fish to get those bigger fish to bite. You can also pull out the swim baits or top water baits to get into some of that top water action as well.

Spoons or slabs are also effective in the winter. The key here is to move it slow or move it only once in a while to draw attention to it. Just holding it down there and allowing it to flutter while you move the boat with the trolling motor is effective as well.

These winter techniques are extremely effective. In fact they will out catch live bait most of the time. You might not believe that initially, but once you have seen it work you will forget about that live bait option in the winter.

**FISHING REPORT**

Possum Kingdom Lake striped bass to 13 pounds are excellent under the birds. Lake Whitney striped bass are also good on the upper ends from Lakeside upstream to Kimball Bend. Whitney bird action is also good on the main lake from the State Park to the McCown Valley. Whitney crappies are good to excellent in the river near Kimball Bend.

# Hit the brakes! I said hit the brakes!

Communication is an art form. I am convinced that much of what is wrong in the world is not so much from real differences between people, but rather from one person's inability to adequately communicate their thoughts and the other person's inability to understand what is being said to them. Oh, we humans try and communicate, but we are simply not very good at it. Husbands naturally assume their wives know what they want for dinner. Business partners mistakenly imagine they are both on the same page when they are not. Coaches believe they have effectively communicated their red zone football strategy, only to find the play they called resulted in them being short of the goal line.



**MY FRONT PORCH**

By Sam Houston

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

a first-hand lesson on the importance of communication. We lived in a residence on a small lot and the backyard was a steep hill, sloped toward the house. I was maybe 5 years old and had received a secondhand bike for a present.

I did not know how to ride a bike and it did not come equipped with training wheels. As an alternative to training wheels, my mother and sister walked me and the bike to the back fence, got me in the seat, pointed me to the house and gave me a push. In retrospect, I wonder

what they were thinking. I would like to imagine they felt the grass would be soft if I fell off and it would be easier to coast down the short hill as opposed to trying to pedal and keep my balance at the same time.

On the first "shove off" I traveled about three feet, tipped the bike over and went sprawling in the grass. Of course, those were the days before helmets or elbow pads, but I was fine and simply got back on the bike. Mom would hold me steady and shove me off and I started down the hill again. This

process was repeated eight or nine times, and I continued to fall off the bike while receiving continued instructions and coaching from my family. "Keep your balance" and "just coast down the hill" are the comments I recollect hearing.

Finally, on about the tenth try, I managed to somehow figure out my center of gravity and I rode down the hill in an upright position. My first impression, was, "this is really cool," and "I am riding a bike," but in an instant I could detect something was seriously wrong. I could feel myself gaining speed. I glanced up to see a solid brick wall about 50 feet in front of me. Out of nowhere I could hear my mother's voice.

All little boys know their mother's voice and clearly,

she was alarmed. Her tone was high-pitched, and the volume of her message was resounding. She cried out, "Brakes, Sam brakes!" I heard her repeat her message at least twice before the front tire of the bicycle hit the brick wall and I went blank. I had flown over the handlebars with my body striking the side of the house, leaving me a crumpled mass of bicycling failure.

My sister and mother came running to check if I was hurt. I do not remember crying but I do remember being pretty shook up and scared. I can also recall my family laughing very loudly and asking me, "didn't you hear me yell brakes?"

In my memory, I looked at my mom and sister in disbelief as they giggled and asked, "What is a brake?"

You see, they had never explained how to stop the bicycle. They had focused all their attention on my riding down the hill, and absolutely no consideration on how I might stop. Upon calm reflection, one would think stopping should have received greater consideration.

In life there are a whole lot of "brick walls." It is hard to get over them and ever harder to get around them. Amazingly, when we effectively communicate, we can overcome most obstacles. When we don't, we often end up like a bug on a windshield.

Thought for the day: The three fastest ways to communicate; telegraph, telephone, tell a gossip.

Until next time.

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**OLD-FASHIONED CHRISTMAS**, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.

the mild weather. Kanon, 4, of Springtown and other children visited Santa at the festival to discuss their Christmas wish lists. Kanon's mother, Kayla Childress, stood nearby and said her son was excited to see Santa.

Old-Fashioned Christmas attracted vendors, who sold everything from toys to clothes to food. Two running events were held – a 5k and a one-mile fun run – and the festival included songs and dancing from local youths, including students from Springtown schools.

“Actually, this was the first year I knew about it,” Kayla said about the festival, adding that her family will return in the future.

Vendor Lindsay Sapp operated Tried and True Candle and said she enjoyed the weather and visitors.

“Everyone coming around is so cheerful and wonderful,” she said.

She sells more than 40 fragrances and candles are 100% soy wax and are non-toxic. Sapp, who lives in Azle, hand-pours the candles in her kitchen and sells them in the new boutique called Market 76082 in Springtown.

Vendor Travis Perry journeyed from Wichita Falls to Springtown and sold mainly books that are in the science fiction and fantasy genre and often imbued with Christian themes. His wife, Tabatha Catalan, sold craft books at

an adjoining stand.

“That’s a good thing that you have this kind of event to support your town,” he said about Old-Fashioned Christmas. His website can be found at [www.bearpublications.com/](http://www.bearpublications.com/).

Crystal Porter of Fort Worth sold reindeer food at her stand. She said people can spread the food on their lawns.

“It’s been tested and it is guaranteed and 100% Santa-approved to bring Santa to your yard on Christmas Eve,” Porter said.

She said deer can eat the food in the wild, too. Porter enjoyed her time at the festival, but she didn’t seem to

SEE CHRISTMAS, PAGE 10A.



The Jingle Bell Run raised more than \$3,500 from the runs on Saturday with 25 runners participating.



Lindsay Sapp, of Azle, interacts with customers at her Tried and True Candle booth at the festival. Sapp's website is [www.triedandtruecandle.com](http://www.triedandtruecandle.com).



Crystal Porter of Fort Worth and best friend Sabrina Smith show reindeer food that Porter sold at the festival. The festival featured 54 vendors. Photos by Don Munsch

## Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

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### Meet the Peacock

People call them peacocks, but that's the correct name for only the male **peafowl**. Females are called **peahens**.

**Fancy Feathers**  
Peacocks have long, colorful tail feathers that trail behind them to form a **train**. To attract females, they lift and spread out the tail feathers like a big fan that can change color and seem to sparkle in the light.

When spread out like a fan, you can see **eyespot**s on the feathers. The colors and eyespots attract females.

**Color By Numbers:**  
1 = dark green 2 = blue  
3 = orange 4 = light green

Peafowl have 11 different calls, but the peacocks are the ones that really yell. They have a loud call that carries for a long distance and sounds like "may-AWE! may-AWE!"

**Peahens: Fewer Colors = Safety!**  
Cut out each part of this paragraph and paste them in the correct order.

hatched, she stays on the ground with them until they can fly into the trees.

her eggs on the ground and sits on them until they hatch. It is safer for her to be a color that

Peahens are mostly brown and tan. This keeps them and their peachicks safe. The peahen lays

blends in with ground colors so she is harder for predators to see. Once the peachicks are

**What's for dinner?**  
Peafowl eat grain, insects, small reptiles, mammals, berries, figs, leaves, seeds, and flowers. This means they are:

Omnivores eat plants and animals.  
 Herbivores eat only plants.  
 Carnivores eat only meat.

ANSWER: Omnivores

**Bird Words**  
Do the math to match each word with its definition.

21 = FOWL 7 = TRAIN  
10 = PARTY 12 = ROOST  
15 = CREST 24 = HATCH

12 + 12 = when a baby bird comes out of its egg

18 - 6 = where a bird settles to rest for the night

11 + 4 = a crown of feathers on a peafowl's head

8 + 2 = a group of peafowl — also called a "pride"

9 - 2 = long tail feathers of a peacock

7 + 14 = another word for a bird

**Extra! Extra! The Eyes Have It**  
Look through the newspaper and count all of the eyes you can find. Categorize the eyes. Are some animal eyes? People eyes? Eye decorations? Other? Make a graph to show the kinds of eyes you found in the newspaper.  
Standards Link: Organize data and display as a graph.

### Kid Scoop Puzzler

Peafowl have sharp eyes. When they see a predator, they make a loud call which alerts other wildlife.

Use your sharp eyes to find where each of these images came from on this Kid Scoop page.

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

### Kid Scoop Together: Peacock True or False?

Read today's Kid Scoop page and then answer the following True or False questions.

- Only males are called peacocks.  TRUE  FALSE
- Peahens are mostly red and yellow.  TRUE  FALSE
- A crown of feathers on a peafowl's head is called a crest.  TRUE  FALSE
- Peacocks shed their feathers every year.  TRUE  FALSE
- Peacocks only eat plants.  TRUE  FALSE
- Peacocks are tiny birds.  TRUE  FALSE
- A peacock's train can grow to be 5 feet long.  TRUE  FALSE
- Peacocks sleep in trees.  TRUE  FALSE
- Peacocks can't fly.  TRUE  FALSE
- Peacocks fan out their tail feathers to attract females.  TRUE  FALSE

ANSWERS:  
1. True 2. False 3. True 4. True 5. False 6. True 7. True 8. True 9. False 10. True

### Double Double Word Search

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

OMNIVORES  
FEATHERS  
EYESPOTS  
PEAFOWL  
BLENDS  
ALERTS  
SHARP  
SHEDS  
YEAR  
LOUD  
BODY  
TAIL  
TAN  
FAN

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

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

### FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

#### Dressing Up

Peacocks aren't the only animals that like to look bright and flashy. Look through the newspaper for some examples of ways people dress up for special occasions.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written instructions.

### Write On! My Hero

Write about someone who is your hero. Why is this person special to you?

**OLD-FASHIONED CHRISTMAS**, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9A.

care for the “freezing” temperatures.

“It’s going great,” she said. “(The weather) hasn’t slowed down the magic today.”

She had been making reindeer feed for friends and family but decided to take the product to market.

“I chose Springtown for my first one,” she said.

For more information, access [www.etsy.com/shop/ReindeerFood21](http://www.etsy.com/shop/ReindeerFood21).

The Jingle Bell Run raised more than \$3,500 from the runs on Saturday with 25 runners participating. The money goes to support Project Celebration’s after-prom party and gifts for high school seniors.

Tiffany Thetford, Project Celebration volunteer, said 35 runners registered, but some had to drop out because of the chilly weather on Saturday morning.

“Hopefully in the future

we’ll have more runners and more cooperative weather,” Thetford said.

Despite that, Thetford said Project Celebration is pleased with the amount of money raised and said the money raised sets the group “in the right direction to meet our goal.”

Awards, which are split up for male and female runners, in the one-mile fun run went to Casen Hatton for first place male, Harlen Richardson for second place male, Keagann Hebert for first place female, and Leightynn Hebert for second place female.

Some of the fun run winners ran with their families or their families cheered them on from the sidelines.

“It was tough keeping up with him,” Harlen Richardson’s dad Jeremy said, according to an account by Thetford. The Richardsons – including two parents, two sons and one daughter – ran

together. Springtown High School senior Zoie Richardson won a pair of AirPods for recruiting the most runners, Thetford said.

In the 5K run, the male winners were Todd Smith, first with a time of 21:19; Jaime Trussell, second with a time of 21:34; and Dylan Cure, third with a time of 30:31. The female 5K winners were Malory Daniel, first with a time of 27:37; Anna Suggs, second with a time of 32:35; and Laura Ortiz, in third with a time of 32:36.

Thetford said Project Celebration appreciates all the support from volunteers, businesses and others who helped with the running events.

Also from Saturday’s festival, the Springtown Public Library made just under \$200 from the book sale, which benefited the li-



Showstopper Kayden Kenney leads a group of young dancers during a routine. She was accompanied by Showstoppers Zarai Neri, front left, and Mia Zerby-Canoy, back.



Springtown Middle School Varsity Treble Choir members who sang at the Old-Fashioned Christmas on Dec. 11 were, from left, Lily Baleisis, Katelyn Duncan, Starla Ashcraft, Maya Elsaadi, Jaime Hughes, Emily Plumlee, Allison Stott, Luz Luna and Zaylee Reed.



SMS Varsity Tenor-Bass Choir members who performed were Collin McKinney, Joeseoph Soto, Blaze Bird and Jaden Pond. Photos by Don Munsch

brary’s summer children’s programs. The library also received a \$400 donation from one of their patrons before the sale started, library director Andie D’Avignon said. About 50 people attended the book sale.

The book sale was held in the annex building across the street from the City Hall. D’Avignon said she suspects the sale’s turnout was affected by the construction on Farm-to-Market Road 51. “Overall, I think it went great,” she said. “I can’t wait until we don’t have con-

struction going on so it’ll do better, but I think it went great.” The book sale was the first one the library has held since the beginning of the pandemic. Another book sale is expected to be held in the spring.

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This last-second attempt from midcourt sailed wide against Santo, but Brinklee Daunhauer doesn't shrink from pressure shots.

Photo by Jeff Prince

## Dauenhauer leads Lady Pines into hardwood battle

BY JEFF PRINCE  
jeff@azlenews.net

The girl with sandy-blond hair and a determined look on her youthful face plays basketball like she's spent a lifetime dribbling up and down a court.

Brinklee Dauenhauer grew up with two older sisters who were skilled athletes. She began bouncing a basketball at age 3 and had to hustle twice as hard to keep up with her siblings. Now a junior at Springtown High School, Dauenhauer co-captains her team and has forged a reputation as a multi-sport star.

Head coach Kyle Sivadon praised her quickness on the court, which "helps her get off shots before defenses can get to her," he said.

Her strong will makes her special, he said.

"She has been able to play the majority or all of the games, which is good because we need her experience, especially in close games," Sivadon said. "That drive pushes her to play through being tired."

Being a leader comes with pressure. Game on the line? Someone must at-

tempt a buzzer-beating shot and risk being hero or heel.

Last week, while playing Santo, the Lady Pines lost a lead and fell behind by two points with 3.4 seconds remaining on the clock. The Lady Pines inbounded the ball against frantic Santo defenders applying a full-court press. Dauenhauer tossed up a last-second shot from midcourt. The ball bounced off the backboard, and the game ended in a 40-38 loss.

"We kind of had a point where we just didn't have any shots, and that's where we kind of lost a grip on the game," she said afterward. "We really worked hard to fight back. It just didn't work in our favor."

Dauenhauer knows there will be other shots to make and miss in the coming days, weeks, months and years. Leaders don't always win the game, but they believe they can.

In addition to being the top scorer, she leads her team in steals and deflections – both vital aspects of the Pines' defensive philosophy.

Best of all, she's been dribbling since she was just out of diapers.

"You can't coach experience," Sivadon said. "Either it is there or not. For Brinklee, her time on the court in the past has paid huge dividends for us as a team this year. She has improved already this year on attacking the paint. Being multi-dimensional makes her a hard matchup for our opponents."

Dauenhauer moved over to the basketball team once volleyball ended in early November. Dauenhauer has excelled on the varsity volleyball squad since her sophomore season, and she participates in track and golf, as well.

Which sport does she like best?

"That's a hard one," she said. "I love them all."

Right now, she is loving basketball. The team is young and evolving, and Dauenhauer likes the challenge and satisfaction that comes with self-improvement.

"There are a lot of new girls," she said. "We lost eight seniors last (season). So, we're just a really young team trying to get a

SEE DAUENHAUER, PAGE 2A.

## Pines face Graham before district opener

BY JEFF PRINCE  
jeff@azlenews.net

The Springtown Porcupines on Tuesday flashed glimpses of the team they could become.

Playing at home against Alvarado, the Pines fell behind on the scoreboard early but fought back near the end of the second half. Alvarado led 17-16 when Springtown forced a turnover, sank a deuce and nabbed an 18-17 lead before heading into the locker room at halftime.

After the break, the Pines continued their onslaught, scoring seven unanswered points in the first minute and a half to pad their lead to 25-17.

Then, things went awry. Alvarado applied a full-court press for the rest of the



Zane Bell dribbles by the Porcupines bench as head coach Nathan Purvis hollers encouragement.

Photo by Jeff Prince

SEE BOYS BBALL, PAGE 2A.



## Springtown's eighth grade Lady Porcupines win championship

Springtown's eighth grade B team Lady Porcupines, pictured above, won the championship trophy at the Mansfield Howard basketball tournament last weekend. The seventh grade B team won the consolation-bracket championship. "Pretty good for competing against 6A competition," said Kyle Sivadon, head coach at Springtown High.



Head coach Kyle Sivadon has re-energized teams before, and he plans to do it again in Springtown.

Photo by Jeff Prince

handle on everything.”

The team was 4-12 heading into a tournament over the weekend at Santo, where Springtown lost four games in three days to drop to 4-16.

The Lady Pines open district competition at 6:15 p.m. Friday, Dec. 17, at home against Castleberry. Dauenhauer expects the Lady Pines to be jelling better by then.

She averages 20 points a game and leads her team in scoring. It's not unusual to see her staying late after basketball practices, shooting buckets for another 30 minutes before heading home.

“She has a passionate personality, and it comes out on the court in competition,” her coach said.

Someone who participates in sports year-round and works so hard to improve her skills must need some down time to rest.

Right?

Well, maybe not ...

Asked what she does in her spare time, Dauenhauer said, “Homework.”

She takes college courses in addition to her high school class assignments. She isn't sure what she wants to do with her life career-wise but knows athletics will remain in the equation for years to come.

This year, however, is all about her thrill being a Lady Pine.

“I love being a part of a team,” she said. “And I love when our team wins, and we come together, and we're just a big family. That's my favorite part about it all.”

She plans to rely on vol-

leyball to carry her to college. She doesn't prefer volleyball over basketball necessarily. She could play either sport at the college level and do well.

“I just feel like I have a better opportunity for going to college for volleyball,” she said.

Taking high school and college courses simultaneously is demanding. Add in the sporting endeavors, and Dauenhauer is on a fast locomotive most days. She likes it that way.

Asked to name something she does for fun but unrelated to sports or school, she was stumped for a moment. Finally, she said watching movies with friends and family. When asked to name a favorite movie she has watched recently, she hemmed and hawed again.

“That's a hard one,” she said.

It was probably a Christmas movie, she said, but couldn't remember a title.

Her answer made it sound like she wasn't much into movies, after all.

Makes sense. Who wants to watch “White Christmas” for the 10th time when they could be on a basketball court sinking baskets or dribbling past opponents and making pinpoint passes to teammates?

“I'm just very proud of our girls for working hard and just pushing through everything,” Dauenhauer said. “I know we don't really have a lot of height, and we have a lot of young girls, but we're making the best of it. And I think we're coming together a lot as a family.”



Right: Brinklee Dauenhauer, a junior, is co-captain with senior Caydence Parker this year.

Photo by Jeff Prince

BOYS BBALL, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.



Power forward Aaron Tidwell is a force at the net.



William Gleason is among a handful of football players who have transitioned to the basketball team.

game, forcing a high-energy, fast-paced game that wore down Springtown, with the Indians eventually toppling the Pines 54-44. Several key players, including Kelby Castro, William Gleason, Hudson Hulett and Aiden Vickers, transitioned just recently from football to basketball and are still playing their way into basketball condition.

Springtown was seven games into the season before the football players joined the roster. The new guys didn't practice much before being tossed into battle. During their first week with the team, they played more games than they had practices.

"We had to learn on the fly, but they're doing a good job," head coach Nathan Purvis said. "They are working hard. I'm proud of them. They are going to get their legs underneath them, and we are going to be OK."

The football team made it to the quarterfinals, where they lost to Hirchi on Friday, Dec. 3.

Since then, the Porcupine roundballers have been hammered in a game, won a close contest and lost a nailbiter at a recent tournament in Glen Rose. During the tourney, the Pines beat Reagan County of Big Lake 58-54 on Thursday, Dec. 9, but fell to Lubbock Christian 51-47 on Saturday.

Springtown (5-7) plays at 7:30 p.m. Friday at Graham (1-8) in a nonconference match. Next week, the Pines open their district schedule at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at home against Decatur (5-8).

# Regional champ Springtown footballers collect district awards

### STAFF REPORTS

Matt “Mr. Everything” Lockard nabbed the top UIL District 4-4A football award – Most Valuable Player – for his productive

senior season spent leading the Springtown Porcupines to a regional championship.

Earning first-team all-district recognition on of-

fense were seniors Cody Brackeen, C. J. Morgan and Brodee Trejo.

First-team all-district selections on defense were Kelby Castro, Dawson

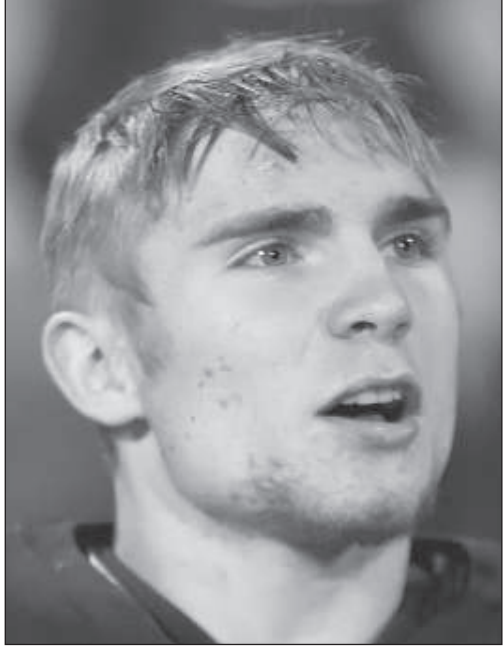
Jones, Lockard, Collin Tidwell, and Josef Yosten.

Second-team all-district selections include Seth Appell, Speck “Tabulous” Behle, William Gleason,

Cristian Hernandez, Hudson Hulett, Jeremy Morrow, Kyle Rose and Yosten. Honorable mentions went to Aaron Bowen, Jace Crawford, Pancho Moreno

and Aiden Vickers.

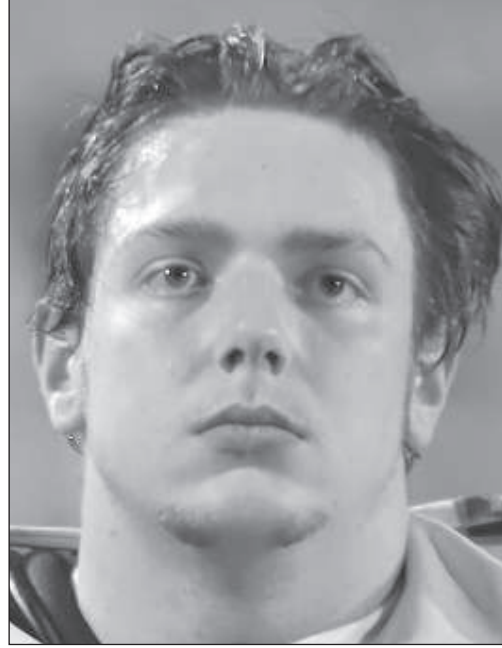
The Porcupines went 10-4 and made it to the state quarterfinals, where they lost to Hirschi 32-6 on Dec. 3.



Matt Lockard was named District 4-4A MVP and first-team all-district.



Jace Crawford



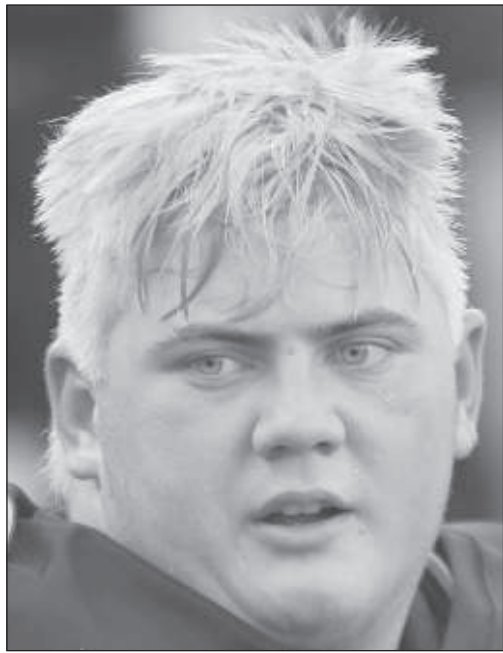
Collin Tidwell



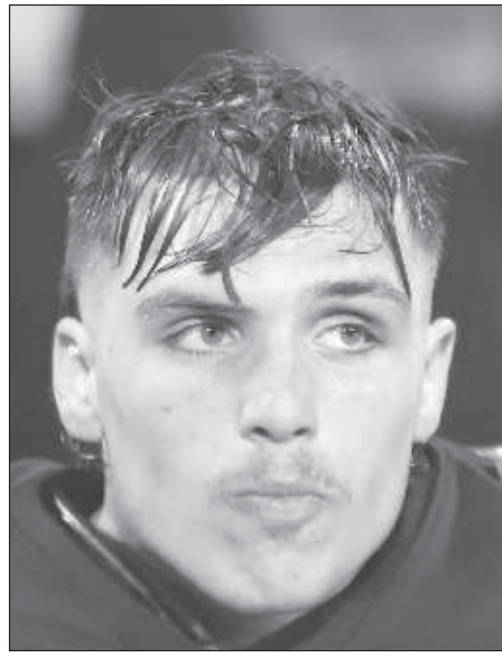
Seth Appell



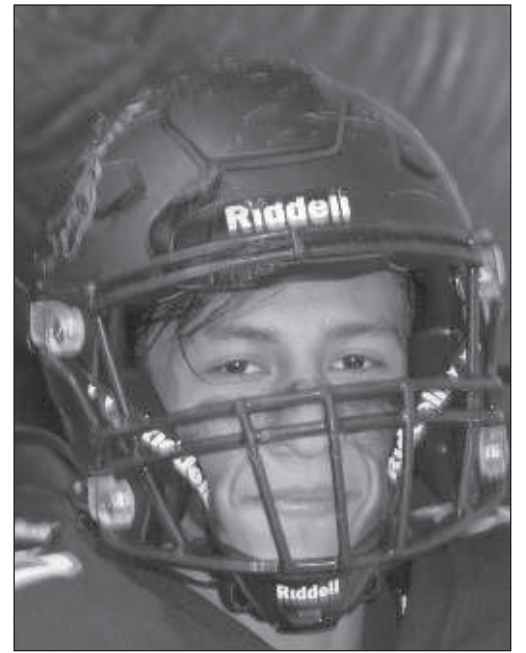
Kyle Rose



Jeremy Morrow



Brodee Trejo



Pancho Moreno

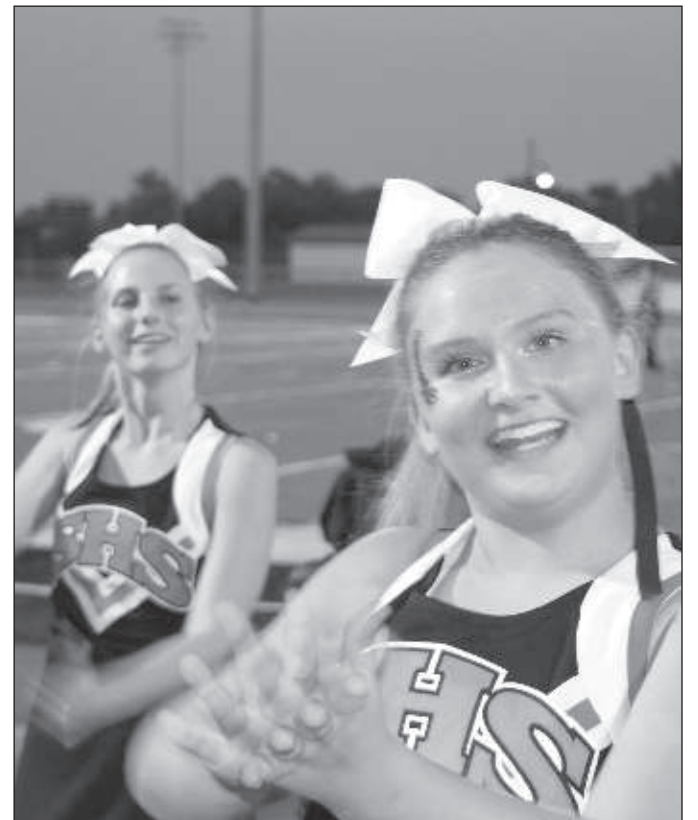
Photos by Jeff Prince

## SPRINGTOWN

# Game Faces



Left to right: SHS flagrunners Braxton Mayo and Isaac Gonzales



SHS cheerleaders Amie White and Madison Martin



SHS Showstopper Bijou Cates



SHS cheerleader Ava Guerra

Photos by Jeff Prince





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**ACROSS**

- 1 Oldham County seat
- 5 Fort Worth's "\_\_\_" Carter Museum of Western Art"
- 6 TXism: "never sign anything in the glow of a \_\_\_ light"
- 7 TXism: "I'll \_\_\_ a monkey's uncle"
- 8 Yuki was LBJ's favorite \_\_\_ dog
- 9 the "B" of LBJ
- 15 in McLennan County on highway 164
- 16 Mexican general who lost at San Jacinto (2 wds.)
- 19 "the man" south of the border
- 21 group of Boy or Girl Scouts
- 22 TXism: "\_\_\_ \_\_\_ any better, the sheriff wouldn't allow it"
- 27 Slavic person
- 28 "\_\_\_ dust, ashes to ashes"
- 29 TXism: "so green he could \_\_\_ a lettuce patch" (rookie)
- 30 speaker to produce high-pitched sounds
- 32 TX Tanya (init.)
- 33 TXism: "parental plagues"
- 36 actress Drake in "Son of Belle Starr" was known as this (3 wds.)
- 37 fed. mortgage ins.
- 38 TXism: "numerous as \_\_\_ \_\_\_ dead worm"
- 39 Gov. Ann wore a blue one to her inaugural gala (2 wds.)
- 41 a John Wayne line (3 wds.)
- 44 TXism: "\_\_\_ \_\_\_ chocked full of glee" (happy)
- 45 TXism: "mad as a wet \_\_\_"
- 46 Academy Award statue likely named for a Texan

**DOWN**

- 1 TX \_\_\_ Cibiurn
- 2 Tex-Mex prison mafia: "EI \_\_\_"
- 3 peanuts
- 4 Dallas' first elected female mayor
- 8 TXism: "sidekicks"
- 9 TX Isaac Ellwood was known as this (3 wds.)
- 10 TXism: "he's got the morals of \_\_\_ alley cat"
- 11 TXism: "hightail \_\_\_" (flee)
- 12 Roy Bedichek wrote "Adventures With a Texas \_\_\_"
- 13 TXism: "still wet behind the \_\_\_"
- 14 TXism: "\_\_\_ slinging drunk"
- 15 TXism: "\_\_\_ \_\_\_ old range cow"
- 16 TXism: "sticks out like a \_\_\_ thumb"
- 17 "\_\_\_ time" (won't fool me again)
- 18 TXism: "later" (2 wds.)
- 20 newspaper Abilene Reporter-\_\_\_
- 22 Gov. Hogg's daughter (init.)
- 23 TXism: "hissey \_\_\_"
- 24 TXism: "neon light \_\_\_" (inspiration)
- 25 Scarborough Faire recreates six \_\_\_ century England
- 26 few TX lotto players \_\_\_ \_\_\_ jackpot
- 28 this Lottie was a famous TX gambler
- 31 short horn blast
- 34 TXism: "ain't \_\_\_ a clue"
- 35 a name before ExxonMobil
- 37 toxic vapors, e.g.
- 40 satisfy fully
- 42 Fort Worth univer.
- 43 Sam Houston's horse
- 49 moving pictures taken with your smart phone
- 50 TXism: "cash \_\_\_ the barrel head"

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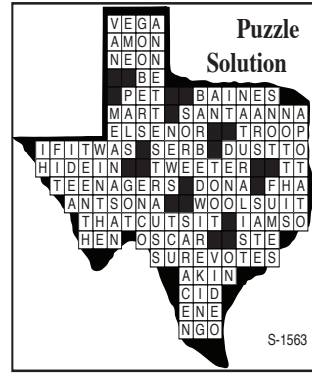
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