



Walnut Creek SUD customers confront board about billing problem

BY MADELYN EDWARDS
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More than 20 residents packed into Walnut Creek Special Utility District's board room on Monday and hotly expressed their disapproval of the district's billing issues.

Walnut Creek SUD customers have been dealing with a faulty transmitter issue. Not all the transmitters deliver the correct water meter readings to the billing department, so multiple months can go by while customers receive bills for minimum water usage. When multiple months of water usage are calculated, customers have received bills that were for hundreds of dollars.

The problem has especially affected newer residents because when those bills are estimated,

there isn't a record of previous bills to calculate the estimate, SUD Board President Frank Henderson said. Then, bills get estimated too low, resulting eventually in a more expensive bill for water usage.

In a previous Epigraph article, Walnut Creek SUD General Manager Steve Harris said new transmitters will be installed to replace the faulty ones.

The board meeting on Monday began with a report from Diehl Metering Regional Technical Manager Courtney Thompson regarding the transmitter problem. Thompson said there have been some issues in adopting the new system, including downloading a corrupt file that has affected the process of lining up the encryption keys with the radios in order to



More than 20 Walnut Creek SUD customers attended the board meeting on Monday to voice frustrations with the faulty billing and transmission system. Photo by Madelyn Edwards

SEE WATER BILLS, PAGE 2A.

Santa Claus comes to Springtown

Bill Foster reflects on Santa career



Bill Foster as Santa Claus waves to the crowd at the Springtown Christmas parade and tree lighting on Nov. 28. Photo by Don Munsch

BY MADELYN EDWARDS
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Springtown resident William "Bill" J. Foster said he doesn't just play Santa Claus — he becomes Santa.

Foster, 77, started playing Santa

when he was about 34 years old after one of his friends, who also acted as Santa, encouraged him to try it out.

"That just kind of whet my whistle, and I've been doing it ever since," he said. "This makes 43 years that I've been doing Santa."

Foster redefined his words: "I say doing Santa; I don't play Santa. I become Santa, as far as I'm concerned. I am Santa."

Foster, a retired educator, has been Santa since 1978, starting

SEE SANTA, PAGE 3A.

New subdivision approved

Springtown OKs zoning, preliminary plat for J.E. Woody Road subdivision

BY MADELYN EDWARDS
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After a months-long process, the Springtown City Council gave approval for a new subdivision near J.E. Woody Road and South Birch Street.

During the meeting last week, the council approved the subdivision's development agreement that includes some specifics about the project, annexation of the land, Planned Development Single Family 3 zoning and the preliminary plat, or a map which shows overall layout of the lots and street pattern. The vote for

annexation was unanimous, but the rest were approved in a 4-1 vote with council member Michele Chandler Kelley in opposition.

The 110-lot subdivision, located north of J.E. Woody Road and west of South Birch Street, is expected to have 108 single-family residences on land that is almost 22 acres. The lots will be between 5,696 and 8,900 square feet.

The development includes about 8.5 acres to the north of park land dedicated to the city, Developer Lee Hughes said. The

SEE SUBDIVISION, PAGE 4A.

School Board Recognition Month



Springtown Mayor Greg Hood takes a picture with Springtown ISD school board trustees Tootie Hall and Gary Veazey. Hood proclaimed January 2022 as School Board Recognition Month in Springtown during the Dec. 16 meeting.

Season's Greetings

2nd Grade Letters to Santa Claus

Don't miss our popular special "Season's Greetings" section! It's our annual Christmastime insert of letters written by Azle and Springtown second graders to Santa Claus. We print the letters as written and ship them off to the North Pole in plenty of time for Santa to get them.

Included in this week's edition of the Springtown Epigraph.



WATER BILLS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.

get meter readings. Thompson said this issue should be fixed by mid-January.

“Right now, you have a little bit over 400 radios in the ground, so part of that new batch for the new install you guys completed, we have to go through each one and kind of mismatch the keys and see what works,” Thompson said. “That’s what’s taking so long.”

Approximately 17 people spoke during the meeting’s public forum to ask questions and talk about the issues with their bills, and many of them expressed anger and frustration with the situation.

Patti Teer said her first water bill after moving into her home in August was \$270.

“Never have I ever had a bill that high. Never,” Teer said. “I don’t understand how that one was \$270, but yet the two that followed, one was \$117, one was \$85. Two months don’t even equal the one month that we were billed for.”

Similarly, John Hanna said since he has moved into his home in March, he has gotten exorbitant bills for more than \$850, \$520 and about \$300.

“You guys have got a problem. You owe me some money. I think you owe a lot of people some money,” Hanna said, while other residents at the meeting applauded. “Your official position to me was, ‘Oh, you probably had a leak.’ I do not have a leak. Then, it became, ‘Well, you must be watering your grass too much.’ I do not water my

grass too much.”

Henderson said the accusations of taking money were “uncalled for.”

“If they want to come in there and try to figure it, try to learn what the problem is which we tried to explain that it’s not anything the board is doing. Nobody’s keeping any money,” Henderson said. “We feel like the water was used; it was just billed in a bad way because it’s not the meters that are wrong. It’s the transmitting of the read.”

Hanna threatened to sue the SUD during the meeting “to get you guys to do what’s right for your people that you service because you are not doing a very good job of it.”

Elections were also brought up multiple times during the meeting. Three seats on the board will be available, with the election expected to take place on May 7. Candidates can begin filing on Jan. 19, and the deadline to file will be Feb. 18. The terms are for three years.

During the meeting, Pam York said she was charged about \$180 in July and about \$313 in August for 30,000 gallons of water in a home that includes four residents. She said she doesn’t have appliances that use lots of water, like a dishwasher, sprinkler system, bathtub or hot tub.

“We live on a very fixed income; we watch what we use,” York said.

Monica Lawrence also said her bill has been wrong and very expensive despite



Candice Chandler addresses the Walnut Creek SUD board while standing next to Diehl Metering Regional Technical Manager Courtney Thompson. Photo by Madelyn Edwards

not having a hot tub or a pool for her family of two adults and a toddler. Lawrence said the SUD was supposed to send out a crew member to correct the meter, but no one appeared.

“Nobody came to my house. I’m pregnant, I’m there all day. Nobody came,” Lawrence said. “So, I have no idea how they figured out what the real reading was.”

Lawrence said she would like to see a daily breakdown of her water usage.

Office Manager Paula Spence said during the meeting that the bill doesn’t have the space for daily readings. Spence also said the SUD

doesn’t have the infrastructure to allow customers to see their daily usage.

Starla Petty tried to strike middle ground when she talked about her water billing issues.

“I try to see both sides of all this going on. I know this is not specifically your fault. I know it’s a collaboration of many people. It’s not this board’s fault,” Petty said. “But I want you to put yourself in our shoes.”

Petty asked the board to give a solution for the billing problem.

“I’m asking you, in front of all these people, what can we do to just solve it from

happening the next month?” she said. “Is your solution to call and say, ‘Hey, can someone read my meter?’ What is the answer? I don’t want to fight here. I want to have lower bills.”

Spence said the Hope Court neighborhood, where some of the customers who spoke at the public forum live, had transmitters installed in October — so before then, bills were either estimated or meters were read manually.

Candice Chandler, who has written two petitions for billing transparency and to lower the water rates, called for the board to provide re-

lief to customers. “You need to give us something besides saying be patient,” Chandler said. “We are out of patience. It’s gone. Give us something to take away from here. This problem is getting worse.”

Henderson said the solution is to focus on fixing the transmitters.

“Until we get these transmitters reading, it’s not going to get resolved,” he said.

Despite the uproar at Monday’s meeting, Henderson said the people who attended only make up a small percentage of all the customers using Walnut Creek SUD.



LEFT TO RIGHT: Mindy, Haylee, Erin, Paige, Kathy, Haley, Shelby

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SANTA, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.

at the North Hills Mall in North Richland Hills. He worked Springtown's parade and festival starting in the early 1980s, then took a hiatus before returning in recent years, including this one. He was Santa at Springtown's Christmas parade and tree lighting as well as at Old-Fashioned Christmas. Foster has also portrayed Santa at schools, churches, day care

facilities, parties and banks. His favorite part about being Santa is seeing the excitement from the children and the parents' enjoyment as well, Foster said. He sometimes gets to see kids of parents who sat on his lap when they were children. Some adults also sit with Santa. When kids are nervous about sitting on Santa's lap,

Foster will try to coax them over by giving them compliments on their shoes, clothes or fingernail polish. "Christmas is about kids, so you want to focus on the kids," he said. Although it's rare, Foster said some little kids can have accidents on Santa's lap, like peeing on Santa or throwing up. "If it could be done on

Santa's lap, it has happened in Santa's lap," Foster said. Being a former special education teacher, Foster particularly enjoys when kids with special needs visit him as Santa. "They're always excited to see Santa," he said. "I just like to see the joy in their eyes, in any one of the kids." Being Santa also requires building up the legend of Old St. Nick. Sometimes the kids ask him where Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer is or where his sled is, and Foster tells the kids that the sled only comes out on Christmas. Foster as Santa requests that kids leave him two chocolate chip cookies and a Coke Zero as well as carrots and deer food for the reindeer. He also fields questions from the kids about how Santa will get in their homes without a chimney.



Bill Foster with his wife Kandy Foster.

Courtesy Photo



Bill Foster as Santa Claus poses for a picture with Sage Green.

Courtesy Photo

Some of the wildest gift requests Foster gets from the children are for animals – lizards, horses or ponies, puppies, kittens and pigs. One child asked for a pink Cadillac, he said. However, Foster also receives requests that are heartbreaking.

"The ones that bring tears to my eyes is when they say that they want everybody to have a nice Christmas in their family," Foster said as he choked up. "I'm thinking there may be some family problems or something that they would ask for a nice Christmas."

Foster also receives requests from kids who want to enjoy Christmas with relatives who are dying.

"I just tell them that that's part of life, that we have to say goodbye to our grandparents and you just go ahead and have a special Christmas with them, tell them you love them," he said. When he was Santa at Springtown's Old-Fashioned Christmas, Foster remarked on how many kids came out to see him. His wife, Kandy, said there were at least 400. This was different from last year when kids saw him through plexiglass, a precaution taken because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It's not what I wanted, but that's the way it had to be," he said, adding that it was "better than nothing"

and that it "worked out." Aside from being worn out by Christmas day, Foster said he can't say that being Santa has any drawbacks, and he's glad to have played Santa. Kandy Foster called her husband's work as Santa "his gift to Springtown."

"It's been a blessing to me," he said. "It's my ministry."

Part of Foster's Santa work is donating money that he gets from being Santa Claus to his church – Springtown's First Baptist Church – for benevolence.

"That's what Santa is all about – giving," he said.

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Reno swears in three police officers at December council meeting

BY MADELYN EDWARDS
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More police officers were sworn in for the Reno Police Department during the City Council meeting on Monday night.

The hiring of additional officers is part of the rebuilding process after previous police officers left the department, and the city separated with former Chief Tony Simmons. Chief Scott Elsner and Deputy Chief Nathan Stringer were sworn in last month.

Lt. A. Nalley, Sgt. E. Gonzalez and Corp. A. Estrada were sworn in on Monday. Nalley comes to Reno with six years of experience, Gonzalez with five years of experience and Estrada with three to four years.

All the officers hired in

Reno so far, including Elsner and Stringer, used to be Pelican Bay Police Department officers.

During the meeting, Stringer gave a report to the council that touched on training and an upcoming audit of the property and evidence room. Stringer is teaching a crisis intervention class for Reno and Parker County Sheriff's Office deputies, and he'd like to discuss starting a training consortium with Parker County for officers' state-mandated training.

"Basically, every four years the officers have to have 80 hours of training in order to maintain their peace officer license in Texas," Stringer said during the meeting. "So what this consortium does is it takes the money that would

normally be paid to train those officers and it puts it into other programs where we can offer them more advanced training in other areas, as opposed to just paying money to keep their basic license up."

Stringer said the department is fielding traffic complaints from residents, who can submit traffic complaints to the police department online.

Also during the meeting, Reno City Council approved paying Springtown for 9-1-1 services in December and January but did not renew the contract for dispatch services with Springtown.

"We need a release from them because we're going with Parker County. We're negotiating that right now," Mayor Sam White said.



Reno City Administrator Scott Passmore swears in Reno police officers (from left) Corp. A. Estrada, Sgt. E. Gonzalez and Lt. A. Nalley on Dec. 20 at the City Council meeting. Photos by Madelyn Edwards

SUBDIVISION, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.

new subdivision is expected to add about \$41 million to the city's and school district's ad valorem tax base.

Chandler Kelley said in the meeting that the original minimum dwelling floor area for the homes was changed from 1,500 to 1,400 square feet. Hughes said this change was made because of the supply chain problem and construction costs increasing, but the plan is to include homes ranging from 1,603 to slightly more than 2,600 square feet.

Chandler Kelley voted against the preliminary plat, zoning and development agreement because the lot sizes are expected to be smaller than what the city's ordinances allow, which she doesn't prefer. She also said

she'd like to see additional bigger homes in the city as opposed to the smaller "starter" homes.

"I think it's too much in too small of an area," she said. "I have nothing against the developer. I have nothing against development. I just feel like that we don't have to put that many houses in that small of an area."

Earlier this year, the city council denied approval of the subdivision's development agreement, which also meant the denial of sewer service to the property. Springtown administrative specialist Christina Derr previously said that council did not approve the development agreement because the agreement would have locked in

the city's zoning standards before publication of rezoning and public hearings would occur. The council was not comfortable with that process.

Last month, the developer put out a new plan on the same land for a 14-lot subdivision of six-plexes, the preliminary plat for which was approved by the commission and council, but the developer also met with city council in a workshop to revisit the original 110-lot subdivision.

The developer then applied for reconsideration of 110-lot preliminary plat and requested Planned Development Single Family 3 zoning. Earlier this month, Springtown's Planning and Zoning Commission recommended approval to city

council in a unanimous vote for the preliminary plat but voted 3-2 for the zoning. Commissioners Sarah Cockburn and Kristi Bailey voted in opposition to the zoning for issues related to density and traffic.

At last week's meeting, two residents spoke about this subdivision at the public hearing regarding annexation of the property. Alayna Thames, who lives on J.E. Woody Road, came to the meeting to ask about details of the project.

"I just wanted to get all the information available about this new (sub)division because I've heard different things, and since it directly impacts my travel route through J.E. Woody, I wanted to make sure that I understood all of the information

available about it," Thames said during the meeting.

One of her questions was about how the new subdivision would affect traffic and infrastructure on J.E. Woody Road, which she described as already having a "traffic problem building."

Springtown City Administrator David Miller said the city engineer has examined the traffic impact and found that there wouldn't be a significant impact on infrastructure on J.E. Woody Road that would cause concern or require improvements on the road.

Hughes said the school district has worked with his team to come up with a flow for school bus traffic through the subdivision.

Lee Maness, who owns property adjacent to the pro-

posed subdivision, spoke highly of the project and said during the public hearing that the development opens the door to extend the park trail system. He also pointed to the extension of the sewer and water line, as opposed to septic systems, to the areas on J.E. Woody Road as a good component.

Hughes said during the meeting that his team was able to solve a sewer problem to eliminate a lift station, which moves wastewater from a lower elevation to a higher one, and open a gravity-flow sewer system.

"It enhances the value of our property, too, and it does so because of the infrastructure that will be put in to support their development and anything to the west and southwest," Maness said.

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A bittersweet goodbye

FAMILY HOMES ON NORTH MAIN STREET TO BE DEMOLISHED FOR GAS STATION EXPANSION

BY MADELYN EDWARDS
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Dianne Smith probably won't stick around to witness the demolition of two homes she remembers growing up in on North Main Street in Springtown. Knowing the homes will be gone soon has been emotional for her.

"I'm not sure I want to see it being demolished, but to drive by there after it's gone, it'll be hard," Smith said.

Smith, whose maiden name is Simmons, hopes to grab a keepsake from one of the homes before then, such as a piece of the flooring or a window. She just wants to be able to take a piece of the home with her to remember the history.

"We're wanting some memories out of it," Smith said, "just a piece of history."

The homes will be torn down, along with 629 N. Main Street, to make way for new high-flow diesel pumps at the Taco Time Mexican Grill and the adjoining convenience store and gas station. The Springtown City Council approved this expansion in October by giving approval to the rezoning and replat requests. The homes were sold to Taco Time around 2015-16.

Smith's grandfather built the home at 645 N. Main St. from the ground up, starting

in 1949 and finishing it in about 1957, Smith said. Her grandparents – Ray and Beulah Gilliland – lived in that home, and when they died, her parents – Dudley and Peggy Simmons – moved in that house. Smith eventually lived there as well to take care of her parents.

She grew up in the neighboring house at 637 N. Main St. and lived there for most of her early life – with the exception of five years when she lived elsewhere – from 1969 until she got married in 1990.

Smith remembers the house on 645 N. Main St. quite well since she spent time there with her grandparents. The house didn't have central air and heat when her grandparents lived there, so swamp coolers were in the windows and a Dearborn stove was used for heat. The house didn't have modern insulation but used wood instead, and newspapers were used to level the floors. Her grandfather told her that the home was built from recycled materials, particularly windows and lumber from an old barracks at Fort Worth's former Carswell Air Force Base.

Because they lived next door to each other, Smith said she had a close relationship with her grandparents. She spent Christmases with

her grandparents in their home. She remembers her grandfather with his wood-working activity in his shop, and her grandmother playing the piano.

"My grandmother played the piano, and I sang, and she would sing, and granddad would sit in his chair and listen to us," she said, describing it as one of her fondest memories of growing up around her grandparents.

If a house tells a story about someone's life, then the North Main Street homes tell a love story, Smith said.

"My grandparents were married for 60-plus years before my grandmother passed away," she said. "They never did anything apart. My parents were the same way. There was just a lot of love. We were a very close-knit family."

The fond memories at the homes on North Main Street extend to Michele Chandler Kelley, who is a Springtown City Council member, and her daughter, who spent time with the Simmons family. Chandler Kelley described her relationship with the Simmons family as a friendship turned "adopted family."

Chandler Kelley said she met Smith when she coached cheer for the Lions Club, and Smith donated some beds to a cheerleader's family whose house had burned



Dianne Smith, second from left, pictured with her family.

Courtesy photo

down. From there, Chandler Kelley said she and Smith became friends, and Smith and her parents would take care of Chandler Kelley's daughter during the summers when Chandler Kelley was working.

"My mom lived out of state, so Nanny (Peggy) just kind of took those kids in, and (it didn't) matter whose kids they were, she took them in and made them her own," she said.

Chandler Kelley voted for the gas station expansion to move forward at the October city council meeting but said at the meeting that knowing the homes are being demolished is "bittersweet."

She said knowing that the homes will be demolished is difficult emotionally because of the history of the homes as well as the good memories she remembers

from being there.

"For me, it's hard because I'm very much about history and about reclaiming things, so I hate to see all that history in a dumpster somewhere; on top of the personal reasons, all the laughs and the good times we had sitting in the kitchen," Chandler Kelley said. "That family has been a part of Springtown for forever, and they built those houses, so to see them taken down is emotional."

Even though Smith's parents and grandparents have died, she said she can still feel their presence at the North Main Street homes.

"Even after my grandparents died, you could feel the presence, and after my mom died, I just knew they were there," Smith said.

Taking a piece of the 645 home with her means being able to capture some of that

presence from the home that her grandfather built, she said. Smith said on Tuesday the owner confirmed that her family would be able to take parts of the home before it is demolished.

"We're just hoping that when we bring that piece of that history into our own home – whether it's a window that we do something with, or a door or whatever – that we feel their presence," Smith said.

Still, Smith said selling the house was the right thing to do. She said it would have taken a lot of work and money to get the aging homes fixed and up to code.

Smith has known that the demolition was coming, but she said she still isn't ready.

"It is bittersweet because there's so many memories in there," Smith said.

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Obituaries

Linda J. Vick

1944-2021

Linda Joe Blackburn Coleman Vick, age 77, passed away at home on Nov. 27, 2021, after a lengthy illness.

Born on March 2, 1944 in Weatherford, Texas, Linda was the daughter of the late Ellis "Jack" Blackburn and Audie Sharpe Blackburn.

There will be a private family memorial at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to The Humane Society of North Texas, 1840 E Lancaster Ave, Fort Worth, Texas 76103.

The family moved to the Agnes Community where Linda attended Springtown ISD, graduating in 1962. Linda then moved to Fort Worth where she attended Brantley-Draughon Business School, Tarrant Jr. College and graduated from Dallas Baptist University.

Retiring from Federal Government Fort Worth HUD Regional Office, Linda still continued to meet with the HUD Retirees Association where she served on the

Board.

Linda had a keen interest in family genealogy and was a member of Daughters of the American Revolution. She was also a member of the Council IV International Training in Communications, International Graphoanalysis Society, Texas Chapter of Graphoanalysis and a member of the Ridgley Country Club until her illness.

Linda loved to travel and enjoyed many cruises around the world. Linda loved animals and adopted from and supported the Humane Society of North Texas.

Linda was preceded in death by husbands, Richard Madison Coleman in 1981 and Mayo Elliot Vick in 2015; siblings, Jacqueline Herring, Billie Jean Chilcutt, Floyd Blackburn and Richard Blackburn; niece, Joan Eaton; and nephew Kenneth Herring.

Linda is survived by nieces, Leana Futrell, Corlisa Cunningham, Jimmie Sue Siebold, Barbara Blackburn,



Laurie Richmond and Martha Blackburn; nephews, David Blackburn, Jackie E. Blackburn and Russell Blackburn; and cousin, Marty Sharpe.

The family of Mrs. Vick wishes to thank Mila Porras for her assistance in coordinating the care which their aunt received over the past two years, along with the Holy Savior Hospice and Palliative Care for their kind and compassionate care for their aunt.

The Springtown Epigraph
Dec. 23, 2021 Edition

Parker County Judge Pat Deen visits Springtown City Council

BY MADELYN EDWARDS
madelyn@azlenews.net

Parker County Judge Pat Deen spoke to Springtown City Council last week on the relationship between the city and county, specifically about working with Commissioner George Conley on road improvement.

"We're trying to bring more dollars to the road and bridge money," Deen said. "I think we had a little bit of a challenge this year with some of the budgeting process. But Commissioner Conley did get another million dollars in his budget to bring to the roads and what's going on with all of the development."

Deen said each commissioner has received funds to fix roads and "get ahead of the curve" in terms of growth.

"There's so much to talk about, but the most important thing that I can leave you here today with is that the collaboration with the county and the city of Springtown is better than it has been ever before," he said.

Deen complimented the city on its ability to manage



Parker County Judge Pat Deen talked briefly with the Springtown City Council at the meeting on Dec. 16. Photo by Madelyn Edwards

the growth and said he intends to spend more time in Springtown.

"I think you're doing a great job," he said.

City council members did not ask any questions to Deen, but Mayor Greg

Hood expressed appreciation.

"We appreciate you and your commissioners and what all they do for the county, and how you helped all of us work together,"

Hood said.

LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of FORD TAYLOR HOPKINS, Deceased, were issued on December 8, 2021, in Cause No. 21P466, pending in the County Court of Parker County, Texas to: DEBORAH MCDOWELL.

The address of the Resident Agent to accept service of process is in Parker County, Texas, and the name of the Resident Agent and the post office address are:

Soraya Joslin, Attorney At Law
P.O. Box 1267, Weatherford, Texas 76086

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Dated this 16th day of December, 2021.

SORAYA JOSLIN, P.C.

By: /S/ Soraya Joslin

Soraya Joslin

State Bar No. 00792408

1510 Santa Fe, Suite 500, Weatherford, Texas 76086

Telephone: (817) 386-8500; Facsimile: (817) 599-7005

ATTORNEY FOR THE ESTATE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of PAULA KAYE BELL, Deceased, were issued on December 15, 2021, in Cause No. 21P488, pending in the County Court of Parker County, Texas to: MAKAYELA ELAIN FULLER.

The address of the Resident Agent to accept service of process is in Parker County, Texas, and the name of the Resident Agent and the post office address are:

Soraya Joslin, Attorney At Law
P.O. Box 1267 Weatherford, Texas 76086

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Dated this 15th day of December, 2021.

SORAYA JOSLIN, P.C.

By: /S/ Soraya Joslin

Soraya Joslin

State Bar No. 00792408

P.O. Box 1267, Weatherford, Texas 76086

Telephone: (817) 386-8500; Facsimile: (817) 599-7005

ATTORNEY FOR THE ESTATE

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-O-1014

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SPRINGTOWN, TEXAS, BY ASSIGNING PLANNED DEVELOPMENT-SINGLE FAMILY 1 (PD-SF-1) ZONING CLASSIFICATION TO 30.49-ACRE TRACT OF LAND SITUATED IN THE J.P. MONTGOMERY SURVEY, ABSTRACT NO. 895 IN THE CITY OF SPRINGTOWN; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION IN THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER; PROVIDING A PENALTY FOR VIOLATIONS HEREOF; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

SECTION VII. Any person, firm or corporation who violates, disobeys, omits, neglects, refuses or fails to comply with, or who resists the enforcement of any provision of this ordinance shall be fined not more than Two Thousand Dollars (\$2000.00) for each offense. Each day that a violation is permitted to exist shall constitute a separate offense.

SECTION X. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication as required by law, AND IT IS SO ORDAINED. Passed December 16, 2021.

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-O-1015

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SPRINGTOWN, TEXAS, BY ASSIGNING PLANNED DEVELOPMENT-SINGLE FAMILY 3 (PD-SF-3) ZONING CLASSIFICATION TO 89.1-ACRE TRACT OF LAND SITUATED IN THE J.P. MONTGOMERY SURVEY, ABSTRACT NO. 895 IN THE CITY OF SPRINGTOWN; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION IN THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER; PROVIDING A PENALTY FOR VIOLATIONS HEREOF; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

SECTION VII. Any person, firm or corporation who violates, disobeys, omits, neglects, refuses, or fails to comply with, or who resists the enforcement of any provision of this ordinance shall be fined not more than Two Thousand Dollars (\$2000.00) for each offense. Each day that a violation is permitted to exist shall constitute a separate offense.

SECTION X. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication as required by law, AND IT IS SO ORDAINED. Passed December 16, 2021.

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-O-1020

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SPRINGTOWN, TEXAS, BY ASSIGNING PLANNED DEVELOPMENT-SINGLE FAMILY 3 (PD-SF-3) ZONING CLASSIFICATION TO 21.988 ACRES OF LAND SITUATED IN THE L. LEONARD SURVEY, ABSTRACT NO. 815 IN THE CITY OF SPRINGTOWN; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION IN THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER; PROVIDING A PENALTY FOR VIOLATIONS HEREOF; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

SECTION VII. Any person, firm or corporation who violates, disobeys, omits, neglects, refuses, or fails to comply with, or who resists the enforcement of any provision of this ordinance shall be fined not more than Two Thousand Dollars (\$2000.00) for each offense. Each day that a violation is permitted to exist shall constitute a separate offense

SECTION X. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect on January 5, 2022, or immediately thereafter following publication as required by law. AND IT IS SO ORDAINED. Passed December 16, 2021.

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The Springtown Epigraph
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Published weekly at 109 First Street, Springtown, Texas by Hyde Media, LLC. Periodicals class postage paid at Springtown, Texas, 76082. **Postmaster:** Send address changes to P.O. Box 557, Springtown, Texas 76082

USPS No. 964-220

Annual subscription rates: \$40 Parker, Wise and Tarrant counties (\$36.50 senior citizens 60 and older); \$46.50 elsewhere in and outside Texas.

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Welcome-Bienvenidos
Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve, December 24
4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass
5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass
7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass (Spanish)

Christmas Day
9:00 a.m.
11:00 a.m. (Spanish)

Holy Trinity Catholic Church
800 High Crest Drive • (817) 444-3063 • www.HolyTrinityAzle.org
Pastor – Fr. Wilson Lucka, TOR

BOOK REVIEW

No shame in imbibing 'Girl Drinks,' so bottoms up!

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

Your frothy blue drink doesn't need a cover, but there is one.

It's a purple umbrella that hides the fresh fruit clinging to the side of your glass, just beneath the sugar crystals along the rim, floating on a kiss of distilled liquid. Nobody would consider this to be a manly drink, but so what? It all looks so delicious and with the new book "Girly Drinks" by Mallory O'Meara, bottoms up!

You can almost picture it: a group of your earliest ancestors, out hunting for a mammoth when they stumbled across a pile of slightly rotten fruit. Mmmmm, they each take bites and find that it makes their heads pleasantly fuzzy. That, says O'Meara, might've been how alcohol was "discovered," rather than invented.

However it happened, she says, women took big roles in the manufacture of alcohol from the outset. Beer, she says, was "a girl thing" at several points in history. Women were in charge of winemaking, early-on; in times when they were barely allowed to leave the house, women were still instrumental in making the alcohol. Even when the very idea of a drinking woman sent men into a tizzy, powerful women drank.

They also changed the landscape for alcohol.

Cleopatra loved to drink, but she did not drink to excess. She left that to Mark Antony, and their imbibing may have been part of why Octavius hated her so.

In Hildegard's time, the women of Germany often became "alewives," and their work allowed them to control who drank the ale. Meanwhile, with the blessing

of the Pope, Hildegard of Bingen began to write about spirituality, nature, her "visions," and medicine. It was she who first claimed that hops helps stop spoilage in beer-making.

Later, alehouses went from homes to separate buildings and were courting places before the Church made witches out of alewives. Catherine the Great used vodka as diplomatic gifts; the first celebrity female bartender served 'em up in London; gin, rum, and whiskey were invented all around the same time; and then came Prohibition...

Pink drinks with fruity-flavored liquor and decorative plastic gewgaws would never be considered a "manly" drink - ever. But, asks Mallory O'Meara in her introduction to "Girly Drinks," since when is booze gendered?

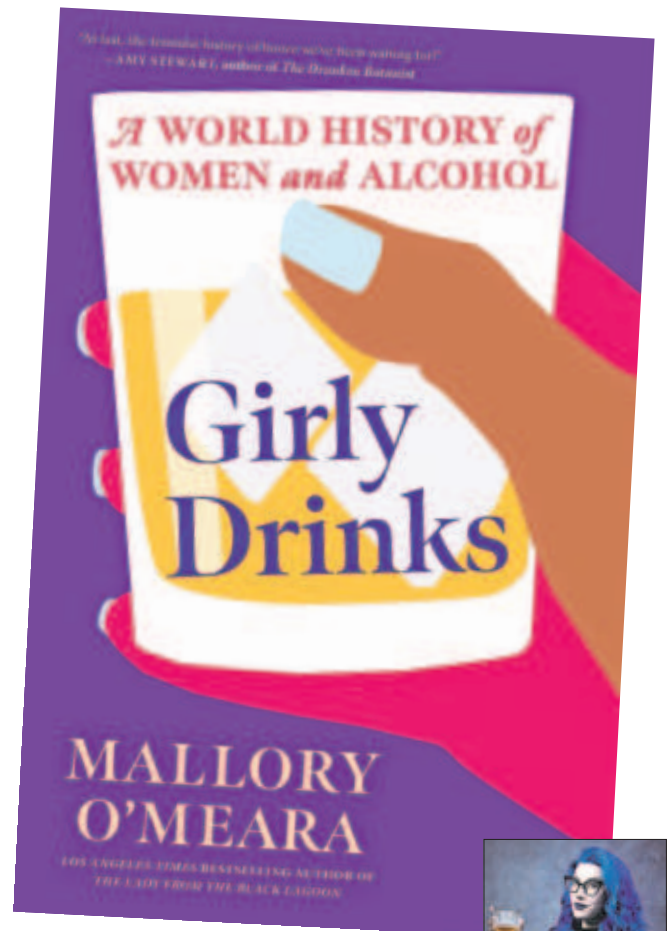
That's the point that runs

everywhere throughout this book: the labeling of drinks today has a long background. The patriarchy was strong then, and it successfully hid the feminine footprints in nearly every kind of alcohol we imbibe.

Don't think that this is a feminist rant, though. Think of it more like a few hours in a red leather booth with water-rings beneath your wrists, slipping through time and geography, from ancient Greece to modern culture, Cleopatra's Egypt to an inclusive bar in Ohio. It's lighthearted but sometimes serious; and perfect for bar bets and ice-breakers.

Even better, if you're hoisting one whilst reading.

Fans of fun history, cheers! Alewives, here's to you! Bottoms up, New Year celebrants. Even if you're only here for the tavern trivia, "Girly Drinks" has you covered.



"Girly Drinks: A World History of Women and Alcohol" by Mallory O'Meara

c.2021, Hanover Square Press \$27.99 / \$34.99 Canada 384 pages



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CHECK OUT THE NEW SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

COMING SOON

She knew. Or did she?

“Mary, did you know that your baby boy would one day walk on water? Mary, did you know that your baby boy would save our sons and daughters? Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new; This Child that you delivered will soon deliver you?”

Mary, did you know that your baby boy will give sight to a blind man? Mary, did you know that your baby boy would calm a storm with His hand? Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod, and when you kiss your little baby you’ve kissed the face of God? Mary, did you know?

The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live again. The lame will leap, the dumb will speak the praises of the Lamb!

Mary, did you know that



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.

your baby boy is Lord all creation? Mary, did you know that your baby boy will one day rule the nations? Did you know that your baby boy was Heaven’s perfect Lamb, And the sleeping Child you’re holding Is the great, the Great I AM?” (“Mary, Did You Know?” by Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene. © 1991 Word Music).

Lyricist Mark Lowry said, “I just tried to put into words the unfathomable. I started thinking of the questions I would have for her if I were to sit down and have coffee with Mary. You know,

‘What was it like raising God?’ ‘What did you know?’ ‘What didn’t you know?’”

Since the song’s release, it has become incredibly popular and has been recorded by such artists as Kenny Rogers and Wynona Judd, Carrie Underwood, Pentatonix and Dolly Parton (among many others).

It has also been panned by some theologians and preachers who suggest that she absolutely did know because the Bible says and angel appeared to her and told her.

Here’s the account from

Luke 1:26-38:

Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin’s name was Mary. And coming in, he said to her, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” But she was very perplexed at this statement, and kept pondering what kind of salutation this was. The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; and He

will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end.” Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” The angel answered and said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God. And behold, even your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age; and she who was called barren is now in her sixth month. For nothing will be impossible with God.” And Mary said, “Behold, the bondservant of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

So, what do you think? Did she know?

Here’s my answer: She knew more than anyone else about the baby in her womb, but she did not know everything. She got a message from God; she did not receive God-like omniscience.

And the point of the song is to engage the imagination, not to answer all the questions.

It is the wonder of faith and devotion expressed in art.

I can’t think of a better approach to Christmas than one of wonder. Faith is messy and mysterious and requires us to sit humbly in realities that are beyond our comprehension.

Here’s what I know: In an amazing mystery that completely amazes me, God came to us and remains with us.

Merry Christmas. Be amazed and be amazing, my friend.

Treat your pets to safe, happy holidays

Don’t spoil Christmas, avoid these common household hazards

BY JAY ANN COX
Staff Writer

Our pets are like family. No, they are family. That’s why most pet owners will indulge them at the holidays, spending big bucks in some cases to get them just the right thing.

No matter what the treat, pet owners should watch out for the dangers lurking in holiday décor, foods and pet presents because some pets are dead set on emergency room visits — turning that treat into a costly vet treatment.

TOY JOY

Keep in mind, any toy can be hazardous. It depends on the pet more than the toy. Some pets embrace their

instinct to “kill” the toy and ingest it. Thousands of dollars and lots of heartache can be saved if you catch that detached squeaker before it ends up in your dog or cat’s intestines.

To prevent this type of hazard, check to see how easily parts can be removed, and how your pet is playing with the toy. Watch out especially for:

- Rope and knot toys (strings can cause intestinal blockage and distress)
- Feathers (the quills can puncture or irritate digestive tract)
- Bells and squeakers (digestive tract blockage or perforation)
- Stuffed toys (stuffing if ingested doesn’t pass very easily)

TREAT TROUBLE

Stick to treats made for pets. Dogs especially should not have any of the following ingredients that come in many holiday favorites:

- Chocolate/cocoa powder (contains theobromine, which is toxic to dogs)
- Currants, raisins or grapes (cookies or fruit cakes)
- Alcohol (rum cake)
- Raw dough (may contain alcohol from the yeast)
- Garlic and onion (found in gravy, vegetables, casseroles)
- Anything containing the sweetener xylitol
- Fatty and/or raw meat scraps (can interfere with normal pancreatic function)
- Bones (cooked or raw, bones can splinter)

DANGEROUS DECOR

Put these items on your radar that can cause big headaches for you and dangerous stomach aches for pets.

- Potpourri (some pets like the texture or smell; can be toxic)
- Mistletoe and holly (poisonous to both cats and dogs)
- Package bows and ribbons (choking and intestinal blockage)
- Tinsel and garlands (lacerations in mouth and esophagus)
- Decorations with wire or sparkling lights (burns, cuts and digestive blockage)

Source: Acton Animal Hospital, www.actonanimalhospitaltx.com



Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

Find Kid Scoop on Facebook

© 2021 by Vicki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schinkel, Graphics Vol. 38, No. 3

Re-Think Holiday Gift-Giving: Make a Gift from a T-shirt!

Have you outgrown a favorite T-shirt and you don't want to get rid of it? You can turn it into a gift for a friend or family member and give it a new life!

Make a Reusable Shopping Bag

1. Cut the sleeves off the T-shirt by cutting along the seams.
2. Cut out the collar in a square shape.
3. Cut little strips along the bottom of the shirt. Use a ruler for spacing.
4. Tie double knots along bottom of the shirt matching with back.

Make a Gift for a Dog

Here's how old T-shirts can be turned into dog toys:

1. Cut T-shirt into strips about 1 inch wide and 1 foot long.
2. Divide strips into 3 groups to make 3 braids. Save 2 strips for step 3.
3. Braid the 3 braids together and use the last 2 strips to tie the ends.
4. Play with dog!

T-Shirt Twins

Can you find the two T-shirts that are exactly the same?

Memory Jar Gift

1. Clean out a jar.
2. Use paints and stickers to decorate the jar and the lid.
3. Tape these instructions on the inside of the lid:

TO:

This is your 2022 Memory Jar! Each day, write down at least one good thing that happened on that day and place the slip of paper in this jar. If you're having a bad day, open the jar and relive a happier memory. At the end of the year, you'll have at least 365 reasons to smile as you look back at 2022!

FROM:

Kid Scoop Puzzler

How many T-shirts do you see?

Double Double Word Search

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

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

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

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Newspaper Search Game Gift

Create your own newspaper scavenger hunt game. For example: Smile search, Sports search, Animal search, etc. Then give the game instructions and a newspaper as a gift.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written instructions.

Write On! Holiday Jokes and Riddles

Write down some of your favorite holiday jokes and riddles to share with your family and friends.

Kid Scoop Together:

How to Draw a REINDEER in Five Easy Steps

1. Draw a circle for the head.
2. Add a snout and eyes.
3. Add ears.
4. Add a smiling mouth.
5. Add antlers.



Springtown sophomore Hudson Hulett is transitioning from being the starting quarterback on the football team to a utility player on the basketball team.

Photo by Jeff Prince

Porcupines drop district opener

BY JEFF PRINCE
jeff@azlenews.net

Springtown High School's boys basketball team fell to Decatur in the first district game of the season but not from lack of effort.

The Porcupines battled from start to finish and kept the game close for three quarters, before losing 64-46.

The results of one game don't mean much, especially this early in the season. The Porcupines are still trying to come together as a team after a slow start that was exacerbated by the late addition of four football players to the team.

Kelby Castro, William Gleason, Hudson Hulett and Aiden Vickers joined the

team seven games into the basketball season. They had been padding up and playing football for more than four months, stretching all the way to the state quarterfinals in early December.

The football players found themselves playing their way into shape dur-

SEE **BOYS BBALL**, PAGE 3B.



Freshman cheerleader Rose Poe, left, helps her cohorts stir up the hometown crowd.

Photo by Jeff Prince

Lady Pines making noise on basketball court

BY JEFF PRINCE
jeff@azlenews.net

On Friday, the girls basketball district opener pitting the Springtown Lady Porcupines against the Castleberry Lions was about to begin, and head coach Kyle Sivadon revved up his bench players.

"Let's be excited!" he said. "Let's make some noise!"

The youngsters on the bench hollered support to the starters on the court. The starters aren't much older. This year's Lady Pines are young and, in general, green.

Starting point guard Caydence Parker is the team's only senior. She and junior

standout Brinklee Dauenhauer lead a squad composed mostly of sophomores. Even a freshman – Makenzee Sessums – made a roster with just 10 names on it.

The Porcupines jumped off to a 5-0 lead in the first quarter against Castleberry and were up 27-20 at the end of the first quarter. The

game moved at a rapid pace, but the Porcupines don't tire easily – on the court or off.

FRESHMAN RAH-RAH

For the district opener, a handful of varsity cheerleaders turned out to support the Lady Pines, accompanied by members of the junior

varsity cheer team. Among them was Rose Poe, who began cheering in the seventh grade and is now a freshman at Springtown High.

She smiled broadly while wearing her cheerleading outfit, holding an orange pom-pom in one hand and a black pom-pom in the other and energizing the home

crowd at just the right moments.

"Cheering just makes me really happy," she said. "I love making the crowd happy and getting them up."

The job comes with free admission to games, which is "awesome," Poe said.

SEE **NOISE**, PAGE 2B.

NOISE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B.

Poe wanted to be a cheerleader at an early age but was almost out of elementary school before she made her move.

"My sixth-grade year, whenever they put out the flyers to become a middle school cheerleader, I was begging my mama, like, 'Please, please, please,'" Poe recalled.

Mom said OK, and Poe auditioned.

"I didn't think I was going to make it," she said.

She made it.

"Ever since, I've just stuck with it because it makes me happy, and the girls are so amazing," she said.

Entering high school this year, Poe was comforted by being already acquainted with several JV cheerleaders.

"We kind of all have these bonds already," she said. "Coming in, the freshmen have bonds with the sophomores because we cheered together our seventh-grade years. And then we come in here and we're rejoining with those girls, and it's awesome making new friends with the juniors and the seniors."

The problem with be-friending seniors is they soon go away.

"We all cried at the last (football) playoff game because we knew that was our last time cheering with them," Poe said. "It's like a big family, and it sucks seeing them go."

Poe has met friends she will remember forever and learned things she won't forget. Positivity, for instance, goes a long way, she said.

"To make yourself a good cheerleader, you just have to be really spirited," she said. "Everybody always thinks it's about looks and being popular, but you just have to be spirited and loud."

She can feel nervous standing in front of so many people at games but overcomes butterflies by throwing herself into performance.

Coming of age during a pandemic makes cheerleading even more comforting.

"For me, cheer is sort of like an escape from all that," she said. "Last year, whenever the pandemic was really bad and we had to wear masks while cheering, at

least I got to cheer."

Cheering can be a security blanket.

"For a lot of the girls, it's a time where we can come and be ourselves and not worry about the outside world," she said. "The only things are cheering, making other people happy and making sure we're putting on our best face for the crowd."

LADY PINES GO 1-0

Poe wasn't the only freshman in the spotlight at the Castleberry game. Sessums, the freshman power forward, was making a statement on the court. She helped her teammates put an end to Springtown's six-game losing streak by suffocating the Lady Lions with nonstop defense.

Final score: Springtown 56, Castleberry 30.

After the game, Sessums was more excited about drawing a foul than nabbing rebounds or scoring baskets. In the fourth quarter, she had stood firm without flinching and allowed a Castleberry dribbler to plow into her while attempting a layup. Sessums hit the floor hard after the collision, and the Castleberry girl was called for a foul.

How did Sessums become the team's only freshman?

"I just did it," she said. "I tried my hardest."

Sivadon liked what he saw from all his players. The Pines' record had been 4-17 heading into the Castleberry game, and he wanted to begin district play with a victory.

"We've made a lot of strides," he said. "We've had more experiences. The team chemistry is coming along. I'm seeing a lot of positives. Individual growth and growth as a team."

Sessums could be a powerful court presence for years to come in Pojo Land.

"She has really stepped up," Sivadon said. "In the big schools I've been in, I've had very few freshmen that made varsity. She is one of the few at the 4A-5A level. She has done a really good job and is maturing as a player and getting used to the physicality and speed of the varsity game."

All of the team's players earn minutes every game. Most everyone logs eight or nine minutes, and the starters



Makenzee Sessums, left, the varsity team's only freshman, prepares to battle for a rebound.

Photo by Jeff Prince

can play 27 or 28 minutes.

"Everybody has been able to get a lot of playing time and get some experience," the coach said.

THEN CAME DECATUR

On Tuesday, the Porcupines faced one of the state's powerhouse teams, Decatur, in their second district game.

The Decatur Eagles are ranked in the top 5 among Texas Class 4A basketball teams. In the previous three years, the Eagles have made trips to the playoffs and won a combined 80 games against 21 losses. This season, Decatur is off to a 14-3 start.

On Tuesday, the Eagles showed up at Pojo gymnasium ready for war. Springtown started strong. The two teams battled back and forth, with the Eagles leading just 10-8 midway through the first quarter.

"We kind of went toe to toe with them for six, seven minutes," Sivadon said. "The first quarter was a big positive, to play somebody that good so close."

The Decatur girls, though, transformed into long-distance sharpshooters, sinking more than 50% of their 3-point attempts.

"It's hard to beat anybody when they're shooting that good," Sivadon said.

Decatur won 80-20.

Despite those lopsided digits, Sivadon saw things he liked about his team.

"We're not there, but I think we learned that we can

play up with some teams," he said. "We're learning that we're getting better."

Springtown (5-18) will take a few days off for

Christmas before resuming play at 3 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 28, at home in a non-district game against Weatherford Christian (9-5).



One of Springtown's many sophomores, Madison Terrell, heads for a bucket.

Photo by Jeff Prince

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BOYS BBALL, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B.

ing games, and head coach Nathan Purvis predicted it would take a while to “get their legs underneath them.”

Football shape and basketball condition aren’t the same thing, said Vickers, who excels at both sports. Football can move slow by comparison.

“Basketball is definitely a different type of game,” he said. “It’s more fast-paced, and we definitely need more conditioning. We get tired really quick. We need to develop our shots more, get our touch back. Once we do that, we’ll be in good shape.”

Basketball can require more restraint.

“I have to contain myself,” Vickers said. “Sometimes, I still get a little bit angry, and

I go to shove someone and remember I’m not playing football anymore.”

Last week, his composure had been tested a couple times during a home game against Alvarado. The Porcupines led for the first three quarters before conditioning issues arose and the boys began making mistakes.

“We got some turnovers just from being a little tired,” Purvis said. “You know, the second half has been kind of our kryptonite. We’ve had a lot of teams down, especially in the Glen Rose tournament. We had some teams down quite a bit at halftime. Looked like we had a handle on them.

Then, we kind of ran out of gas. So, it’s going to take a while for them to get back in

basketball shape. It’s two different shapes, for sure.”

The Pines ended up falling 54-44 to a beatable Alvarado team. Vickers, tired and sweaty afterward, acknowledged he is still adjusting to the change in sports.

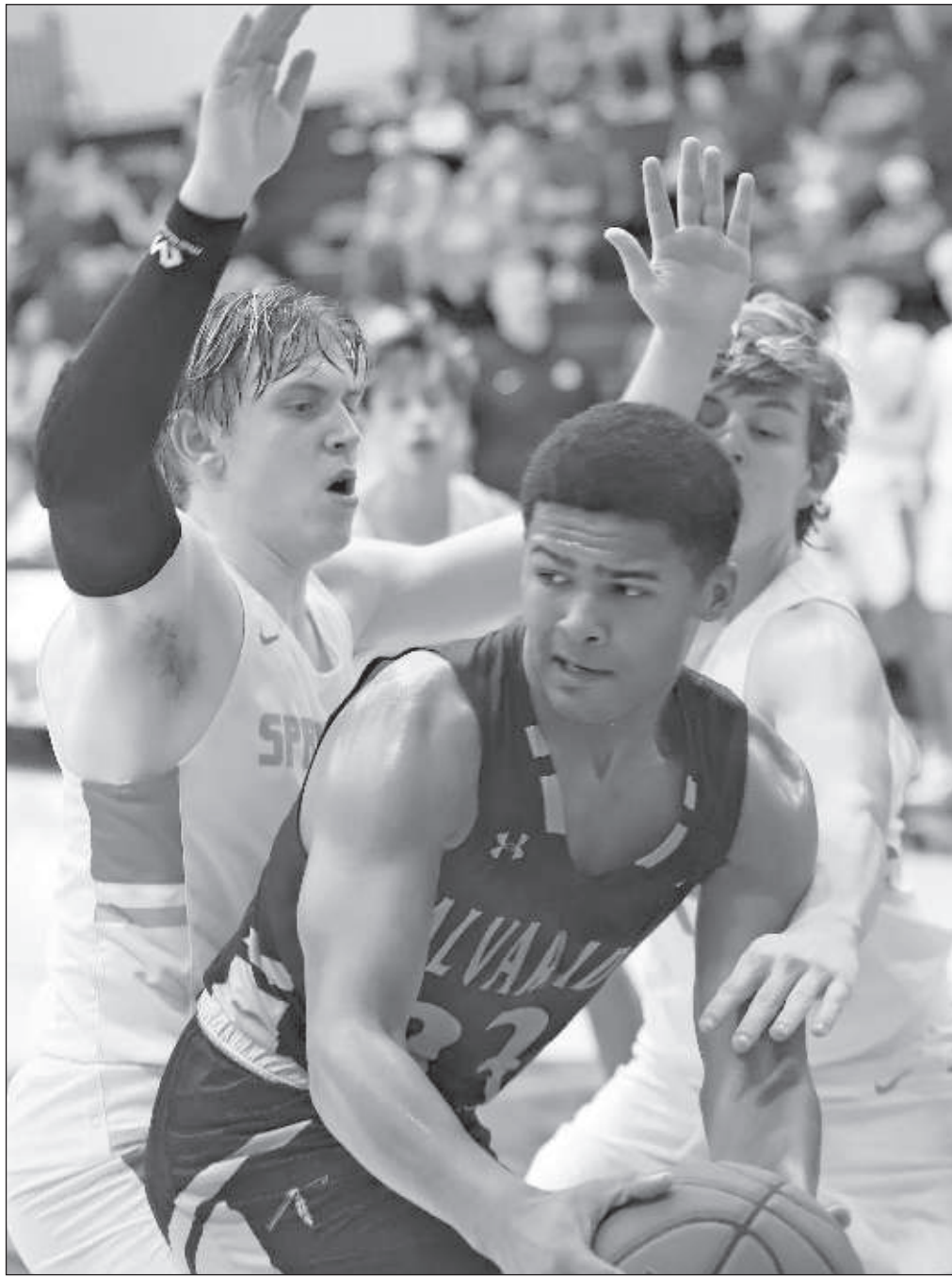
“I’m lucky I didn’t get a technical here and there tonight,” Vickers said afterward. “I got pretty mad sometimes.”

Anger and aggression can be useful on the gridiron.

In football, “you can take it out during a play and hit someone,” he said.

Smacking someone doesn’t work on the hard-court.

“In basketball, you just have to prove it with your game,” he said.



Aaron Tidwell, left, and Aiden Vickers, right, swarm an Alvarado player.



Kelby Castro, a bruiser on the football team’s defensive line, applies his swagger to rebounding.



Aiden Vickers and his football buddies are playing themselves into basketball shape.

COMING UP ACES

Springtown volleyball seniors earn high marks

BY JEFF PRINCE
jeff@azlenews.net

Three Lady Pines received statewide recognition for feats on the court or in the classroom.

For the fourth year in a row, the Texas Girls Coaches Association has named senior Railey Druxman to its All-State team. The group picks 50 volleyball players throughout the state for this honor.

Springtown head coach Leighann Strickland characterized Druxman's accomplishment as unusual and impressive.

"She has worked hard for her accomplishments - there's no doubt there," Strickland said. "She has been working year-round every year for a long time, and the hard work has paid off."

Several girls on the volleyball team play club ball and do extra workouts to improve their skills in the sport, and Druxman has been a leader among them during her productive years with the Lady Pines. This year, the Pines won 25 games for the first time in five seasons and earned a bi-district championship.

Helping Druxman dominate the volleyball court were two girls who hit the books with such fervor that they received state recognition, as well. The Texas Army National Guard and the Texas High School Coaches Association included Skylar Holland and Angela Pando among its academic All-State recipients.

A statement on the coaches' association website said, "We understand that stu-



Angela Pando earned academic All-State in volleyball and is a member of the defending state-champion powerlifting team.

Photos by Jeff Prince

dents' performance in the classroom can sometimes be difficult to manage while participating in athletics, but their hard work has not gone unnoticed."

The group honors high school athletes who excel in grade point average and ACT/SAT score.

"We applaud them for their commitment and dedi-

cation to perform with the highest of excellence academically and on the field or court," the statement said.

In addition to volleyball skills and classroom excellence, Holland is a cheerleader and softball player for the Porcupines, and Pando is a returning member of last season's state champion powerlifting team.

Right: Railey Druxman is one of 50 girls in Texas recognized by the Texas Girls Coaches Association. Below: Skylar Holland is a cheerleader and plays volleyball and softball in addition to cracking the books.





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Deadline:
 4:30 PM Monday

Classifieds

039 Help Wanted

Driver/Light Duty General Laborer

We are a full-service Landscape and Irrigation installation company specializing in large scale projects, typically apartment complexes, commercial, senior living, churches, and student housing around the DFW area.

Minimum Requirements:

1. Must be 25 years of age or older
2. Valid driver's license and good driving record
3. Must be able to communicate clearly and effectively
4. Good work history
5. Physically fit and capable of working in a construction project environment including a predominately fast paced outdoor environment.

The day will start out in Azle, TX and from there travel to, from, and around the DFW area will be required. The day will end back in Azle, TX. Company vehicle will be provided. This position will be driving with the Construction Manager.

Some light duty general laborer duties to be performed while at job sites.
 Example: Loading/unloading trailers, light maintenance on equipment, organization of supplies, some landscape duties as needed.

The positions starting pay will range from \$15-\$17 an hour depending on qualifications.

Benefits include:

1. Weekly pay
2. Overtime pay
3. Holiday pay (after 90 days)
4. Vacation (after a year)
5. Company vehicle

Willing to train the right person

Please email your resume to shyla@greenworldincusa.com or call 940-433-2639.

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

- 1 Camry, e.g. (2 wds.)
- 5 San ____, TX
- 6 TX Vikki Carr Latin hit: "Cosas del ____"
- 7 Apollo 13 transmission: "Houston, ____ had a problem"
- 8 TXism: "the bigger they ____, the harder they fall"
- 9 when a prosecutor dismisses a case before trial: "____ pros." (abbr.)
- 12 TXism: "____ as an outhouse on a cold morning" (long distance)
- 17 a fried tortilla dish that properly ends with an "a"
- 19 TXism: "Sunday go to ____"
- 21 opposing soldiers
- 22 1966 film: "Texas ____ the River"
- 23 mascot of Lamar State College Orange (2 wds.)
- 28 TXism: "there's more than one way to skin ____"
- 29 TX Mac Davis hit: "Baby, Don't Get Hooked ____"
- 30 bomb used in the Vietnam War
- 31 pungent bulb
- 35 India currency
- 36 TXism: "fat ____ house cat"
- 42 groove-____ is a south Texas bird
- 44 in Smith and Cherokee counties on highway 110
- 46 this Teddy stayed at San Antonio's Menger Hotel
- 48 annual Texas event in Washington: "Black ____ Boots Ball"
- 49 Neil to George H.W.
- 50 honorary Texas Ranger: ____ Stanley Gardner
- 51 ____ Dallas Hotel
- 52 loud racket
- 53 TX-born critic, Rex
- 54 a name before ExxonMobil
- 56 salsa container
- 57 TXism: "____-horse town" (small)
- 58 Hobby arriv. guess
- 13 TX Steve Forrest 1961 comedy film "The ____ Around"
- 14 flowerless plant
- 15 nuclear energy source
- 16 TXism: "Lord willing and the creek don't ____" (determined)
- 18 pay TV network
- 20 TX Nat who sang "Sweet Thang" (init.)
- 23 TXism: "bend ____ elbow" (drink)
- 24 a freshwater fish
- 25 England's version of a bar (2 wds.)
- 26 zoo animals similar to pigs
- 27 Chief ____-te-ka adopted Houston
- 32 TXism: "he's ____ spring chicken"
- 33 state where TX Holly died (abbr.)
- 34 "use it ____ lose it"
- 36 "lemon" ending
- 37 TXism: "salt some away"
- 38 dweeb (2 wds.)
- 39 Dunne of epic 1931 western "Cimarron"
- 40 "sorry, you're on your on" (2 wds.)
- 41 TXism: "scatter ____" (shotgun)
- 43 RB star Emmitt (init.)
- 45 this TX Phyllis was on "Vegas" TV show
- 47 Victoria of film "All of Me" starring TX-born Steve Martin
- 48 "bull" in Mexico
- 55 Judy Mc____ 1962 film: "Young Guns of Texas"

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Deadline:
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Classifieds

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

084 Mobile Homes for Rent
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086 Mobile Home/RV Lots
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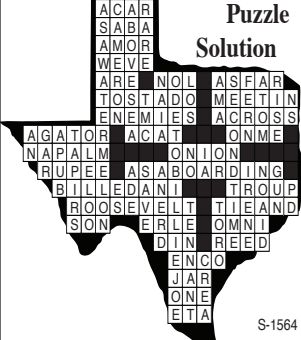
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S-1564

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