## Community pulls together for Springtown young woman injured in a wreck

BY MADELYN EDWARDS madelyn@azlenews.net

Lexi Hardwick and Ann Attaway described their mutual friend Ashtyn Rogers' persistence as one of her defining attributes. The couple is counting on this quality to help their friend recover from a serious car wreck that resulted in

"She'd get in trouble for begging to stay the night on school nights, knowing the answer is always no," Attaway said, describing her friendship with Rogers growing going to pull through this, though, because she is persistent."

Rogers, 19, and a 2021 Springtown High School graduate, was involved in a single-vehicle wreck on Dec. 28 while traveling west on

State Highway 199 near Starlight with brain bleeding, but doctors Lane between Springtown and Agnes. Rogers' stepmom, Kassi Soldner Rogers, said it isn't clear what caused the wreck, but it is suspected that something happened with a tire on her Ford Explorer, possibly a blowout.

According to a previous Epigraph article, she overcorrected trying to regain control of her vehicle, which caused it to skid sideways. The vehicle overturned, and Ashtyn Rogers was ejected. The Ford landed on top of her.

Kassi Soldner Rogers said the up. "That's how we know she's Ford flipped three and a half times. After the wreck, Ashtyn Rogers was flown to John Peter Smith Hospital in Fort Worth with a head

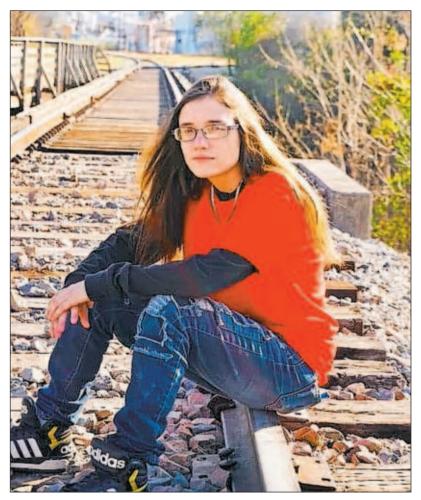
Kassi Soldner Rogers said her stepdaughter has a brain injury

won't know the extent of the injury until she wakes up from the coma. Upon waking up, she could be in a vegetative state, have multiple disabilities or be relatively fine, the stepmom said last week.

According to her GoFundMe page where money is being raised for her, Ashtyn Rogers is in the process of waking up from the coma. Kassi Soldner Rogers said Ashtyn is not completely awake, but she is "becoming more alert for a few minutes at a time."

"She has been awake all morning and following some commands," according to a post on the GoFundMe page Monday. "She blinks when she wants something as well. She still doesn't have up-

SEE **ROGERS**, PAGE 3A.



Ashtyn Rogers sustained a brain injury from a serious wreck in late December. Her family and friends are raising money for her hospital bills and other expenses on

# Just breathe



Springtown Elementary fourth grader Zaylee Moody closes her eyes and sits quietly at her desk during a meditation in Aimee Photo by Madelyn Edwards Wood's class in November.

## Springtown ISD elementary students take on mindful breathing exercises

BY MADELYN EDWARDS

madelyn@azlenews.net

Aimee Wood's fourth grade class at Springtown Elementary School opened with meditation on a Monday in November.

"Remember that your meditation is how you want it to be," Wood told her class.

Wood asked the kids to stay silent and close their computer screens at their desks, and she allowed them the option to close their eyes. She encouraged students to "start our day off thinking about how we can make our day how we want to make it, the best that we can."

kids closed their eyes, and Wood encouraged the students to take the children honored the calming out the community," Cano said in

After more than three minutes, Wood closed the quiet time and gave students the option of sharing what they were thinking of during the exercise. Some kids shared that they were thinking of food and

The breathing exercises are part of the Choose Love Social Emotional Learning curriculum, which was implemented at Springtown elementary campuses in the fall. Tiffany Cano, director of elementary curriculum and instruction at Springtown ISD, described the Choose Love curriculum as having components of growth mindset, neuroscience, mindfulness, posi-Soft music played while the tive psychology, post-traumatic growth and emotional intelligence.

"We plan on spreading the deep breaths. The once bustling Choose Love Movement across classroom turned mostly quiet as the district and eventually through-

November. "We still have a lot to learn about the program as we are only into our second month of implementation."

The Choose Love curriculum includes activities other than the breathing exercise, such as book reading, scenarios to consider and standing in power poses, Wood said. For her students, she said the Choose Love program teaches them to solve problems in a kind way. The breathing exercises specifically have allowed the kids to calm down when they get upset with one another.

"When the kids are arguing with each other, I'll tell them, 'Hey, let's take a deep breath," she said. "Take a deep breath, let's really think about what we're going to say before we start spewing out words to each other."

SEE MEDITATION, PAGE 2A.

## **PCSO** deputies arrest woman on multiple charges

#### FROM STAFF REPORTS

A Fort Worth woman was arrested by Parker County Sheriff's deputies on multiple charges, including one related to drug manufacturing and delivery, on Jan. 4 following a traffic stop.

Parker County Sheriff Russ Authier said the incident happened Roose did not have a driver's liin the 4000 block of East State cense or liability insurance on her Highway 199 in Springtown.

Deputies discovered the driver aphernalia included a glass pipe to maintain financial responsibility. containing white residue, a used syringe, digital scales and a large tinue to aggressively interdict and number of plastic baggies typi- pursue those who bring illegal cally used in the distribution of il- narcotics into this county," Aulegal drugs, according to the dep-

uties. They also found inside the vehicle three baggies containing a white powdered substance that field-tested positive for methamphetamine. The suspected methamphetamine weighed 171.6 grams in total.

Deputies also determined that vehicle.

According to a PCSO press reof a 2001 white Honda passenger lease, Roose was arrested and accar, later identified as Jacklyn Ni- cused of charges related to manucole Roose, 28, was in possession facture/delivery of a controlled of drug paraphernalia located in substance in penalty group one, not the driver's door pocket. The par- having a driver's license and failure

> "My office has and will conthier said in the release.

## Ballots are set for March 1 primaries

BY JESSICA McKINNEY azlereporter@azlenews.net

The new year has begun and with it comes a new election cycle. Candidates for federal, state and county offices had until Dec. 13 to file for a place on the pri-

The primary election narrows • State Senators (all 31; 2- or the field of candidates, allowing 4-year term) voters to designate their chosen • State Representatives (all 150; candidate for their political party. 2-year term) The winners of the primary election will be on the ballot for the peals (6-year term) general election being held in No-

The offices up for election this year include:

- U.S. Representatives (all 38;
- 2-year term)
- Governor (4-year term)
- Lieutenant Governor (4-year
- Attorney General (4-year term)
- Comptroller of Public Accounts (4-year term)
- · Commissioner of General Land Office (4-year term) • Commissioner of Agriculture

- (4-year term)
- Railroad Commissioners (6year term)
- Supreme Court (three; 6-year
- term) Criminal Court of Appeals
- (three; 6-year term)
- State Board of Education (15;
- 2- or 4-year term)

- Chief Justice of Courts of Ap-
- Various Court of Appeals Jus-
- tices (6-year term) Various District Judges, Crimi-
- nal District Judges (4-year term) • Family District Judges (4-year
- District Attorneys (4-year term)
- County Judges (4-year term)
- County Courts at Law (4-year
- County Attorneys (4-year term) • District and County Clerks (4year term)

SEE PRIMARIES, PAGE 4A.



## Crime increases in Springtown

BY MADELYN EDWARDS madelyn@azlenews.net

Crime in Springtown took an upward turn between October and November 2021, according to a report given

by the police chief.

Springtown Police Chief Cres Salazar reported at the city council meeting last month that while overall crime had decreased from July to August, crime increased from August to September, decreased from September to October and rose again from October to November.

More specifically, 15 property crimes were reported in November compared to fewer than 10 in October and under 15 in September, according to a graph Salazar showed at the council meeting. Domestic disturbances have been on the rise since October, and more than 10 were reported in November, up from fewer than five in October and September.

Salazar said there isn't a particular reasoning to rising and falling domestic disturbances statistics. During the meeting, he described the domestic disturbances as typically "alcohol-related" and "a simple fight that has escalated with the introduction of alcohol, and then Farm-to-Market Road 51 they get physical."

The chief said that property crimes tend to increase in summer when kids are out of school. During the meeting, he also implied that the holidays have an effect on property crimes as he said, "People get desperate around the holidays, unfortunately."

"Our officers are actively investigating reports of property crimes and conducting extra patrols in an



Springtown Police Chief Cres Salazar presents his quarterly report to the Springtown City Council during the December meeting. Photo by Madelyn Edwards

effort to prevent them," Salazar said.

Meanwhile, assaults have been more stagnant, with the numbers from June to November staying at five or fewer. Assault reports from October to November increased slightly.

Salazar's report also included a graph showing vehicle wrecks in Springtown from March to November. The number of wrecks appeared to peak in August and September at 30 and 31, respectively, and then decreasing to 27 in October and 21 in November.

Salazar noted that the detour on Old Springtown Road played a role in most of the wrecks. Other wrecks happened at the State Highway 199 and Williams-Ward Road intersection.

"In addition to other safe driving habits, we encourage drivers to help avoid accidents by not using their cell phones and being observant of other drivers," the chief **MEDITATION**, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.



Springtown Elementary fourth grader Blaze Buckpitt (right) participates in a morning meditation with his classmates.

Photo by Madelyn Edwards

Wood also said the medi- what breathing exercises she tation is a way to calm the students down during moments of rowdiness or high activity and put everyone in a good mood to start the day.

"We don't know what happens before they get here, so putting us in that positive mindset first thing in the morning, every morning, power poses or the meditahappy, positive mindset to start their day," she said.

Anne Mechler, second grade language arts teacher at Goshen Creek Elementary, said that the Choose Love curriculum can teach own emotions. For example, of their lives. Mechler said one of her students told her that she was worried about an upcoming kind of practice and what athletic tryout, and Mechler we're doing now are absotalked the student through lutely things that will help

could use before the tryout. Afterward, the student said the breathing exercise helped.

"I said this is something that you'll take with you for the rest of your life because there's always going to be something that's a little scary that you have to notice," Mechler said. "(What) I say to my kiddos whether it be the story or the is, you've got to notice when something's happening and tion, it gets everybody in a then care about it. Just notice first and then care and have a strategy for it."

Mechler said the goal is for the kids to learn to regulate their emotions during stressful or frustrating situations and be able to practhe kids how to manage their tice those tools for the rest

"I think it's lifelong," she said. "And I feel like this

anybody through life."

Wood said the students were unsure of the group breathing exercises at first, I see is my kiddos helping and some are still not totally other kiddos that might be comfortable with it. However, a lot of the kids have like that," she said. "That's enjoyed the practice and ask what I love." for impromptu meditations.

fourth grader Brantley, 9, love and kindness, particusaid he has used the breath- larly after the kids have ening exercises "a little" to dured the hardships of the calm himself down, particularly when he gets in virtual school. trouble at home and comes to school angry.

breathing exercises) when much. They're children; people get mad and stuff to they've been through so calm people down," Brant- much," she said. "They ley said.

exercises are useful and is es- very excited that we were pecially helpful on test days.

love the breathing exercises, kindness and putting them and she has witnessed some first."

of her students helping their peers during stressful times.

"The sweetest thing that stressed out or something

Wood said she likes that Springtown Elementary the curriculum is based on COVID-19 pandemic and

"They have just been through so much. We think "I think we can do (the we've been through so haven't had a normal school Brantley said the breathing year in so long. I was just going to take an approach Mechler said her students that was just based on love,









#### QUILTERS GUILD OF PARKER COUNTY

## Meeting on Jan. 20

#### FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Quilter's Guild of Parker County is gearing up for its Jan. 20 guild meeting.

Zoom on Jan. 20 at Lakeshore Drive Baptist Church at 200 S. Lakeshore Drive in on Zoom, online attendstarts at 6:45 p.m. but quilt- and telephone number to ing enthusiasts can arrive qgpc2000@gmail.com. earlier to socialize. Visitors can attend in person or on-

Lisa Erlandson, of Gainesville, who is a certified quilt <u>parkercounty.org</u> appraiser and quilt show judge, will be the guest

speaker at the meeting. Erlandson is expected to discuss what features judges may look for in winning The group will have a quilts, what quilt qualities hybrid meeting for people affect appraisal values and to attend in-person and on how quilters can improve their skills.

To join the meeting Hudson Oaks. The meeting ees must send their name

> More information about the Quilter's Guild of Parker County is available on the website at quiltersguildof-

## Traffic signal coming to SH 199 and Williams-Ward Road intersection

#### BY MADELYN EDWARDS rive. Construction for traffic curred at the SH 199 and

madelyn@azlenews.net

A traffic signal is expected to be placed at the intersection of State Highway 199 and Williams-Ward Road this year.

Texas Department of Transportation public information officer Bethany Kurtz said the design work for the signal light is almost finished. The TxDOT-funded project is expected to be scheduled for construction when the plans are complete and the materials arsignals typically lasts 40-50 Williams-Ward Road inter- town City Council meeting, days in good weather.

ministrative 2022.

TxDOT officials made request, Kurtz said.

In 2020, 16 wrecks oc- intersection," Derr said.

constructed in mid- to late Williams-Ward Road stop sign.

"The city has actively lation of a signal light at this said at the meeting.

At December's Springsection, and 22 wrecks oc- Police Chief Cres Salazar City of Springtown Ad- curred last year, Derr said. called the Williams-Ward Specialist These collisions included Road intersection one of the Christina Derr said the city minor accidents, fatalities city's "problem areas" and was told the signal would be and rear-end wrecks at the said it is "good news" that a signal will be installed at the intersection.

"Most of the time, it's the determination that the worked with TxDOT to en- the traffic and people just SH 199 and Williams-Ward sure a stoplight is placed at not gauging the speed, not Road intersection met the this intersection, and based gauging the way that they criteria for a traffic signal on TxDOT's own traffic can cross over into that meafter reviewing traffic data studies, the number of acci- dian when they're trying to at the city of Springtown's dents necessitates the instal- turn eastbound," Salazar

### **ROGERS**, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.

per body control just yet, and nity support for their friend. long way to go. She will be picture on them with a heart overwhelmed with medical and the hashtag #Ashtynbills along with having to Strong. The shirts can also start over. Please continue be customized with slogans to pray, share and donate if and phrases people associate possible."

Last week, Kassi Soldner breathing on her own without the assistance of life support. She had also developed the ventilator.

Donations are being taken for Ashtyn Rogers' medical expenses, long-term care needs and other expenses on GoFundMe. As of Wednesday afternoon, over \$1,140 has been raised.

Kassi Soldner Rogers expressed gratitude for the support her stepdaughter and family have received from the community so far.

"We're just overwhelmed, overjoyed and grateful that people have reached out, people have donated and constantly shared," Kassi Soldner Rogers said. means the world to us."

are selling T-shirts for \$18 also asking people to pray to raise money for Ashtyn for Ashtyn Rogers. Rogers and to rally commu-

**\* GET READY FOR WINTER!** 

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she can't talk. She still has a The shirts have Ashtyn's with Ashtyn Rogers.

Hardwick described Rogers said Ashtyn started Ashtyn Rogers as a giving person, and the shirts were a way to give back to her.

"When she comes through, pneumonia while she was on we need her to know that she has a community to fall back on, and we did our part like she did her part when she was here and was able to," Hardwick said.

> Kassi Soldner Rogers described her stepdaughter as being loved by many people.

> "Everybody absolutely loves her," she said. "My phone goes off all day every day, just hundreds of people texting me and wanting to know she's OK."

To donate to the Go-FundMe, visit https://www. gofundme.com/f/supportfor-ashtyn-rogers. To buy a T-shirt, send a Facebook message to Lexi Hardwick. Hardwick and Attaway Hardwick and Attaway are

### **LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICES**

#### Section 00 11 00

Advertisement and Invitation for Bids

The City of Springtown will receive bids for Springtown CDBG - Avenue D Reconstruction until 2:00 PM on Friday, January 21, 2022 at Springtown City Hall, 102 E 2nd St, Springtown, TX 76082. The bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at 2:05 PM on Friday, January 21, 2022 at Springtown City Hall, 102 E 2nd St, Springtown, TX 76082. Bids are invited for several items and approximate quantities of work are as follows:

- 1. 4,500 SY of 6" Concrete Pavement
- 2. 1,300 LF of 6" PVC water main
- 3. 1,250 LF of 6" PVC sewer main

4. 250 LF of various size RCP storm sewer

Bid/Contract Documents, including Drawings and Technical Specifications are on file at the office of the engineer, Pacheco Koch, 4060 Bryant Irvin Rd, Fort Worth, TX 76109. Copies of the Bid/Contract Documents may be obtained free of charge by the prospective bidders at www.civcastusa.com under the following project name - "Springtown CDBG - Avenue D Reconstruction". Additionally, bid documents may be obtained free of charge from Pacheco Koch at 4060 Bryant Irvin Rd,

A bid bond in the amount of 5 percent of the bid issued by an acceptable surety shall be submitted with each bid. A certified check or bank draft payable to the City of Springtown or negotiable U.S. Government Bonds (as par value) may be submitted in lieu of the Bid Bond.

Attention is called to the fact that not less than, the federally determined prevailing (Davis-Bacon and Related Acts) wage rate, as issued by the Texas Department of Agriculture Office of Rural Affairs and contained in the contract documents, must be paid on this project. In addition, the successful bidder must ensure that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex, sexual identity, gender identity, or national origin. The lobbying certification must be submitted with the bid packet to be considered complete and responsive. All contractors/subcontractors that are debarred, suspended or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation on federal assistance programs may not undertake any activity in part or in full under this project.

Deadline for questions is 2:00 PM on Tuesday, January 18, 2022. The City of Springtown reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any informalities in the bidding. Bids may be held by the City of Springtown for a period not to exceed 60 days from the date of the bid opening for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the bidder's qualifications prior to the contract award.

The City of Springtown is an equal opportunity employer. City of Springtown Greg Hood, Mayor 01/03/2022

#### THE STATE OF TEXAS CITATION BY PUBLICATION CAUSE NO. 21P535

In the Matter of the Estate of Scott Kelly Tompkins, Deceased

TO ALL UNKNOWN OR MISSING HEIRS OF THE ESTATE OF SCOTT KELLY TOMPKINS, DECEASED Corey Tompkins in the above-numbered and entitled estate filed an Application to Determine Heirship and for Court Created Independent Administration and to Issue Letters of Administration on 12/28/2021 In the Estate of Scott Kelly Tompkins., Deceased, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of Scott Kelly Tompkins, Deceased, and their

The court may act on said application at any call of the docket on or after 10:00 o'clock A.M. on the first Monday next after the expiration of 10 days from the date of publication of this citation, at the Parker County Court, One Courthouse Square, Weatherford, TX 76086 in Parker County, Texas.

respective shares and interest in such estate, and appointing Corey Tompkins to serve as the Independent Administrator of

All persons interested in this case are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court by: filing a written contest or answer to said Application before the above stated time and date should you desire to do so. To ensure its consideration, you or your attorney must file any contest, objection, intervention, or response in writing with the County Clerk of Parker County, Texas on or before the above noted date and time.

Given under my hand and the seal of said Court of Parker County, Texas at the office of the Parker County Clerk, on this 29th

day of December, 2021. Applicant's Attorney: Soraya Joslin PO Box 1267 Weatherford TX 76086 (817) 599-7005

#### **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

On January 13, 2022 at 6:30 PM the City of Springtown Planning and Zoning Commission held a public hearing and consider a recommendation to the City Council on a request to rezone Part of Lot 12, Block 10, Spring Branch Acres, an addition to the City of Springtown, Parker County, Texas from SF-2 Single Family Residential 2 to D Duplex. This property is located west of South Springbranch Trail, south of Hilltop Drive.

On January 27, 2022 at 7:00 PM the City of Springtown City Council will hold a public hearing and consider on the Planning and Zoning Commission's recommendation on the same.

All meetings will take place at in the Council Chambers at the Municipal Annex Building located at 200 North Main Street, Springtown, Texas, 76082.

#### **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

On January 13, 2022 at 6:30 PM the City of Springtown Planning and Zoning Commission held a public hearing and consider a recommendation to the City Council for an ordinance to amend Section 14.2 Construction Yards, Field Offices, and Other Temporary Buildings, Chapter 14 Zoning, City of Springtown Code of Ordinances.

On January 27, 2022 at 7:00 PM the City of Springtown City Council will hold a public hearing and consider on the Planning and Zoning Commission's recommendation on the same.

All meetings will take place at in the Council Chambers at the Municipal Annex Building located at 200 North Main Street, Springtown, Texas, 76082.

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On January 13, 2022 at 6:30 PM the City of Springtown Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing and consider a recommendation to the City Council for an ordinance amending Section 33, Fences, Walls, and Screening, Chapter 14 Zoning, City of Springtown Code of Ordinances.

On January 27, 2022 at 7:00 PM the City of Springtown City Council will hold a public hearing and consider the Planning and Zoning Commission's recommendation on the same.

All meetings will take place at in the Council Chambers at the Municipal Annex Building located at 200 North Main Street, Springtown, Texas, 76082.

### **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

On January 13, 2022 at 6:30 PM, the City of Springtown Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing and consider a recommendation to the City Council for an ordinance amending Section 36.1 Accessory Structure Regulations, Chapter 14 Zoning, City of Springtown Code of Ordinances.

On January 27, 2022 at 7:00 PM the City of Springtown City Council will hold a public hearing and consider the Planning and Zoning Commission's recommendation on the same.

All meetings will take place at in the Council Chambers at the Municipal Annex Building located at 200 North Main Street, Springtown, Texas, 76082.

#### **Notice of Public Sale**

Notice is hereby given that Storage Bright at 104 Adalida Lane, Springtown, Texas 76082 will sell the contents of the storage units listed below at a public auction to satisfy a lien placed on the contents (pursuant to Title 5, Liens Chapter 59 Sec. 59.044). The sale will take place at the website www.storagetreasures.com on January 27, 2022 at 10:00 am. The sale will be conducted on www.storagetreasures.com, under the guidance of Christopher Rosa (16850) on behalf of the facility's management. Units will be available for viewing prior to the sale on www.storagetreasures.com. Contents will be sold for cash only to the highest bidder. A 10-15% buyer's premium will be charged and a cleaning deposit per unit. All sales are final. Seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale or to refuse any bids. The property to be sold is described as "general household items" unless otherwise noted:

Becky Matheny-Avant - general household items; and Bradley Memmel - general household and yard items. Thank you, Storage Bright Lisa K. Remmele 940-389-5508





## It's not that complicated

Have you ever noticed that we tend to way over-complicate things?

It's almost like we imagine the most difficult and complicated scenario and try to figure out what we would do in that case rather than simply doing the simplest thing in the situation directly in front of us.

Here's an example from the Bible (note that I'm paraphrasing here).

Dude asks Jesus a question: "What is the greatest for me this morning: commandment?"

Jesus: "Interesting question. What do you think?"

Dude: "Love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. Love your neighbor as yourself."

Jesus: "Good answer. If you can pull it off, you're in a photo so that I could make a good shape."

Dude: "So, who is my on social media. neighbor? Who am I required to love?"

Jesus then goes on to tell a story that we know as "The Good Samaritan" where He essentially says to start needs to be loved and work the late 20th century. your way out from there. Inthings and trying to figure out how far love extends, just love those in front of them.

It's not that complicated.

hymn text for today. It's a vealed in something as simgreat missionary hymn writ- ple as bending down to tie a friend.

Dos Chiles



**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

ten by Charles H. Gabriel in kid's shoe? 1890 for a specific mission-Easter Sunday at the Grace certainly shoe tying does not Methodist Episcopal Church make a person a follower or in San Francisco.

"Let us pray that grace may everywhere abound, is a follower of Jesus dem-'Send the light! Send the light!' And a Christlike spirit everywhere be found, 'Send responding to them? the light! Send the light!""

As is my practice most mornings, I started looking for ing for shoes to tie. There's graphic of those words to post New Testament of that.

words "grace" and "Christlike," I was reminded of character of Jesus-would the once-popular phrase Jesus give attention to a kid "What would Jesus do" that adorned t-shirts, plaques, kept tripping over his untied with the person you see who jewelry and coffee mugs in shoelaces?

An unexpected photo that question is. stead of over-complicating grabbed my attention. A kid in a soccer uniform was on life to which we are called the field. A man—either a is not that complicated. Start coach or a referee—was with the simple needs in you and do what's best for kneeling down and tying the front of you by responding kid's shoe.

It hit me right then. Could This morning, I read my a Christlike spirit be re- from there.

I doubt that's what Charles ary emphasis and offering on Gabriel had in mind—and imitator of Jesus. There's The third verse stuck out much more to following Jesus than that.

> But could a person who onstrate abounding grace by noticing simple needs and

> The question is not whether Jesus went around lookcertainly no evidence in the

The question is-know-In thinking about the ing what the New Testament does reveal about the who needed help because he

I know what my answer to

The amazing Christlike in love.

Then work your way out

Be amazing today, my

## Springtown

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Epigraph

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Epigraph is proction of any portion

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tten consent of the publisher

#### PRIMARIES, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.

- County Clerks (4-year the upcoming primary race.
- County Treasurer (4-
- year term) • County Surveyors (4-
- year term) County Commissioners
- Justices of the Peace (4year term)

(4-year term)

October.

• Constable (4-year term) Texas added two new congressional districts this year as a result of 2020 in the Austin area; District 38 is outside of Houston.

For the governor's race, there are seven Republicans running against incumbent INFORMATION Greg Abbott in the primary. Five Democratic candidates — including Beto

their party's nomination in tion.

is one of three candidates istration. running for District 12. One the seat.

census data. District 37 is file for the primary, so he Mimi Coffey — the lone Day is March 1. State legislators approved Democratic candidate the new districting map in for the District 99 race in lots at any polling location the general election.

## **VOTER**

All voters must be registered before the deadline of Jan. 31 to be able to vote in

• District Clerks (4-year O'Rourke — are vying for the March 1 primary elec-

To verify if you are eli-The race for lieutenant gible to vote, visit https:// governor and attorney gen- www.texas.gov/living-ineral has several challengers <u>texas/texas-voter-registra-</u> for those seats in both par- tion. You can also use this link to update your name or U.S. Rep. Kay Granger address for your voter reg-

Voters who want to vote democratic candidate — by mail must submit their Trey Hunt — has filed for applications no later than Feb. 18. The applications State Rep. Charlie Geren must be received by that was the only Republican to date, not the postmark date.

Early voting runs from will likely face off against Feb. 18-25 and Election

Voters can cast their balwithin the county in which they are registered to vote. This includes Azle City Hall, 505 W. Main St. for Parker County voters, and Hornet Academy, 1010 Boyd Road for Tarrant County voters.



PK - 12th GRADE

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

Monday No school Tuesday Sausage Biscuit, Toast, Variety of Cereal, Fruit, Juice Wednesday Skillet Omelet, Toast, Variety of Cereal, Fruit, Juice **Thursday** Breakfast Stick, Toast, Variety of Cereal, Fruit, Juice **Friday** Breakfast Sandwich, Toast, Variety of Cereal, Fruit, Juice

PK - 8th GRADE

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

Monday No school Tuesday Stuffed Breadsticks, Corn Dogs, Fiesta Sticks, Green Beans, Blueberries Wednesday Chicken & Waffles, Fresh Baby Carrots, Broccoli, Applesauce Thursday CK Fried Steak Sandwich, Tater Gems, Cucumber & Tomato Cup, Strawberries, Roll Friday Cheese Pizza, Popcorn Chicken, Roll, Fresh Broccoli Florets, Chili Style Beans, Banana

9th-12 GRADE

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

Monday No school Tuesday Stuffed Breadsticks, Crispy Chicken Sandwich, Fresh Baby Carrots, Green Beans Apple Slices, Blueberries Wednesday Chicken & Waffles, Corn Dogs, Broccoli, Chili Style Beans, Grapes, Pineapple Cup **Thursday** Steakfingers, Popcorn Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Roll, Cucumber & Tomato Cup, Blue Applesauce, Mandarin Oranges Friday Cheese Pizza, Hamburger, Glazed Baby Carrots, Fresh Broccoli Florets, Orange Smiles, Blueberries

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## Even though winter has really just arrived, spring is on the way

For those of y'all who don't know me and even those who do and I just haven't taken the time to tell you, here's a news flash: I do not like cold weather!

After about the first three days of cold weather, usu- to those of the cold "north and detrimental, is also afhad my fill of winter and am ready for summer again. Now in August, I different tune but most assuredly that was due to my brain being fried by the 100+ degree weather; I would have admitted to or said nearly anything to many agricultural essen- ing for the coming growing make it to cooler weather.

But when I start lookor five layers of clothing, I've had enough - bring on weather. spring and some 60-70 degree temperatures.

Now, I know that y'all who are of northern descent are probably laughing and making fun of the sissy North Texas boy. Well, go right ahead, but personally shiver. And I really do re-



**AG** 101 By Jack DeShazo

Jack DeShazo has decades of experience

as Panhandle.

this rabbit enough, so let's

to decrease soil compaction have been done in the sumin the first four inches of the mer months before planting topsoil, more especially in in September and October, clay type soils.

Porosity, which is the rate

ally in November, I have country," which on my map fected by cold weather. starts just North of the Red Wintertime precipitation is River and includes a por- obviously beneficial to the tion of the Rolling Plains soil; my Dad used to refer may have been singing a and High Plains of the Tex- to this as "seasoning for the soil," getting it prepared for I have probably chased another growing season.

Let's look at another get on with the main topic benefit of the winter seaof this article. There are son: planning and prepartials that need to happen season, this is my favorite during the cold weather of part of winter. Of course, if ing like the Michelin Man winter. So, let's go ahead you are planning on growwhile wearing three, four and visit about some those ing cool season plants such important things of cold as wheat, rye, oats, barley, triticale, ryegrass, clover First the constant freezing and/or vetch, the planning and thawing of the soil tends and preparation should depending on the rain.

Wintertime is more of a lax that water is able to move period for tractor and equip-I would rather sweat than through the soil, is also in- ment use, so it's a good time creased by the freezing and for equipment maintenance alize that our winters are thawing of the soil. Insect and repair. This is also the basically mild compared population, both beneficial time for collecting your soil

samples and sending them in briefly review some plant either of its parent plants.

and the specific varieties of production.

producing in our tri-county plants, ornamental plants, berry vines, grapevines, fruit trees, pecan trees, other pasture grasses both introduced and native.

and variety selection let's a plant that will outperform

for analysis. This is the main terms. Life cycle refers to For example, Triticale is an time of year for soil prepa- the period of time that the ration, if you are not getting plant is expected to live. your soil ready to get the Annuals are planted at the seed, sprigs or transplanted beginning of the growing plants into the ground now, season and will be dead by then you are about to be late. the end of that same grow-Planning for fertilization ing season. Biennials take and weed and insect control two years to complete their are also important items to growth cycle while perenbe considering this time of nials are expected to return year. Choosing the plants to the same root system and plant for at least three years, the plants to be used are very hopefully for a much longer native to Africa. important areas of cogita- duration than this. Obvioustion. In our area we are look- ly with perennials returning ing at the cool season plants to the same plant year after that we mentioned previous- year, if the proper steps are ly which are mainly used for taken to take care of them, wintertime livestock grazing then time spent for planting and a little hay or grain crop every year is saved. Origin refers to the region in which Some of the main warm a plant was originally found season plants that are found or developed. Introduced plants are currently being or corners area are garden were imported to the U.S. or Texas from other areas of the

Native plants are those peanuts, watermelons, can- that are growing and protaloupes, some alfalfa, su- ducing in or near the original eties of bermudagrass and and/or were found. Improved plants are those that have been hybridized with While considering plant the intention of producing

world.

improved plant that was produced from the crossbreeding of wheat and rye. Coastal bermudagrass is probably the most common improved plant in our area; it was hybridized and produced at the USDA-ARS Coastal Plains Experiment Station in Tifton, Georgia. It's the result of crossing "Tift" bermudagrass and a bermudagrass

Next week we will visit a little more about introduced and native plants along with their advantages and disadvantages. Until our next gathering let me leave you with the following thoughts.

The good part about this time of year is that by the time we have reached the serious cold weather of January, warmer weather and the spring growing season are only a calendar page or two away, so it's time to be getting ready.

The bad part about this dan, hybrids, various variarea where they developed time of year is that the spring growing season is only a calendar page or two away and if you are not getting ready NOW, you are behind.

'til next time.

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Donna Hopwood, EA and her daughter, Debi Matthews, AFSP operate Hopwood's Tax Service & More. They offer a unique blend of skills that can help you relax at tax time. They're ready to put their knowledge and experience to work for you right now, while there's plenty of time to meet that dreaded

Donna has years of experience handling tax issues for truckers, farmers, and other small businesses, with particular insight into the unique issues and deductions that apply to these fields.

As an Enrolled Agent, Donna is licensed to practice and represent taxpayers before the IRS. She completes at least 30 rigorous continuing education hours each year, staying on top of all the changes in the laws, so her customers get the maximum benefit.

Debi completes at least 18 hours of continuing education each year to maintain her status in the IRS' Annual Filing Season Program (AFSP).

Regardless where you live, anyone needing a tax pro can find one online at www.irs.gov. There, you will find Donna and Debbi with other tax pros and their levels of education with taxes. People can now check on tax pros at the website and click the side option to see which agents in the area are educated, and others, by zip code.

So: Go to www.irs.gov and, on the left, click on choosing your tax professional, then search the directory link by zip code.

Donna and Debi have been doing tax work together in Parker County for 19 years. Together, the Hopwood family can help individuals, business owners, farm operations, and others maximize their profits and make the most of their tax situation. They offer preparation of quarterly tax, W2's, and 1099 preparation – they even offer a public fax and



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Hopwood's Tax Service & More is located at 402 S. Ash in Springtown, at the corner of South Ash and West Hwy. 199 – one block west of Hwy. 51. The convenient location next to Exxon Tiger Mart makes it easy to use their drop-off services on your way to work or on your way home.

They're open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays. Call 817-220-7200 and set up an appointment when it's convenient for you including after hours.

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## Hituaries

### **Oscar Crill**

1964-2022

Oscar "Monty" Crill, 57, passed away, Monday, Jan. 3, 2022.

Services were held Saturday, Jan. 9, at Alexander's Midway Funeral Home.

He was born April 26, 1964 in Clarinda, Iowa. His father, Owen "Mick" Crill and, father-in-law, Bruce Kirk, preceded him in death.

Survivors include his wife, Cynthia Crill; mother, Barbara Crill; daughters, Kathryn (Christopher) Pyles, Crystal (Jerald) Isaacs, Kelli (Michael) Williams and Kristin Haley; nephew, Frank Go-(David) Carden; sister, Shelly (Jeff) Godino; mother-inlaw, Neoma Kirk; aunt and uncle, Roxanne and Terry



Moore; grandchildren, Maggie, Maddie, Layne, Landon, Levi, Kate, Colton, Jake and dino; best friend, Matthew "Bummer" Dueling.

> The Springtown Epigraph Jan. 13, 2022 Edition

## Patricia Elam

1937-2022

Patricia Lucille Elam, 84, passed away on Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2022 at home surrounded by family and friends.

Graveside service was at 11 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 8, 2022, at Springtown Cemetery, Springtown, Texas.

Visitation was from 6-8 p.m. Friday, Jan.7, 2022, at Biggers Funeral Home, 6100 Azle Ave. Fort Worth, Texas.

Patsy was born Dec. 26, 1937 in Houston, Texas to James and Marian Griffin. She was a beloved mother, grandmother, sister, and friend. She was a scrub tech at Harris Hospital downtown Fort Worth for almost Laney Childs, Kiley Childs

daughter, Patricia Sipes; and friends. grandson, Corey Wayne Elam; son-in-law, James Weyand; and daughter-in-



law, Barbara Jean Elam.

Patsy was survived by her son, James Elam: daughter, Debra Weyand; granddaughters, Amanda Childs and Melissa McDaniel and her husband, Jason; three great-granddaughters, and Baley Childs; two She was preceded in death brothers, Johnny Griffin and by her husband, Leon Elam; Jimmy Griffin; many family

> *The Springtown Epigraph* Jan. 13, 2022 Edition

### Linda Lee Lynch

1935-2022

Linda Lee Lynch passed away Jan. 4, 2022, in Fort Worth.

Graveside services and burial were held at Springtown Cemetery in Springtown, Texas on Jan. 7, 2022, at 2:00 pm.

In lieu of flowers, Linda requested donations be made to the First United Methodist Church of Springtown,

Britt Hutcheson in Springtown, Texas. Linda grew up in Springtown, Texas where she graduated from Springtown High School in 1952. In 1954, Linda married her husband of 65 years William Loyd Lynch, and together they raised three children: Sherri Lynch Harrison, Charles Lynch and Perry Lynch.

Mom loved Springtown and wished nothing would change. She lived her perfect life by marrying her middle/ high school sweetheart. Dad would make the joke "I think I was born married." Linda was an exceptional athlete who was always the tallest in her class except for best friend, Melba. Mom could still shoot a hook shot late into her 50's. She loved playing volleyball at the Joe M. Hart gymnasium with the

Linda worked for Springtown ISD as a reading aide. Mom always gave it her all whether she was working of at the flower shop, helping and son, Perry Lynch and with the elections or work- daughter-in-law, ing at school. She was aling help. Mom loved doing. Trishia Harrison, Allie Har-She loved being involved rison, Erin Lynch Burks, with the United Method- Ryan Lynch and wife Carly, Methodist Church Lord's great-grandchild, Acre. Her talent was her Lynch. creativity; she had a passion rangements, loved to make and friends who knew her. and decorate cakes, making three of her children's wed-



Linda was born Oct. 22, ding cakes. Mom loved holi-1935, to Charles Martin days because it gave her an Hutcheson and Margaret excuse to create and deco-

> Mom and Dad loved to travel in their motor home throughout the United States and Canada with her sister Frances and her husband, Lloyd Sisk of Springtown, Texas and Loyd's brother Gary Lynch and wife Carolyn of Weatherford, Texas. Loyd and Linda traveled exticket holders for over 20

Lynch of Springtown, Tex- a passion for laughter and as, and her parents, Charles Hutcheson and Margaret Britt Hutcheson.

Survivors include daughter, Sherri Lynch Harrison and son-in-law, James Harrison of Ferris, Texas; son, Charles Lynch and daughter-in-law Cindy Lynch Weatherford, Texas, Shawna Gibbs Lynch of Keller, Texways there and always offer- as; Gran's grandchildren: ist Women and the annual and Jarod Lynch; Gran's

She was loved and will be for making dried flower ar- remembered by all relatives

> The Springtown Epigraph Jan. 13, 2022 Edition

## James Blackwell

1952-2022

James Don Blackwell, 69, passed away, Tuesday, Jan.4, 2022 at home.

He was born July 22, 1952 in Seminole, Texas to Henry and Marita (Smith) Blackwell. They both preceded him in death along with four siblings, Jack, Roy, Donna and Jan.

Funeral services were held, Tuesday, Jan. 11, 2022 under the direction of Alexander's Midway Funeral meeting new people. Home. Burial followed at Anson.

Don grew up in Anson, surrounded by a large family with loving parents and siblings he loved deeply. In his early years, Don made many friends that remained close with him throughout his life. He graduated from Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos and tensively, including Alaska, was a Certified Public Ac-Caribbean and South Amer- countant. Don spent most ica's Panama Canal. Mom of his career in the oil and and Dad were TCU season gas industry. His greatest joy was spending time with years, where they enjoyed family. Don was very intailgating with friends and volved in his children and family at every home game. grandchildren's activities as Linda was preceded in a coach, fan, and participant. death by her husband, Loyd He was an avid reader with



Don is survived by his Mount Hope Cemetery in loving wife, Catherine (Posey) Blackwell; sons, Greg Blackwell, **Brett** (Ashley) Blackwell, Ryan (Courtney) Blackwell and Shane (Sarah) Sherwood; daughter, Lindsay (Cody) Sheets; brothers, Dan (Peggy) Blackwell, Max (Janice) Blackwell and Bob (Karen) Blackwell; sisters, Jane (Ronnie) Whitehead and Sue Blackwell Chaka; grandchildren, Jack, Tess, Zoey, Cheyenne, Addison, Lane, Kylee, Blayne, Cruz, Sadie and Tripp; numerous nieces, nephews and extended family.

> The Springtown Epigraph Jan. 13, 2022 Edition

## Gay Lee Dekin

1948-2022

Gay Lee Dekin, 73, passed away on Jan. 8, 2022, at a Fort Worth hospital.

Service is at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan.15, 2022 at Azle Christian Church. Visitation from 6-8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 14, 2022 at White's Azle Funeral Home Interment: Azleland Memorial Park.

Mrs. Dekin was born in Palmer, Alaska on April 2, 1948 to the late William Ar-Casler.

She was a retired Dietary Cook at Harris Methodist Northwest in Azle. She resided in Azle, Texas

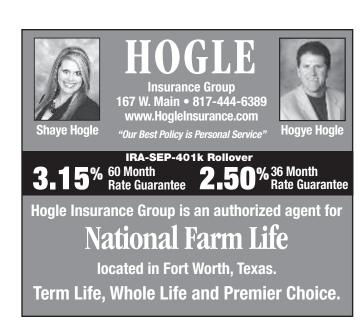
(sister), Elsie Casler (moth-Dekin (daughter), Marilyn Hill (sister), Lacey Baslee Dekin, Colton Dekin, Chev-(granddaughter), and Adam Morelock (grandson).

Survivors include her nieces and nephews. husband of 50 years, Harry G. Dekin; sisters Glee Miller of Dade City, Florida and

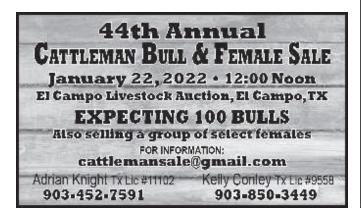


thur and Elsie May (Wilson) Joyce Fitzgibbon of Wasilla, Alaska; daughters: Mechelle Baslee, Robin Pedigo; son Burton Dekin; stepchildren Michael Dekin and Michelle Morelock; grandchildren She was preceded in Brittany Snelson, Daniel death by Mary Ann Casler Morelock, William Dekin, Sierra Baslee, Ashlyn Goner), William Casler (father), zales, Ty Pierson, Bynum Brenda Hill (niece), Brenda Morelock, Preston Dekin, Allison Williams, Payton enne Pedigo, Jaxton Dekin, six great-grandchildren, and

> The Springtown Epigraph Jan. 13, 2022 Edition











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## ON FISHING

## Each fishing trip a new lesson

The one thing that is sure when it comes to hunting or fishing is that you never know what to expect. Some days will be repeats, but there is always something new or different.

We are having the warmest December that I can remember. Water temperatures are rebounding into the willing to chase. Umbrella back of the creeks.

I even saw folks swimhouse on Christmas Eve. I also know of some folks using their pool on Christmas. The water I'm sure was a bit bother them too much.

I always talk about keepget fixated on a certain patdownfall for the day. With course helps the anglers. these extremely warm days, the baitfish will move shallow and so will the predacoldest days but that has not of the striped bass, which I more in the main lake than Keep your horn handy. up in the river. That may change with the upcoming cool fronts, but the point here is that you may need to Best color options are typimove around more to locate cally white or shad colors. the fish.

time of the year has not been right now. If we do get some



#### ON FISHING

**Bv Michael Acosta** 

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dominant yet. Downriggers heavy rain, the darker colors the fish, as the fish are still murky/stained water using these rigs.

cool, but that didn't seem to midlake on Possum Kingdom Lake. The gulls are here and they are actively ing your mind open. Don't working schools of feeding tern, as that may be your Possum Kingdom, which of you might as well enjoy

on these warm, calm days is a lot of fog early. Findtors. Typically this time of ing the working birds using the year, most of the bait is your hearing may be good deeper especially on those option. A GPS to navigate in dense fog on the bigger been the case. Migration lakes is recommended for safety. You need to watch typically chase, have been out for other boats as well.

We also have been without rain for a while and the lakes are relatively clear. As a striped bass angler a The slower presentation white swimbait with some that is typically used this chartreuse is a great choice

and trollers are sacking up maybe a better choice in

The nicer weather has its 60s and even warmer in the rigs are a popular choice on advantages for being commany lakes and for many fortable on the lake or out different species and folks in the field. Some of these ming in the canal near my are filling the boat with fish 80-degree plus days may require some sun block so you Schools of largemouth don't get burned. You can bass can be found pushing also get wind burn when it's bait to the surface especially cold, but enjoying the heat in the end of December is a better choice for many.

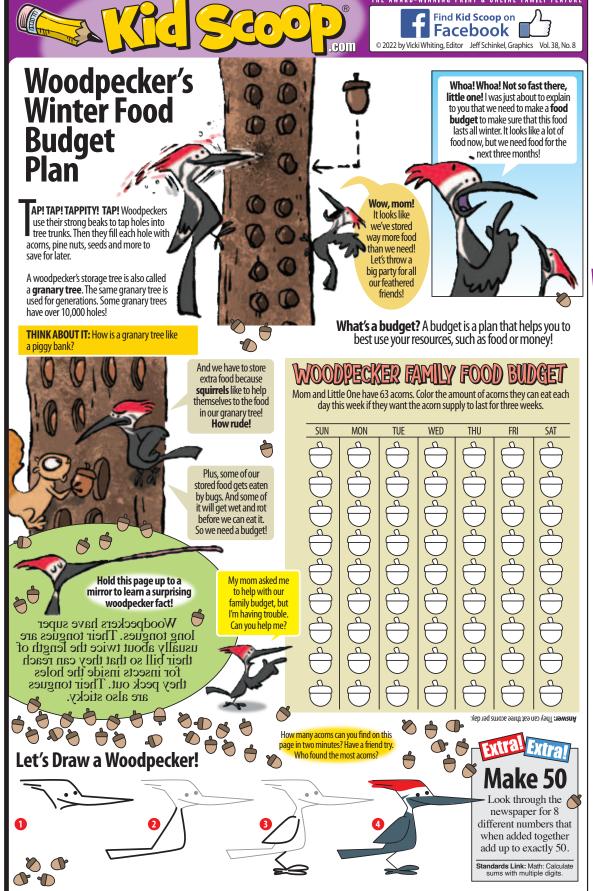
> I am still waiting on the colder weather as I am sure fish on Lake Whitney and it will come. Meanwhile wearing shorts and T-shirts Another possible hazard while you can! See you on the water!

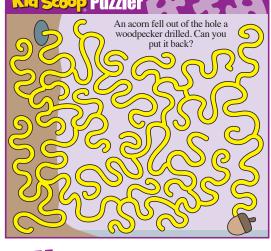
#### **FISHING REPORT**

On other reservoirs, Possum Kingdom Lake striped bass to 13 pounds are possible on jigs worked from the Peanut Patch to around Costello Island. Lake Whitney striped bass continue to be caught in numbers north of the Katy Bridge to Steel Creek. Downrigging jigs and umbrella rigs are putting numbers in the boat. Some good crappie catches continue to be reported near Kimball Bend on small minnows and jigs.



I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year and would like to take a moment and thank everyone for your support and bookings. Here's to a great new year. Stay humbled and blessed.





#### ouble

Find the words in the puzzle. WOODPECKER How many of them can you RESOURCES find on this page? **HARVEST** RRESOURCES **GRANARY** ESYRANARGH STORAGE T S T N O S E S A E **TONGUES** BUDGET NEOTREERRG WINTER ILTAGOVETA **ACORN** WOODPECKER **HOLES** NOSES RHEESPLANO **PLAN** D U S T E G D U B T **TREE** ESSEUGNOTS TOES **DUST** 

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someone's life within your family, your school or your community.



Are you an eagle-eyed reader? Circle the eight errors. Then, rewrite the article correctly. Have a family member check your work

#### **Woodpecker Facts** Woodpeckers are made to cling

to tres. They have strong tail feathers that support the bird as it holds itself on a tree trunk, and they also have too back toes to lean back on.

Did you know that woodpeckers have furry noses? It's true! Their nostrils are covered in tiny feathurs to keep splinters and dust out while they peck aweigh at tree trunks.

Even with their super fast pecking, it's amasing that woodpeckers do not get headaches. That's because woodpecker bills help distribute shock throughout the thick skull when pecking. Humanz wood have headaches if they did sew much pounding!

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## WE'LL ALWAYS HAVE DIRK NOWITZKI

## North Texas legend ensconced in the hearts of former sports editor, lovely bride

BY RICK MAUCH Special to the Azle News

On Jan. 5 at the American Airlines Center the Dallas Mavericks honored one of the greatest athletes in DFW history by retiring the number 41. That was the number worn by Dirk Nowitzki.

Some would argue that Dirk was the greatest athlete ever to put on a uniform in this part of the world. Without question he deserves to be mentioned in the same breath as Emmitt Smith, Troy Aikman, Rog-Modano, Lee Trevino (had to include a golfer, my favorite sport),

And there is certainly no doubt that Dirk had the most magical championship run of any professional athlete in DFW history. To some, the 2011 Mavericks might but it was Nowitzki who positioned that bottle for the perfect

That title run was special to many in the area, particularly me. It was at the start of that postseason that I met my wife, the lovely Mrs. Junell.

It was while I was in a performance of "To Kill a Mockingbird" at Weatherford College that we champions T-shirt. I still wear it met (yes, I played Atticus). A fellow actor introduced us.

When Junell showed up for a second performance ... well, I'm a good actor, but twice in four days? It was all the encouragement I after the NBA Finals. needed to ask if she'd go out with

me if I asked — I did and she did, oh my, how exciting that was. The and the rest, as they say, is history, just like the history Dirk and his teammates made that memorable

Several of our first dates were watching the Mavericks parade through the playoffs. I recall when the Mavs blew a 2-0 lead against Portland with back-to-back road losses, prompting Bob Sturm of my favorite radio station, The Ticket, to tweet, "The Mavericks are now behind in the series 2-2."

Of course, the Mavericks came er Staubach, Nolan Ryan, Mike back to win that series four games to two. Then came the sweep of the two-time defending champion Los Angeles Lakers, including the Mother's Day Massacre victory, which drew a nice hug and kiss from my future bride as we couldn't believe our eyes.

A 4-1 series victory over a have caught lightning in a bottle, younger and very talented Oklahoma City Thunder squad was next. For the life of me, I will never understand how the Thunder couldn't manage at least one title with that lineup, but it was certainly not in Game 6, she smiled and said to be that season as Dirk and the Mavs were determined to get back to the title round.

me a gift, a Western Conference sometimes, but it's one of those special gifts that you don't bring out too often because you don't want anything to happen to it. Likewise for the shirts we both got

And the NBA Finals that season,

underdog Mavs going up against what some said was the greatest super team ever assembled, the Miami Heat and legendary LeBron

Ironically, it was the Heat, pre-Lebron, of course, who gave the Mavericks their most disappointing moment in team history when they overcame a 2-0 deficit to win 4-2 in the 2006 NBA Finals.

And while I relished the Mavericks having a chance to erase that memory by beating this version of the Heat in the Finals, I must admit deep inside I thought the Mavericks' 2011 run was soon to be over. Not Junell. In her always calm fashion she said, "Don't worry. We have Dirk."

We all know what happened next. Dirk led a comeback from a 15-point fourth-quarter deficit to win Game 2 in Miami, then took control of the series' final three games after the Heat took a 2-1 lead in Dallas.

Following the clinching victory to me, "See? Told you nothing to worry about."

Junell and I were married Nov. It was after that series Junell got 26 of that same year. While there were some other exciting sports moments, such as the Texas Rangers returning to the World Series in the fall of 2011 — we were at Game 6 against Detroit at The Ballpark to clinch that return trip — none have equaled what Dirk and the Mavs accomplished in 2011.

It's been a great 10-plus years of and a features writer during that time.



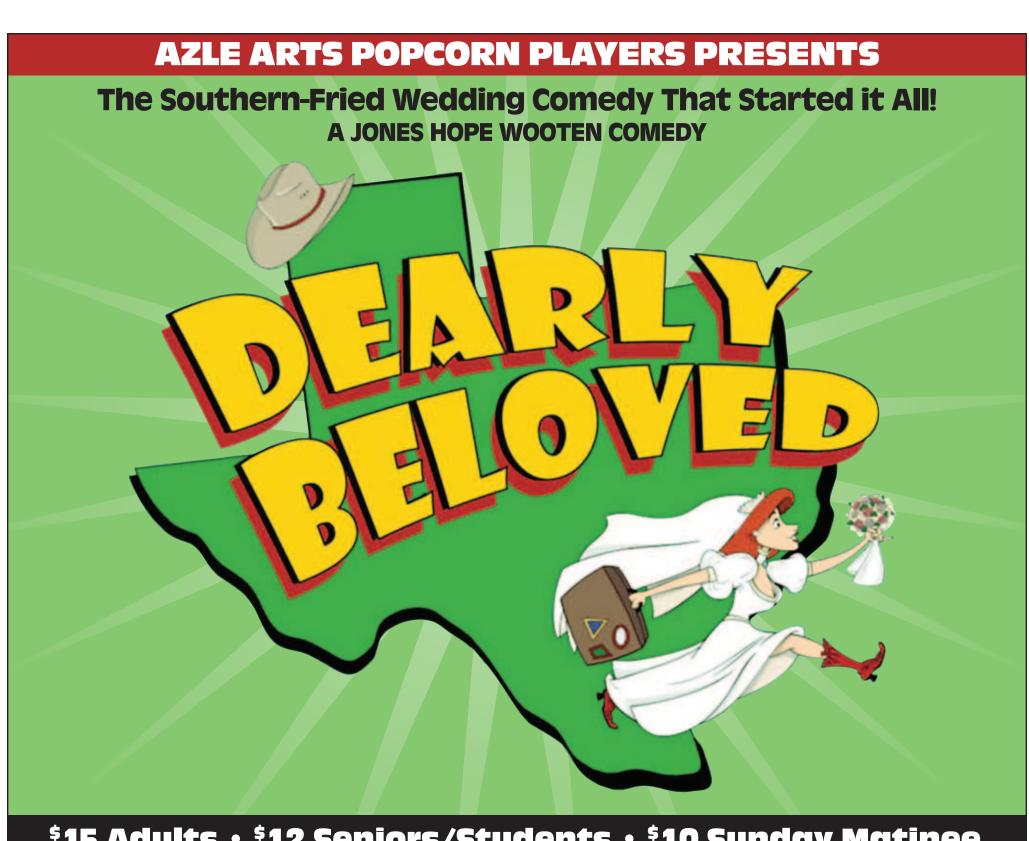
marriage for us, with what seems of my favorites, Humphrey Bog-Dirk and the Mavericks, we've been able to keep that magic going.

But in the words of another one

like many more to come. Unlike art, "We'll always have 2011." At least, I'm sure he'd have said that had he also been there.

Thanks for the memories, Dirk.

Rick Mauch was the sports editor at the Hood County News from 2004-14 and again from 2015-16. He was also the entertainment critic



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# SPORTS

#### **PIGSKIN PARTY**

## Springtown celebrates football glory, Lockard MVP

**BY JEFF PRINCE** jeff@azlenews.net

Every kid who earns a place on a football roster contributes to its success, whether scoring a dozen touchdowns or spending most of his time on the side-

That's the message head coach Brian Hulett imparted at the annual football banquet on Monday night at Springtown High School. Starters grab headlines, but without substitutes participating in drills all week, the starters wouldn't be prepared, and the Springtown Porcupines wouldn't be the 4A powerhouse they have become in recent years.

Still, a highly anticipated segment of the banquet occurs at the end, when coaches pass out individual awards to a handful of players deemed indispensable on the gridiron and in the locker room.

To the surprise of no one, Matt Lockard locked down the MVP Award.

cal player I've ever been brought the physicality. On season to rebound with a also a school record. a football field, the most physical team is almost albrought that."

This year, the Porcupines finished as regional champions, overcoming a three-



"He is the most physi- Head coach Brian Hulett presents the Utility Player of the Year Award to Brodee Trejo. Matt "Mr. Everything" Lockard can add MVP to his trophy case.

around," Hulett said. "He game losing streak mid- tory - and played 43 games, 10-4 record and a trip to the

"That is the three winstate quarterfinals. For the ningest years," Hulett said. ways going to win, and Matt third year in a row, the team "There are very few people played into December. Dur- that had a year or a career ing that three-year span, the like some of our guys. I'm Pines nailed down 34 victo- very thankful for it. I'm glad ries – the most in school his- I'm part of it."

Lockard played varsity teams. He punted. He re- trait was towering tall as a seasons, including his soph- ball—he tackled others. omore year when he might have weighed 110 pounds. town Epigraph nicknamed The little guy would smash him "Mr. Everything," and ample, by how he played," helmets with anyone of any Locke re-earned the moniker Hulett said. "I can't tell you size. He became a starter on every week. offense, defense and special

during those record-setting turned punts. He carried the leader despite maxing out at

Perhaps his most valuable

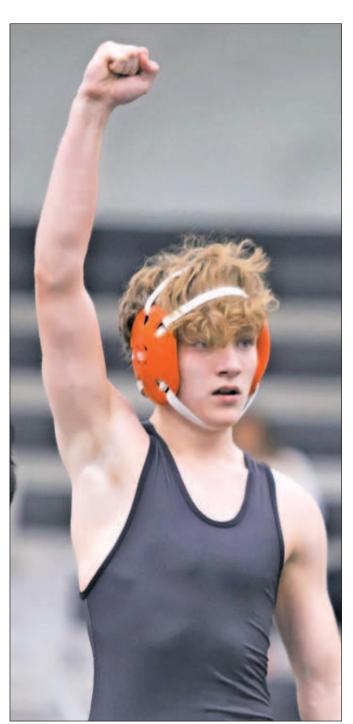
5 feet 8 inches and about 150 This year, the Spring- pounds, the coach said.

"He was a leader by ex-

SEE BANQUET, PAGE 3B.



## Springtown places 4th at Nest Boys Invitational **Wrestling Tournament**



On Saturday, Joe Newman, shown above, and the Springtown wrestling boys finished in the top five at the Nest Boys Invitational Wrestling Tournament at Azle's gym. Thirteen schools participated, and Springtown tied with Argyle for fourth place. Photo by Jeff Prince

## Springtown soccer boys off and running

**BY JEFF PRINCE** jeff@azlenews.net

The season opener wasn't a victory on the scoreboard, but Springtown's new soccer coach liked what he saw. The wins will come in

time, he said.

"The team is a really tight-knit group," said head coach Brian Maloney. "It's a group of good guys, nice guys that are willing to work for each other."

Last week, the Porcupines opened their season with a nondistrict game against Fort Worth Polytechnic.

The Pines lost 6-0.

"We are definitely working toward what we want to get to, but obviously the result today shows there is a lot of work we still need to put in," Maloney said. "Overall, I can't say anything (negative) about the guys and the effort they put in so far and their willingness to work for each other."

The team is experienced, with a sprinkling of sophomores and juniors to supplement the large number of seniors.

The freshman class is large and appears poised to grow in the future. Two freshmen made the varsity team, while 10 others are playing junior varsity.

"The numbers are looking good," Maloney said. "We're getting larger as a program."

Springtown marks Maloney's first head coaching job. He played soccer for



Frankie Martinez smiles despite a bloody nose.

four years at Aledo High years and earned All-State played soccer for four years School and earned All- his senior year. In 2010, District honors for four he graduated at Aledo and

Photo by Jeff Prince

SEE **SOCCER**, PAGE 2B.

#### **SOCCER**, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B.



Springtown's soccer boys lost their season opener but have high hopes for the season.

South in Tennessee.

In 2014, he graduated from kets. college, and then worked for resort and tried law school.

"I finally found my calling and am doing what I really enjoy," he said.

He was assistant coach at before coming to Springtown this year.

Before the season opener, Maloney called his players to circle around him. The night air was crisp, with temperatures dropping into

at Sewanee University of the tators wore heavy coats or about 50 people were spread the stands with his daughwrapped themselves in blan- out in the stands. Most ap- ter, Bibianna Martinez, and

a while in real estate, at a ski athletes. "If you play hard, handful of students sat toyou will see results."

The players put their with teaching and coaching hands together, and one of his team to not worry about got this!"

Springtown's starting unit tals. Alvarado for several years hustled onto the field dressed in black – black shirts, shorts and socks.

> Poly scored a goal 10 minutes into the game. By halftime, they were up 3-0.

Not a single spectator sat on the visitor's side at Pojo the 40s. Most of the spec- stadium. On Azle's side,

peared to be parents or sib- one of her friends, Daniela "Play hard," he told his lings of players, although a Munoz. They were there to gether.

> At halftime, the coach told and to focus on fundamen-

"We're playing for the whole season," he said.

The soccer season stretches to early March before playoffs begin.

#### **ACUTE OBSERVATION**

Frank Martinez stood in

cheer for Frankie Martinez, a senior who has played soccer for most of his life.

Frank Martinez knew them yelled, "Come on! We the 3-0 scoreboard deficit nothing about soccer when happened. Frankie began playing at 5. The elder Martinez learned quickly after he was asked to help coach his boy's team. Both have learned much CROWD in the decade since. Frank Martinez noted that Poly was being more forceful on the field than Springtown.

> "The teams that come up from Fort Worth, they're

very aggressive," he said.

A short time later, Frankie jogged off the field holding his nose and keeping his head tilted backward. Blood leaked through the fingers of his hand.

A teammate asked what

"Some big guy slapped me," he said.

## **SUPPORTIVE**

The sparse crowd didn't put much of a dent in Porcupine Stadium on opening night. Many times, the girls and boys play back-to-back games and watch each other play, so the stands are more crowded. The girls, however, were playing an away

Springtown fans made up for their small number by cheering loudly and often. Two foreign exchange students were on hand to support a third foreign exchange student, Sergio Natalias Minguell, who was playing in the game.

Nino Van-Zanen, a junior from the Netherlands, said soccer is the biggest sports draw in his country. He noticed Americans don't feel the same.

"They care more about football games," he said. "Soccer is not as popular as football because they don't have a lot of good soccer clubs here."

Maria Lazano, a junior from Spain, has enjoyed spending her junior year in Springtown and meeting new people.

"People in Spain are social, too, but this is more fun," she said. "It's nice to be here."

Her only complaint is that kids from Spain and the Netherlands must be 18 to drive, so neither she nor Van-Zanen have a driver's license. Springtown is small but relatively spread out, she said.

"We always have to ask for rides, but that's OK," she

Van-Zanen said people in Springtown have treated him with kindness.

"Everybody is very nice to each other," he said. "People are more social than where I'm from."

#### **POST-GAME THOUGHTS**

After the game ended in a loss, three of the team's seniors offered a summary and forecast. The team was playing its first game of the season and hadn't scrimmaged since mid-December after taking a Christmas vacation.

"We're doing pretty good," said Erick Barroso. "We just need to get in shape because we were on break."

Brian Murillo said the team could have done better.

"We had that long break, and we didn't really get back in shape," he said. "We have all this week to get back in

The boys said school, homework and sports are a lot to handle during the school year, and they took a respite from workouts during Christmas.

Jonathan Sanchez said the season opener wasn't a reflection of the team's potential.

"I feel like we're doing pretty good," he said. "There is a good chance for the year."

As for the low attendance, Sanchez wasn't concerned. Soccer is still finding its audience at Springtown, he said. For now, he is happy with the crowds they draw.

"We love seeing the faces coming out, showing support, yelling us on, cheering for their kids, their friends," he said. "We love seeing that support. We would hope to see more people eventually in the future."

The players' positive attitudes were justified. Three days later after losing to Poly, Springtown bounced back and beat Dunbar 2-1.

On Monday, the Porcupines obliterated Young Men's Leadership Academy

Springtown will host an invitational soccer meet on Jan. 13-15 at Porcupine Stadium. Other teams expected to participate include Hirschi, Godley, Dunbar and Tascosa.

Springtown is scheduled to play at 9:30 a.m. and 2:15 p.m. Jan. 13, and at 11:05 a.m. and 2:15 p.m. Jan. 14.

The top two teams will play for the championship at 9:30 a.m. Jan. 15.



Frank Martinez, daughter Bibianna Martinez, and her friend, Daniela Munoz, watch Springtown soccer on a chilly evening.



Foreign exchange students Nino Van-Zanen and Maria Lazano cheer on the soccer boys.

Photos by Jeff Prince

#### **BANQUET**, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B.



Offensive MVP Cody Brackeen, left, served as a rock-solid leader during the three winningest years of football in school history. With him are Aaron Bowen, center, and Pancho Moreno, right.



Seth Appell and Aiden Vickers shared the Chase Harms Fighting Spirit Award.

### "These 14 were part of the three greatest years we've ever had, and that says a lot."

- COACH BRIAN HULETT

that Matt is the best player most every tackle, fetched the I've ever been around, but I can tell you that at that final table of very few kids, Matt is front and center."

Other award winners include Cody Brackeen, a as "THE dude on the field." big offensive lineman and who picked up the Offensive MVP Award. He helped open many of those holes that Lockard sprinted through. After the Pines fell at the state quarterfinals, Brackeen stood on the sidelines, drenched in sweat, realizing his high school days were ending and a big new world awaited.

Asked for his thoughts that night, he kept them simple: "I love this team," he said.

Linebacker Dawson Jones, who seemed to be involved in the toughest 4A football pro- hard work."

Defensive MVP Award.

The Utility Player of the Year Award went to Brodee Trejo, another physical player whom Hulett referred to

rock-steady team leader Heart Award went to Seth Appell and Aiden Vickers.

In his final remarks, Hulett invited the team's seniors to the front of the room, and 14 of them stepped forward. The kids had proved integral in giving the coaching staff, the school and the community their most remarkable years of football.

Some seniors, such as Josef Yosten and Angel David Sanchez, finished the season with arms in slings or legs in casts. They survived one of dent. "This is the result of

grams around and will carry those hard-earned lessons with them into the world.

Hulett wanted the seniors to know how much their efforts are appreciated.

"To make it here is hard," The Chase Harms Fighting he said. "It's real hard. There are not many that do. These 14 were part of the three greatest years we've ever had, and that says a lot."

The seniors included Appell, Brackeen, Jones, Lockard, Sanchez, Trejo, Vickers, Yosten, William Gleason, Cristian Hernandez, Pancho Moreno, Colton Hasty, Colin Tidwell and Dylan Gille.

"I'm awfully proud what our coaches and kids have done," said Mike Kelley, Springtown ISD superinten-



Dawson Jones earned Defensive MVP.

Photos by Jeff Prince

## Sole senior helps steer Springtown basketball girls to better days



Caydence Parker is fearless when driving hard to the basket.

Photo by Jeff Prince

#### **BY JEFF PRINCE** jeff@azlenews.net

Springtown High's basketball girls have youth on jammed it." their side.

- and the only senior - on a crowd. team filled with players aged 14 to 16.

"They all listen to me because they know I've been here for four years," she said. "A lot of them need help in something you can really what." teach, but it is something you can help someone get."

Parker plays with confidence despite her diminutive build. At 5 feet 3 inches, she is one of the shortest girls on the squad, but she charges the lane with the certainty of LeBron James. Playing like a big person means she ends up with aches and pains after games. Parker was nursing a swollen finger after being blown out by district rival still," she said. "They're team's only senior through

"I think I hit a girl," she said. "I don't know. I next year."

Her bigger pain was be-Caydence Parker, at 17, ing walloped by a district is considered a wise mentor rival in front of a hometown is around. Her leadership,

does. But we have to go into every game knowing that we are going to play a really good team. We also have to know that we have that confidence. Confidence isn't chance of winning no matter in assists, a statistic that senior year.

> Even games such as the Decatur loss can be useful,

> "It is a time that we can work on things that we need to work on like trying to set up our offense," she said. "This is the time to do it."

> The Lady Pines have plenty of talent and a promising future, she said.

"We have a lot of young helped with the transition." girls that are developing

Decatur 80-20 in late De-doing better; they just need to take their time. I believe they will be a solid team

Head coach Kyle Sivadon is in his first year at Springtown, and he is glad Parker along with that of junior "It sucks," she said. "It Brinklee Dauenhauer, helps him prepare his team for battle. Parker and Dauenhauer were this season's only returning varsity members.

screams team player.

brings her passion for the sport to the team," the coach said. "It is tough to be the only senior and one of only two returners from varsity plus an entirely new coaching staff with different philosophies. However, she has handled that very well and

Parker ended up as the

attrition and perseverance. last senior basketball player said. She grew up in Springtown and began playing basketball as a toddler. She continued at Lions Club and in middle school. Plenty of her friends were involved back then.

ers) in Lions Club to make four teams," she recalled. "In middle school, we had two full teams - A and B teams."

Parker leads the team on to other things by their

The senior "enjoys the of just fell off," she said. but soccer is the one thing I game of basketball and "Girls I've played with my whole life fell off to volleyball, and some of them fell off to other sports."

> As a freshman, Parker played on the JV squad. The next season, she and another sophomore made varsity. Then, the other girl moved

> "I ended up being the only one at that point," she said. How does it feel to be the

standing?

"It shows how I try to be as dedicated to a sport as I can," Parker said. "I wanted to stay with it all four years."

Once she leaves Azle "They had enough (play- High, her days of organized basketball are likely done. She plans to attend Oklahoma Wesleyan and focus on her primary sport - soccer.

"I hate to say this, but I'm Most of her friends moved a much better soccer player than I am a basketball player," she said. "I have a lot "All my classmates kind of passion for both sports, know I can do every single day, and I know it's someeventually."

> She is a dual-credit student taking college and high school courses simultaneously at Springtown. After high school, she plans to attend medical school and become an orthopedic surgeon or neurosurgeon.

"I have big dreams," she feated Argyle (25-0).

The youngest of three kids has the confidence to make those dreams come true.

"I feel like I have a grip on what I'm doing," she said. "With the plan I have, I know I can go through with it. I feel like since I have good backing - my parents are always there for me – I will be able to be successful and do those things."

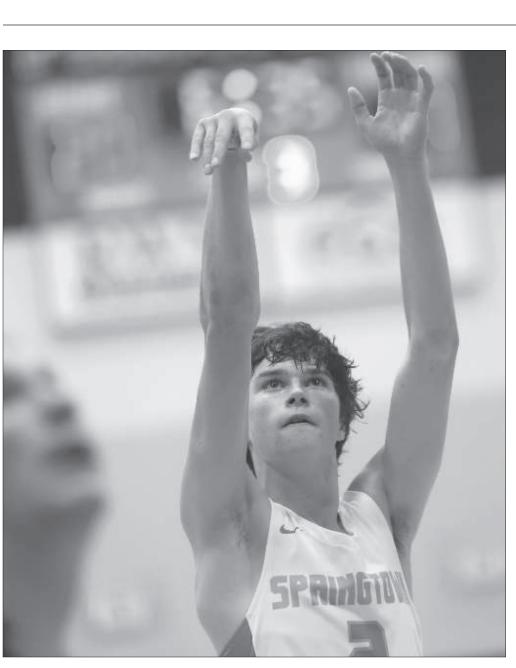
The short girl with ample confidence and big dreams plans to graduate medical school in 2028.

"Then I'll be working in a hospital," she said.

Until then, she'll help her thing I won't get tired of team prepare for its future. On Tuesday, the girls learned plenty of hard lessons after traveling to Krum to take on that powerful program and losing 83-14.

> Friday's game won't be any easier.

Springtown (6-21) plays at 6:15 p.m. Jan. 14 at unde-



## Springtown hoopsters face tough Argyle on Friday

**BY JEFF PRINCE** jeff@azlenews.net

The Springtown Porcupines basketball boys play district leader Argyle this

A win could do wonders them 64-46. for a Springtown team with a solid chance of making have been inspired by the playoffs. Knocking off district powerhouses Ar- have been playing some of prove Springtown's chanc- Christmas. Last week, they es of finishing among the defeated Lake Worth 56-52 top two teams in district, and Bridgeport 49-38.

improving its seeding and during the postseason.

Before Christmas, Decatur ruined Springtown's district opener, beating

The Porcupines must Santa Claus, because they

Then, on Tuesday, Springdrawing easier opponents town hit the road to square and homecourt advantage off against a gritty, talented and well-coached Krum and won 61-57 in overtime.

> The victory improved the team's district record to 3-1 in District 7-4A.

Another big game on the road is fast ap-

Springtown (9-10) plays gyle and Decatur would im- their best basketball after at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 14 at Argyle (14-6). A victory would propel the Pines into a tie for first place.

William Gleason and the Springtown basketball boys are shooting for another big win on the Photo by Jeff Prince



## DEVOTIONAL PAGE



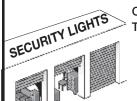
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#### Ad Classifications

1 Air Condition/Heating	24 Electrician	46
2 Antiques	25 Equipment &	47
3 Appliances	Tool Rental	48
4 Appliance Repair	26 Excavating	49
5Arts/Crafts	27 Exterminating	50
6 Asphalt Paving	28 Farm Equipment	51
7Auctions	29Fencing	52
8Autos, Trucks	30 Firewood	53
9 Auto Repair Service	31Free	54
10Backhoe Service	32 For Sale	55
11 Boats, Motors	33Furniture	56
12Bookkeeping	34 Garage &	57
13 Business	Estate Sales	58
Opportunity	35 Garden/Mowing Svc	59
14 Campers/Trailers	36 Hauling	60
15Carports/Patios	37Hay	•••
16Equipment Repair	38Health/Fitness	61
17 Carpet Service	39Help Wanted	62
18Catering	40 Home Improvement	63
19 Cement Work	41House Leveling	64
20Demolition	42 House Cleaning	65
21 Child Care	43Hunting	66
22Cosmetics	44Janitorial Service	67
23Computers/Services	45Job Wanted	68
20Oompater 3/Oct vides	TO	00

Janons	
Looking to Buy	69
Lost & Found	70
Maintenance/Repairs	71
Masonry/Stonework	72
Mobile Home Service	73
Motorcycles	74
Movers	75
Musical Instruments	76
Music Lessons	77
Miscellaneous	78
Party Planning/Events	79
Pets/Livestock	80
Piano Service	81
Pool Service	01
Professional	82
Services	83
Personal	84
Plumbing	04
Dublic Notice	05
Public Notice	85
Photography	
Printing	86
Roofing	87
Recycling	88

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;	83	Houses for Sale
	84	Mobile Homes
		for Rent
	85	Mobile Homes
		for Sale
	86	Mobile Home/RV Lots
	87	Rent Furnished
	88	Rent Unfurnished
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Child Nutrition Director Springtown ISD 817-220-2460

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Unfurnished Accepting Applications Rent based on income

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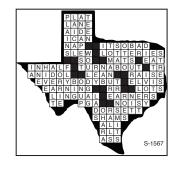
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817-980-3066.

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mo \$600/deposite. Deposite

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## 817-270-3340 - AZLE 817-220-7217 - Springtown

Deadline: 4:30 PM Monday

## Classifieds

KARL KLEMENT

**Body Shop Painter Helper** 

Assists Body Shop painters and performs other

duties as needed throughout the Body Shop.

Must be responsible and dependable with a valid driver's license. Monday-Friday work week.

**Body Shop Technician** 

Commission. Must have experience.

**Body Shop Porter** 

Performs duties throughout the Body Shop. Must be responsible, dependable and have a

valid TXDL. Monday to Friday work week.

Parts Drivers

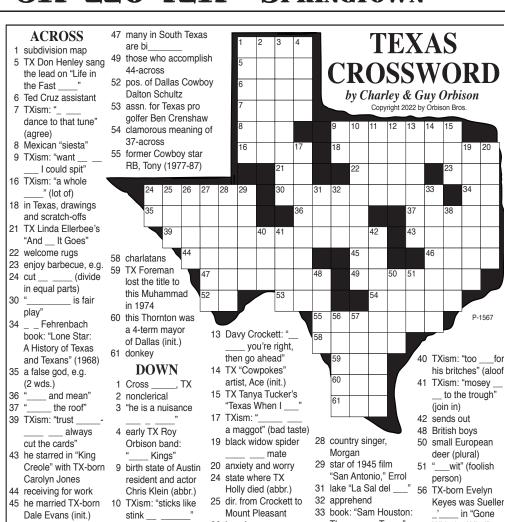
Must have valid TXDL with acceptable driving record. Overtime available and room for ad-

vancement. Monday-Friday work week.

Seeking to hire an *Experienced Service Advisor*.

Must be committed to customer satisfaction and

be honest and dependable.





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**Azle News** 817-270-3340 ఈ Springtown Epigraph 817-220-7217 Your

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Service Porter/Make-Ready Associate Performs duties throughout the service department. Must be responsible, dependable and have

a valid TXDL. Monday through Friday. Service Advisor

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

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> > **Route Driver** \$2,500 Hiring Bonus

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# **LOG HOMES**

26 bees' casa

27 one can improve

TexSCAN Week of Jan. 9-15, 2022

11 TXism: "take a

12 director Preminger

at it" (try)

46 TXism: "

breathing room"

(spacious)

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