A tale of two chiefs: Briar-Reno Fire Department chiefs retire



Retiring chief Shannon Smithers, right, on the scene. Smithers' last day with the Briar-Reno Fire Depart- Retiring Assistant Fire Chief Jody Works, right, attends a retirement ment was on Jan. 6. Courtesy of the Briar-Reno Fire Department Facebook page reception at the Briar-Reno Fire Department in December.



BY MADELYN EDWARDS madelyn@azlenews.net

After several years of leading the Briar-Reno Fire Department, two chiefs are stepping down from their roles.

Chief Shannon Smithers and Assistant Chief Jody Works spent their last day as chiefs on Jan. 6, but both are sticking around on the department's board of direc-

Moses Druxman is serving as the interim chief until a new one is hired for the volunteer role. Druxman said the board will meet in February to make a final decision on the new chief.

Smithers served as chief for more than seven years, while Works was the assistant chief for five years and two years as battalion chief.

Smithers worked with the Briar department as a firefighter ever since he was a student at Azle High School in 2002. He got the job after he sold the former chief a pair of shoes while working at JCPenney.

"I really enjoyed help-

SEE CHIEFS, PAGE 2A.

Walnut Creek SUD gets update on new radio transmitters

madelyn@azlenews.net

the December board meet-

filled the boardroom at Walcomplaints about their wa- customers received expen-

BY MADELYN EDWARDS ter bills costing hundreds sive bills. of dollars. The issue stems from a transmission problem the transmitters about three The Walnut Creek Special in which the correct water and a half to four years ago Utility District board meet- meter readings were not be- from Smart Earth Technoloing on Monday proceeded ing delivered to the billing gies. General manager Steve with much less tension than department. Some custom- Harris said in a previous ers received estimated bills Epigraph article that Smart for minimum water usage Earth Technologies changed Last month, customers for months, and then when out some of the faulty transmultiple months of actual mitters and promised to get nut Creek SUD to air their water usage was calculated,

Walnut Creek SUD got

SEE SUD, PAGE 4A.

Springtown police capture fugitive from Arizona

FROM STAFF REPORTS

A fugitive from Arizona found and arrested Tuesday in Springtown.

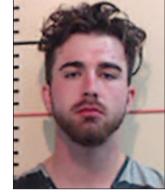
ed Dylan Dutton, 24, who the new housing developwas wanted for armed robbery with a deadly weapon branch Trail. in Maricopa County, Arizona, according to a news release from the Springtown Police Department.

After receiving notice that Maricopa County was trying to locate Dutton, Springtown officers and Parker County Sheriff's Of- Dutton was taken to the

fice deputies went to an address on East Sixth Street to find Dutton. One of the officers saw Dutton flee from Springtown police arrest- the house and head toward ment on North Spring-

> Crew members working on a new house said they saw Dutton enter the home being worked on near Titus Drive and Fifth Street. Dutton was found in the house hiding inside a closet.

Without further incident,



Dylan Dutton Courtesy PCSO

Parker County Jail to await extradition.

School officials considering closing because of illness wave

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Springtown ISD may have to temporarily close amid strep throat cases.

ment on its Facebook page vacancies."

Tuesday night that said SISD, similar to neighboring continue to climb we may be districts, is facing challenges forced to temporarily close, rising COVID-19, flu and with student and staff ill- but be assured great things nesses and the "inadequate are going on in SISD despite The district issued a state- supply of substitutes to fill

"If employee absences

SEE **ILLNESS**, PAGE 5A.

COVID-10 Cases in Springtown ISD

-us	C2 II	ı əp	11119	IOW	11 19	
SHS	SMS	SIS	SES	RES	GCES	Total
1108	615	582	595	398	604	4477
307	154	141	118	64	117	901
3	5	4	1	4	6	23
63	35	20	26	9	20	173
5.69%	5.69%	3.44%	4.37%	2.26%	3.31%	4.43%
3	3	2	1	3	8	20
19	11	9	11	4	5	59
	SHS 1108 307 3 63 5.69% 3	SHS SMS 1108 615 307 154 3 5 63 35 5.69% 5.69% 3 3	SHS SMS SIS 1108 615 582 307 154 141 3 5 4 63 35 20 5.69% 5.69% 3.44% 3 3 2	SHS SMS SIS SES 1108 615 582 595 307 154 141 118 3 5 4 1 63 35 20 26 5.69% 5.69% 3.44% 4.37% 3 3 2 1	SHS SMS SIS SES RES 1108 615 582 595 398 307 154 141 118 64 3 5 4 1 4 63 35 20 26 9 5.69% 5.69% 3.44% 4.37% 2.26% 3 3 2 1 3	1108 615 582 595 398 604 307 154 141 118 64 117 3 5 4 1 4 6 63 35 20 26 9 20 5.69% 5.69% 3.44% 4.37% 2.26% 3.31% 3 3 2 1 3 8

Springtown ISD receives 'superior' rating on state financial accountability rating system

BY MADELYN EDWARDS

madelyn@azlenews.net

Springtown ISD scored 92 on the state's financial accountability rating system, and because of that score, it passed with a superior rating.

The School Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas is aimed at holding public schools accountable for their financial management practices and improving these practices, accord-

to encourage Texas public are some of SISD's answers schools to better manage their financial resources to provide the maximum al- submitted an unmodified location possible for direct opinion on the district's fiinstructional purposes," ac- nancial statements in the cording to the TEA's web- annual finance report. Un-

accountability scores are are in line with the reporting based on financial data from standards and are presented the 2019-20 school year.

The rating system involves asking a series of ing to the Texas Education questions about a district's

finances, debt payments and "The system is designed budgeting practices. Below to the state's questions:

• The district's auditors modified opinion means The 2020-21 financial that the financial statements as fair and true.

• SISD paid its debts on

SEE FINANCIAL, PAGE 7A.



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CHIEFS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.

ing people, and that's really what hooked me from that point forward," Smithers said. "It's nice to give back to the community and the people and see the appreciation in people's eyes when you're helping them when they need you the most."

Works has served in first responder jobs since 1991, including as a volunteer firefighter, sheriff's deputy and a member of a rescue squad. He has been drawn to these kinds of jobs to help people.

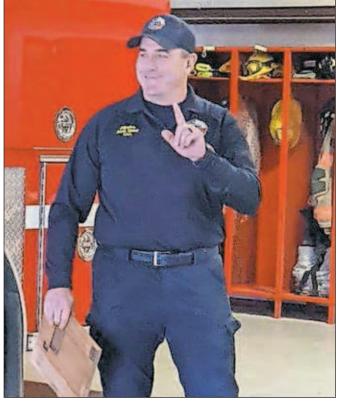
"I've been doing some sort of first responder, public service work for over 30 years now," Works said. "When I took a position on the board of Briar-Reno Fire Department when we were merging, I really had a fiveyear plan to step out after five years and let some of the other ones bring it along and help train them. And so, I lasted seven (years) instead."

The fire department merger happened when the Pelican Bay, Reno and Briar departments merged into one about six years ago. The merger happened to "provide a bigger service," Druxman said.

Smithers said one of his biggest successes was that he and Works were able to add stability to the department after the merger.

Smithers oversaw the department and was involved in administrative tasks. Part of his role was going to city council and commissioners court meetings to report on the department's activities.

"They want to know what their money is going to and what's going on in their community, so we give them an update, let them know if there's any issues or problems," he said. "It's separate body here," Works said.



Retiring Assistant Fire Chief Jody Works.

that everybody is communi-

When the department

started offering certain paid

positions, a challenge for

Works was making sure that

the department was spend-

ing taxpayer money effi-

ciently, even on slow days.

He said it was difficult going

through slow weeks, con-

tinuing to pay staff members

and wondering if the money

would be better spent else-

"You can kind of see the

call volume going up and

then you hit those lags and

this money, (and) I know I

where.

cating on the same level."

agencies, but they do work "You start questioning yourself. Did we make the right hand-in-hand with each other, and we got to make sure call at the right time?"

> Smithers named two of his biggest challenges while working at the fire department – anytime a child dies and when one of his fellow firefighters died by suicide.

> "Mental health is a serious issue in the emergency services field, whether it be police, fire or military," he said, while talking about the fireman who took his own life. "It's definitely something that we try to bring awareness to; we try to get everyone help that we can."

One of the programs in place to help with firefightit's just like, I'm spending ers' mental health is the chaplain program, in which could use it somewhere else a chaplain is available to lisfor equipment, but I can see ten to the firefighters and asthe future, and I know we're sist at tragic scenes, Smithgoing to have to have some- ers said.

The best part of Works'



Moses Druxman, left, with Shannon Smithers.

Courtesy of the Briar-Reno Fire Department Facebook page

job was finding out that spoke with pride about the someone who was expected to die lived instead.

"The best days I had is when we've gone on calls, and we stand around and go, 'That person is not going to that (are), one, loyal to it, make it,' and then we get a phone call back or the ambulance crew goes to the hospital, we see them on another call and they go, 'Hey, guess what? That person made it.' We didn't think they were going to, and they made it," he said.

Transitioning away from running the department daily will free up more time for Works to spend with his wife traveling and riding horses, he said, though Works is still involved with the department in the interim.

When Works announced his retirement about a year ago, leaders within the department stepped up. He

people who will lead the fire department after him.

"We're lucky," Works said. "The fire department as a whole has a lot of people and the second part, they really care about the community."

The fire department has been focused on supporting the community, and in turn, the community has supported the department, Works

"It's the fact that that same community walks up to you all the time and tells you ing force to continue what I you're doing a good job, was doing for so long."

whether it's me or the firefighters or anybody else and they drop stuff off," he said. "There's people constantly dropping stuff off at the fire department saying, 'Thank you for what you do.' To me, that means you're doing the right thing for the community."

Works said the fire department volunteers who have sacrificed for their communities, as well as their families' sacrifice, should be appreciated and not forgotten.

"It's so important for us to not forget, not only what that person is missing out on to be that volunteer for the community, but also that spouse and those kids, what they miss out on some, too," Works said. "They have to give some of their time for a lot of those people to be away to do their thing for the community, and a lot of times that gets lost."

Smithers said he stepped down from his position because he is preparing to be deployed in the next year to Romania with the Army Reserves. He is looking forward to spending more time with his family during his retirement from the fire department.

Smithers said making his kids proud is part of what kept him working as a firefighter.

"My family was proud of me, and they really looked up to it," Smithers said. "All dads want to be their (kids') hero, and that was the driv-

Those in crisis or experiencing suicidal thoughts can call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255 or text "home" to the Crisis Text Line at 741741.



Blood centers facing critical need

BY DON MUNSCH editor@azlenews.net

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected life in many ways, from schools to businesses to hospitals to other entities people may not immediately think about.

Blood centers, for example, have struggled. The pandemic has triggered a shortage of blood donations since COVID's presence became a part of everyone's lives about two years ago.

The American Red Cross sounded the alarm last week, with officials saying the Red Cross is facing a national blood crisis – its worst blood shortage in over a decade, which officials said poses a concerning risk to patient care. The Red Cross has experienced a 10% decline in the number of people donating blood since the beginning of the pandemic and continues to confront "relentless issues due to the pandemic, including ongoing blood drive cancellations and staffing limitations," a Red Cross news release stated.

"Adding to the concern is the surge of COVID-19 cases," the release stated. "The Red Cross has experienced low donor turnout ever since the delta variant began spreading in August, and that trend continues as the Omicron variant takes over."

And the problem is not just happening at the Red Cross.

"It's interesting because the crisis has really persisted since the pandemic began," said Linda Goelzer, public relations director for Carter BloodCare, who is based in Bedford, regarding how her business has dealt with the drop in donations. "Critical condition in the blood supply means that the blood center, like Carter BloodCare, is unable to keep pace with the activity of hospitals ordering blood for their patients."

knowledge, people are get- jeopardy." ting out more. Still, she emphasized, even if people are ed, she said. not ill, there are many rea-

Springtown Epigraph • Thursday, January 20, 2022

igible and available to give change quickly," dependblood, they should take time ing on what kind of patients donate. to give blood. Giving blood come in and how much they is an extraordinary gesture need. that an ordinary person can do to save lives, she said.

munity and the health care fore." facilities that are taking right now."

BloodCare goes on criti- regular donors might be cal appeal, the blood center sick, taking care of someone looks at data internally to who is sick or are in quaransee what the level is for the tine, regardless of whether blood supply for each indi- they have symptoms. vidual blood type.

flu and cold—matters that "The only way to resolve the are affecting everyone else situation is for us to step up in the community, she said.

on top of everything, that we can get blood." makes it critical in every meeting a need of what we Goelzer said. would call a half-day sup-

"The only blood type sons why people's schedules that appears to be sufficient are being disrupted. It can at this time - mainly, it's get focused on making an fewer people have – is AB, appointment to give blood, both positive and negative,"

(to give), especially those

She said new donors can care of all of us. We know help add to the people alour hospitals are challenged ready donating because Carter BloodCare doesn't She said when Carter know whether some of its

"It's just a real challenging Plus, for the unstable time for everyone and this is blood supply that has not one of those circumstances reached pre-pandemic lev- where blood is essential, vet els, one has to consider the we can't manufacture it or surge in COVID, the winter get it from a lab," she said. and do it – we have to donate "So, when you put that because that's the only place

People are eligible to dosingle blood type," she said. nate blood after having had 'We are now at the point COVID if they wait 14 days where we're really only past their last symptoms,

"And it doesn't matter

donations have evolved from our hospitals. Hospi- or not – we don't test for involved. The blood center CROSS (1-800-733-2767). since the pandemic started, tals are calling with urgent that," she said, adding that also actively looks for enti-Goelzer said. Initially, some needs and we're having to "it doesn't matter to the paties to host blood drives, and people were afraid to get link them up with other hos- tient and there is no way for those interested can send an out because of the lack of pitals to try to find what they us to be able to tell" whether email at bookablooddrive@ knowledge about the virus, need. It's a very challeng- a donation is vaccinated or carterbloodcare.org. but now that there's more ing situation and lives are in unvaccinated blood. COV-ID-19 cannot be transmitted can be found online, and All blood types are need- by blood, she said, adding prospective donors may anthat there's no evidence of swer the medical questionthat circumstance and that naire online or by phone these kind of viruses are not with an app. That questionspread through blood. One naire must be completed on be a challenge for people to because it's the type that requirement for blood do- the day of the donation. nation is that a person feels well and healthy on the day than 20 donation centers she said, adding they are at of donation. Thus, if a per-throughout the greater Dal-But Goelzer is quick to a healthy level of being in son has sniffles or some pos- las-Fort Worth area. Those say that for those who are el- stock but "those things can sible indication of a cold, for centers also can be found instance, he or she cannot online.

Carter BloodCare officials are using various commu-"We're just urging people nication channels – such as text 1-800-366-2834. Carter emails or social media – to BloodCare covers nearly 60 "We want people to know who know they're eligible spread the word about the counties and supplies blood that this is something we but they've never done it need for donations. Info can to about 200 medical facilias a community can tackle before," he said. "This is the be found on the blood centies. together," she said. "Blood time when we can really use ter's website, including a doesn't belong to Carter the help from new blood do- digital tool kit outlining the to give blood or platelets as BloodCare. The blood we nors - people who've never critical and non-critical need soon as possible by using collect does not belong to tried it before, never donated that exists. Even if people the Red Cross Blood Donor us; it belongs to the com- with Carter BloodCare be- are not eligible to donate App, visit RedCrossBlood.

Eligibility requirements

The blood center has more

For more information on making an appointment with Carter BloodCare, call or

To make an appointment

Reasons for the drop in ply. We're limiting orders if someone is vaccinated blood, there are ways to get org or call 1-800-RED

UPCOMING BLOOD DRIVES

Azle Elementary School Thursday, Jan. 27, 2022 8:30 am - 4 p.m. 1200 Lakeview Drive

Azle Ministerial Alliance Monday, Feb. 7, 2022 3:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. First United Methodist Church of Azle 200 Church St.

City of Springtown Friday, Feb. 11, 2022 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. City Hall Annex 200 North Main Street, Springtown

Holy Trinity Catholic Church - Azle Sunday, Feb. 20, 2022 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. St. Francis Hall 800 High Crest Drive



Tiffany Shaw donated blood on Monday, April 6 2020, at the Azle Ministerial Alliance Blood drive hosted by Future, Hope and Healing Center at First United Methodist Church. Each pint of blood donated can save up to three lives. File photo





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Reno subdivision ordinances

Reno Planning and Zoning Commission advances proposals

BY MADELYN EDWARDS

madelyn@azlenews.net

Reno Planning and Zoning Commission has moved forward subdivision ordinance changes regarding widening streets, constructing streets neer." out of concrete and implementing groundwater runoff rules.

The commission met last week for a regular meeting as well as a workshop, a follow-up to the workshop in December. Reno Mayor holes. Sam White said in a previprocess to update subdivision ordinances.

The proposed changes have been sent to the city's will be considered by city council.

"Basically, we are dictating what the subdivisions are going to have to do from now on," Reno P&Z Commission Chairperson Christopher Reeves said. "(It involves) the developers, as far as road widths, what kind

widths, construction of the said. building of the roads themselves. And then also we are streets we're asking them making sure that they're go- to, we're not going to have ing to monitored by an engi-

Reeves said that in the past, developers haven't the commission's proposal been obligated to fix the would require silt fencing to roads after they complete subdivisions, and that has led to Reno roads turning to tems, Reeves said. "gravel" with multiple pot-

ous Epigraph article that the is make sure the cost falls meaning they have to cover workshops are part of the on the developers, and we're repair costs up to four years not stuck paying for roads in after the subdivision is finthree years after they move ished, instead of the current out," he said.

Reeves said the commislegal department and then sion has proposed widening mission decided to start the roads from 20 feet to 26 feet and making the cul-desacs 96 feet.

> At a previous Reno City Council meeting, road width and permit fees to make sure and street parking were discussed regarding helping to cover expenses. The aniemergency vehicles navi- mal ordinance topic is exgate the streets.

The P&Z Commission next workshop on Jan. 25.

of material they have to put is pushing for streets to be into the roads, cul-de-sac made from concrete, Reeves

> "If we do the concrete problems with these for 10plus years," Reeves said.

> As far as groundwater, prevent washout going into the roads and drainage sys-

The commission is working on a proposal for a four-"What we're trying to do year bond with developers, two-year bond.

> At the workshop, the comworking on tree ordinances, impact fees and new subdivision fencing. The members also discussed forms the city is charging enough pected to be picked up at the

SUD, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.

them all fixed before the having to estimate bills is company became unrespon- near. sive.

gave an update at the meeting about the process of month. installing new radios. The ready been installed – 750 – had issues with the encryption keys and wouldn't pick up meter reads.

stalled radios are expected week' before." to be successful in picking up readings by next week.

ruary, he said.

during the meeting. "This had been resolved. has to do with a production

Harris said the end of meeting.

A website will be avail-New transmitters are be- able so that customers will

Harris said after the meet- didn't have another option. new radios that have al- ing that he has maintained hope that the system will be than I would have if it fixed.

along," he said. "Forgive I didn't have a choice." Padron said the new en- me if I don't get up and get

yet will be replaced with pressed anger and frustra- from the December meetnew ones that don't have tion with the billing issue. ing. Regarding the presenthe encryption key issue. In comparison, just four tation from Diehl Metering, scrambled," Padron said and others said their issues overcharging people."

issue, so our goal has been meeting, two Parker Coun- board will change and said to save the product that's in ty Sheriff's Office officers the board isn't transparent the ground. The best way were present as people or organized in some areas. is to get the keys working walked into the boardroom. which we have validated to- Harris said the officers were meetings are at 4 p.m. on day. This month we should there on purpose because of the third Monday of each be able to pick up all the some comments made and month at 1155 W. State reads in an automated way." "rowdiness" at last month's Highway 199 in Spring-

"We're not going to let that happen again," Harris

Customer Pam York, who ing installed with Diehl be able to access data about attended the meeting in De-Metering on new homes water usage and compari- cember, told the board she that don't have transmitting sons to other homes in their had made a deal with Harradios, and Danny Padron, neighborhood, Padron said. ris in which he cut down the head of Customer Solutions Access to the website is amount she owed on an ex-Center at Diehl Metering, expected to be available to pensive bill. York said she residents by the end of the wasn't really satisfied with the deal but thought she

> "I still had to pay more would have been done cor-"I've been hopeful all rectly," she said. "I felt like

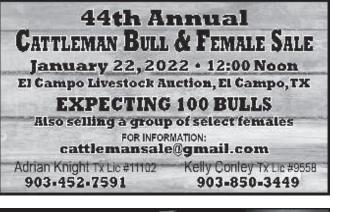
Rene Esteves, a customcryption key sequence has excited and squeal because er who had attended last been tested, and the 750 in- I've been promised 'next month's meeting, asked some questions throughout About 17 customers ad- the meeting regarding creddressed the SUD's board it card fees and if the board Padron said 250 radios members about the issue had anything to address or that haven't been installed last month, and many ex- change after the discussion Installation is expected to customers, some of whom Esteves said he is hopeful be done by the end of Feb- attended the last meeting, that some issues will be spoke during the public fo- resolved and that the SUD "This is on us because rum during January's meet- will "at least get the right our product, the keys were ing. Some asked questions, bills out there and not (be)

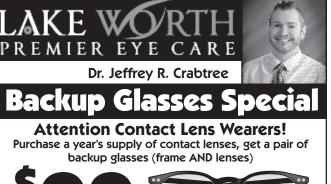
> However, Esteves said Unlike the December he's not convinced the

> > Walnut Creek SUD board town.









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Springtown ISD needs special education teachers

BY MADELYN EDWARDS madelyn@azlenews.net

Springtown ISD continues to experience a shortage of special education teachers.

Director Stacy Johnson told the Epigraph in an email Monday that the district currently has 34.12 full-time equivalent special education positions filled, and two fulltime equivalent positions open. Johnson said both unfilled positions would focus some as our numbers con- teachers leaving the profeson providing inclusion support and resource special education classes, which is for future." students who need specially designed instruction.

Later, in an email, Johnexplained full-time equivalent is how the district reports the number of special education positions to the state. "One FTE would essentially be one full-time teaching position. We have some teachers who teach special education for only a portion of the day, which is what creates the deci- ing content instruction in a ening of special education mal amount; for example, a teacher who teaches special education for 60% of the day and has another assignment the remainder of the day is a 0.6 FTE."

At the December school

openings at Springtown Elfill since September.

Springtown Epigraph • Thursday, January 20, 2022

dividual Educational Plan)." Johnson wrote in the Derently receiving very few positions, which is worritinue to grow and additional sion or retiring early. staff may be needed in the

Johnson said applicants ei- enrollment. During the Dether didn't have the certifications needed to qualify for the position or they were qualified but were "being offered multiple jobs." Special education teachers need to be certified in a particular area, crease in special education on top of the credentials a students, Kelley pointed to general education teacher the ending of the state's cap would need, she said.

"If the teacher is providspecial education classroom setting, then the teacher grade level of the assignment or demonstrate competency through the state's board meeting, Johnson's 2010 and 2011 high objecreport noted that there were tive uniform state standard

ementary School and Spring- only district experiencing the school board meeting, town Middle School that the a shortage. The District of department had been trying to Columbia and 49 states have reported special education "Current staff are man- teacher shortages, including SISD Special Education aging to ensure all services 98% of the country's school are being provided in ac- districts, according to an arcordance with the IEP (In- ticle from the Council for Exceptional Children posted in June. The article also notcember report. "We are cured that the shortage is part of an overall qualified teacher qualified applicants for these shortage, and the COVID-19 pandemic is likely to impact

> This shortage is also coming at a time when there is Also during the meeting, growth in special education cember meeting, Superintendent Mike Kelley said the district has 525 students in special education, which is an increase over the years. When asked about the inon special education students in 2017 and the lessstigma.

must have a valid certificate negative stigma that it used that matches the subject and to have. Parents are more comfortable with their kids being served through that program," Kelley said.

Johnson said increases in special populations come two special education teacher of evaluation," Johnson said. with the district's overall

Springtown ISD isn't the enrollment growth. During Johnson said every district is experiencing "rapid special ed growth" and that it's "hard to keep up with the demand."

Part of the challenge in hiring teachers is staying competitive among other high-paying school districts, including those offering stipends and sign-on bonuses, Kelley said during the meeting last month.

"We're part of the Region 11 consortium, so a teacher will apply for special ed jobs, and if it's us and Mansfield and Kennedale that all have an opening, their application goes to all three of us," he said. "And if it's a kid graduating from Tarleton or West Texas State or wherever and they get an offer from Mansfield, Kennedale or Springtown, there is a pecking order in terms of what that salary is going to be. We can't do what Mansfield and Kennedale do, just as examples."

The challenge with offer-"I don't think it has the ing bonuses and stipends is that they might not be fair to the employees who were hired without extra money, Kelley said. The district is expected to consider future budgets that have stipends that staff members can receive equally.

ILLNESS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.

tainable."

The statement reported throat cases.

ported within the last five cupine!" days. The most student castown High School with 63 comment by press time. cases and Springtown Midhighest with five staff cases.

The district is asking following symptoms stay www.vaccines.gov/. home from school: fever,

the difficult circumstances," chills, cough, shortness of officials stated. "We have breath or difficulty breathan unbelievably committed ing, fatigue, muscle or group of teachers and sup- body aches, headache, new port staff who are filling in loss of taste or smell, sore wherever a need exists, but throat, congestion or runny the current pace is unsus- nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea.

"Please help refuel basthat there has been a "sig- kets that are almost empty nificant spike" in confirmed by reaching out to thank COVID-19 cases during the blessings to our district the past week, as well as who serve as your child's increases in flu and strep bus driver, cafeteria staff, and instructional staff," the According to the dis- district's statement read. trict's website, 173 student "These employees are on cases of COVID-19 were the front lines of the panreported within the last 10 demic and working as hard days, as of 9 p.m. Tuesday, as they can to make every and 23 staff cases were re- day a great day to be a Por-

Superintendent es were reported at Spring- Kelley was not available for

To get tested for COVdle School with 35 cases. ID-19, find a site at www. As for staff cases, Goshen hhs.gov/coronavirus/com- Creek Elementary had the munity-based-testing-sites/ most with six cases, and the index.html or order an atmiddle school had the next home test at special.usps. com/testkits.

To find out how to get a that those who have the COVID-19 vaccine, visit



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Hituaries

Gloria Garcia

1939-2022

Gloria Garcia, 82, a retired ESL instructional assistant for Fort Worth ISD and Springtown ISD, peacefully joined her dear Louis in Heaven on Monday, January 10, 2022.

Her service will be held 12 pm Friday, Jan. 21, at Mount Olivet Chapel in Fort Worth, with a visitation on Thursday, Jan. 20, from 6-9 p.m.

Memorials: St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital

Gloria was born Dec. 29, 1939 in Fort Worth to Apolonia and Solomon Carrizales, Sr. She attended Trimble Tech and married her high school sweetheart, Louis, on Feb. 25, 1957. They raised their family in Fort Worth and eventually built El Sueno in Springtown. During Gloria's 24 year career with Fort Worth ISD, she worked at Denver Elementary, JP Elder, Northside and Diamond Hill. After retirement from FWISD, she stayed at Springtown High School until retiring again in 2012. She was a breast cancer survivor.

Gloria enjoyed helping others and hosting large family gatherings. She volunteered numerous hours for the Texas Girls Choir and many summers her family hosted the Mexico Boys Choir. Her earned her an award from typical humble Gloria fashion, she had to be tricked to attend the award ceremony. Her love of learning led

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many of her family members

into the education field. Gloria loved her fam-Juan in South Texas. Lovher so much joy. She had destrength.

by her husband of 46 years, ing, busy working with students Louis Garcia, Sr.; daughter, sculpture. Carolyn Garcia; sister, Suzie Ramon; brother, Solomon Winkler on Dec. 21, 1987 Carrizales, Jr.

With a welcoming heart, daughters, Delia Peacock particular the West Coast him. and husband, Donald, Chris- and Canada. They would tine Goetz and husband, spend summers in Colorado Kevin, Cathy Day and hus- and winters in the Texas Rio band, Mike; son, Louis Garcia Jr. and wife, LeeAnn; sister, Yolanda Rodriguez, brothers, Robert Carrizales ability to work with students and Mario Carrizales and wife, Anna; 11 grandchil-Springtown ISD, and in dren; 11 great grandchildren; and numerous family and friends.

> The Springtown Epigraph Jan. 20, 2022 Edition

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Springtown Epigraph 817-220-7217

Clifford Jewett

1929-2022

Clifford Harrold Jewett, 92, passed away Jan. 14, 2022 at his home in Springtown, TX.

Funeral service is at 2 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 20, 2022, at White's Springtown Chapel in Springtown. Visitation from 1-2 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 20, 2022, at White's Springtown Chapel in Springtown. Interment: 3 p.m., Thursday, January 20, 2022, in Goshen Cemetery.

Clifford was born June 14, 1929 in Fort Worth, Texas ily and peaceful mornings to Verdie Mack Jewett and sitting on her porch swing Bessie Cleo Dragoo. He watching the animals. She graduated from Northside enjoyed traveling to San High School in Fort Worth Antonio during the holidays in 1947, served in the U.S. and visiting Our Lady of San Air Force for 23 years and was a lifetime member of ing her grandchildren and the VFW. He also was a great-grandchildren brought member of the Springtown Church of Christ and the vout faith and was a pillar of Texas Woodcarvers Camping Club, traveling and She was preceded in death learning about wood carvwood working and

He married Elizabeth and they loved to travel Survivors include her over the United States, in tives and friends who knew



Grande area, making many new friends and memories to share together.

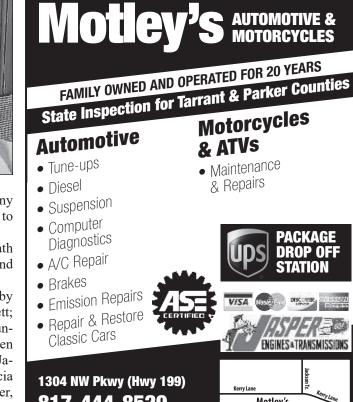
He was preceded in death by his parents, Verdie and Bessie Jewett.

Clifford is survived by his wife, Elizabeth Jewett; son, Dewey Jewett of Runaway Bay, daughter, Karen Milam of Nacoma, son, Jason Jewett and wife Patricia Springtown, daughter, Becky Gorman and husband Slim of Burleson, son, Kevin Greenwood of Springtown; numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

He was loved and will be remembered by all the rela-

> The Springtown Epigraph Jan. 20, 2022 Edition

















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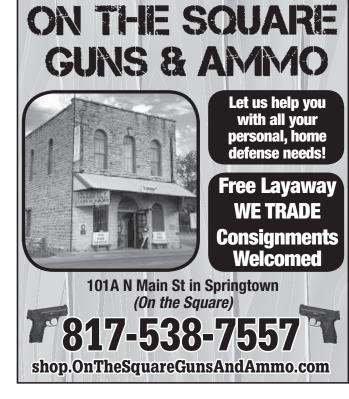
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Hyde Media Group names two vice presidents

BY KATHY CRUZ Senior Staff Writer Hood County News

The Hyde Media Group, created in August 2020 for the purpose of purchasing the Hood County News, has announced more changes to its now four-newspaper op-

Two vice presidents have been named.

David Montesino will be vice president of editorial and Kim Ware will be vice president of sales.

"I have complete and total confidence in the skills and talents which these two outstanding individuals bring to our organization, and we are fortunate to have them as part of the Hyde Media Group team," HCN publisher and Hyde Media Group Chief Operating Officer Sam Houston stated in an announcement emailed to company employees.

Houston said that Montesino's title "codifies" his role within the operation. As managing editor, he had already been leading the editorial departments of HCN and the other three newspa-



Kim Ware, left, and David Montesino, right, have been named as vice presidents of Hyde Media Group.

pers: the Gatesville Mes-Springtown Epigraph.

Those three newspapers were acquired less than a year after Hyde Media business." Group was formed.

publisher of The Spring- mediate levels of authority" town Epigraph and Azle and indicated that it will News, will retain her pub- help with overall managelisher title.

her skill at advertising sales continue to grow. and the esteem with which she is held in the Azle-Springtown communities.

He stated that she "will Firm in Granbury.

standardize a lot of things senger, Azle News and The in our sales program to offer the broadest range of services and products, which will increase our customers'

Houston said that the Ware, who has been the move creates "more interment of the media organiza-Houston praised Ware for tion, which is expected to

> The Hyde Media Group was founded by Paul Hyde, owner of the Hyde Law

FINANCIAL, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.

- ments to the Teachers Re- did not have material nontirement System, Texas compliance for grants, con-Workforce Commission and tracts and laws related to Internal Revenue Service, local, state or federal funds. among other government agencies.
- The district's revenue exceeded its expenses.
 - The external indepen-

dent auditor reported that cussed SISD's property val-

- financial information on its First/forms/Main.aspx and website, which is required by law.
 - The school board dis-

• SISD made timely pay- the annual financial report ues at a meeting within 120 days before adopting the budget.

For more information on SISD's rating, visit https:// • SISD posted required tealprod.tea.state.tx.us/ select District #184902 in the upper right-hand corner.

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BOOK REVIEW

An experience that may make your child sing

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

Sometimes, when you're feeling just a little bit sad, humming a song can help.

It doesn't have to be anything fancy; it doesn't even have to have words. Just a little bit of song, quietly to yourself, can make things seem better. Maybe one certain tune always makes you smile or, as in the new book "Song for Jimi" by Charles R. Smith Jr., illustrated by Edel Rodriguez, it can be an entire riff on a "git-tar."

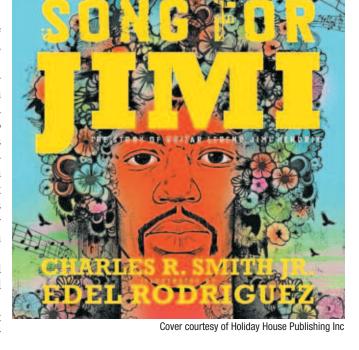
It was the fall of 1942, and Johnny Allen Hendrix had just made his debut.

Johnny was his name at first, anyway, until his daddy changed it to "James" when the boy was three years old. to the way things were at home: his parents drank too much and fought even more. Jimmy kept to himself and rarely spoke.

had enough of it, she left and that was even worse.

"Jimmy lived the blues," an old broom like it was a speak "like a bird learning to adds literal color to the tale. real "git-tar." Eventually, he found a "worn-out, beatright-handed.

got his first real guitar, and it "showed the world how to made him very happy! Still, it wasn't enough: Jimmy wasn't very good in school, and a teacher told him to "give up on his dream" and buckle down. He didn't lis- kind of jerky beat that feels ly, and "Song for Jimi" may



er, until local bands began to hire him, and everybody knew his name.

Jimmy's guitar was loud and sound when he went into the Army. He kept it while in the tweet."

And one day, after he'd up" ukulele and though he changed his name and was "born lefty," he learned changed it again, Jimi Hento play it, left-handed and drix reached his dream: he was invited to play in a place Finally, at age 16, Jimmy called Monterey, where he kiss the sky."

> Here's a bit of advice: but how it's read aloud. before you read "Song for Jimi" aloud, look at it first.

ten; instead, he worked and like a loose-limbed dude make your child sing.

By then, "Jimmy" was used practiced and worked hard- walking down a summer sidewalk. It's a poem, but not quite; a song, but not entirely; a biography, but They knew his sound, too. more. And it's longer than your usual picture book, When his mother finally it screamed with a sound word-wise. These are all like none other. He kept that things that adults will enjoy because author Charles R. Smith Jr. tells a good story so he taught himself to strum military. He made his guitar and artist Edel Rodriguez

But will kids like it?

Meh. The length is one issue; the relevance is another since most picture-book audiences (in this case, 7-to-12-year-olds) are likely too young for Jimi Hendrix. In the end, any enjoyment may depend not on the tale itself,

Give it a try once before you give it to your child. The story jangles with a Jangle with the story proper-

LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICES

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

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the **Estate of LUCRETIA ANN JUMPER, Deceased** were issued on January 12, 2022, in Cause No. 21P494, pending in the County

Court of Parker County, Texas to: JUDY PUTNEL. 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

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

Dated this 12 day of January, 2022. P.C.

SORAYA JOSLIN,

By:/S/Soraya Joslin State Bar No. 00792408 Soraya Joslin

P.O. Box 1267 Weatherford, Texas 76086 Telephone: (817) 386-8500 Facsimile: ATTORNEY FOR THE ESTATE (817) 599-7005

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF TODD MILLER LOOP, DECEASED:

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of TODD MILLER LOOP, Deceased, were issued to CHARLOTTE KWOK on the 12th day of January, 2022, in Cause No. 21P396, County Court of Parker County, Texas, which is still pending, and that CHARLOTTE KWOK now holds such letters. All persons having claims against said estate are required to present the same within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Claims should be billed to CHARLOTTE KWOK, Executor, at the Law Office of Wendi E. Andino, PLLC, 1005 Fort Worth Highway, Weatherford, Texas 76086, care of Wendi E. Andino.

Sealed Bid Auction

To satisfy mechanic lein 05 Tracker, serial #BUJ09596G405 rebuilt Mercury 40 serial #1B06337 Little Boat House 1457 E Hwy 199 Springtown 76082 Sale date 02-05-2022 10am.

I have a dream.

"If you don't vote, you don't get to complain."

Ever heard that one?

I've heard it as long as I have been old enough to vote (42 years and counting). I imagine the statement originated as effort to encourage you don't get to vote. eligible voters to participate in the political process.

After all, not every country in the world has a democratic process where common people actually have the opportunity to make their opinions heard in an effort to influence the direction of said country in free and fair elections.

While the intent may have been to encourage participation, the actual statement is antithetical to the stated intent of our founding documents.

In actuality, the only places where you don't get to complain are places where quote as I write this on the leader within a significant AMPLE of how someone



BE AMAZING

By Gerry Lewis

Azle resident Dr. Gerry Lewis guides explorers to discover their AMAZING. He is an author, musician, and speaker, and a coach-sultant for individuals, churches, and organizations. More at www.discoveryouramazing.com.

And most of the voting rights in the U.S. that exist Martin Luther King, Jr. was today only exist precisely because of people who complained. (See en.wikipedia. org/wiki/Timeline of voting rights in the United States for an interesting ar-

That phrase about not complaining if you don't vote popped into my memory when I saw a meme yesterday: "If you can't say 'Black Lives Matter' today you don't get to celebrate MLK Day tomorrow."

morning of MLK Day.

I was 6 years old when assassinated on the balcony of the Lorraine Hotel in Memphis, Tennessee.

I was four months short he delivered the famous "I Have a Dream" speech in Washington, DC.

I say that to acknowledge that much of what I know is from the history I have studied, not from actual memories.

What I do know is that MLK Day is an acknowlin a significant shift of direc- derstanding of a subject. tion in the U.S. and his legacy is one that has affected us a world of memes, tweets, all—and is therefore worth gifs, video clips, and sound celebrating.

nificant shift has not yet and phrases to prove that resulted in the goals he someone is messed up, has a worked for. We've still got a flawed character, and cannot long way to go before every person is truly judged by the content of their character.

of my second birthday when much like the words of other with a radical organization significant historical figures—including Jesus have been co-opted by those lives matter more than others. who will use them for their own purposes.

> one of looking for a good not acknowledge either the quote to make a point.

use a quote as PROOF of a still exist within the systems I'm still pondering that edgement of a significant point rather than as an EX-

movement that has resulted has expressed their own un-

And because we live in bites (to name just a few), I also know that the sig- we can also use those quotes be trusted.

So, one person asserts that saying the phrase "Black I also know that his words, Lives Matter" is to both agree that goes by the same name and to proclaim that some

Another person asserts that failing to use "the I'm just as guilty as any- phrase" means that one does racist history of the country The problem is when we or the ongoing issues that and structures of the country.

Either way, a single phrase

spoken or posted in a moment becomes a measure of a person's heart.

In the few short remaining words that this post's context allows, I want to say that I believe that "character" is both developed and revealed over time. None of us wants to be remembered for a snapshot of how we responded in our worst moment.

I have a dream that we would give each other grace, be sensitive enough to each other that we treat each person the way they need to be treated in their current reality, and that we would listen before we speak or post understanding that we have this moment to bring clarity or confusion, blessing or cursing, healing or pain.

Be amazing today, my

It's time to think about spawning white bass for upcoming months

It will soon be time for the spawning run that draws anglers out in numbers typically between February and April. In Texas many of these sand bass may start their trek in January depending on the weather.

These tasty fish can be caught in most every reservoir in the state, so you don't have to travel far to find them. Lake Granbury, despite the floods in the last couple of years, continues to produce numbers of sand bass.

Many of these fish will move up to or close to their spawning areas at the first cold snap in November, others will stay in the main lake. These fish may travel back to the main lake and back to



ON FISHING By Michael Acosta

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

ally, however, the spawning tend to move up first and then These fish like to congregate

temperatures around the low These fish are relatively easy around the first part of February and may run through

ritual takes place in these the larger females usually folsame areas year after year. low with rising temperatures.

The official name for the in numbers, making it rela- sand bass is "white bass," tively easy to sack up a limit. but here in Texas "sand bass" Typically with the water is generally used by most. to middle 50s and if there is to catch and are excellent tasufficient water flow, the sand ble fare. You can catch them bass will make their trek. As I anytime of the year, but in the mentioned earlier, this spawn- early spring/late winter, they ing evolution usually starts concentrate for the spawn on the upper portions of reservoirs or rivers, making them

grate up the Brazos River These fish will reach 9-10 Some sand bass don't make to 12-13 inches their second creeks, and some may spawn beyond five years. The legal main reservoir.

above Kimball Bend and 12-inch limit. on the Nolan River near the Highway 174 bridge (the bass with hybrid striped bass Nolan runs into the Brazos or striped bass. The easiest River below Kimball Bend). way to identify these fish is Other tributaries may con- to look at their tooth patch. tain spawning fish as well. The sand bass will have only Tres Rios in Glen Rose one, where the striped and is known as a spawning hybrid striped bass will have ground. Tres Rios is where two. Pick up a Texas Parks & the Paluxy, the Brazos and Wildlife Department hand-Squaw Creek merge.

On Lake Whitney, the best all Texas lakes to make en-

Don't confuse the sand book where fishing licenses Sand bass grow very fast are sold and read the details.

Sand bass can be caught to around the Tin Top area. inches their first year and get on a variety of artificials and live bait. Small minnows/ it that far and spawn in other year. These fish rarely live shad placed below a bobber or the use of a small 1/16th on windblown banks in the size for sand bass has been to 1/4-ounce jig head with standardized to 10 inches on rubber tails in chartreuse, white and yellow can be known areas in my opin- forcement easier. Previous- used. Small roadrunner jigs ion are on the Brazos River ly, some water bodies had a are one of my favorites. Slabs and spoons can be effective as well. Try some Berkley power bait grubs on your jig heads.

FISHING REPORT

On other reservoirs, the striped bass and crappie fishing on Lake Whitney has been excellent from white bluff to upriver near Kimball Bend. Possum Kingdom Lake striped bass are good to excellent to 12 pounds on iigs near Costello Island and upstream.

(🚫 Kid Scoop Together:

Volleyball Variety

Volleyballs come in an endless assortment of

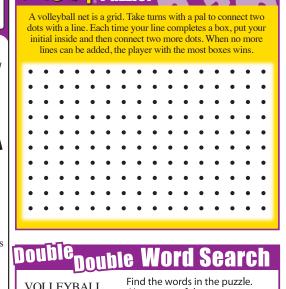
colors and designs. Race a family member to see

who can find the two identical volleyballs first.



Equipment needed:

Objective of Game (How to Win):



VOLLEYBALL How many of them can you CONTACT find on this page? **MORGAN** ATRUOCGASD **DOUBLE** MEETENVPEO **PLAYER** NTYEVDIRGU **SPIKE BLOCK** D M A F R K O R E B **SERVE** VOLLEYBALL **COURT** XRPSSLNUEE **BUMP** RGSCOEGAME **GAME GRID** I A S C E T T S T P **PASS** PNKTCATNOC



SET

Opinion

Underline words on this page that tell you

facts about volleyball Circle words that tell

you opinions about

volleyball.

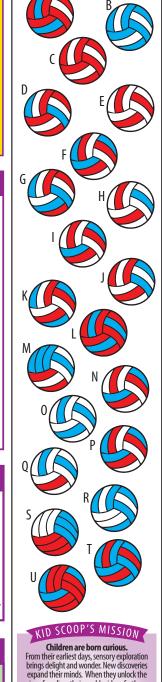
Standards Link: Differentiate between fact and opinion.

Look through the newspaper to find verbs. Can you find a verb that starts with each letter of the alphabet? Words like Add for the letter A and Volley for the letter V. Try to find one for all 26 letters.

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Yair Hernandez attempts a squat.

Springtown powerlifters overcome inexperience with exuberance, pizza

BY JEFF PRINCE jeff@azlenews.net

Springtown hosted its first powerlifting meet of the season to determine how match up against stiff competition.

The result? Not bad.

On Thursday, the 4A Por-5A teams – Azle and Brew- the season's first meet. er – and finished in second Bird played defensive end

Stacey Alexander. "I know they'll be better next time."

Teams were limited to 24 lifters. Springtown registered 22 boys at the meet, and 20 were competing for the first time.

"You get a couple of graduations, and then you come in with lots of freshmen and we need to get some dudes sophomores," the coach to do some powerlifting," he said.

Ethan Jackson and Cody Brackeen are this year's only returning members.

BIRD'S EYE VIEW

Before Thursday's meet began, Joel Bird was resting his back on a foam roller-pad the fresh-faced Porcupines and using his legs to push himself forward and backward, stretching his muscles. He had joined the powerlifting team a week earlier and was sore from the lifting he cupines took on two larger had done while preparing for

on the football team and was "I was really proud of our in good physical condition, young kids and how they but he would be competcame and competed and ing in three events - squat, learned," said head coach dead lift and bench press. He hadn't done much squatting or dead lifting for football.

> "I'm as green as I can be," he said.

Bird joined the powerlifting team after football coaches encouraged players to become involved.

"The coaches were, like, said. "I said, 'All right, I'll



SEE POWER, PAGE 2A. Aaron Bowen helps teammate Cody Brackeen squeeze into a lifting vest.

Springtown basketball girls hope to storm Castleberry



Ashlynn Dickey makes a break for the basket.

BY JEFF PRINCE jeff@azlenews.net

The Springtown Lady Porcupines are eager to end a three-game losing streak when they travel to Castleberry to face the Lions on and Argyle. The girls are

Jan. 21. The Pines are rebuildyoung players to do their first on the block. best while learning to com-

won two district games and remain in the thick of a playoff hunt.

Springtown beat Castleberry and Lake Worth in district contests but lost to Decatur, Bridgeport, Krum ready to face each of those district rivals again in round ing this year and relying on two, with Castleberry being

Springtown (6-22) plays pete at the varsity level. The at 6:15 p.m. Jan. 21 at Casgirls began the season with tleberry (10-15).

Photos by Jeff Prince eight straight losses but have

POWER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B.

do it."

Bird was as curious as anyone about how much weight he could lift.

"I'm hoping to be able to find what my max is, because I never really went all out with lifting," he said.

The first event was squat, requiring an athlete to place a heavy bar on his shoulders, squat down, hold the position and stand up again.

The meet ran at a quick pace, with frequent announcements signaling certain lifters to ready themselves. In between lifts, the wrestlers stretched, ate pizza and talked with teammates or the fans who were able to stand or sit in folding chairs near the action.

Bird started with 235 pounds on the bar and squatlifted it easily. He had underestimated his strength and added 10 pounds for his second attempt.

Each contestant is allowed three lifts in each event and makes his own decision about how much weight he wants on the bar.

Bird made his second lift for his third and final lift.

He was successful at 265 and realized he should have gone for 270.

"I probably could have done it," he said.

By next meet, he hopes to be lifting 290.

Bird tried to explain the feeling of lifting a heavy bar straddled across his back.

"It's kind of like a tingling feeling, the pain from lifting and the weight, because you can feel it on your back," he said. "That bar is just directly on your back."

A perk of being a Springtown powerlifter is having access to free peanut butter and jelly sandwiches at school. Coaches want to load up the boys with protein to develop muscle, and they keep jars of peanut butter and jelly and loaves of bread available in a limited-access room for team members.

Another perk for powerlifters is a built-in support system.

"I try to keep energy in the weight room," Bird said. "It helps people when they're give them a 'Let's go! Let's do this!' Real loud. When I'm squatting, I want somebody to be there, like, 'Let's get it. Go-go-go-go.' Because if not, I'm just in my head or focusing on pain instead of trying to do the lift."

The next event was bench press, and Bird began at 165, which he hoisted "pretty easily," he said.

He failed to lift 175 on his second and third attempts.

"I tried a new grip, and it just going to need to learn what grip fits me the best."

On deadlift, he made 260 on his first attempt and 275 on his second.

For his third attempt, he would shoot for 290. He stood in front of the bar, bent down, grabbed the long metal bar with one palm facing forward, the other facing backward and readied himself for the lift.

"At first, when I started the pull, I could feel it in my back," he said. "I was like, 'Oh this is way heavier than what I was just doing.' It felt like I wasn't going to get it, but when I got my shoulders back up and pumped my chest out and my core out, it helped me. I stood it up, and it seemed like it was nothing after I got it up."

When the meet ended, Bird had established his personal records - 265-squat, 165-bench and 290-dead lift. Now, his goal is to beat those confidence, he said. numbers at his next meet.



at 245. He added 15 pounds Joel Bird attempts his first squat at a powerlifting meet.



Jeremy Morrow was one of three powerlifters who won gold medals at the season's first meet.

feel more confident in what I do. I knew this was heavier weight than what I do dur- Thursday's meet, with stacks ing the athletic period. I really liked getting to go out there and getting constructive criticism on what I'm doing wrong, what I could do better and what's holding I've had anywhere really." me back and trying to make whatever it is better."

ELI'S COMING

Last year, sophomore Eli didn't work," he said. "I'm Hansen wasn't a member of the powerlifting team, but rack it and bring it down, the members. He couldn't to pause," he said. "I went lift as much weight back to go push it up before they then, bench pressing about said to." 135 pounds.

he has doubled that amount.

warmed up with 225 pounds his combined points allowed before the bench press event him to win first place in his began. He planned to shoot weight class. for 250 pounds.

He increased his strength in a year's time by training hard and eating healthy Azle's team earning the foods, he said.

off every day," he said. "We come up here early in the first-place medals in their morning, and we lift."

wrestles, too. His muscles Morrow. have grown as his strength has increased, and last year's shirts - sized medium - no Orion Gray and Ridge Weslonger fit. He wears large tendorf. now.

"It was very fun," he said ach and other foods packed Zander Campbell, James afterward. "Getting a lift with protein to help build Snyder and Trent Wade.

sore and tired. You go there, made me feel way better muscle. And he taps into the about myself and helped me free peanut butter and jelly sandwiches.

> Food was prevalent at of boxed pizzas made available to contestants.

> "Our coaches do a really good job, so it's fun," Hansen said. "It's the most fun

> He failed on his first attempt at bench pressing 245 pounds. He had lifted the bar before receiving the judge's

go-ahead. "They want you to unhe enjoyed working out with and then you are supposed

He had no doubt he would Over the past 12 months, lift 245 on his next attempt, and he was right. He did On Thursday, Hansen well in his other events, and

FIRST MEET RESULTS

The meet ended with most points, and Springtown "I just worked my butt finishing close behind.

Springtown lifters earning weight classes were Hansen, Hansen plays football and Patrick Rickey and Jeremy

> Second-place medals went to Brackeen, Aaron Bowen,

Other medal winners in-The extra bulk gives him cluded Carson Ashley, Cambryn Holbrooks, Caiden He eats eggs, steaks, spin- Haidusek, Zane Sudduth,



Eli Hansen earned a gold medal at Springtown's season opener.



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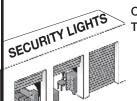




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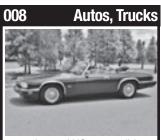
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TIFTON 52 years Experience

940-229-1045 or 940-229-1046

039 **Help Wanted**

Local Builder/Developer looking for experienced Help. Must have a valid driver's license. Knowing how to operate machinery, being mechanically inclined and have carpentry skills are a plus. Send resumes to: tommymileshomes@ vahoo.com.

Local Pool Company is hiring a Pool Technician/Helper. Pay is depending on experience and skills. Call 817-613-8253.

Looking for mature people to work with small animals. Must have reliable transportation. Call for more information 817-926-

MOTEL 6. Help wanted for fulltime Housekeeping. 817-270-Full-time Office Help needed

M-F at local house and building moving company. Must be computer literate and have good customer service background. Highway over-sized load permitting experience is a plus. No felonies and must have transporation. Apply at Just Right House Movers, LLC, 14400 FM 730 N., Azle. 817-444-6516.

MAINSTREAM (group home for adults with developmental disabilities) is hiring part-time Direct Contact Staff for 17-hour weekday shifts (2nd & 3rd shifts) or 24-hour weekend shifts. Paid training, starting pay is \$7.75 hourly. Good potential for fulltime employment. Call 817-270-2747, Monday-Friday, 9A-3P.

Springtown ISD is accepting applications for Bus Drivers and Monitors. Training available. Contact the Transportation Dept. 817-220-1418.

039 **Help Wanted**

Springtown ISD Child Nutrition is now accepting applications for full-time and substitute positions. Please apply online at www. springtownisd.net and contact the Child Nutrition Department at 817-220-2460. Thank you, Kim Nash

In accordance with Federal civil

Child Nutrition Director Springtown ISD 817-220-2460

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mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; fax: (202) 690-7442; or email: program.intake@usda.gov.

Now hiring operator for Water Well Rig, \$200 a day cash. No CDL required 940-229-1045 940-229-1046.

This institution is an equal

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-High level communication required and team player a must! -Capernaum Studios is a nonprofit ministry, see website If interested please send your resume, cover letter of why you are interested and references to careers@tammylaneproductions.

Body Shop Painter Helper

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

> **Body Shop Technician** Commission. Must have experience.

Body Shop Porter Performs duties throughout the Body Shop.

Must be responsible, dependable and have a valid TXDL. Monday to Friday work week.

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

Service Advisor Seeking to hire an *Experienced Service Advisor*.

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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.

<u>Service Advisor</u>

\$2,500 Hiring Bonus

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> > **Route Driver**

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052

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1161 SE Pkwy Azle 1700 SF \$1000/mo , 1169 SE Pkwy Azle 930SF \$ 750/mo Bryants Co Real Estate 817-220-2021

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2414.

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088

817-270-3340 - AZLE

Deadline: 4:30 PM Monday

43 anesthetic liquid

44 how most Texans

like their stew

45 Yankees city (abbr.)

47 dresses for women at

48 TX Barbara Mandrell

sang "(If Loving You

"Black Tie & Boots Ball"

_) I Don't Want . . .

46 TXism: "cute as a

bug's

50 more scarce

51 TXism:

"a boldface

53 TXism: "never let

1 focus of "Sea

DOWN

City, TX

12 first lady of Texas

(1963-69) (init.)

__ you sweat"

52 "and so on"

(abbr.)

ACROSS

1 TX Al Dexter hit:

"Pistol Packin"

5 TXism: "tough ___

old boot"

a lawyer" (finalize)

competition? "tall

cream

17 Texas-made Blue

18 in Corpus Christi:

21 this Keaton starred in

"The Paper" with TX

Randy Quaid (init.)

time in the TX sun

can break my bones"

and chain" (spouse)

5th quarter (abbr.)

_ mode

Fair & Rodeo"

coach

buckle

-free"

22 he hasn't spent any

24 TXism: "jump bail"

29 TXism: "the ole

31 Dallas Cowboys'

water"

34 what a doctor calls

"discomfort"

36 in Amarillo: "_

39 TXism: "brave

a boomtown cafe"

41 early TX transporta-

42 "papa," or "old man"

37 cowboy

38 "got off

tion:

6 a Texan in New

York City?

7 TXism: "run

8 a Texas lying

Bell

Del

23 "sticks and

30 shirt stain

32 TXism: "

Classifieds

TEXAS

CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

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19

P-1568

land, TX

to Texas in 1890

it in ink" (sure

49 TXism: "you can

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35 TXism: "high as Aggies" at TAMUG? 14 this John sang "Texan Love Song" back" (costly) (2 wds.) 15 "one-armed bandit" 2 TXism: "sharp 37 bar income (2 wds.) 38 another slang for machine) gallon hat Ford's "pony car" 16 _ Falls, TX 4 TXism: "quick as you 19 oil finding science 40 Madalyn Murray 20 billionaire Texans (atheist who 27 poker hand: can bat leave a big 'un three of lived in Texas) 9 moon to Houston: 28 resident of far 41 stitched up 22 board of colors, not . .one a sense of taste 44 a soccer player for [a] man . . . ' westen Texas city: Esther of "Texas from Dallas, Drew 10 TX Lee Ann 47 immigrants from Womack tune: Carnival" (init.) 29 TX Holly hit: "That'll " (2008) 25 TXism: "it ain't _ Day" this country came "Last

30



33 "too lazy to _

and pepper

tail" (indolent dog)

TexSCAN Week of Jan. 16-22, 2022

in cement" (flexible)

26 TX Buck Owens al-

bum: "I Don't

13 TXism: "I'd have

to prime my mouth

_" (thirsty)

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44th Annual Cattleman Bull & Female Sale – Jan. 22, Noon. Expecting 100 bulls. Also selling a group of select females. El Campo Livestock Auction, El Campo, TX. Info: cattlemansale@gmail.com; Adrian Knight TX Lic. #11102, call 903-452-7591; Kelly Conley TX Lic. #9558, call 903-850-3449.

37th Annual DeWitt County All Breeds Bull & Female Sale - Sat., Jan. 29, Cuero Livestock Commission Co. Bulls sell at 11 a.m., Females sell immediately following. Sponsored by the DeWitt County Purebred Breeders Assoc. and the DeWitt County Beef and Forage Committee. For more information: Anthony Netardus, 361-275-0816. Online cattle sale viewing and bidding: cattleinmotion.com

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