Thursday, January 27, 2022 Springtown Epigraph



Springtown Middle School student Abby Kennedy gets some chili from Pat Hall on Saturday at Hilltop Family Church.

Photos by Madelyn Edwards

Project Celebration hosts chili cook-off to fundraise for seniors' after-prom party

BY MADELYN EDWARDS madelyn@azlenews.net

Springtown Project Celebration raised about \$410 from Saturday's chili cook-off fundraiser for the high school seniors' after-prom party.

Four local chefs entered their Hilltop Family Church, and the

cook-off's judges decided the three COVID-19 was the reason that winners. 3-W's Smoke Shack's chili placed first, 5HBBQ catering company took second and Dana Harrell, who made her dad's chili, came in third.

Fewer chili cooks than expected showed up at the cook-off; seven were signed up as of Thursday, chili in the competition, held at but only four were at the competition on Saturday. Getting sick with

some of the chefs had to drop out. Project Celebration President Jennifer Bailey said.

Some of the winners donated their prize money back to Project Celebration, and businesses Alvin Ord's Sandwich Shop, Slate Motor Co. and MRC Global made donations, Bailey said. The prom will be April 2 at the Covered

Bridge Venue in Springtown, and the Project Celebration event will take place directly after prom at the high school.

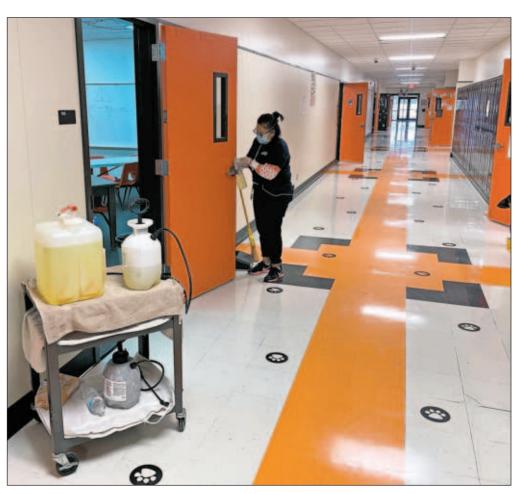
Toby Wojcik, who owns 3-W's Smoke Shack with her husband Rick, took home the first-place blue ribbon at the cook-off for her restaurant's smoked brisket and

SEE CHILI CONTEST, PAGE 3A.



Toby Wojcik of 3-W's Smoke Shack with her first-place ribbon at the chili cookoff on Saturday.

Superintendent talks about last week's school closure



The custodial staff cleans doorknobs and other areas at Springtown Middle School last week when schools were closed amid increased illnesses on campuses and absences among students and staff.

Courtesy of Mike Kelley

BY MADELYN EDWARDS

madelyn@azlenews.net

While students were out of school last week, Springtown ISD's cleaning and maintenance crews were busy.

School district officials made the decision on Jan. 19 to cancel classes for the rest of the week and resume Monday. The news came on the heels of a previous statement that indicated the district had noticed an increase in cases of COVID-19 as well as the flu and strep throat.

The Springtown ISD board approved on Monday a resolution for extended sick leave for five days during the COVID-19 pandemic. The district has already been offering extended sick leave for 10 days to employees who test positive for COVID-19 and must undergo required quarantine. The new resolution follows

SEE **CLEANING**, PAGE 4A.

Springtown Middle School students earn second place at district UIL meet

madelyn@azlenews.net

Springtown awards.

The meet took place at charts. Irma Marsh Middle School in River Oaks earlier this month. The students com-

BY MADELYN EDWARDS peted in events including calculator applications, chess, dictionary skills, im-Middle promptu speaking, listen-School students competed ing skills, math, modern at the district UIL meet and oratory, number sense, oral took home second place reading, ready writing, scioverall and 58 individual ence, social studies, spelling, and maps, graphs and

SEE UIL, PAGE 2A.

Council hears from fire, police departments

BY DON MUNSCH editor@azlenews.net

Reno City Council heard updates from the city's fire and police departments at to give the annual crime its Monday meeting.

Nathan Stringer and act- ing "technical issues" in ing Briar-Reno Fire Chief Moses Druxman talked to the council about their re-

spective departments in an agenda that included reports from several city departments.

Stringer said he wanted report Monday, but he said Police Deputy Chief his department was havretrieving the information

SEE COUNCIL, PAGE 5A.



UIL, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.



Springtown Middle School students placed second as a team at the UIL academic meet.

Courtesy of Sierra Horton

Springtown Middle School fewer available points. Hor- be available in the first six students took home first place last year, UIL coordinator and seventh and eighth grade science teacher Sierra Horton said. One of this year's challenges was that students were out of school with CO-VID-19, which meant that students had to be moved into different competition events.

"A lot of kids got shuffled around and competed in shot us in the foot." things they hadn't competed in before," Horton said. "I kind of just gave them a runthrough of what the event was, and they said, 'Yeah, pete, Horton said. we'll do it for the team,' and a lot of kids who only had a show off in games and stuff. meet: couple days to prepare got first. So, I was very proud."

Horton wasn't disappointed that the team didn't place higher, but she is looking forward to improving next year, she said. The students competed in all the available competitions except for two, which meant they earned ing up for these teams will fifth place, Mason White

dents to compete in all the said. events at next year's meet.

"Azle Junior High was the school that beat us by, I think, maybe 30 or 40 points total out of 300 total points," she said. "It was really, really close. And so, where they had kids in those categories, we did not, and that kind of

Participating in the academic UIL competitions allows students who aren't involved Andrea Hungerford, district place, Blaze Bird in athletics the chance to com-

Our kids who are smart and have different types of talents don't really ever get the chance to show off how smart they are," she said. different type of student to Megan Lajuness compete in different things."

Information about sign-

ton wants Springtown stu-weeks of school, Horton place, Parker Kirk; sixth

The kids were coached by Javier Lopez in social studies and music memory, Ashley Edge in impromptu speaking, Tammye Shadle in oral reading, Candice Adams in listening skills, Mandy Bourgeois in ready writing, Emery Bundy in maps, graphs and charts, Horton in mathematics, science, calculator, number sense and spelling and UIL coordinator.

Seventh grade Calculator Applications – first place, Mia Cox; third place, Justin Skills - first place, Michael ley Wyatt; sixth grade, Me-Bontrager

Eighth grade Calculator Rogers "This is a great way for that Applications – second place,

> Seventh grade Chess second place, Masyn Davis;

Eighth grade Chess – fifth place, Evan Thompson

Seventh grade Dictionary Skills – second place, Serafina Campbell; fourth place, Dylan Inzunza

Seventh grade Impromptu Speaking – first place, Mason White; fifth place, Halo ics – second place, Wesley Claxton

Eighth grade Impromptu Speaking - first place, gan Lajuness Lily Rogers; second place, Virginia Washington; fifth tory – first place, Lily Rogers

The following students Skills - first place, Sera- Bontrager; sixth place, Mia "Kids in sports get to placed in the academic UIL fina Campbell; fourth place, Cox Mia Cox; fourth place, Halo Claxton

Cordova; fourth place, Lily gan Lajuness

Graphs and Charts – fourth place, Justin Bontrager; fifth place, Serafina Campbell; sixth place, Dylan Inzunza

Eighth grade Maps Graphs Kennedy; second place, Sarand Charts - third place, Jade Hamilton; fourth place, Jessica King; fifth place, Michael Cordova

Seventh grade Mathematics - fourth place, Justin Bontrager

Eighth grade Mathemat-Wyatt; fourth place, Edgar Barerra; sixth place, Me-

Eighth grade Modern Ora-Seventh grade Number Seventh grade Listening Sense - first place, Justin

Eighth grade Number Sense – third place, Edgar Eighth grade Listening Barrera; fourth grade, Wes-

Eighth grade Oral Read-Seventh grade Maps, ing – first place, Blaze Bird; second grade, Allison Stott; fourth grade, Lily Rogers

Eighth grade Ready Writing - first place, Abigail Cavasos

ah Grazer

Seventh grade Ready Writing – fifth place, Alexia Vega; sixth place, Ranye Zeigler

Eighth grade Science fourth place, Carlie Latner

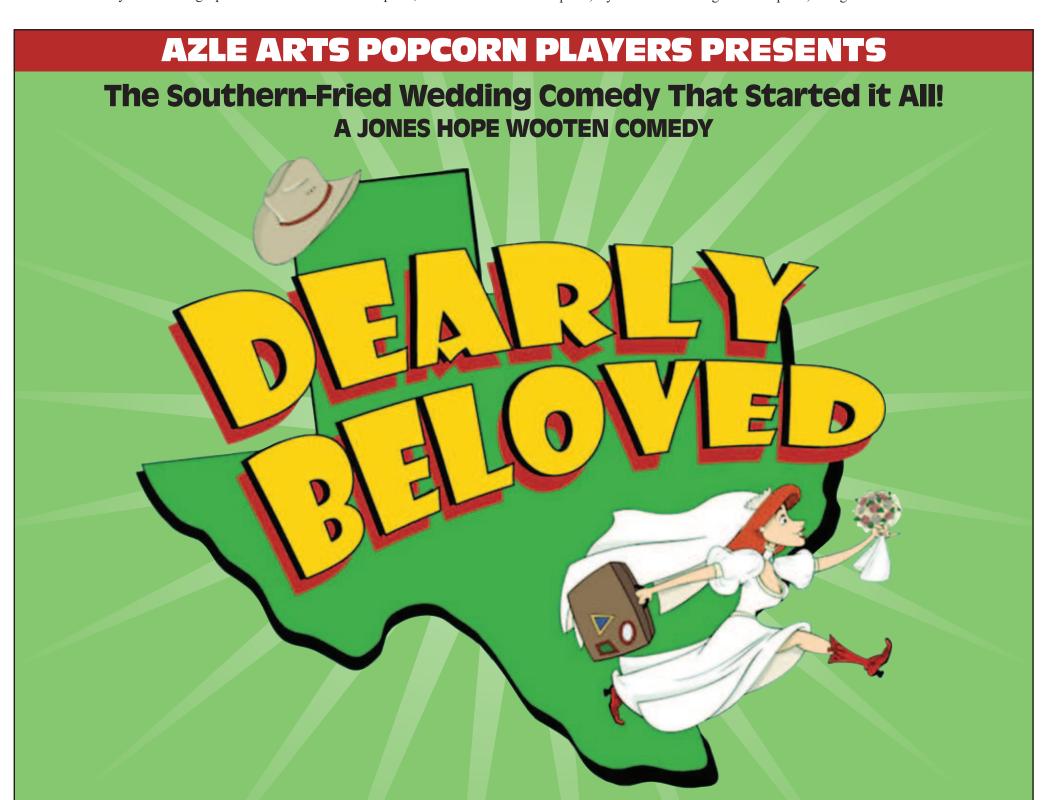
Seventh grade Science - second place, Katie Mooney; fourth place, Justin Bontrager

Seventh grade Social Studies – first place, Masyn Davis; second place, Nehemiah Bowman; fourth place, **Austin Bailey**

Eighth grade Social Studies – first place, Jessica King; second place, Miguel Cavasos; fifth place, Carlie Latner

Seventh grade Spelling - second place, Katie Mooney; fourth place, Ciara McNiel; fifth place, Halo Claxton

Eighth grade Spelling fourth place, Abigail Kennedy; sixth place, Miguel



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Tips for preventing, thawing frozen pipes

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Last February, Texans across the state had to deal with frozen or burst pipes amid the winter storm. Here are some tips to prevent and thaw frozen pipes.

FREEZE PREVENTION

Pipes are more likely to freeze if they are near an exterior wall or unheated crawlspace, according to an article on Walnut Creek Special Utility District's website. Internal pipes can near the front curb. freeze during extended power outages. Pipes can start freezing at about 20 degrees Fahrenheit.

Water Utilities recommends ing supply stores. turning off the water shut-off valve if a freeze is expected be turned off and wrapped near the street in the meter fixed. box, which is a cement enclosure buried in the ground result in a frozen pipe," ac-

Pipes in unheated areas – like attics, garages or gar- closed as much as possible, dens - should be wrapped according to Walnut Creek with towels or insulated, ac- SUD. Interior doors should be accomplished by wrap- release.

Outside faucets should or if a resident leaves for or insulated. Hoses should vacation. The shut-off valve be removed, and automatic may be located where the sprinkler systems should be water comes in from the wa- turned off and drained, acter meter, near the hot water cording to the TWU press the SUD article. heater, inside the garage or release. Leaks should be

> "Even a small trickle can cording to the news release.

Garage doors should stay

Burst pipes occur because cording to the TWU news be open to help heat circuping an electric heating pad water expands when frozen. release. Insulation can be lation, and bathroom cabi- around them, heating the In a news release, Texas found at hardware or plumb- net doors can be opened at pipes with a hair dryer or night. Interior temperatures steadily increasing the heat should stay consistent and inside the home. at least be about 55 degrees Fahrenheit.

ple should allow the faucets TWU recommends draining to drip slowly, according to the water from the pipes by

THAWING

Frozen pipes will yield no

When water is shut off or if the water lines seem If an outage happens, peofrozen but have not burst, turning on the hot and cold faucets for when the pipes thaw.

"This may prevent a rupwater or have a constrained tured pipe as that frozen waflow, according to the Wal- ter in the plumbing expands, nut Creek SUD article. The combined with the water pipes should be heated slow- pressure as that returns," acly to avoid cracks. This can cording to the TWU news

BOILING WATER

Residents affected by a boil water notice or other water disruption should use bottled or boiled water to drink, cook with, brush teeth or for animal drinking water. Bring water to a full "rolling boil" for a minute, and let it cool before using it, according to the release.

Even filtered tap water should be boiled under these conditions, the release stated, and water from any appliance connected to the water line, like the refrigerator, shouldn't be used.

CHILI CONTEST, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.

smoked ground beef chili. chuckling. Wojcik said she was happy to have won her first competition since opening the PROJECT business in May. The chili that was entered in the competition is one that they sell out of their food trailer.

"People seem to like it, so we thought we would try it and support the local seniors," Wojcik said.

Pat Hall of 5HBBQ catering likes to enter chili cookoffs when they happen, but he was particularly inspired to enter this competition because his daughter is a senior. His chili included brisket, ground beef and beans.

"I just usually make what I like and call it good," Hall said about his chili recipe. "I don't worry too much about if everybody likes it. That's how I cook; I just cook what I like."

Harrell made her father's chili recipe for the cook-off because he got sick prior to the competition. She followed his instructions and said the process was easy. Harrell and her dad got involved in the competition because Harrell's son is a senior.

On Saturday evening, Harrell said she hadn't told her dad that his chili recipe won third place.

"Of course, he'll give me a hard time on why I didn't win first," she said before

SPRINGTOWN CELEBRATION

Springtown ISD school board member Tootie Hall attended the chili cook-off and praised the efforts of Project Celebration.

"I'm just glad Project Celebration is on their toes and doing their fundraisers. They're doing a good job," Tootie Hall said. "They always do something different, and it's always good."

The after-prom party that Project Celebration raises money for aims to give the students a safe place to celehelped organize the cookoff. The party includes bag checks to prevent students from bringing drugs or alcohol into the party and rebe given out throughout the them." after-prom party.

through partying.

businesses have really participated. The community



brate, said Cathy Wade, who Pat Hall of 5HBBQ catering company holds up a second-place ribbon Dana Harrell came in third at the chili cook-off on Saturday. from the chili cook-off on Saturday.



Photos by Madelyn Edwards

strictions on when students They really seem to appre- safe that they're not going to

Wade said she likes that tying.

"We want them to come to preciate it. They really do. that safe environment to feel on prom night.

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can leave. Prizes also will ciate having that party for be enticed to take drugs or a lifetime of regrets, so that's party, and that fundraising drink alcohol," she said.

Tootie Hall remembers the seniors have the option senior Asher Thetford volwhen Project Celebration to attend a safe after-prom unteered at the chili cook-off he said. began with her daughter's party. She recalled that when on Saturday. His mom is part graduating class because she was in high school in the of Project Celebration, and nior parents on Facebook help." several students had died mid-1990s, a friend of hers his volunteer hours at the for Project Celebration got hit by a vehicle while group's fundraising events and eventually became the are needed now especially "It's just been a very, very they were trying to cross the count toward National Hongroup's president. successful program. The highway after a night of par- or Society required volunteer hours.

has participated," she said. be in a safe environment and tant that he and his peers "I want to know what's go- joining Project Celebration or "And the kids seem to ap- for those kids who do want have a safe place to celebrate ing on."

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Springtown High School ple there to keep us account- ticipation, Bailey said. able and safe is a great idea,"

I like to be a part of my Bailey said. Thetford said it's impor- daughter's life," Bailey said.

"One screw-up can lead to \$50,000 for the after-prom why I think that having peo- requires a lot of parent par-"It takes a lot of hours to

raise \$50,000," she said. Bailey rallied the se- "We need every parent to Volunteers and donations

as the group aims to raise "I enjoy it just because \$15,000 to meet the goal,

For more information about donating, email projectcel-The goal is to raise ebration22@gmail.com.











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CLEANING, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.



The custodial staff cleans doorknobs and other areas at Springtown Middle School last week when schools were closed amid increased illnesses on campuses and absences among students and staff.

Courtesy of Mike Kelley

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Texas around. Education Agency that allow employees to return to work five days after testing positive for COVID-19.

"If (employees) continue to feel bad, they should stay home, just like they would if they had the flu, just like they would if they had strep, just like they would for any other illness. Stay home if you have it," Superintendent Mike Kelley said during the meeting.

Schools closed, mainly, because of significant absences among students and staff and the lack of an adequate number of substitutes to fill vacancies. Kelley said some substitutes are under- and entries. standably unwilling to fill in

of sickness being passed

"We have a greater demand than we've had in a really long time, (with) supply that continues to dwindle," Kelley said. "And everybody around us, every district around us, is competing for many of those same substitutes. So, it just got to the tion. point that we decided if this doesn't get better, we're going to have to hit the pause button. It really didn't get better."

Kelley said he tasked the janitorial crew with focusing on cleaning the high-traffic parts of the school that are touched the most, like doorknobs, water fountains, exits

COVID-19, the flu and

updated directives from the at schools with the amount strep throat generally spread through breathing respiratory droplets that contain the viruses, when the droplets land on a person's mouth or nose and through touching objects that have the droplets on them and then touching one's nose or mouth, according to the Centers for

> "Let's hit those high-traffic areas even though we're

Disease Control and Preven-



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going to be closed for sev- compared to the drop in Oceral days just to be on the tober, November and Desafe side," Kelley said Jan. cember. "We fell down out anything."

crew took advantage of students being out of school to vember, December, we were tackle tasks that are difficult in single digits, and most of to do with kids in the school those single digits were zebuildings.

"Our maintenance and custodial staff are probably busier today than they are most days just because there's so many things they can do without kids there," he said.

The latest rise in CO-VID-19 was particularly Luther King Jr. Day long weekend when about 90 confirmed to have contracted COVID-19 on Tuesday Kelley said. The superintenin cases is followed by a decline, as it was in the fall.

"We saw almost as rapid to do those things," he said. a decline in numbers as we saw in the surge," Kelley the one last week is unlikely said, describing the increase to happen again this school

and then one day back to classes. Kelley also said the mainth the 20s, and then it fell into ... throughout October, Noroes or ones. So, we hope we get back to those days, and I think based on what's going on around the world, we are going to see a pretty rapid decline in cases."

> However, Kelley said it's possible that flu cases at SISD may increase.

"What we'll do at the apparent after the Martin campus level is what we've done every year for as long as I can remember; we've SISD students and staff were emphasized to kids, particularly during January, February, March, to make sure we and during the weekend, wash our hands. Let's make sure that we don't share dent is hoping that the surge drinks, cover your mouth when you cough, cough into your elbow. We'll continue

Kelley said a closure like in August and September year. Absences among stu-

dents and staff without the appropriate number of substitutes to cover absences 20. "That can never hurt of the 40s and into the teens, would trigger cancelling

The district already offers tenance and technology the single digits, and then eight sick days to employees, but the five days of extended sick leave are uniquely for employees who test positive for COVID-19 or need to isolate, Kelley said at the board meeting. The resolution allows employees the safety net of being able to get tested and stay home if they have COVID-19, instead of ignoring symptoms and going to work to avoid negative financial impacts, he said.

> According to the district's website, 99 students tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 10 days as of Monday, and six staff members tested positive in the past five days.

> Kelley said at the board meeting that the infection rate from students and staff being tested for COVID-19 on Monday was lower than it has been. The teacher absences have also decreased on Monday compared to last week.

Jan 31 - Feb 4. 2022 PK through 12th Grade Menus are subject to change.

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 Dutch Waffle, Toast, Variety of Cereal, Fruit, Juice 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

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. PK - 8th GRADE

Monday Chicken & Waffles, Fresh Broccoli Florets, Glazed Baby Carrots, Pear Cup Tuesday Tangerine Chicken, Rice, Broccoli, Fiesta Sticks, Pineapple Wednesday CK Fried Steak Sandwich, Green Beans, Fresh Baby Carrots, Apples Slices **Thursday** Popcorn Chicken, Chili Style Beans, Cucumber & Tomato Cup, Blueberries Roll Friday Cheese Pizza, Hamburger, Tater Tots, Fresh Broccoli, 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 CK Fried Steak Sand, Chili Cheese Tots, Fresh Broccoli Florets, Strawberries, Orange Smiles, Roll **Tuesday** General Tso's Chicken, Hamburger, Garden Salad, Mixed Vegetables, Grapes, Applesauce, Rice, Roll Wednesday Steakfingers, Chicken Nuggets, Mashed Potatoes, Broccoli, Roll Thursday Nachos (Beef or Chicken) Refried Beans, Corn, Banana, Blueberries Friday Cheese Pizza, Chicken & Waffles, Cucumber & Tomato Cup, Glazed Baby Carrots, Apple Slices, Tropical Fruit Salad

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Voting registration deadline approaches

REGISTRATION FORM SHORTAGE AS **DEADLINE NEARS**

Less than a week remains before the Jan. 31 deadline to register to vote in the March 1 primary. While Secretary of State John Scott publicly assured Texas voters that supply chain issues have requests. The district attor-"every single eligible Texas made it harder and more ex-ney's office warned it would voter will be able to register pensive to get paper, which file suit if Paxton did not reto vote if they have not done means the Secretary of lease the information. In a so already," the League of State's office will be giving letter to the Travis County Women Voters on Friday out fewer voter registration district attorney's public inthreatened to sue his office forms to groups ahead of if the nonpartisan group isn't elections this year. provided with additional voter registration forms.

has decided to "sharply limit" the number of voter registration forms distributed to the league and other line voter registration. groups, claiming that is a violation of the National Voter Registration Act.

"It is crucial that the Sec- **VIOLATION** retary of State's office act swiftly to provide the necessary voter registration forms for the people of Texas. The deadline to register to vote for the upcoming primary election is quickly approaching, and Texas is one of 11 states without online voter registration," said Grace Chimene, president of the League of Women Voters of Texas.

Sam Taylor, assistant secretary of state for communi-



CAPITOL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders

Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches and Cedar Park.

we can supply this year be-The Austin American- cause of the paper shortage Statesman reported the and the cost constraints due pers released a joint stateleague contends the state to the price of paper and the ment saying: "We believe supply of paper," he said.

Texas is one of the few states that does not have on-

PAXTON DENIES OPEN RECORDS LAW

Attorney General Ken Paxton denied that he violated the state's open records law, rejecting an allegation by the Travis County district attorney that his office should release communications from the week of the Jan. 6, 2021, Capitol attack, The Dallas Morning News reported.

Five of the state's largest newspapers filed a joint complaint after Paxton

cations, told KUT.org that denied their open records tegrity unit, Paxton's office called the claims "merit-"We are limited in what less" and said there was "no violation to cure."

> Editors for the newspathese records are public and should be released. We hope the Travis County district attorney continues to hold the attorney general accountable for following our state's open records laws and continues to advocate for the public's right to know in this case."

COVID-19 CASES SET RECORD HIGH

Spurred by the omicron variant, the number of new COVID-19 cases in Texas in the past week climbed to a record 433,584, with 971 new deaths reported as well by the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University.

COUNCIL, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.

FBI report, and that report implementation of a fire is finished. The other two reports are the racial profiling report, which also is sent investigations on a heavier volunteer program. to the FBI, and information basis and the population insent to the state through the National Reporting System. Stringer communities. Right now, said he hoped to have the an- he said the department is dures. nual crime report ready by receiving six calls per day; February for the council.

Stringer discussed the redepatch, which was designed by an officer. Council member Katie Tucker said she loved the patch but wanted the background of the patch patch wanted to incorporate personnel. American and Texas flags. ated by an artist.

At the fire department, 10 volunteers," he said. Druxman said COVID-19 increased the call volume in priority, Druxman said, 2021, and as the early 2022 numbers reveal, the fire department is seeing a "major his staff possesses. He also increase" in calls related to discussed other current matthe virus.

numbers are going down, the fire station, which is beran more COVID calls than I've seen in the last 30 days,"

In 2020, the fire depart-

prevention program that includes fire inspections and last year's average was 3.75 Among other business, calls per day.

The department's budget sign of the police department is \$300,000, Druxman said, and the fire department has two people per shift. Six full-time positions exist, and of those positions, three are to see more contrast in the filled by full-time personnel, colors. The American flag in because that's all the fire department is able to provide was not meant to be tattered benefits to, Druxman said. and it has no symbolism, The other three full-time po-Stringer said, adding that the sitions are filled by part-time Martin was the dissenting

"So, we have approxipaid staff and approximately

All calls now are heavy explaining all the various training and certifications ters happening at the departsaid the remodeling has been through the community.

Also, he said the de-

from the record management ment had 1,246 calls for partment received almost source. The police depart- service. In 2021, calls in- \$200,000 in grants last year, ment is required to submit creased to 1.419. Druxman and this year, the department three reports to the govern- cited three reasons for the is on track to received posment every year. UCR is the increase: COVID-19, an sibly \$300,000. That grant would include funding for equipment purchases for outdated equipment and the

In other developments crease in the area affecting during Monday's meeting, Incident-Based Reno and the surrounding council approved a COV-ID-19 pay policy and proce-

> City employees' situations will be considered on a caseby-case basis by City Administrator Scott Passmore to make the decision on the pay of the employee.

> Also at the meeting, reserve police officers Brandy Bennett and Armando Gonzalez were sworn in, and the council approved the Azle News in a 4-1 vote to be the city's official paper. Mayor Pro-Tem Granville "Randy" vote against the paper.

The council also voted The patch was digitally cre- mately 14 to 16 people on down, in a 3-2 vote, a confidentiality agreement for council members. Tucker, Shelli Swift and Hernando Herrera voted to not participate in the agreement measure, while Martin and Jeff Davis were dissenting votes. It was a confidentiality agreement for the council "I know what the news is ment, such as acquisition of to keep city business inside saying, I realize they say the equipment and an update at City Hall, not disclose anything publicly and let the (but) the last few days we've ing remodeled. Druxman mayor make public remarks, such as to the press. Employcompleted with donations ees have already signed the confidentiality agreement.

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Tim Kay and Mel Lopez are life-long Azle residents and graduates of Azle schools. Annie Sovereign-Diffie was raised in Fort Worth, and although she's not originally from here, she got here as soon as she could! Tim, Mel and Annie are all members of the National Association of REALTORS. Along with owner and broker Sam Berube, the team brings a high level of passion and service to each and every client.

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ICTR has its main office in Grapevine but the Azle location has been open for a little over two years.

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Clifford Jewett

1929-2022

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

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

14, 1929 in Fort Worth, Texas to Verdie Mack Jew-He graduated from Northside High School in Fort U.S. Air Force for 23 years and was a lifetime member of the VFW. He also was a member of the Springtown Church of Christ and the Texas Woodcarvers son; son, Kevin Greenwood and learning about wood sculpture.

He married Elizabeth and they loved to travel tives and friends who knew over the United States, in him. particular the West Coast and Canada. They would spend summers in Colorado



January 20, 2022, in Goshen and winters in the Texas Rio Grande area, making many Clifford was born June new friends and memories to share together.

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

Clifford is survived by his Worth in 1947, served in the wife, Elizabeth Jewett; son, Dewey Jewett of Runaway Bay; daughter, Karen Milam of Nacoma; son, Jason Jewett; daughter, Becky Gorman and husband Slim of Burlenieces and nephews.

He was loved and will be

The Springtown Epigraph

Camping Club, traveling and wife Patricia of Springtown; numerous grandchilcarving, wood working and dren, great-grandchildren,

Winkler on Dec. 21, 1987 remembered by all the rela-

Jan. 27, 2022 Edition

William Hazelton

1949-2022

William Norman Hazelton, 72, of Paradise, Texas, passed away on Jan. 20, 2022 in Fort Worth, Texas.

Memorial service to be held at Springtown Church of Christ this Sunday, Jan. 30, 2022 at 3 p.m.

William, most often known as Bill, was born on Dec.12, 1949 to Oliver and Juanita Hazelton in Lubbock, Texas. Bill graduated from Weatherford High children: Texas in 1968. In 1969, Bill married his childhood in Sierra Vista, Arizona. Bill and Judy went on to have a marriage lasting 48 years before Judy's death in 2017.

Bill was also preceded in and Joshua. death by his parents, Oliver and Juanita, his brother Larry, and two infant children.

Bill was survived by four



Brad (Monica) School in Weatherford, Hazelton, Chad Hazelton, Carmen (Zach) Huff, and Amanda (Allen) Flaughsweetheart, Judy Lunsford, er, two sisters: Charlotte (Mack) Key and Linda (Jon) Click, and seven grandchildren: Kali, Naomi, Noah, Mackenzie, Isabella, Josiah,

> The Springtown Epigraph Jan. 27, 2022 Edition

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Springtown Epigraph 817-220-7217

Dituaries Siri for the Soul

Me: Siri, I need direc-

Siri: Before I go to the trouble of giving you directions, are you actually going to follow them?

That conversation has never happened—only because Siri tends to be polite.

I know there have been times that Siri has wanted to further say, "In 500 feet, pull over and let me out!"

(I have to give credit to Mrs. Sweetie for that joke). I'll admit it. I often need some help figuring out the destination I'm looking

al—the existential questions risk. of why I'm here at this time can get where I'm supposed to go.

How confusing is that?

I heard a phrase in a sermon that started me down a trail of pondering (occupamissed the next few sentenccompletely transparent—I have already forgotten the phrase that sent me down



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.

But my pondering led me story—something provide a "Siri for the soul" of sorts.

out, around, through.

The phrases:

SLOW DOWN. Deliberwhich way to go to get to ately, intentionally, ruthlessly eliminate "hurry" from often done more harm than times we learn things about your life. Hurry causes us to That's not simply true miss important information. with a physical destination; Hurry causes distraction. you've discerned your best didn't give up. it's true with life in gener- Hurry puts us and others at response, it's time to bring

tion. We must never forget

SEE IN: What you see first is rarely the whole sto- most effective contributions

"direction" words that—on scenes—that has brought and healthy relationships. more deeply helps us to discial community. The words: down, up, in, cern our best response for about you (actually, I do), frustrations, good.

SHOW UP. Wherever you ment. The best of YOU. Not actually sequential? and place and how I should are, be all there. Sometimes the best there is, the best is required of us.

> STICK AROUND: The ry. There is usually a back- you will make are those friend.

you make over time. It is certainly possible for us to make a contribution to a brief, one-time opportunity, but the deep contributions require a longer investment. A longer investment helps below us prove ourselves trustto six phrases that include the surface and behind the worthy and build helpful pondering-may us to this moment. Taking It allows the possibility of the time to look and listen growing a mutually benefi-

> STAY THROUGH: There this situation. I don't know will always be challenges, disappointbut my snap judgments and ments, and disagreements. knee-jerk responses have Don't bail too soon. Someourselves and develop new SHINE OUT: When skills precisely because we

> Final pondering for today: the best of you to this mo- Is it possible that these are

That we won't stay live while I'm here so that I the best thing we bring to a there could possibly be, or through if we haven't stuck situation is not our wisdom the best ever. We may never around? That we won't stick or expertise, it is our undi- know the reason, but we are around if we haven't found vided and supportive atten- here. And IN this moment, ways to shine out? That we we have the opportunity to won't know how to shine that we are human beings bring all that is within us—out if we haven't seen in? who sometimes do things. including what God has That we won't be able to tional hazard). As a result I We are not simply human given us and taught us—TO see in if we don't show up? doings. When I don't know this moment, trusting that And that we won't show up es of the sermon and—to be what I should do, it is time our best response is all that if we don't slow down and notice?

Hmmm ...

Be amazing today, my

Parker County property tax payment deadline approaches

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The property tax payment deadline in Parker County is Monday.

Payments have to be received or postmarked by Jan. 31 to avoid additional property tax penalty and interest, according to a Parker County Appraisal District appraisal district.

cessing company, not the building.

Payments can also be

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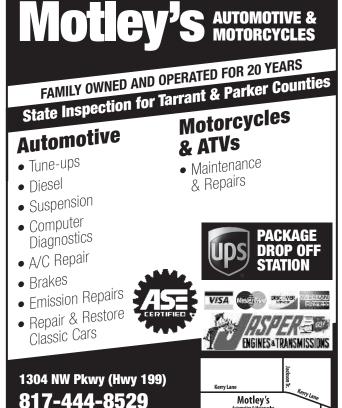
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ON FISHING

Clean, fillet, prepare your fish — then enjoy

A common question asked of me is "How do you prepare your fish?" I know a few ways to prepare the fish I catch, but a chef I am not. I do know, however, that preparing your fish starts from when you catch it. Fish will spoil quickly as we all know, so it is to your advantage to take care of your catch. Once you have caught fish that you are going to keep, you should either keep them alive in a livewell or put them on ice. Some folks will put them on a stringer.

If they stay alive this is OK, but I prefer putting them in the cooler. Obviously in the summer you have to be even more conscious of where you put the fish. An ice chest is generally the best place unless you can keep them alive until later. The bigger fish like stripers should probably go on ice immediately. My livewell may hold a couple of stripers in the winter but not many more. Many folks like to bleed the fish before you



ON FISHING By Michael Acosta

As a licensed professional fishing guide, Michael Acosta shows you how to find them. He has been a licensed quide since 1998, michael.acosta@att.net

ent species are cleaned dif- ly and efficiently. ferently, and depending on pare the catch.

fish by skinning them and yourself. I like to use heavy cooking them whole. Salmon duty electric filet knives and king mackerel are cleaned for most everything. I also in many instances with the have a large, serrated blade skin left on one side to hold as an option for larger fish. the meat together when grilled A standard filet knife is also or baked. You can do this with an available option for trimmost any species when grill- ming the filets. I typically

put them on ice (cut their ing. Filleting your catch is gills). This allows the blood fairly common, as it is one of to drain, which can improve the quickest ways to handle the taste of your catch. the task. Filleting your catch Blood is generally known is a relatively quick way to get to give a bitter taste to the a boneless piece of meat that fish. Whether you bleed the can be broiled, baked or fried. fish early or if you rinse your I learned this cleaning method fillets later, it is a good idea from folks down at the coast to clean out the blood in the a long, long time ago. Once meat. There are many differ- proficient at the task, you can ent ways to fillet fish. Differ- clean your catch fairly quick-

If you are going to fillet how you want to cook it you fish, be safe. It is a good idea may alter the way you pre- to use a fillet glove to protect your hand while cutting. Many folks still clean cat- Don't go too fast and hurt

along the backbone through burn. I understand that the fore you cut all the way freezer is to vacuum seal the thirsty eating this spicy dish. tail forward, which will give a long time and this works you a fillet with the ribcage still in place. You then can cut out the ribcage area and you have a fillet.

On stripers and hybrids, I prefer to go one step farther and remove the blood but so is blackened. The othline that is in the center of er way is to broil the fillets in the fillet. The easiest way to tin foil with butter and lemremove the blood line is to on, with lemon and pepper cut the fillet at the tail end on seasoning on the grill. My either side of the blood line, wife has used fajita season you just cut with the blood line and pull. The bloodline (it is good). The blackened is denser and will pull right version I prepare with 5th out (you almost have to see Season brand Cajun Seathis done). You can also soning (my preference) and just cut out the bloodline by butter-flavored PAM spray. notching on both sides of the In a hot iron skillet, spray blood line. Once you clean the fillet with the PAM and all your fish, rinse and them apply the Cajun seasoning in fresh water. If you are on both sides (to your liking) going to freeze them, it is a and cook on both sides until good idea to freeze them in done. This is a good low-cal-

cut behind the head and cut water to minimize freezer orie option and is very tasty. pretty good for me.

PREPARING THE FISH

I usually prepare my fish three different ways. Deepfried is popular in my house, then grab the center part that in place of the lemon and pepper seasoning at times

Keep plenty of beverthe rib cage to the tail. Be- best way to store fish in the ages on hand as you will get through the tail, you can flip fillets (if you have one of One more item that is good the fillet over and run your those devices). I have been with fish is preparing your knife under the skin from the freezing them in water for own hush puppies. The mix is available at most any grocery store. You can add onions, jalapenos or whatever you desire. These are real good right out of the cooker.

Cook this first in the oil be-

fore cooking the fish for ob-

vious reasons (or use a dif-

FISHING REPORT

ferent cooker).

Lake Whitney striped bass are good on jigs fished from White Bluff upstream with some good action on the main lake as well near the state park. Possum Kingdom Lake striped bass and sand bass are excellent near Costello Island. Look for the birds.

Candidates apply to run for various offices during first week of filing

BY MADELYN EDWARDS madelyn@azlenews.net

special utility district.

For the Springtown ISD spectively.

board of trustees, incum-

Scott Richardson, who is Monday.

James Cox filed to be Henderson. The third spot bent and board President currently the chairperson a candidate in the Walnut up for election was held by place from April 25 to May Rick Beall filed for Place 1. of the Springtown Planning Creek Special Utility Dis-former Vice President Brian 3. The last day for voters to The first week of filing for Chad Tedder filed for Place and Zoning Commission, trict's board of directors Sexton, who recently re-register is April 7. The last the May 7 local elections 2, and former board member has filed for Place 5 on the election, and Cox is the only signed from the board, and day to apply for a ballot by has passed and yielded can- Jay Grubis filed for Place 3, Springtown City Council. applicant as of Tuesday af- Beth Correll was appointed mail is April 26. didates in the elections for as of Monday. Place 2 and Place 5 is currently held by ternoon. Three spots are up to fill the vacancy. school board trustees, city Place 3 are currently held Bill White. Richardson is for election on the board, council members and the by Damon Liles and Vice the only candidate who has and two are currently held no one has filed for candida- can be found online at www. President Amy Walker, re-filed for city council as of by board Secretary Mike cy in the Reno City Council votetexas.gov/register/in-Gilley and President Frank elections.

Early voting will take

More information about As of Tuesday morning, registering to vote in Texas dex.html.

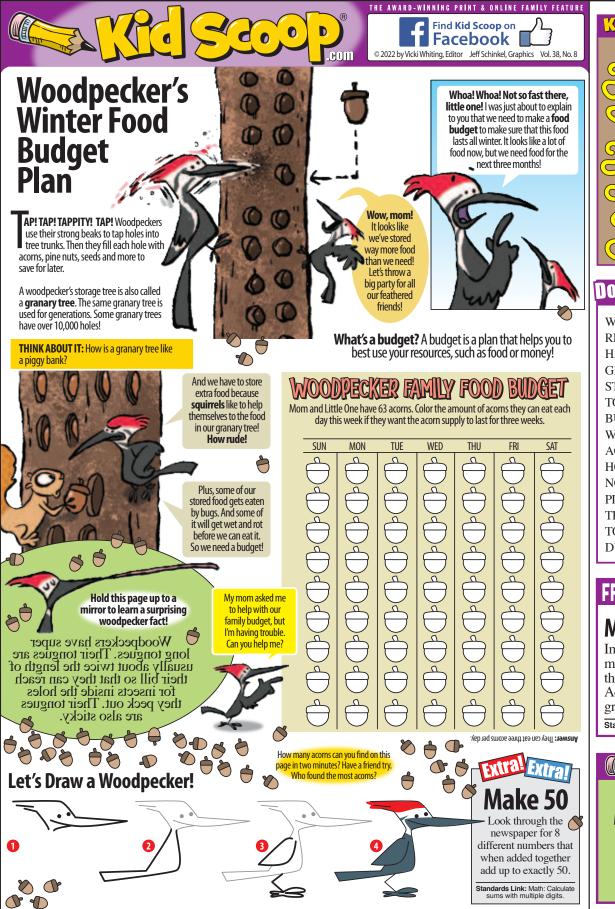


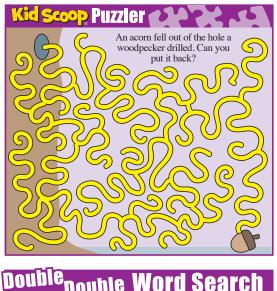




Springtown Elementary sings for the school board

Springtown Elementary School students, led by music teacher Sally McPhetrige, performed songs at the school board meeting on Jan. 24 in the administration building. One song was performed in sign language, and in another song, the kids bounced basketballs to the rhythm of the music. Photos by Madelyn Edwards





WOODPECKER RESOURCES HARVEST

GRANARY STORAGE **TONGUES BUDGET** WINTER **ACORN HOLES**

NOSES PLAN TREE TOES **①** DUST

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

RRESOURCES ESYRANARGH T S T N O S E S A E NEOTREERRG ILTAGOVETA WOODPECKER RHEESPLANO E S S E U G N O T S

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

🖟 Lesson Library

Make a Family Budget

Imagine you have \$100 to spend on family meals for one week. Look through the ads in the newspaper and make a list of foods to buy. Add up what the foods cost. Adjust your grocery list to make it cost \$100 or less.

Standards Link: Math: Caluculate money sums to total \$100 or less.

Make a Difference

Describe how you make a difference in 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

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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SPORTS

Springtown Epigraph • Thursday, January 27, 2022

Dead of winter? Time for soccer!



Bryce Smith uses fancy footwork to help the Springtown Porcupines topple Godley 2-0.

BY JEFF PRINCE jeff@azlenews.net

The Springtown Porcupine soccer boys lost the first game of a double-header Friday against the Godley

chill permeated the air, aided by a growing breeze.

players.

The head coach was ready

comfortable. They walked seys. The shaded home side out onto the sun-drenched of the field can feel like a field and sat down on the meat locker. artificial turf and listened to Maloney's pep talk.

pine Stadium was designed spring and summer, but high Wildcats and were tied 0-0 to provide shade in the after- school soccer has long been at halftime in the second noons. Protection comes in a winter sport. handy in July during football Temperatures that had season. Porcupine football ter if you need it," Maloney been in the 70s earlier in the players are shaded from the said after finishing his halfday were falling quickly. A sun on the sidelines, while time talk. visitors on the opposite side of the field are facing west mained until the second half "Let's get out here in the and melting, melting while began, and several players sun," Brian Maloney told his staring into that big ball of jumped around and stretched fire in the sky.

to discuss strategy before sun is a friend, especially activity and adrenalin would the second half began, and to a soccer player wearing he wanted his players to be short pants and skimpy jer-

Texas' coldest month of the year is January. Select The home side at Porcu- soccer leagues play in fall,

"Y'all rest up and get wa-

A couple of minutes reto warm up. Once they went In January, however, the into the game, their physical



SEE SOCCER, PAGE 3B. The fans in the stands aren't any warmer than the players.

Photos by Jeff Prince



Billy Spratt, left, beat Springtown's Kyle Rose in December.

Photo by Jeff Prince

A Rose by any other name still tough as nails

BY JEFF PRINCE jeff@azlenews.net

with Springtown, Azle and Argyle neared its completion last week, and a much-anticipated duel was approaching.

Springtown's 220-pounder, Kyle Rose, Azle kid's strength and agilwas about to battle Azle's ity. The two warriors had A wrestling tournament talented big guy, Billy fought twice before. Spratt, in the Hornet gymna-

top recalled with vividness the INITIAL

"I don't know his name, but this guy, he's good," Rose couldn't remem- Rose said just minutes beber Spratt's name, but he fore the match began.

ACQUAINTANCE

The two met for the first time in early December. Rose had just joined the

SEE ROSE, PAGE 4B.



Pojo cheerleaders going to Orlando

The Springtown cheer team, shown above, reached the top 20 among the high schools competing at the state contest on Jan. 14 in Fort Worth. "They did amazing, and I am extremely proud of them," said cheer coach Chrissy Mayo. Another important contest awaits. On Feb. 10, Porcupine cheerleaders head to Orlando, Fla., to compete at the nationals. Courtesy photo

Springtown sending five to scholarship rodeo



BY JEFF PRINCE ieff@azlenews.net

Five cowboys Springtown High have qualified to participate at the upcoming scholarship rodeo on Saturday at the Will Rogers Coliseum as part of the Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo.

Only the best rodeo members qualify to compete at the annual event.

"These student athletes are in the top 10 of each of their events about halfway way through the season and earned this honor," said James Heil, team sponsor.

Competitors include Cade Walker and Camdon Alvarez in steer wrestling and chute dogging; Jet Braswell and Parker Koterba in team roping header and team roping heeler; and Matthew Delacruz in bull riding.

Camdon Alvarez is one of five Springtown rodeo team members who qualified to participate at the Fort Worth Stock Show's scholarship rodeo on Saturday.

Photo by Jo H Photography



Aaron Tidwell and the Springtown Porcupines have begun their second round of district competition. Photo by Jeff Prince

Springtown basketball boys battling tough

BY JEFF PRINCE jeff@azlenews.net

The Springtown Porcupines started off Januference record to 3-1.

Then came trouble. On Jan. 14, district leader Christmas. Argyle hammered the Pines

70-27. And on Friday, Cas-scored more points. tleberry squeaked out a narrow 57-55 victory over Springtown.

So, the Porcupines were ary with three consecutive 3-3 on Tuesday as the sec- another district rival this district wins, including an ond half of district competi-61-57 overtime victory at tion began. The Pines faced Krum to improve their con- Decatur, the same team that at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 28 against beat them 64-46 in the dis- Lake Worth (5-12). In early trict opener a week before January, these two teams

This time, the Pines Porcupines prevailing 56-52.

So did Decatur. Final score: Decatur 75, Springtown 52.

The Porcupines face

Springtown (10-13) plays played a thriller, with the



Porcupine hoop girls hope to bounce back against Bullfrogs

BY JEFF PRINCE jeff@azlenews.net

ing streak when they trav- season, the team lost most of eled to Decatur on Tuesday its team to graduation. to play a district game. On Dec. 17, the Lady Por- one senior – Caydence Parker. cupines began district com- Most of the team members are petition by whipping Castle-

berry 56-30. They followed

next five games against dis- one of District 7-4A's tough-

The Lady Pines are in transition this season, field-Springtown's roundball ing a young team with plengirls wanted nothing more ty of natural talent but little than to end a four-game los- varsity experience. After last

This year's team has just

sophomores or freshmen. On Tuesday, Springtown Lake Worth (12-19). that by losing four of their faced off against Decatur,

est teams and currently in second place behind undefeated Argyle. The Lady Pines played with heart on the court but struggled with points on the board.

Final score: Decatur 88, Springtown 10.

The Lady Pines will be back home for their next game.

Springtown (6-24) plays at 6:15 p.m. Jan. 28 against

SOCCER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B.



Aubrey Mueller, left, and Alayna Vasquez rely on drills and coats to keep warm before game time.

combine to protect those players from the elements.

The players on the bench would have to stay warm on their own. One or two donned light jackets, but most just trembled and rubbed their hands together.

"It is pretty cold out here," Emmanuel Castillo said with some

Enduring cold weather is considered a sign of toughness, and the boys on the bench weren't interested much in discussing efforts to stay warm.

"We just laugh around and talk with everyone," Castillo said. "We're not that cold. We are used

As Castillo spoke, another player sat nearby shivering. Cameron Cockrell had draped a jacket over his legs and put on gloves but showed signs of discomfort still. He revealed his favorite method of beating the cold.

"I talk a lot," he said. "My teammates don't like that, but it keeps me warm."

BEATING BACK THE COLD

As the boys started the second half, the Springtown girls warmed up behind the endzone. Their game would begin once the boys fin-

The girls were less resistant to don heavy coats. Pretending not to be cold wasn't as important to

them as it was to the boys. "I'm not ready to take off my coat," Allison Kimball said to a teammate as the team prepared to do knee lifts while jogging. Her plaid jacket appeared out of place atop her goalkeeper's uniform, but she didn't care. Most of the girls draped themselves with blankets even as they jogged.

blankets are tossed aside, and players hit the field with scant protection from the cold.

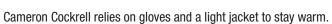
"You have got to be a real fighter to play in this weather," said head coach Katherine Kummerfeld.

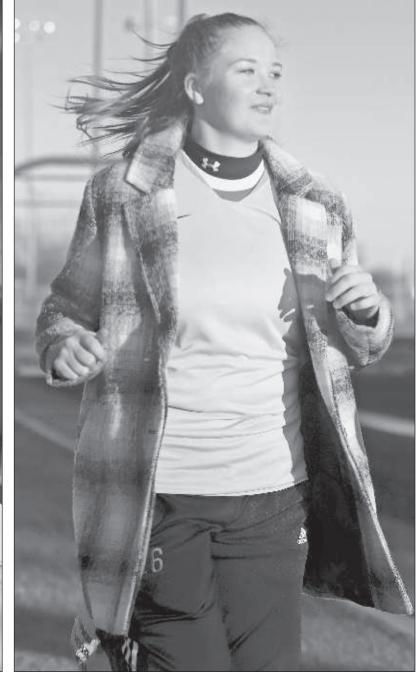
Sometimes, the weather wins.

A week earlier, a Lady Pine game had been cancelled when wind chill temperatures hit the mid-20s.

"We have to cut game time sometimes, and sometimes shorten







Lady Pines goalkeeper Allison Kimball wears a winter coat while warming up for a Photos by Jeff Prince

kept on their coats, and others the halves" to protect the health of scored a goal apiece, while Springthe kids, Kummerfeld said.

Playing soccer during winter has Once a game begins, coats and advantages. Scattering the various sports throughout the year frees up the availability of facilities, such as Porcupine Stadium. Multi-sport athletes can play year-round, such as baseball in spring, football in fall and soccer in winter.

BACK TO THE BOYS

The Porcupines weren't worried about the cold after coming alive in the second half and whipping the Wildcats 2-0.

Brian Murillo and Josue Anaya

town's defenders shut down their opponent. Jose Espinoza, Jonathan Sanchez, Matthew Ross, Ashton Day and goalkeeper Angel Benitez made life miserable for Wildcat shooters.

season.

"At the half it was kind of slow, but we were keeping it up, we were passing, we were doing our basic fundamentals, and it was working at the end," Murillo said. "At the second half, we got it together. We were smart about it. We played our hearts out."

season.

"I was running fast, and then I kicked the ball, and I made it," he how well we do." said. "It's a good feeling, like, 'Finally, I scored.""

Maloney was happy to see his Murillo's goal was his first of the team beat Godley in the rubber match, particularly after losing to Dunbar the day before.

"Coming off of two losses before this game and bouncing back and beating a team that we had just lost to shows a lot about the character of the team," the coach said. "We love to bounce back after adversity. That is going to be key this

Anaya's goal was his third of the year. Things aren't always going to go smoothly, but the way we respond to it is going to determine

> The victory against Godley evened the Porcupines' record at 3-3 with three nonconference games remaining on the schedule before district competition begins on Feb. 7.

> "As long as we play good, we practice, we show up to practice, and we communicate, it will give us the resources to do better in district," Murillo said.

Any last thoughts?

"Go Porcupines!" he said with a

Springtown wrestler views matches from other side of lens



Kalyn Shaffer, center, videotapes wrestling matches while sitting on the Springtown bench between wrestlers Kyle Rose and Kylie Wear. Photo by Jeff Prince

BY JEFF PRINCE jeff@azlenews.net

Her first season of wrestling has been tough but interesting.

Sophomore Kalyn Shaffer lost her first match at her first tournament. Then, she injured her back at practice. She has been unable to compete since then.

To keep herself occupied, she is videotaping her teammates at matches so they can study and learn from their performances.

"Hopefully I'll be back in (wrestling) soon," Shaffer said.

While growing up in Fort Worth, she learned various wrestling moves while battling her older brother on a regular basis. Now, she wants to make wrestling her main sport at high school.

"It's fun," she said. "I grew up in that environment. Since I was used to it, I thought this would be really fun, and it has been so far."

Since joining the Hornet team, she has learned "new moves, more

flexibility, more strength, quick thinking, fast reflexes," Shaffer

"Those are all really good for wrestling," she said. "Just taking in and observing helps a lot. I've learned a lot, especially from my coach. It's been really eventful and interesting."

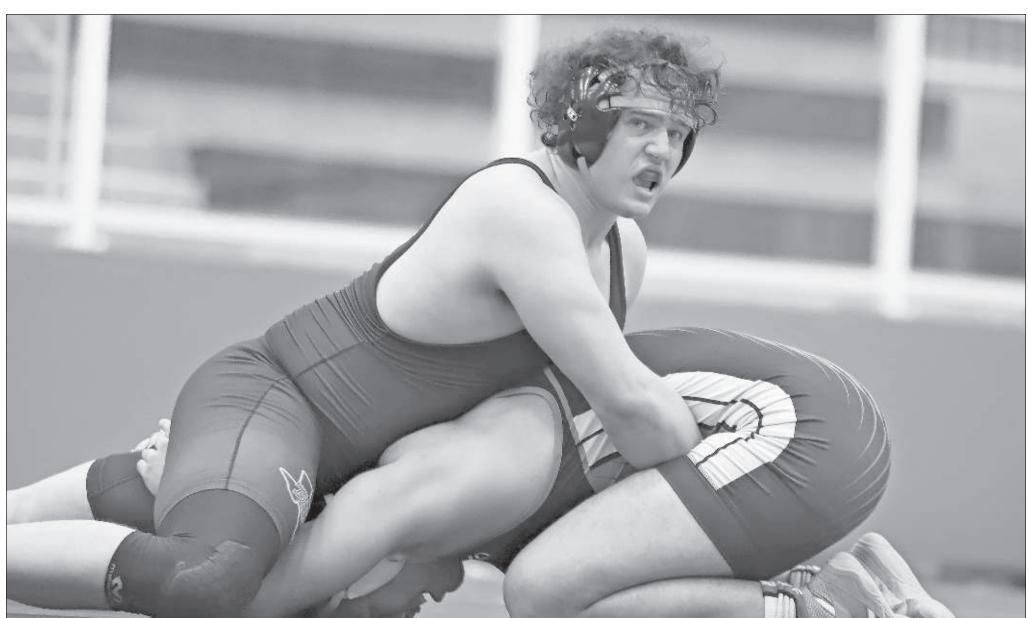
Boys and girls wrestle separately at meets but train together and compete often at the same tournaments. Shaffer enjoys the co-ed feeling of the sport.

"The guys on the team are amazing," she said. "Everybody is fun. They are good sports. Everybody likes to support and make everything more fun."

Shaffer moved to Springtown four years ago. She likes the town and the school and has enjoyed videotaping her teammates for the past few weeks – to an extent.

"It's pretty fun," she said, before adding, "I would rather be wres-

WRESTLING, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B.



Kyle Rose, top, returned the favor against Billy Spratt at a tournament last week.

football season, and he and Spratt faced off in Rose's first match.

The Porcupine won.

to be honest, that might have been luck," Rose said. "That first match wasn't very long. I managed to snap his head down and throw him plan, and the kid caught him at the to the ground. I guess he wasn't ready for that."

A few weeks passed before they to this matchup right now." met again on the mat.

"The next time, it wasn't happening," Rose said. "He was ready."

and Spratt faced each other in crouched positions, hands up, knees bent, waiting for the referee's signal. Spratt, a junior, plays linebacker for the Hornet football squad. Rose played on the defensive line for the Porcupines football team that went to the state quarterfinals.

Both big guys appeared fixated on beating the other. Rose dominated much of that long, grueling second match but used up valuable strength in an all-out effort to pin Spratt, who managed to escape. Spratt rallied, dropped Rose and pinned him just before the third and final round expired to take the win and a first-place medal.

"He switched it on me," Rose recalled. "He is really talented."

THIRD TIME CHARM?

The rivals faced each other a

wrestling team after finishing the third time at last week's Azle tourney, and the winner would own a 2-1 advantage over the other.

Springtown wrestling coach "The first time, I beat him, but Sawyer Cooper noticed that Spratt had prepared himself for Rose after their first battle.

"The kid had a plan for Kyle's end," the coach said. "I was proud of Kyle, and I'm looking forward

Rose expected their third match to end differently.

"I've picked up a few more What a fight it was, too. Rose moves," he said. "Practiced more ground game because that's where he beat me. I had him down and he just flipped it on me. Hopefully, I can be better this time."

> Rose began wrestling as a freshman but didn't stick with it. He planned to try again, but COV-ID-19 interfered in his sophomore and junior years. He wanted a productive year of wrestling as a senior before he left high school.

> "I might as well try it out," he said. "Football is over. Got to have another sport."

> The 6-foot 4-inch Rose started for two years on the varsity football team.

"Kyle has been great to have in our program," said head football coach Brian Hulett. "He is a very hard-working kid, who is strong and athletic for the position he plays."

After football ended, Rose rious.

showed up for his first wrestling practice, and the next day, he competed in his first meet - against tough-guy Spratt.

At last week's third matchup, Rose and Spratt displayed different pre-fight prep styles. Spratt wore a hoodie and moved constantly, jumping up and down, swinging his arms and pacing behind Azle's bench.

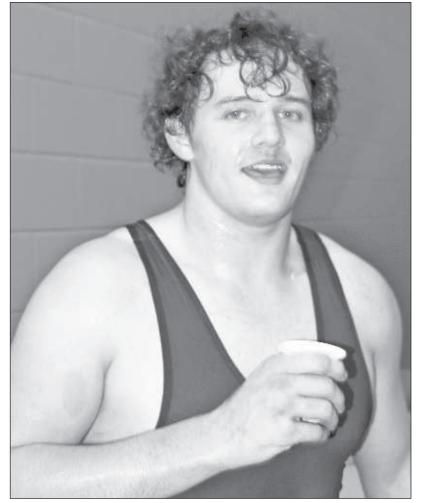
Rose sat in a folding chair next to teammates, watching fights, talking, laughing. He stood up not long before his match, shed his letter jacket and walked around and squatted down a few times to stretch.

Once the match began, both wrestlers dominated at times. Spratt led as the third round began. Rose made a final move to toss Spratt with 10 seconds left. He didn't pin Spratt but earned three points and a slim victory.

Afterward, Rose was winded and having trouble speaking. Sweat poured down his face.

"That was worse than last time, when he beat me," he said. "This time, he had control. Most of the time, he had my ankle. He is really good at taking shots. I'm pretty sure that, if he would have had a bit more energy, he could have circled around me so many times, that match would have been over with. We were both really tired."

Only one, however, was victo-



Kyle Rose catches his breath and hydrates himself after beating Billy Spratt in a much-heralded match. Photos by Jeff Prince

but the two warriors will most Cooper likes Rose's chances in the coach said.

Rose is now 2-1 against Spratt, most any fight from here forward.

"He has really taken a liking to likely meet again in future tour- it, really listened to what I've told naments before the season ends. him and really done a good job,"



DEVOTIONAL PAGE



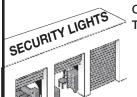
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Work for You! Springtown 817.220.7217 Azle 817.270.3340

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

Child Nutrition Director Springtown ISD

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084 Mobile Homes For Rent

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Small Studio Apartment \$600/

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084 Mobile Homes for Rent

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CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

22

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ACROSS

- kindergarten lesson 5 TX summer reality
- piece" (distance)

7 TXism:

- and reel
- 9 TXism: "panhandle" 12 NY Senator Alfonse had to pay off on 1993 Super
- bet with TX Gramm 17 Morton newspaper
- 19 Grand 21 former TX oilwell
- firefighting business: "Red 22 American Airlines Center, AT&T Center, 56 TX Howard
- and Toyota Center 23 jargons
- 28 TXism: ' soul" (no one)
- 29 TXism: "enjoyed all this stand" 30 TXism: "begging
- like a cattle rustler rope"
- 31 delicious Pecos loupe
- 35 Roberts County seat 36 buried? (2 wds.) 42 TX Mac Davis wrote Elvis' hit
- "In 44 noted TX pianist Harvey
- 46 TXism: "fast _ rafter"
- 48 TX voted to _ from the Union on February 1, 1861

49 pos. of former Ranger Alex Rodriguez 50 TXism: "you're barn

- door is 6 Jackson County seat (unzipped) 51 TXism: "it'll make your
 - hair stand _ 52 Henry Wade's longtime
 - job in Dallas Co. 53 poppa 54 TX A.J. Fovt won
 - 500" four times

 - Hughes dated this actress Gardner
 - "Texas Tea" 58 TXism: "when
 - pigs ____" (never) **DOWN**
 - 1 TXism: "got _
 - Texas" (kind)
 - 2 Fort Worth suburb 3 seat of Hemphill County
 - State 4 Lone 9 TXism: "got a
 - under his saddle" 10 TX Al Carrell book: "The Super Handy-
 - Home Repair" 11 pint-sized Chevy

Cadillac bumper"

- (1989-97)12 TXism: "hot
- 13 TX Buddy Holly wife 14 Baldwin of 1989 film "Great Balls of Fire" with TX Dennis Quaid 15 Louise of "Stepford
- 16 TXism: "fits like ugly 18 fed. Indian agcy.
- 20 Mexican "is" 23 TXism: "chompin'
- the bit" (eager) 24 type of computer nemory (abbr.)
- 25 horse movement 27 TXism: "a good
 - 26 TX town or NE city man not _ with" (mean)
- 56 40 TXism: "he Wives" with TX Prentiss
 - 32 car cooler (abbr.) 33 TXism: "__ dice" 34 TXism: "boob tube"
- Rim State Park directed TX Prentiss 48 TXism: in "In Harm's Way" 38 TXism: "lapped ___

" (believed)

39 TX A.J. Foyt did it

41 TX Dabney series: "The Days & Nights of Molly 43 Astro or Ranger four-bagger (abbr.) 45 dir. to Elgin

sleeps fast" (swift)

P-1569

- from Hays 47 TXism: "strong enough to float
- water" (soft drink) 55 this Tim starred with TX Crystal

Bernard on "Wings"

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