



Springtown football team moves into odd-team district



The Springtown Porcupines will lose Lake Worth, Gainesville and Hirschi as opponents.

Photo by Jeff Prince

BY DON MUNSCHE
editor@azlenews.net

Springtown High School head football coach Brian Hulett burned up the phone line on the morning of Feb. 3.

The University Interscholastic League released its realignment

that day, and Hulett was busy fielding calls about his schedule for non-district play. He nailed down teams for non-district play after getting word about the Porcupines' Division I-District 4 opponents for the next two years: Burk Burnett, Decatur, Mineral Wells and Wichita Falls.

"Where Gainesville left, they could plug Mineral Wells back in," Hulett said, referring to last year's district. "Where Hirschi left, Old High (came) in, too. But then losing Lake Worth is kind of a little bit shocking that that happened. And now having a five-team (district), it gives you an odd number

in a district. Trying to find a sixth (non-district) game, that's not real easy to find. It's a challenge there." The Porcupines will not play Lake Worth in non-district play. "Couldn't make it work," Hulett said, adding that the two teams did want to play. Lake Worth will be in District 6-4A DI with several Fort

Worth schools and two others, including Castleberry.

As far as his team's opponents, Hulett said Burk Burnett is improving and Decatur always fields a good team. Mineral Wells is trying to turn its fortunes

SEE REALIGNMENT, PAGE 2A.



Springtown High School senior Summer Conway placed second in her fine wool class at the Fort Worth Stock Show. Courtesy of Sophia Kelley

Springtown FFA student places second in fine wool at Fort Worth Stock Show

BY MADELYN EDWARDS
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When Summer Conway placed second in her fine wool class at the Fort Worth Stock Show, her response was an ecstatic "yes!"

"That's the best I've ever done there," the Springtown High School senior and SHS's Na-

tional FFA Organization chapter president said. The win was even more special because of the show's proximity to home, she said.

The Fort Worth Stock Show is difficult to place in, as are all shows, Springtown High School agriculture teacher Tony Pearson

SEE CONWAY, PAGE 9A.

Springtown kids at the Fort Worth Stock Show
MORE PHOTOS, PAGE A10

To serve and protect

Fort Worth Police recruits build fence for Azle boy attacked by a dog



Fort Worth Police recruit Courtney Walker shows Conner Landers, 7, a bag of toys and candy, courtesy of the recruits.

Photo by Madelyn Edwards

BY MADELYN EDWARDS
madelyn@azlenews.net

Vehicles lined the street by 7-year-old Conner Landers' home on Hidden Circle on Saturday. The sound of electric drills and a circular saw rang in the back yard of the home, and snowball fights ensued in the front yard.

Starting at 10 a.m. before the snow had melted away, a crew of

Fort Worth Police recruits worked to install a fence at Conner's home so that he could play outside without encountering strange dogs.

Conner, a student at Azle's Cross Timbers Elementary School, endured a traumatic dog attack last month while walking home from the school bus stop. On Monday, the dog owner, identified as Patti Jean Bell-Neveling, 49, was arrested on a third-degree

felony charge of attack by dog resulting in serious bodily injury warrant, according to the Parker County Sheriff's Office. Her bond has not been set.

On Saturday, he ran around with excitement and energy, appearing to be feeling better after the attack.

"Conner has never met a stranger," Conner's mom Cassandra

SEE FENCE, PAGE 5A.

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Reno partners with Parker County for emergency dispatch services

BY MADELYN EDWARDS
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The Parker County Sheriff's Office is now dispatching emergency calls for the Reno Police Department.

At a meeting in January, the Parker County Commissioner's Court approved an interlocal cooperation agreement between the county and the city of Reno. The agreement was in the planning process for months, according to a sheriff's office news release.

When Reno residents call 911, the Parker County Sheriff's Office will answer and send out Reno police officers, Reno Deputy Chief Nathan Stringer said.

"The sheriff's office has always provided assistance regarding investigations to the City of Reno, and we will continue to do so," Parker County Sheriff Russ

Authier said in the release. "This new agreement assures our citizens that we are looking for the best possible solutions to any issues that arise as we continually strive to better serve them and their families."

Dispatch services costs will be provided by the city of Reno and allocated into the county's general fund, according to the news release.

Reno Mayor Sam White said last week that the amount of money to be spent on the contract is still being worked on and will need to be run by the Reno City Council.

The agreement also allows Reno police officers to use the sheriff's office Mobile Communication Terminal software, which allows connection with sheriff's office databases and deputies in the field "to share real-time

data and call information," according to the release.

The 911 service has been rolled over to Parker County Sheriff's Office, but the final dispatch contract is still being discussed, Stringer said last week. Eventually, Reno officers will have computers in the police cars that allow dispatchers to send information to the responding officers, which avoids overuse of radio time. The computer system will also let the officers check license plates, which is currently being done over the radio.

Stringer expects the computers will be available for use in a few weeks.

"It takes some time to work out the licensing on it. In a few weeks, we'll have the computers up and running," he said.

Reno City Council in previous meetings has discussed not renewing the previous



Mayor Sam White, City Administrator Scott Passmore and police Deputy Chief Nathan Stringer pose with Parker County Judge Pat Deen, the county commissioner's court and county Sheriff Russ Authier.

Photo courtesy Parker County Sheriff's Office

dispatch contract with the city of Springtown. White said he has noticed that the dispatch service is faster and more efficient with the county instead of with another city. Parker County Sheriff's Office serves as back-up for Reno police officers, so PCSO dispatchers can either send out Reno officers

or county deputies, whereas a city must do extra work to see if either Reno or PCSO officers are available.

White confirmed that delayed response times were an issue Reno had with Springtown's dispatch services.

"I have noticed that when we use outside sourcing, your response time is slower

because they're having to go find that information," White said. "Now, if you have your own dispatch, obviously it's a lot faster, but we don't have that; we're not ready for our own dispatch by any means. So, the next best thing is who's backing you up? Use them for dispatch services."

REALIGNMENT, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.

around after a couple of tough years in 2019 and 2020, and SHS has scrimmaged them, so the Porcupines are familiar with them, Hulett said. And Old High has been playing bigger and better teams than Springtown has, he said.

"It will be more of a challenge for us than it will be

for them," he said.

In non-district play, Springtown will play Alvarado, Graham, Wichita Falls Hirschi, Creekview, Glen Rose and Waco Connally.

For basketball and volleyball, SHS will be in District 8 and will play Bridgeport, Decatur, Krum, Lake Worth and Castleberry.

Springtown head volleyball coach Leighann Strickland said in an email that the Lady Pines didn't have any big changes other than Argyle moving up to 5A.

"With them moving, it dropped us to a six-team district which is nice to not have to find bye games during district play," she said.

"It has made it a little difficult filling an additional week and a half prior to district play though.

"It would have been nice to change it up a little and move to a different district but I think it'll be good for us to continue to have the experienced play of Decatur, Krum, and Bridgeport," she

said. "Still a tougher district for sure. A lot of our opponents were young and will have a good base returning this next season. I'm looking forward to what is ahead of us."

Kyle Sivadon, SHS head girls basketball coach, said the district will be about the same minus Argyle.

Bridgeport and Krum, who both have been ranked as high as the top 10, return many players. Decatur graduates a lot of players, but its sub-varsities are loaded, he said in an email.

"We have been improving this year and look forward to taking more strides and making the playoffs," he said.



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Springtown City Council revises ordinances on storage containers, accessory structures and fences

BY MADELYN EDWARDS
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Springtown City Council revised ordinances regarding storage containers, accessory structures and parallel fences at its meeting last month.

Previously, the accessory structures ordinance required 20-foot setbacks from the rear and sides of the property.

During the public hearing at the meeting, resident Carlos Munoz said he would like to add a shed to his backyard, and he called the setbacks from the side and rear “a little excessive.”

“I guess this ordinance was written for houses with more land,” Munoz said. “That would put the shed right in the middle of my backyard.”

The change in the accessory structures ordinance addresses Munoz’s concerns, City Administrator David Miller said, by changing the setbacks on the side and back to 5 feet.

The revised ordinance allows temporary and portable structures under 200 square feet to not have a permit, but a permit is required if the structure is on a concrete slab, Miller said. The ordinance also removes language that regulated building materials and states that accessory structures should be constructed “from mate-

rials as regulated by the adopted International Building Code or International Residential Code.”

Regarding storage containers, the city previously prohibited metal storage containers without a special use permit. During the meeting, Miller said because of Springtown’s growth, the revised ordinance was aimed at:

- Allowing builders working on sites with active building permits to use a metal storage container for supplies on the building site for up to a year;

- Allowing residents to use a metal storage container at their property while moving into or out of a home for up to 14 days;

- Preventing shipping containers from staying on a property permanently and prohibiting people creating livable spaces out of the containers; and

- Removing the mention of the specific brand of PODS and saying “storage containers” instead.

During the discussion at the meeting, the council decided to limit the size of the storage containers and that container length would depend on the property size, particularly if used for moving purposes. Storage containers cannot extend into the right-of-way, including sidewalks, or drainage easements, and must stay within the setbacks. Containers

cannot exceed 50 feet in length without a special use permit.

Lastly, the council decided to eliminate parallel fencing, or two fences parallel to each other within 20 feet, in the fences, walls and screening ordinance. People who currently have parallel fences, however, do not have to comply with the change unless 50% or more of the fence needs repair.

“As the city’s growing, we want to be able to prevent builders or homeowners from putting fences back-to-back where it cannot be maintained in between the two,” Miller said.

The following rules, among others, have also been added to the ordinance:

- Fence planks or panels must have a one-inch gap, at least, between the ground and the wood to prevent rotting and decay.

- Spacing between vertical posts should be no more than 8 feet on center or less and set in concrete post footings.

- Concrete post footings should be at least 24 inches in depth for fences that are 6 feet tall and 36 inches in depth for fences that are 8 feet tall.

- All materials are to be securely fastened and be free from rot, rust, vandalism and other sources or decay.

- Fences should not interfere with the drainage of the property.

Our kind of people

Dear Frankie,

The other day two new dogs were in the park. I asked Myrtle if she knew who they were? She said someone said they were purebred show dogs. They looked friendly enough, so I went over and introduced myself.



DEAR FRANKIE

By Geneva Woodruff

Frankie is a rescue dog and an emotional support animal for Geneva Woodruff. Woodruff is a retired educator.

I said hi, my name is Mitzi. They smiled at me but didn’t say anything, so I asked them their names. One said her name was Celeste and the other said I’m Portia. Then they didn’t say anything, so I said nice to meet you and went my way.

The next day I saw them and went over and said hi. Once again, they didn’t say anything and just smiled. I was starting to get the picture that they weren’t interested in talking to me. So, I asked Myrtle, “Why are they so stand-offish?” She said maybe show dogs only mingle with dogs like themselves.

Are all show dogs like that?

Perplexed, Mitzi

Dear Mitzi,

I don’t have much experience with show dogs. I’m grateful I made it from the street to a shelter.

What I wonder is, who taught these dogs to make friends with dogs only like themselves? It could be the humans in their lives.

I have never heard a dog say anything like that. Did you know there are private clubs for humans requiring you to have the proper credentials before the club members can invite you to join?

Credentials, in human terms, mean things like coming from a prestigious family, going to the right school, having a fancy job title, etc. In sum, it means

that you are rich and influential.

Can you imagine the dog park having a canine committee to decide if a dog wears the right collar, has a pedigree, lives in a ritzy neighborhood, etc., to determine if they can come into the park?

Personally, I like being with dogs from all walks of life. Just think of the many paths they have traveled and the tales (no pun intended) they have to tell.

I wouldn’t give up on Celeste and Portia just yet. Maybe they’ll come to their senses and join in when they see the fun you and your friends have every day.

Best,
Frankie

How To Stay Out Of A Nursing Home- FOREVER

CDC: Falls Are The Leading Cause of Injuries In Seniors
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When I came to Moss, I had trouble walking due to no balance. I was not able to get in and out of a car, I was not able to do my activities. After my therapy I am able to walk and continue with my shopping and light house work. I can do this all un-assisted thanks to my therapy.
- Evelyn Tinney



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- Do you feel like a burden to those around you because you need to hold on to someone when you walk or ask them to run your errands?

If you answered **YES** to any of the above questions (or have a stubborn spouse or parent who is in denial) you need to take action **NOW**. **You don’t have to live in fear of falling. You can take steps to improve your balance.**

To help our fellow area residents stay out of nursing homes and prevent falls, MOSS Rehabilitation Center will host a **FREE Balance Workshop**.

FREE Workshop Saturday February 12th, 2022 10 AM

• Where? MOSS Rehabilitation Center 407 Old Springtown Rd Ste 114, Springtown, TX 76082

During the event, here are a few things you will learn:

1. You’ll learn a quick do-it-yourself test to determine your risk for falling.
2. The most common locations for falls and where they occur in your home.
3. And, things you can do today to make your home safer.

Call this special number **817-220-6677** to reserve your seat. Due to COVID precautions we only have **10 FREE** Workshop seats available so call to reserve yours now. If you are not worried that you or someone you love will fall then you have no reason to call for this **FREE** workshop. **If, however**, you think it is possible that you or a loved one could be at risk of falling... you do not want to ignore this **FREE** information!

Register at <http://www.springtownphysicaltherapy.com/balance-ws> OR
CALL This Special Number 817-220-6677 to reserve your seat.

SPRINGTOWN SCHOOL MENU

February 14-18, 2022
PK through 12th Grade

*Menus are subject to change.

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EC-12th Grade	\$1.75
EC-12th Reduced	\$0.30
Adult	\$2.25
LUNCH PRICES	
PK-4th Grade	\$3.00
5th-8th Grade	\$3.25
High School	\$3.00
Reduced	\$0.40
Adult	\$4.25

Students may prepay for their meals.

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

PK - 8th GRADE **Lunch: Everyday** - Choice of one meat, two vegetables, and one grain/bread with milk. Variety of milk is offered every day for breakfast and lunch.

Monday CK Fried Steak Sandwich, Rancho Beans, Fresh Broccoli, Blueberries **Tuesday** Tangerine Chicken, Rice, Broccoli, Fiesta Sticks, Mandarin Oranges **Wednesday** Cheeseburger, Hamburger, Tater Gems, Fresh Baby Carrots **Thursday** Crispy Chicken Sandwich, Chili Style Beans, Cucumber & Tomato Cup, Tropical Fruit Salad **Friday** Cheese Pizza, Popcorn Chicken, Roll, Green Beans, Fresh Baby Carrots

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 Beef Enchilada Bake, Crispy Chicken Sandwich, Black Beans, Fiesta Sticks, Spanish Rice, Grapes **Tuesday** General Tso’s Chicken, Stuffed Breadsticks, Rice, Broccoli, Roll, Fresh Baby Carrots, Orange Smiles **Wednesday** Steakfingers, Popcorn Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Roll, Spinach, Apple, Pineapple Cup **Thursday** Nachos (Beef and Chicken), Refried Beans, Corn, Banana, Blueberries **Friday** Cheese Pizza, Chicken & Waffles, Cucumber & Tomato Cup, Glazed Baby Carrots, Green Beans

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ORDINANCE NO. 2022-O-1023

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SPRINGTOWN, TEXAS AMENDING SECTION 36.1 “ACCESSORY STRUCTURE REGULATIONS” OF CHAPTER 14 “ZONING ORDINANCE” OF THE CITY OF SPRINGTOWN CODE OF ORDINANCES; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A PENALTY FOR VIOLATIONS HEREOF; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Section 4. Any person, firm or corporation who violates, disobeys, omits, neglects, refuses, or fails to comply with, or who resists the enforcement of any provision of this ordinance shall be fined not more than Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) for each offense. Each day that a violation is permitted to exist shall constitute a separate offense.

Section 7. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication as provided by law, and it is so ordained. DULY PASSED AND APPROVED by the City Council of the City of Springtown, Texas, on this the 27th day of January 2022.

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-O-1024

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SPRINGTOWN, TEXAS AMENDING SECTION 14.2 “CONSTRUCTION YARDS, FIELD OFFICES, AND OTHER TEMPORARY BUILDINGS” OF CHAPTER 14 “ZONING ORDINANCE” OF THE CITY OF SPRINGTOWN CODE OF ORDINANCES; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A PENALTY FOR VIOLATIONS HEREOF; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Section 4. Any person, firm or corporation who violates, disobeys, omits, neglects, refuses, or fails to comply with, or who resists the enforcement of any provision of this ordinance shall be fined not more than Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) for each offense. Each day that a violation is permitted to exist shall constitute a separate offense.

Section 7. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication as provided by law, and it is so ordained. DULY PASSED AND APPROVED by the City Council of the City of Springtown, Texas, on this the 27th day of January 2022.

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-O-1025

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SPRINGTOWN, TEXAS AMENDING SECTION 33 “FENCES, WALLS, AND SCREENING” OF CHAPTER 14 “ZONING ORDINANCE” OF THE CITY OF SPRINGTOWN CODE OF ORDINANCES; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A PENALTY FOR VIOLATIONS HEREOF; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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Section 7. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication as provided by law, and it is so ordained. DULY PASSED AND APPROVED by the City Council of the City of Springtown, Texas, on this the 27th day of January 2022.

“The City of Reno will be having public hearings for a special use permit applied for property 1595 Arvel Circle, Azle, TX 76020, to build a home on a less than half acre lot. P&Z meeting will be March 7, 2022 at 7PM and City Council Meeting will be on March 21, 2022 at 7PM. Both meetings will be open to the public for commits.”

Reno plans to hire three part-time police officers, purchases new police software

BY MADELYN EDWARDS
madelyn@azlenews.net

Reno Police Department is in the process of hiring three part-time police officers.

Reno City Council approved adding these positions in a 4-1 vote last week. At the meeting, Deputy Chief Nathan Stringer pointed out that current officers are logging a significant amount of overtime, and the department is trying to cut down on that overtime for budgetary reasons and to avoid burnout.

“Last weekend between Lt. Nalley and I, we took six call-ins where nobody was here, so we had to respond from home and come in. One of those was a death where we had personnel waiting on scene for us to get there,” Stringer said during the meeting.

Stringer and Chief Scott Elsnor were sworn in in November, and in December,

three more officers were sworn in. Two reserve police officers were sworn in last month. Reno Police Department has been rebuilding after losing all its employees last fall.

One of the openings is expected to be an administrative position in the police department while the other two would be patrol positions to provide relief and back-up, Stringer said. The officers will be limited to 30 hours per week and paid \$20 per hour.

“Statistically speaking, (Reno) has quite a bit of crime, so adding personnel will help relieve that and prevent some of that crime,” he said.

During the meeting, there was discussion, led by Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Hernando Herrera, about what limiting overtime could mean for the police officers and their work in the community. Mayor Pro Tem Granville “Randy”

Martin said the police leadership could be trusted to keep overtime down and that some overtime is fine if it isn’t habitual.

Stringer said the department averages 40 hours of overtime as a department per week. He said he can’t promise that officers will never log any overtime because their time is dependent on the workload.

“They’re working really hard. These guys are dedicated to this city. They took the leap of faith as we all did,” Stringer said. “We want to make sure that they have the support and the backup they need, as well as the coverage the citizens expect. Just because we’re not here 24/7 doesn’t mean the citizens aren’t calling 24/7.”

Council member Shelli Swift suggested approaching Parker County Sheriff’s Office for help with Reno coverage as an alternative op-

tion. Stringer said Parker County Sheriff’s Office is short-staffed, like other departments currently, and might not be able to respond calls in a timely manner.

“Parker County on a good day has one deputy this side of the county. When you call the police and there’s somebody kicking in your front door, you’ve got a 30-40-minute response time, if they’re available,” Stringer said. “So that’s why I’m saying we want more coverage from your police department and not relying on Parker County.”

Stringer explained how other agencies, including Parker County, are short-staffed currently, in part because of a lack of desire to join the profession and the political discussions surrounding policing.

“You can’t rely on another agency to respond to your calls if they’ve got call logs stacked up,” he said.

Swift voted against the motion to add the part-time officers. Before the council voted, she said to Stringer, “Quality is better than quantity.”

After the meeting, Mayor Sam White said the part-time positions are necessary. “We have to give 24/7 coverage and still give enough time for our officers to have some time off,” White said. “We’re getting there, but we’re not there yet.”

The positions are expected to be posted on the Texas Municipal League website and link that to the city’s website.

Also during the meeting, the council voted unanimously to buy software with the company EFORCE for the police department’s records management system, which includes police records, persons database and vehicles database. The new cloud-based software is about \$30,486 and is split over two years, plus \$4,573 annually for licensing and

support fees.

Stringer said during the meeting that the current records management system is not up to date, and the city’s server is “reaching end of life.” The new cloud-based software will allow officers to write reports in the field, he said, and that’s not available now without the use of a VPN tunnel to the server, which is unstable and not timely.

“It creates a lot of issues being on this antiquated system, not to mention when that server goes, we’ll lose our RMS system,” Stringer said.

Stringer also said the cloud software is safer because of the level of encryption it uses. He called the current server a “vulnerability point.”

Stringer also said the cloud system helps the police department be compatible with the Parker County Sheriff’s Office.

Optimist Club honors Young Texan, Texanne for January, Young Texan for February

BY MADELYN EDWARDS
madelyn@azlenews.net

The Springtown Optimist Club named Springtown High School juniors Ryan Robinson and Ava Guerra as the Young Texan and Texanne for January, respectively, and Ethan Hash as the Young Texan for February.

The February Young Texanne will be recognized at next month’s Optimist Club meeting.

The Young Texan and

Texanne are high school juniors who are honored for their academic achievement, community involvement and extracurricular activities. Students who achieve this award usually earn mostly A’s in school.

Robinson is involved in football and track at Springtown High School. His main career goal is to enlist in the Air Force, retire from that after 20 years and then work in the medical field.

Guerra is involved in

choir, cheerleading and Health Occupations Students of America. After graduating high school, she hopes to attend Texas A&M University and study biomedical sciences. She hopes to use her degree to become a surgeon and a certified registered nurse anesthetist.

Hash has participated in marching band, jazz band and UIL debate, and he currently plays the piano and trumpet. He hopes to go to the University of North Texas or Texas A&M

University and study jazz, jazz piano and music audio production. Hash hopes to produce music with computer technology and music theory, as well as go into the engineering and software engineering field.

The Springtown Optimist Club holds meetings monthly at 7 a.m. on the first Tuesday of the month at Howell’s Western Café. The club honors the Young Texan and Texanne at meetings while also discussing club business.



From left: Ava Guerra, Ryan Robinson and Ethan Hash were recognized as the Young Texans and Texanne for January and February, respectively. Courtesy of Springtown High School Facebook page

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FENCE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.

Ware said, quoting what her grandfather used to say about her son, who talked with the police recruits and other volunteers. “He makes friends with everybody. Everybody is his best friend.”

Ware said Conner is feeling much better, despite some lingering pain under his eye.

One of the police recruits, Krosby De Lapp, said the goal behind the service project was to create a safe space for Conner to play outdoors.

“A kid being able to feel safe and playing in his backyard and having that area to know that he can enjoy his time out here with his brother and with his mom – that’s definitely important,” De Lapp said. “I grew up having a backyard like that, and I would want any other kid to be able to have that same experience. That’s part of why we all joined is to make sure that our community feels safe, no matter if it’s exactly Fort Worth or if it’s an adjoining community.”

Several of De Lapp’s fellow recruits said coming out to build Conner’s fence was a good exercise in community service and a complement to the work they hope to do as police officers. Some of the recruits had children themselves and especially identified with wanting to keep Conner safe from strange dogs.

“I have three girls of my own, so I would hate for



A crew of Fort Worth Police recruits worked to install a fence at an Azle boy’s home on Saturday to keep him from encountering strange dogs.

Photos by Madelyn Edwards

something like that to happen to my kids and someone not be as supportive as I can be,” police recruit Porscha Almonte said. “If you can give back in any type of way, I think you should.”

Harry Harris, Conner’s school bus driver, was also on-site on Saturday to lend a hand. Harris said finding out about the attack was hurtful to hear about.

“Conner is a sweet boy, and his mom is a hardworking mother,” he said. “Conner, to me, is a special kid. I’ve been able to help him a

little bit and help his mom along the way, and it’s been a real blessing to be able to do that.”

Harris said having a community come together to help those in need is the way the world should work.

“This is the way it ought to be,” he said.

Trinity River Fence and Construction guided the recruits through the fence building process, and some of the recruits had previous experience with construction work.

“That’s kind of how

things work in the academy. They give us a task and (we) execute it,” police recruit Jarrett Williams said. “I was prior military as well so that’s kind of the same thing. Just throw as many bodies as you can at it, give proper instructions and we’ll figure it out.”

The recruits also donated toys and candy to Conner, as well as a gift to his mother. Ware said seeing other people step up to help her family is “fantastic,” “amazing” and “heartwarming.”

“I love all the support that we’re getting. I never thought we would get this much support,” she said.

The Servolution Network in Azle, led by Executive Director Jason Malewiski, spearheaded the effort to build the fence. As word spread about Conner’s attack and the need for a fence, support for the project was readily available. Home Depot provided \$4,000 worth of supplies for the 246 feet of fencing, Trinity River Fence and Construction oversaw the project and

about 19 Fort Worth police recruits volunteered to build the fence, Malewiski said. Alvin Ord’s Sandwich Shop brought lunch for the volunteers, and Caitlyn’s Catering brought hot drinks and peach cobbler.

“We love giving back,” Caitlyn’s Catering owner Scott Tanner said. “That’s part of the community. That’s what you do here in Azle. That’s just what we do.”

Tanner added, “You’ve got to give back. If you don’t give back, you don’t have anything.”

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

The Hopwood’s make tax time “relax time” for you. Rest easy knowing that these friendly folks are here all year if you happen to need them! So call Hopwood’s Tax Service today and find out how easy tax season can be!

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NOTICE OF PRIMARY ELECTION

Notice is hereby given that the polling places listed below will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., March 1, 2022, for the voting purpose of:

Joint Republican and Democratic Primaries

Early Voting by personal appearance

Main Voting Site:
Parker County Courthouse Annex
1112 Santa Fe Dr
Weatherford, Texas 76086
Annex Kitchen

Branch Voting Sites:

Springtown Senior Center
1070 N Main St
Springtown, Texas 76082
Community Room

Peaster ISD Old Rock Gym
8512 FM 920
Peaster, Texas 76088
Back Room of Gym

Hudson Oaks City Hall
210 Hudson Oaks Dr.
Hudson Oaks, TX
Council Chambers

Aledo ISD Admin Building
1008 Bailey Ranch Rd
Aledo, Texas 76008
Louden Room

PCT 3 County Barn
Break Room
1111 FM RD 1189
Brock, 76087

Azle City Hall
505 W Main St
Azle, Texas 76020
Community Room

Applications for ballot by mail may be obtained by calling 817-598-6185
Applications for ballots by mail must be received by the Early Voting Clerks no later than the close of business on Friday February 18, 2022
Applications for ballot by mail shall be mailed to
Jenise "Crickett" Miller Early Voting Clerk
PO Box 639 Weatherford TX 76086
Website: www.parkercountytx.com
Fax: (817) 598-6183 Email: gina.osborn@parkercountytx.com

Regular Early Voting Hours and Days:

Monday February 14, 2022	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Sunday February 20, 2022	10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Tuesday February 15, 2022	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Monday February 21, 2022	CLOSED
Wednesday February 16, 2022	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday February 22, 2022	7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Thursday February 17, 2022	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Wednesday February 23, 2022	7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Friday February 18, 2022	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Thursday February 24, 2022	7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Saturday February 19, 2022	7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Friday February 25, 2022	7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

On Election Day, voters may vote at any of the locations listed below:

POLL-SITE NAME	ADDRESS:	ROOM AT POLLING SITE:	VOTING PCT #
Silver Creek United Methodist Church	2200 Church Rd, Azle 76020	Fellowship Hall	100/105
Azle City Hall	505 W Main St, Azle 76020	Community Room	110/111
Reno City Hall	195 W Reno Rd, Azle 76020	Community Center	115
Springtown Senior Center	1070 N Main St, Springtown 76082	Community Room	120
Legacy Church	3591 E Highway 199, Springtown 76082	Lobby	125
Parker County North East Annex	1020 E Hwy 199, Springtown 76082	Court Room	130
Friendship Baptist Church	801 Friendship Rd, Weatherford 76085	Gym	135
Agnes Baptist Church	350 Agnes North, Springtown 76082	Foyer	140
Harburger Hill Community	701 Narrow St, Weatherford 76086	Large Room	200/250
Trinity Lutheran Church	1500 Ball St, Weatherford 76086	Fellowship Hall	205
Poolville Methodist Church	230 North Church, Poolville 76487	Fellowship Hall	210
Peaster ISD Rock Gym	8512 FM RD 920, Peaster 76088	Back Room of Gym	215
Whitt Fire Department	4312 N FM RD 52, Whitt 76490	Meeting Room	220
Bethesda United Methodist Church	6657 FM RD 113 N, Weatherford 76088	Johnson Hall	225
Calvary Baptist Church	1900 N Main St, Weatherford 76085	Fellowship Hall	230/245
Shady Grove Baptist Church	2470 W Lambert Rd, Weatherford 76088	Fellowship Hall	235
Union Baptist Church	3451 Sarra Ln, Springtown 76082	Fellowship Hall	240
Victory Baptist Church	1304 Fort Worth Hwy, Weatherford 76086	Youth Warehouse	255
Hudson Oaks City Hall	210 Hudson Oaks Dr, Hudson Oaks 76087	Council Chambers	260/265
Cherry Park Community Center	300 S Alamo St, Weatherford 76086	Main Room	300
Grace First Presbyterian Church	606 Mockingbird Ln, Weatherford 76086	Great Hall	305
Santa Fe Drive Baptist Church	1502 Santa Fe Dr, Weatherford 76086	Family Life Center	310/315
Weatherford College	225 College Park Dr, Weatherford 76086	3 rd Floor Workforce Building	WC
Millsap Community Center	102 Fannin St, Millsap 76066	Community Room	320
Harmony Baptist Church	242 Harmony Rd, Weatherford 76087	Gym	325
Tin Top Community Center	101 Old Tin Top Rd, Weatherford 76087	Community Room	330
Parker County PCT Barn # 3	1111 FM RD 1189, Brock 76087	Barn Break Room	335
First Baptist Church Dennis	7600 FM RD 1189, Dennis 76087	Old Fellowship Hall	340
Spring Creek Baptist Church	100 Spring Creek Rd, Weatherford 76087	Gym	345
Greenwood Fire Department	1418 Greenwood Cut-Off Rd, Weatherford 76087	Training Room	350
Morningstar Amenity Center	128 Heather Wind Ln, Aledo 76008	Main Room	400
First Baptist Willow Park	601 Ranch House Rd, Willow Park 76087	Welcome Center	410/415
Bear Creek Community Church	18600 Hwy 377, Cresson 76035	Lobby	420
City of Aledo Community Center	104 Robinson Ct, Aledo 76008	Main Room	430
Aledo ISD Admin Building	1008 Bailey Ranch Rd, Aledo 76008	Louden Room	435
New Faith Baptist	3303 West FM RD 5, Annetta 76008	Fellowship Hall	440
Parker County PCT Barn # 4	1320 Airport Rd, Aledo 76008	Conference Room	445
Lakeshore Drive Baptist Church	200 S Lakeshore Dr, Hudson Oaks 76087	Sanctuary	450

Aviso de Eleccion PRIMARIA

Se da aviso que los lugares de votacion que figuran a continuacion se abrian de 7:00 a.m. a 7:00 p. m., el 1 de Marzo, 2022, para el proposito de votacion para:

las primarias Republicanas y Democraticas conjuntas

Votacion anticipada por apariencia personal

Main Voting Site:
Parker County Courthouse Annex
1112 Santa Fe Dr
Weatherford, Texas 76086
Annex Kitchen

Branch Voting Sites:

Springtown Senior Center
1070 N Main St
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Brock, 76087

Hudson Oaks City Hall
210 Hudson Oaks Dr.
Hudson Oaks, TX
Council Chambers

Azle City Hall
505 W Main St
Azle, Texas 76020
Community Room

*Las aplicaciones para votar por correo pueden obtenerse llamando al 817-598-6185
Las solicitudes de boletos por correo deberán ser recibidas por las secretarias de elecciones primarias a más tardar al cierre de operaciones el viernes 18 febrero, el año 2022 Las aplicaciones para votar por correo deberán enviarse a
Jenise "Crickett" Miller Early Voting Clerk
PO Box 639 Weatherford TX 76086
Sitio Web: www.parkercountytx.com
Fax: (817) 598-6183 Email: gina.osborn@parkercountytx.com*

Regular Early Voting Hours and Days:

Lunes February 14, 2022	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Domingo February 20, 2022	10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
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Viernes February 18, 2022	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Jueves February 24, 2022	7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Sabado February 19, 2022	7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Viernes February 25, 2022	7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

En el dia de votacion, votantes podran votar en cualquier lugar mencionado abajo:

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Parker County PCT Barn # 4	1320 Airport Rd, Aledo 76008	Conference Room	445
Lakeshore Drive Baptist Church	200 S Lakeshore Dr, Hudson Oaks 76087	Sanctuary	450

Obituaries

Norma Jean Acklin

1948- 2022

Norma Jean Acklin was a caring wife, mother, grandmother, sister, grandmother, great-grandmother, and friend.

She passed away on Jan. 28, 2022 at age 73.

A memorial service is scheduled for 11 a.m. on Feb. 12, 2022 at Hilltop Family Church.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the local animal shelters or any wild horse sanctuary.

She was born to Barney Woolsey and Clara Woolsey Henry on Aug. 12, 1948 in Fort Worth, Texas. She met her loving husband, Michael Acklin in April of 1971. Together, they had three children: Gina, Scot, and Shelly.

Norma loved spending time on the road and traveling. She made an adventure out of every road trip. She was an avid animal lover and rescued many animals in her lifetime. She was loved by many, and she will be missed even more.



She is preceded in death by her parents, son, Scot Acklin; and brother.

Norma loved her family very much.

She is survived by her husband, Michael Acklin; daughters Gina Crouch, of Mesa, Arizona and Shelly Acklin of Killeen, Texas; five grandchildren, Nicole Acklin, Morgan Crouch, Shane Acklin, Michael Crouch, Keona Wilkie and one great-grandchild, Savannah Acklin.

The Springtown Epigraph
Feb. 10, 2022 Edition

Helen Ripple

1942- 2022

Helen Ruth Martin Ripple, 79, a loving and devoted wife, mother and grandmother, passed away, Friday, Feb. 4, 2022 in Azle.

Funeral is at 12 p.m. Friday at Alexander's Midway, Springtown. Visitation from 6-8 p.m., Thursday at the funeral home. Burial: Mount Olivet, Fort Worth.

She was born April 8, 1942 in Chickasha, Oklahoma to Floyd and Christine (Golightly) Martin. They both preceded her in death along with her siblings, Vera, Lois, Mary Jo, Calvin, Carl, Donnell and Gilbert. She enjoyed doing ceramics and loved spending time with her family and grandchildren.

She is survived by her loving and devoted husband, of 62 years, Frank Ripple; children, Christy (James) Webb, Bobby (Kim) Ripple, Jody



(Misty) Ripple, James Ripple and Tammie (Stephen) Bracken; brother, Jimmy Harper; grandchildren, Justin, Amy, Chelsie, Jeremy, Jordan, April, Dena, Tracey, Jason, Whitney, Mollie, Josh, Monica, Sam, Witnie, Zach, Dalton and Ryan; and numerous great grandchildren.

The Springtown Epigraph
Feb. 10, 2022 Edition

Robert Sorrels Jr

1949- 2022

On Feb. 1, 2022, Leonard Robert Sorrels Jr. passed from this life into the Loving Arms of Our Lord and Saviour at the age of 72. He passed away at home with his wife and children at his side.

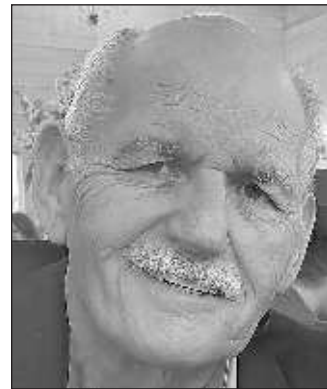
The celebration of Robert's life was held at Biggers Funeral Home in Lake Worth, Texas on Monday Feb. 7 with burial following at Jaybird Cemetery in Springtown.

Robert's request to those who wish to express sympathy to consider making a donation to an Animal Shelter of your choice.

Robert had bravely battled lung cancer for the last 12 months with strong will, courage and love for his family. His willingness to endure and withstand the many challenges of his illness is a testament to his faith and belief that a better life was awaiting him.

Robert was born in Fort Worth, Texas on May 17, 1949 to Leonard Robert Sorrels Sr. and Ethel Lorene Sorrels-Springfield. He married his High School Sweetheart Kathy Haugen in 1967 and together they had two children, Robby and Tammy. They made a life with their family in Springtown Texas.

Robert worked as an over the road truck driver for many years with various companies. Beginning at Buddies in Fort Worth, then driving for Montgomery Wards and finally ending



with retirement from Colt Midstream in Springtown.

More than anything Robert loved being with his family and friends. He enjoyed boating and skiing on the lake, riding his motorcycle with his wife and family gatherings. If asked, he would say that his finest achievements were his children, grandchildren and his first great-grand daughter.

Robert was preceded in death by his father Leonard Robert Sorrels Sr., mother Ethel Lorene Sorrels-Springfield; brother Terry James Springfield.

His survivors are his wife of 54 years Kathy Sorrels; son Robby Sorrels and wife Cyndy; daughter Tammy Murphy and husband Keith; grandchildren: Jake Sorrels, Nikki Sorrels, Gunnar Murphy and Wife Halyn, Reese Murphy; great granddaughter Havyn Murphy; two sisters, Kathleen Christian and Carmen Rogers.

The Springtown Epigraph
Feb. 10, 2022 Edition

William Gene Baker

1992 - 2022

William Gene Baker, Jr., 29, died on Jan. 29, 2022, surrounded by his family.

Funeral service is at 2 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 12, 2022, at White's Chapel in Springtown.

Visitation is from 6 to 8 p.m., Friday, Feb. 11, 2022, at White's Chapel in Springtown. Interment: Saturday, Feb. 12, 2022, in Jaybird Cemetery in Reno, following the funeral service.

William, aka Willie, lived most of his life with his mother and they had a very special bond. Everyone that met William felt an instant connection of friendship.

He was always there to lend a hand and he loved his daughters.

William was preceded in death by his brothers, Michael Russell and Rowdy Russell.

He is survived by his parents, William G. Baker, Sr. and Connie Sue Johnson



Baker; sisters, Marcella and husband, Ronnie Waites of Alabama, Judy and husband, Johnny Christian of Weatherford, April and husband, Thor Humason of Haltom City, and Brittany Waites of Alabama; brothers, Jacob Russell and wife Rachael of North Richland Hills, Joseph Russell and wife Amy of McKinney; and daughters, Sofie, Isabella, Zoy, and Nevaeh Baker.

The Springtown Epigraph
Feb. 10, 2022 Edition

Janice Sutton

1947- 2022

Janice Merlynn Allen Sutton, 74, a loving mother, sister and grandmother, passed away, peacefully, Saturday, Feb. 5, 2022 in Decatur.

Funeral was at 1 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2022 at Alexanders Midway Funeral Home. Visitation is from 6-8 p.m., Tuesday at the funeral home. Burial: Whitt Cemetery.

She was born March 8, 1947 in Blossom to Maurice and Martha (Calton) Allen. They both were there to welcome her home, along with her husband, Glenn Sutton, and brothers, Ronnie, Roger and Bobby Allen and Raymond Robertson. Janice had a big and kind heart. She loved spending time with her family, friends, neighbors all of which she considered family.

She is survived by her



son, James G. Sutton and wife, Cherie; sister, Sharon Watkins and husband, David; brothers, Steve Robertson and Ernie Robertson and husband, Henry Ballew; grandson, James A. Sutton and numerous nieces, nephews and extended family that will miss her dearly.

The Springtown Epigraph
Feb. 10, 2022 Edition

To place an obituary
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817-270-3340

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CONWAY, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.

said, so any placement at all for students is worth celebrating.

“Even to get pulled into the show ring is incredibly hard,” Pearson said. “Most kids are just happy with any placing, so to get second is extremely, extremely good.”

Conway has been showing sheep for over a decade, ever since she was 7 years old, at Parker County’s stock show – the first year that she was able to do so.

“Me and my dad went to Fort Worth one year, just to go, and then the sheep show was going on. And so, we watched, and I thought, ‘Hmm, I want to do that,’” Conway said about why she started showing sheep.

She liked the idea of be-

ing close to animals and was particularly attracted to the idea of showing sheep. She said she worked well and connected with the fine wool sheep, especially.

Pearson said there isn’t much rhyme or reason to why kids pick certain animals to show.

“They’re just drawn to some animals. They just like them,” he said. “Usually if a kid comes to us and says, ‘I want to show a lamb,’ then it doesn’t do any good to talk them out of it because for whatever reason, they’ve got it in their mind that that’s what they want to do.”

What Conway was definitive about was her lack of interest in cattle.

“They’re big. ... They’re

kind of scary,” she said. “It might run me over.”

Conway also took a medium wool sheep to the stock show in Fort Worth, but that sheep placed 11th. She has had both animals since last April, and the fine wool sheep has won a few other competitions before the Fort Worth show. Both sheep were sold in Fort Worth.

Pearson said students generally spend at least 10-15 hours per week working on their animals in the months before livestock shows. Conway explained how she must help the animals work up stamina and exercise them as well as make sure their wool is groomed and fluffy.

Conway will have more

opportunities to win at other competitions this spring. She plans on showing sheep in San Antonio, Austin and Houston, as well as the Parker County show in June.

“We’re usually pretty confident that she’s going to place pretty high,” Pearson said.

Conway’s big goal at the shows is to sell her animals for college money. Her current plans are to study business at Texas A&M University, but she might switch to an agriculture-related major.

Being involved in livestock shows and FFA has taught Conway “pretty much everything (she knows),” she said.

“It has taught me a lot of respect and responsibility -

a lot of responsibility,” she said.

Pearson described Conway as someone who is very involved in her school and

community and is mature and dependable.

“When she graduates, it (will take) a while to replace her,” he said.



Summer Conway with her agriculture teachers Tony Pearson and Sophia Kelley. Photo by Madelyn Edwards

When it's hard to say NO

“You need to learn to say NO.”

That’s what my friend told me in a text exchange as I was describing everything I have going right now.

I can’t argue with that.

I’ve never been very good at using that N word (to be clear, I don’t use the other one at all).

I know—cognitively—why it’s important to say NO.

I know I can’t do everything.

I know that my time and energy are finite commodities and that every YES requires NO to something else.

I know that there are some things that I’m really not good at and saying NO actually is a gift to the person making the request. It allows them to find someone who will do a much better job than I.

I know that saying YES and then doing it poorly is much worse than saying NO.

I know that saying YES and then doing it grudgingly is much worse than saying



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.

NO.

I know all of that!

Here’s my problem: people that I really like keep asking me to do stuff.

It’s so much easier to say NO to people I don’t like.

Maybe if I just didn’t like people so much ...

I guess that’s probably not the best solution.

I confess that I’ve been feeling a little overwhelmed lately and much of that overwhelm is because I seem to have misplaced my NO button.

I won’t bore you with all the things I’ve said YES to. That’s not relevant for today’s discussion. The point is that I am at a place in life where I am precisely as busy as I choose to be. I have the power to say NO. I just fail to exer-

cise that power far too often.

And I’m one of those guys who talks and writes about healthy rhythms. I coach pastors and leaders on developing those healthy rhythms, for crying out loud!

I know better!

Can I get an amen out there? Does anyone else have this experience? Anyone else feeling overwhelmed or—at the very least—out of balance right now?

If so, I’m going to ask you (and me) a few clarifying questions to help us recalculate our current trajectory.

Do you have a hard time saying NO because you’re trying to prove your worth and value by busyness?

Do you have a hard time saying NO because you’re trying to earn respect and

admiration through productivity?

Do you have a hard time saying NO because you want people to like you?

Do you have a hard time saying NO because you’re afraid people will stop asking?

Do you have a hard time saying NO because it feels so good to be needed?

Do you have a hard time saying NO because saying YES makes you feel like a hero?

Dadgum! I’ve stepped all over my own toes!

May I share a secret with you?

Read this slowly: You. Are. Loved. You. Are. Seen. You. Are. Valued. You. Are. Amazing.

Our YES should flow out of our sense of value, identity, purpose, and calling; it should not be an attempt to gain or earn any of those.

I don’t know if you needed to hear that today, but I did.

Be amazing today, my friend.

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Springtown FFA at the Stock Show



Scarlett Webb showed rabbits at the Fort Worth Stock Show. In open weekend, Webb won two first place awards and two third place awards. In Havana Specialty, she received a first-place award, second place award, third place and Best of Breed with a black Havana. In the Youth show, she earned two second place awards, a third-place award, two fourth places, a fifth-place award and a ninth-place award.
Courtesy of the Springtown 4-H Club



Morgan Cox won fifth place in class for her white heifer at the Fort Worth Stock Show.
Courtesy of Sophia Kelley



Kylie Altom won third place in class medium weight goat at the Fort Worth Stock Show.
Courtesy of Sophia Kelley



Right: At the Fort Worth Stock Show, Maverick Webb won two first place awards and two second place awards for rabbits in the open weekend. For Havana Specialty, he won two first place awards, a second-place award, a third place and Best Opposite with his chocolate Havana. During the youth weekend, he won a first-place award, two third places, sixth place award and his chocolate Havana got the Best Opposite.
Courtesy of the Springtown 4-H Club

Left: Madison Shreeves showed four Nigerian Dwarf Dairy Goats at the Fort Worth Stock Show and placed first in the costume contest. Shreeves also received three first place awards, two awards in second place, a fourth-place award, sixth place award, two seventh place awards, eighth place award and ninth place award.
Courtesy of the Springtown 4-H Club

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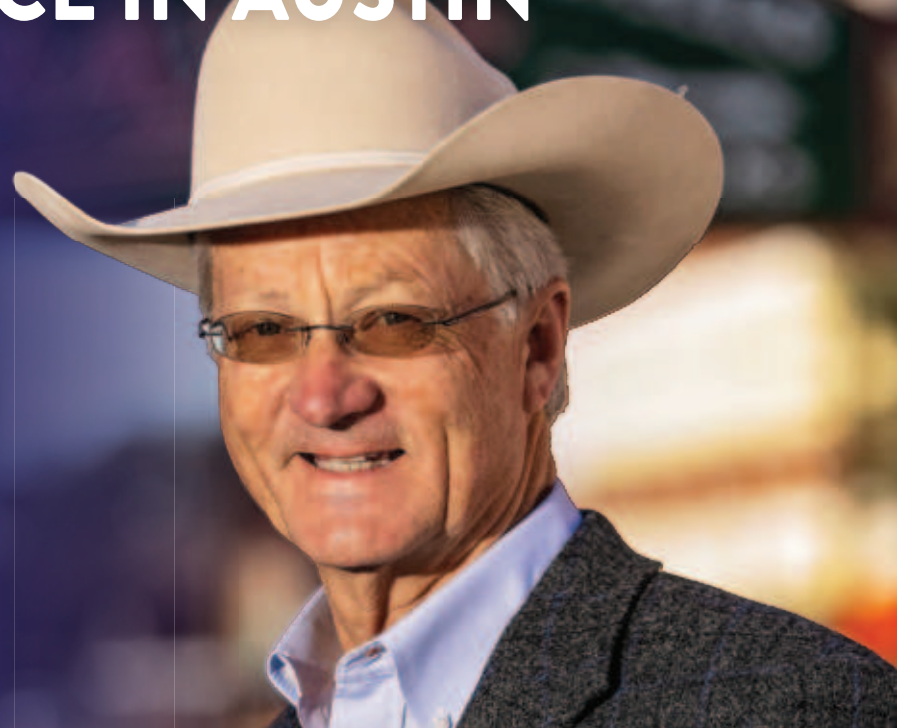


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- ★ **Retired Teachers:** authored the "13th check" and increased the state's contribution to the retired teacher insurance program
- ★ **Education:** voted to invest over \$11 billion directly in our public schools
- ★ **Transportation:** appointed to serve on House Transportation Committee, which oversees TxDOT and transportation issues

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Cody Brackeen, Matt Lockard to play football at Southwest Baptist University

BY JEFF PRINCE
jeff@azlenews.net

Two of the Springtown Porcupines' best football players will be churning up the gridiron at Southwest Baptist University later this year.

Matt Lockard and Cody Brackeen signed letters of intent to play at the private university Division II in Bolivar, Missouri.

"We both went up there and visited, and we both liked it," said Matt "Mr. Everything" Lockard, who earned his nickname after excelling at running back on offense, strong safety on defense and punter and punt returner on special teams.

Lockard was voted the team's most valuable player despite being one of its smallest athletes.

"Not everything is about

size," he said. "It's just about speed and technique."

Brackeen had been reaching out to various college coaches to gauge their interest and sent a note to SBU.

"I was on Twitter and emailing and doing everything I could to get recruited because I thought I had a future in football," he said.

The SBU coach surprised Brackeen with his reply.

"He said, 'I watched your film for a year and a half and planned on giving you a full-ride scholarship,'" Brackeen said. "That was pretty nice to hear."

Both boys have visited Bolivar and believe they will enjoy living there.

"It's a small town, so it's nice," Lockard said. "It's kind of like Springtown used to be when it was really



SEE SIGNING, PAGE 3B. Coach Brian Hulett leads a round of applause for Matt Lockard, left, and Cody Brackeen on National Signing Day.

Photo by Jeff Prince

Springtown soccer defender earns first assist of season



Jose Espinoza, left, stays in the thick of the action as center back for the Azle soccer team.

Photo by Jeff Prince

BY JEFF PRINCE
jeff@azlenews.net

Four times this season, the Springtown Porcupines soccer boys team has kept its opponents from scoring a goal.

Center back Jose Espinoza's energetic defensive performances are a big part of the reason why other teams struggle to score against the Porcupines.

At the Feb. 1 game against Hirschi, however, head coach Brian Maloney altered his starting lineup and moved Espinoza to right wing, an offensive position. Espinoza used his noggin to pass a ball to Josue Anaya, who kicked it into the net for the winning goal.

It was Espinoza's first time to play right wing this

season and his first assist.

"I did a header and passed it to our striker, and he scored it from there," he said after the game. "I felt pretty good about it."

Maloney was glad to see his hardworking defender nab some offensive glory for a change.

"We got to move Jose up the field so he can run around up top and make things happen," the coach said.

A game-winning assist was the result.

"I'm sure he's excited about that one," Maloney said. "Hopefully, there are many more to come."

SEE SOCCER, PAGE 4B.

Eyes on the ball



Amira Neri and the Springtown soccer girls, behind 2-0 at halftime, came back to score a goal in the second half but lost their district opener to Ranchview 5-1 on Monday in Irving. The Lady Pines (6-5) play district rival Argyle (12-1-1) at 5:30 p.m. Friday at Porcupine Stadium.

Photo by Jeff Prince

Lady Pines play gritty ball



Peyton Reynolds and Springtown's basketball girls played gritty ball against one of the toughest teams in Texas – the Argyle Eagles – on Tuesday at home. The Lady Pines lost 91-20 to a team that has won all 32 of its games this season. The defeat ended the season for the Porcupines, who finished 6-27 and tied for fifth place with Castleberry and Lake Worth and missed the playoffs.

Photo by Jeff Prince

Springtown hoop boys to face Castleberry in district closer



Aaron Tidwell guards an Argyle defender closely, but the Porcupines fell to the first-place powerhouse 85-41.

Photo by Jeff Prince

BY JEFF PRINCE
jeff@azlenews.net

The Springtown Porcupines will fight for a playoff spot when they face the Castleberry Lions on Feb. 15 in the final game of the regular season.

The Lions are on a four-game losing streak currently but have played tough teams, including District 7-4A leader Argyle on Feb. 2. The Lions lost that matchup 84-50.

Springtown is battling its own setbacks, including Tuesday's homecourt loss to Argyle 85-41 – the Porcupines' sixth consecutive loss.

Argyle is undefeated in district play with nine victories. Second-place Decatur has eight, and third-place Krum has seven.

Springtown and Bridgeport are battling for fourth place with three district wins apiece. Castleberry's two victories and Lake Worth's sole victory place them at the bottom of the standings.

Lake Worth and Castleberry play on Feb. 11. Depending on the outcome, Springtown's district closer against Castleberry could be a "win and in" game, said head coach Nathan Purvis.

"If Castleberry wins out, they would lock in the fourth place spot despite having the same number of district wins as us because they would have beaten us head to head both times in district," the coach said.

The first time the two teams met on Jan. 21, the

Porcupines lost by two points, 57-55. Purvis feels good about his team's chances this time around.

"We were missing a key guard to illness last time we played them and struggled from the free-throw line," he said. "We are hoping to have everyone healthy and ready to go for next Tuesday. We also feel that we have played fairly well at home this season."

The coach would like to see the gym packed with fans to cheer on the boys and give them a sixth player, so to speak.

"We are asking all of Pine Nation to come out and support our team, particularly these seniors, as we attempt to solidify our spot in the playoffs for their last game at Springtown High School," Purvis said. "These guys have battled all season and have had plenty of adversity thrown at them - from a late start due to a great football playoff run, to illness, to injury - and have never backed down. Anyone that watches them play sees that their effort and attitude have never been an issue."

Win or lose, Purvis knows he is coaching winners.

"I am grateful as their coach for all of their hard work and know it will pay off in their lives as men, husbands, fathers, and professionals," he said. "I would love for them to get the opportunity to see the fruits of their labor in the form of a playoff berth."

Springtown (10-17) plays at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 15 at home against Castleberry (17-11).

William Gleason drives hard for a bucket against Argyle on Tuesday in Springtown.

Photo by Jeff Prince



SIGNING, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B.

small.”
 Brackeen noticed a Springtown vibe to Bolivar, as well.
 “It’s just like Springtown,” he said. “It’s a smalltown feel. Most of their football players are from Texas. It gets colder than it does here, but other than that, it’s pretty much the same for me.”
 Brackeen grew up near Fort Worth and moved to Springtown in seventh grade. He is ready to move again, this time to a new state for a fresh start.
 “I’m ready for sure,” he said. “I feel like the coaches and all the other people that have helped me through this time in Springtown have got me ready for whatever comes ahead.”

PROUD COACH

Signing letters of intent to play college football is a “big deal,” said head coach Brian Hulett.

About 2% of high school athletes earn football scholarships in college.

Four years ago, Hulett wasn’t certain either player would be among that small percentage. Both players began their high school football careers with question marks.

Brackeen broke an ankle and missed his freshman season and sprained both ankles as a sophomore.

Lockard was talented but tiny.
 “This guy was 103 pounds,” Hulett said, recalling Lockard was as a freshman.

Both kids overcame obstacles and excelled through diligence, the coach said.

“They are just great kids,” he said. “Work ethic. Doing things right. Knowing what’s going on.”

Playing football through high school is challenging.

“It’s just a grind,” Hulett said.
 Continuing through college shows determination.

“To be able to get there and to do it and to go on – it will be another grind,” he said. “Most of all, go get the education with it. It’s one of those things that you don’t have to have in the world to be successful, but they can’t ever take it away from you if you get it. It’s something to always fall back on.”

Brackeen is eager to finish high school and start his next phase of life.

“All I can think about is football,” he said. “That is what’s going to keep me going.”

He will rely on his support system in Springtown while establishing new connections in Bolivar.

“No matter what, I always have teammates and always have coaches that will help me through anything,” he said. “That’s the special thing about football. You always have many, many people come into your life that you need – or you might not need, but you have those connections. I’m ready.”

Lockard hopes to major in education or business, graduate from college and return to Springtown to be a coach or a business owner.

Until then, he will continue toting the pigskin in Bolivar while enjoying newfound freedoms that go along with enrolling in college.

“I don’t have to worry about having to text my parents where I’m going,” he said with a smile.



Matt Lockard (above) and Cody Brackeen (below) celebrate with their families on National Signing Day.

Photos by Jeff Prince



Cody Brackeen (#77) blocks for Matt Lockard (#1) in possession of the ball against Decatur.

Photo by Jeff Prince

SOCCER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B.



Sergio Natalias Minguell is No. 1 in at least one student's heart. Photo by Jeff Prince

SEEKING A SCHOLARSHIP

Espinoza, a junior, has watched and dabbled in soccer his whole life but didn't begin playing in an organized league until his freshman year at Azle High School.

"My friends were doing it, and it looked pretty fun, so I tried it out and ended up being good at it," he said. "I knew the rules. I watched it at home. It's my favorite sport, but I never knew I was going to try out for it."

Two years later, he is hooked. He wants to play soccer in col-

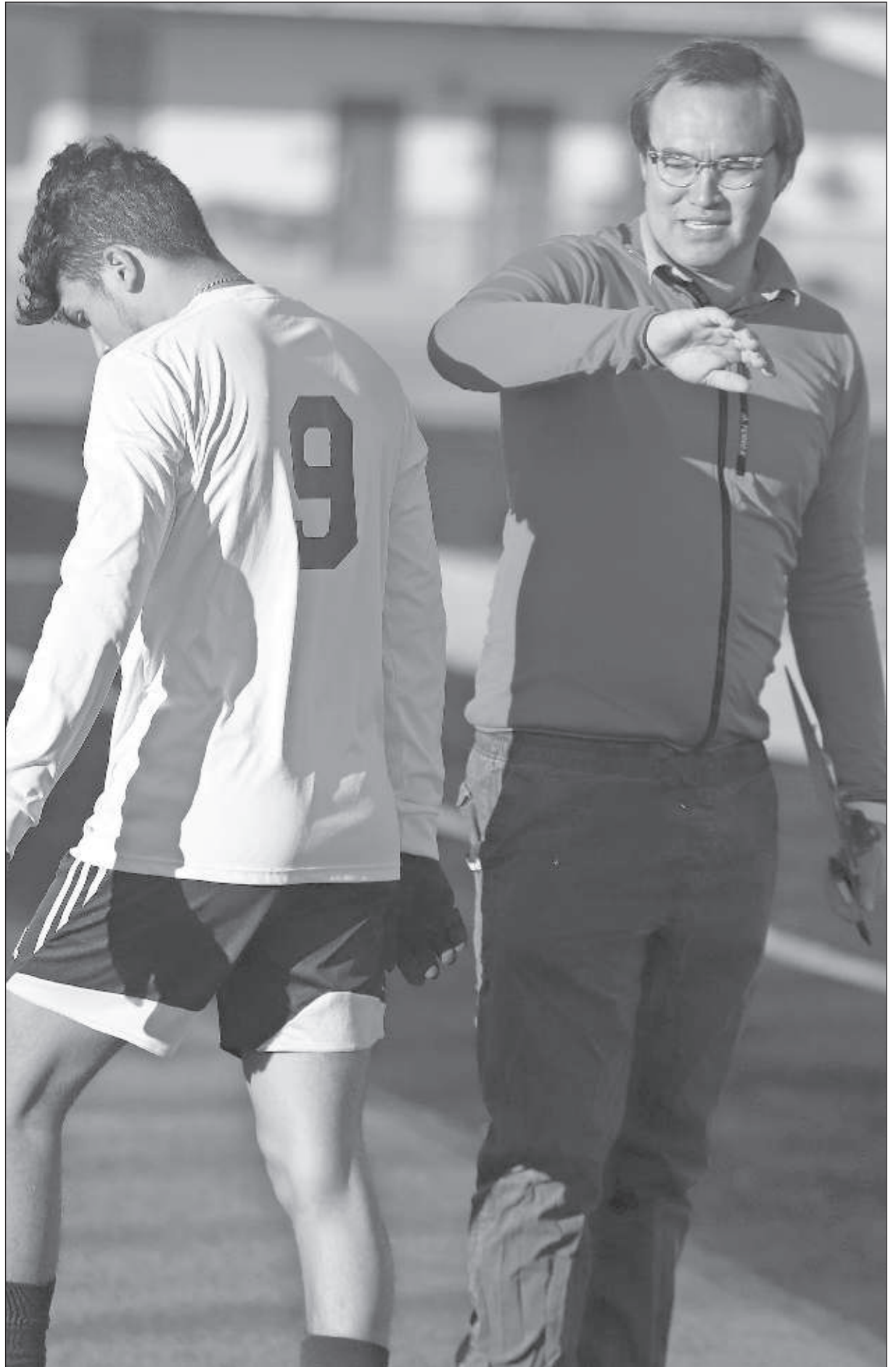
lege and keeps a highlight reel available online for college coaches looking to recruit prospective roster members.

"Hopefully, they see I'm a good player, and I have good stats," he said. "Good player. Good work ethic. Field vision. All that stuff."

He is on the A/B honor roll with a 3.5 grade point average.

COWTOWN TO SPRINGTOWN

Espinoza moved to Springtown with his family from Fort Worth's North Side in fourth grade.



Erick Barroso receives a slap on the back from head coach Brian Maloney.

Photo by Jeff Prince



"We just wanted to move to the country," he said. "Back then, Springtown was a little bit less populated, but I like it here."

He made friends fast. "I'm good with people," he said.

Track and cross-country help keep him in shape when he isn't playing soccer. Espinoza stays busy most of the time, even when he isn't playing sports or studying for classes.

"You've got to work hard and try to make it through life," he said. "I'm into welding, helping my parents, fixing cars, anything that has to do with mechanical and machinery. I like to work out. All that fun stuff."

He plans to study business management at college and open his own auto technician shop one day. He will seek a welding license, as well.

First, though, he hopes to further his education by impressing a recruiter and being offered a soccer scholarship.

"I will work as hard as I can," he said. "If I'm not good enough, I will try to get to those requirements. I won't stop until I get there."

NO. 8 WINS HEARTS

Espinoza's assist helped win the game, but a small group of girls standing on the front row of the bleachers at Porcupine Stadium held a sign indicating that Spanish foreign exchange student Sergio Natalias Minguell was *numero uno* in their hearts.

"That's my boyfriend, Sergio," said Brilyn Fowler, a sophomore. "I just want to support him."

Junior Jenah Power and sophomore Adriana Betanzos helped her hold the sign.

The idea came to Fowler after she saw a similar sign online. She was inspired and put colorful Sharpie pens to a white poster board – and voila!

"I saw it on Pinterest, and I thought the idea was cute," she said.

Minguell thanked the girls after the game.

"They are great fans," he said. He described the sign as "a great surprise."

NEXT UP FOR THE PINES?

Springtown (5-5) is currently in first place in District 6-4A and will play at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 11 at home against Argyle (7-5-1).

Brilyn Fowler, Jenah Power and Adriana Betanzos offer support to foreign exchange student Sergio Natalias Minguell. Photo by Jeff Prince



DEVOTIONAL PAGE



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| 4..... Appliance Repair | 27..... Exterminating | 49..... Masonry/Stonework | 72..... Sewer Service |
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| 8..... Autos, Trucks | 31..... Free | 53..... Musical Instruments | 76..... Vacuum Cleaners |
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| 10..... Backhoe Service | 33..... Furniture | 55..... Miscellaneous | 78..... Well Drilling |
| 11..... Boats, Motors | 34..... Garage & Estate Sales | 56 Party Planning/Events | 79..... Welding |
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| 20..... Demolition | 43..... Hunting | 65..... Printing | 88..... Rent Unfurnished |
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034 Garage & Estate Sales
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037 Hay
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Springtown ISD is accepting applications for Bus Drivers and Monitors. Training available. Contact the Transportation Dept. 817-220-1418.

Need residential electrician, 817-939-0102.

Wanted: Contractor to build home on my property, call Harold Young 817-444-1993.

The City of Reno is hiring Water/Street Personal. Applicants must have valid DL, drug testing is mandatory. No calls, applicants must apply in person only at the City of Reno, 195 W. Reno Rd.

039 Help Wanted
 Volunteer based business organization currently seeking applications for a full-time office assistant. The pay rate is \$12.00-\$15.00 per hour based on experience. Duties include, but not limited to, answering phones, data entry and processing, invoicing, membership communications, and event planning. We are seeking a professional-minded, responsible, and motivated individual. Applications are available at 404 W. Main St., Suite 102 or www.azlechamber.com.

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 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. Must be committed to customer satisfaction and be honest and dependable.
 Monday through Friday. No weekends!

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Classifieds

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 Plumber • Lieutenant • Classification Officer - Intake • Vocational
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New Correctional Officer Pay is \$15.00 per hour.


PLEASE CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR JOB QUALIFICATIONS.
 Must have HS Diploma or equivalent, be able to pass a drug screen, have a clean
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**Apply online at www.mtctrains.com or call
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NO JOB TOO SMALL

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FOR LEASE: 3 acres, gravel lot
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 to Hwy 199 (outside city limits).
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Near Hospital

**1161 SE Pkwy Azle 1700 SF
 \$1000/mo ,**
**1169 SE Pkwy Azle 930SF \$
 750/mo**
817-220-2021

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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD tollfree at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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- Boats • Golf Carts
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TEXAS CROSSWORD

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ACROSS

- arrival guesses at DFW Airport
- Livingston is the seat of this county
- prefix for "against"
- TXism: "raised concrete" (city boy)
- nat'l ID
- "Big D"
- square dance walk: sa _____
- he was UH's coach (1993-99) (2 wds.)
- Carl Sandberg said "_____ valor and swagger"
- "the echo" in Mexico
- "fool's gold" minerals
- carbonated soft drink
- TXism: "he's too lazy _____ flies"
- TXism: "has such a big _____ struts"
- TXism: "all bought for"
- this state is about 251 times smaller than Texas (abbr.)
- this Steven directed "Lincoln" with TX Tommy Lee Jones
- Mexican "pineapple"
- TX Orbison sang "You _____ Again"
- TXism: "_____ baby's bottom"
- Rice professor Max Apple wrote "The _____ of America"
- some Texans ski at this NM ski valley
- TXism: "he'll never drown _____ own sweat" (lazy)
- extremely small amount
- police _____ (abbr.)
- Mc _____, TX
- rancher slogan: "_____ More Beef"
- "_____ in the saddle" (be honorable)
- TXism: "tapped like a _____ possum"
- TX Nash's "I _____ See Clearly Now"
- "got no _____ for it"
- "tit for _____"
- enviro. agcy.
- TXism: "hit me like a _____ of bricks"
- instrument for noted Texas jazz musician Ornette Coleman (2 wds.)
- TXism for "very thin" (4 wds.)
- TX Charley Pride hit: "_____ Too Good to Be True"
- TXism: "_____ a coyote with a rubber chicken"
- TX George Strait's "_____ I Blue" (1987)
- this Hunt started the "Texans" who now are the "Chiefs" (init.)
- this "Pappy" was the 34th governor (2 wds.)
- "_____ well that ends well"
- meaty dish
- TXism: "attracted like _____ a magnet"
- this Jason is the Mavs head coach
- small egg-shaped wind instrument
- marking down
- TX Miranda Lambert won CMA "_____ of the Year" in 2012
- "_____ his dirty laundry in public"
- Eng. Lit. degrees
- "mi casa _____ su casa" (generous)
- Cuero is the seat of De _____ County
- Cowboys want to cross this line
- TXism: "get your _____ built" (be still)
- TXism: "worthless as half a _____"
- massive TX-based healthcare corp.
- Tyler County Booster classified

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