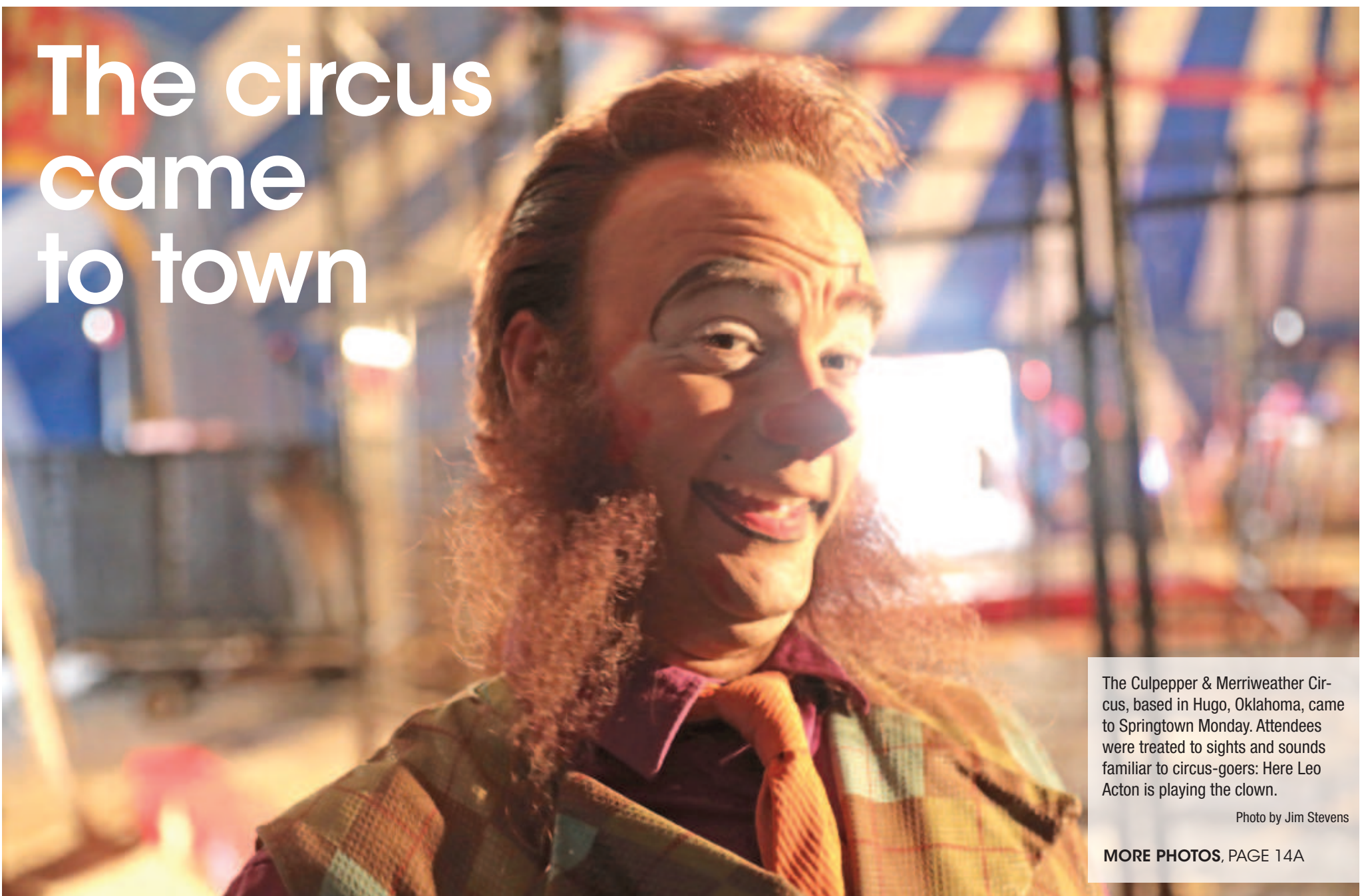




The circus came to town



The Culpepper & Merriweather Circus, based in Hugo, Oklahoma, came to Springtown Monday. Attendees were treated to sights and sounds familiar to circus-goers: Here Leo Acton is playing the clown.

Photo by Jim Stevens

MORE PHOTOS, PAGE 14A

Reno P&Z discusses proposed, updated animal ordinance

BY MADELYN EDWARDS
madelyn@azlenews.net

Reno's new proposed animal ordinance could be moved forward by the Planning and Zoning Commission next month, after some adjustments are made.

On April 4, the Planning and Zoning Commission may vote whether to recommend the proposed ordi-

nance to Reno City Council. If recommended, city council could consider the ordinance at its April 18 meeting.

Animal issues aren't exactly new in Reno. In a previous Epigraph article published more than a year ago, residents expressed concerns about dogs running in packs, chasing children and harming other animals as

well as animal hoarding. At that time, Reno did have an animal ordinance, but the article cited enforcement as the issue.

To that enforcement issue, an animal control officer, Joe Harris, has been hired as well, and he plans to take his state certifying test this month.

SEE RENO, PAGE 3A.

Springtown man sentenced to 50 years in prison for injury to a child

FROM STAFF REPORTS

A Springtown man was convicted by a Parker County jury of injury to a child causing serious bodily injury or death and was sentenced to 50 years in prison.

The nearly two-week trial – which took place in the 43rd District Court with Judge Craig Towson presiding – concluded March 17 in Weatherford, according to a news release from the Parker County District Attorney's office.

Kaleb Ray Eisenmann, 24, was charged with several offenses in connection with injuring Jax Eisenmann, the 7-week-old child he was raising with his girlfriend, in an offense that occurred Feb. 14, 2019. After six hours of deliberation on March 16, jurors returned with a verdict finding Eisenmann guilty of the first-degree felony injury to a child offense.

"This was an abusive head trauma case," Parker

County District Attorney Jeff Swain said in a news release. "Essentially, Mr. Eisenmann became frustrated because Jax would not stop crying. He either put him down very hard or shook him vigorously, causing irreparable brain damage."

Evidence presentation began earlier this month when Jax's mother testified how she and her mother took

SEE EISENMANN, PAGE 4A.

Finding her voice

Springtown Center of Hope coordinator talks about her journey into service



Misti Johnson at the Springtown Center of Hope office at 350 Agnes North, inside Agnes Baptist Church. Photo by Madelyn Edwards

BY MADELYN EDWARDS
madelyn@azlenews.net

Misti Johnson recalled going to the Parker County Center of Hope for help and not being judged for her hardship but being comfort-

ed instead.

Years ago, Johnson had to use the assistance of Center of Hope for help with groceries and other expenses. At the time, she was working a low-wage job and caring for two young children.

When she saw the Center of Hope's office, the previous one by Brookshire's in Weatherford, she decided to check it out. She called it a "calming and welcoming

SEE JOHNSON, PAGE 5A.

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Zoning Changes

Springtown City Council discusses possible changes to zoning, subdivision ordinances

BY MADELYN EDWARDS
madelyn@azlenews.net

The Springtown City Council discussed potential residential zoning changes as the process has begun to update the city's zoning and subdivision ordinances.

This discussion with Eric Wilhite, director of land planning for the civil engineering, landscape architecture and land surveying firm Pacheco Koch, took place at the council's special meeting on March 10. Wilhite collected feedback on the ordinances from the council, and that feedback, along with other research, will be discussed at a joint workshop between the council and the Planning and Zoning Commission.

City Administrator David Miller said the ordinances are being updated to comply with new state laws and to address changes that the council would like to make.

In a memo to the council after the meeting, Miller said staff and the council are also expected to revise the zoning map as a part of the process.

A significant part of the conversation at the March 10 meeting centered on residential lot sizes.

"I do not want 50-foot (wide) lots. Sixty is the minimum, and I'd be happier if it was a little bit higher than that," council member Michele Chandler Kelley said during the meeting.

Similarly, council member Bill White said he'd like to keep 60-foot-wide lots.

"I think we have done a pretty good job so far with the 60-foot lot," White said. "I'd like to see us stay with 60-foot lots."

Chandler Kelley also said she would like to remove the option for Single Family 3 zoning because of the zoning's sizes of the lot areas and setbacks for the side and rear yards.

"That's where we're getting a lot of houses that look like they're just right on top of each other," she said.

Miller said the minimum Single Family 3 zoning re-

quirements are 6,500 square foot lots and 60-foot-wide lots.

"Our minimum lot size is larger than some of the cities around us right now, so we'll also want to take that into consideration because as you can tell even with the 60-foot lot, we haven't necessarily had any problem developing," he said.

In his memo to the council, Miller also said that straight SF-3 zoning — meaning without the modifications imposed by Planned Development zoning — has not been requested or approved since the most recent zoning map was adopted in 2016.

Chandler Kelley said she would like to see a minimum of 10-foot setbacks on each side of a house, which would provide 20 feet of space between houses. She said Springtown residents don't want neighborhoods with houses too close together.

"We don't have to do what other cities are doing around us. We can do what's best for Springtown, and a lot of citizens don't want all these houses right up on top of each other and that many houses condensed together," Chandler Kelley said. "That's a lot of people coming in, and there's not a lot left for us to develop that's inside the city limits."

Mayor Pro Tem Richelle Pruitt agreed with Chandler Kelley's assessment and said that people complain about there being too many houses, and houses too close together.

Chandler Kelley said Springtown has enough smaller "starter" homes, and she would like to see more mid-level homes. Her comments last week echoed those that she made in December when she voted against the zoning, preliminary plat and development agreement for the subdivision near J.E. Woody Road and South Birch Street that will have 108 single family homes on almost 22 acres.

Miller pointed out examples, in his memo, of subdivisions where lots were bigger on average than what the

zoning minimums required.

Pruitt said during the meeting that the council also has the power to prevent certain homes from being built.

"We don't have to continue to make concessions for people when they come in and they want something smaller than what we have," she said. "We don't deny anybody anything."

Wilhite of Pacheco Koch said lot sizes don't necessarily determine quality of homes. Having larger lots could prevent growth if developers can't afford to build on the lots, he said.

Miller said the city needs a variety of lot sizes to keep up with the housing market and continue growing.

"When you're looking at your zoning ordinances, you have to be very cautious that you don't go to such a huge lot size that nobody is going to buy it because then your growth is going to stop," Miller said. "And then if your growth stops, that has a huge trickling effect all the way down the road because it's going to affect your ability to pass bonds, it's going to affect your ability to put streets up and everything. So, you've got to find that good balance."

Some council members also brought up wanting to avoid "cookie-cutter" houses that look the same on the exterior. Miller pointed to façade placement and "not having that exact same façade next door to each other" as an issue to be explored during this process.

Chandler Kelley said Springtown has a diversity and uniqueness to homes, but the newer homes are a detriment to the city's history and charm.

"It seems like what's happening is all of these newer houses are coming in, and it's swallowing up the history and the charm of our town, which makes us a little different than somewhere that just says, 'Hey, everybody, come build,'" she said.

The date for the city council and Planning and Zoning Commission workshop has yet to be set.

Springtown overdose awareness group to clean SH 199

BY MADELYN EDWARDS
madelyn@azlenews.net

With signs installed on State Highway 199, the Springtown overdose awareness group "We ARE our brothers keeper" will meet Saturday for a highway cleanup day.

"We ARE our brothers keeper" adopted a section of State Highway 199 just past the high school and extending two miles west. According to a previous Epigraph article, four cleanups per year are required per the adoption agreement.

Jessica Castro, the overdose awareness group's founder, said in a previous Epigraph article that she hopes that the cleanup days will pull the group together and allow families to spend time together.

Anyone is welcome to help with the cleanup and can meet by the sign across from Springtown High School at 10 a.m.

"We ARE our brothers keeper" is also hosting support groups for those who



The overdose awareness group "We ARE our brothers keeper" will meet at 10 a.m. on Saturday across from Springtown High School to clean up State Highway 199. Courtesy of Jessica Castro

are grieving and people with each other and share dealing with addiction on encouragement. The grief Saturdays at Hilltop Family Church. Castro said the group meets 10-11 a.m., and the addiction group is from 11 a.m. to noon.



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Springtown Middle School Choir receives top marks at UIL



At the UIL competition, the Springtown Middle School Treble Choir received a superior rating in sight-reading. Courtesy of Springtown Choir Facebook page



Springtown Middle School's Varsity Treble Choir competed at UIL and earned a sweepstakes with superior ratings in both concert and sight-reading. Courtesy of Aubyn Wood



The Springtown Middle School Tenor-Bass Choir earned sweepstakes with a superior rating in the UIL concert and sight-reading competition. Courtesy of Springtown Choir Facebook page

RENO, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.

The new proposed animal ordinance was discussed by the Reno Planning and Zoning Commission at a workshop meeting on March 15. P&Z commissioners asked questions of Reno Police Deputy Chief Nathan Stringer, who drafted the ordinance.

The animal ordinance draft addresses animals at large, rabies vaccination, establishes the animal control officer's authority and sets up requirements for dangerous dogs, among other mandates.

"I'd say the biggest takeaway is the dangerous dog ordinance," Stringer said. "We recently had an attack just outside the city limits; we responded to it. It's just a matter of time (before) somebody gets bit. Dangerous dogs need to be addressed."

The ordinance defines a dangerous dog as one that makes an unprovoked attack to a person or other animal causing bodily injury, or commits unprovoked acts that cause a person to believe that the dog will attack, in a place other than the dog's enclosure that could prevent the dog from leaving on its own.

The dangerous dogs subsection requires owners of dangerous dogs to carry liability insurance, register the dog with the city, contain the dog in a certain type of space, make the dog wear a certain type of collar and enact "steep" penalties if the registered dangerous dog attacks again, Stringer said.

During the meeting, P&Z commissioner Brian Schrader brought up a

concern that the ordinance would make owners put collars with rabies vaccination tags on barn cats. Stringer said rabies vaccinations are required by state law, and the city's ordinance would have to comply with state law regarding collars with rabies tags on cats. The rule about tags may work differently in practice locally.

"Our municipal court will not uphold a citation if the owner shows vaccination records," Stringer said. "I also don't see (the animal control officer) having the time to check every barn cat in Reno if they have a tag on or not."

Stringer also said the ordinance does not mandate how many animals can be kept per household, though the county and state addresses this. The ordinance does require that animals be kept in a sanitary manner where they are safe and healthy, and that the residence does not pose a health risk to neighbors.

The ordinance presented on March 15 was the revised version of an earlier draft, which was originally more restrictive, Stringer said. Some of the parts of the ordinance that were taken out in the revision were rules that have no bearing on the city currently, such as animal boarding, catteries and riding stables.

P&Z chairperson Christopher Reeves said during the meeting that he is satisfied with the proposed ordinance.

"I like this version a whole lot better," Reeves said. "It's a start. We may be able to address some other things later on."

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LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of Steve Edward Haley, Deceased
Notice is given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of Steve Edward Haley, Deceased, were issued to Derrick Cole Haley on March 9, 2022, in Cause No. 21P506, in the County Court of Parker County, Texas, which is still pending. All persons having claims against this estate are required to present their claims within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Claims should be billed to Derrick Cole Haley, Independent Administrator, c/o Jennifer S. Ruelas, Ruelas Law Firm, PLLC, 1020 Fort Worth Hwy. Ste. 500, Weatherford, Texas 76086.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of LEROY HORTON, DECEASED, were issued on March 9, 2022, in Cause No. 22P046, pending in the County Court of Parker County, Texas, to: CYNTHIA DIANE HORTON.
All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
c/o: D. Brent Murphree, Attorney at Law. 337 W. Main Street Azle, TX 76020. DATED the 15th day of March, 2022.
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Obituaries

Danny Smith, Jr. 1968-2022

Danny Leon Smith, Jr., born on Dec. 13, 1968, to Danny Leon Smith, Sr. and Martha Ann Jones, passed away March 11, 2022, with family by his side. Danny is preceded in death by his mom, Martha Kinney; his dad, Danny Smith, Sr.; his step-father, Ron Kinney, and many others.

A boy who knew from a young age that he had talent, Danny started drawing and making paintings to sell at school. His art was so good that it was recognized and displayed by Congress. There was not one thing that Danny could not draw. He used his talent to help design tattoos and eventually to be a tattoo artist.

Danny joined the U.S. Army after high school, quickly becoming a sergeant. He was a part of the 11th brigade unit that deployed to Desert Storm. His last duty assignment was B BTRY 3/43RD 11TH ADA BDE. Danny served his country faithfully as a brave and loyal soldier. During his time in the Army, Danny received many medals, ribbons, and badges.

After the military, Danny became a family man through marriage and a career in carpentry. His calling was to follow in the steps of Jesus and become a carpenter, which he successfully did for over 20 years. Danny's first marriage was to Missy Poteet; they welcomed a son, Taylor. His second marriage was to Amy Drew, with whom he had four children: Chynna, Brendyl, Eryl, and Faryn. Danny was the coolest, funniest, most loving dad. He did whatever it took to en-



sure his kids and wife had what they needed.

On his 27th wedding anniversary, Danny departed this earth leaving behind his wife, Amy, and five children: Taylor Poteet, Chynna Smith, and her husband Jon Zavala, Brendyl, Eryl, and his wife Jessica, and Faryn and his fiancée Madisyn Ball. Danny was a grandpop to Taylor's children; Chynna's children: Antonio Smith, Lillian, Xephina, and Echo Sanchez; Jon's children: Aiden and Allie Zavada; Eryl's baby: Scarlett Smith; and Trent's children: Dawson and Conner Kinney.

He also leaves behind his siblings: Jimmy Gollihar, Sr., Ron Kinney, Jr., Robert Kinney, Russell Kinney, Daretta Wilson and her husband Bruce, Deborah Baker and her husband Greg, Darin Smith and his wife Jennifer, Rhonda Summers and her husband David, Betty Kinney, Shirley Kinney, and many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and friends.

Services will be held at the DFW National Cemetery, 2000 Mountain Creek Pkwy, Dallas, TX 75211, on March 30, 2022, at 11 a.m. (viewing); 12 p.m. (funeral).

The Springtown Epigraph
March 24, 2022 Edition

Tina Tisdale 1977-2022

On March 16, 2022 Tina passed from this life into the loving arms of our Lord Jesus Christ at home with her husband and children at her side.

She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, daughter and friend to many.

A memorial was held March 23, 2022 at Fundamental Baptist Church in Springtown.

Tina was born in Fort Worth Texas on February 18, 1977 to Thomas and Ina Hall, and she was 45 when her earthly journey ended.

She met her husband Johnny in May 1998 and they married at the church 20 years ago on March 23, 2002.

Together they raised three children Tyler, Stormy and Christopher, and she also had three bonus children Kristen, Johnny 3rd, and Catherine. Her greatest love was for her children and grandchildren.

Johnny loved being the love of her life. She loved fishing, the beach, cooking, caring for her family, traveling, and playing with Lilith her first grandchild by son Tyler. Together they have eight grandchildren. She liked going to Six Flags and carnivals and bingo.



On shopping trips she would drag Johnny all over the stores looking at everything, especially things for the kids and grandkids, Tea pots were her favorite.

At Christmas she always went overboard as it was her favorite time of the year. Birthdays were celebrated at home and usually a restaurant or short trip somewhere.

Tina and Johnny have been fortunate to have been able to spend every day together since he retired in 2010, 12 years ago. Her smile and loving nature will be missed by many.

Tina is survived by her husband Johnny; mother Ina; brothers Tom, Todd and Troy; sister Tracy and many nieces nephews, great nieces and nephews and friends.

The Springtown Epigraph
March 24, 2022 Edition

'Walk Across Texas' to promote healthy habits, physical activity

FROM STAFF REPORTS

People who want to get some fresh air and enjoy the spring weather can do so with a walk that began this week: the 2022 Parker County Walk Across Texas.

The walk started Monday and continues through May 15, according to a news release from Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Parker County. Walk Across Texas is an eight-week program seeking to help people of all ages support one another to establish the habit of regular physical activity.

Walk coordinators said the program is simple, free and safe, explaining what is needed is a team of eight people to walk, with one person being designated as the "team captain." The team who walks the farthest across Texas will win, but everyone who participates will take home a healthy habit, walking for fitness, the release stated.

If people do not want to walk, then they can do any activity that can count toward their journey across Texas. The Walk Across Texas website allows members to enter their own miles daily. It also has each team member complete his or her own profile information. Each adult team can have up to eight members.

Each youth team can have an unlimited number of youths to participate. For schools, a class or group can be a team.

"This year we want schools, businesses, worksites, organizations, churches, fitness groups, churches, neighborhoods, families and friends to participate," the release stated. "Last year we had over 100 participate. This year we want to double that more and more."

People can sign up your team at <https://howdy-health.org/programs>. There is a video for both youths and adults. This year there are two options. People can sign up their team on the Parker County League. The Adult League code is: WatL-220303-87744. For Parker County Youth League, the code is: WatLY-220304-92600.

People can also just sign up through the team portal and ensure they put the start date: March 21. The League option will allow you to compare your mileage with other teams in Parker County.

Teams must be registered online by March 28. For more information, call 817-598-6168 or come by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Parker County. You may also email at kl-smith@tamu.edu.

EISENMANN, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.

Jax to Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Azle on Valentine's Day 2019, and then Jax was transferred to Cook Children's Medical Center in Fort Worth. Jax's mother made the decision to put Jax on hospice on March 1 after having discussed it with palliative care doctors. Jax died March 20, 2019.

The prosecutors, Assistant District Attorneys Susan Pruett and Abby Placke, called 11 doctors and a nurse practitioner, most of whom work at Cook Children's Medical Center. The medical professionals told jurors how Jax's extensive brain injury stopped blood from properly oxygenating his brain.

Eisenmann's attorneys called a medical examiner from Williamson County, who said that he believed Jax's death was caused by a viral infection. The Tarrant County medical examiner, radiologists, neurologist, neuropathologist, pediatric ophthalmologist, pediatricians, palliative care doctor, emergency room doctor and the director of the Cook Children's Medical Center Care Team all testified that the defense expert was wrong and that Jax's injuries were caused by trauma.

During the trial, Eisenmann's attorneys attempted to cast blame for Jax's injuries on another man. However, during an interview played for jurors, Eisenmann made several inculpatory – or incriminating – statements to an investigator with the Parker County Sheriff's Office, including: "I was getting frustrated, and I was just trying to get him to calm down." "I didn't slam him but did set him down really hard... and his head did bounce up." "I picked him up a little hard but... it was hard enough to probably cause an injury."

During the trial, Eisenmann testified that he suffers from bipolar disorder and, sometimes, he gets frustrated and has "fits," which he said can happen instantaneously and come and go rapidly. He admitted to being frustrated with Jax on Feb. 14 and having "a fit" and set him down in frustration.

"This was a helpless baby whose life was taken because of Mr. Eisenmann's selfishness," Placke said. "He put Jax's mother in the unimaginable position of having to make end of life decisions for her infant son."

Swain said per Texas parole law, Eisenmann will be eligible for release after he has served 25 years.

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JOHNSON, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.

experience.”
 “They put me very at ease,” Johnson said. “They enunciated that plenty of times that, ‘It’s OK, it’s OK,’ and that really kind of helped bring peace in my head to the situation a little bit.”

This experience has aided Johnson, who is currently a Poolville resident, in her role as the coordinator for the Springtown Center of Hope, which is located at 350 Agnes North inside Agnes Baptist Church. She understands how difficult it can be to ask for help and to be worried about attracting judgment from others.

“I understand how hard it is for people to come here and have to sit across from me and explain their situation,” Johnson said. “Eye contact is so hard for them because they’re looking everywhere else but at me, and I just try so hard to put them at ease because I understand what that’s like.”

The Center of Hope, which has locations in Weatherford and Springtown, is a Christian organization that helps with groceries, medical needs, utility bills, career development, adult education, mental health needs and resources for those living in domestic violence situations.

In February last year, Johnson became an administrative assistant at the Center of Hope in Weatherford. She decided to pursue the position after the death of her father in 2020.

“His retirement life was centered around charity and service and volunteering and helping,” Johnson said, adding that he volunteered for “pretty much anything and everything he could get involved with.”

“I thought, I want to carry on his legacy,” she said.

Johnson started looking around for nonprofits that

she could volunteer or work at, and she remembered Center of Hope. The first time she reached out, she was told that there was an open position, but it fell through. Then, six months later, her mother died of COVID-19.

“When you lose both your parents within a year, it kind of changes your heart and your mind a little bit that something in my life needs to change and I’m not doing something that I’m supposed to be doing,” she said.

Johnson reached out to Center of Hope again and landed the administrative assistant position. She said it was a “low pressure” job that allowed her to find out about Center of Hope’s departments.

Center of Hope Community Engagement Manager Michelle Buchanan recalled interviewing Johnson for the job and remembered that Johnson really wanted to help people.

“In the interview several times, she talked about, ‘I want a job that makes a difference and that helps people.’ That was really important to her,” Buchanan said.

Johnson laughed when asked how she became the coordinator for the Springtown Center of Hope, which opened in April 2021. The position was not something she wanted at first. After the previous coordinator left, Johnson was approached about the position, and her initial answer was a hard no.

“I have horrible social anxiety, so the idea of talking to people is terrifying for me,” she said. “So, I was like, ‘No, this is a terrible idea. I am not going to go over there and bumble my way through this and potentially screw things up.’”

After rejecting the position multiple times, Johnson agreed to try out being trained and working in the

advisory area in Weatherford. Through that, she found that she was more comfortable talking with people more than she thought.

“You just forget about yourself,” she said. “It’s a humbling and wonderful experience, and I was like, I am horribly addicted, and I want more now. I want to be around the people, and I want to be talking to the people.”

Johnson started working as the Springtown coordinator in September. Her job involves meeting with the people that the center assists and assessing their needs, budget and goals. She is also in charge of stocking the food pantry, and she travels to Weatherford every Wednesday to pick up the needed groceries. As the coordinator, Johnson writes monthly reports that are required for the center’s grant with Texas Health Resources, as well as other miscellaneous tasks she is needed for.

The Springtown Center of Hope has had 1,140 visits helping 340 different families since opening in April, Johnson said last month. The center sees an average of about 100 families per month.

Buchanan said some of the qualities that make Johnson fit to be the coordinator is that she works toward solutions and takes her time to understand everything.

“That’s a big reason why she moved into being the Springtown coordinator is because she’s so levelheaded and calm and just takes things in and works towards solutions,” she said. “We knew she was a good fit.”

Johnson said working at the Center of Hope has changed her life, and she never thought she would be brave enough or capable enough to do the job. She also reflected on the feeling of knowing that the Center



Misti Johnson, front row, second from left, at the Springtown Center of Hope ribbon cutting.

Photo by Madelyn Edwards

of Hope participants trust her with their stories. She described how people rely on her to listen and talk to them and “make them not feel invisible.”

“You go home every day knowing that these people that come in here, they trust you with their life because they’re telling you all the nitty gritty and all the dirty things that they’re not going to tell anybody else,” she said. “You might be the only person that knows what’s going on, and the fact that a complete stranger would trust you with that kind of information is an overwhelming feeling.”

Buchanan also noticed changes in Johnson as a result of her work at Center of Hope. Buchanan said Johnson developed confidence as a leader and advocate.

“She’s found her voice. She was very quiet before and rarely spoke up, and now she speaks up a lot as an advocate for the people that she’s serving,” Buchanan said. “She’s very passionate about helping people, and so, it’s actually brought

her out of her shell because she’s so passionate about helping others.”

What distinguishes Johnson’s job at the Springtown Center of Hope from other jobs that she has had is the feeling of accomplishment that comes with helping lighten someone’s burden. She likes seeing people who use the center’s services smile and be relieved they’re getting help.

Johnson described her favorite part of her job as “just seeing relief and people knowing that they can go home with one less thing on their mind at night or go home with diapers for their baby that they didn’t have a way of getting before, or whatever the case might be. Any small part, any small victory is the best part.”

However, Johnson readily admitted that not every day at her job is “sunshine and rainbows.” Sometimes that tough day comes in the form of dealing with a difficult case, such as ones involving domestic violence, or having to turn down requests that the center can’t fulfill.

Johnson also described the difficulty of knowing that someone can change, but they won’t.

“You get the people that you know they can do better, but you can’t tell them that,” Johnson said. “You just have to show them grace and you show them mercy and you show them love while they’re here. It’s so frustrating because you see the potential; they don’t see it yet. Maybe someday they will.”

Despite having to witness and help people through difficult situations, Johnson has a positive outlook on life.

“I really thought coming in to advise people that I would have a much darker view of the world because that’s all you see is people when they’re having a really bad day, but that’s not the case at all,” she said. “I see the resolutions, and I see the people who come out smiling, and I see the people who do that sigh of relief. I see the happier end of the road. And, it has kind of helped me, in an odd way, get a better outlook on people and life and situations as a whole.”

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Sheriff's deputy dies in wildfires west of Dallas



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. gborders@texaspress.com

An Eastland County sheriff's deputy died March 17 as wildfires swept through several small Texas communities west of Dallas, destroying at least 50 homes and charring more than 54,000 acres as of Sunday.

Deputy Sgt. Barbara Fenley died while going door to door warning people to flee, according to the Austin American-Statesman.

Sgt. Fenley ran off a smoke-covered road and was engulfed in the fire, the sheriff said.

Several wildfires merged to form what is now known as the Eastland Complex fire. The blaze started last Thursday afternoon and in less than three hours destroyed 86 houses in Carbon, a town of just 272 residents in Eastland County, about 120 miles west of Dallas.

GOV. GREG ABBOTT ISSUED A DISASTER DECLARATION FOR 11 COUNTIES IN RESPONSE TO THE WILDFIRES.

"I commend the hard work and selfless acts of thousands of first responders and firefighters who are risking their own lives to protect our communities," Abbott said. "I also ask Texans to join me in praying for those who have been affected by these wildfires, including Eastland County Deputy Barbara Fenley, who was tragically killed while trying to save lives."

TWO DOZEN TEACHERS ADDED TO TASK FORCE

The Texas Education Agency has added two dozen teachers to its recently formed Teacher Vacancy Task Force. TEA faced criticism when the original 28-member panel only contained two teachers, with high-level administrators making up the rest.

The task force was formed at the behest of Abbott in response to a growing shortage of teachers across the state. Its goal is to "better understand the significant staffing challenges facing Texas public schools and to make comprehensive recommendations to address these issues," according to TEA.

Josue Torres of Forney, an elementary school math teacher from Dallas ISD, will serve as chair of the task force.

"The reason I got into education is because I believe that a student's zip code shouldn't determine his or her fate," Torres said. "This task force has the ability to recommend the needed changes and innovative solutions necessary to ensure all Texas students have access to the high-quality educators they deserve."

2021 SECOND DEADLIEST YEAR ON TEXAS ROADS

Traffic fatalities in the state were up 15% last year, making 2021 the second-deadliest year on Texas roads with

4,480 people killed — the highest total since 1981, according to the Texas Department of Transportation.

Commissioner Laura Ryan pointed out that roadway safety is a shared responsibility between the public, engineers and law enforcement.

In 2021, 1,522 people died because of speed-related causes, and 1,219 were killed because they were not wearing seat belts, Ryan said.

"Driver behavior is one of the causes but also one of the most important solutions," she said.

With increased focus on engineering, enforcement and on the critical role drivers play in road safety, Ryan and TxDOT leaders think the state can end the streak of daily deaths on Texas roadways. #EndTheStreakTX is a broad social media and word-of-mouth effort that encourages drivers to make safer choices while behind the wheel, such as wearing a seat belt, driving the speed limit, never texting and driving, and never driving under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.

The last deathless day on Texas roadways was more than 21 years ago — Nov. 7, 2000.

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR HEROES FOR CHILDREN AWARD

Thousands of Texas volunteer at the state's public schools, and the State Board of Education would like to recognize some of them with a Heroes for Children Award. Any Texas resident who contributes time, service or support to public schools and student can be nominated. School employees or elected officials are

not eligible.

One recipient will be chosen for each of the 15 SBOE districts in the state. Award recipients will be recognized at the board's September meeting. The deadline for nominations is July 15. Additional information and access to the nomination form can be found at https://tea.texas.gov/Heroes_for_Children.aspx.

COVID-19 CASES STILL DROPPING

The number of new COVID-19 cases dropped once again to 18,744 in the past week, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University, with 418 deaths recorded. Two months ago, largely as a result of the omicron variant, 440,341 cases were reported along with 2,311 deaths.

The number of lab-confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations also dropped to 1,605, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services, down 20% from the previous week.

DSHS reports 17.373 million Texans are fully vaccinated, which is 59.6% of the total population. In addition, 6.429 million of the state's residents have received a booster dose.

SPRINGTOWN SCHOOL MENU

March 28 - April 1, 2022
PK through 12th Grade

*Menus are subject to change.

BREAKFAST PRICES	
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 Pancake bites, Toast, Variety of Cereal, Fruit, Juice **Tuesday** Chicken Biscuit, Toast, Variety of Cereal, Fruit, Juice **Wednesday** Scramble Eggs, Toast, Variety of Cereal, Fruit, Juice **Thursday** Breakfast Pizza, Toast, Variety of Cereal, Fruit, Juice **Friday** Cinnamon rolls, 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, Broccoli, Blueberries **Tuesday** Tangerine Chicken, Rice, Broccoli, Fiesta Sticks, Mandarin Oranges **Wednesday** Cheeseburger, Hamburger, Tater Gems **Thursday** Grilled Turkey and Cheese, Crispy Chicken Sandwich, Chili Style Beans, Cucumber & Tomato Cup **Friday** Cheese Pizza, Potato Crunch Fish, Fresh Baby Carrots, Green Beans, Roll

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 Cheeseburger, Hamburger, Tater Gems, Cucumber & Tomato Cup, Orange Smiles, Blueberries **Tuesday** Spaghetti w/ meat Sauce, Chicken Nuggets, Garden Salad, Roll, Glazed Baby Carrots, Apple, Pears **Wednesday** Grilled Turkey and Cheese, Pretzel Dogs, Fresh Broccoli Florets, Mixed Vegetables, Pineapple Cup **Thursday** Nachos (beef or chicken), Refried Beans, Corn, Banana, Strawberries **Friday** Pepperoni Pizza, Potato Crunchy Fish, Fiesta Sticks, Roll, Green Beans, Coleslaw, Peaches

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Pacific Plastic Problem

Albatross are large seabirds. Scientists have discovered that albatross chicks that live in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, far away from people, are killed by little pieces of plastic, including plastic toys. How does plastic wind up in the middle of the Pacific?

The Great Pacific Garbage Patch is a massive soup of plastic waste floating in the sea. It's growing larger all the time, harming birds, fish and people, too!

Replace the missing words.

Plastic Soup in the Pacific? A number of years ago, scientists discovered _____ and dead albatrosses on a group of remote and isolated _____ called _____.

Researchers found small plastic toys, toothbrushes, bottle _____ and other small pieces of plastic. These were all **single-use plastics** — plastic that was used just _____ and then thrown away.

Few people live on Midway Atoll. How does so much plastic get there? The answer lies in the earth's **watershed** and ocean _____.

What's a watershed? A watershed is not a building. It is an area of land that collects rain and snow. The water then drains into bays and from there into the ocean where it joins large ocean currents.

A Sea of Troubles Plastic from the west coast of North America floats down creeks and rivers into the Pacific Ocean. There it joins the North Pacific Gyre which flows clockwise into a large circle.

Meet the Albatross
The wandering albatross is the world's largest flying bird.

These are big birds: An albatross wingspan can be from six to eleven feet wide! Here's how that compares to the armspan of two kids.

A Dangerous Mix
Albatross parents travel hundreds of miles to find food for their chicks. They scoop up squid, krill, fish eggs and other natural seafood from the surface of the ocean. They carry their food back to their chicks in their stomachs.

When it reaches its hungry chick, the albatross **regurgitates** the food. The chick then pulls food out of the parent's mouth to eat. (Gross to us, but perfectly normal for these birds.)

But albatross are also swallowing dangerous plastic waste when scooping up seafood. One bird researcher saw an adult albatross regurgitate a toothbrush and its chick ate it. Chicks are not able to regurgitate food or other materials out of their stomachs and the plastic food stays there, making them sick and killing them.

How YOU Can Help!

YOU can stop plastic from entering the watershed by reducing the amount of plastic you use and recycling the plastic you can't avoid using. **Below each of these items, draw what you could use instead.**

SINGLE-USE PLASTICS TO AVOID:

plastic cups plastic utensils paper plates plastic water bottles plastic bags

CREATE A MESSAGE OF PEACE

Do you want to send a message of hope and peace to people in Ukraine and other victims of war? If so, send us your drawing or your poem. Children's newspapers around the world will collect these messages and distribute them.

Kid Scoop will publish them on our websites kidscoop.com and kidscoopnews.org.

Send us your creations by email to Woodward@kidscoop.com.

Or, mail to:
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Double Double Word Search

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

ALBATROSS	D I O V A Y C P R R
RECYCLING	S I C K A H C A E L
FLOATING	E C A W I C I T C L
PLASTIC	T L D C A E T C Y O
MIDWAY	O I K P S E S H C T
CHICKS	M S S O R T A B L A
REMOTE	E T O Y S P L L I A
PATCH	R S G G E S P T N I
AVOID	G N I T A O L F G E
ATOLL	
GYRE	
SICK	
EGGS	
TOYS	
CAPS	

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

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Planet Point of View

Find an article that shows a way in which people harm or care for our planet. Rewrite the article from the point of view of a wild animal that would be affected by the news in this article.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Write from a particular point of view.

Write On!

Thank a Veteran

Send your story to:

What would you say to a veteran to thank them for their service?

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Weekly Writing Corner

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The best grandpa ever

“You’re the best grandpa ever!”
Thus saith my eldest granddaughter. (Doesn’t King James English make it sound more authoritative?)

I have long suspected that, of all the grandpas in the world, I am one of them.

Not only that, I’ve been pretty sure that I rank right up there on the list.

But it must be objectively true since it has been spoken aloud by the most spectacular seven-year-old on the third rock from the sun.

Some might suggest that there is some bias involved both on her part and mine. But let me ask this — does the existence of bias change the truth?

There you go. I am, of course, being a bit facetious with this but I’m (hopefully) going to make a point.

One of the things that will really mess up our lives is envy.

Well, that seemed like a hard turn with no warning.

Stick with me for a bit. This morning I read Psalm 73. It begins this way:

“Surely God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart. But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold. For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.”



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. www.discoveryouramazing.com.

The writer of this psalm was an Israeli writing what would become a part of the Hebrew scriptures, so that explains the reference to Israel.

He recognizes the goodness and providence of God and connects that goodness to purity of heart.

But then he admits that he almost fell into one of life’s most common traps — envy.

He saw that it was not only the pure in heart that experienced prosperity; the arrogant and wicked also prospered — oftentimes more than the righteous.

Could it possibly be that purity of heart and righteousness does not matter?

Could it possibly be that what someone else has gained is worth my own pursuit even if I have to compromise my integrity to do so?

Few hazards on life’s journey are as slippery as envy. It’s so easy to lose an eternal perspective when we get too focused on temporary advancement.

If I fail to recognize the goodness and providence of God in what I already have, I can easily be

tempted to make radical changes.

Maybe I need a different house, a different car or a different job. None of those pursuits are bad, by the way, unless I think those things will bring me happiness and contentment.

How about a different family? What?

Once the “pursuit of happiness” becomes our driving compulsion, where does it stop?

The grass is always greener somewhere else.

I have a theory about why my granddaughter thinks I’m the best grandpa ever. I think it’s because I’m her grandpa and she knows that my love and protection are hers as long as I live.

(I have three more grands that have my heart just as much. She’s just the one I’m quoting today).

Here’s an amazing truth: God loves His kids exponentially more than I am even capable of loving.

If you want to keep your feet from slipping on this amazing journey, don’t ever forget that.

Be amazing today, my friend.

The price of having sensitive noses



DEAR FRANKIE

By Geneva Woodruff

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

Dear Frankie,

I am an eight-week-old bloodhound puppy. My dad took me to the vet to get my shots the other day. The minute he opened the clinic door, a terrible feeling came over me, and I started shaking like a leaf. I hadn’t even seen the vet or had a shot, and wham, I was scared out of my wits. My dad couldn’t understand what was happening to me. All I know is I was terrified. Do you have any idea why I reacted this way?

Confused, Rufus

Dear Rufus,

The same thing happened to me when I went to the vet’s office. For the life of me, I couldn’t understand why I reacted the way I did the first time I went and ever since.

It just didn’t make sense why this was happening. I never had a bad experience with the vet or the staff at the clinic, and I didn’t find the yearly shots a big deal. Nonetheless, every time I walked into that clinic, no matter how many

breathing exercises I did ahead of time to help me remain centered and calm, I started shaking.

It was driving me crazy, so I decided to do a little research to see if other dogs reacted the same way. What I found out is that all dogs can spray when they feel threatened. It is their way of alerting other dogs to danger in the area.

Many dogs go to the vet because they have been injured or sick and in pain. Some of the treatments they receive can hurt or be scary and cause them to spray.

Although the rooms where the dogs are examined and treated are thoroughly cleaned and sterilized, the scent of a spray can linger, and dogs with a strong sense of smell can pick it up. Now that I understand why I was shaking, I can’t say it has stopped my reaction, but it has helped me feel less anxious.

Maybe this is the price we must pay for having sensitive noses.
Best, Frankie

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WALK-INS WELCOME!

Springtown defeats Lady Frogs to earn playoff berth



Goalkeeper Allison Kimball, center, is surrounded and celebrated by teammates after the Lady Porcupines shut out Lake Worth 1-0 in a crucial game.

Photo by Jeff Prince

BY JEFF PRINCE
jeff@azlenews.net

Springtown goalkeeper Allison Kimball had played a great soccer game, but she faced a dilemma with two minutes remaining.

Kimball's next move would make or break the

season.

TIEBREAKER CLASH

The Springtown Lady Porcupines and Lake Worth Lady Frogs had ended their regular season in a tie for fourth place, and the two teams met at a neutral site in Azle to play a tiebreaker to

determine who would make the playoffs. At Tuesday's tiebreaker, gusts reaching 30 mph on a chilly, overcast day put the feels-like temperature at 42 degrees in Hornet Stadium and made kicking the ball into the wind difficult.

In the first half, the

Springtown soccer girls had the wind at their backs, and Diana Perez scored a goal to put the Lady Porcupines ahead 1-0 early in the game. Perez was standing near the Bullfrog net when the ball came out of nowhere, and she punched it in for paydirt.

"I was so excited," Perez

said after the game. "It was a team goal. I don't even know where it came from."

In the second half, the score remained 1-0, but Lake Worth's offense enjoyed the wind advantage and kept the ball hovering near Springtown's net for much of the half. At least a

half-dozen times, the Lady Frogs sent kicks sailing toward the Lady Porcupines net, and Kimball was there each time to make a save.

With two minutes left, Kimball faced a Lady Frog player bearing down on her.

SEE **TIEBREAKER**, PAGE 9A.

Springtown Showstoppers shine before nationals



Kate Mitchell, the team president, was a small ensemble champ at regionals.

Photo by Jeff Prince

BY JEFF PRINCE
jeff@azlenews.net

The glitzy and glamorous Showstoppers dance team from Springtown High School will compete at the ShowTime National Contest on March 26 and 27 at Moody Gardens in Galveston.

The last time the Show-

stoppers won the national contest was in 2011.

The team's confidence is high after dominating at regionals. The Showstoppers won the grand championship at the regional contest on March 5 at North Forney High School.

"The Showstoppers

SEE **SHINE**, PAGE 9A.



Angela Pando won best bench award in the heavy division.

Courtesy Photo

Springtown girls earn runner-up title at state powerlifting meet

BY JEFF PRINCE
jeff@azlenews.net

Springtown's mighty powerlifting girls tested their iron-pushing skills against the best in Texas, defeating dozens of high schools.

All but one. Powerlifting powerhouse

Port Lavaca Calhoun finished in first again. The team is a powerlifting dynasty that's nabbed 4A and 5A state titles for more than a dozen years in a row.

The Lady Porcupines are a dynasty in the making, finishing just four points behind the champ.

"The girls did amazing,"

said head coach Missy Castro. "Almost every single lifter that competed at state finished with the highest total they have ever lifted."

Calhoun earned 39 team points, and Springtown scored 35. Every other school was far behind.

Third-place team Gainesville scored 20, and most

other teams scored in single digits or put up goose eggs.

The Lady Porcupines finished with four individual state championships, along with second and fifth place finishes. Two girls earned overall best bench awards. One athlete set a new state

SEE **RUNNER-UPS**, PAGE 9A.



Junior Hendrickson Perdoma Reyes has another year to play for Springtown.

Photo by Jeff Prince

Springtown soccer boys poised for promising days

BY JEFF PRINCE
jeff@azlenews.net

The Springtown Porcupines finished 1-7 in District 6-4A, but the athletes played with joyful passion in every one of those games.

That attitude bodes well for the future, said head coach Brian Maloney.

“Our team fought hard in

every game, and I am proud of everyone who contributed this year, from the freshmen to the seniors who gave it their all,” he said. “Morale and excitement could not be higher for the guys coming back next year.”

Seniors made up more than a third of the team, and they will leave the school for other adventures. That opens

up opportunities for other athletes.

“I see a lot of potential in the future of the program and its players,” he said.

This season’s overall record was 5-12, landing the Porcupines in fifth place and just shy of a playoff berth.

Maloney considered this season as one for laying the foundation for future suc-

cesses.

“We will continue to work hard, continue to set high expectations for our student-athletes and hope for the best,” he said.

The departing seniors are Erick Barroso, Emmanuel Castillo, Adan Hernandez, Frankie Martinez, Brian Murillo, Matthew Ross and Jonathan Sanchez.

Porcupines tied for first place in district



Carson Cox, shown batting, and the Springtown baseball team earned a district win on Tuesday by knocking off the Krum Bobcats 6-4 at Porcupine Stadium. It was the sixth consecutive win for Springtown. The Porcupines are 3-0 in District 7-4A competition and tied for first place with Argyle. Springtown (8-4) plays at 7:30 p.m. Friday at Krum (5-9).

Photo by Jeff Prince

POWERLIFTING, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8A.

record.

The individual champions were senior Myra Castro and juniors Angela Chavez, Brianna Graham and Abigail Rodgers.

Castro broke the state squat record in the 105-pound weight class, hoisting 350 pounds. The previous record was 340. Castro tied the overall total record at 830 pounds.

Senior Angela Pando won second place, losing by just five pounds to the champion in her weight class. Pando tied the state record on bench press at 275 pounds.

Savannah Gomez earned fifth place in her weight class.

Bench awards are presented by calculating how much a contestant weighs compared to how much they lift. Graham won the best bench award in the light division with 205 pounds, and Pando

won the best bench award in the heavy division with 275 pounds.

Calhoun had won the 5A state title for 13 years in a row before being downsized to 4A two years ago. Calhoun has won the 4A titles since then.

“The fact that we are competing with them speaks for itself,” Castro said. “I believe years of hard work and dedication from our female athletes in the past and in the present has put us on the right path for success. One of our favorite quotes is, ‘Tradition never graduates.’ We have strong traditions that have been built

along with high expectations and big goals that the girls refuse to let fade away. Because of those traditions, I believe we have one of the best programs in the state of Texas, and people know who we are when we arrive

at a powerlifting meet. They know some of the strongest girls in Texas just showed up to compete. It’s an honor to be their coach.”

The 4A Big School state competition is the “most competitive competition out of all the other divisions,” Castro said. “I knew coming into the competition, Port Lavaca had 11 girls in medal position, and we only had six. We had three girls finish in sixth place, just shy of placing. We almost took down Goliath, just need a couple more points to go our way.”

The team celebrated after the meet in Corpus Christi, with the girls riding the electric scooters up and down the boardwalk with their medals.

“Now that we are home, I am not 100% sure on how we will celebrate this victory, but I have some ideas,”

the coach said.

The future is bright for the program, with nine of the 13 state qualifiers set to return next year. Three of the four state champions are juniors with another year to compete.

“I believe we will have a very strong team next year,” Castro said. “Our goal every year is to win a state championship now, not just make it to state.”

Castro thanked the team’s seniors for their dedication, leadership and success. In the past four years, the girls have won a state title, two state runner-up titles and four regional titles.

“They have definitely made an impact on this program and on the underclassmen,” Castro said. “They have definitely left their legacy on this program and will be extremely missed by me and the girls.”

SOCCER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8A.

The Lake Worth girl had the ball at her feet, the wind at her back and forward momentum on her side.

Springtown had no defenders in the vicinity.

Kimball, alone at the net, would need to thwart this attack, or the Lady Pines would lose their lead.

“If they would have scored, we’d be tied, and there’s no telling what could happen from there,” she said.

GAMBLE PAYS OFF

Kimball recalled her training and stayed relaxed.

“I just remembered to be calm, that it’s a team sport and to do what I needed to do for my team in order to take us to playoffs,” she said.

Rather than attack the ball, Kimball stayed put at the net.

“I took a gamble,” she said. “It was either, I go out, slide tackle her and maybe block the ball, or I stay and wait it out. It’s a 50-50 chance and ended up in our favor.”

Kimball made a diving stop to keep the ball out of the net.

Perez was watching and described the showdown and Kimball’s save as “so powerful.”

“She is amazing, a wonderful goalie,” Perez said. “She was getting every save.”

Springtown’s victory means both girls will participate in a playoff game for the first time. Springtown plays Gainesville on Friday in round one.

“I was just happy,” Kimball said about her stop.

COACH LIKES RESULT

Head coach Katherine Kummerfeld was a goalkeeper during her playing days, and she knew well how Kimball must have been feeling during that showdown with the Bullfrog player.

“I was like, ‘Oh no,’” Kummerfeld said. “Those breakaways, one on one, are scary. I know exactly how that is.”

The coach was a little surprised Kimball stayed at the net.

“She decided not to come out, and it all worked out,” Kummerfeld said. “She made a heck of a diving save. That was incredible. That kept us in the game.”

The more typical reaction by a goalkeeper in that situation is to aggressively approach and confront the ball handler, Kummerfeld said.

“You normally want to attack because it makes the field player not see as much of the goal,” she said. “They see the keeper right in front of them. But it worked out. She stayed and dove and ...”

And the Lady Pines are in the playoffs.

“It was a real big game for us, and the girls really showed up,” the coach said. “They didn’t let the nerves affect them. They just fought hard and played just like how they can play. They’re my most coachable team I’ve ever had. They showed that today.”

The Lady Porcupines haven’t been to the playoffs since 2019.

Springtown plays Gainesville on Friday at Azle High School. The time has yet to be determined.

SHINE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8A.

danced with passion, and it paid off,” said coach Jamie Horton.

At Forney, Bijou Cates was named runner-up champion soloist.

Small ensemble champions included Cates, Regan Burdick, Kate Mitchell and Melody Wood.

Medium ensemble champions were Zarai Neri, Saphira Drennan, Emma Rodriguez, Sara Slimp, Isabelle Burnett and Hailey Hughes.

First-division soloists included Cates, Burdick, Mitchell, Wood, Ka’Aliyah

Odom, Molly Worthington, Mia Zerby-Canoy, Emma Patton, Kayden Kenney, Emma Rodriguez, Rachel Smith and Saphira Drennan.

They won the sweepstakes and Judges awards, and were named best in category for contemporary and jazz.

Established in 1968, the Showstoppers perform throughout the year at football halftimes, pep rallies, competitions, musicals, Christmas on the Square and other events.

Lady Porcupines in fourth place



Madison Terrell, shown running the bases in a recent game, and the Springtown softball team connected well at the plate on Tuesday, logging 11 hits. However, they could turn that offensive production into just seven runs. Krum logged two more hits but scored seven more runs. Final score: Krum 14, Springtown 7. The loss ended a three-game win streak and dropped the Lady Porcupines into fourth place with a 2-3 district record, currently one game behind third-place Krum. Springtown (9-8-3) plays at 6:45 p.m. Friday at Krum (10-4-2) for a rematch. Photo by Don Munsch



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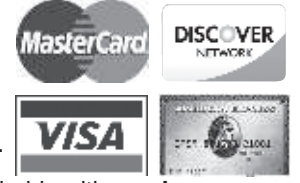
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BULLDAWG ELECTRIC CO. All types of electrical services and MH hook-ups. Free Estimates. 817-675-4921 www.bulldawgelectric.com. TECL#25253.

026 Excavating

ALL TYPES OF EXCAVATING Tanks • House Pads • Clearing HASTY EXCAVATING Also .. Sand • Top Soil • Gravel 817-523-7248 • 817-239-6215

REED EXCAVATING

SITE PREPARATION • LOT CLEARING • LEVELING • FINAL GRADE • LAND EROSION GRAVEL ROADS • PARKING LOTS • DEMOLITION • STOCK TANKS Dump Truck Hauling 817-919-3696

029 Fencing

BOBBY'S FENCE. All types, Free Estimates, Over 26 years experience. 817-444-3213. KILEY CHESNEY CONSTRUCTION All Types Fences - Tractor Work 817-846-6645

030 Firewood

LEON'S TREE SERVICE. Split Oak and Pecan wood. Pickup or delivery. 817-371-8597.

032 For Sale

Free 60x20 Building to be moved, located between Azle and Springtown. 817-980-3066.

Electric Front Loading Washer \$300, good condition 817-946-5837.

For Sale, Bugundy chair and Ottoman \$100, Whirlpool Upright Freezer \$200, Powerlift Recliner \$300. 817-454-3798.

034 Garage & Estate Sales

Garage Sale, Friday-Saturday 25th-26th 8am-3pm 828 Vickie Dr, Azle. Downsizing! Lots of home decor, collectibles, antique/vintage items, coffee/end tables, bed frame, refrigerator, kitchen items. See FB for pictures.

Garage Sale, Friday-Sunday 25th-27th 1508 Red Oak Cir, Azle. Tools, clothes, misc.

Huge 5-family Garage Sale Something for everyone. 116 Carnes Ct, Springtown Saturday 8am-5pm.

YOUR LOCAL RESALE SHOP

Recycle, Reuse & Repurpose AW Specialties 612 Profit St. Azle TX Tues-Fri 10 AM - 5 PM Sat 10 AM - 3 PM

035 Garden/Mowing Service

Need your lawn mowed, trimmed or cleaned up? Need your trees trimmed or cut? Any job big or small give Scooter a call. Free Estimates. 817-766-3834.

COWBOY LAWN CARE. Residential, farm, gardens, landscaping, tree trimming. Free Estimates. 817-271-0450. Spring Specials.

WISE OUTDOOR SOLUTIONS. Fall Clean ups, Underbrush Removal, Tree Trimming, Stump Removal, Animal Burials, Tractor Work. 940-399-1677.

035 Garden/Mowing Service

IRRIGATION REPAIR Residential/Commercial License# LI007825 \$85 Service Call OUTDOOR SCENE 682-553-1560

LEON'S TREE SERVICE

Expert take downs Stump Grinding Residential/Commercial Licensed & Insured • Free Estimates 817-371-8597

Ruben's YARD SERVICE

Stump Grinding Tree Service • Yard Clean-Up 817-513-0233

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Chad's Tree Service FREE ESTIMATES Trimming • Removals • Stump Grinding Systemic Feeding • Brush Chipping • Cable Bracing 817-221-2201 • 817-246-5943 Insured for your protection

037 Hay

SPRIGGING 5 COUNTIES: Jack, Wise, Tarrant, Parker, Montague COASTAL OR TIFTON 52 years Experience 940-229-1045 or 940-229-1046

039 Help Wanted

Looking for mature people to work with small animals. Must have reliable transportation. Call for more information 817-926-3300.

039 Help Wanted

Auto Techs and Transmission Rebuilders and R&R Men, Top Pay for Top Skills. Call or come by 201 E. Hwy 199, Springtown, 682-615-7250. Rainwater Transmission & Auto Repair.

039 Help Wanted

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

039 Help Wanted

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

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.

Experienced Mig Welder with Flux-core experience needed in Weatherford please call 817-594-1290 or Text 817-629-3025

039 Help Wanted

Eagle Remediation is currently hiring Class A&B CDL Drivers. 5-6 day work week with rotating Saturday schedule. Eagle performs activities such as underground tank removals, demolition, soil excavation, site restoration and waste management. Must pass physical, drug screening and background check. Full time Employees receive benefits, including vacation, health, vision, dental insurance & 401K. Please call 214-884-2096 to set up an interview. Located at 3131 E. Hwy 199, Springtown, TX 76082

Light labor to include yard care, painting, animal care, etc. Weatherford area. \$11/hr cash during training; Raise to \$12/hr cash after training. 1BR house might be available on trade-out. An ideal position for senior citizen. 940-595-1439, leave message.

039 Help Wanted

KARL KLEMENT Body Shop Painter Helper Assists Body Shop painters and performs other duties as needed throughout the Body Shop. Must be responsible and dependable with a valid driver's license. Monday-Friday work week. Body Shop Technician Commission. Must have experience. Body Shop Porter Performs duties throughout the Body Shop. Must be responsible, dependable and have a valid TXDL. Monday to Friday work week. Parts Drivers Must have valid TXDL with acceptable driving record. Overtime available and room for 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!

KLEMENT Jeep Service Porter/Make-Ready Associate Performs duties throughout the service department. Must be responsible, dependable and have a valid TXDL. Monday through Friday. Service Advisor \$2,500 Hiring Bonus Must be committed to customer satisfaction and be honest and dependable. Previous experience preferred, but willing to train the right candidate.

Klement Distribution, Inc. (Hershey Ice Cream Distributor) Route Driver \$2,500 Hiring Bonus No CDL required, but must have valid TXDL with acceptable driving record. Monday through Friday. Fun work environment! Promote from within advancement opportunities. Flexible time-off schedules, often 3-day weekends during summer months.

Karl Klement Properties, Inc. Motorcycle Restoration Tech Restoring Bultacos. Full or Part time hours available. Maintenance Helpers Show us you have what it takes! On the spot job offers. No experience required. For consideration of all positions apply to: Alyssa Jacobs, Assistant H/R Manager 605 N. Business 287, Suite 102, Decatur, Texas hr@klementford.com 940-627-6362 We offer Benefits, Paid Holidays, Vacation & Training

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Help wanted continued on next page...

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817-220-7217 - SPRINGTOWN

Deadline:
 4:30 PM Monday

Classifieds

039 Help Wanted

**Correctional Officers • Assistant Foodservice Manager
 Academic Instructors • Assistant Maintenance Supervisor -
 Plumber • Lieutenant • Classification Officer - Intake • Vocational
 Instructor • Recruiting Sergeant • Commissary Worker**

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
 background and valid driver's license to be considered for a Correctional Officer. EOE

**Apply online at www.mtctrains.com or call
 940-567-2272 and ask for the HR Department.
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30x60 RV Spaces
\$380/mo.
 Includes electricity,
 water, sewer & trash

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Come Be a Part of TTI

Now Hiring Janitorial Assistants

7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Monday - Friday
 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Monday - Friday
 Starting wage is \$14.00 per hour with a pay increase at 90 and 360 Days!

Located at our corporate facility, these positions are accountable for
 providing janitorial type services such as cleaning and restocking supplies
 in bathrooms, breakrooms, conference rooms, and kitchen areas.

Apply Today! Check out www.tti.com/careers for specifics.

052 Movers

U.S. Army Retired-but not tired!
 Careful moving-Cheap.
 Call Big Jim @ 817-237-5151.

057 Pets/Livestock

Will pay top dollar for grazing
 and hay leases. Call 940-389-
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HORSE SALE
April 1, 2022

Tack Sale Begins at 6:00 PM
Horses Follow
Stephenville Cattle Co.
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• Insurance Claim
 Specialists;
 • Free Estimates
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079 Welding

owner Rodney Vick
 817-220-3044
 fax 817-523-7639
 cell 817-253-1614

088 Rent Unfurnished

2021 Home in Azle. 3BR, 2BA,
 2-Car Carport with attached
 10x20 Storage. \$1,600/
 mo. \$1,600 deposit, Credit/
 Background Check, No Pets.
 Available March 1st. 817-980-
 3066.

Come Be a Part of TTI

Now Hiring for Facilities Assistant II

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Monday - Friday Starts @ \$15.25
 3:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. Monday - Friday Starts @ \$15.90
 Pay increase at 90 and 360 Days!

The Facilities Assistant II is accountable for maintaining a clean warehouse in an air-conditioned
 environment and ensuring cardboard and packing materials are appropriately recycled. Position may
 assist senior support staff with routine maintenance functions. These positions are located at the
 distribution center located at Beach Street and Mescham Blvd.

Apply Today! Check out www.tti.com/careers for specifics.

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GRAHAM PLUMBING CO.

Commercial-Residential
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3-2 DW on 1 acre, Azle Schools,
 \$1350mo, \$1350dep, no pets.
 817-980-3066.

3-2 DW on 1 acre in Briar, Azle
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3-2 One car garage brick house
 in Azle for \$1600mo, \$1600dep,
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3-2 DW on 1 acre in Springtown
 for \$1300mo, \$1300dep, no pets.

Studio Apartment for rent suitable
 for 1 adult, no pets. \$500mo
 \$500dep utilities included. 817-
 565-7145 Ask for Bob.

1568 REEF
 3-2 \$1,495 MO. \$1,000 DEP.
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Full-time, Mon-Fri 8 AM - 5 PM. Some
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 Must be a self-starter, fun, energetic
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1161 SE Pkwy Azle 1700 SF
 \$1200/mo ,
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1 Bed/1 Bath
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086 Mobile Home/RV Lots

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\$400 A Month
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Metal Building Erectors

- Pre-Engineered Weld-up
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Deadline:
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Classifieds

088 Rent Unfurnished

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Family-owned, family-run



Stewart Bend Duplex Homes: 2 & 3 bedroom units available at \$1,075 & \$1,175. Quiet, clean, non-smoking. CALL or TEXT 817-404-7143.

Silver Creek RV Park: Designed for local long-term stays. Best common building in Azle, secluded and quiet, city water/sewer. \$450 with \$75 electricity allotment; ABP in winter. CALL or TEXT 682-499-8616 or email scrvooffice@gmail.com.

Barton Cottages Tiny Home Community: COMING FALL 2021! Email sales.stewartbend@gmail.com for information.

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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

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.



TexSCAN Week of March 20-26, 2022

EVENT

ACREAGE

Hunting/investment/recreational property. Starting at \$650/acre. Trans Pecos region. Also the Hill Country (Edwards, Menard, Coke, Val Verde Counties - free ranging exotics), South Texas (Duval County - whitetail, hogs). Large or small acreage. 30-year fixed rate owner financing, only 5% down. Call toll-free or email for individual prices and terms, www.ranchenterprisesltd.com, 800-876-9720.

WORLD'S LARGEST GUN SHOW - April 2 & 3 - Tulsa, OK Fairgrounds. Saturday 8-6, Sunday 8-4. WANENMACHER'S TULSA ARMS SHOW. Free appraisals. Bring your guns! www.TulsaArmsShow.com.

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Use Happy Jack® Paracide® shampoo to treat fleas & ticks on dogs & cats. Relieve secondary dermatitis. At Tractor Supply® (www.fleabeacon.com)

ARROWHEADS

Indian Arrowheads Wanted - Point Type: Clovis, Yuma, Firstview & Eden. Must be old, authentic & unbroken. Absolute TOP DOLLAR paid - up to 5 figures for one point. I am a very serious high-end collector. Call 979-218-3351.

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FREON WANTED: We buy old refrigerants: R11, R12, R113 & more! Quick, local pickup & dropoff available. Call 312-625-5322, RefrigerantFinders.com ¡Te pagamos por tu refrigerante!

AUCTION

Construction Equipment Auction - 170+ items sell no reserve, Thur, April 7, Ira, TX. All items are sold "as is." Aaron McKee TX Lic. #16401. Bid Now - purplewave.com.

Need Extra Cash - I Buy RVs & Mobile Homes - Travel Trailers, 5th Wheels, Goosenecks, Bumper Pulls. In Any Area, Any Condition - Old/New, Dirty or Clean! I PAY CASH. No Title - No Problem, we can apply for one. We go anywhere in Texas. ANR Enterprises, 956-466-7001.

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- Will have rental assistance available for eligible households.

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Puzzle Solution

S-1577

TEXAS CROSSWORD
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ACROSS

- this McEntire was Ma Tex in "North"
- boot aroma
- 432 is Andrews code
- UNT or TWU bldg.
- "Mission _____ Valero" (Alamo)
- TXism: "she could sell _____ cubes to Eskimos"
- TX Larry Hagman 1972 film: "Getting _____ All"
- in AL, he bats for the pitcher (abbr.)
- TXism: "have to prime my mouth to _____" (thirsty)
- TXism: "_____ chance as a steer in a packing plant"
- TX rancher Chuck Norris 1979 film: "_____ Of One"
- "good" south of the border
- Mule _____, TX
- Marlin High class
- TXism for "vicinity"
- TXism: "hit me like _____ of bricks"
- cable news net.
- "mad" TX Harrell "_____ Eddie" Chiles
- TXism: "run up a white _____"
- "how" south of the border
- steak house thick bread (2 wds.)
- TX rancher Norris' "An Eye _____ Eye"
- TXism: "his facts _____ elastic" (liar)
- TXism: "he'll kick you _____ a funeral home" (mean horse)
- TXism: "cold enough _____ cows give ice cream"
- Exxon product
- meadow
- _____ Falls, TX
- TXism: "Sin City" (2 wds.)
- TXism: "happy as a dog with two _____"
- TX summer
- Grand _____ Opry
- traipse around
- TX used these to track migration of killer bees (2 wds.)
- controversial WTSU president in 1990 (2 wds.)
- town near Cascade Caverns
- Austin potted-meat event: "Spam _____"
- neck backs
- Dallas Stars came to TX from Minnesota's _____ Cities
- horse morsel
- home of Astros Yankee foe (abbr.)
- TXism: "_____ had wings he'd be an eagle"
- noted filmmaker, Welles
- Astros' first arena had this roof type
- flightless Australian bird
- TX Kenny Rogers' "Till _____ It On My Own"
- TXism: "more _____ way to skin a cat"
- pre-bloom roses
- ERA to Astro Justin Verlander
- TXism: "fits like scales _____ fish"
- in addition
- a Texas snake
- TXism for "overweight" (4 wds.)
- hair grooming tools
- "_____ a time"
- TXism: "no hill _____ stepper"
- baseball touches
- nachos cheese
- instrument in the Dallas Symphony

ADVERTISE in the Service Directory!
 Call Johnna at 817-270-3340 for details to include your business here.

SERVICE Directory

Movers

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The Culpepper & Merriweather Circus in Springtown



The Culpepper & Merriweather, based in Hugo, Oklahoma, came to Springtown Monday. Attendees were treated to sights and sounds familiar to circus-goers: Trey Key and Delilah the tiger, Kelly Leeth as the aerialist, Brandon Ayala on Rola Bola and Christian and Zefta Loyal with horses. Photos by Jim Stevens

Azle Arts Popcorn Players Presents

ON GOLDEN POND



March
25,26,27

April
1,2 & 3

Friday and
Saturday 7:30 PM
Sunday 2:30 pm

\$15 Adults
\$12 Seniors/
Students
\$10 Sunday
Matinee

WRITTEN BY ERNEST THOMPSON
Directed by Scott Nurmela

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