

# Pilot, passenger survive airplane crash



First responders survey the wreckage of a Cessna C172 in Springtown March 24.

Photo by Carla Noah Stutsman

#### **BY CARLA NOAH STUTSMAN**

No significant injuries occurred after a small plane crashed in a field shortly after 5 p.m. March 24 just north of Springtown Park Re-

habilitation and Care Center.

The pilot and his only passen-Road and Springfield Road, about the pilot reported engine failure.

a quarter-mile north of SH 199.

According to a statement from ger escaped the wreckage without the Federal Aviation Administramajor injury. The crash site is near tion, the single-engine Cessna the intersection of Williams-Ward C172 crashed about 5:35 p.m. after

"The FAA issued an Alert No- portation Safety Board will invescraft," the statement said.

The FAA and the National Trans-

tice (ALNOT) Thursday to public tigate the incident. The NTSB will safety agencies, pilots and airports be in charge of the investigation to alert them about the missing air- and will provide additional up-

SEE PLANE CRASH, PAGE 3A.

### SISD reports increase in at-risk students

#### **BY MADELYN EDWARDS** madelyn@azlenews.net

Springtown ISD had more students who met the at-risk indicathan the year before.

The term "at-risk" can

risk of not meeting standards or dropping out of school. The 14 at-risk indicators represent students who:

• Didn't advance to the next tors in the previous school year grade level for one or more school years, except for prekindergarten or kindergarten stu-

### Led by a local resident, Family **Resource Center opens in Springtown**



several meanings, but generally, students with that label are at-

SEE AT RISK, PAGE 3A.

### **Springtown Hop & Shop**



Right: Weatherford resident Katana Gratts, 6, visits the Easter SEE STORY bunny at the Springtown Hop & Shop in 2021. PAGE 4A. File Photo

Jeanne Stevens, second from the right, is the community alignment coordinator at the new Springtown Family Resource Center. Stevens will oversee the center and collaborate with the community. Photos by Madelyn Edwards

#### **BY MADELYN EDWARDS** madelyn@azlenews.net

The new Family Resource Center officially opened in Springtown last week and is helmed by a Springtown native and resident.

Jeanne Stevens said she is excited to serve her community as the community alignment coordinator at the new Springtown Family Resource Center. Stevens worked as a specialist for Early Childhood Intervention of North Texas for

forward to sharing what she knows and learning with the community.

"The things that I've learned through the 10 years of serving is that this community is in need of the resources," Stevens said. "A lot of times they don't know what resources are out there or how to get their hands on them. That's what I'm hoping to bring to this community is to help them access those resources that they don't even know are there ready to help them."

Stevens has noticed that a lot 10 years in Parker and Palo Pinto of the families in the communicounties. She said she is looking ties she has served have needed

diapers, clothes and food as well as access to resources like the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) or the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as "food stamps."

The Family Resource Center, located at 314 E. Fifth Terrace near the Springtown ISD administration building, will focus on supporting kids ages 0-6 and aims to help families navigate resources.

A navigator will be at the

SEE CENTER, PAGE 2A.



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### Wildfires pose big threat as drought conditions continue

### **BY CARLA NOAH** STUTSMAN

Continued dry conditions, low humidity levels and gusty winds are teaming up against many parts of Texas, resulting in large-scale wildfires that are straining the resources necessary to fight the fires.

Although it's now 80 percent contained, fire crews continue to work to quell the Kidd Fire, just one of the wildfires making up the Eastland Fire Complex in Eastland County. To date, acres, with five structures Whitt. This fire quickly went the Kidd Fire alone has burned more than 42,000 acres.

But fires have also plagued Parker County over the past ger to the forefront of minds another structure saved across the county.

Fire, located on FM 51 south of Springtown, went to three alarms, and at least five aircraft from the Texas Forestry Service were called

tween FM 51, Hutchison nor damage Hill Road and J.E. Woody . Veal Fire: crews extin-Road. Parker County ESD 1 guished and controlled new was in command. This fire is active fire within containment thought to have started from lines from the previous fire. sparks from a trailer chain.

from throughout the county, according to a report included:

threatened and saved

threatened and saved

On March 25, the Veal in Aledo: 2.5 acres, two damage

> • Turpin Lake: one-half acre gression of the Fondren Fire, • Kalinga Drive: one-quarter as it has been named, was

> in to service. The Veal Fire acre, two structures threatburned about 150 acres be- ened, one structure with mi-

All eight fires were 100 On March 27, PCESD percent contained and all 1 responded to eight fires personnel and equipment along with fire companies from PCESD1 were back in quarters by 11 p.m. that day. On March 28 shortly before from the ESD. Those fires 2 p.m., a wildfire broke out Pepperbush Fire: two Road between Poolville and to three alarms. Texas For-• Murr Road at FM 1886: estry Service air support was four acres, one structure unavailable; it's likely those resources were committed to • Oak Circle in Peaster: 10 the 700-acre Bosque River Fire few days, bringing the dan- acres, one structure damaged, and/or the 32,000+-acre Crittenburg Complex of fires in • Jenkins Road/Becky Drive Coryel County, near Fort Hood.

> However, two TFS bullstructures threatened, one dozers were operating along structure received minor the fire's west flank by 2:45 p.m. By 3 p.m., forward pro-



in the 300 block of Advance A firefighter performs a controlled burn to create a firebreak. The Veal Fire burned about 150 acres between FM 51, Hutchison Hill Road and J.E. Woody Road. Photo courtesy Texas A&M Forestry Service

responded to assist with the of Park Street. On March 28, agency social media, inter-Murr Road fire at FM 1886 Azle FD extinguished an RV

there was no word on con- also tapped a large dumpster FM 730 South. tainment. At that time, an es- fire in the 11,400 block of timated 75 acres had burned. FM 730 South and a grass/

The Azle Fire Department brush fire in the 700 block sources, including media,

believed to be stopped, but on March 27; the department fire in the 12,600 block of

Information gathered for this story came from various net sites and scanner traffic.

### **OBSERVE ALL PRECAUTIONS**

Both Tarrant and Parker Counties are currently under emergency burn bans. In short, this means no open flames, sparks or embers are allowed. Residents in rural areas should keep an area of at least 30 feet mowed around homes, outbuildings and other structures to prevent fire from reaching structures.

### **Highway cleanup**



Volunteers pick up trash on State Highway 199 in Springtown on Saturday March 26. The overdose awareness group "We ARE our brothers keeper," the organizer of Saturday's cleanup, adopted a section of SH 199 near Springtown High School and extending two miles west. Courtesy of Jessica Castro

### Voter registration deadline for local elections is next week

### **BY MADELYN EDWARDS** madelyn@azlenews.net

vote for municipal elections Place 3. is April 7.

early voting will take place on the board are available. from April 25 through May Incumbents Mike Gilley and Applications can be found 3. Places on the Springtown Frank Henderson have filed at https://www.parkercoun-ISD school board, Reno City for re-election, as well as tytx.com/DocumentCenter/ Council and Walnut Creek Beth Correll, who is current- View/4369/Application-SUD are on the ballot.

running against candidate filed as candidates.

Chad Tedder for Place 2.

Election Day is May 7, and Utility District, three seats ly filling an unexpired term PDF?bidId= In Springtown ISD's left by Brian Sexton. Rene cumbent Damon Liles is and Candice Chandler also texas.gov/MVP/mvp.do

To register to vote, resi-In Reno, council mem- dents must submit a voter ber Shelli Swift is running registration application and The last day to register to against Jason Holden for return it to their county election office. For Parker For Walnut Creek Special County, applications should be mailed to: PO Box 639, Weatherford, TX 76086.

To check your registration, school board election, in- Esteves, Jim Cox, Jeff Carter visit https://teamrv-mvp.sos.





You can tell your special graduates

What incredible things you will do. You will always be our superhero.

Love, Grandma and Grandpa "Be strong and courageous' Joshua 1:9

### **Ad Deadline** Mon, April 25, 2022 2x4 (3.458"x4") \$45.00

### Three ways to turn in info:

- Fill out the form and mail it to the Azle News. One photo included, extra charges apply for more photos.
- Drop off the photo and form at the Azle News office
- Email to johnna@azlenews.net

Payment can be made by phone with a debit/credit card.

Your Name:

Address:

Daytime Phone:

EXAMPLE Randy: I'm amazed at how you grew up to be such a smart young man. We're so proud of you. Love, Mom and Dad

Text for Ad: \_\_\_\_\_

### Azle News 321 W. Main St. Azle, TX 76020 • 817-270-3340

You may pick up your photo at the Azle office after May 25, 2022

how proud you are of them...in the special section "Class of 2022" to be published in the **Springtown Epigraph** May 26, 2022.

Randy



You don't have to go far for quality health care. You can get it right here in Azle. Texas Health Azle offers many services and advanced technologies, so you can get quality care closer to home. Plus, we are part of one of the largest health systems in North Texas, so you can feel confident trusting Texas Health Azle with all your health care needs.

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### PLANE CRASH, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.

dates, the statement said.

A spokesperson from the NTSB said the aircraft sustained substantial damage. However, a preliminary report will not be available for about two weeks. Initial is N733KP, the FAA said. A Airport to Hicks Airfield; reports are that the pilot reported a power failure and attempted an "off airport" landing in a field, where it flipped over, the spokesper- en route to Weatherford. son added.

Springtown Police De- ends at the approximate partment, Parker County location of the crash. The ESD1 and the Parker County same plane had been in the Sheriff's Office responded to air three times previously the scene immediately.

The aircraft's tail number Meacham Cessna C172 bearing that back to Meacham; and tail number took off from from Meacham to Bridge-Bridgeport Municipal Air- port before its ill-fated port at 5:09 p.m. Thursday flight that afternoon. The plane's flight path

that day: from Fort Worth International

### AT RISK, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.

the parent's request. • Are in grades seventh through 12<sup>th</sup> who failed two or more foundational curric-

ulum subjects with a grade of below 70 during a semester in the previous or current school year.

• Didn't perform satisfactorily on an assessment instrument administered and who has not in the previous or current school year performed on that instrument or another appropriate instrument at least 110% of the level of satisfactory performance.

• Are in grades pre-kindergarten through third who did not perform satisfactorily on a readiness test or assessment instrument administered during the current school year.

• Are a parent or pregnant. • Have been placed in an alternative education program in the previous or current school year.

• Have been expelled in the previous or current school year.

• Are currently on parole, probation or deferred prosecution.

· Were previously reportschool.

• Have limited English proficiency.

• Are in the custody or care of the Department of Family and Protective Services or have been referred to the department during the current at-risk indicator simply al- we're able to not only generschool year by a school of- lows our staff the awareness ate funds and use these funds

dents who didn't advance at year in a detention facility, been identified as at-risk besubstance abuse treatment cause of the addition of new home or general residential increase. operation.

within the student's lifetime. of students are labeled at-

Texas Academic Perfor- sues or because of academic mance Report, SISD had a performance. more than 4% increase of students meeting these indi- a student is labeled as atcators, growing from 50.5% risk doesn't mean that they of the student population in won't graduate. During the 2020 to 55.3% in 2021, said Feb. 28 school board meet-Wesley Thomas, SISD As- ing, Director of Elementary sessment and Accountability Curriculum and Instruction director. Over the past five Tiffany Cano said that last reporting years, the state's year 90% of seniors with averages have been 50-51%, the at-risk label graduated, but last year, the state's aver- which is just shy of the 92% age dropped by 1.4%, mean- of seniors who were not ating 49.2% of students in the risk and graduated. state met the indicators.

SISD saw a high of students at-risk kids currently as labeled at-risk in 2014 with of last year, considering 57.6% and a low in 2013 of everything that happened, 45.1%, Thomas said. Mean- were graduating," Cano while, the state reported a said during the meeting. high of 51.2% in 2015 and a "Our number keeps getlow of 44.7% in 2013.

ed to have dropped out of has remained relatively sta- to graduation rates for that ble over the last nine years, group of kids." although the rate did increase over the last two years," he meeting that the label of said. "In regards to how we at-risk allows the district can stop the growth, many of to provide extra support for the indicators are outside the those students. control of the district. The ficial, officer of the juvenile a student may need a little to target these students, but

facility, emergency shelter, indicators, one of which was psychiatric hospital, halfway added in 2019. It is uncerhouse, cottage home opera- tain whether the district's tion, specialized childcare at-risk rate will continue to The data at the district lev-

• Have been incarcerated el isn't analyzed at the indior has a parent or guardian cator level, Thomas said, so who has been incarcerated it's unclear what percentage As noted by the 2020-21 risk because of personal is-

However, just because

"Ninety percent is never In the past nine years, enough, but 90% of our ting smaller and smaller "The district at-risk rate - our gap - when it comes

Cano said during the

"It's a good thing because

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

families about concerns regarding pregnancy, child rearing, parenting, child development and resources, said Stephanie Norton, Help Me Grow North Texas regional-statewide director, in a previous Epigraph article. Navigators will also handle developmental screenings and follow up with families about their concerns and if the resources provided were successful. The center will also help families meet basic needs and provide group activities for parenting and child development.

"We are so thrilled that the community has just embraced this with open arms and are very excited about the services that we're going to provide for families and young children," Norton said during the center's grand opening.

Stevens' new role will want them to tell us what is what they need."

Springtown Family Re- be overseeing the Family needed in this community source Center to talk with Resource Center as well as so that we can help them." collaborating with the community. She started work- ing on the committee can ing in Early Childhood In- contact Norton at 817-569tervention after some of her 5722 or Stephanie.Norton@ own children used ECI for mhmrtc.org, or Stevens at speech therapy.

"I just had a passion. I saw what that program brought to my own personal family, and I wanted to share that to 5 p.m. Monday through with others," she said. "It Friday. The central Help Me was just huge for me to be Grow North Texas intake able to give back what the phone line to reach navigaprogram gave me."

One of Stevens' initial goals as FRC coordinator is to form a parent advisory I'm going to help them find committee of six to 10 par- what they need," Stevens ents to give input on com- said about families who munity needs.

the Family Resource Cen- "If I don't have the answer, ter. We want that commu- I'm not going to lie to them nity involvement," she said. and tell them I do. I'm go-"We want parents' input. ing to be honest and upfront We don't want to just say, with them, and we're go-'This is what you need.' We ing to work together to find

Parents interested in be-817-682-3731 or Jeanne. Stevens@mhmrtc.org.

The Family Resource Center is open from 8 a.m. tors is 844-NTX-KIDS or 844-689-5437.

"If I can't meet their need, seek assistance through the "It's really important for Family Resource Center.



Landon Pemberton, 4, plays with a truck during the grand opening for the Family Resource Center on March 24. Landon has used Early Childhood Intervention services and his grandparents, Linda and Roger Pemberton, are advocates for children with disabilities and autism. Photo by Madelyn Edwards



ficial.

• Are homeless.

• Have lived during the

court or law enforcement of- extra in order to stay en- we're extra careful to make the learning process."

current or previous school more students may have said.

gaged and successful within sure there are plenty of supports, regardless, for every Thomas also said that one of these kiddos," Cano

### LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICES

#### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF RICHARD LEE SECRIST, DECEASED: Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Richard Lee Secrist, Deceased, were issued to Gayle Ann Carroll on the 24th day of March, 2022, in Cause No. 22P097, County Court of Parker County, Texas, which is still pending, and that Gayle Ann Carroll now holds such letters.

All persons having claims against said estate are required to present the same within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Claims should be billed to Gayle Ann Carroll, Executor, at the Law Office of Wendi E. Andino, PLLC, 1005 Fort Worth Highway, Weatherford, Texas 76086, care of Wendi E. Andino, Attorney.

Dated this 28th day of March, 2022.







**AV WESTERN WEAR GEMSTONE JEWELRY GRACE FELLOWSHIP** LLOYD'S CANDY MADDIE LOU'S **MARKET 76082 MIRIAM'S BARBER SHOP NRS FEEDS NUTRITION LODGE POJO COFFEE SHOPPE** QUILTING IS MY CUP OF TEA

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# Public notices are critical to government accountability

Editorial cartoonist Ben Sargent once penned a masterful sketch of a newspaperman — a skinny, bug-eyed fellow in a baggy suit with a press card in the band of his porkpie hat.

The unnamed journalist was depicted in the simple act of entering a dark room at city hall and switching on a light. The cartoon had no caption. It didn't need one. In your mind's eye you could see cockroaches scurrying for cover.

Sargent's message to Aus-American-Statesman tin readers was clear and timeless: Light is the best disinfectant, and nothing shines light on the activities of government like a newspaper. That's especially true in this era of real-time news coverage, instantaneous online commentary and partisan electronic echo chambers.

Governments today are larger, more pervasive and more powerful than any time in our history. Fortunately for those of us who believe in self-governance, newspapers are still around. And they're the best source for information on how government spends your money and what government plans to do to you. That's because newspapers still cover the behind-the-scenes goings-on at city hall and not just the horse-race aspect of political tion on where Little Johnny test with citizens, and they doesn't cost the taxpayer nate newspaper notices and



campaigns. It's also because may be attending school public notices.

tory announcements of what social media posts. If you a governmental body plans don't like what you see, you to do or what it has already can take action to oppose it. put into motion. They are not universally popular among you want to learn out about government officials. Public property tax rates planned notices are printed in newspapers — the civic journals passed, you can appreciate of their communities —because they're required under quires cities, counties and scores of laws passed over school districts to notify you the past two centuries. The of their intentions before tax idea behind those public no- rates are set in stone. How? tice laws was to foster trans- In a public notice printed in parency to keep government the newspaper. open and accountable.

need to know ahead of time ette County, you'd apprecithat the school district is ate knowing if an out-ofdrawing up new school at- town company is seeking a tendance zones, you should permit to dump Austin sewappreciate public notices. age sludge in a field beside The law requires the district the Colorado River. A modto print that plan in a news- est legally required public paper. Without even know- notice in the Fayette County ing you should look, you can Record brought that plan to making their notices more can be misled by a local ofstumble across new informa- light. It didn't pass the smell visible than ever, and it ficial's suggestion to elimi-

#### **TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION** DONNIS BAGGETT

Donnis Baggett is executive vice president of the Texas Press Association. TPA represents some 400 Texas news papers, including this one. TPA campaigns in Austin for open records, open meetings, public notices and government accountability. dbaggett@texaspress.com

newspapers are still the next year while sipping home of public notices, and your latte and reading the some of the most important morning paper. You become journalism in your news- aware of this important depaper arrives in the form of velopment in your family's existence whether or not you Public notices are manda- follow the superintendent's

> If you're a taxpayer and for next year before they're public notices. State law re-

And if you're a property If you're a parent and you owner like the folks of Fay-

was quickly withdrawn.

Public notices in newspashare a thought or two with sign up at no charge to electhe officials involved. Let's face it: those officials' jobs would be ever-so-much less stressful if they didn't have to interact with upset voters who pay the taxes that the notices could simply be posted on the governmenpaying newspapers to spread the news.

mention the fact that public state of Florida legalized the notice rates are among the lowest charged by newspapers. It also fails to note that creating, operating and thing can't happen in Texmaintaining a governmentpublic notice site would also Florida is a conservative cost taxpayers money. And state with voters who want it conveniently ignores the to hold government accountimmense watchdog value of able. That's a good thing. a newspaper serving as an But some overeager legindependent, verifiable and islators committed to cutarchived third-party source ting taxes, supporting local for these important notices.

fee, Texas publishers make public notice information pers get noticed. When they available at no extra charge do, readers may decide to online. Citizens can even tronically receive notices by subject matter and by jurisdiction.

state of Florida updated its public notice laws by requirfund their paychecks. Some ing newspapers to provide officials are particularly this additional electronic galled that state law requires service for public notices them to pay newspapers to at no additional charge. But publish these notices. They only eight weeks after the complain to legislators that new law went into effect, it's a waste of money — that the Florida legislature backtracked. It passed another law allowing governmental tal entity's website without entities to post notices on their own government websites and bypass newspapers Their argument doesn't altogether. In doing so, the concept of the fox guarding the henhouse.

If you think that sort of as, think again. Like Texas, If you want to know what's control and promising to Today, newspapers are "work with" local officials

raised a stink with state offi- an extra dime. In addition put the money into pothole cials. The permit application to printing the notices for a repair. That, combined with the reckless labeling of all traditional media as "fake news," means a toxic environment for newspapers that have faithfully served their communities for a century or longer.

Not only should govern-A few months ago, the ment not be in the business of disseminating their own public notices; government shouldn't want to. By handling the publication, verification, distribution and archiving of official notices, newspapers keep government from serving as its own publisher, distributor, certifier of the record and archivist. By handling public notices, newspapers give government officials legal protection from accusations of releasing incomplete or untimely information - or of surreptitiously changing the record for the officials convenience.

So, it comes down to this: going on in your hometown, tell your local officials and your legislators to keep public notices in newspapers. It's the civically healthy thing to do.

Don't risk waking up one morning to the aroma of something foul being spread in your neighborhood.

That was 38 years ago to-

So I have just over 12

years to learn how to play

# **Call me Dr. Flautenstine**

Have you ever said something that you didn't really mean, but you really did kinda - but you really didn't?

As I write this today -March 28, 2022- I'm celebrating the 38th anniversary of when that happened.



### **BE AMAZING Bv** 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 orga nizations. More at www.discoveryouramazing.com.

woodwinds instrument class the places we'd be and start day. for my music degree. My de- talking crazy marriage stuff. gree was in music education with a focus on voice and choral conducting. Why I had to learn to play the flute, crazy marriage stuff. clarinet oboe and bassoon is She looked deeply

date, I was taking a required caught up in the romance of I heeded her warning. For about half of the trip.

And then I started talking

the flute again. Either that, or I'll need

to build a "flute" out of instruments that I can actually And that, my friends, is how you can call me Dr. Flautenstine. There is no great or deep She later told me that she ing to get married, you're marriage jokes and said "on "Yes. And when God con- lesson for today. I just wanted to share something that made me smile - and hope it's contagious.

doesn't permit me to tell the whole backstory, but here's the abbreviated version.

I knew I was going to marry Mrs. Sweetie before we ever had our first date. I just did. I was already smitten when a friend in the college choir suggested that we would make a great couple.

We'd already been friends for a couple of years and hung out in the same group. I was never - I mean ever -

on dates. So, I started dropping hints around her that the time. girls practically have to ask me out on dates.

was interested at the time, probably going to have to our 50th wedding anniverbut she was not about to let ask me out." me be a chicken. So, she determined that if it were ever agement I needed. It only ly started dating, our college going to happen I would be took me another month to choir was preparing to go on the one asking.

hang out, I started casually roll here.) saying things like, "after

My allotted word count confident in asking girls out we're married, we'll ... " still baffling to me. whatever the subject was at I was learning flute at the know for certain that I'm the

and said, "If we're ever go- I went back to the well of

That was all the encourwork up the courage to offi-So as we continued to cially ask her out. (Insert eye Hungary.

At the time of our first we left that I should not get music.

Finally, she looked at me I was going to play it for her. the rest of your life with." sary."

> Not long after we officiala concert tour of Austria and

She warned me before

my eyes and said, "Do you play. time and she asked me when one God wants you to spend

> I looked back and said, vinces you, you can let me know."

What a proposal!

Just over two weeks later, she showed up at my apartment and handed me an envelope.

Inside was a piece of flute

Maybe that's the best way for us to be amazing today.

Be amazing today, my friend.



# Springtown Hop & Shop to take place next week at the Tabernacle

### **BY MADELYN EDWARDS** madelyn@azlenews.net

around the corner, the city nesses and visit businesses to support local businesses.

the Springtown Tabernacle coordinator. on the Square.

nesses. Event patrons can door prizes, Taylor said. Candies, Maddie Lou's, clude seeing the Easter pick up postcards at the Tab- The drawing will take Market 76082, Miriam's Bunny, a jelly bean guess- sponsored by the Down-With Easter Sunday right ernacle or participating busi- place at 1 p.m. of Springtown will hold the to receive a stamp on the Shop, this year's event al- Coffee Shoppe, Quilting painting and large Connect the Square to help the Hop & Shop on April 9 for postcard. For each stamp, lows businesses outside the is My Cup of Tea, Roots Four games on the lawn. families looking for child- children can receive a filled Springtown Square to par- Soap Company, Sissori & friendly Easter activities and egg at the Tabernacle, and ticipate, Taylor said. Some Co, Springtown Chamber for bicycles in the egg 51 construction," Taylor they can get 21 filled eggs if of those businesses will be of Commerce, Springtown decorating contest, which said. "It was deemed a suc-The second annual Hop all participating businesses set up by the Tabernacle, Flower Shop, Springtown has a division for 2-to-5-& Shop will take place are visited, said Denise Tay- and others will use pastel Garden Center, Springtown year-olds and another for businesses. I think families from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at lor, city secretary/downtown balloons to draw people in. Library, Springtown Phar- 6-to-12-year-olds, Taylor will enjoy seeing the Easter

tendees to visit local busi- into a drawing for adult Grace Fellowship, Lloyd's

A completely stamped nesses are AV Western & True Candle and Vintage be submitted by 10:30 a.m. along with the games and The event encourages at- postcard will be entered Wear, Gemstone Jewelry, Vaquera.

The participating busi- macy, Tangled Salon, Tried

Children's activities in- tered into the contest.

Kids can also compete (Farm-to-Market at the Tabernacle to be en- prizes offered."

"The Hop & Shop was Barber Shop, NRS Feeds, ing game, inflated obstacle town Advisory Board last Unlike last year's Hop & Nutrition Shack, POJO course, coloring station, face year to bring people into businesses affected by the Road) cess by the 11 participating said. Decorated eggs must Bunny and taking pictures

# Community celebrates birthday of 95-year-old Springtown woman

### **BY MADELYN EDWARDS** madelyn@azlenews.net

Friends, family and neighbors of Bettye Hale recently gathered for a parade to celebrate her 95th birthday.

The parade on March Church and proceeded to- in the city for more than 22 ward the Square, passing years. by Hale's home. All five of Hale's children – Darlene by those who know her best Davidson, Diane Hester, as having a sweet, sweet Buddy Hale, Debra Jackson spirit and a powerful reputaand Sherri Courtney - par- tion for being a 'prayer warticipated in the parade as rior," Courtney said, one of well as the Springtown Po- Hale's children. "She loves lice Department and Parker to witness and pray for oth-County ESD 1.

sert Bar to parade attendees one word: Jesus!"

to thank them for their participation. The family thanks those who participated as well as the city of Springtown, Springtown Police Department and the fire department.

Hale is a longtime Spring-19 started at First Baptist town resident, having lived

"Ms. Bettye is described ers. If you ask her what her The family handed out secret for a happy life and



cupcakes from Slice Des- longevity is, she will tell you Kade May and Craig Whitlock cheered on Bettye Hale during her birthday parade. Courtesy of Sherri Courtney









Bettye Hale dressed up and watched the parade held in honor of her 95th birthday on March 19. Courtesy of Sherri Courtney

Parker County ESD 1 was represented at Bettye Hale's birthday parade. Courtesy of Sherri Courtney





### **Rudolph Werner** Louwien Jr

1937-2022

Rudolph Werner Louwien Jr., 84, passed away Wednesday, March 23, 2022 in Decatur.

A Celebration of Life service will be held Saturday, April 2, 2022 at 11 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church in Springtown, Tx, led by Rev. Jake Wade and Rev. Larry Van Zile.

Memorials may be made to First United Methodist Church, 109 W 3rd St. Springtown, TX 76082.

Werner was born November 1, 1937 in Galveston, Texas to Rudolph Werner Louwien, Sr. and Ruth Johnston Louwien. He was predeceased by his parents, one sister, and his beloved wife Alma Louwien on May 3, 2020.

Werner graduated from Bishop High School and received his Business degree from Texas A & I University in Kingsville. He then joined the United States Air Force as a commissioned officer serving as a Navigator. Werner was a devoted husband to his wife Alma Estelle Louwien and father



Quartet and Church Treasurer. Werner shared his gifted woodworking skills by making several pieces of furniture for the Lord's Acre each year. He also served as Boy Scout troop leader as his four sons were growing up. Werner was a car and motorcycle enthusiast.

He is survived by daughter, Venice Simmons and husband Harold; sons Jay Louwien and wife, Suzanne, Robert Louwien and wife, Cherylanne, Steve Louwien and David Louwien and wife, Sherry; grandchildren Celeste (Clay) Taylor, Clint (Julie) Simmons, Kirk (Jennifer) Louwien, Amanda (Matt) Farmer, Brelin

March 31, 2022 Edition

# **Reno City Council approves** development agreement for **Donna's Place subdivision**

### **BY MADELYN EDWARDS** madelyn@azlenews.net

The residential subdivision Donna's Place is moving forward in Reno after the city council unanimously approved the development agreement.

Council made this decision at the March 28 meeting. The agreement was previously passed by the Planning and Zoning Commission at its March 7 meeting.

Donna's Place will be a 78-acre subdivision at 625 N. Cardinal Road. The subdivision is expected to have 42 one-acre lots built on that property.

One resident. Scott Yowell, addressed council about several concerns regarding the subdivision, including debris ending up on his property, a property line dispute over an existing fence and surveyors putting stakes and rebar on his property without notifying him. He also said there isn't silt fencing on the east side of the though,

subdivision property and expressed concerns about runoff onto his property.

During the meeting, City Administrator Scott Passmore asked for the missing silt fence to be put up at the Donna's Place property.

Yowell argued that the work on the subdivision should be done correctly the first time and said he thinks his concerns have been overlooked.

"We're at a loss here. We've been fighting this uphill battle the whole time," Yowell said during the meeting.

Yowell said he placed an open records request in January for the Donna's Place agreement development and emails about the development and didn't receive a response. He said he filed a complaint with the Attorney General's office.

Council members Katie Tucker and Deputy Pro-Tem Hernando Herrera assured Yowell that the council heard his concerns.

"I want you to know, you're being

heard," Herrera said during ing something that the city the meeting. "We do have of Reno can be very proud and so do your neighbors."

why work is being done be- not a good deal. Looking at fore the development agreement had been passed by out and met with them, I the council.

Passmore said that by state law, the development versation ended on a posiagreement must be made in tive note as the city, devel-30 days after being requested or else the developer can sue the city. The development agreement was up being attached and hidden with the plats.

er of the Donna's Place you see a house." land, said the development strives to meet the city requirements and follow the "Once a developer buys rules. He acknowledged land, he can build to your that stakes were set over ordinances. You can't stop property lines and apolo- that. You just can't. All you gized for the development can do is try to make it the upsetting neighbors.

Thomason said during the that." meeting that the intention of Donna's Place is "build-

our limitations as far as of and that I can be proud what we can and can't do, of having something to do but you do need to be heard with it. I'm very sorry that we got off on the wrong foot Yowell also questioned with the neighbors. That's hindsight, I should've gone suppose."

The Donna's Place conoper and Yowell agreed to work together moving forward.

Mayor Sam White said delayed by several months neighborhood change can after the agreement ended be difficult for people "if you walk out your front door and you're used to Jim Thomason, the own- seeing cows, and next thing

> "The Metroplex is coming to us," White said. best you can and manage





### Springtown Epigraph PO Box 557 • SPRINGTOWN, TX 76082





# Sports

Thursday, March 31, 2022 • Springtown Epigraph

# **Porcupines fall to Alvarado**



Cristian Hernandez isn't fooled by this low pitch.

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

The Springtown Porcupines had won four games in a row - all of them against district rivals - leading up to Tuesday's home game against the Alvarado Indians.

The Indians aren't a district foe, but the Porcupines would have liked to beat them anyway and keep the win streak alive.

They almost succeeded.

The Porcupines were winning 2-1 after four innings. Then, Alvarado's bats woke up. The Indians scored two runs in the fifth inning, three in the sixth and a final one in the seventh to take a 7-2lead.

Springtown's bats went cold during those final innings, and the Porcupines notched a rare loss. Final score was 7-2.

The Pines play another nonconference game at 11 a.m. Saturday at Mineral Wells before resuming district play.

Springtown (10-5) plays at 7:30 p.m. April 5 at Cas-Photo by Jeff Prince tleberry (3-2-2).



### Springtown softball falls short of stunning Alvarado





Kylie Wiens, left, was a ball hawk against Gainesville.

Photo by Jeff Prince

### Springtown soccer girls lose playoff, find excitement for future

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

A playoff loss can be easier to swallow when it happens in a tight, hardfought game against a district champion and No. 1 seed.

"It was a good loss -1-0," said Caydence Parker, the strong-legged Lady Porcupine who will graduate high school soon and future in front of them. I'm head to Oklahoma Wesleyan University to play more team."

#### soccer.

the bi-district Losing battle to Gainesville on March 25 at Hornet Stadium in Azle was hard, but the Porcupines (8-13) played aggressively and had no regrets, she said.

"Wins don't always come, but it's a good learning experience for these younger girls," she said. "They have a bright glad I got to play with this



the regular season in a tie with Lake Worth for fourth place and had to beat the Lady Frogs in a tiebreaker game on March 22 to make the playoffs. Then, their first postseason game pitted them against a Gainesville Leopards team that had gone 7-1 to win District 5-4A.

The Lady Pines ended

### GOALKEEPER

SEE SOCCER, PAGE 9A.

### MERRIMAN **SIGNS WITH BETHEL COLLEGE**

Springtown senior Landree Merriman signed a letter of intent March 29 to study academics and play volleyball at Bethel College, a private Christian liberal arts college in North Newton, Kansas. Merriman wants to become a high school teacher after she graduates from college.

Photo by Jeff Prince

Promise Crews enjoyed a strong outing in the circle against Alvarado.

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

The Springtown Lady Porcupines were ahead 6-5 when the final inning began at Pojo Field, with the visiting Alvarado Lady Indians short in a 9-7 loss. taking the plate first.

The Indians are a powerhouse team that came to town with a 16-2-1 record and a confident swagger that comes from winning with consistency.

Alvarado smacked in four runs to take a 9-6 lead.

In the bottom of the seventh, Springtown would need to score at least three runs, or the game would end, and the Pines would lose their third contest in a row.

The Porcupines put three runners on base, scored a run and had the potential winfoul-out ended the game.

coach Scott Mann. The coach praised pitcher Promise Crews for how she "battled for us out on the

mound." Crews and Co.'s strong ef-

fort was impressive but fell

The nonconference game didn't count against Springtown's district record; nor will Friday's nonconference game at Sanger. District competition resumes the following week.

Six district games remain on Springtown's schedule, with two apiece against Castleberry, Bridgeport and Argyle.

"We are hitting the ball well at times, just not stringing together some timely or big hits when we have runners in scoring position," Mann said. "Right now, we ning run at the plate before a just have to focus on getting better each time out and "We fought and competed cleaning up the mistakes we for the most part," said head are making in the field. If we

do that, then we have a good shot to make a great final push in district."

Photo by Jeff Prince

Whether the Pines make it to the playoffs could depend on the Bridgeport games in a couple of weeks, based on current district records.

Argyle: 5-0 Decatur: 6-1 Krum: 5-0 Springtown: 2-4 Bridgeport: 1-4 Castleberry: 1-6 Lake Worth: 1-6

"We are doing some really

good things, just having to re-position some players due to some injuries, but I have the utmost faith in this group to turn it around and get back on track to playing our best ball as we get to these last six games," Mann said.

Springtown (9-10-3) plays district foe Castleberry (0-9) at 6:45 p.m. April 5 in Fort Worth. The teams play again at 6:45 p.m. April 8 at Springtown.

### **Mack Flaugher breaks Springtown High School** long jump record



Mackenzie "Mack" Flaugher, a freshman, set a Springtown High School record with a long jump of 17 feet 5 inches at a recent home meet. The previous record was 17 feet 3.5 inches, set by Jessica Gentry in 2003. Earlier this month, Flaugher set the girls triple jump school record at the Argyle Eagle Relays with a jump of 38 feet 2.25 inches. The previous record was 36 feet 11.75 inches, set by Kendyl Dean in 2013. Flaugher also competes in the 4x400m and 800m events. "Mack is a super kid that puts in a lot of extra work to have the suc-Courtesy photo cesses that she has had," said coach Tye Adams.

# Showstoppers finish Top 5 in three events at nationals

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

The Springtown Showstoppers "left it all on the floor" and came home with "no regrets" after competing at the ShowTime National Contest on March 26 and 27 in Galveston, said coach Jammie Horton.

The Showstoppers won fourth place in pom, fourth place in contemporary dance and fifth place in jazz.

"The competition was extremely tough," Horton said. "I believe everyone is glad COVID issues are lessening, because 21 schools were there competing."

That's about twice as many schools as competed last year, she said.

The last time the Showstoppers won the national March 5. contest was in 2011.



The Springtown Showstoppers made a strong showing against tough competition at nationals. Courtesy photo

hoped to take the title after dominating at regionals on championship run next competitions,

Now, the dance team the Showstoppers perform and other events.

The Springtown girls had will resume practicing and throughout the year at footpreparing to make another ball halftimes, pep rallies, musicals, year. Established in 1968, Christmas on the Square

### SOCCER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8A.

### GALLANTRY

Once again, Springtown goalkeeper Allison Kimball was a beast at the net, blocking shot after shot for 80 minutes of fierce competition between two driven teams.

The one goal that found paydirt and won the game for Gainesville came two minutes into the second half. The Leopards were awarded a free kick, which was deflected into another Gainesville player, who for improvement," punched the ball high into said. "We've got some said. "It will be another the top left corner of the great girls here." net, a nether region known as the Upper 90.

"No keeper can save Katherine

ally get."

Kimball said she was nervous during the game Madysen Fry, Brook Hapbut knew what she needed pel, Parker and Marlen the game.

the goalkeeper said. "I do and the rest to carry on the what I do for my team."

Kimball, a sophomore, is expected to shine on the ball said. "It's their last Springtown soccer field time they get to play." for two more years and is eager to begin working to- sadness over her seniors, ward next season.

"There is a lot of room

### **SENIORS ON MOVE**

mates won't be back.

Seniors Ashley Dysart, to do to keep her team in Plascencia will transition for me with these girls," to their post-high school "I just wanted to win," careers and leave Kimball tradition.

"I am a little sad," Kim-

Kummerfeld expressed too.

"They were some of my she strongest defenders," she year of trying to find some girls that can step in."

Those seniors were part Kimball's excitement for of a team that Kummerthat," said head coach next season was tempered feld considers as epic. She Kummerfeld. by the realization that five has referred to them as "It's where nobody can re- of her friends and team- "my most coachable team"

several times this season, which is her sixth as head coach.

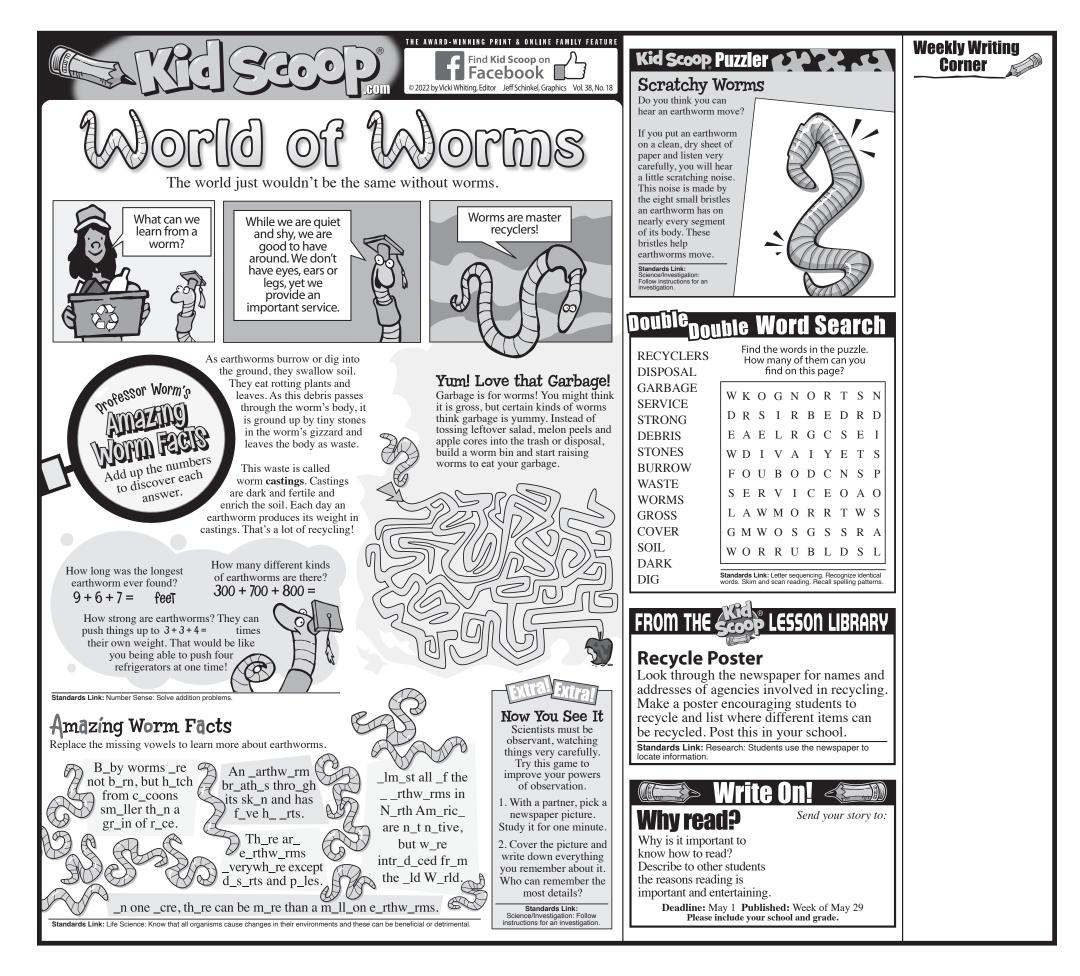
"It's like a miracle year Kummerfeld said. "They were something different. I feel like it was a spark that boosted Springtown soccer for the future."

Playing No. 1 seed Gainesville to such a tight game spoke volumes, the coach said.

"That's a big deal," she said. "That just shows you how good these Springtown girls are. The fact that I saw tears and everything just shows you that their heart was in it. They are fighters, competitive. That's why they were so good this year."



Aubrey Mueller is among the talented underclassmen expected to return to the team next year. Photo by Jeff Prince



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