



Hypnotism shows in Springtown are a prom tradition



Mr. P, the hypnotist hired for Springtown High School's Class of 2022 Project Celebration, put students to sleep during his show in the early morning April 3. Courtesy of Jennifer Bailey

BY MADELYN EDWARDS
madelyn@azlenews.net

As prom season in Springtown rolls around each year, one aspect of the festivities has been a near constant – the hypnotism show.

It all started with the first

Project Celebration for the Springtown High School Class of 1989. Project Celebration in Springtown was a student-led effort to organize an after-prom party to keep prom-goers in a safe environment.

Tootie Hall, a current school board member who

had children in SISD at the time, said there had been students lost to accidents involving drunk driving, and that's what inspired students to request a safer party alternative.

Project Celebration for the Class of 1989 raised about \$30,000 for the party,

which was themed as a casino night, Hall said. Blackjack and craps tables were set up, and students played using fake money. The party was held for the entire night, and attendees left the next morning.

"It was quite a bash," she

said. "It was something so different and had never been tried out here before."

The hypnotist show was part of the entertainment of the all-night party, Hall said. She recalled that during the first hypnotist show, the hypnotist called on students selected by the principal. The

hypnotist put the students to sleep, and then commanded them to do things, like making them believe they were all guitarists in a rock band. Hall said the kids convincingly played air guitars and danced.

SEE HYPNOTIST, PAGE 3A.

Bill White to retire from Springtown City Council

BY MADELYN EDWARDS
madelyn@azlenews.net

Springtown City Council member Bill White is retiring from his position when his term ends in May.

White said he is leaving the post primarily because of his age and some health issues that would limit his activity on the council.

"I just thought somebody ought to be able to do a better job," said White, an Air Force veteran and Alabama native.

Just because he isn't planning to stick around on council doesn't necessarily mean White won't be involved in the city. He is considering joining the Planning and Zoning Commission.

White has been on the Springtown City Council for four years as of May. He came into the position with 14 years of experience since he served on a council in East Texas.

"I just wanted to be



SEE WHITE, PAGE 5A. Bill White at Springtown's 9/11 memorial, held in 2021. File photo



Tiger-ranked Cub Scout Jaxon Evans proudly shows off his Space Derby rocket. Photo by Madelyn Edwards

Taking flight Springtown Cub Scouts host Space Derby

BY MADELYN EDWARDS
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The Springtown Cub Scouts blasted off with a new competition event last week.

For the first time – to the best of Cubmaster Holly Lowe's knowledge – Pack 303 hosted a Space Derby. Parents and scouts showed up at the derby on March

29 with small handmade rockets in hand. The rockets were wound up and then launched across the room. SEE SCOUTS, PAGE 14A.



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April 2022 declared Sexual Assault Awareness Month



Mayor Greg Hood proclaimed April 2022 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Springtown at the March 31 City Council meeting. The proclamation was presented to sexual assault advocates from the crisis intervention center Freedom House and the center's board President and Parker County Sheriff Russ Authier. Pictured, from left, are advocate Carol Sutton, Authier, Hood and advocate Donna Chambers. Photo by Madelyn Edwards

Springtown Family Resource Center



Springtown school and city representatives joined Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce leadership at a ribbon-cutting March 24 for the new Springtown Family Resource Center. The center is located at 314 E. Fifth Terrace and aims to help families navigate resources. Photo by Madelyn Edwards

Center of Hope makes Easter baskets



Volunteers made Easter baskets using candy-filled eggs and activity booklets about the Christian Easter story on March 26 at the Center of Hope's Springtown location inside Agnes Baptist Church. The Center of Hope will give the baskets to the families that the center serves. Courtesy of Michelle Buchanan

3-W'S Smoke Shack



The Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting March 18 for the grand opening of 3-W's Smoke Shack, located at 2810 E. State Highway 199 in Springtown. Photo Courtesy of Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce

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Exciting news for high school graduates and their families

I don't think anyone would disagree that the last two years have been very tough on all of us. COVID appeared out of nowhere and in a moment changed our world. It almost instantly altered how people lived their day-to-day lives, how they went to work and how they viewed the world around them.

One of the most affected groups of people would be our high school seniors. No one can say they have had the "usual" high school experience. Many of our graduating class missed proms, sporting events, field trips and excursions. They did not attend "regular" school, as they were forced to utilize online learning. The experiences this group of young people have been forced to endure is truly sad. The pandemic altered their lives, and they will be forever remembered as one of the "pandemic classes."

Perhaps no other time in one's life is looked on with greater anticipation than high school. It is a time of growing, awareness and spreading one's wings. It



MY FRONT PORCH

By Sam Houston

Sam Houston is a newspaper executive, a columnist, author, actor and entertainment promoter.

is so unique; it cannot be replicated by any other life experience. I think that is why so many look back and reflect upon their high school time with warm feelings. It is no one's fault, but this year's graduating class did not have the usual and expected high school experiences. They have endured and overcame.

The Springtown Epigraph recognizes the obstacles and losses associated with the class of 2022 and as such we are determined to make their graduation a big celebration. In the May 26 edition of the Epigraph, we will have a special section dedicated to the graduates that will include the photo and bio of each participating graduating senior. We will also be providing the graduation special section to the attendees of the various graduation ceremonies. Won't that make a

great keepsake to mark the occasion?

Many of the graduates will be leaving Springtown to go to college, for work, and to start new lives. To allow them to keep in touch with their local community, the Springtown Epigraph is providing each graduating student with a free six-month online subscription to the newspaper! Just our way of saying thanks for all the hard work. Congratulations. We are proud of you!

I hope all Springtown "dials it up" and really celebrates these great young people who have endured so much. Let's make this graduation special. The class of 2022 missed a lot, so let's send them out with a big bang!

Thought for the day: An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest.

Until next time ...

HYPNOTIST, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.

"One kid, the one that was the shyest in the group, was the leader in the band, and he just went wild," she said. "When they showed him the video later, he couldn't believe that he had actually done all that."

Wendy Kennedy was at the hypnotist show in 1989 and remembered how amazing it was to see what her classmates would do when hypnotized. Kennedy said her classmates said that being hypnotized felt like they were taking a nap.

"One of my friends said, 'I remember me telling somebody my nickname was Boo Boo, but I don't remember,' and that was one of our big football players," she said. "It was kind of like something like would have been in a dream, not realizing it was real, and we were watching them say all this stuff."

Kennedy described the hypnotist show as a unique form of entertainment that the kids might not see elsewhere.

"I just think it's something that the kids enjoy because it's not like we leave Springtown and go to Fort Worth to go watch a hypnotist," Kennedy said. "We just don't do that."

Though it might have dropped off at some point in the past 33 years, the hypnotism show still happens today. Carlos Pruitt, known by his stage name Mr. P, has been performing at Springtown for a few years now. Pruitt, who has worked as a magician and hypnotist for years, became interested in hypnosis after seeing his son get hypnotized at a carnival in about 2003.

"When he got hypnotized, that was my son's body, but that wasn't him," Pruitt said. "So, I was a believer then."

Pruitt's high school shows will involve hypnotizing students, who volunteer, and getting them to do different activities, like dancing and imagining seeing things or speaking different languages. He said he prioritizes safety at shows and tries to make people happy.

"I am a retired police (officer) and I'm a retired military. I've seen the ugliness in life," Pruitt said. "When



Mr. P, who has worked as a magician and hypnotist for years, performed magic tricks and a hypnotist show at Springtown High School's Class of 2022 Project Celebration on April 2-3.

Courtesy of Jennifer Bailey

I do hypnosis shows or I do my magic shows, I put myself into it to make people happy."

Pruitt aims to be careful with his hypnotism act as to not harm students. He takes them out of hypnotism at the end of the show and removes the suggestions made during the act.

After his hypnosis stage shows at high schools, Pruitt said he always gives students a "hypnotic suggestion, saying that they're going to be successful or they're going to be a little bit better in their sports, more focused in their schoolwork, whatever it may be, but something to give them an extra boost in their life."

Pat and Lisa Hall, SHS Class of 1992 and Class of 1994 respectively, attended each other's proms and Project Celebration after parties.

Lisa Hall suspects that she had been hypnotized because she doesn't remember much of the hypnotism show at her prom. Pat Hall confirmed that his now wife was "hypnotized-ish" and just ended up falling asleep. Lisa described Project Celebration as a good time for her classmates to celebrate the end of high school.

"I just remember it being such a sweet time to be with all of our friends that we had gone to school with for many years, and it was just a sweet time of celebration,"

Lisa Hall said. "It was a true party to celebrate all our years in high school."

Pat Hall, who has seen multiple hypnotism shows, said the show depends on the kids who participate and can defy expectations of those students. He recalled one of the big, strong football players not being able to pick up something small on the ground while hypnotized, but a smaller girl, who wasn't hypnotized to believe the object was heavy, could pick up the object.

Pat Hall said the show is different each time depending on who is involved, which makes the hypnotist show a lasting tradition.

"It's not something you get tired of because it's different. Maybe it's the same show, but it's different every year because of the fact that it's different people doing it," he said. "Because it's never ever the same, it's always going to be funny because of who's doing it."

Ultimately, the hypnotist show is a microcosm of Project Celebration and aims to provide a good time to high school seniors and keep them safe.

"The kids can get together and have a safe place to be," Kennedy said. "The parents know where they are. They don't have to worry about there being alcohol involved or drinking and driving."

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CDC Reports: Falls Are The Leading Cause of Injuries In Seniors



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 - Evelyn Tinney



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PreK - 4th
BREAKFAST: Everyday - Assorted Fruits and Cereal, Juice, White or Chocolate Milk, Graham Crackers, Toast
 Mon Chocolate Toaster Pastry Tues Potato & Turkey Sausage Breakfast Burrito Weds Warm Breakfast on a Stick
 Thurs Vanilla Yogurt Cup w/ Graham Crackers Fri No school

LUNCH: Everyday - Variety of milk. Your choice of 1 entree & 1 fruit or juice
 Mon Fish Nugget Sea Shapes w/Roll, Spaghetti Marinara w/Meatballs & Roll, Peppered Broccoli Florets Tues Chili con Carne w/ Kidney Beans & Cinnamon Roll, Scramble Eggs with Bacon and Toast, Crispy Tater Tots Weds Grande Cheesy Chicken Nachos, Grande Beefy Nachos, Seasoned Mexican Black Beans Thurs BBQ Sloppy Joe Sandwich, Chicken Nugget Potato Bowl w/Roll, Seasoned Curly Fries, Fresh Banana Fri No school

GRADES 5TH - 8TH
BREAKFAST: Everyday - Assorted Fruits and Cereal, Juice, White or Chocolate Milk, Graham Crackers,
 Mon Egg & Bacon Breakfast Tacos Tues Cheesy Scrambled Eggs w/ Waffles Weds Iced Cinnamon Roll w/ Sausage Patty
 Thurs Mini Strawberry Cream Cheese Bagels Fri No school

LUNCH: Everyday - Variety of milk. Your choice of 1 entree & 1 fruit or juice, rolls, crackers. Variety of burgers.
 Mon Spicy Chicken Patty Sandwich, Grilled Cheeseburger, Breaded Chicken Patty Sandwich, Chicken Teriyaki w/Rice, Crispy Straight Cut Fries, Seasoned Black Eyes Peas Tues Classic Pepperoni Pizza, Sweet & Sour Chicken w/Brown Rice, Chicken Teriyaki w/Rice, Crispy Hamburger, Classic Pepperoni Pizza, Turkey Ham Hawaiian Pizza, General Tso's Chicken w/Lomein Noodles, Kung Pao Chicken w/Lomein Noodles, Tomato Slices & Pickles, Steamed Cribble Carrots, Crispy Tater Tots Weds Spicy Chicken Patty Sandwich, Grilled Cheeseburger, Breaded Chicken Patty Sandwich, Hamburger, Pepperoni Pizza, Pork Sausage Crumble Pizza, Teriyaki Meatballs & Broccoli w/ Brown Rice & Egg Roll, Chicken Teriyaki w/Rice & Egg Roll, Spiced Green Beans, Thurs Spicy Chicken Patty Sandwich, Grilled Cheeseburger, Breaded Chicken Patty Sandwich, Hamburger, Cheese Pizza, Supreme Pizza, Beef & Broccoli Meatballs w/Fried Rice, Zesty Orange Meatballs w/Rice, Shredded Lettuce, Tomato Slices & Pickles, Fresh Baby Carrots, Oven-Roasted Potato Wedges Fri No school

HIGH SCHOOL
BREAKFAST: Everyday: Fruit • Cereal • Juice • Milk/Chocolate Milk • Graham Crackers
 Egg Scramble w/ Turkey Sausage & Biscuit • Scrambled Eggs w/ Biscuit • Turkey Sausage Patty w/ Biscuit • Hash Brown
 Mon Egg, Turkey Sausage & Cheese Tornado Tues Egg, Turkey Sausage & Cheese Tornado Weds Iced Cinnamon Roll w/ String Cheese
 Thurs Cinnamon & Sugar Donut Holes Fri Egg, Turkey Sausage & Cheese Tornado

LUNCH: Everyday: Milk • Pizza • Salad. Your choice of 1 entree & 1 fruit or juice BALLPARK CLASSICS: Ham/Cheeseburger
 Breaded Chicken Patty Sandwich • Spicy Chicken Patty Sandwich • Golden Chicken Corn Dog

Mon Ground Beef Soft Flour Tacos, Cheesy Chicken Flour Tacos, Crispy Popcorn Chicken Wrap, Delicious Cheese Pizza, Classic Pepperoni Pizza, Spaghetti Marinara w/Meatballs, Cheesy Meatball Sub, Sweet & Sour Chicken w/Brown Rice, Crispy Kung Pao Chicken w/Brown Rice, Chicken Nugget Potato Bowl w/Roll, Cilantro Lime Rice, Classic Refried Beans, Peppered Broccoli Florets Tues Grande Beefy Nachos, Grande Homemade Cheesy Nachos, Grande Chicken Nachos, BBQ Diced Chicken Wrap, Veggie Pizza, Pepperoni Pizza, Southern Chicken & Dumplings, Tater Tot Casserole w/ Biscuit, Orange Chicken w/ Brown Rice, Chili Garlic Popcorn Chicken w/Rice, Country Fried Steak Potato Bowl w/Roll, Classic Refried Beans, Spiced Green Beans, Fresh Salsa Weds Scratch-Made Beef Enchiladas, Verde Chicken Enchiladas, Scratch-Made Cheese Enchiladas, Crispy Popcorn Chicken Wrap, Cheese Pizza, Pepperoni Pizza, Oven Baked Beef Lasagna w/ Breadstick, Aimee's Chicken Spaghetti Casserole, Teriyaki Meatballs & Broccoli w/ Brown Rice & Egg Roll, Chicken Teriyaki w/Rice & Egg Roll Thurs Homemade Beef Burrito, Homemade Chicken Burrito, Homemade Bean & Cheese Burrito, Cheesy Turkey Melt, Delicious Cheese Pizza, Pork Sausage Crumble Pizza, Chicken Pot Pie w/ Biscuit, Chilled Chicken Fajita Sandwich, Sweet & Sour Chicken w/Lomein Noodles, Sweet & Sour Beef w/Lomein Noodles, Chicken Tender Potato Bowl w/Roll Fri No school

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Obituaries

Steve Ferreira

1964- 2022

Steve Anthony Ferreira, 57, passed away March 15, 2022 in Dallas.

Memorial service is at 2 p.m., Saturday, April 9, 2022 at White's Funeral Home Chapel in Springtown, Texas.

Internment: Following the memorial service, Springtown Cemetery in Springtown, Texas.

Steve was born May 5, 1964 in Fremont, California. When he was six years old, his family moved to Poolville, Texas, where he grew up with his brother and sister playing basketball and taking care of animals.

He was a loving father and master mechanic, who enjoyed singing, playing guitar, cooking out on his smoker, and riding his motorcycle. Steve was a very entertaining and outgoing person who never met a stranger he didn't make laugh. He will be loved and missed by all.



Steve is preceded in death by his father Frank Enorm Ferreira and mother Norma Jean Gilmore Ferreira.

He is survived by his sons, Stephen, Zachary, and Kale Ferreira; daughter, Jennifer Finley; grandchildren, Logan, Oliver and Amelia Ferreira and Brendan, Ryan, and Kaylea

Finley; brother, Frank Ferreira; sister, Debbie Ferreira Holt, and many other nieces, nephews, family members and friends.

The Springtown Epigraph
April 7, 2022 Edition

Carol S. Burleson

1961- 2022

Carol S. Burleson, 60, of Springtown, Texas peacefully passed away March 30, 2022, in Goldthwaite.

In respect of Carol's final wishes, no public services are planned. Condolences may be offered online at www.nowlinandersfh.com.

She was born Nov. 20, 1961, in Fort Hood, Texas to Karen Dowis Welch and Monroe Hulsey.

Carol grew up in Springtown and was a baker in the grocery industry for many years. She enjoyed painting, crafting, and growing plants. She will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her.

She is survived by her sons, Johnny Cox, Dusty Huber and wife, Tereasa, and Kyle Huber; mother, Karen



Welch; grandchildren, Alexis, Hannah, Todd, Arybella, Nicholas and Corbin; two great-granddaughters; sister, Elizabeth Hulsey; and brother, James Hulsey and wife, Janice. Carol was preceded in death by her father, Johnny Welch.

The Springtown Epigraph
April 7, 2022 Edition

John Sowders

1963- 2022

John Waymon Sowders, 58, passed away Friday, April 1, 2022.

Service will be Saturday, April 9 at 2 p.m. at Hope Lutheran Church in Reno.

John was born Nov. 27, 1963 in Havelock, North Carolina to John Elton and Barbara Ann (Bright) Sowders. He grew up and graduated in Haltom City Texas.

Following high school he served four years in the United States Marine Corps where he served as a tank crewman and enjoyed visiting new and exciting places.

John met Lynn while in the Marine Corps. They married in June of 1986, they shared and promoted a life full of love and support. They have four children. John enjoyed and took pride in his family. He loved family vacations and family adventures. John became a nurse in 1999. He enjoyed his profession and genuinely cared for all his patients. John enjoyed being outside, whether it was working on cars, playing disc golf, bird



watching, teaching others to tend livestock or mending fences. He loved reading and always had a book with him.

John was preceded in death by his father John and grandparents.

He is survived by his wife Lynn; children Sarah (Scott Neely), Joseph (Sarah), Mariah (Cody Herford), Geoffrey (Linnea); grandchildren Zoey, Madison, Hayden, Alana; mother Barbara; brothers Owen, Evan (Monica); and many more family members, Marine Corp brothers, and many friends.

The Springtown Epigraph
April 7, 2022 Edition

Bonnie Chapman

1949- 2022

Bonnie "BJ" Chapman, 72, passed into the loving arms of his savior, surrounded by his family on Feb. 13, 2022 in Granbury.

Memorial is at 11 a.m., Saturday, April 9, 2022 at Lakeside Church of God.

The Springtown Epigraph
April 7, 2022 Edition



Allen Stevens

1940- 2022

Allen Royce Stevens, 82, passed away Sunday, April 3, 2022 at his home in Springtown.

Funeral service is at 2:00 p.m., Thursday, April 7, 2022 at White's Funeral Home Chapel in Springtown.

Visitation was from 6 to 8 p.m., Wednesday, April 6, 2022 at White's Funeral Home Chapel in Springtown.

Interment at 3:30 p.m., Thursday, April 7, 2022 in Cottdale Cemetery in Cottdale.

Allen was born Jan. 28, 1940 in Bridgeport, Texas to Thelma Larue Stevens. He grew up on the farm near Paradise by his grandparents Bob and Litha Stevens and he graduated from high school in Paradise in 1958.

Allen moved his family to Springtown in 1967 where he was a farmer until 1984, then in the following years he was a handyman, retired in 2011. He was a member of Springtown Baptist Temple, and served on Springtown's city council.

He was preceded in death by in-laws, Vance and Emma Dean Beaty; sister-in-law, Glenda Beaty Cash and mother Thelma Woods; six aunts and one uncle.



Allen is survived by his wife, Patricia Beaty Stevens; son, Mark Allen and wife Cindy; daughter, Deborah Stevens and Bobby Miles; four grandkids, Dewley and wife Stephanie, Seth Miles and wife Kayla Miles, Joshua Stevens and wife Karie, Devanie Stevens and husband Mike Smith; half sister, Deyanne 'DeeDee' Woods and half brother, Don Woods; and eleven great-grandkids that were his greatest joy. Also many cousins, nieces and nephews.

Over the years, Allen has touched many lives, and he will be remembered and missed by all who knew him.

The Springtown Epigraph
April 7, 2022 Edition

Springtown Epigraph
Your trusted news source

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Springtown Area Senior Center reopens

BY MADELYN EDWARDS
madelyn@azlenews.net

The Springtown Area Senior Center will reopen for dances starting April 14.

The doors open at 6 p.m., and the music starts at 7 p.m. Dancing will also take place on April 16 and April 21. Admission is \$5 per person.

The senior center, at 1070 N. Main St. near Old Cottdale Road, has been closed since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic

and stayed closed to repair damage from pipes bursting during the 2021 winter storm. The center has not been open to the public, except as a voting site during elections.

Aside from the Thursday and Saturday dances, the senior center has also served as an event center, such as for the Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce's monthly luncheons.

Though the senior center is reopening, the dances

might not return to a regular schedule because of a shortage of bands.

"It's going to be kind of on a dance-as-we-can (basis) for a while," said Bill Dikes, president of the Springtown Area Senior Citizen Committee. "Two of our bands elected not to return, so I'm trying to find out what we can do to fill those gaps. I did get one other band to come in. I'm researching another one right now. So hopefully, they'll agree to help us out."

WHITE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.

involved," White said about why he joined the Springtown council.

White said the biggest challenge on council was balancing the city's budget.

"We've been able to hire some new people, new policemen and outside forces," White said. "That was a big deal."

As for finishing out his term on council, White said he has done all that he wants to do, especially pertaining to bringing businesses to Springtown.

Mayor Greg Hood noted that White came onto the council with experience, and said he will be missed. Hood attends church with White and called him a good friend. He said White brings the perspective of older Springtown residents to the council.

"He comes across as somebody that wants to look after their particular age group as well as everybody

as a whole," Hood said.

Hood said White's legacy is serving and being involved with the council despite his age.

"It gives us all encouragement (that), hey, we're never too old to serve our community," Hood said.

City Administrator David Miller said it has been an honor to serve with White. Miller described White's legacy as one of integrity, speaking his mind and sticking to his beliefs.

"He is one of the most thoughtful, most gentleman-like person that I know," Miller said. "He brought a lot of experience to the council and a lot of passion to the council from what he believed was right and I will definitely miss working with him."

Scott Richardson, who is currently the Planning and Zoning chairperson, is running unopposed for White's spot. White said he encour-

aged Richardson to run.

"He was raised here, and he's seen a lot of the early growth. I think he has served well on P&Z," White said. "I think he will be able to just do a real good job."

Richardson said he has known White for several years and they attend the same church. "I just hope I can kind of live up to what he's done in the four years he's been on there," Richardson said. "I just hope I can make him proud."

When White was asked to describe his legacy on the council, City Secretary/Downtown Coordinator Denise Taylor answered for him: "Being a nice guy."

Richardson echoed that sentiment.

"He's a very good man, very trustworthy," Richardson said.

LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice Of Public Hearing

On April 7, 2022 at 6:30 p.m., the City of Springtown Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider a recommendation to the City Council on a request for a special use permit for a construction trailer for Lot 16, Block 4, Holbrook Farm Phase 3, an addition to the City of Springtown, Parker County, Texas also known as 776 Brookside Drive.

On April 28, 2022 at 7 p.m., the City of Springtown City Council will hold a public hearing and consider the Planning and Zoning Commission's recommendation on the same.

Both meetings will take place in the Council Chambers at the Municipal Annex Building located at 200 North Main Street, Springtown, Texas 76082.

Notice of Public Hearing

On April 7, 2022 at 6:30 p.m., the City of Springtown Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider a recommendation to the City Council on an amendment to Section 32 Landscaping, Chapter 14 Zoning, City of Springtown Code of Ordinances.

On April 28, 2022 at 7 p.m., the City of Springtown City Council will hold a public hearing and consider the Planning and Zoning Commission's recommendation on the same.

Both meetings will take place in the Council Chambers at the Municipal Annex Building located at 200 North Main Street, Springtown, Texas 76082.

Notice of Public Hearing

On April 7, 2022 at 6:30 p.m., the City of Springtown Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider a recommendation to the City Council on an amendment to Section 31.11 Special Off-Street Parking Requirements, Chapter 14 Zoning, City of Springtown Code of Ordinances.

On April 28, 2022 at 7 p.m., the City of Springtown City Council will hold a public hearing and consider the Planning and Zoning Commission's recommendation on the same.

Both meetings will take place in the Council Chambers at the Municipal Annex Building located at 200 North Main Street, Springtown, Texas 76082.

Advertisement and Invitation for Bids

The City of Springtown will receive bids for Springtown CDBG - Avenue D Reconstruction until 10:30 AM on Friday, April 22nd, 2022 at Springtown City Hall, 102 E 2nd St, Springtown, TX 76082. The bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at 10:35 AM on Friday, April 22nd, 2022 at Springtown City Hall, 102 E 2nd St, Springtown, TX 76082. Bids are invited for several items and approximate quantities of work are as follows:

1. 4,500 SY of 6" Concrete Pavement
2. 1,300 LF of 6" PVC water main
3. 1,250 LF of 6" PVC sewer main
4. 250 LF of various size RCP storm sewer

Bid/Contract Documents, including Drawings and Technical Specifications are on file at the office of the engineer, Pacheco Koch, 4060 Bryant Irvin Rd, Fort Worth, TX 76109. Copies of the Bid/Contract Documents may be obtained free of charge by the prospective bidders at www.civcastusa.com under the following project name - "Springtown CDBG - Avenue D Reconstruction". Additionally, bid documents may be obtained free of charge from Pacheco Koch at 4060 Bryant Irvin Rd, Fort Worth, TX 76109. A bid bond in the amount of 5 percent of the bid issued by an acceptable surety shall be submitted with each bid. A certified check or bank draft payable to the City of Springtown or negotiable U.S. Government Bonds (as par value) may be submitted in lieu of the Bid Bond. Attention is called to the fact that not less than, the federally determined prevailing (Davis-Bacon and Related Acts) wage rate, as issued by the Texas Department of Agriculture Office of Rural Affairs and contained in the contract documents, must be paid on this project. In addition, the successful bidder must ensure that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex, sexual identity, gender identity, or national origin. The lobbying certification must be submitted with the bid packet to be considered complete and responsive. All contractors/subcontractors that are debarred, suspended or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation on federal assistance programs may not undertake any activity in part or in full under this project. Deadline for questions is 10:30 AM on Tuesday, April 19th, 2022. The City of Springtown reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any informalities in the bidding. Bids may be held by the City of Springtown for a period not to exceed 60 days from the date of the bid opening for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the bidder's qualifications prior to the contract award. The City of Springtown is an equal opportunity employer.

City of Springtown, Greg Hood, Mayor, 03-29-22

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The customer is not always right



BE AMAZING

By Gerry Lewis

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

Hey, Google! Who said the customer is always right? And what was he drinking?

Unfortunately, Google does not give a definitive answer to that question. “The customer is always right” has been attributed to Marshall Field, a retailer who started a famous department store in Chicago in 1852.

The phrase has also been attributed to Harry Gordon Selfridge who started Selfridge’s Department Store in London. Those who point to Selfridge as the phrase-coiner say it originated in 1909.

Regardless of who said it first, we know it came into prominence in the early 20th century and became a motto of customer service. The idea was that customers should expect to have a superb experience when they shopped at one of these establishments.

In 1974, Burger King took the idea a little further with a new slogan to emphasize their superior customer experience over their rival McDonald’s: “Have it your way.”

If I’m the customer, I like being right and having things my way.

I’m not kidding! Spoil me. Pamper me. Make my life convenient.

No, not convenient; make my life abundant. Make me

feel important.

And don’t forget that you exist for my pleasure. You, customer service person, are here to serve me.

Can I get an AMEN!

There’s only one problem with that.

It’s completely wrong.

There is not a single, solitary person on this planet that exists for my pleasure.

There is not a single, solitary person on this planet that exists for my convenience.

There is not a single, solitary person on this planet that exists for my abundance or sense of importance.

If my pleasure, convenience, abundance, or importance requires that those things be minimized in someone else, then mine are illegitimate.

I suggest that we see ourselves not as customers to be served, but as contributors to the kind of community we want to live in.

The kind of community where anyone who serves me in a moment in time feels valued and appreciated for their efforts and their contribution to the community and where I serve them back with respectful treatment and affirming words of gratitude, recognizing that their service in this moment doesn’t mean that they are

my servants.

The kind of community where we move easily from giving to receiving and back to giving without any thought for who “deserves” the role of servant or consumer. We just serve each other according to the needs of the moment.

As we approach Easter, I’m thinking of the words of the Apostle Paul who wrote to the Philippians:

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! (Philippians 2:3-8)

How amazing is that? If anyone deserved to be always served—to have it completely His way—it was the One who was God in the flesh.

And yet, He served our greatest need.

Let us have the same mindset.

Be amazing today, my friend.

Springtown City Council passes tax freeze for older, disabled homeowners

BY MADELYN EDWARDS
madelyn@azlenews.net

The Springtown City Council approved a tax limitation for homeowners who are disabled or 65 years or older.

This decision was made unanimously at the council’s March 31 meeting.

The tax limitation will freeze city property taxes for those who are recognized as disabled by the federal government or are 65 or older. Homeowners who qualify must also have a property subject to the homestead exemption and must reside in that home. Other taxing entities that do not have such limitations in place can still raise taxes for taxpayers who qualify for

the city’s tax freeze.

Any improvements made to a property, other than regular repairs, are not subject to the tax freeze, and extra taxes above the frozen amount would have to be assessed for improvements on qualified properties, according to a previous Epigraph article.

The tax freeze will go into effect during the property tax year 2023, and taxes will be frozen at the tax rate that the city will pass later this year. In the future, the freeze will take effect during the tax year after a homeowner qualifies, according to a previous Epigraph article.

During the Feb. 28 council meeting, City Administrator David Miller said the council’s decision to move

forward on the tax freeze would be a permanent one. The decision means a loss in tax revenue for the city, but Miller said that the lost revenue is expected to be made up by the city’s growth.

“I think the taxation freeze for our senior citizens and those that are disabled is a good decision. The council’s decision will eventually save them money,” Springtown Mayor Greg Hood said. “Mr. Miller has taken the time to study the impact for those citizens. The savings for them will be made back through our current growth of our city.”

Miller said taxpayers will start to see an impact from the tax freeze in the 2024 tax year.

Parker County Democrats to meet

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Parker County Active Democrats will hold their regular monthly meeting April 11, with retired

Air Force Col. and party advocate Kim Olson as speaker. The meeting will be in the Strain Room of the Doss Student Center at Weatherford College. (Entrance is from East Park Avenue Parking is to the left of

the building.) The meeting begins with social time at 6:30 p.m. and the program at 7 p.m. The public is welcome.

Olson was the Democratic nominee for agriculture commissioner in 2018, was a congressional candidate in 2020 and previously served on the Weatherford ISD school board. She is seeking to head the Tex-

as Democratic Party when delegates elect party leadership at their state convention in Dallas in July. Olson and her husband also run a sustainable ranch near Mineral Wells that grows organic pecans and fruit.

For more information on the Democratic Party in Parker County, visit parker-countydemocrats.org.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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ACROSS
 1 TXism: "sharp as a ___"
 5 TXism: "chew ___ awhile"
 6 Dallas TV station
 7 TX Judith Ivey's "Lonely Guy" role
 8 actress Taylor of TX-based "Giant," for short
 9 TXism: "___ with the chickens" (retire early)
 16 this TX Lisa sang "Stay (I Missed You)"
 18 ending for United or Confederate States (2 wds.)
 21 TXism: "all vine, ___ watermelon"
 22 TXism: "___ donkey fly?" (no)
 23 former Fort Worth baker: "___ Baird's"
 24 this TX John was a hostage in Iran for 444 days
 30 Lubbock has an annual "Cowboy ___"
 34 this Berlin wrote songs for TX Ginger (init.)
 35 William Powell was a Texan in "How to ___ Millionaire" (1953)
 36 aluminum ___
 37 Houston steak-house: "___ of Texas"
 39 "The National Beer of Texas" (3 wds.)
 43 "Fiesta Diez ___"
 44 TXism: "If I was any ___ couldn't stand it"
 45 TXism: "fair ___ middle"
 46 religious group
 47 boat with sails, e.g.
 49 "Hell in Texas" poem says the devil put "horns ___"
 52 first manager of the Texas Rangers, Williams
 53 to Denton from Abilene
 54 NBC sitcom of TX Crystal Bernard
 55 "___ Farms" in Gregg County (Christmas trees)
 58 Dallas area: "___ Plaza"
 59 donkey astrological lion
 61 natl. ID no. (abbr.)
DOWN
 1 1966 TX Matthew McConaughey film "A Time ___"
 2 the Red ___
 3 inhabitants
 4 Abilene ABC TV
 9 TXism: "from the get-___"
 10 "Battle ___ Creek" was near Goliad
 11 TX academic test (1991-2002) (abbr.)
 12 prefix meaning "all"
 13 Murchison animal refuge "Black ___ Ranch"
 14 TXism: "let ___ rip!"
 15 TXism: "his bulb glows kinda ___"
 17 beau
 19 TX Rex Reed, et al.
 20 "do ___ as you can"
 24 TX "Peter Pan" Martin (init.)
 25 Houston Texans CEO, McNair
 26 Corpus Christi AM
 27 TX singer Tubb
 28 Crystal City has statue of "Pop ___ Sailor Man"
 29 persevered
 31 mafia, or crowd
 32 pecan or apple
 33 body rub
 38 flower beginnings
 40 TXism: "___ ninety" (small)
 41 "art" in Mexico
 42 Democrat who was in Texas House for 27 years (2 wds.)
 48 TXism: "___ solid perfect"
 50 kitchen floor often
 51 TX Roy Orbison's "___ the Lonely"
 56 TX-based "Hud" star Patricia, et al.
 57 flower holders

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Chute, yeah! Camdon Alvarez's dogged persistence helps Springtown rodeo

BY JEFF PRINCE
jeff@azlenews.net

Camdon Alvarez won first place in chute dogging over the weekend at the North Texas High School Association Arena in Saginaw. His victory collected 70 points for the Springtown rodeo team.

Stephanie Heil took sixth place in team roping heeler, earning 35 points.

Delaney Harris won ninth place in goat tying.

"I am super proud of our team," said sponsor James Heil. "With it being such a young team, they have really held their own."

The Springtown rodeo team has a firm hold on sixth place among the more than 80 teams that participate in the association. Springtown, 3,738 points, is ahead of seventh-place Krum, 3,136 points, and trailing fifth-place Weatherford's 4,131 points.

Three rodeos remain in the season.

"Several of our kids are in the running for finals," James Heil said. "We are really pushing to get as many of our student athletes into finals as possible."

The top 15 finalists in each event earn the right to compete at the NTHSRA 2022 Finals.



Camdon Alvarez won the chute dogging event over the weekend at the North Texas High School Rodeo Association Arena in Saginaw.

Photo by Jo H Photography

Springtown pole vaulters display championship behavior

BY JEFF PRINCE
jeff@azlenews.net

On Tuesday's windy afternoon, a couple of Springtown pole vaulters illustrated how competing with champions isn't always about collecting medals.

Sometimes, it's about accepting a bad day with humility and grace.

The day's strong winds at Porcupine Stadium caused problems for pole vaulters

at the Big 5 Middle School Meet of Champions. The meet invites the top track athletes from area schools for a day of competition.

Vaulters typically toss aside their poles as they attempt to clear the bar during jumps. The wind, however, would blow those discarded poles into the bar frequently, knocking the bar to the ground and disqualifying vaulters.

"The wind is messing me

up," said Caiden Horton, an eighth grader at Springtown Junior High School.

He was unable to clear 8 feet, but blamed himself, not the wind.

"I just didn't have the strength," he said.

Rather than being sad, he would use the experience as motivation to work harder.

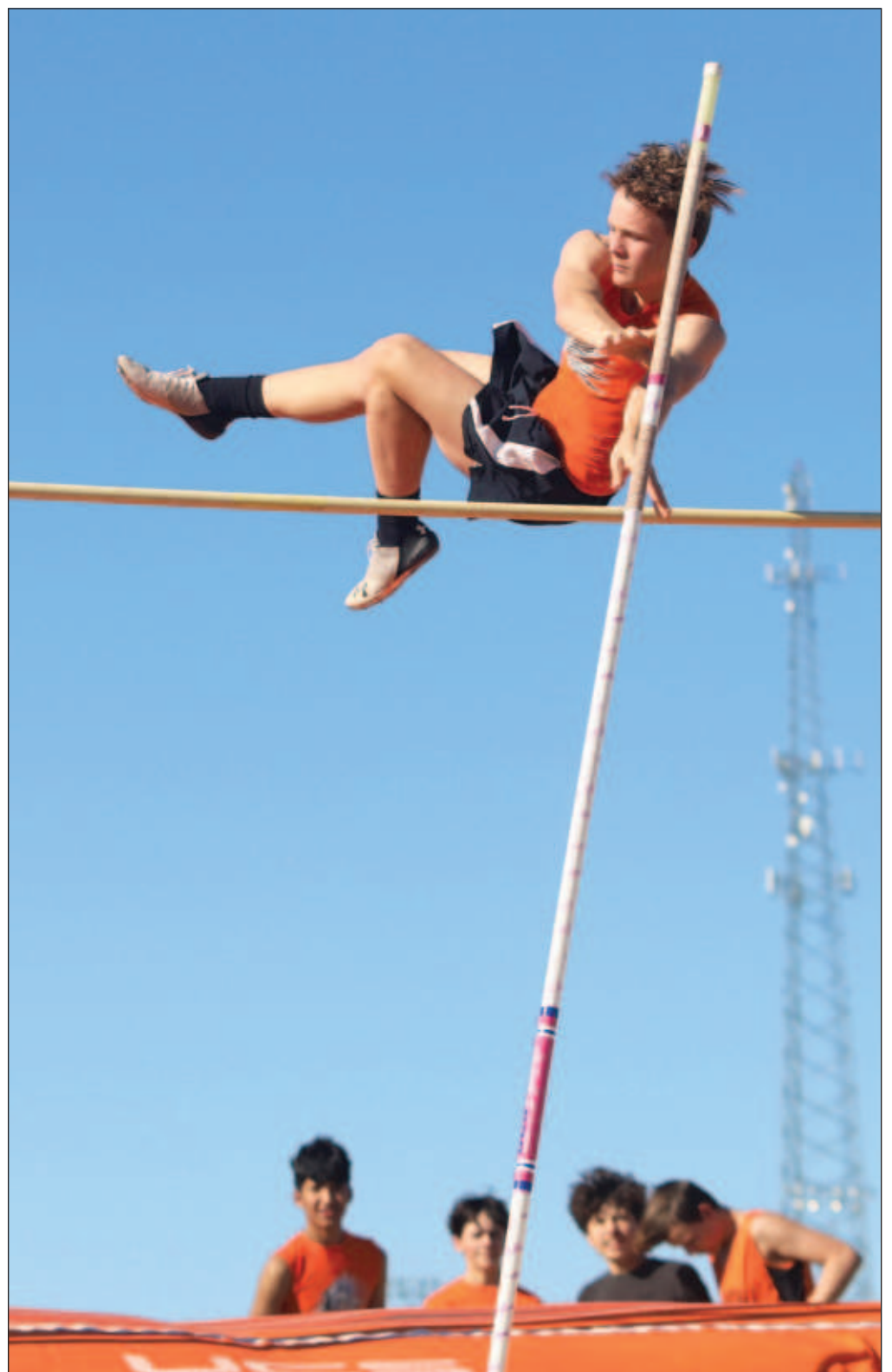
"I'm kind of disappointed

SEE POLE VAULTERS,
PAGE 11A.



Caiden Horton and Teagan Hair didn't win a championship but showed how champions act at a track meet.

Photos by Jeff Prince



Springtown Pines fall to Castleberry 2-1



From left, Brayden Fox and Cristian Hernandez have been leading the Springtown baseball team to numerous victories this season. On April 2, the Porcupines beat Mineral Wells 11-2. On Tuesday, however, Springtown lost its first district game in a close contest, falling to Castleberry 2-1 in Fort Worth. A home rematch looms. Springtown plays Castleberry again at 7:30 p.m. Friday at Pojo Stadium. The Porcupines are currently in second place in District 7-4A, one game behind the undefeated Argyle Eagles. Those two teams face off in district clashes on April 19 and April 22. Photo by Jeff Prince

POLE VAULTERS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10A.



Teagan Hair finished in a tie for sixth place.

Photo by Jeff Prince

in myself, but it helps me push better for next year," he said. Seventh grader Teagan Hair cleared 7 feet 6 inches but knocked off the bar at 8 feet. He finished in a tie for sixth place. Hair characterized his performance as "bad," because he had wanted to jump 8 feet. Rather than being upset, he, too, would use the experience as motivation to become better. "I cleared 8 feet once in practice," he said.

Lady Pines beat Castleberry 18-0



Noelle Fernandez shows the batting form that helped her punch two home runs against Castleberry in Tuesday's softball game. Springtown beat Castleberry 18-0 on the road. Angelina Ray hit two homers in the game, and Cheyanne Atchley added another dinger. In all, the Porcupines clobbered 15 hits while limiting Castleberry to just two. The two district foes meet again at 6:45 p.m. Friday at Springtown.

Photo by Jeff Prince

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Springtown scouting troop volunteers at Jacksboro donation center following tornado strike

BY MADELYN EDWARDS
madelyn@azlenews.net

Springtown BSA Troop 303 helped sort and load donations in Jacksboro after a tornado came through last month.

The tornado in Jacksboro on March 21 destroyed about 80 homes and damaged local schools, according to a Fort Worth Star-Telegram article.

The scouts had a campout in Jacksboro scheduled the weekend after the tornado happened. Scoutmaster Timmy Davis contacted the city of Jacksboro and lined up an opportunity for the scouts to volunteer all day Saturday, March 26. Seven scouts,

aged 12-15 years old, participated.

“We were unloading the donations coming in, and then they had constant trucks going to drop that stuff off wherever it was needed, so we were loading/unloading, sorting, organizing,” Davis said. “It is simply amazing how much stuff was donated.”

Donations included water, clothes, canned and dry foods, hygiene items and household cleaning items, Davis said.

“We discussed in the campout after we got back ... about how much the community has come together, and they got to see that,” he

said. “We were all amazed. There were people that came from Corsicana to deliver stuff.”

Kasyn Davis, 15, Troop 303’s senior patrol leader, said the work was easy and that the troop “helped out a lot.”

“I felt that we had done our duty as scouts, and we had helped out a community,” Kasyn said.

Assistant Scoutmaster Haydn Coomer said the scouts’ work exceeded his expectations as they unloaded trailers of donations and made the donation center organized and accessible. Coomer said he was proud of the scouts’ efforts.



Springtown BSA Troop 303 helped sort and load donations in Jacksboro on March 26 after a tornado came through the city in March. Courtesy of Timmy Davis

SHS students compete at 38th Annual Teach Tomorrow Summit



FROM STAFF REPORTS

Springtown High School students won awards while participating in the Texas Association of Future Educators state conference.

The 38th Annual Teach Tomorrow Summit was held in early March at the Hilton Anatole in Dallas. SHS students previously quali-

fied for state at the Area 10 Conference at Brewer High School on Dec. 4.

Rachel Farnsworth received a gold certificate for her Portfolio and a silver certificate for the Educational Leadership Fundamentals Test.

Danae Littleton and Abigail Ly received a silver

certificate for the Chapter Yearbook.

Dannaray Strange received a silver certificate for her Portfolio.

SHS also won the award for bringing the most donated baskets for the Area 10 service project to benefit the Down Syndrome Partnership of North Texas.

The students who qualified for state were:

- Hayleigh Akins – Researching Learning Challenges, Professional Development
- Nia Cox and Sydney Wade – Children’s Literature K-3
- Madison Evans – Educational Leadership Fundamentals Test
- Tara Farnar and Rylee Walsh – Children’s Literature K-3
- Rachel Farnsworth – Job Interview, Portfolio, Researching Learning Challenges, Educational Leadership Fundamentals Test
- Deja Hall – Researching Learning Challenges, Professional Development
- Danae Littleton – Chapter Yearbook, Professional Development
- Abigail Ly – Chapter Yearbook, Children’s Literature Pre-K
- Amira Neri and Jorge Ordaz – Inside Our Schools
- Dannaray Strange – Portfolio

Springtown High School students participated in the 38th Annual Teach Tomorrow Summit in early March at the Hilton Anatole in Dallas. Courtesy of Cheryl Brouhard

Pacific Plastic Problem

Meet the Albatross

A Dangerous Mix

What's a watershed?

A Sea of Troubles

How YOU Can Help!

Replace the missing words.

Plastic Soup in the Pacific?

Plastic cups **plastic utensils** **paper plates** **plastic water bottles** **plastic bags**

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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.

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Or, mail to: Kid Scoop News "I Draw for Peace" 181 Andrieux, Suite 200 Sonoma, CA 95476

Kid Scoop Together: Be an Action Hero at Home

Work with a family member to think of actions you can take at home to reduce the amount of single-use plastics your family uses. It makes a big difference and makes you a superhero!

1. Look at your trash at home and count how many single-use containers you can find.
2. Make a written list of the single-use containers you found: bottles, tubs, wrappers, etc.
3. Is there anything in the trash you really didn't need to purchase?
4. Next to each one, write down a way you could have kept that single-use item out of the trash.

SINGLE USE	INSTEAD:
Plastic water bottle	Drink tap water from a glass or reusable water bottle

Double Double Word Search

ALBATROSS RECYCLING FLOATING PLASTIC MIDWAY CHICKS REMOTE PATCH AVOID ATOLL GYRE SICK EGGS TOYS CAPS

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

D	I	O	V	A	Y	C	P	R	R
S	I	C	K	A	H	C	A	E	L
E	C	A	W	I	C	I	T	C	L
T	L	D	C	A	E	T	C	Y	O
O	I	K	P	S	E	S	H	C	T
M	S	S	O	R	T	A	B	L	A
E	T	O	Y	S	P	L	L	I	A
R	S	G	G	E	S	P	T	N	I
G	N	I	T	A	O	L	F	G	E

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!

I'm Green

Explain what you do to help the environment. Why is it important to you?

Standards Link: Reading/Writing: Draw evidence from informational text.

SCOUTS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.

at Springtown First United Methodist Church. The races were timed, and 26 rockets were turned in to the competition. Scouts were awarded first, second and third place within their ranks. There were also

awards given for the fastest rockets, slowest rockets, best design, best paint job and the Cubmaster's choice. The materials for the rockets included balsa wood, a nose cone, a propeller and rubber bands. Lowe said

the scouts were instructed to carve their rockets with a potato peeler. The Space Derby was brought in to bring more variety to Cub Scout programming, Lowe said. "We wanted to do it so that

every year, year after year, we're not doing the same program over and over," she said. "If you have kids in for six years, they're not burned out on the same (program with) the redundancy of it. We tried to bring in

something different." After buying rocket kits for scouts, Lowe said she found out that the supplier who makes the kits isn't making them anymore, so the kits will eventually no longer be available in the

scout shop. "We're hoping that we can go in and buy in, maybe, bulk and store them for future purposes and have them on hand if we do decide to do this again," Lowe said.



Springtown Cub Scouts Cubmaster Holly Lowe sports a jet pack backpack during the Space Derby at Springtown First United Methodist Church.



Tom Lanigan places the rockets on the dowel rods carefully for a launch at the Space Derby.



A scout's rocket races across the room at Springtown First United Methodist Church during the Cub Scouts' Space Derby.



Thomas Gross, a Tiger-ranked Cub Scout, winds his rocket while talking with Lindy Gerow at the Space Derby. Photos by Madelyn Edwards

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