



Reno City Council OKs used police vehicle purchase

BY MADELYN EDWARDS
madelyn@azlenews.net

Reno City Council approved the purchase of a used vehicle for the police department at the council meeting last week.

The vehicle, which is a 2018 Ford Police Interceptor Utility, is replacing a worn-out vehicle in the Reno Police Department's fleet. Mayor Sam White said the previous vehicle had reached its lifespan.

The used vehicle cost the city about \$22,000, White

said, and there will be an extra cost to install the needed technology in the vehicle.

Reno Police Deputy Chief Nathan Stringer said the old vehicle had more than 100,000 miles on it. The vehicle that it is replacing has about 80,000 miles.

"The other car went down, and we only have cars in our fleet to maintain the personnel we have," Stringer said. "So, if one goes down, we have to replace it."

The previous police vehicle had been taken to the mechanic before, and it's

unclear what exactly was wrong with the vehicle, though Stringer mentioned issues with the compression in the engine.

"It made more sense to replace it than it did to keep putting money into it," he said.

Because of a new vehicle shortage, the city of Reno opted to purchase a used vehicle, Stringer said.

"We've been told if we tried to buy a brand-new police car or a new interceptor, we'd be probably six to eight months out," he said.

The older vehicle, along with one of the old Chargers, will be auctioned off to repay the city's purchase on the used police vehicle, Stringer said.

CRIME CONTROL AND PREVENTION DISTRICT

The city of Reno is in the process of creating a Crime Control and Prevention District, which would allow for crime prevention programs that are not currently funded with taxpayer revenue,

Stringer said.

To create the district, voters would have to approve a half cent sales tax on goods sold in Reno to generate revenue for the district.

"Revenue from the half cent sales tax serves a role in providing the necessary resources to effectively implement crime reduction strategies pertaining to enhanced enforcement, neighborhood crime prevention, partner programs, recruitment, training, department equipment, technology and infrastructure," Stringer said. "These

strategies may include deploying officers on an enhanced basis to respond to emerging problems, supporting citizen participation and crime prevention programs. These funds can also be used to fund equipment critical to crime control, to increase security at schools, support community outreach and much more."

This is not a tax increase, Stringer said. The district would pull revenue from existing sales tax funds.

SEE RENO, PAGE 4A.

Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce Clay Shoot



John Lowe's shotgun could be seen smoking a little after he fired his rounds Friday at the Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce's annual Sporting Clay Shoot. Photo by Madelyn Edwards

MORE PHOTOS **SPRINGTOWN CLAY SHOOT**, PAGE 9A.

Property owners brace for higher tax appraisals

BY JESSICA MCKINNEY
azlereporter@azlenews.net

Homeowners across Azle and Springtown — along with the rest of Tarrant and Parker counties — have been anxiously waiting for tax appraisals to start arriving in their mailboxes.

With the housing market still seeing high demand because of low inventory that is driving home prices higher, it is no surprise that tax values on homes in the area are at some of the highest they've ever been.

According to a report on the Texas housing market on Redfin.com, more than 50% of homes were sold above listing price in March.

Fewer property owners are receiving letters from Parker County Appraisal District this year because "PCAD only reappraises in odd numbered years," according to a recent press release. Any changes in value this year are "likely due to new improvements made to the property or due to a homestead cap increase."

Notices were sent to about 40,000 property own-

ers, more than half of what was sent last year (76,000).

The Tarrant Appraisal District conducts an annual review of property values. To come up with a property value, TAD uses a mass appraisal system to determine the value of over 750,000 properties in Tarrant County, both residential and commercial.

The variables that can affect a home's value include new additions or a pool. But TAD must also take into account market data that compares homes to similar properties that have been sold recently. If market data aren't available, they use cost data from the Moore Precision Cost Tables, which can give them a price based on the features of a home.

ARE THERE EXEMPTIONS?

Both Tarrant and Parker County homeowners can apply for exemptions through their county appraisal district. These exemptions are not automatic and must be applied for with the district.

The main exemption is the

homestead exemption, which applies to the homeowner's primary residence only.

There is also the over-65 exemption for those over 65 years of age, and disability and veteran exemptions. (One cannot claim both a disability exemption and an over-65 exemption.)

If the two Texas constitutional amendments are passed in the upcoming election, then changes will be made regarding property taxes; however, this will not impact this year's appraisals.

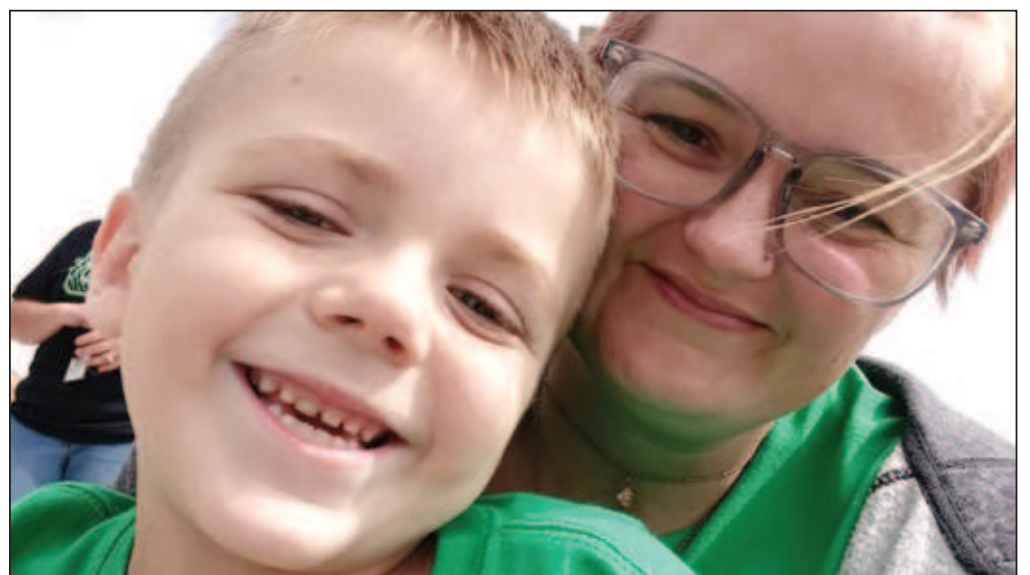
CAN I PROTEST?

Homeowners are able to protest their tax appraisal with the district. This can be conducted informally by mail, over the phone, in person or online. The deadline to protest is May 16.

If a homeowner is not satisfied with the outcome of the informal protest, a formal hearing can be scheduled with the Appraisal Review Board.

For more information or to file an appeal, visit www.ParkerCAD.org for Parker County, or www.TAD.org for Tarrant County.

Annual Randy's Benefit Ride to benefit 7-year-old who survived dog attack



Conner Landers, left, and his mom Cassandra Ware.

Photo courtesy

BY MADELYN EDWARDS
madelyn@azlenews.net

Conner Landers, the 7-year-old boy who was attacked by a dog earlier this year, likes dinosaurs, pirates and motorcycles.

He will get to see the last of those personal favorites next week.

The 13th annual Randy's Benefit Ride will take place May 7, and the proceeds will go to Conner and his family. Motorcycle riders

in the event will meet at Springtown High School and travel to Rockin' S Bar & Grill in Granbury. David Vaughan, organizer of the event, said the ride would go through the countryside, using FM 4 through Lipan, on the way to Granbury.

Registration for the event starts at 11 a.m., and the riders will leave at noon. There will also be a raffle at 11:30 a.m. Participation in the ride costs \$20 per bike, and T-shirts will be sold for

\$10 each. In case of rain, the ride will be May 14.

Vaughan said bikers are typically looking for an excuse to ride, and the benefit ride can give the bikers a sense of camaraderie.

"Bikers have big hearts. They enjoy riding around with groups, safe groups," he said.

The benefit ride, which started in 2009, was named after Randy Horton, a

SEE BIKE RALLY, PAGE 5A.



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Remember, a diploma is only a ticket to get into the game

I make a point of seizing every opportunity to be around young people. I love to listen to their enthusiasm about the future and their aspirations. I am not trying to cling to my youth. Frankly, the train carrying my youth left the station so long ago, it may have been a stagecoach. I do not watch the Kardashians on TV, nor do I listen to Beyoncé on my radio. But I find being around young people is invigorating, and at the same time can sometimes be somewhat amusing.

Graduation is just around the corner and a lot of graduates are going to step across the stage and then walk straight into their future. On the day of my graduation from college, I was sitting in my room in the Delt House, when the father of one of my fraternity brothers walked in. J.T. was an oil man, and I had worked for him in the oil patch the previous two summers.

He glanced around the room and then said, "Why are you hiding out in here, college boy?" It was J.T.'s oil patch sense of humor, and I knew I did not need to respond verbally, but simply stand and shake his hand and smile. He then asked if a "working man" could get a drink. I got a bottle from my desk and poured him two fingers of bourbon. When I handed him his glass, J.T. looked me in the eye and asked, "What are you going



FROM MY FRONT PORCH

By Sam Houston

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

to do after graduation, son?" and then sat down waiting for my answer.

I responded that I had been accepted to law school and planned on starting in the fall. He nodded his head with approval and then said, "You know, that diploma you're going to get later today is nothing but a ticket to get in to play the game." I had to let that one sink in for a second, but the look on my face undoubtedly revealed I was a little puzzled by his statement.

He leaned forward, placed his hand on my knee and very slowly said, "Right after graduation is when school really starts. An education is a wonderful thing, and a diploma will get you a job, but then you gotta keep it. I know you think school has been a challenge, but you haven't seen anything yet. There will be long days, long nights, sacrifices, and having to do your job when no one appreciates you or congratulates you for what you did. It is hard. About two weeks after you get hired, nobody is gonna care what grade you made in college algebra or political science; all they are going to care about is if you can do

the job." Those words from J.T. really stuck with me. Over time I learned just how right J.T. had been.

Just a couple of weeks ago a young intern at the newspaper was lamenting how difficult finals had been and that he was stressed out. I broke the unfortunate news to the young man he would look back at college and finals with a smile and realize the rest of his life carried considerably bigger and more difficult challenges. After hearing my words, the young man hung his head and shook it forlornly. He thought he had been through the tough part. I had to smile because in the years ahead, the young man was going to have a heck of a surprise.

Graduates: Life is tough. There are no participation trophies. You will have to prove yourself each day and nothing, not one single thing, will be given to you. You'll have a ticket to get in the game, but then you need to perform. I am confident you will.

Thought for the day: Take pride in how far you've come and have faith in how far you can go, but do not forget to enjoy the ride.

Texas Water Utilities gives tips for water conservation

FROM STAFF REPORTS

In honor of Earth Day last week, Texas Water Utilities shared tips for water conservation.

According to the Texas Water Development Board, precipitation in March was less than half of normal for more than half the state. Statewide, rainfall in March was below normal for the seventh consecutive month, which makes September 2021 to March 2022 the driest September through March since 1967, and the eighth driest such period in 127 years.

Texas Water Utilities recommends curbing water consumption to make sure there is enough for future generations. Toilets, showers, faucets and washing machines – in that order – are the appliances that use the most water daily, according to the Water Research Foundation.

To conserve water, Texas Water Utilities offers the following tips:

BATHROOM

- Do not let the water run while shaving or brushing teeth.

- Take short showers instead of tub baths. Turn off the water while soaping or shampooing.

- If you must use a tub, close the drain before turning on the water and fill the tub only half full.

- Bathe small children together.

- Never use your toilet as a waste basket.

KITCHEN AND LAUNDRY

- Keep drinking water in the refrigerator instead of letting the faucet run until the water is cool.

- Wash fruits and vegetables in a basin. Use a vegetable brush.

- Do not use water to defrost frozen foods; thaw in the refrigerator overnight.

- Scrape, rather than rinse, dishes before loading into the dishwasher; wash only

full loads.

- Add food wastes to your compost pile instead of using the garbage disposal.

- Wash only full loads of laundry or use the appropriate water level or load size selection on the washing machine.

EQUIPMENT

- Consider purchasing high-efficiency toilets, or place a plastic container filled with water in the tank of your conventional toilet. Be sure it does not interfere with operation of the toilet's flush mechanisms.

- Install low-flow faucet aerators and showerheads.

- Consider purchasing a high efficiency washing machine which can save over 50% in laundry water and energy use.

- Repair all leaks. A leaky toilet can waste 200 gallons per day. To detect leaks in the toilet, add food coloring to the tank water. If the colored water appears in the bowl, the toilet is leaking.

Parker County Texas Democratic Women to meet on Sunday

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Parker County Texas Democratic Women's group will hold its monthly meeting at 2 p.m. Sunday at Weatherford College.

Parker County resident Claire Olson, a board member of the Tarrant County Coalition for Peace and Justice, will speak at the meeting. The coalition is work-

ing on a memorial for Fred Rouse, a Black man who was lynched in Fort Worth in 1921. The coalition works with the Equal Justice Initiative, founded by attorney Bryan Stevenson, whose memoir "Just Mercy" inspired the popular film by the same name.

For more information on the coalition, see [https://tc-](https://tc-cpj.org)

[cpj.org](https://tc-cpj.org).

The women's group is open to people of all genders. The meeting will be in the Strain Room of the Doss Student Center on the north side of the college campus. Access is off East Park Avenue.

For more information about the group, visit <https://parkercountydemocrats.org>.

SPRINGTOWN SCHOOL MENU

May 2-6, 2022
PK through 12th Grade

*Menus are subject to change.

BREAKFAST PRICES	
EC-12th Grade	\$1.75
EC-12th Reduced	\$0.30
Adult	\$2.25
LUNCH PRICES	
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5th-8th Grade	\$3.25
High School	\$3.00
Reduced	\$0.40
Adult	\$4.25
<small>Students may prepay for their meals.</small>	

PK - 12th GRADE BREAKFAST: Everyday - Various Juices & Cereals, Toast, Milk Variety, Fruit, Jelly Assortment, Buttermilk Biscuit, Variety of milk is offered every day for breakfast and lunch.

Monday Dutch Waffle, Toast, Variety of Cereal, Fruit, Juice **Tuesday** Sausage Biscuit, Toast, Variety of Cereal, Fruit, Juice **Wednesday** Scramble Eggs, Toast, Variety of Cereal, Fruit, Juice **Thursday** Breakfast Stick, Toast, Variety of Cereal, Fruit, Juice **Friday** Breakfast Sandwich, Toast, Variety of Cereal, Fruit, Juice

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

Monday Steakfingers, Mashed Potatoes, Roll, Blueberries **Tuesday** Tangerine Chicken, Rice, Broccoli, Peaches **Wednesday** Chicken and Waffles, Ranchero Beans, Apple **Thursday** Crispy Chicken Sandwich **Friday** Pizza, Green Beans, Banana

9th-12 GRADE Lunch: Everyday - Choice of one meat, two vegetables, and one grain/bread with milk. Variety of milk is offered every day for breakfast and lunch.

Monday Chicken Nuggets, Pretzel Dogs, Sweet Tater Tots, Fresh Broccoli, Blueberries, Apple Sauce **Tuesday** Tangerine Chicken, Baja Fish Tacos, Coleslaw, Rice, Green Beans, Cucumber & Tomato Cup, Apple, Strawberries **Wednesday** Regular or Spicy Chicken, Tenders with Waffles, Garden Salad, Glazed Carrots, Spiced Apples, Orange **Thursday** Nachos (Beef or Chicken), Refried Beans, Corn, Pears, Apple Slices **Friday** Pizza, Steakfingers, Mashed Potatoes, Broccoli, Roll, Peaches, Banana

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SHS theater students to perform their One-Act Play at state competition

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Springtown High School's UIL One-Act Play company made school history by being the first company to ever advance to the state competition.

The company was ranked first at regionals last week and is now in the top eight productions of the state in the 4A classification. SHS is among 48 schools that will advance to state in districts 1A through 6A.

The state competition will take place May 4-6 at the Round Rock Performing Arts Center, north of Austin.

This year, the play chosen to lead SHS into the heat of competition is "The Tin Woman" by Sean Grennan. The play is about a woman who receives a heart transplant and meets with the donor's family.

The cast and crew also won individual honors as well. Senior Sarah Kinnard was named All-Star Technician, and seniors Layla Bryson and Nolan Roark were in the All-Star Cast. Senior Gentry Phillips was named Best Performer.

The company includes freshman Bernard Bast, sophomores Aiden Gray, Taylor Ryken, Nova Gould, Carolina Williams, Jason Patterson and Lex Teague, and seniors Connor Ryken, Michael Merrill, Stetson Wilmeth, Phelo Rogers, Nino van Zanen, Cody Farmer and Chloe Smith. "The Tin Woman" is directed by Rebecca Phillips and Josh Sexton.



Springtown High School's UIL One-Act Play company students will advance to the state competition with their performance of "The Tin Woman."

Photo courtesy of Rebecca Phillips

RENO CITY COUNCIL
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.

"It lets us put money directly back into the community with programs, and it doesn't come out of taxpayers' pockets. It comes out of sales tax," he said. "So, people passing through Reno getting gas, getting groceries or whatever, or purchasing things from our industrial-type businesses, they fund programs that allow us to put money directly back into the community, even though

it's not coming out of the community's coffers."

The city council decided to cancel the election for the district because "a special election calling for Proposition A had not been included in the original ordinance calling the general election," Stringer said. The proposition calling for the district could appear on ballots at a later election.

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Just say 'thank you'

"You need to learn how to take a compliment."

That's what a friend told me almost 40 years ago and I'm still learning.

Even as someone who has spent my adult life in public and "up front," it's still a little unsettling for the compliments to be too effusive.

Now, don't get me wrong - I like to be complimented. And it feels pretty awesome for someone to tell me how special, talented, good-looking and humble I am. (I hope you caught the intended humor there.)

The problem is that I have lived in a context that promotes certain abilities and characteristics while re-



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.

minding us how unworthy we are.

Those of us who do public things within a faith community context have been taught to say things like, "Well, it really wasn't me; it was Jesus" or "I really can't take any credit for that; God gave it to me."

Truth be told, we are not nearly as impressed with ourselves as other people seem to be sometimes and

we really do believe that whatever abilities we have are gifts from God.

And we certainly don't want to be guilty of robbing Him of glory that only He deserves.

That all came back to me again this morning as I read Psalm 115.

Psalm 115:1 in the New International Version (the one I began with this morning) says, "Not to us, Lord,

not to us but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness."

I decided to search a few other translations to see the various ways this verse is expressed.

New Living Translation: "Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name goes all the glory for your unfaithful love and faithfulness."

The Message: "Not for our sake, God, no, not for our sake, but for your name's sake, show your glory. Do it on account of your merciful love, do it on account of your faithful ways."

The Voice: "Not for us, O Eternal One; this glory is not for us—but for Your name

because of Your loyal love and truth."

King James Version: "Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy, and for thy truth's sake."

So, what do you do when someone pays you a compliment and you don't want to steal God's glory?

Here's a suggestion: Just say, "Thank you."

There is nothing wrong with graciously receiving a compliment.

I have concluded that it is not possible for me to "rob" God of His glory because

His glory originates within Himself and not from me. I am unable to diminish Him

in any way.

It is, however, possible for me to diminish myself and my purpose if I decide I need to go fishing for compliments and glory for myself.

It is not my job to "give" Him glory. It is my job to display how glorious He is by demonstrating His character in all my endeavors and sharing with joy, grace, gratitude and generosity the best of what He has placed within me.

As long as I remain amazed by God, I will continue to discover my amazing in Him.

Be amazing today, my friend.

BIKE RALLY, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.

Springtown man who died in 2007 of leukemia at age 38. Vaughan described his cousin Horton as "mentally challenged" with a condition similar to Down syndrome.

"He was a big baby, but he'd kind of walk around and just grin and talk silly stuff to people and the family that knew him," Vaughan said.

For the first nine benefit rides, the money raised would go to the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life fundraiser, Vaughan

said, but in recent years, a local person was chosen to receive the benefits instead.

"This will be the fourth year that I've picked somebody local and that way everybody that's donating gets to see right where the money is going," he said.

Vaughan prefers to pick a kid who has cancer to benefit from the ride, but he found out about Conner's situation and contacted Conner's mother to offer to host the ride in his honor.

Conner, a student at Cross Timbers Elementary

School in Azle, was walking home from the school bus stop on Jan. 21 near Knob Hill Road and Lynock Lane when he was attacked by a dog. Conner survived with the help of a neighbor who was able to get the boy away from the dog and inside the fence.

Following the attack, Conner had to have major surgery, which included stitches on his face, head, neck and down both of his arms and his shoulders, according to a previous Epigraph article.

Conner's mother, Cassandra Ware, said Conner is feeling better, though he still has nightmares about the attack. Fortunately, Conner won't suffer from permanent nerve damage, though he still has some nerve pain and sensitivity in his arms, Ware said.

Conner is expected to have dental surgery next month to remedy issues with broken teeth that occurred during the attack, Ware said. She also wants to get his eyes checked out by a specialist.

Ware praised Randy's Benefit Ride for the assistance it provides to families. She said the money raised will help her continue taking him to his doctor's appointments in downtown Fort Worth.

"I think it's amazing what they do for local people every year. It helps out families. It really does," she said. "It's going to help us out because I'm still missing work for taking him to and from doctor's appointments."

Donated money could also be used for scar-re-

ducing laser treatments that Conner might need. This procedure would not be covered by insurance, Ware said.

"Adults in the public are staring at him, and it is making him feel very uncomfortable to where he either hides in his hoodie, hides in my hoodie or doesn't want to leave the house," Ware said. "So, anything to, I guess, reduce the appearance of the scars to keep people from staring at him will benefit him greatly."

Spotlight on BUSINESS



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"We take pride in our customers and our service."

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"We take the time to get to know each and every one of our customers who walks through the door."

They were located on the Square from 1977 until May 2021 before moving to their new location which allows them to offer drive-thru service to better serve their customers.

Springtown Pharmacy has low wait times for prescriptions, and if something is out of stock, they can generally get it the next day.

They offer immunizations and compounding services at Springtown Pharmacy, plus you can find plenty of over-the-counter items, seasonal gifts and local honey. Right now, come in and check out their selection of great gift items that are 50% off.

Springtown Pharmacy offers delivery to customers within city limits, and if you need help with medication management, just ask!

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Obituaries

Patsy Jean Draper 1938-2022

Patsy Jean Draper, 83, a loving wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother, passed away, Thursday, April 21, 2022, at home, in Boyd.

She was born Sept. 9, 1938 in Fort Worth to Charlie and Bernice (Nunley) Rhoads. Patsy was a 60-year member of Springtown Church of Christ. She was a devoted mother and the rock of the family all of her life. She was always cooking and cleaning and on occasion screaming at the cows to get out of her yard.

We will cherish her memory the rest of our lives and remember fondly all the nutty things she would do.

Patsy is survived by her husband of 66 years, Ewel (Buddy) H. Draper;



daughter, Debra Way; son, Michael Draper; grandson, Joshua Draper; great grandsons, Rieker Draper and Killian "Diddle" Draper; sisters, Verlin Hunt and Carol White; brother, Eddie Rhoads; and numerous nieces and nephews.

*The Springtown Epigraph
April 28, 2022 Edition*

Ashlyne Christine Murray 1991-2022

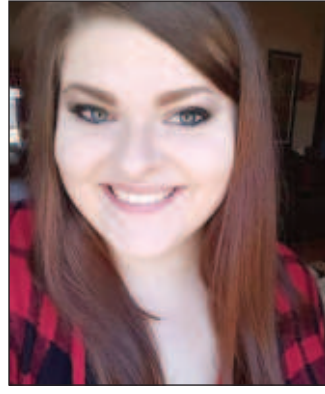
Ashlyne Christine Murray, age 30, passed away peacefully at her family home on Tuesday, April 12, 2022, after a short battle with Multiple Sclerosis.

Memorial services will be held on April 30, 2022, at 2 p.m. at Alexander's Midway Funeral Home 3607 East Highway 199 Springtown, Texas 76082. Graveside services will immediately follow at Springtown Cemetery.

Ashlyne was born Nov. 2, 1991 in Bedford, Texas, and moved to Springtown when she was three years old, where she lived until the time of her passing. She attended Springtown ISD from Kindergarten through graduation. She went on to attend Weatherford College where she obtained her certification in Phlebotomy.

At the age of 24, she married Zach, her first crush and the love of her life. For the duration of their short nine years together, they were not only best friends, but they shared a deep love for one another. Their daughter Mavis was their greatest treasure, and Ashlyne was a loving and devoted mother.

Ashlyne loved watching football, camping, and collecting gift cards. But her greatest passion was movies - from Disney children's films to horror movies. Ask her a question about any movie - from actors, producers, directors, sets or music - and she could probably tell you what you were looking for. She was a walking IMBD. For those fortunate enough to be on the receiving end of her movie knowledge, it was not uncommon to have full text conversations with her including nothing but movie quotes. When asked to identify



one word that best described her, the responses of those closest to her included loyal, honest, respectful, and stubborn. And nearly every person also said "witty." She was quiet and shy until she allowed you into her inner circle. Only then were you privy to the super funny and crazy girl, who was a blast to be around.

Ashlyne touched the lives of so many people, and she will be greatly missed by all that knew and loved her.

Ashlyne is survived by her loving husband, Zach and daughter Mavis, both of Springtown, Texas; parents Ronnie and Kelly Rickett of Springtown, Texas; sister Amber Cate of Austin, Texas, Grandmother "Nana" Sharon Tyner of Springtown, Texas; Grandparents "Pop and Mimi," Steve and Donna Bradford of Pilot Point, Texas, Grandmother "Nanny Sue" - Sue Lafoon of Carl's Corner, Texas; Grandfather "Papa" David Cate of Louisiana; Bonus Sisters, Kelsi Chappell, Springtown, Texas; Taylor Sisk, Springtown, Texas, and Brittney Cooper, Decatur, Texas. Ashlyne is also survived by numerous aunts and uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, and family and friends.

*The Springtown Epigraph
April 28, 2022 Edition*

Jay Kenneth Deskins 1948-2022

Jay Kenneth Deskins, 74, passed away, Friday, April 22, 2022 at home surrounded by those that love him.

A celebration of his life will be held, Saturday, April 30, 2022 from 3-6 p.m. at his sons residence. Please contact the family for more information. He was born Jan. 7, 1948 in Greenville to Rufus and Beulah (Follis) Deskins. They both preceded him in death.

Kenny owned and operated Deerskin Manufacturing since 1972. He loved the outdoors, fishing and hunting. He also enjoyed traveling and collecting guns.

He is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 58 years, Willene (Thompson) Deskins; son, Jay K. Deskins and wife, Dawn; daughter, Jennifer Villasana; brother,



Andy Deskins and wife, Robin; grandchildren, Larry, Stormie, Cameron and wife, Kayleigh, Jacob and wife, Dallas, Chance and Caitlyn; great grandchildren, Tristen, Bailey, Kynlee, Ellie and Ryder. All of whom will miss him dearly.

*The Springtown Epigraph
April 28, 2022 Edition*

Frederick Clifford Weaver Jr. 1934-2022

Fred Weaver, Jr. went to his heavenly home on April 22, 2022. He was born October 14, 1934. A lifelong resident of Azle, he graduated from Azle High School in 1953.

Fred married his high school sweetheart Jacqueline Emanuel on September 3, 1954. In 1987 Fred founded Community Bible Fellowship.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Fred and Besie Weaver, and by his son, Fred Weaver III.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 67 years, Jacqueline, son Clinton and



wife LaDonnya, son Bryan and wife Crystal; six grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

*The Springtown Epigraph
April 28, 2022 Edition*

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There are multiple options available for relaxing spring camping, fishing

Spring is a favorite time to go camping. The weather is usually agreeable, and family outings make memories the little ones will never forget. If you're like me, I try to make sure there is some fishing close by. Enjoy the relaxation and leave your work at work.

You don't have to go far. You can camp on our own Lake Granbury, Possum Kingdom Lake, Lake Whitney and Lake Proctor as well as other lakes that are close and have excellent facilities for camping. Of course, you can go out of state, down to the coast or visit many of our own state's parks. Visit the Texas Parks and Wildlife website at www.tpwd.state.tx.us for more information on available sites.

Planning your camping



ON FISHING

By Michael Acosta

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

trip with the spring feeding/spawning efforts may be a good choice. Spring is always good for white bass, crappie, catfish and/or black bass. The Colorado River above Lake Buchanan near Bend, Texas or the Trinity River out east are two of the many popular spots across the state for sand bass fishing in the spring. Camping on a river/creek or the lake and running trotlines is also enjoyable this time of the year. The kids love the anticipation on what will be on

the end of the line.

Eating outdoors is some extra work, but I enjoy the good eating and fun preparing it. A good fish fry if the fishing is good is a lot of fun. If the fish don't cooperate, no one I know will complain about hamburgers, hotdogs and all the fixin's.

This may also be a good time to try one of those lakes that you've been telling yourself you're going to visit one day for those lunger bass or monster striped bass. Most every body of water

will have campsites available. This type of small vacation is relatively inexpensive and is enjoyed by many. The Texas State Parks and the Corps of Engineers Parks generally require a reservation. The most popular spots

are typically booked solid in the spring. Call ahead and make a reservation if necessary, to ensure you have a campsite before you head out. Other private parks may not require a reservation, but I would call ahead

and make sure.

Be prepared and be safe. Springtime brings out the biting insects and other critters. Keep the sunblock handy even during this time of the year and don't forget the first-aid kit.

FISHING REPORT

This past week warmed the water some with surface temperatures closing in on the mid-60s to near 70 in the creeks. Best reports are for crappies fished in the back of creeks and near boat docks. Lake Granbury sand bass and striped bass are fair on live bait and slabs from in town to near DeCordova. Catfish action for big blues and yellows continue to good on cut shad on the upper ends. Black bass numbers are good in the back of creeks near beds.

Other reservoirs with great fishing reports include Lake Whitney for stripers to 13 pounds on live shad and Alabama Rigs fished mid-lake. Possum Kingdom sand bass and stripers are good on slabs and jigs fished near Caddo and Cedar Creek.

Trios are complicated

Dear Frankie,

A couple of months ago, my mom's friend asked if her dog Rags could ride with us to the park. The first day my mom and I drove over to pick up Rags, she said I should be sure to introduce Rags to the other dogs.

Honestly, she didn't need to remind me. I know how uncomfortable it feels to be a newcomer in a group. The first dog I introduced Rags to was Breeze, my best friend



DEAR FRANKIE

By Geneva Woodruff

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

forever. They liked one another right away. I tried to introduce Rags to the rest of the gang, but she said she was happy to talk to Breeze.

In the beginning, I was pleased that Rags and Breeze hit it off. Then I noticed that whenever the three of us

were together, Breeze talked mostly to Rags and vice versa. Lately, they have started whispering to one another and walking off without asking me to come along.

When I asked them about it, Rags got defensive and said she didn't know what

I was talking about. Breeze said, "Here you go again, making trouble and a mountain out of a molehill."

I couldn't believe my ears and thought, "Why did I ever think that Breeze was my best friend?"

Heartbroken, Milly

Dear Milly,

I'm so sorry to hear how harshly you were treated.

As difficult as what I am about to suggest will be

for you, I can't emphasize enough that you must take control of the situation and absent yourself from two of them. It would help if you showed them that you have no desire to associate with rude dogs and will not tolerate being dismissed.

If, after a time, Breeze and Rags realize they miss you and want you to be their friend you should insist they apologize. I also recommend the three of you have a conversation about the impor-

tance each of you brings to the other and how you will treat one another in the future.

If it turns out they don't reach out to you, you need to ask yourself if Breeze is the kind of dog you want to have as a best friend forever. If the friendship can't be restored, I suggest Rags' mom must be informed that she needs to make other arrangements for Rags' transportation to the park.

Best, Frankie

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

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DIAS DEL NIÑO

A Day for Children in Mexico!

In Mexico, Children's Day (Día Del Niño) is celebrated on April 30th. On this day, there are no classes in schools. Instead, schools organize games and music.

Children bring in their favorite foods to share. Some families take a day out with their children. Often there are special activities for children around the community. Children wear bright colors to celebrate their youth and the coming of Spring.

Color the last balloon in each row the color it should be to continue the pattern in that row.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Silly Book Puns

A pun is a play on words. Read the book titles below and then draw a line from the book title to the author's name that makes a funny pun. For example: *The Arctic Ocean* by I.C. Waters.

WORLD'S BEST MAGIC TRICKS	HOW TO MAKE A BILLION DOLLARS	SCUBA DIVING FOR BEGINNERS	by Lotta Money
BACK DOWN THE ROAD	MY JOURNEY TO THE MOON		by A. Stronaut
			by Abby Cadabera
			by Duncan Under
			by U. Turner

Kid Scoop Together

Make a Piñata

You will need:

- a large balloon
- lots of newspaper
- 5 cups of flour
- water
- masking tape
- colored tissue
- glue
- scissors
- string
- pencil
- paint (optional)

- Inflate the balloon and tie tightly.
- Tear the newspaper into long, thin strips (about 1 inch wide and at least 12 inches long). You'll need lots of strips!
- In a large bowl, mix 5 cups of flour with water, adding water slowly until it looks like pancake batter.
- Dip a newspaper strip in the flour mixture, wetting it completely. Then drape it over the balloon.
- Continue overlapping strips until the balloon is completely covered.
- Add more and more layers until you have applied 5 to 10 layers. Allow to dry completely.
- When your piñata is completely dry, you can paint it and glue colored tissue paper all over it.
- To fill piñata, cut a small flap in the top, bend it back carefully, and drop in small, wrapped candies.

A Day for Games

One popular Dia del Niño game is Pin the Tail on the Donkey. Help Hector pin the tail on the donkey picture.

Double Double Word Search

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

CHOCOLATE	D	Y	A	D	E	Y	L	F	N	C
CHILDRENS	I	T	U	N	A	E	P	R	H	H
CELEBRATE	M	D	R	I	N	K	N	O	O	I
MEXICO	S	E	F	O	L	N	C	T	M	L
DONKEY	Y	M	X	L	R	O	C	H	U	D
PEANUT	D	A	L	I	L	D	O	E	S	R
SCHOOL	N	G	L	A	C	A	E	H	I	E
PALMS	A	B	T	T	P	O	R	A	C	N
FROTH	C	E	L	E	B	R	A	T	E	S
DRINK										
CANDY										
MUSIC										
TAIL										
GAME										
DAY										

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

Hot Chocolate Song

On Children's Day, many families start the day with a yummy cup of hot chocolate and they sing of a song at breakfast. A **molinillo** is used to stir the chocolate drink by rolling it between the palms of your hands while it is dipped in the hot chocolate. The kids sing the following song while stirring the drink. The game is to sing each verse a little faster every time it is sung.

Bate, bate, chocolate,
(Stir, stir, chocolate.)
Tu nariz de cacahuete.
(Your nose is a peanut.)
Uno, dos, tres, CHO!
(One, two, three, CHO!)
Uno, dos, tres, CO!
(One, two, three, CO!)
Uno, dos, tres, LA!
(One, two, three, LA!)
Uno, dos, tres, TE!
(One, two, three, TE!)

Chocolate, chocolate!
(Chocolate, chocolate!)
Bate, bate, chocolate!
(Stir, stir, chocolate!)
Bate, bate, bate, bate,
(Stir, stir, stir, stir.)
Bate, bate, CHOCOLATE!
(Stir, stir, CHOCOLATE!)

Piñata Pairs

On Dia del Niño, children take turns to swing a bat or stick at a piñata, trying to break it apart to release the candy and goodies inside! **ACTIVITY:** All but one of these piñatas have an exact twin. Circle the one that's unique.

Children's Rights Collage

Extra! Extra!

Look through the newspaper for pictures and words showing things you think all children should have a right to. Cut these out and use them to make a Children's Rights collage.

Standards Link: Visual Art: Use art to express a message.

Children's Day in Mexico started in 1925. This celebration has its origins during Alvaro Obregón's presidential term after the country joined the Geneva Convention. The Geneva Convention emphasized the importance of taking care of children affected by World War I. The United Nations suggested in 1959 countries adopt a National Children's Day in honor of the Children's Rights Declaration of 1959.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Describe Dia del Niño

Look through the newspaper for five or more words that describe Children's Day in Mexico. Use these words to write a letter to your local newspaper editor about why you think there should be a Children's Day in your town.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Compose formal letters.

Write On!

My Book

Imagine you could write a book for kids. What would be your topic? Who would be your main character? What would make other kids want to read your book?

SISD recognizes the successes of Springtown High School's Academic UIL team, thespians



Springtown High School's One-Act Play company was recognized by the Springtown ISD school board on Monday for advancing to the state competition.



The audience at the Springtown ISD school board meeting on Monday applauds the successes of Springtown High School's Academic UIL team.



Carmen Northrup, Springtown High School Academic UIL coordinator, presents the awards and honors that SHS students won. Springtown High School students recently competed at the Academic UIL regional meet at Texas Tech University. Photos by Madelyn Edwards

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TEXAS CROSSWORD
 by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

- "Dallas" character John _____ Ewing
- TXism: "_____ late and a dollar short"
- TX Blue _____ ice cream
- Rice won 1966 _____ College Bowl
- lineage based nat'l patriotic grp. (abbr.)
- cattle feed
- USAF was started in Texas with First _____ Squadron
- TX Gipson's sequel to "Old Yeller" (2 wds.)
- city on Galveston Bay
- TXism: "quit spittin' _____ handle" (get to work)
- TXism: "as _____ outhouse on a cold morning"
- Oklahoma city
- Plano hosts a _____ balloon festival
- TXism: "independent as _____ ice"
- Belle Starr's first TX husband (2 wds.)
- TX singer Kris (init.)
- TXism: "_____ like a sore thumb"
- TXism: "fast as _____ up a rafter"
- ornery insect from Mexico: killer _____
- Dallas' "_____ Marcus"
- TXism for add it up (2 wds.)
- this Heard was 1993 Mavericks coach
- TXism for "sail lines"
- TXism: "rip _____ the bud"
- this Levi invented blue jeans (init.)
- Washington bills
- TXism: "two-bit _____"
- TX Roy Orbison tune: "_____ Scared"
- type of saddle leather
- TXism: "shootin' _____"
- "not" prefix
- Ted Cruz's time at work (abbr.)
- TX Benson 1976 film: "_____ to Billy Joe"
- Canadian city
- his father was SMU All-American & N.Y. Giants star in 1950s (3 wds.)
- Martin of 1963 film "4 for Texas"
- San Antonio author of "The House on Mango Street"
- TX Willie's 1990 "Farm Aid _____" was in Indianapolis, Ind.
- "hasta _____ vista"
- TX Freddy Fender's "You'll Lose _____" (1976)
- this Pete wrote "North Dallas Forty"
- TXism: "oomo _____" (how are you?)
- TXism: "popular as _____ daughter"
- "dog paddle," e.g. 17 in March we had _____
- _____ gas prices of "The House on Mango Street"
- Christmas tree place in Beckville: _____ Tree Farm
- TXism: "never laid eyes _____"
- TX Ginger Rogers' dance partner (init.)
- money makers for Texas newspapers
- this Andrews worked with Aikman on Fox MacLaine of Texas filmed "Terms of Endearment" (init.)
- TXism: "he's only got one _____ in the water" (slow witted)
- ship's jail
- Love arriv. guess
- African antelopes
- TXism: "the real McCoy"
- TX Kenny Rogers' "_____ Need You"
- Ranger pitcher in 1993, Robb

LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICES

Advertisement and Invitation for Bids

The City of Springtown will receive bids for Springtown CDBG - Avenue D Reconstruction until 10:30 AM on Friday, May 6th, 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, May 6th, 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:

- 4,500 SY of 6" Concrete Pavement
- 1,300 LF of 6" PVC water main
- 1,250 LF of 6" PVC sewer main
- 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 Monday, May 2nd, 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 04/21/2022

The Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce Clay Shoot



The Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce, along with natural gas company Colt Midstream, hosted the 11th annual Sporting Clay Shoot on Friday at Fossil Pointe Sporting Grounds in Decatur. The event proceeds benefitted the Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce.

Ike Pryor takes a shot at the Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce's annual Sporting Clay Shoot while John Stinnett watches from the sidelines.



Tommy Deeds takes aim for his turn at the Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce's annual Sporting Clay Shoot.

Joe Berlin takes his turn at the clay shoot on Friday in Decatur.

Photos by Madelyn Edwards

PROVEN ★  ★ **CONSERVATIVE**

The Most Conservative Session in Texas History

The 2021 legislative session is hailed as the most conservative session in Texas history. Dr. Glenn Rogers co-authored and voted for numerous conservative priorities, including:

- ✓ Co-authoring a bill to ban gender modification or gender transitioning. Dr. Rogers is strongly opposed to gender modification. (HB 1399, 2021)
- ✓ Banning the teaching of Critical Race Theory in Texas classrooms. (HB 3979, 2021)
- ✓ Increasing border security funding by \$2.8 billion and is committed to finishing President Trump's border wall. (SB 1, HB 9, 2021)



As our area continues to undergo tremendous growth, it is critical that we have a state representative who has the experience and commitment to delivering real, conservative results.

Republican Voter Alert:

Mike Olcott and his billionaire backers have begun their negative campaign by filling your mailboxes and airwaves with outright lies.

Don't be fooled by Mike Olcott!

Republican Primary Runoff
Election Day: Tuesday, May 24
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Reno Elementary School to host roller-skating class for students

BY MADELYN EDWARDS
madelyn@azlenews.net

Reno Elementary School students will soon roll into the second annual roller-skating event starting next week.

The event will be held during the students' physical education classes from May 6-19. P.E. teacher Jenny Beasley said she would teach kids to skate during classes and host a roller-skating party with glow sticks during the last few days.

The students will skate in the gym, and there will be mats and carpets laid out for "students who need extra practice and to help slow their skating pace," Beasley said.

"We skate for two weeks so I can teach students how to skate and fall safely because we all know, if you have ever tried to roller skate, it involves falling as well," Beasley said.

Beasley said 410 students, in grades pre-kindergarten through fourth, are renting skates. The cost of the event per student is \$11. Beasley was able to garner sponsorships for families who couldn't afford for their child to participate.

"Many families do not have the money for this event, so I asked local businesses to sponsor my event," she said. "Red's Burgers, Maggie's Hair Salon and Tried & True Candles gave a generous amount of money. I also had Reno parents giv-



Reno Elementary School students participated in a roller-skating event last year.

Photos Courtesy of Jenny Beasley

ing me checks to help cover the event. The parents knew how much fun their child had last year at our skating event, and they wanted to make sure it could happen again."

Beasley said she started the event last year, and it was a big hit with students. Ever since the first day of school, Beasley said students were asking her about having the event again.

"Because of COVID, our students did not get a field trip for two years, along with many other things. I thought, we can just bring a field trip

to them," she said. "They had an amazing time and students were telling me this is the best day of their lives."

Beasley also sees the event as a learning experience for students.

"Roller skating teaches kids how to persevere through failure. It teaches them that when you fail/fall, get back up and try again," she said. "They also get to see the success of becoming a well-rounded skater as each day, they fall less and less and improve with practice. It was so fun to get to watch my students succeed."



Avery Hutton, Tracy Torres and Nathaly Bahena take a picture in their skates at last year's roller-skating event at Reno Elementary School.



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