



# Breaking legs SHS One-Act Play company takes on state contest



To prepare for the One-Act Play state contest performance, Nolan Roark had to convincingly transform into a character in his 60s. This meant creating wrinkles and expression lines with makeup – aided by theater director Rebecca Phillips – and adding gray streaks to his hair.  
Photo by Madelyn Edwards

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

Springtown High School sophomore Nova Gould missed her first chance to get into theater performance in the eighth grade when the COVID-19 pandemic interrupted her schooling in Connecticut.

Fortunately for her, Gould

reclaimed her theater experience once she moved to Springtown.

On May 5, Gould and her fellow Springtown castmates made history by performing scenes from “The Tin Woman” at the state UIL One-Act Play contest in Round Rock. The company was the first ever in SHS history to advance to the state

competition.

The company placed sixth in the 4A Conference at the state contest. Two of the young actors, seniors Gentry Phillips and Layla Bryson, were awarded for their acting performances by being named in the All Star Cast and Honorable Mention All Star Cast, respectively.

Though the company

didn't place in the top three of their division, that didn't matter as much to some of the students. They were just proud to have excelled so far.

“I'm happy that we're here, and I'm happy we get to share our story with this many people. It's a really big deal to be at state,” Phillips said before the contest.

“Winning or losing, I think we won in my eyes.”

It was said at the awards ceremony that Texas' One-Act Play competition is the largest play contest in the world, where about 1,100 schools competed this year and were narrowed down to eight per conference.

Gould called the One-Act Play competition “the be-all,

end-all” for theater students.

“If you're really a theater kid and you're really committed to theater, then this is where you want to be, is One-Act,” she said.

Theater activities have snowballed for Gould this year and have included participating in the fall play,

SEE **PLAY**, PAGE 2A.

## Former Springtown man receives life sentence

**FROM STAFF REPORTS**

A Parker County jury convicted a former Springtown resident for repeatedly molesting a girl when she was 8 to 9 years old and sentenced him to life in prison without the possibility of parole in a recent trial in Weatherford, according to the release from the Parker County District Attorney's Office.

Calvin Wilson Graves, 66, now of Plano, was charged with continuous sexual abuse of a young child in an offense that occurred in 2013-2014. The girl, in 2019, told her mother what had happened. The mother then reported the abuse to a Springtown Police Department officer who referred it to the Parker County Sheriff's Office for investigation, pursuant to an interagency agree-

ment.

In her testimony at trial, the girl told jurors that Graves used his relationship with her family to gain access to sexually abuse her around 40 times. She told jurors about specific instances of abuse that she recalled, including taking her from her ninth birthday party over to his apartment under the guise of giving her a present. Instead, he molested her.

“This was an awful sexual abuse case that had a profound impact on a young girl,” Swain said in the release. “Mr. Graves betrayed the trust that the victim's family had in him in order to perpetrate his crime.”

Jurors deliberated for over two hours before finding Graves guilty, including

SEE **ABUSE**, PAGE 4A.

## Howell's Western Cafe Day



Mayor Greg Hood proclaimed May 18 as Howell's Western Cafe Day in honor of the restaurant's 60-year anniversary. Pictured with Hood at the council meeting last week were Shirley Fletcher and Harold Buffington.  
Photo by Madelyn Edwards



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**PLAY**, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.

SHS's haunted house and the Texas Thespian contest. When the One-Act Play auditions were announced, Gould described how she was looking forward to getting involved with the contest.

"Theater is now my life," Gould said while letting out a bellowing laugh. "I don't do anything else."

When Gould moved to Springtown from Connecticut, she was worried about making friends and getting along with her fellow classmates, but since then, she has found a home among the theater kids.

"Theater is like a family," she said. "We are all very close."

**BEHIND THE SCENES**

To even be able to perform at the state One-Act Play competition means students must endure a very long day. The Springtown company

got off to an early start on the day of the competition to prepare for the technical rehearsal. After the rehearsal and lunch was over, the cast and crew had time to relax, apply their stage makeup and get into the zone before the performance.

Then, the team had to arrive at the competition at Round Rock ISD Performing Arts Center by 5 p.m. for their performance, which started around 7:40 p.m. The awards and results were delivered at about 11 p.m., and the kids didn't leave for their hotels until about midnight.

The SHS company's rendition of scenes from "The Tin Woman" is about a woman who receives a heart transplant and meets with the deceased donor's family. The play includes themes of grief and fractured families, and actors Phillips and



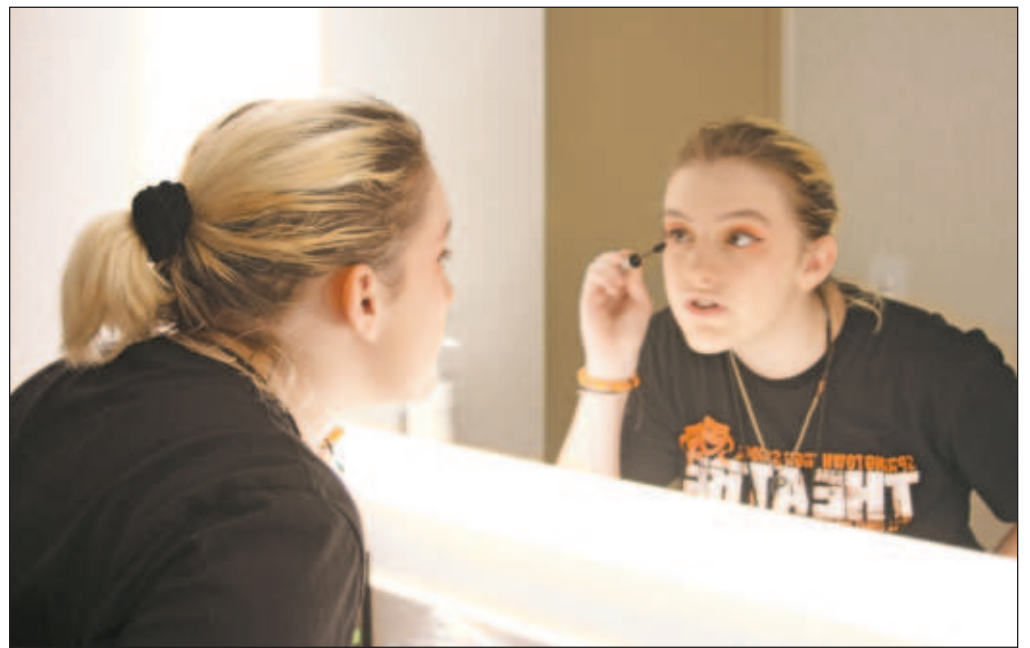
On May 5, SHS One-Act Play castmates made history by performing scenes from "The Tin Woman" at the state UIL One-Act Play contest in Round Rock. The company was the first ever in SHS history to advance to the state competition. Courtesy of Rebecca Phillips

SEE **PLAY**, PAGE 6A.



Layla Bryson styled her hair with a curling iron before the One-Act Play state contest performance and described how her character would most likely be the type of woman to get her hair permed regularly.

Photos by Madelyn Edwards



Nova Gould applied bright orange eyeshadow and winged eyeliner as she prepared for the One-Act Play state contest performance. "(The character is) a preschool teacher, so I kind of feel like she'd have very bright colors because, I don't know, kids like bright colors," she said.

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# Reno City Council approves purchase of vehicles for police, water/street departments

BY MADELYN EDWARDS  
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Another police vehicle is planned to be purchased for the Reno Police Department. The Reno City Council decided on Monday to authorize the purchase of a used police vehicle, a 2016 Ford Explorer with 40,000 miles on it, for \$24,000.

Reno Police Chief Scott Elsner said during the council meeting on Monday that the vehicle would come “completely packaged,” which means a cost savings for the city.

“With the new lighting packages, we’re saving approximately \$14,000-15,000,” Elsner said. “It already has a cage in the back

of it.” The council previously approved the purchase of a used 2018 Ford Explorer for the police department last month for \$23,000, Elsner said.

Elsner mentioned during the meeting that police vehicles are currently in “high demand,” which makes last month’s purchase good deals for the city.

“The brand-new ones are being stored by the larger departments, and they utilize them as their vehicles in the line of service,” Elsner said. “So, it’s really hard for our smaller departments to get vehicles.”

Both of the incoming police vehicles will replace other vehicles in the fleet, Elsner said.

The council also approved the purchase of two trucks for use by the water and street departments, which will replace other vehicles on the fleet.

One of these trucks was already budgeted for, but the truck will cost \$2,000 more than the \$30,000 that

was budgeted. The second truck is expected to also cost \$32,000, and an additional \$12,000 is needed for accessories. In total, the council approved the purchases up to \$46,000.

City Administrator Scott Passmore said the trucks would mostly be used for hauling heavy equipment for the water and street departments.

## Springtown Public Library Food Drive

Springtown Public Library recently held a food drive for donations to local food pantry Neighbor to Neighbors. Neighbor to Neighbors gathered for a photo to pick up a portion of the more than 100 donated items. First row from left, Connie Ellis, library clerks Janet Witter and Cherrish Morris. Back row from left, board members Kathy Lockhart, James Heil, Damon Liles and Larry Nix. In the back is Laura Carter, Neighbors Office Manager.



Courtesy photo by Tootie Hall

## Springtown to host Memorial Day program next week

### FROM STAFF REPORTS

The city of Springtown will host a public program for local residents to honor U.S. armed forces personnel who died in the line of duty.

Springtown’s Memorial Day service will be at 10 a.m. May 28 at Veteran’s Memorial Park. The program includes music, in-

cluding the national anthem performed by the Springtown High School choir and “Taps” played by Sound of Springtown Band Director Scot McPhetridge.

The program will have a keynote speaker, Dennis Thompson. He served in the U.S. Army in the Finance Office of the 25th Infantry

Division in Vietnam. He was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal with Silver Star, and the Bronze Star Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster. Thompson has lived in Parker County for 15 years with his wife.



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# What trust makes possible

What does this make possible?

That is such a great question! Especially in times of failure.

Seriously. I'm not kidding. When things have gone wrong, when you've fallen flat on your face, when nothing went according to plan, when every possible roadblock got in the way — ask the question.

When someone else has really messed up, they've failed, they've disappointed you, they've betrayed you, they've spectacularly belly-flopped off the pedestal on which you had placed them — ask the question.



## 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](http://www.discoveryouramazing.com).

When nothing makes sense and the walls are closing in — ask the question.

What does this make possible?

Now, let's say you've asked the question. You've pondered deeply. You've searched high and low for a good answer to the question.

And you've got nothing. Now what?

I'm going to refer to last week's post. If you missed

it you can read it at <http://drgerylewis.com/i-trust-you/>

When we reach the complete end of ourselves and all our resources — what does this make possible?

What it makes possible is that I can determine that I will trust God. There may never be enough objective, measurable, verifiable scientific evidence for this to make sense, but I will trust

God.

I saw a quote somewhere that said, "Faith is not believing that God can, it is knowing that He will."

It makes a great meme, but that's not the faith I see described in the Bible. He can do what? He will do what? That quote seems outcome-based. And it very subtly puts the outcome back on us.

If God doesn't do what I know He can, then maybe my faith wasn't deep enough.

I'd like to suggest that faith is trusting that God is, that He knows, that He loves.

And "that may be (to hi-

jack the words of the 1989 song by Aaron Neville and Linda Ronstadt) all I need to know."

Let me rephrase the question: What does this trust make possible?

If we really and truly trust God, there is the possibility that we can forgive things we didn't think we could otherwise.

We can release our need to see people as projects to fix or lost causes to abandon.

We can pray FOR people and not AT them.

We can be a friend to those with whom we strongly differ without feeling threatened by the differences.

We can stop letting offenses and grudges weigh us down and refuse to let offenders live rent free in our heads.

We can love people who have messed up their lives and pray that they would get what they need rather than what they deserve.

We can be agents of peace, grace and reconciliation because we recognize that God is more than capable of handling His world that He loves and He doesn't need our help.

That amazes me. Be amazing today, my friend.

## ABUSE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.

spending time reviewing the statement that he gave to the investigator.

"In our closing argument, we pointed out some of the inappropriate things that Mr. Graves said," said Assistant District Attorney Kathleen Catania, who tried the case for the prosecution with Assistant District Attorney Travis Warner, in the release. "He claimed that this 8-year-old little girl was infatuated with him and came on to him sexually. He said he had to admonish her for touching his genitalia. He told the investigator that this third grader told him that, if

they lived in another county, they could be together. His statements were just absurd and, we thought, showed his guilty conscience."

"Our victim was very brave to come forward," Warner said. "I'm sure that the jury saw and heard the same things during the trial that we did, which was that, once she disclosed what Mr. Graves did to her, she was detailed, credible and consistent in her descriptions."

During the trial, testimony elicited by prosecutors showed that the victim had to be hospitalized after she attempted suicide in the

wake of the abuse. She has since received medication and been through extensive counseling through the Children's Advocacy Center of Parker County.

"It is important that people know that the delayed disclosure in this case is actually the norm rather than the exception," Swain said. "Most child sexual abuse cases nationwide come about because of an outcry that does not occur contemporaneously with the abuse."

"Our trial team did an excellent job on this case," Swain said. "I also want to thank the jury, investigators

with the PCSO, counselors at the CACPC for their work with our victim, and the victim and her family for bearing with us during the delays we had during the COVID pandemic."

There is no parole for defendants convicted of continuous sexual abuse of a young child, so Graves will have to serve the remainder of his life in prison, Catania said.

The case was tried in the 415th District Court, Judge Graham Quisenberry presiding.

## LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICES

### PUBLIC NOTICE

"The City of Reno will be having public hearings for a special use permit applied for property 624 S Reno Rd, Springtown, TX 76082, to put a building on a 72 acre lot that is mostly located in the flood plain. P&Z meeting will be July 11, 2022 at 7PM and City Council Meeting will be on July 25, 2022 at 7PM. Both meetings will be open to the public for comments."

### REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

City of Springtown

The City of Springtown is soliciting proposals to provide engineering/architectural/surveying services for potential projects financed by the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. Please submit 3 copies of your proposal and a statement of qualifications for the proposed services to the address below: Attn: David Miller, City Administrator, PO Box 444 Springtown, Tx 76082. Statement of Qualifications must be received by the City no later than 2pm on June 6, 2022 to be considered. The City reserves the right to negotiate with any and all individuals or firms that submit proposals and may award one or more contracts to one or more service provider(s). Section 3 Residents and Business Concerns, Minority Business Enterprises, Small Business Enterprises and Women Business Enterprises, and Labor Surplus Area firms are encouraged to submit proposals. The City of Springtown is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Servicios de traducción están disponibles por petición.

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Pursuant to Chapter 59, Texas Property Code, TMS STORAGE, LLC which is located at 9910 Hwy 199 W., Poolville, Texas 76487 will hold a public auction of property being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale will be at 10:00 a.m. on May 27th, 2022 at 9910 Hwy 199 W., Poolville, Texas 76487. Property being sold includes contents in space of following tenant, with brief description of contents in each space. TENANT'S COMPLETE NAME as shown on rental agreement: AMANDA KAY TAYLOR Unit F-60: misc. household.

### Notice of Public Sale

Notice is hereby given that Storage Bright at 104 Adalida Lane, Springtown, Texas 76082 will sell the contents of the storage units listed below at a public auction to satisfy a lien placed on the contents (pursuant to Title 5, Liens Chapter 59 Sec. 59.044). The sale will take place at the website [www.storage-treasures.com](http://www.storage-treasures.com) on June 17, 2022 at 10:00 am. The sale will be conducted on [www.storage-treasures.com](http://www.storage-treasures.com), under the guidance of Christopher Rosa (16850) on behalf of the facility's management. Units will be available for viewing prior to the sale on [www.storage-treasures.com](http://www.storage-treasures.com). Contents will be sold for cash only to the highest bidder. A 10-15% buyer's premium will be charged and a cleaning deposit per unit. All sales are final. Seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale or to refuse any bids. The property to be sold is described as "general household items" unless otherwise noted: Brandi Sage - general household.

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# Reno City Council meeting



City Administrator Scott Passmore introduced new city personnel at the city council meeting on May 16. From left, Interim City Secretary Cynthia Mayfield, Stormwater Supervisor Matt Neeley, Street Department Supervisor Raymond Murray and Water Department Supervisor Chris Albright.



Swear in: Re-elected Reno City Council members Granville "Randy" Martin III, Shelli Swift and Jeff Davis were sworn in for their new terms on May 16 at the city council meeting. Martin was sworn in via Zoom. Photos by Madelyn Edwards

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# Obituaries

## Jason Wayne Schulz 1973 - 2022

Jason Wayne Schulz, 48, went to be with the Lord, Sunday, May 8, 2022, in Decatur, due to heart failure.

A celebration of his life will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday, June 4, 2022 at Western Star Cowboy Church 790 FM 3696, Springtown

He was born in Sikeston, Missouri on Sept. 15, 1973.

Jason graduated from Elk Grove Village High School in Elk Grove Village, Illinois. He graduated from UTI Auto Mechanic School in Illinois and later he attained a Mechanical Air Craft license in Texas and was recognized on the Dean's list for two semesters. Jason had been a heavy equipment operator, was a mechanic and in the last few years also worked at Riley's Oil Change in Boyd. He had a multitude of friends.

Jason was preceded in death by his maternal grandparents, Gilbert and



Naomi Hutchcraft, and paternal grandparents, Pat and Margaret Rowell.

Jason is survived by his wife, Laura; step-daughters Sarah and Meagan Terry; mother, Mary Bowden and step-father Bobby Bowden; brother, Gordon Rowell and his father, Michael Rowell. Jason had a multitude of close friends who were like family to him including Donald Cook and his family and Jeremy Young and his family.

*The Springtown Epigraph*  
May 19, 2022 Edition

## Norma Christine Bereuter 1943 - 2022

Norma Christine (Stambaugh) Bereuter, 78, passed away May 5, 2022 in Decatur.

She was born Sept. 13, 1943 in Browning, Illinois to Merlin and Louisa (Stevens) Stambaugh both of whom preceded her in death.

Norma was a beloved mother. She was a lifetime horse trainer, cowgirl and award winning equestrian.

Norma is survived by her son, Dallas Bereuter, and his wife Sandra; sister, Alice Dolezal, and her husband, Ralph; brother, Darrell St-



ambaugh and many extended family and friends. She will be dearly missed.

*The Springtown Epigraph*  
May 19, 2022 Edition

PLAY, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2A.

Nolan Roark delivered performances with resentment and anger that eventually turned into quiet vulnerability and acceptance at the play's conclusion.

Shaking off nerves is essential to the performance. Gould said any obvious nervousness in the show would be a distraction for the audience as it wouldn't match up with the characters' typical personas in the play.

"Right whenever something starts, usually we're either in character or we just breathe real quick, and those nerves usually go away for a good portion of us," Layla Bryson said.

To relax and calm any nervousness, senior and actor Michael Merrill and Roark watched cartoons in their hotel room before getting ready for the show.

### BUILDING CHARACTER

To prepare for the play, Roark and Bryson had to convincingly transform into characters in their 60s. This meant creating wrinkles and expression lines with makeup – aided by theater director Rebecca Phillips – and adding gray streaks to their hair.

To get the expression lines right, Roark made faces in the mirror while applying aging makeup.

"Whenever you put the makeup on, you have to make the faces to kind of get the lines right because as we age, those lines on our face, that's where our skin starts to sag," he said about the process. "(I'm) trying to outline those lines and make them heavier, and then I'll highlight and blend after this."

Bryson styled her hair with a curling iron before the performance and described how her character would most likely be the type of older woman to get her hair permed regularly with her friends.

For Bryson, getting in character isn't difficult. She said she uses past experiences to fuel the emotions of her character, the grieving mother Alice who loses her son after the heart transplant and is trying to hold her family together.

"I usually try and think of something that I've lost or something like that, so I take that feeling that I have, I remember that feeling, and I'll take it to Alice, and I'll change it to a mother who lost her son," she said.

Everyone has their own routine for getting ready to perform. For Merrill, it's about getting into the right headspace to play his char-

acter Jack, the deceased heart donor who shows up in flashbacks and as a ghost on stage.

Merrill said his performance as Jack is the "most serious" role that he has had, as he cited more experience with comedic parts.

"And weirdly enough, it's the most relatable character for me," he said. "It's like I've always been Jack."

The company also includes technical crew members who helped prepare the set on stage and ready the props. The team had seven minutes both before and after the show to put the set up and take it down while also ensuring that the set was safe for the actors to perform on, said sophomore and crew member Jason Patterson. Crew members also have had to respond to technical malfunctions in the best ways they can.

"We've rehearsed it a lot," Patterson said before the state contest. "Everybody has like a designated job, and we just try to stick to that, and then it ends up being OK most of the time."

The set of "The Tin Woman" is divided into two sides. One side represents the home of heart donation recipient, Phillips' character Joy, while the other side represents the home of the heart donor's family, the Bordens played by Roark, Bryson and Gould. The play's resolution shows the Bordens and Joy meeting in the middle.

### NEW CHAPTER

SHS' One-Act Play company included 11 seniors who will soon move on from high school to the next chapter in their lives.

"Being a senior, this is my last time traveling with this group," Bryson said before the final competition show. "It has a lot of emotions, and we end up using a lot of those emotions on the stage."

A few seniors said the memories and the "bragging rights" were their biggest takeaways from the state contest experience.

"The medals we get, the plaques we get, they're really nothing compared – I mean, they're nice – but they're nothing compared to the memories we've made on this journey," Merrill said.

Because the seniors will be moving on, the underclassmen are put in the position to carry on a legacy of excellence.

"Now we have to carry on that legacy to next year and the year after, and we have to teach the freshmen incoming about it," Gould said. "It's really cool to be able to be part of it."

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# The good old summertime is right around the corner

I have been so occupied with a variety of tasks that I failed to realize we are half-way through the month of May. Before we turn around school is going to be out, graduation is going to take place, and we will find ourselves smack in the middle of summer!

The summer vacations of my youth were a lot different than the experience kids seem to have now. I was not signed up for summer camp, nor did my family have expensive travel plans to Disney World or some far away land. Our family vacation might be an overnight camping trip. But I think I had as much fun and pleasure as any little boy ever had.

On the last day of school, my shirt came off and I hardly put a shirt on until school started in the fall. There was no sunscreen or preventative measures against UV rays. We simply played out all day long and once we got a good sunburn, it seemed like we "browned" and the sun did not bother us for the



## MY FRONT PORCH

By Sam Houston

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

rest of the summer. We did wear our Cardinals baseball caps but I think that was more to imitate one of our baseball heroes than it was a sun precaution. By the time August came, my skin turned bronze. No telling how many of my childhood friends are going to end up with skin cancer.

Soon as breakfast was over, my friends and I hit the ballfield. Even if only my buddy Bobby and I were available, I would pitch, and he would catch. We played imaginary games that would go on until we were too tired to stand, and then started up the next day where we left off. We played so much catch, Bobby's dad had to reweave the web of his glove because we flat wore the leather out. Looking back, I threw so many

pitches my right arm should be a couple of inches longer than my left!

When we were done playing ball, we frequently would go for a swim in the aluminum stock tank that sat on my driveway. No, it was not an inground pool and we had no private club to go to, but my friends and sisters would jump in, play games, splash and go under-

water — having as much fun anybody could have, doing just about anything.

There were nights we all played kickball after dinner, or caught fireflies, and one of the highlights of summer was playing with fireworks on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. We would shoot off pop bottle rockets and Black Cats and do our very best to not burn ourselves or catch anything on fire. We stretched the limits of good judgment and would have "duels" where we would shoot bottle rockets at each other, or we would try and blow-up little model cars with a couple of fire-

crackers. Nowadays, our parents would probably be charged with "failure to supervise," but we were just boys being boys. Best as I recall we never hurt anyone or anything.

About dark, I would be glued to the radio to listen to the ballgame. I knew every one of the players on all the teams and as the game wore on until past my bedtime, I would get into bed and fall asleep with the game playing in the background. The first thing I would do in the morning was run to my dad to find out how the game came out. There was nothing

more important than baseball and a win the night before made for the great start of a day. A loss made the day less joyful and even made eating breakfast a grim task.

Maybe kids have more fun now. Maybe their fun is safer, more educational, or more inspiring. I am sure contemporary children would be "bored" with our early 1960s routine, but they were some of the best times in my life. Wish I could take off the summer and do them all over again.

Thought for the day: Summer is when laziness finds respectability.

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## 3-Ws Smoke Shack

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3-Ws Smoke Shack is family owned and operated. Chef Rick Wojcik graduated from the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, New York. His wife Toby Wojcik and son Ryan Wojcik complete the 3-Ws team, along with friend D'Ann Aydelotte helping out.

"Our recipes are unique and we have tremendous love for our community," said Toby.

"We strive to provide consistent service and food for our customers. We wouldn't be here without our customers and God paving our way."

3-Ws Smoke Shack has built a reputation around their smoked meats and BBQ. They offer a variety of crave-worthy sides, including potato salad, green beans, baked beans, creamy corn, waffle fries and onion rings.

Daily specials include Brisket Melts, taco plates, and Brisket Mac n' Cheese. And you don't want to miss their Smoked Chicken Salad too! Turn your BBQ into a topping for

one of their big salads and stuffed potatoes.

Bragging Rights: 3-Ws Smoke Shack was the winner of this year's Springtown High School Project Celebration Chili Cookoff!

This week, 3-Ws Smoke Shack is celebrating its one-year anniversary!

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Have a big event coming up? 3-Ws offers catering for large parties, weddings, business meetings and more. Come see what all the rave is about one of Springtown's favorite BBQ spots.

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## Springtown baseball championship sets school record



Pitcher Marco Barrera earned the first win against Vernon.

Photo by Jeff Prince

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

The 2022 Springtown Porcupines baseball team has played its way into the school record book.

May 12-13, the Pines whipped Vernon in two games to win the area championship for the first time in school history. The victory means the Pines will advance to the regional quarterfinals for the first time.

“Coaching these kids every day is truly a blessing,” said head coach Josh Ward. “They are a great group of young men that work hard every single day and are fun to be around. I have an amazing coaching staff that does great work with these guys. We have been able to develop great relationships with the guys, and they have really bought into what we ask them to do. That has proven into the success that we have had.”

Beating Vernon wasn’t easy. The series began with senior Matt Lockard walking to the plate in Game 1 as leadoff hitter. Lockard can be counted on most games for hits or walks, but against Vernon, he smashed a hard grounder to the shortstop and was thrown out at first base.

Then, William Gleason struck out swinging.

Cristian Hernandez singled to reach first base, but his pinch runner, Todd Smith, was thrown out trying to steal second base.

Three outs.

Marco Barrera was pitching for the Porcupines, and he had to work himself out of a jam early. He walked Vernon’s first batter, then tried to pick off the runner and overthrew first baseman Aiden Vickers, allowing the Vernon runner to advance to second base.

Barrera ended up picking off that runner at second base but gave up an RBI single before retiring the side.

Vernon led 1-0 when Springtown batters began the top of the second inning. The sun shone full in the cloudless sky, and a breeze made the 94-degree temperature almost pleasant.

The game was being played at a neutral site – Henrietta High School near Wichita Falls. Springtown was the visitor, Vernon was the home team, and both sides of the bleachers were filled.

To begin the second inning, Aaron Tidwell walked, and Scout Richards singled to put runners on the corners. Seth Lopez singled in Tidwell. Vickers reached first base on an interference call after his bat hit the catcher’s mitt during a swing.

That loaded the bases.

By then, the Pines had batted around the order, and Lockard strolled to the plate for his second at-bat.

“Now would be a good time for a home run,” said a Porcupines fan watching from the stands.

SEE **BASEBALL**, PAGE 11A.

## Springtown softball ends season as area champs



Karley Haynes sheds a tear while listening to head coach Scott Mann’s post-game speech.

Photo by Jeff Prince

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

Springtown’s softball players knew they faced a tough battle against the Ar-

gyle Lady Eagles May 13 in the regional quarterfinal playoff round in Fort Worth.

Argyle was the only softball team in District 7-4A to go undefeated in the regular

season. In mid-April, the Lady Eagles toppled the Lady Porcupines two games in a row by wide margins – 13-0 and 14-1.

The Porcupines needed to

play their best softball and catch a few breaks to topple mighty Argyle in the regional quarterfinals.

Neither happened.

Sure, there were promis-

ing highlights. Cheyanne Atchley hit a two-run homer in the fourth inning when the Pines were down 12-0. Later that inning, Haylee Sanborn added an RBI to make the

score 12-3 and reduced the chances of the team losing on the 10-run rule.

Still, those runs weren’t

SEE **SOFTBALL**, PAGE 11A.



# WAY TO GO, MACK



Congratulations to Mackenzie "Mack" Flaucher, the only high school track athlete from Springtown and Azle to qualify for the 2022 UIL state track and field meet held May 12-14 in Austin. Flaucher, a freshman, competed in the triple jump against some of the best girls athletes in the state and finished in seventh place with a jump of 37 feet, 6.25 inches. Flaucher's personal best — set May 2 at the regional meet — is 38 feet, 4 inches. Flaucher's personal best would have earned her fourth place at state. This year's winning jump was 40 feet, 3.75 inches by Leah Anderson, a Midlothian Heritage senior. Springtown girls track coach Tye Adams said he is "very proud" of Flaucher and expects her to do "great things for Springtown athletics" in the upcoming years. "I know that she has talked about setting her sites on the regional record next year, which is 39 feet 3 inches," Adams said. "She definitely has the ability to do that." Flaucher is active throughout all the sports seasons. She plays volleyball and runs cross country in the fall, plays basketball in the winter, runs track in the spring while also playing club volleyball and she runs track in the summer.

Photo by Jeff Prince

## SOFTBALL, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10A.



Freshman London Smith, sophomore Navaeh Vasquez and junior Noelle Fernandez are expected to return to the team next year.

Photo by Jeff Prince

enough, and Springtown couldn't produce more.

Final score: Argyle 22, Springtown 3.

### WHAT A SEASON

A decade had passed since the Lady Porcupines made it this far into the playoffs, and head coach Scott Mann expressed pride in the way his young team performed. Only two seniors were on the roster, and most of the players were sophomores with little varsity experience.

"We did some really good things throughout the year," Mann said. "We battled back whenever we were not very good and became better each and every week."

Argyle "had our number" this season, he said.

On a brighter note, Argyle is moving out of District 7-4A next season.

"There is no reason we can't make a deep run again next year," the coach said.

Next year's team will be missing seniors Summer Conway and Promise Crews, both of whom "set that bar a little bit higher for us," Mann said.

The Lady Pines finished as area champs with a record of 19-14-3.

### NEXT SEASON'S SENIORS

Five juniors played on the team this season, and they will return next year as seniors and team leaders.

One of them, Karley Haynes, cried while sitting on the artificial turf in left field listening to Mann give his post-game speech after the loss to Argyle.

Haynes wasn't crying about the lost game. Her tears fell for the seniors who were leaving the team and for the memories of a magical season.

"For some of us, softball

is everything," she said. "To know that the season is over is hard. I've been playing for a really long time, and it has a big impact in my life."

She played her first softball game at age 4.

"It's something that makes you motivated and keeps you going every day," she said.

This season was memorable.

"This year is probably one of my favorite years I've played," she said. "There have definitely been some highs and lows. I've met new people. I've made new friends. I've experienced things that I haven't experienced by going deeper in the season. It's just been a great year."

Her highlight was beating Burk Burnett the previous week to become area champs.

The lowlight was losing to Argyle 13-0 at home in April and again in the regional quarterfinals.

"It's just hard to be defeated like that," she said.

She expects big things in 2023.

"I feel pretty confident about the next season," she said. "I think we're going to do really good and hopefully go farther than Springtown has gone so far."

### NEW SPRINGTOWN KID

Another junior who will return as a team leader next season is Noelle Fernandez, who began this season as a stranger.

In January, Fernandez moved to Springtown with her family after growing up in Southern California. She missed her West Coast friends and was nervous to move to a new state and city, but she found a welcoming embrace from her new team-

mates.

"I felt so welcomed," she said. "Coming in and stepping up and doing what I need to do has been great."

Fernandez had the same friends all her life in California, but she has found a similar sense of family in Springtown.

"All these girls are the same way — they all grew up together," she said. "They all have the bond. I felt so much joy coming into that bond with them. I was expecting, 'Oh, she's the California kid,' but it was the total opposite. They were very welcoming. They wanted to hang out. It was everything I ever hoped for moving here."

Fernandez moved here from Norco, a horse and ranch community. Springtown isn't much different.

"I like the open land," Fernandez said. "I like the ranches. It reminds me a lot of my old town, but it's more secluded, and it does feel like home."

She has high hopes for 2023. The Pines will be talented, experienced and hungry.

"I'm ready for next year," she said. "I'm already ready. It will be my senior year. Come out with a bang. Come out strong. I feel like we'll be a better team. We will be so much more bonded together, especially with all the seniors we will have. It's definitely exciting."

Fernandez pitched against Argyle in the regional quarterfinals, and she was glad she did despite the lopsided score.

"This game is everything I ever wanted," she said. "It didn't turn out the way I wanted, but it's definitely something I always wanted. It's just so amazing to be able to come here and have these opportunities."

## BASEBALL, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10A.

Lockard didn't hit a home run, but smashed a double to drive in the three baserunners.

Two innings later, the score was 4-1 when Lockard walked to the plate again. Two runners stood on base.

His teammates refer to Lockard as "Mattie," and one of them yelled, "C'mon, Mattie! Do something Mattie-like!"

Crack!

Lockard smashed a single that scored both runners and increased the lead to 6-1. Gleason later followed with a solo home run.

Springtown's offense dried up after that, but the team's fielders took control and snuffed out a couple of rally attempts by the Lions. Barrera pitched a solid six innings, and relief pitcher Brayden Fox closed out the final three batters, giving Springtown a 7-4 victory.

The Porcupines made it look easier the next day, winning 8-3 by outpitching Vernon 10 to 1 to take the area championship.

Gleason hit a home run in both games and picked up three RBI overall to go with Lockard's five.

Barrera won the first game on the mound, and Hernandez won the second game by allowing just one hit. Brayden Fox picked up a save in both games.

Ward described his team as special, mostly because of the six seniors on the roster. Those seniors include Lockard, who plans to attend Southwest Baptist University to play football and earn a degree in sports business; Gleason, who will attend Tarleton State University and study science and nursing; Barrera, who has earned his associate's degree already and will attend Tarleton to seek a bachelor's degree in business; Aiden Vickers, who will major in kinesiology in college; Lopez, who will attend Ottawa University and study sports management; and Hernandez, who wants to play baseball in college but hasn't decided where.

"Many of them have been

varsity players for two or three years, and that experience has really paid off." Ward said. "They are good examples for the underclassmen, which will help for the future. This group of guys has been playing together for many years, and they are all close friends. They are willing to do what is best for the team in order for us to be successful."

Next up for Springtown is a best-of-three series against district rival Argyle. The Eagles went 12-0 in District 7-4A competition this season, including two victories over Springtown by scores of 5-4 and 14-7 in mid-April.

The Porcupines savor the opportunity to take another crack at the district champ.

Springtown and Argyle play game 1 at 7:30 p.m. Friday at Northwest High School. Game 2 is at 1 p.m. Saturday. Game 3, if needed, will be played 30 minutes after game 2. All games will be played at Northwest.



Marco Barrera tried to pick off a runner at first by throwing to Aiden Vickers.



From left, Scout Richards and Seth Lopez are part of a historic Porcupines team. Photos by Jeff Prince

## Britney Tyree signs with Midwestern State University

### FROM STAFF REPORTS

On May 18, Britney Tyree signed a letter of intent to study and run track at Midwestern State University. In April, the senior at Springtown High School qualified for regionals in the 4x100m and 4x200m relays. Tyree, Madyson Fry, Brinklee Dauenhauer and Shayne Greenwood finished in fifth place in the 4x100m race with their best run of the year at 50.03. Tyree competed at regionals in the 4x100m and 4x400m relays as a junior. Girls track coach Tye Adams said Tyree has been the team's best sprinter in recent years. "She is a tremendous person," he said. "She is incredible. I absolutely cannot say enough good things about her." Tyree was named first team Academic All-State this year and was a state qualifying powerlifter and a drum major in the Sound of Springtown marching band.



Photo by Jeff Prince





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INNERSPACE STORAGE. Hwy 199, Springtown. Now renting all unit sizes, 24-hour access. 682-842-1414.

**STORAGE UNITS**  
 1350 Liberty School Rd  
 5x10 Units \$45/mo.  
 10x10 Units \$70/mo.  
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**Cozart METAL BUILDING SYSTEMS**

Fabrication and erection of quality metal buildings at reasonable prices, any size - any design

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We go the extra mile to ensure you get more for your \$.  
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**Route Driver**  
**\$2,500 Hiring Bonus**  
 No CDL required, but must have valid TXDL with acceptable driving record. Monday through Friday. Fun work environment! Promote from within advancement opportunities. Flexible time-off schedules, often 3-day weekends during summer months.

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**SPRINGTOWN Septic Service**  
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**I BUY RUNNING OR NOT**

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owner Rodney Vick  
 817-220-3044  
 fax 817-523-7639  
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R & E Construction  
 Metal Building Specialist

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- Concrete
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- All Types Fencing
- Metal Roofs

Compare Pricing  
 NO JOB TOO SMALL

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*Hometown Papers!*

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 Quality at a reasonable rate.  
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- Drywall & Painting
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 Interior/Exterior Painting Residential & New Homes. 48 years experience.

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**Local Handyman.** Painting, drywall repair, light carpentry.  
 682-262-0762. Bill Woods, 30 years Exp.

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**Silva Masonry, L.L.C.**  
 AZLE, TX  
**CONCRETE**  
 COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL

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 Careful moving-Cheap.  
 Call Big Jim @ 817-237-5151.

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 Call today and ask about our **\$29.95 3-MONTH SPECIAL!**

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 Springtown Epigraph 817-220-7217



**817-270-3340 - AZLE**  
**817-220-7217 - SPRINGTOWN**

Deadline:  
 4:30 PM Monday

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- Concrete Supplies
- Fabrication Supplies
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- Deer Feeders

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**817-220-0008**  
**www.SolidSS.com** **Open to the Public**

**088 Rent Unfurnished**

**Azle Creek Apartments**  
 519 W. Main St. • Azle

**1 Bed with bonus room**  
**\$925/mo.**  
**All Bills Paid**

**817-598-0663**  
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**AAA PROPERTIES, L.C.**  
 Quality Rentals  
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 Clean office space  
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**082 RV's for Rent**

Nice 1BR RV in adult RV park.  
 Great for older person on limited  
 income. Starts at \$550/mo. All  
 Bills Paid. Heritage RV Park 817-  
 444-3760.

**084 Mobile Homes for Rent**

Pelican Bay: 1941 Gale Drive,  
 2-2, CH/A, stove only, \$825/mo.  
 \$500 deposit. Owner/Broker 817-  
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**086 Mobile Home/RV Lots**

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**MOBILE HOME COMMUNITY**

3 bed/2 bath single wide  
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*One small inside pet allowed*

NEAR POJO STADIUM

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 Springtown. \$1,200/mo. \$600  
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 2-2-1 \$1,495 MO. \$1,000 DEP.  
**1912 CORAL RD.**  
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 Gene Thompson & Associates  
 817-246-4646 gtax.com

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 Call today for more info.  
 Azle News  
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 Springtown Epigraph  
 817-220-7217

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**088 Rent Unfurnished**

**Cross Companies Residential Properties**  
 Family-owned, family-run

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 bedroom units available at \$1,200 & \$1,300.  
 Quiet, clean, non-smoking. CALL 817-401-  
 1796.

**Silver Creek RV Park:** Designed for local  
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 Azle, secluded and quiet, city water/sewer.  
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 in winter. CALL or TEXT 682-499-8616 or  
 email [scrvooffice@gmail.com](mailto:scrvooffice@gmail.com).

**Barton Cottages Tiny Home Community:**  
 COMING SUMMER 2022! Email  
[BartonCottages@gmail.com](mailto:BartonCottages@gmail.com)

*Hidden Meadow*  
**MOBILE HOME COMMUNITY**

Brand New Secluded Community • 3 miles from Springtown

- Brand new Single Wide Home available • No application fee
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**6501 W. Hwy 199, Springtown**  
**817-846-5997 • 817-228-0526**

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**Find Your New Swim Buddy in the Classifieds**

**3-Month Special Only \$29.95**

Do you and your best friend need a new car for a road trip?

Find that Perfect Car or Truck in the Community Classifieds.

**OR**

You can Sell your Auto in the same section. Call 817-270-3340 for more information.



**ACROSS**

1 Pearsall is the seat of this county  
 5 monthly lodging expense  
 6 TXism: "chew \_\_\_ awhile" (think about)  
 7 TXism: "suits \_\_\_ a fare-thee-well"  
 8 Dallas-based chain: \_\_\_ Friday's  
 9 what TX Tommy Lee Jones does for a living  
 12 restores to health  
 17 TXism: "use your \_\_\_ something besides a hat rack" (think)  
 19 Lorrie Morgan tune: "\_\_\_ for Monday" (1991)  
 21 "Laguna Madre," e.g.  
 22 actor Don of "The Buddy Holly Story"  
 23 TX Morgan Fairchild got start on "\_\_\_ for Tomorrow"  
 28 Jackson County seat  
 29 rip apart  
 30 "the bull" in Mexico  
 31 this Gray was Sue Ellen on "Dallas"  
 35 device to vary the intensity of light  
 36 LBJ's Attorney General (2 wds.)  
 42 a type of native Texas wildflower  
 44 TX George Strait hit: "\_\_\_ the Hole"  
 46 single shout of approval (2 wds.)

**DOWN**

1 TXism: "got it \_\_\_ mouth" (it's true)  
 2 fails to honor a promise  
 3 begin an action  
 4 this Preminger directed TX Prentiss in "in Harm's Way"  
 9 Cowboy zealot (2 wds.)  
 10 this causes a very serious medical situation, and could be fatal (3 wds.)  
 11 TXism: "\_\_\_ every trick in the book"

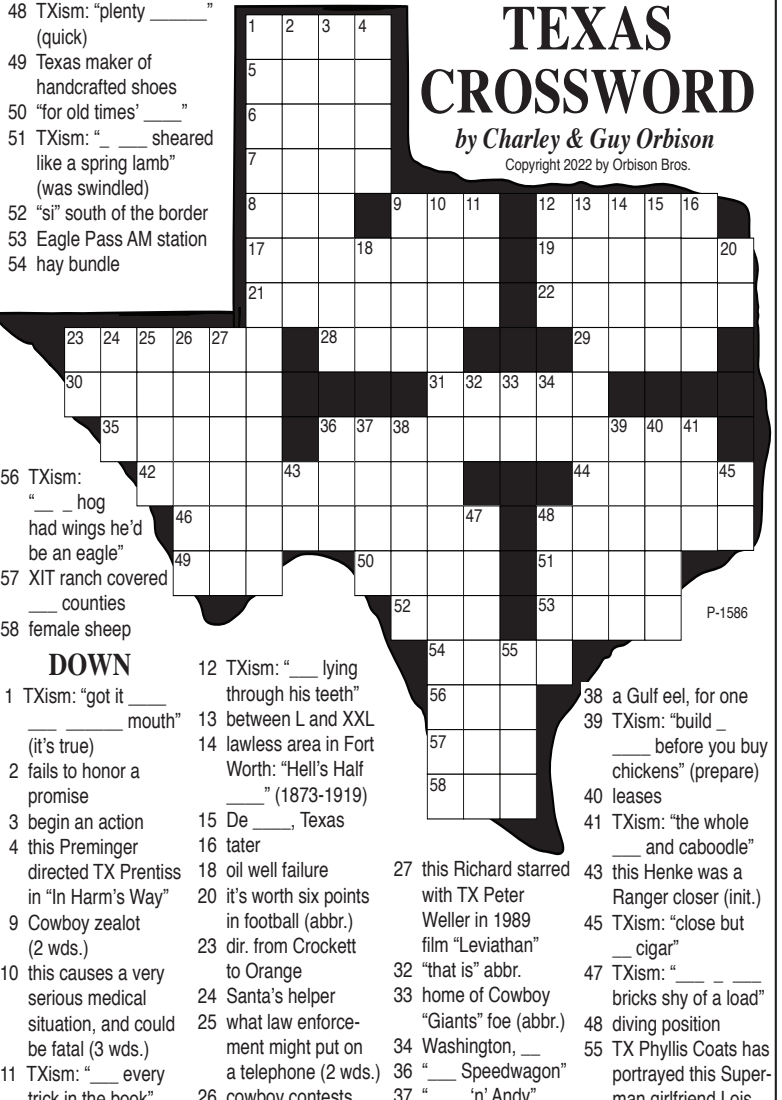
48 TXism: "plenty \_\_\_" (quick)  
 49 Texas maker of handcrafted shoes  
 50 "for old times' \_\_\_"  
 51 TXism: "\_\_\_ sheared like a spring lamb" (was swindled)  
 52 "si" south of the border  
 53 Eagle Pass AM station  
 54 hay bundle

12 TXism: "\_\_\_ lying through his teeth"  
 13 between L and XXL  
 14 lawless area in Fort Worth: "Hell's Half \_\_\_" (1873-1919)  
 15 De \_\_\_ Texas  
 16 tater  
 18 oil well failure  
 20 it's worth six points in football (abbr.)  
 23 dir. from Crockett to Orange  
 24 Santa's helper  
 25 what law enforcement might put on a telephone (2 wds.)  
 26 cowboy contests

27 this Richard starred with TX Peter Weller in 1989 film "Leviathan"  
 32 "that is" abbr.  
 33 home of Cowboy "Giants" foe (abbr.)  
 34 Washington, \_\_\_  
 36 "\_\_\_ Speedwagon"  
 37 "\_\_\_ 'n' Andy"

38 a Gulf eel, for one  
 39 TXism: "build \_\_\_ before you buy chickens" (prepare)  
 40 leases  
 41 TXism: "the whole \_\_\_ and caboodle"  
 43 this Henke was a Ranger closer (init.)  
 45 TXism: "close but \_\_\_ cigar"  
 47 TXism: "\_\_\_ bricks shy of a load"  
 48 diving position  
 55 TX Phyllis Coats has portrayed this Superman girlfriend Lois

**TEXAS CROSSWORD**  
 by Charley & Guy Orbison  
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**088 Rent Unfurnished**

**AZLE OAKS APARTMENT**  
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 817-444-1712

**1 & 2 Bedroom Unfurnished**  
 Accepting Applications  
 Rent based on income  
 TDD: 800-735-2989

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

**GENE THOMPSON & ASSOCIATES HOMES and MOBILE HOMES FOR RENT**  
 gtax.com  
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**FOR RENT**

**1 Bdrm Springtown FOR RENT**  
**Water • Furnished NO PETS**  
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**or 940-229-1046**

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**TexSCAN**

TexSCAN Week of May 15-21, 2022

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Loving couple promises newborn warm home near ocean. Devoted grandparents, best education, gentle pets. Generous living expenses. Elana and Andres 1-561-388-1123 or attorney 1-310-663-3467.

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

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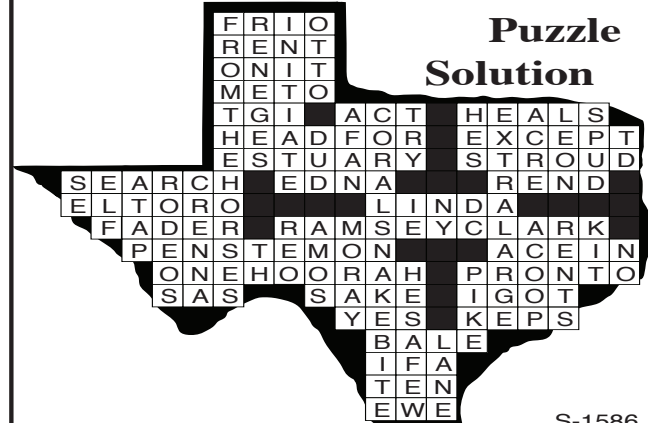
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**Puzzle Solution**




S-1586

**VACATION TIME?**

Raise some extra money through the Classifieds to help fund your trip.

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 What a good deal!

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 817-220-7217  
 Hometown Papers!





# Honk, honk: Local overdose awareness group holds fundraiser car show

BY MADELYN EDWARDS  
madelyn@azlenews.net

Area car enthusiasts came together on Saturday for the first annual Cars for the Cause Car Show on the Springtown Square.

Ninety-one registered classic cars were in the show, which was a fundraiser for the Springtown overdose awareness group, We ARE Our Brothers Keeper. The show raised \$2,000, which is supposed to fund

scholarships to help people in need to access long-term substance abuse treatment.

“I love our town,” organizer Jessica Castro said. “They’re always so supportive.”

Three winners were selected at the car show. First place was Dave Gustaf’s 1929 Ford A. Second place was the 1969 Chevrolet Chevelle brought by John Hetherly, and Wayne Branch’s 1955 Ford F100 placed third.



Right: Classic cars lined up on the Springtown Square for the first annual Cars for the Cause Car Show on May 14.



Johnny Brown climbed into his 1923 Ford T-bucket for the Cars for the Cause Car Show on May 14.



Tommy Lambkin celebrated his 90th birthday at the Cars for the Cause Car Show on May 14 on the Springtown Square. Also pictured are his daughter Leslie Lambkin, son Tim Lambkin and daughter-in-law Erica Lambkin.

Photos by Madelyn Edwards

You call that noise music?...I'll tell you why, because I said so!... What? Do you think I'm made of money?...You're always a winner if you win with a smile...If ifs' and 'buts' were candy and nuts then we'd all have a Merry Christmas!... 'Hey' is for horses...



## Smile and Share it!

### Azle's own "DAD" isms

What's your Dad's favorite invaluable piece of wisdom? Jot it down and you both could win:

- 2 Rangers Tickets (parking included)
- \$50 Lowes gift card

Write down Dad's dadism on the entry form below. Drop entry off at the **Azle News** office at 321 West Main St. or **Azle Dental Care** at 912 Boyd Rd. (across from Subway). You may also email your entry to [Dadisms@smilegreat.com](mailto:Dadisms@smilegreat.com) or drop us a note on our Azle Dental Care Facebook page. Be sure to "like" us on Facebook - the Azle News too!

**All entries must be received by 5 PM on Monday, June 13**  
**Winner of the drawing will be announced June 15 in the Azle News.**

<p><b>Azle Dental Care</b> Dr. Brooke Porter 912 Boyd Rd. 817-444-1763</p>	<p><b>Azle News</b> 321 West Main Street 817-270-3340</p>
--	---

Dadaism: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Dad's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Your presence at drawing is not required to win.

**The Springtown Epigraph**  
*Your trusted news source*

109 East First Street - P.O. Box 557  
Springtown, Texas 76082  
Phone: (817) 220-7217  
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PARKER COUNTY

## Garden on the Go

			
<b>1st SATURDAY</b>	<b>2nd SATURDAY</b>	<b>3rd SATURDAY</b>	<b>4th SATURDAY</b>
<b>Azle Lions Club</b> 412 Commerce St., Azle	<b>Agnes Community Center</b> 5406 Agnes Cir, Springtown	<b>Holy Trinity Catholic Church</b> 800 High Crest Dr., Azle	<b>Azle Christian Church</b> 117 Church St., Azle

**OPEN 9 AM TO 11 AM or UNTIL WE SELL OUT!**

### Each \$5 BAG contains 15-19 pieces of fruit and vegetables.

This is open to all community members.  
Our goal is to make fresh produce affordable and accessible to all.

Made Possible With Funding Through Centers For Disease Control And Prevention







10% MILITARY DISCOUNT

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w/purchase of Select King or Queen mattress



**FREE RECLINER**  
w/purchase of Sofa/Love Combo

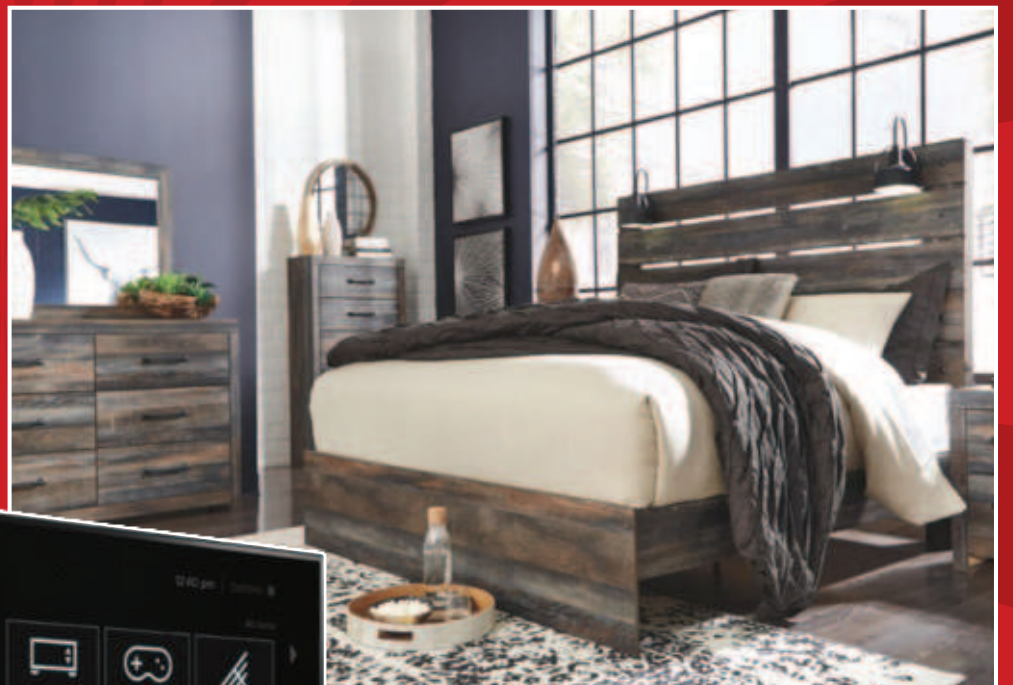


**\$50 OFF**

With Minimum Purchase of \$399



**FREE 55" SMART TV**



**WITH SELECT PURCHASES**  
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