



PARKER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE:

Avoid contact with baby deer

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Deer fawning season began last month, and the Parker County Sheriff's Office has received multiple calls pertaining to "abandoned" fawn - baby deer - located on residential property and fields.

In a press release, the sheriff's office recommended that fawns should be left alone if seen.

SEE BABY DEER, PAGE 3A.

The Parker County Sheriff's Office has received multiple calls pertaining to "abandoned" fawn on residential property and fields. Fawns should be left alone if seen.

Yerrio darius raolika, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

Exposed to COVID-19?

Here's what you should do next

BY MADELYN EDWARDS madelyn@azlenews.net

The staff meeting at work a few weeks ago began with some troubling news - one of my coworkers was said to be sick with COVID-19.

I practically ran out of the conference room to put on my mask, which I had stopped wearing in the office a few months prior. I worried about my coworker and wondered if I could have caught the virus from this person. I thought of the people in my family who I could have unintentionally spread the virus to and the implications their sicknesses could have.

Of course, I wanted to get tested as soon as possible, even though I wasn't experiencing COVID symptoms. However, I found out that the rules on when to get tested were different from what I remembered.

I scheduled a COVID testing appointment at CVS's Minute Clinic in Azle, and the nurse asked me if I was getting tested for travel purposes or because I was symptomatic. Neither, I said, explaining my situation. The nurse told me that I should've waited for symptoms to show before testing. If I wasn't show-

ing any symptoms, the test would likely come up negative, she said.

After asking for my insurance card and driver's license, she proceeded to walk me through a rapid test, which indeed came up negative.

To find out more about the current protocol for COVID testing, I talked with Tonya Sosebee, chief operating officer/chief nursing officer at Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital in Azle, and Debbie McDougall, nurse practitioner at Springtown Family Health Center.

If someone is exposed to COVID-19, Sosebee confirmed that they should wait until they have symptoms, which can include coughing, fatigue, fever, sore throat and congestion, before they get tested. The best time to test is at least three days after being exposed.

"The symptoms really mimic when people have either severe allergies, or like you're coming down with a cold or the flu," Sosebee said. "But if you start showing symptoms, it's important that you go and get tested, either using one of the home tests that are available or going to either your

SEE COVID, PAGE 2A.

The Class of 2022's favorite teachers:

Carla Kerske

BY MADELYN EDWARDS madelyn@azlenews.net

Carla Kerske didn't think she wanted to be a teacher when she was a student at Springtown High School.

Kerske, who is currently a government, politics and history teacher at SHS, graduated from Springtown in 1982 and attempted to pursue a career in optometry.

However, she figured out that optometry wasn't a good fit for her, and without a good idea of where to take her education, she decided to get a job and start a family. After she went back to school to finish her bachelor's degree at the University of North Texas, Kerske decided to learn about being a school counselor.

At first when Kerske enrolled in the counseling program, she was frustrated to hear that she had to be a teacher for two years to be a school counselor. But once she returned to SHS to be a substitute teacher in 2004, Kerske said she fell in love with teaching, especially being an educator to high school kids.

"I learn as much with the students, sometimes, as they do maybe from me," she said. "They just keep you on your toes, and you're

EDITOR'S NOTE: This story is the first in a series about Springtown High School teachers deemed favorites by Class of 2022 graduates, according to the bios they filled out for the Epigraph.

just constantly having to learn. You have to stay on your game with them because they are smart and they ask you questions, and I want them to know I don't know everything. Your teachers don't know everything, but we can look it up together."

Kerske got a teaching job in Boyd and finished her master's degree, but when it became time for her to work as a school counselor, she realized that her heart wasn't in it. She worked as a counselor at the high school and junior high in Azle, but she was bombarded with paperwork and didn't have as much of a chance to work with the students.

"I thought, this is supposed to be kind of my dream job. I just didn't feel that passionate anymore," she said. "So, I started thinking about kind of what would I really want to do. You know they ask you that question: What would you do if you could just do anything, and you weren't worried about the



Carla Kerske Courtesy photo SHS

pay? And I was like, I'd like to go back and teach in a small, kind of rural school again. I just really enjoyed that."

Kerske learned that there was an opening for a government teacher in Springtown, and she was able to get hired on there starting in the 2018-19 school year.

Currently, Kerske teaches U.S. government to seniors, Advanced Placement government politics and U.S. history to juniors, and she noticed that students were particularly interested in learning more about these kinds of subjects this

SEE KERSKE, PAGE 5A.



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HAPPY FLAG DAY



Life's Circle from High School Graduation to Retirement

These past few weeks have been full of graduation activities. Students all over the county have walked across the stage, picked up their diplomas and marched straight into their future. What a time of excitement and uncertainty!

Graduation signals an end to the security blanket of classmates and home as one steps forward to begin the pursuit of their dreams. What will college be like? The first apartment? What company will hire me for my first job? How different will the workplace be from school? How will finances be managed, relationships evolve, having children, and a thousand other life choices which are made in the time period between 18 and 35? There is so much uncertainty and that uncertainty is a big part of the excitement of being young.

My friend Mark just turned 65. He has been working at his profession for over 40 years and is contemplating retirement. When he turned 60, and the finish line of retirement came into view, he allowed himself to start considering what his life might look like when he stopped work. Naturally, finances came into consideration as did health concerns, but my friend had spent so much time working his life away, he never gave a lot of thought of what he might want the last years of his life to look like.



FROM MY FRONT PORCH

By Sam Houston

Sam Houston is a syndicated columnist and newspaper executive. He is also an author, actor, playwright and entertainment producer/promoter.

Mark and I sat down, and we talked about the future discussing things like Social Security, Medicare supplement insurance, the cost of living, personal health and all the other "hot topics" that retirement-aged people focus on. He made a statement which I considered to be very insightful. Mark said, "You know, I feel like I am graduating high school all over again. I have all sorts of ideas and plans in my head, but I don't know what is going to happen. Retirement is going to be such an exciting change."

I congratulate Mark for having such an attitude. I think he would admit to being a little scared of the unknown, but he also realizes the possibilities his retirement might bring him. The opportunity to sleep in late if he chooses, or to stay up and watch a West Coast ball game and not fear getting up the next morning to get to work on time. On a moment's notice he can go to Fort Worth to see a friend, drive to San Antonio and attend an event, or he can sit home and do nothing. He doesn't know exactly what is going to happen or when, but the freedom of making choices without the re-

straints of work seems very appealing to my friend.

We did discuss the need to stay social, to interact with others and maintain personal relationships. We agreed quitting work, going home and staying there, isolated from the world, would be a death sentence carried out much quicker than we would like.

Something about the idea of retirement and having a whole other chance to start a new life makes me feel uplifted and refreshed. I think the saddest thing in life would be to wake up and not have excitement or plans for the days ahead. I love the job I have but I look forward to someday seeing what that next part of life will be like. For me, the someday is going to somewhere down the line but I realize it will be here before I know it. One thing is certain - change is constant.

For Mark, I hope retirement brings amusement, friendship, good health and satisfaction. He has worked hard and deserves it. I know I am pulling for him.

Thought for the day: Retirement is the only time in your life when time no longer equals money.

Until next time.

Juneteenth books put kids in the know about the holiday

TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

You weren't born knowing everything.

People had to tell you what you needed to know, and that's how you learn. You can guess sometimes, or figure other things out on your own but mostly, you've been told and then you know. So why not read these books about a fact that was unknown for years?

When Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation and freed the slaves, the word was spread far and wide ... except in Texas. For more than two years after the signing, there were still people in bondage there. In "Opal Lee and What It Means to Be Free" by Alice Faye Duncan, art by Keturah A. Bobo (Tommy Nelson, \$17.99), you'll see what happened when those slaves learned on June 19, 1865, that they were finally free.

In this book, kids will learn about the holiday Juneteenth, the woman whose activism ensured that it would be celebrated across the nation, and why that was important. Meant for kids ages 4 to 8, this book also has further information for grown-ups to help a child understand its meanings, along with a recipe for traditional Juneteenth red punch.

For early elementary-aged kids, "Free at Last: A Juneteenth Poem" by Sojourner Kincaid Rolle, illustrated by Alex Bostic (Union Square Kids, \$17.99), begins on the day when "The news arrived in



Juneteenth Books for Kids c.2022, various publishers, \$5.99 – \$17.99, various page counts
Photo by Terri Schlichenmeyer

Galveston." Here, however, only part of the story is told; kids don't get much backstory as the Emancipation Proclamation is never mentioned. Instead, the story is very simplified, bypassing Emancipation in favor of more personal stories, a wide variety of reactions that former slaves might have felt upon hearing the news, and how Texas' newly freed Black citizens likely would have celebrated their freedom. Like the Duncan story, this book has a nice author's note for parental guidance, and gorgeous illustrations that perfectly evoke the poem as it's told.

Older children – those who are well beyond picture books – will find a wealth of information inside "What Is Juneteenth?" by Kirsti Jewel, illustrated by Manuel Gutierrez (Penguin Kids, \$5.99).

Unlike the above books, this one begins with a quick and basic history lesson that starts with the Middle Passage, part of the slave trade

route. Jewel then quickly takes kids through a few pages about Abraham Lincoln and slavery just before and during the Civil War. It's not until then that she explains where former slaves went once they were freed, what they did to be reunited with their families, and what it must have been like for Texas slaves to realize that freedom had been withheld from them for more than two years.

Jewel goes forward to explain more of Black history up through modern times, including the story of Opal Lee and her efforts to place Juneteenth firmly in the nation's consciousness. Kids also get brief biographies of notable Black Americans along the way, and there's a handy timeline for reference. This, and the lack of overgeneralizing, make this book perfect for kids ages 7 to 14.

And if these books on Juneteenth aren't enough, then ask your librarian or bookseller for more. They'll help you find everything.

Smile and Share it!

Azle's own "DAD" isms 2022 Winner

Bill Gerdes



"Smile – it makes people wonder what you're up to."

He used to always say this to me growing up - especially when I was a moody teenager.

- Entered by daughter Laura Lewis.

We hope all of our dads have a very happy Father's Day!

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Reno P&Z debates center lining acreage of proposed housing subdivisions

BY MADELYN EDWARDS
madelyn@azlenews.net

The Reno Planning and Zoning Commission debated center line platting during a meeting when plats for two new subdivisions were tabled by the commission.

At the meeting last week, developers presented plats for Andy Ranch and Legacy Estates subdivisions, located near Knob Hill Road by Cardinal Road and Ladybird Lane, which would have 39 and 54 homes on 40 and 57 acres, respectively. The Andy Ranch subdivision would also include a commercial shopping center.

These properties are currently in unincorporated Parker County but are intended to be annexed within the Reno city limits.

The conversation with the P&Z commission took an unexpected turn for developers when commission Chairperson Brian Schrader

asked about center line platting, meaning the measurements of the one-acre lots would start in the middle of the road and the available land to build on would be less than an acre. Schrader claimed that common lots would lose almost a tenth of an acre to center line platting while corner lots would lose nearly a quarter of an acre.

"I don't think that complies with the spirit of the law, the spirit of the ordinance of one-acre lots," Schrader said.

He later added that, "If the city is going to maintain those roads, the city is going to own those roads. It's not fair to the taxpayer for the city who gets a tax abatement or tax relief off of that area that they own, for the property owner to then pay tax on that."

Keith Hamilton, the consultant who presented the plats to the P&Z, countered

that center line platting is not new for developments.

"This has been done before," Hamilton said. "It's not like we're reinventing something that's never been done."

City Administrator Scott Passmore said center line platting is allowed in the state but seemed to side with the P&Z Commission's concerns. Passmore called the issue a "gray area" during the meeting.

"The problem with it is you've got the city's easements and it takes the city easements out from the center line from edge of the road, and we've got a 60-foot easement in there, so it's going to take 20 feet off the side of the road," Passmore said after the meeting.

"That would take 20 feet away from the citizen that they couldn't put a fence in, therefore making it less than an acre, but that citizen would still have to be

paying taxes on it, and that wouldn't be right."

Mark Mikhail, the owner, developer and builder of the proposed Legacy Estates subdivision, said during the meeting that if the plats are approved at the county level, that could be more beneficial financially for the developer, so he might opt to stay in the unincorporated county instead of being annexed into the city of Reno. If the subdivisions stay outside of the city limits, Reno would not receive additional revenue from people moving in and from building permits. The original plan was for the land not to be annexed with the city, but Mikhail was convinced by Passmore, he said.

Schrader acknowledged that the subdivisions would be a good addition to Reno's tax base, but he did not waiver on his stance.

"Yes, this would be a nice little package to put a bow

on and make it part of the Reno tax base, but I'm not going to do it at the expense of violating the ordinances and the boundaries and conditions that everyone else has to work within," Schrader said.

The commission ultimately decided to table the plats to get more information about center line platting for the Parker County Appraisal District. Mikhail and Nagy Nageb, owner of the proposed Andy Ranch subdivision, said the projects could not keep waiting for forward movement.

"I think they're going to lose the business. That's up to them," Nageb said after the meeting. "We've been through this for months now, and we're losing money. It's millions of dollars sitting there waiting for someone to have time every two, three months to have a meeting, then get nothing from the meeting."

BABY DEER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.

"A mother deer will rarely abandon their young," according to the press release. "They will leave their babies alone for up to 12 hours while they forage. She is usually nearby watching her baby and you. She will not return to her baby if she sees you. Do not touch a fawn. Your scent can mask its natural scent can make it difficult for the mother to locate her fawn."

About four million white-tailed deer live in Texas, according to an article from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. People may like to feed the deer that they see at home but feeding them can lead to deer becoming a nuisance and more fawns being born, which contributes to overpopulation. Overpopulation can result in starvation for animals.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department suggests that a permitted wildlife rehabilitator be contacted if a wild animal is sick or injured, instead of the public handling or transporting a wild animal. For more information about wildlife rehabilitators, visit <https://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/rehab/>.



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Springtown City Council to appoint Planning and Zoning Commission members

BY MADELYN EDWARDS
madelyn@azlenews.net

The Springtown City Council is preparing to make appointments of members for the Planning and Zoning Commission at the next council meeting.

Terms for P&Z commissioners, which last for two years, will expire on June 30. The positions chairperson, Place 2, Place 4, Alternate 1 and Alternate 2 are open for appointment. The commission includes six members and two alternates, and together, they make recommendations to the city council regarding zoning, plats and replats, among other tasks.

In a special council meeting held earlier this month, the council interviewed four candidates: Jessica Castro, Sandra "Diane" Hester, Carlos Munoz and Kenneth Harmon. Former Springtown City Council member Bill White also applied to be on the P&Z Commission but wasn't able to attend the interview meeting.

Kenneth Jensen is currently serving as the interim chairperson; LaVohn Mc-

Glothing is serving in Place 4; and Bobby Randolph is serving as Alternate 2. All of them have reapplied to be on the commission.

The city council will appoint members of the commission at the meeting on June 23.

THE NEW APPLICANTS

Jessica Castro co-founded We ARE our brothers keeper, which is an overdose awareness group in Springtown, and she is part owner of a septic cleaning company. She graduated from Springtown High School in 1995.

"I'd like to be more involved in the development of our community," Castro wrote on her P&Z application.

Kenneth Harmon works at HD Texas Investments and has a background in home building, renovating, land developing and real estate, among other fields. He has also served as a baseball coach for the Lions Club.

When asked for his reason for applying for the P&Z, Harmon answered on his application "to be involved

in this growing city."

Sandra "Diane" Hester is retired and has worked in retail, as a city employee, as a utility clerk, in finance, as an office manager, as a court clerk and is a former business owner. On her application, she said she worked with P&Z and other committees while she was an employee at another city, and she also helped to issue permits and inspections for incoming housing additions and businesses.

"I am retired and feel like I would like to help in my community. I am fair, honest, and get along great with other people," Hester wrote on her application. "I am levelheaded as well as open minded. I have been in management with most of my former employers. I feel I can be diplomatic and work well with others."

Carlos Munoz works at GM Financial and has a background in information technology. He has experience in corporate projects and planning, according to his application.

"I would like to be involved in the community," Munoz wrote on his appli-

cation as his reason for applying.

Bill White served on the Springtown City Council for four years as well as several council committees, including P&Z. He is a member of First Baptist Church in Springtown and has served on the church's committees, according to his application.

THE INCUMBENTS

Kenneth Jensen is a retired Air Force fire chief, teacher and pastor, who also has knowledge of construction, according to his application. He is also a member and Sunday school teacher at First Baptist Church in Springtown.

LaVohn McGlothing has served on P&Z for several years and has worked as an election clerk and a volunteer at First Baptist Church in Springtown, according to his application.

Bobby Randolph is applying to be an alternate for the P&Z. He has worked for 38 years in county government in blueprints and stormwater, according to his application.

Man gets 30 years for sexual abuse charge

FROM STAFF REPORTS

A 47-year-old Wichita Falls man pled guilty and was sentenced to 30 years in prison for repeatedly molesting a Springtown girl when she was in middle school. The case concluded Tuesday in district court in Weatherford, according to a release from the Parker County District Attorney's Office.

Jesse Benjamin Lee was convicted of continuous sexual abuse of a young child in the 415th District Court, with Judge Graham Quisenberry presiding.

"For two years, while our victim was in middle school, Mr. Lee sexually abused her," said Parker County District Attorney Jeff Swain in the release. "When, years later, she courageously came forward and told what had happened, she described in vivid detail the horrible things that he had done to her. Her credible outcry was corroborated when Mr. Lee confessed that he molested her to an investigator with the Parker County Sheriff's

Office."

After Lee was sentenced, the victim, now an adult, asked Assistant District Attorney Abby Placke to read her victim impact statement.

"You manipulated my entire family," the statement said. "We were all a part of your little game. You made sure I knew I was just a piece to be played with. ... When I would be alone with any man, I was always so afraid. You made my 12-year-old brain fear that every man was a monster like you. That all they wanted was to get into my pants."

"Her victim impact was powerful," Swain said. "As she said in the statement, this process has helped her take back her power. She is a victim no more. Now, she is a survivor."

Parole laws do not apply to the continuous sexual abuse of a young child offense, Placke said. So, Lee will not be released from prison until 2051, when he will be 76 years old.

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TALES OF SUNKEN TREASURE!

A Sunken City
In the 1600s, Port Royal, Jamaica, was one of the busiest seaports in the Caribbean. It was home to merchants, missionaries, smugglers and pirates.

In 1692, an earthquake hit the city. Much of it sank 65 feet (20 meters) below sea level. For hundreds of years, sand and mud covered the city. Many treasure seekers tried to find the sunken city and failed.

Then in 1965, a diver named Robert Marx used modern equipment to dig under the layers of mud and found the lost city. He was not looking for treasure, but find it he did! Thousands of coins were found—perhaps lost pirate treasure.

ABC Treasure Hunt
Take a trip under the deep blue sea and look for treasures from A to Z. Can you find each letter of the alphabet hidden in the picture?

Shark Alert
Diving for the lost city of Port Royal is dangerous. Divers must watch out for sharks.

Uncover the Unlikely
Well, shiver me timbers! There are two land animals hiding in the picture above. Can you find them all?

Treasure Hunter Clues
Divers looking for sunken treasure do not look for the hulls of sunken ships. Wooden hulls rot after hundreds of years under water.

Treasure hunters look instead for lumps that could be the remains of metal parts of a ship: cannons, anchors, tools and ballast. Sometimes, even these are hard to see, as most of them have been encrusted with sand and shells.

Extra! Extra!
Newspaper Treasure Hunt
Dig through the newspaper to find:
• a word that starts with tr
• something you consider a treasure
• four 2-syllable words
• a 6-digit number

Standards Link: Spelling: Spell independently combining phonemes to form words; vocabulary development.

Standards Link: Visual Discrimination.

Kid Scoop Puzzler
Sunken SOMETHING
Some say that in 1876, something carrying millions of dollars of gold crashed and fell into the Ashtabula River in Ohio. Many have tried to find the mystery bullion, but to date no one has. Do you think it is really there? Or is it a legend?

To find out what crashed, color each space with one dot BLACK and color each space with two dots BLUE.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension.

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

MYSTERY
SUNKEN
TREASURE
JAMAICA
SMUGGLERS
SHIP
DIVER
GOLD
LOST
CITY
SAND
ROYAL
SHARK
MUD
PORT

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

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

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY
Strange and Definitely NOT True
Cut out words from the newspaper to create a very strange headline. Make up and write a strange story to go with your headline. Be sure to include WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, WHY and HOW.

Standards Link: Writing: Students write imaginative narratives in newspaper format.

Write On!
The Greatest Treasure in the World
What is the world's greatest treasure? Why?

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Kid Scoop Together:
Pirate Pairs
The crew of the pirate ship *The Scurvy Albatross* came up with a unique flag. It's the only one here that has no exact duplicate. Circle it.

a.

b.

c.

d.

e.

f.

g.

h.

i.

j.

k.

l.

m.

n.

o.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

In search of early summer deep water striped bass

Normally each year around the late May/early June time frame, the majority of the striped bass migrate back to the lower ends of the lake. Water temperatures are generally in the mid 70s to low 80s and the thermocline has not yet developed or is in the process of setting up. This late spring/early summer pattern can have the fish anywhere in the water column from top to bottom as the temperature and oxygen levels are relatively the same. This is also the case all winter and spring, but different motivations and migrations have to be considered.

As I have noted on many occasions, locate the baitfish and you will locate the predators. If there are schools of baitfish deep, those predators will be close by. Of course, different lakes may have different patterns, but today's discussion is when the fish are generally located deep in a pre-summer pattern. We will also discuss a summer pattern when the thermocline is present and water temperatures are at their highest.

We might consider it deep. Black bass anglers might consider it deep, but striped bass don't necessarily call it deep. It may be their normal hangout during this time period. The past weeks, the majority of the schooling fish on Lake Whitney were



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

located on deep 40-50 flat located about 30 feet down. That is where they were holding and feeding.

The striped bass may not always be deep. They may be on the surface one day and deep the next depending on the water temperature, location of baitfish and any weather event that may have changed the pattern or oxygenated the water. Generally, after the sun comes up, they will move deeper. On some reservoirs, 50 to 60 feet may be appropriate. You just have to be aware of all the clues around you and you need to check different depths. Your electronics can make your life a lot easier when locating structure, fish or baitfish.

Locating striped bass using your electronics and putting your bait on their nose is key. They may be size selective and on some days, they may prefer the threadfin shad, which will roam the deeper waters more so than the gizzard shad especially when the water gets warmer.

Once summer starts settling in on most reservoirs, the thermocline will set up. The striped bass will gener-

ally congregate in this thermocline region, as this is where slightly cooler water and oxygen exists. The thermocline is a layer of water that separates the uninhabitable water below it and the upper water layer above it. This does make it a whole lot easier to locate the fish. Later in the summer, this thermocline will not necessarily have baitfish and the striped bass that are already stressed due to the higher water temperatures may not feed as often as they should and they will generally lose weight.

If you fish below the thermocline with live bait, your bait will suffocate and die. Keeping your bait just above this level is normally prudent, however on occasion, it will be necessary to put your bait just below the thermocline to get it right on the striper's nose. Here you will have to replace your bait quickly, as they will not live long.

Fishing deep can be very productive. Make sure you look at all depths. Also, don't miss the early bite especially on those hot summer days.



Courtesy photo

FISHING REPORT

Lake Granbury sand bass and small stripers are good on slabs fished on flats near drop offs from in town to near Blue Water Shores. Schools were moving fast, but once located, you can fill up your live well with sandies fairly quickly. Largemouth bass are also good in numbers in the back of creeks and near docks on crankbaits and soft plastics. Keeper striped bass have been hit or miss, but several are being caught on live bait from The Shores in town to Striper Alley on the lower ends. Catfish report is still best at night on cut shad. Crappie action is good near deeper structure on jigs or small minnows. Lake Whitney striped bass limits are common most days early near the state park and near Bee Bluffs. Possum Kingdom Lake is boasting on big striped bass fished from Hogs Bend to the Dam. Down-rigged jigs or live bait has been effective.

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Obituaries

Joann Badillo

1961- 2022

Joann Arredondo Badillo, 60, passed away Friday, June 3, 2022 in Springtown.

Visitation was Thursday 6-8 p.m. Service was held Friday 12 p.m. at Alexander's Midway Chapel. Lunch followed at Azle Deer Cove.

Joann was born Aug. 20, 1961 in Austin to Pat and Ophelia Salazar Arredondo.

Joann was preceded in death by her father and son, Julian Badillo.

She is survived by her husband of 42 years, Jose M. Badillo; sons, Joe M. IV, Jonathan M., Josh and Jason Badillo; grandchildren, Jonas, Jayden, Ava, Devon, Gavin, Lillian and Julian; mother, Ophelia Arredondo; brothers, Patrick and Martin Arredondo; sister, Janie



Turlington and many nieces, nephews and extended family.

Joann was a loving wife, mother and grandmother. She loved life and her family. Joann will be greatly missed by all who love her.

*The Springtown Epigraph
June 16, 2022 Edition*

Hershel Pearson

1939- 2022

Hershel Lee Pearson, 82, passed away, peacefully, Thursday, June 9, 2022 in Springtown.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, June 14, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. at Alexander's Midway Chapel. Burial followed at Springtown Cemetery.

Hershel was born June 10, 1939 in Fort Worth to Roy and Flossie Belle (Young) Pearson. Hershel was preceded in death by his parents and sister, Beverly Havner. He served in the U. S. Army and was a master electrician and quality control inspector for Hensel Phelps and Archer Western for many years. Hershel was a member of Cornerstone Community Church. He enjoyed ranching, cattle and sharing a Dr Pepper with his donkey Oscar.

Hershel is survived by



daughters, Vickie Lynn and her husband, Arthur Saucedo, Sherri Ayers and husband Richard, Shonda Jobe and husband Don; son Shane Pearson; sister, Darlene Morris; grandchildren, Emerald, Christian, Cade, Bryan Hall and his wife, Shelly, Andrea Rice and her husband Ryan; great grandchildren Olivia and Everly.

*The Springtown Epigraph
June 16, 2022 Edition*

Hidin' Grayson

Have you ever played "Hidin' Grayson?" Perhaps you have played another version of this game.

When my baby boy, Zeke, (now 31) was three or four years old, his best friend was Grayson. Grayson's mom sometimes had Zeke over to their house for play days. One of their favorite games was hide-and-seek.

One day, as the game was about to begin, Grayson looked at his mom and asked her, "Are we ever going to play Hidin' Grayson?"

It was at that point she determined that Grayson had known the game as "Hidin' Zeke."

Little kids are so much fun!

Fast forward a quarter-century or so and I often play hide-and-seek with my grandchildren. It's a hoot to watch how they "hide" and for me to walk around "seeking" them while I can see them the whole time.



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.

And, of course, I can hide in some of the most obvious places and still observe them seeking.

This thought occurred to me today in light of some of the responses I've heard to some of the unspeakable horrors that highlight our news each day.

"Our problem is that we've removed God [meaning the Bible and prayer] from our schools and society."

Now, to be clear, I'm a follower of Jesus and I am very much in favor of reading and studying the Bible and spending time conversing with God in prayer.

But we miss the point if we think we pitiful humans have the ability to remove the God of the Universe from anywhere!

These words from Eu-

gene Peterson really spoke to me this morning:

"The central item in the religious life isn't my knowledge of God but his knowledge of me. Not my faltering search for God but his search for me. God's aggressive search for us and his exhaustive knowledge of us have resulted in an existence in which there is no place we can go where God is absent. We can take the Bible out of the hotel room, take prayer from the schoolroom, take the Ten Commandments out of the courtroom, and we haven't diminished his presence in any of those places. We can take his name off the coins, and he is no less a present reality than before. We can deny him, we can curse him, we can ignore him, and he

is still intimately acquainted with all our ways, still tenderly holding us in his love, still faithfully extending his mercy to us, and still generously offering us his grace."

If we ever think God is missing or hiding, it's because we — like my grandchildren — simply don't have the capacity to see Him. Our perspective is too limited. Our vision is too narrow.

We have not yet learned enough or matured enough spiritually to see Him and to see how He is aware of and involved in our everyday experiences.

Therefore, when bad things happen, we assume his absence, unconcern, or inability rather than seeking His wisdom and working in cooperation with Him to respond to bad things in good ways.

If we are really seeking Him wholeheartedly, we will find Him.

Be amazing today, my friend.

UTGCD board to hold meeting

Upper Trinity Groundwater Conservation District's Public Hearing and Regular Board meeting are set for 4 p.m. June 23 at the district office or via Zoom videoconference, according to a news release. In addition to their regular board meeting agenda (begins at conclusion of Public Hearing), other items of interest include:

Public Hearing regarding multiple applications for Operating Permit for two public water supply systems

and one commercial water system in Parker County.

Public Hearing regarding multiple Historic Use Permit Applications in Hood, Montague, Parker and Wise counties.

The public is welcome and encouraged to remotely attend via online videoconference/teleconference and can join the Zoom meeting by accessing:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82744876801>
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Meeting ID: 827 4487 6801

The mission of UTGCD, established in November 2007, is to develop rules to provide protection to existing wells, prevent waste, promote conservation, provide a framework that will allow availability and accessibility of groundwater for future generations, protect the quality of the groundwater in the recharge zone of the aquifer, ensure that the residents of Montague, Wise, Parker and Hood counties maintain local control over their ground-

water, respect and protect the property rights of land-owners in groundwater and operate the District in a fair and equitable manner for all residents of the District.

For more information about UTGCD, including meeting dates and well registration forms, access www.uppertrinitygcd.com or call the district's office in Springtown at 817-523-5200.

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of BARBARA CARTER, Deceased, were issued on May 25, 2022, in Cause No. 22P186, pending in the County Court of Parker County, Texas to: MELISSA KEELING.

The address of the Resident Agent to accept service of process is in Parker County, Texas, and the name of the Resident Agent and the post office address are:

Soraya Joslin Attorney At Law
P.O. Box 1267 Weatherford, Texas 76086

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Dated this 8 day of June, 2022.

SORAYA JOSLIN, P.C. By: /s/ Soraya J Soraya Joslin
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KERSKE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.

past semester. Kerske said knowledge of how government works is useful for students throughout their lives, and it's a topic they can continue learning about.

"I've had kids tell me, 'I'm never going to vote anyway.' And I'm like, well, you're always going to be a taxpayer, whether you like it or not," she said. "This class, hopefully, this will be the least that you ever know about the government politics, that you will continually build on this because I think all of us realize that in life that what we learned at government in high school, we are always adding to when we read the news, or we watch the news, or we pay our taxes or we go through any kind of a recession. Unlike a lot of things that I think we studied in high school where we memorize things and then maybe we don't ever use them again, this is something that that you use forever until you're not aware of life anymore."

A significant part of Kerske's teaching is understanding media and being able to know whether a source is a reliable one. She instructs students to bring an article to class and be able to identify bias and emotionally charged language.

"I think that's what keeps it a little bit more than just kind of a history class about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights and stuff like that. From the first week, we are

pulling in real world, modern stories, and they find that very interesting," Kerske said.

This school year, the students attended in-person instead of the hybrid in-person and remote learning classes that took place last year. As the students returned to classrooms and reunited with their school friends, Kerske said it took time for the kids to settle back into the routine of school, like sitting at desk attentively and balancing extracurricular activities.

"Bless these kids' hearts. It's been a huge part of their school career that just has been disrupted," she said. "These kids that graduated had three kind of crazy years in a way. And I think when they came in in the fall, we all thought things were going to be 'normal.' I think the kids had almost forgotten how to do school."

Thirteen out of 90 graduating seniors in the Class of 2022 identified Kerske as their favorite teacher. To Kerske, hearing that students called her their favorite was the best thing they could have said about her.

"Just makes my heart so warm because I care about them, and I think they pick up on that," she said. "I think our teachers at Springtown are amazing. I'm so happy to be at that campus and that district. But I think kids pick up on the fact that we care about them. I hope they do."

COVID, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.

(primary care provider's) office or an urgent care and getting tested."

The tests are accurate, Sosebee said, both the at-home kind and the kind at a doctor's office.

"I know that there's people that are like, 'Well, those tests aren't really accurate.' They're all very accurate when they test positive," she said. "As many tests that have been developed now, they're also very accurate when you are swabbed correctly to determine if you're negative."

If the test comes up positive, those infected should isolate at home and monitor their symptoms, Sosebee said. Doctors may be able to prescribe patients with the antiviral medication Paxlovid or a medicine to help with coughing, she said. Over-the-counter vitamins C, D, E and zinc may also help with symptoms, and melatonin can help patients get to sleep.

McDougall said the Springtown Family Health Center can give people who have comorbidities the antiviral medication – which is government funded – so the patients can get better quicker. Patients have a sev-

en-day window after they start showing symptoms to get the medication.

Symptoms that warrant emergency care are shortness of breath or breathing difficulty, Sosebee said.

Most people in the Azle and Springtown area have stopped wearing masks and practicing social distancing, but that doesn't mean that the pandemic is over. In fact, Sosebee and McDougall said they have noticed an uptick in cases.

"We've seen a surge in the last week of positive COVID cases here from people that have gotten back on vacation, have been on planes and cruises," McDougall said. "That's kind of concerning."

McDougall said that people are more mobile now and more likely to travel compared to the past two years. When they come back home from their vacation is usually when they present symptoms.

Sosebee said the Azle hospital monitors the positivity rate – the number of new cases per 1,000 people – in Parker and Tarrant counties. That rate in both counties has grown from .5% to over 2% in the last couple of

months. These percentages are low compared to the last surge in January and February, and Sosebee would expect extra precautions, like mask requirements, to be put in place if the rate reaches 7%.

"These waves are going to continue. With each new variant that comes out, you're going to have an increase in cases," Sosebee said. "We're just praying that none of the variants going forward are going to cause people to be so ill that they require hospitalization and assistance with breathing."

People can be more susceptible to COVID-19 based on their health and vaccination status, but it isn't always clear who will get severely ill from the virus, Sosebee said.

"It's not necessarily a cookie cutter formula as to who is going to be the sickest or not, but we did learn by watching certain individuals that when they were hospitalized if they hit certain parameters or demographics, unfortunately, we had a pretty good idea of how they were going to do with the virus," she said.

Both McDougall and

Sosebee said people should consider wearing a mask to protect themselves from COVID-19, washing their hands, using social distancing and staying away from sick people. McDougall said that older and immunocompromised people should be vigilant and use precaution.

McDougall said the rise in COVID cases has made her think about her own plans to stay safe on vacation. She recommended that people think about the risks and take personal responsibility.

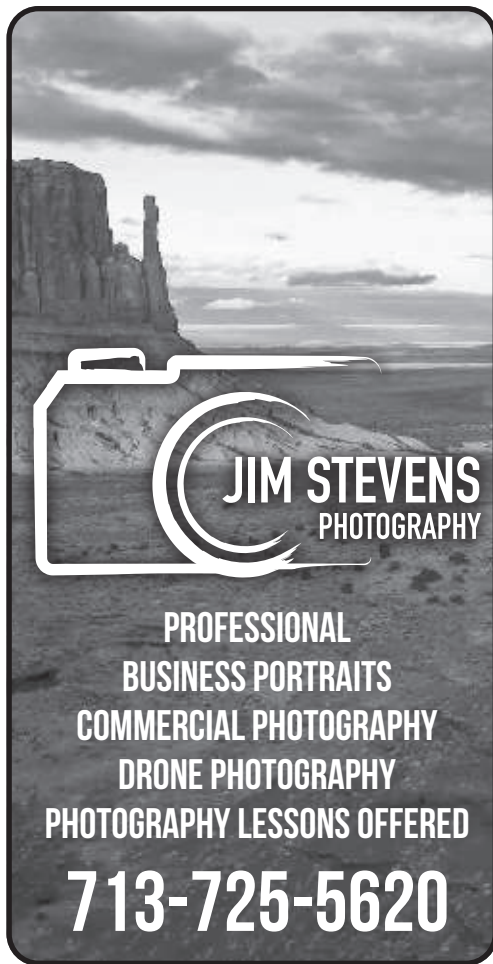
"I would just caution people to think and assess their own health and determine how they should proceed and protect themselves because it's up to the individual," she said. "The government can mandate and we can talk all we want, but until people take personal responsibility and determine their own risk and act appropriately - I mean, we're all individuals and we all have the right to decide what we do."

Visit <https://www.covid.gov/tests> to order a free at-home COVID test.

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JUNE



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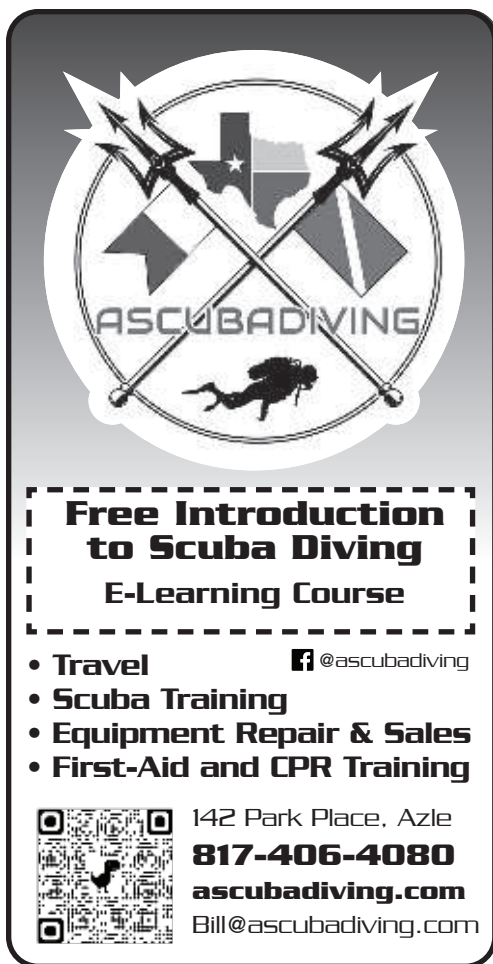
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Grizzly's Zen Den is a mobile massage service with a storefront at 9139 Boulevard 26, Ste. 120 in North Richland Hills. They have been serving clients in Azle and the surrounding DFW area for three years. Pospapas graduated at the top of his class from the Milan Institute in San Antonio and has been a practicing massage therapist for

four years.

"I take pride in the human body," Pospapas says. "I appreciate how it functions and love educating myself and my clients on the best methods of taking care of their body."

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Springtown Education Foundation holds 21st annual golf tournament



The team sponsored by Wise Health Clinics won first place at the Springtown Education Foundation's annual golf tournament. Pictured are Trace Kloven, Dr. Mauro Ganzon, Matt Gadway and Nate Erdmann.



Winstead Paint and Body team took second place in the June 10 Springtown Education Foundation annual golf tournament. Pictured are team members Clint Winstead, Monika Lynn, Haylee Winstead and Chase Lynn.

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Springtown Education Foundation raised about \$15,000 from the annual golf tournament last week at Cross Timbers Golf Course in Azle.

The proceeds from the golf tournament benefit the Springtown Education Foundation, which "provides funds beyond the normal operating budget for classroom programs and activities for students and staff," according to its website. Some of the funds are expected to be presented to teachers hired for the 2022-23 school year who are new to the teaching. These new professionals will each receive \$250 at the New Teacher Luncheon held in August. Proceeds will also be awarded as scholarships to 2023 graduates from Springtown High School.

"We are so grateful for our sponsors because if we didn't have all the sponsors we have in the community,

we would not be able to give out as many scholarships as we do," Foundation President Vicky Trichel said.

The tournament began at 8:30 a.m. June 10 on a cloudy but cool morning with plenty of natural eye candy on display. Recent rains have contributed to an overall feeling of lushness of Cross Timbers Golf Course.

"It was nice to have cool weather this morning," said Mauro Ganzon, a Boyd physician who serves as a board member at Springtown Education Foundation. "The course has been in great condition the last couple of months. It's really great to come out here. Very green."

Thirteen teams participated in the tournament. Cash prizes were given to the first, second and third place winners as well as to the winners of the longest drives and closest to the pin contests. Golfers also had the chance to win door prizes during the

tournament.

The first-place finisher, with a score of 57, was the Wise Health Clinic team of Mauro Ganzon, Nate Erdmann, Matt Gadway and Trace Kloven.

Securing second place was the Winstead Paint and Body team with a final score of 58. Team member Haylee Winstead also finished as the "Closest to the Pin" in the women's division.

Third place, also with a score of 58, was the Alvin Ord's Sandwich Shop Team, consisting of Miguel Riera, Eric Mercada and Cameron Casey. Mercada also cashed in with the "Longest Drive" in the Men's division. Crystal Quintinilla had the "Longest Drive" in the women's division.

Sports reporter Jeff Prince and reporter Madelyn Edwards contributed to this report.



The third-place team at the Springtown Education Foundation annual golf tournament was sponsored by Alvin Ord's Sandwich Shop. Pictured from left are Cameron Casey, Miguel Rivera and Eric Mercada. They took third place. Photos courtesy of Tootie Hall

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817-237-1205

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3..... Appliances 26..... Excavating 48... Maintenance/Repairs 71..... Sewing/Alterations
4..... Appliance Repair 27..... Exterminating 49..... Masonry/Stonework 72..... Sewer Service
5..... Arts/Crafts 28..... Farm Equipment 50... Mobile Home Service 73..... TV/Radio
6..... Asphalt Paving 29..... Fencing 51..... Motorcycles 74..... Tractor Service
7..... Auctions 30..... Firewood 52..... Movers 75..... Upholstery
8..... Autos, Trucks 31..... Free 53..... Musical Instruments 76..... Vacuum Cleaners
9..... Auto Repair Service 32..... For Sale 54..... Music Lessons 77..... Wanted
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12..... Bookkeeping 35 ...Garden/Mowing Svc 57..... Pets/Livestock 80..... Lots/Acreage
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34..... Garage & 59..... Pool Service 81..... Business &
35 ...Garden/Mowing Svc 60..... Professional 82..... Commercial Property
36..... Hauling 61..... Personal 83..... RV's for Rent
37..... Hay 62..... Plumbing 84..... Houses for Sale
38..... Health/Fitness 63..... Public Notice 85..... Mobile Homes
39..... Help Wanted 64..... Photography for Rent
40 Home Improvement 65..... Printing 86..... Mobile Home/RV Lots
41 House Leveling 66..... Roofing for Sale
42 House Cleaning 67..... Recycling 87..... Rent Furnished
43..... Hunting 68..... Recycling 88..... Rent Unfurnished
44..... Janitorial Service 69..... Sand/Gravel 89..... Wanted to Rent
45..... Job Wanted 70..... Septic Tanks
71..... Sewing/Alterations
72..... Sewer Service
73..... TV/Radio
74..... Tractor Service
75..... Upholstery
76..... Vacuum Cleaners
77..... Wanted
78..... Well Drilling
79..... Welding
80..... Lots/Acreage
81..... Business &
82..... Commercial Property
83..... RV's for Rent
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ACROSS

- middle name of "Lady Bird" Johnson
- many Texans have played on the PGA
- Astros former leag.
- chain- fence
- marching cadence word
- in Texas, cars must have a registration
- "old as"
- late TX actress and model, Fawcett
- "against" prefix
- TX Leon Jaworski became Watergate prosecutor after this Cox was fired
- TXism: "that's a fine how"
- where Moses got the commandments
- TXism: " of arrows in his quiver" (capable)
- tear in a sweater
- sell door to door
- TXism: "useless as perfume"
- TXism: " a whipped pup"
- Austin band: "Asleep the Wheel"
- TX Cooley is known for his work in surgery
- Granbury historic hotel: " House"
- nickname of president born in Denison
- TXism: "attracted like a magnet"
- male fowl (2 wds.)
- "black gold"

DOWN

- suffix for "lemon" or "lime"
- young man
- Groveton is the seat of this county
- TX Tanya Tucker sang "San" (1975)
- TXism: " if he's slinging drunk"
- TXism: "a would have more fun" (bored)
- summer necessity in Texas (abbr.)
- actor Rock in Texas epic "Giant" (init.)
- TXism: "cream (good quality)"
- head nod at an auction (2 wds.)
- TX Woodward was the walking boss in "Cool Luke"
- TXism: "if he's bark"
- Eve's mate in Eden
- TX Shaquille won 3 titles as this (city abbr. + team)
- calorie counter
- the family
- TX Jim Reeves hit: "He'll Have to"
- Lennon's widow

31 Palo Canyon
 34 Metroplex Mexican eatery: " Fenix"
 35 TXism: " some grave!" (fell)
 37 TXism: "lapped" (believed)
 40 " grapes"
 43 "The Leaning Tower of"
 44 TXism: "numerous as" dead worm"
 50 a "Corps" member at Texas A&M
 51 military kitchen duty (abbr.)

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Springtown boy brushes back childhood diabetes at baseball summer camp

BY JEFF PRINCE
jeff@azlenews.net

Some superheroes rely on X-ray vision or invisibility to save the day.

Cooper Tate wields his own powers on the baseball field with help from a glucose monitoring system attached to one arm and an insulin pump on the other. He was diagnosed with childhood diabetes at age 3 and has used his arm gadgets ever since.

“We just said that they gave him superpowers,” his mom, Lori Tate, recalled telling him at 3. “We had to look at it on the positive side, and he believed it. He doesn’t let it stop him. He thinks that makes him stronger.”

Throw in a heart as big as Dallas, and the kid is unstoppable.

“He’s a strong kid,” said Lance Tate, his dad. “He doesn’t let (diabetes) slow him down. He deals with it. If it knocks him down a little, he is right back up. He has his moments of ‘why me?’ but we always relate that everybody always has something. He just got chosen for this. He manages it really well for a little 10-year-old.”



SEE **BASEBALL**, PAGE 14A. Cooper Tate snags a grounder and throws to first in a fielding drill. The blue tape seen on Cooper Tate’s arm attaches an insulin pack.

Photo by Jeff Prince

Sound of Springtown drummers find their beat

BY JEFF PRINCE
jeff@azlenews.net

A broken left wrist didn’t stop Ryan Webster from attending summer band camp in early June, even though his doctor forbade him from using that hand for drumming.

“It’s a lot harder to play,” Webster said. “The thing kind of hurts.”

In August, the soon-to-be senior will begin his fourth year on the Sound of Springtown drumline. Until then, an elbow-to-hand cast didn’t stop him from practicing with the marching band, although he limits his playing to one hand.

A couple of his drumline buddies – Nickolas McCabe and Layla Matthiessen – played snare on either side of him as they practiced in the parking lot outside of the band hall during the three-day summer camp. Collin Walker, Aidan Stephens, Todd Smith and Hayley Knight were banging on big bass drums, and Doc Miller and Jacob Rojas were tapping the tenors.

Together, they make up the drumline that gives SOS its marching beat.

GUEST INSTRUCTOR

Emilio Pla served as a guest instructor at the camp. A recent graduate from University of North Texas, Pla is the percussion director at Irving High School. He worked with percussionists on techniques, such as relax-



Ryan Webster, left wrist protected by a cast, listens while guest instructor Emilio Pla shows the drumline techniques for holding sticks.



Layla Matthiessen practices on the snare line.

Photos by Jeff Prince

ing their hands to allow their drumsticks to bounce back naturally after striking the drumheads.

“That’s a little tense,” Pla told one of the drummers, encouraging him to relax and let the sticks do the work.

Bringing in guest instruc-

tors helps provide more individual attention to sections, said Springtown’s percussion director Rachel Garza.

“We hired a few different techs to help with band camp this week, and then we’ll have a few more out in July,” she said. “It’s getting us ready for the marching

season in the fall.”

UNSTOPPABLE

Webster hurt his wrist while skateboarding a year ago but participated on the snare line for most of the 2021 season. In February, the pain became intolerable, so he visited a doctor.

“It was broken the entirety of last season,” he said. “I didn’t figure it was broken. I just thought it would go away.”

He underwent surgery and was on his third cast by June, a removable waterproof version that allowed some mobility but not much.

“There is a chance I might need another surgery, but hopefully not,” Webster said.

He never considered dropping out of the marching band.

“I can deal with it,” he

SEE **BAND**, PAGE 14A.

BAND, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13A.

said. "This is fun. I've done it for three years, and I figured, why quit now? I've gotten good at it, so now, it's kind of easier for me. Why not keep doing this, if it's fun and easy? Getting to be loud is fun."

TWO THUMBS UP

Pla led the drumline through practice sessions while they all stood in the shade of a tree on a sidewalk outside of the band hall. He was happy that Garza had invited him, and he saw that SOS was a tight group.

"They are in good shape," he said. "They are going to be really good."

A light sprinkle began falling during practice, just random droplets here and there, but drumline members moved quickly toward a rehearsal room inside the school as if a hurricane were approaching. Somebody laughed and wondered if everyone was being overly dramatic about a sprinkle.

"We're being drum-atic," said Doc Miller, carrying his tenor drum.

That would have been a perfect time for a "sting" or rim shot, a short burst of beats to punctuate a bad joke. Despite the large number of kids walking within earshot and carrying drums, nary a rimshot was heard.

That's a lesson for another day.



From left, Ryan Webster, Layla Matthiessen, Doc Miller and Jacob Rojas improve their skills at band summer camp.

Photo by Jeff Prince

BASEBALL, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13A.

SUMMER CAMP KIDS

On June 7, Cooper Tate was among the three dozen kids participating in the early morning session of the Springtown High School summer baseball camp. The blue tape that he uses to affix his insulin pack and glucose monitor to his arms was visible at times but often covered by his shirt sleeves.

"He still gets to be a kid, but he's a kid with a couple of devices," his dad said.

Devices notwithstanding, Cooper Tate was one of the most talented kids on the diamond, fielding and throwing baseballs with obvious skill. Coaches praised his efforts.

It's not unusual for diabetic kids to excel at sports, said Lori Tate, a longtime nurse.

"I think it is because of their nutrition," she said. "They have to focus so much on what they are putting in their body that they're pretty much extreme athletes."

Cooper's diet is filled with sources of protein.

"He probably eats about 150 grams of protein a day and low carbs, so his body actually has more nutrients, and it's better for

sports," she said. "He is probably on a better diet regimen than your average kid."

Many diabetic kids work hard to prove to themselves and others that their disease doesn't hold them back.

"They have a passion to make sure that they're the best they can be," Lori Tate said.

LONG ON DESIRE

Cooper Tate began playing organized baseball at 4 and has logged ample time at every position except first base. First basemen tend to be tall to stretch for errant balls. Childhood diabetes can slow growth in children, and Cooper is one of the shorter kids on the field.

"He wants to become a utility player," his mom said. "That way, when he gets to Springtown High School, he can say, 'I can play anywhere you need me, coach.'"

A few years ago, doctors discussed spurring more growth. Cooper wasn't interested.

"They talked about doing some growth hormone replacements," Lori Tate recalled. "Cooper said, 'What is that treatment?' They said it's nightly injections. He said,

'I'm good.' He has such a great outlook. He doesn't let (diabetes) stop him in any manner."

Cooper knows his way around a baseball field but has plenty left to learn, which is why he enjoys summer camps.

"It makes young athletes learn more about baseball," he said.

The only time his focus wanes on the baseball field is when his

glucose level dips.

"When I'm low, I get all dizzy," he said.

Cooper Tate has Type 1 diabetes. Both types – 1 and 2 – are increasing among youth in the U.S. From 2001 to 2017, the number of people under age 20 living with Type 1 diabetes increased by 45%, and the number living with Type 2 diabetes grew by 95%, according

to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

His friends and teammates know his medical situation and help look out for him. Cooper appreciates – and encourages – them in return.

"He deals with quite a bit, but on the baseball realm, you can't tell," Lori Tate said. "He inspires a lot of other kids. He lifts them up."



A Springtown coach hits grounders to young kids at baseball summer camp.

Photo by Jeff Prince

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