



Springtown High School librarian Ashley Gilley was deemed one of the SHS Class of 2022's favorite teachers, according to the bios students filled out for the Epigraph. The book she is holding is "Where the Crawdads Sing" by Delia Owens, which is one of her favorite books.

Photo by Madelyn Edwards

CLASS OF 2022'S FAVORITE TEACHERS

Ashley Gilley

BY MADELYN EDWARDS
madelyn@azlenews.net

Most Springtown High School educators don't get to see every enrolled student in the classroom each year – but school librarian Ashley Gilley has met them all.

Getting to see every student is what Gilley likes about being the librarian. She said she has always wanted to be an educator, even when she was a small

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

child playing teacher with her stuffed animals.

"Teaching is just something that I feel like God has led me to do," Gilley said.

Prior to being the SHS librarian, Gilley was an elementary teacher in Springtown starting in 2009. Originally,

she wanted to work at an elementary school library, but when the high school position opened, she decided to take it.

"It just worked out," Gilley said. "I've been there for five years, and I absolutely love it."

Gilley's job involves working with teachers who bring their classes to the library for projects and for their students to check out books. She also helps students with using databases so they can find credible sources for research projects.

"My favorite part is that I get to meet with all of the students. I get to see every single student at Springtown High School and get to have

connections with everyone," Gilley said. "It's great to see all the different faces that come in and out and make relationships with as many of the kids as I can."

At first, Gilley said she was nervous about moving from teaching young children to teenagers, but the transition didn't take too long when she realized that the 6-year-olds and 16-year-olds aren't as different as they seem.

"After that first week, I realized 6-year-olds and 16-year-olds all need the same thing. They just want to feel heard, and they need that extra love, too," she said. "It's just a different relationship from a 6-year-old. These kids are getting ready to step out into the world and go to college or trade school. And it's really fun to help guide them to where they

SEE GILLEY, PAGE 2A.

Should we stay or should we go?

How gas, inflation are impacting family vacations

BY JESSICA MCKINNEY
azlereporter@azlenews.net
AND MADELYN EDWARDS
madelyn@azlenews.net

Higher gas prices in the summer are nothing new, but the prices are causing families to reconsider their seasonal vacations this year.

"Historically, retail gasoline prices tend to gradually rise in the spring and peak in late summer when people drive more frequently," said the U.S. Energy Information Administration on its website.

In March, AAA reported that Texas surpassed its highest average gas price when it hit \$4 a gallon. Today, gas prices are moving closer to \$5 a gallon.

The spike in prices for gas has some families changing their vacation plans this summer. Other families are opting to go ahead with their vacation and instead are choosing to

cut costs elsewhere in their household budgets.

"We probably shouldn't, but we're still going to Colorado in July," said Haley Wiley of Fort Worth.

"We've been planning and saving, eating a lot of simple meals at home — fruit and veggies and lots of carbs in between: cereal, sandwiches, ramen and baked potatoes. I think some time with the family camping and exploring out of the heat will be great for all of us, even if it breaks the bank temporarily."

Not everyone can keep their vacation plans. Karolyn De La Portilla, who lives in the Springtown area, said she had to cancel her family road trip to Arizona because of the high gas prices.

"If we would have known that gas would be so high, I would have made other ar-

SEE GAS PRICES, PAGE 2A.

Wyatt Hasty's 'Ace' in the hole

SHS graduate wins grand champion at Parker County swine show



Wyatt Hasty shows his grand champion pig Ace at the Parker County Livestock Improvement Association's market swine show. Courtesy of Jeffries Livestock Marketing

SEE STORY, PAGE 2A.
FOR SHOW RESULTS, SEE PAGE 11A.



Wyatt Hasty's 'Ace' in the hole

SHS graduate wins grand champion at Parker County swine show

BY MADELYN EDWARDS
madelyn@azlenews.net

Wyatt Hasty has a tradition of naming his show pigs that do well in competition. The Dark Cross pig that won him the title of grand champion at the Parker County Livestock Improvement Association's market swine show is named Ace.

"If you look at her back, it almost looks like an ace of spades, so that's why I call her Ace," the recent Springtown High School graduate said.

In addition to grand champion, Hasty and Ace also won the Dark Cross division. In the Yorkshire division competition, Hasty's pig The Freak was named the champion.

"Every time she came to a show, people were telling me, 'You're the kid with the freak pig,' and I said, 'What does that mean?' and they said, 'It's just so big and so cool looking,'" Hasty said.

"You look at her bone and her muscle, and it's huge compared to other pigs," he continued.

When Hasty was named grand champion, he said he was excited, shocked and filled with emotions. He won the Yorkshire division last year, but he has never been named grand champion of the entire show until this year.

"I was thrilled. I was trying to keep my composure in the arena," Hasty said.

Wyatt Hasty's dad, Jim Hasty, called his son's wins

at the county show "unbelievable."

"He won three buckles. He's got ribbons. Then, he wound up on sale day getting awarded two scholarships from PCLIA, so it was a pretty outstanding experience," Jim Hasty said.

Jim Hasty said what kids care about the most during livestock competitions is receiving honorary belt buckles that list what the competitor won on them. Sure enough, Wyatt Hasty was proudly wearing his grand champion belt buckle.

"I try to switch them out every time I get a new one, but I think I'm going to wear this one for a while because this is the grand champion (buckle)," Wyatt Hasty said.

Wyatt Hasty also remarked that his big win happened to occur at the end of his senior year at Springtown High School.

"Everyone was telling me it was a cool way to go out," Wyatt Hasty said.

Wyatt Hasty committed to livestock showing in his freshman year of high school. He was very involved in FFA and agriculture in school. He competed in shows at the area and state level and was treasurer in his school's FFA chapter. In his senior year, he won the Melton Harms Swine Feeder Award in his FFA chapter.

"I made a whole lot of new friends in FFA, and they all helped me become who I am today," he said. "I appreciate every single one of them."

Wyatt Hasty's love of

animals has inspired him to plan on attending Tarleton State University to become a veterinarian.

"I love helping animals, working with them, all that," he said.

Jim Hasty described his family as farm- and ranch-centered, so his son's passion for animals is something that has developed naturally. Jim Hasty said Wyatt started showing pigs because they were told that was the cheaper option – which was later proven to be untrue – and because they knew others who were also raising pigs.

Wyatt Hasty said he prefers pigs because they're not as big as cows, and goats and sheep are too noisy.

"I love cows, but I don't think showing one is going to be very enjoyable. I wouldn't want to be dragged on the ground trying to train it," Wyatt Hasty said. "I think pigs are just the right amount for me."

Once the pigs are trained, they become family pets, Jim Hasty said.

"When he's working with them and training them, they become almost like dogs," he said. "They're just another pet."

Wyatt Hasty also likened pigs to "puppy dogs" once they've been trained.

"Right when you get them, right when they're little, you got to basically sit in that pen with them and become their friend," Wyatt Hasty said.

"They'll start liking you, you start brushing on them



Wyatt Hasty shows his banners from the Parker County Livestock Improvement Association's market swine show. Hasty won grand champion, champion in the Dark Cross division and champion in the Yorkshire division.

Photo by Madelyn Edwards

and they kind of become like a little puppy dog."

Raising pigs required a lot of time and effort, Wyatt said.

"It took a lot of time out of my day," Wyatt said. "I had to sacrifice a lot of times not going out, eating with friends, going to hang out. Usually, I had to come home right after school, stay up late until night working out

here, washing them, cleaning, training them, feeding, making sure everything's right. It was a lot of time and a lot of patience."

Wyatt said being in FFA taught him the importance of hard work and being part of team working toward a common goal.

"None of this came easy," he said. "This all came through hard work."

Wyatt Hasty participated in the premium pig sale, meaning he was able to raise money while keeping his champion pig. Wyatt and Jim Hasty thanked purchasers in the sale, especially the ones that gave the most money: Double E Ranch, Terrina Custom Homes, Rios Bros Concrete and Riv-erstone Veterinary Group.

Summer grasshoppers



Valencia Rankin, 5, was hunting grasshoppers in the garden with her cousins in Springtown Tuesday when one of them decided to catch a ride on her nose.

Courtesy photo by Megan Groat

GILLEY, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.

want to end up, and so the discussions are just a little bit deeper than you would have with a first grader. I've really, really enjoyed getting to know the older kids. It's been so much fun."

Building positive relationships with students is important to Gilley.

"I feel like if you can build a relationship, then you can help a child succeed at anything," she said.

Some of those relationships are several years in the making. This year, Gilley saw her library aide, who she also taught when he was in kindergarten, graduate from SHS.

"Getting to see him grow from where he started to

where he ended up was just super special," she said. "I got to see that with like a handful of kids, and it was just like full circle."

Gilley said it was "sweet" and "humbling" that some of the seniors selected her as their favorite SHS teacher.

"I feel like the seniors chose me as one of their favorite teachers because they know the library is a safe space to share their thoughts and feelings and to fully be themselves," she said. "They know I will acknowledge them and let them know they are seen and heard every single day. I always want the students to know that they matter and how important they are to me. I am always

there for them, whether it is helping with an assignment, finding an amazing book, or just someone who listens and supports them."

Gilley hopes the students, especially the graduating seniors, know that they can achieve their goals.

"I just want them to always feel confident about themselves and know that they can do anything that they put their minds to," she said. "They are completely capable of being anything they want to be, and I just want them to know that I will always support them and help them get to where they want to be to achieve their goals."

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City requests volunteers for Springtown Legends Museum

BY MADELYN EDWARDS
madelyn@azlenews.net

The city of Springtown is looking for volunteers to work at the Springtown Legends Museum.

The museum, which has been led by volunteers Marilyn Fackler and Jeneanne Stewart, has been closed for several months because the volunteers have faced health issues, Springtown Director of Administrative Services Christina Derr said.

“While they remain a valued part of the museum, to move forward with reopening, we are recruiting other volunteers,” Derr said.

To be a museum volunteer, the only qualification necessary is “a willingness to provide the needed service to visitors,” Derr said.

Volunteers will be responsible for opening the museum, answering questions from visitors and providing upkeep of the museum.

“The museum has limited operating hours which may change

depending on the response we get to our request for volunteers,” Derr said.

The number of volunteers needed is dependent on the availability of the volunteers who are selected, Derr said. As of June 16, no volunteers have been selected for the role.

For more information about volunteering at the museum, call City Secretary Denise Taylor at 817-220-4834 or email her at dtaylor@cityofspringtown.com.



The city of Springtown is looking for volunteers to work at the Springtown Legends Museum. File Photo

GAS PRICES, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.



Gas prices in North Texas have been hovering just below the \$5 per gallon mark for weeks, impacting the way many families are budgeting for vacations and normal household expenses.

Photo by Jessica McKinney

rangements and done a flight to go out there but now it's gone up because of gas and it's so expensive. It's too

much to fly out there and actually justify doing that,” De La Portilla said.

However, De La Portilla

is still thinking of traveling but not to a destination as far away. Because she is a travel agent, her vacations with

family usually double as work trips because she finds destinations and activities that she can tell her clients about.

“While they're family vacations, they are also things that I'm planning for clients or things that I can tell clients,” De La Portilla said.

Most of De La Portilla's clients have planned their trips ahead of time and booked their trips before the rise in gas prices. Those who are trying to travel now are dealing with the consequences of high gas prices.

“My clients who have a little bit of a lower budget have had a very difficult time because they can't go where they want to go,” she said. “Gas prices are too expensive and because of the prices, airlines are charging more.”

Planning is the key to vacationing with gas prices being so high, Springtown resident Jazmin Derby said.

“You start going on vacation a little bit smarter, whether that be using points or maybe not going out and spending as much or trying to combine, like multi-tripping,” Derby said.

By “multi-tripping,” Derby means combining two trips into one. For example, she is planning to combine her vacation with her kids with a trip to see family.

JessaLynn Hobbs and her family are also keeping their vacation plans.

“We haven't had a serious vacation in years,” Hobbs said.

“As we have stopped planning parties for several reasons, we focus on family experiences instead, and with Father's Day and both our son's and my big birthday, we planned on Florida.”

They will be flying for their vacation and are planning to save money by cutting corners in other ways, like cooking at the Airbnb

for most of the trip.

Vacations are important to Derby because out-of-town trips allow her kids to be exposed to a world beyond Springtown.

“As a kid, we traveled all the time, and so it's just kind of something I grew up loving,” Derby said. “It's something I want my boys to grow up loving and have their home base, but also get that there's a whole world of differences and experiences and foods, and I mean you name it, and you can find it, but you just have to be willing to try new things.”

Wiley believes that her family will get more benefit from their planned vacation than saving.

“Money is money, and it sucks that gas is so high, but cool weather and a clear view of starry nights, hummingbirds of Colorado, camp fire and marshmallows with my kids — it's calling us.”

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Fireworks: Officials suggest viewing, not creating fireworks show

BY DON MUNSCHE
don@azlenews.net

Leave it to the professionals.

That's the advice of two local fire department officials regarding fireworks this year.

Azle will be the site of a fireworks show on July 4. The Follow the Flag program includes free food and music and begins at 7 p.m. The fireworks show begins around 9:30 p.m.

People may still legally purchase and possess fireworks, but they come with a load of restrictions.

"The sale, possession and discharge of fireworks is prohibited in the city limits," said Kenny Wilson, Azle Fire Department marshal.

The city has a provision that allows people to transport fireworks through the city, but if people stop at their house with them, then they are in violation of city laws, Wilson said. After residents buy the fireworks at a stand, they are required to go

shoot them off in a place that is safe.

"Fireworks can be discharged in the unincorporated portions of both Tarrant and Parker County as long as you're at least 1,000 feet from a prohibited structure, which is a church or a school," Wilson said. "And you have to do it from private property with the property owner's permission."

If someone is caught shooting fireworks in an unlawful manner, penalties can be assessed, with a fine up to \$2,000 per violation. Both the fire marshal's office and police handle those violations. The fire marshal's office will be patrolling each night from July 1-4, Wilson said.

No one should be lighting fireworks right now with the dry conditions, Wilson said, adding that people should enjoy fireworks by viewing one of the professional fireworks shows being conducted around the Metroplex.

"Because if your fireworks get away from you and set a

fire, then you could be facing not only civil penalties but also criminal charges," he said.

Parker County is in a burn ban, but Tarrant is not. As far as whether the burn ban affects fireworks, it takes specific verbiage in the order to prohibit fireworks, and to Wilson's knowledge, that wording was not included when the last burn ban was adopted.

"So, unless they make an amendment, fireworks will be allowed," he said.

Fireworks are explosives and should be treated with great respect.

"Every year, we see people who have been injured handling fireworks because they are so readily available and people don't realize the danger involved in handling them," he said. "We see a lot of tremendous injuries. So, treat them with respect."

Moses Druyman, chief and fire marshal of the Briar-Reno Fire Department, said fireworks are actually permitted within the city of

Reno, the city of Sanctuary and Briar (unincorporated Tarrant County). Within the city limits of Pelican Bay and Azle, fireworks are not permitted.

"Fireworks are not permitted to be discharged from a moving vehicle, at a moving vehicle, discharged from a public roadway, over the water or from a boat and cannot land onto another person's property," he said in an email. "Although fireworks are permitted within several of the cities and the unincorporated areas, due to drought conditions we do NOT recommend the discharge of aerial fireworks. Many of us love fireworks but this is not the year to be using them on your own. Leave it to the professional shows."

He added that violating the permitted uses of fireworks can result in a Class C misdemeanor and the confiscation of the fireworks. During the Fourth of July holiday, the Briar-Reno Fire Marshal's office will be on



The fireworks show at Follow the Flag at Azle Central Park in 2021. File Photo

patrol within Briar, Reno, Pelican Bay, Sanctuary and Northwest Parker County. If people have any questions, they can always contact fire officials from Briar-Reno FD when they see them, or call 817-677-4227.

Conserving water during the drought

FROM STAFF REPORTS

While much of Texas is in a drought, Texas Water Utilities is encouraging residents to implement additional water conservation methods.

U.S. Drought Monitor issued an updated map on June 16 that shows most of Texas in a drought of varying conditions. The map appears to show east Parker County in extreme drought conditions while the west side of the county varies from severe to moderate to abnormally dry. The consequences of a drought mean wildfires may be more common, crop

growth is stunted and water restrictions are necessary.

Todd Danielson, Texas Water Utilities Vice President of Engineering, encourages water conservation at this time so that residents can save money on water and continue to have water throughout the drought. Danielson provided the following tips:

- Water your yard in the morning or evening, or during a time of day with minimal direct sunlight to avoid loss through evaporation. Before sunrise is typically the best time.

- Make sure there are no leaks in your sprinkler system and that the heads are watering only plants and landscaping. Monitor the weather regularly to ensure you do not water on a rainy day.

Monitor water usage outdoors with the tuna can method. Place an empty tuna can on the part of your lawn that is being watered. Once the tuna can is filled, turn off your sprinkler. This ensures your lawn has received sufficient water for the week. If water is running off your lawn, you may need to split this watering into two or

three separate applications.

Wash your car at a car wash instead of at home because a commercial car wash uses about 60% less water than washing at home. If you do wash your car at home, minimize runoff by reducing water use, using a spray nozzle to restrict water flow and wring out sponges/rags over a bucket or sink. Or use waterless car wash products for spot cleaning.

Replace mulch around shrubs and garden plants to help them retain moisture and remove weeds and thatch so they don't compete

with plants for water.

Cut down or stop use of fertilizer. Fertilizer encourages thirsty new growth, causing your landscape to require additional water. Or switch to products that contains "natural organic" or "slow-release" ingredients. Use native plants in your yard to avoid the need for fertilizers and pesticides and use less water.

Raise your lawn mower cutting height because long grass promotes deeper root growth and a more drought resistant lawn. Cutting off more than one-third

of the blade of grass at once could shock the plant, preventing it from healthy growth. Mulching the grass clippings back onto your lawn provides moisture, organic, and fertilizer content, which reduces the need for water.

Try xeriscaping. This landscaping literally means to conserve water—"xeri" means "dry," therefore xeriscaping is "dry landscaping." Consider using native drought-tolerant plants such as Texas Sage, Texas Redbud, Desert Willow and Trailing Lantana.

Springtown overdose awareness group asking for school supplies donations

BY MADELYN EDWARDS
madelyn@azlenews.net

Springtown overdose awareness group "We ARE our brothers keeper" is collecting school supplies to distribute to the community.

The group is asking for donations of pencils, pens,

paper, folders, binders, backpacks, crayons, highlighters, markers, glue, tape, calculators, notebooks, erasers, rulers, scissors and other school supplies. Donations are being collected through July 31 at the Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce and at the Springtown Police

Department.

Jessica Castro, co-founder of "We ARE our brothers keeper," said the supplies will be handed out at the group's overdose memorial on Aug. 6.

For more information, call 817-629-6129.

NOTICE

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS and REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR DESIGN/BUILD OF PARKER COUNTY ESD1 – FIRE STATION NO. 46 & NO. 47

(Parker County, Texas)

This is notice of a Request for Qualifications AND a Request for Proposals ("RFQ/RFP"). This will be a two-step process. In Step 1, Parker County ESD1 ("PC- ESD1") seeks Responses to its Request for Qualifications ("Qualification Submissions") for the design and construction of up to two fire stations: FIRE STATION NO. 46 and NO. 47 ("Project"). No cost information is to be included in any Qualifications Submission. The Parker County ESD1 will select up to five finalists from the Qualifications Submissions that are properly received. In Step II, the PC- ESD1 will request Proposals for the full Project ("Proposals") from the Finalists selected by the PC- ESD1. The PC- ESD1 will select the Proposal that provides the Best Value to the PC- ESD1. Qualification submissions must arrive no later than 12:00PM on July 8th, 2022, at the Parker County ESD1 administration, address listed below. Qualification submissions will be opened at 1:00PM, on July 8th, 2022 at the same location.

The full RFQ/RFP and the Design Criteria Package are available from the PC- ESD1 at the following address:

**Parker County ESD1
C/O Stephen Watson
PO Box 323
315 Morrow Road
Springtown, Texas 76082**

It will also be made available on the Parker County Emergency Service District 1's website at the following address:

<http://www.pcesd1.com>

The Fire Chief of Parker County ESD1, Parker County, Texas is designated as the contact person for all inquiries, Telephone inquiries are permitted. The telephone number of the Fire Chief is Stephen Watson, Fire Chief of Parker County ESD1 is (817) 523-7598.

LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of BOBBY DALE CRABB, Deceased, were issued on July 15, 2021, in Cause No. 20P006, pending in the County Court of Parker County, Texas to: Wade Crabb, Dependent Administrator. 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 13 day of June, 2022. SORAYA JOSLIN, P.C. By: S/Soraya Joslin Soraya Joslin State Bar No. 00792408 P.O. Box 1267 Weatherford, Texas 76086 Telephone: (817) 386-8500 Facsimile: (817) 599-7005

ATTORNEY FOR THE ESTATE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of Jo Ann Turk

Notice is given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of Jo Ann Turk, Deceased, were issued to Dennis T. Perkins on June 13, 2022, in Cause No. 22P179, in the County Court of Parker County, Texas, which is still pending. All persons having claims against this estate are required to present their claims within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Claims should be billed to Dennis T. Perkins, Independent Administrator, at the Ruelas Law Firm, PLLC, c/o Jennifer S. Ruelas, Attorney at Law, 1020 Fort Worth Hwy. Ste. 500, Weatherford, Texas 76086.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of Frances Catherine Watkins

Notice is given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Frances Catherine Watkins, Deceased, were issued to Vincent Joseph Watkins on June 10, 2022, in Cause No. 22P196, in the County Court of Parker County, Texas, which is still pending. All persons having claims against this estate are required to present their claims within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Claims should be billed to Vincent Joseph Watkins, Executor, at the Ruelas Law Firm, PLLC, c/o Jennifer S. Ruelas, Attorney at Law, 1020 Fort Worth Hwy. Ste. 500, Weatherford, Texas 76086.

Reno City Council approves installation of fiber optic network

BY MADELYN EDWARDS
madelyn@azlenews.net

The Reno City Council approved allowing Frontier Communications to proceed with installing a fiber optic network in the city.

David Russell, Frontier's external affairs vice president, made a presentation to council about the installation process at the council's Monday meeting. The telecommunications company plans to extend fiber optic cables to its customers and use high-intensity lasers to

direct communications over light wavelengths into customers' homes and businesses. The fiber optic network is expected to handle the demand from more devices being able to connect to the network.

"This new network will provide broadband speeds from 50 megabits per second up to two gigabits per second with the potential to provide even faster service in the future," Russell said.

Installing the fiber optic network won't replace the existing copper network, and

customers can continue to use copper, if they'd prefer that, Russell said. He said the fiber optic network is almost identical to the copper-based network but "just a lot faster."

Russell said Frontier Communications is investing in fiber optics networks because of connection needs related to remote work, remote learning and connecting to streaming services to watch movies and television shows.

"With the changes we've all seen in our society over the past two years – thanks to the pandemic – the need

for this type of network makes more sense today than it ever has," he said.

Placing the cable is expected to start next month and take four to five months, Russell said. The network is expected to encompass almost the entire community at about 3,700 homes. Completion is expected to take place before the end of the year.

Russell said Frontier will hand out informational door hangers to residents and businesses in areas where crews will be working, and

the door hangers will have contact information for people to call if they have questions or concerns. Signs will also be posted in work areas and removed when the work is done.

"We take pictures or, more commonly, we actually take video of each street before we begin construction so that we know what it looked like before our work and will be able to have our construction contractor – that's American Utility – restore it appropriately after the work is finished," Russell said.

Through this process, handholes – an underground cabinet – will be buried at some residents' homes and will serve four to eight customers, Russell said.

The council approved Frontier moving forward with installing the fiber optic network unanimously. Council member Jeff Davis remarked that the audience of residents seemed to approve of the decision.

"We got 'ayes' out there, too," Davis said. "So, in other words, they're saying, 'Hurry up.'"

Faith lessons from the Master Chef kitchen

She won immunity with Deconstructed Black Forest Cake.

Mrs. Sweetie and I are fans of the *Master Chef* television show — one of the many ventures of iconic celebrity chef Gordon Ramsay.

The current season (11) invited back 40 contestants from the previous 10 seasons to return and compete for a chance to win the Master Chef title that eluded them in their previous attempt.

In the most recent episode we watched, the contestants had to cook an elevated version of the dish that got them eliminated the last time. The one whose dish was judged as the best would win immunity from the next elimination challenge.



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.

challenge.

Emily, an amazing baker, was a promising contestant from a previous season. But the Black Forest Cake that she attempted collapsed as she was constructing it, resulting in her elimination.

This time around, she made a Deconstructed Black Forest Cake. It had all the same ingredients, but they were rearranged and presented differently across the plate, so there was nothing that could collapse.

And — as the first line of this post indicated — hers was judged to be the best dish of the night.

For the past several years, more and more is being written about deconstructed faith. Books, articles and blog posts abound on the subject, and tension continues to rise between those who are proponents of the deconstruction and those who are critics.

I readily admit that this is a gross oversimplification of

the issue, but I hope it will help frame it for the limited length of this post:

Some proponents of the deconstruction may have found themselves disillusioned by the faith passed on to them. Some feel that they have been deceived, manipulated or marginalized. They may have found something lacking in what was delivered to them as truth — and the structures and systems that resulted — and they are not sure what to do with it.

Critics of the deconstruction may have felt that the proponents have tried to destroy or abandon the faith in their deconstruction of it. They may view deconstruction as an unfair and unin-

formed attack by those who didn't have a strong enough foundation of faith from the start.

Might I suggest that we could learn something from the kitchen?

Emily's deconstructed cake did not completely abandon the concept of a black forest cake and replace it with a fish sandwich. She didn't suggest that all black forest cakes should be destroyed because the ingredients are all faulty and no one should ever make a black forest cake again.

All the essential ingredients were still there. She just abandoned the familiar form, structure and presentation and highlighted the in-

gredients in a different way — a way defined by those essential ingredients rather than by the traditional structure.

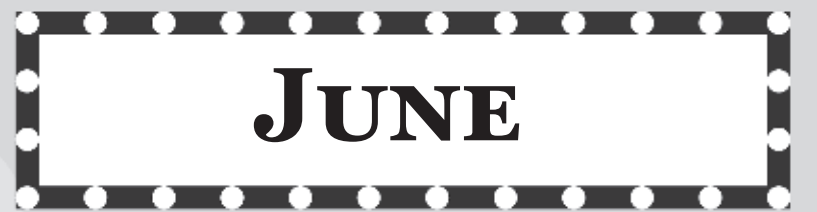
Is it possible that we sometimes cling more tightly to the structures of faith than the essential components of faith? Can the message get lost in the methods?

Could we possibly be strengthened in genuine faith by taking some of those structures apart and allowing God to rebuild them in us in a less familiar format?

Revelation 21:5 - "He who was seated on the throne said, 'I am making everything new!'"

Be amazing today, my friend.

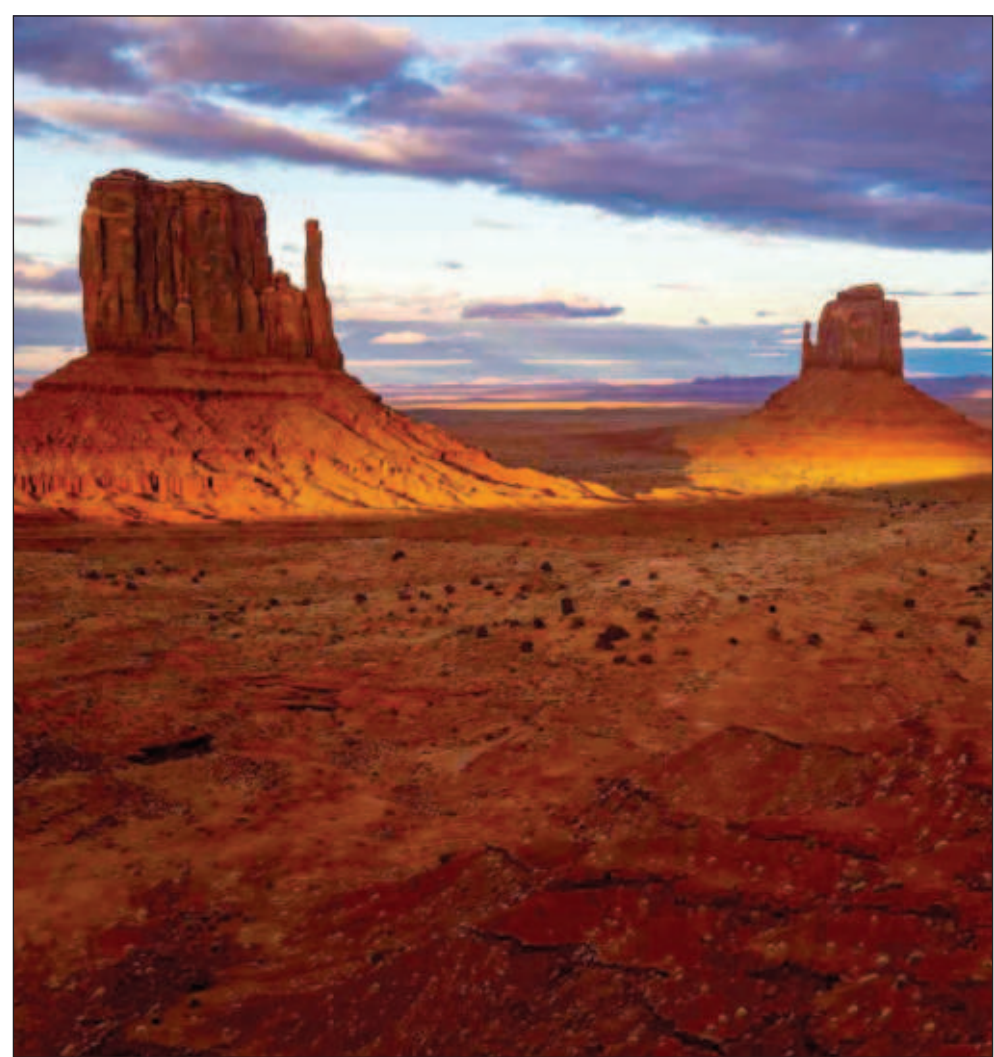
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Obituaries

Richard Rhodes

1946- 2022

Richard Rhodes, 76, passed away June 10, 2022.

Funeral service will be held Thursday, June 30 at 10 a.m. at Northwest Church of Christ, Boat Club Road and Azle Ave. Visitation at Greenwood Funeral Home, Wednesday, June 29 from 6-8 p.m.

Richard was born Jan. 5, 1946, in Maxey, Texas (Paris Texas) to D.H. and Barbara (Leatherwood) Rhodes. He was the eighth of ten siblings. Richard served his country in the United States Air Force. He was a postman for 28 years and was a faithful Christian at Northwest Church of Christ. When they moved to Springtown, he was also a faithful Christian at Springtown Church of Christ. Richard was a deacon at both churches for years.

Richard was a sweet and gentle man who loved God, family and friends.

Richard was preceded in



death by his parents, Dennis and Barbara; two sisters, Eloise and Mary Evelyn; four brothers, Cecil, James, Robert, and Bobby.

Richard is survived by his loving wife, Patricia, of 53 years; daughter, Wendi and husband David; two grandchildren, Corey and Sarah; three brothers, Willie, Joe, and Kenneth; sister-in-law Linda Blackwell and many nieces and nephews.

The Springtown Epigraph
June 23, 2022 Edition

Priscilla Varney

1947- 2022

Priscilla (Prissy) Ann Varney, 75, went to be with her Lord and Savior on Wednesday, June 15, 2022.

A graveside service was held June 21, 2022 at Springtown Cemetery.

She was born March 5, 1947 in Fort Worth to William and Roxie Newman Renois who both welcomed her in heaven. Priscilla was active in the Springtown Community. She loved everyone and everyone loved her. Priscilla never met a stranger. She was a member of the First Baptist Church in Springtown for many years. Priscilla worked at Level's Grocery for ten years and volunteered for the Chamber of Commerce. She was a loving mother and grandmother.



Priscilla is survived by her daughter, Angela Hinton; son, Jason Hinton, and his wife Susan; brothers, Randy and Paul Renois; grandchildren, Amber, Justin, Erin, Dustin; great-grandchildren Cayden, Sierra, Camden and Lane.

The Springtown Epigraph
June 23, 2022 Edition

Melvin Martin

1942- 2022

Melvin Edward (Sunny) Martin, 80, passed away June 9, 2022 Fort Worth.

He was born in Stephenville May 8, 1942 to Malvin and Sophia Mae (Earls) Martin. Sonny was preceded in death by his parents and his wife of 43 years Bonnie Martin.

Sonny was well known in the Springtown area and was a regular at all of the local cafes. He loved the Springtown community and had many friends. Sonny owned M.E. Martin Trucking for many years. He was an active member of Good Guys Hotrod club. Sonny was a loving father and good friend. He will be dearly missed.

He is survived by his chil-



dren, Allen Martin and Eddie Martin; daughter Sherri Kayser; long time friends Kenneth Beck and his wife Christina and Charlie Gable, several grandchildren and extended family.

The Springtown Epigraph
June 23, 2022 Edition

Wonda Bryant

1941- 2022

Wonda Jo "Jody" Bryant, age 80 of Azle, Texas passed away Saturday, June 18, 2022 in Ft. Worth, Texas.

Visitation was from 6 to 8 p.m., Wednesday, June 22, 2022 at Biggers Funeral in Lake Worth, Texas.

Service is at 10 a.m., Thursday, June 23, 2022 at New Hope Baptist Church Boyd, Texas with Bro. Jim Edwards officiating. Interment: New Hope Cemetery, Boyd, Texas following service.

Jody was born in Hope, Arkansas to the late Sammy and Rosa Lee Powell on Oct. 14, 1941.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 50 years Paul E. Bryant, Sr. and one brother, Holland "Bud" Powell.

Her survivors include her brother, Roy Lynn Powell and wife, Kathy of Hope, Arkansas; two sons, Paul E. Bryant, Jr. and wife, Kim of Ft. Worth, Texas and Mark Bryant and wife, Kristin of Springtown, Texas; two



daughters, Eva Rose Dutton and Diana Whitehead, both of Azle, Texas; seven grandchildren, Kylene Hubbard and fiancé Jody Stephens, Gary Burns Jr and Angi, Sydney Deal and husband, Ryan, Christopher Harris and wife, Nancy, Josie Bryant, Landree Bryant, and Jett Bryant; five great-grandchildren, Koraline Robinson, Daisie Waller, Jaxx Burns, Griffin and Crosby Deal, and a host of other family and friends.

The Springtown Epigraph
June 23, 2022 Edition

Talk about killing someone with kindness



DEAR FRANKIE

By Geneva Woodruff

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

Dear Frankie,
My brother Davy and I are Jack Russell terriers. We are known for being great hunters. Only one of us, however, acts like a Jack. Can you guess which one? Right, me!

The first thing in the morning, our dads let us out into the yard. I immediately survey the property for geckos, toads and snakes. God help them if there is one out there. Davy, on the other paw, plays with his ball and basks in the sun. When we are called inside for breakfast, we both get the same amount of food. I don't even get a treat for everything I do to keep us safe. Do you think that's fair?

Miffed, Cheer

Dear Cheer,
I do think it is fair. Dogs and humans eat food for nourishment and fuel. Using food as a treat can be a slippery slope. I'm not opposed to an occasional treat

here and there, but I have serious concerns about them being a regular part of a dog's diet.

Have you ever noticed how many overweight dogs there are at the park? Many have bulked up because their owners want to please them by feeding them treats all day long.

Talk about killing someone with kindness. These dog owners mean well, but they aren't doing their dogs any favors. Obesity causes all sorts of physical and emotional issues for dogs. Fat dogs eventually have trouble breathing and walking.

Some dogs become so dependent on treats they develop negative behaviors like barking and begging to get their owners' attention. The next time you pass a mirror, I suggest you pause and revel in that svelte Jack in the reflection.

Best, Frankie

Springtown chamber requests donations for New Teacher Luncheon

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce is collecting items to put in welcome bags that will be distributed at the New Teacher Luncheon.

The luncheon is expected to be held Aug. 11. The chamber announced that 50 items are needed for the welcome bags, and the chamber asks for donations of coupons, gift cer-

tificates, hand sanitizers, pens, pencils and notepads. Door prizes are also being collected to give to teachers at the luncheon. The deadline for donations is Aug. 4.

To donate items to the chamber, call 817-220-7828, email info@springtownchamber.org or drop items off at the chamber's office on the Springtown Square.

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ON FISHING

Serious summer changes come early

This extreme heat early in the summer is changing the fishing patterns early this year. Water is stratifying and thermoclines are developing on most of north Texas lakes. Water temperatures are from the middle 80s to near 90 degrees. We have discussed the potential thermocline development, but now it is occurring.

In just a few days on the water this last week, I watched these changes start to take hold. Fish located in deeper water are no longer there.

What I am talking about is the typical summer stratifying of our local waters. Most of our relatively shallow Texas waters will stratify during the heat of summer. The top layer of water between the thermocline and surface will be the most oxygenated water. The layer of water below the thermocline is typically void of oxygen, and most fish cannot survive



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

there.

The layer of water called the thermocline is the transition between the top layer of water and the uninhabitable area below the thermocline. There is typically a sharp drop in temperature in this thermocline which at times makes it a favorable place for many species; however, oxygen levels are not necessarily the best.

Striped bass in the summer and several other species tend to "stress" in the Texas heat and at times will opt for the slightly cooler water in the thermocline versus feeding in the hotter water above the thermocline. Many fish will lose weight in the heat of summer, trying to survive.

mer, trying to survive.

Thermoclines can come and go in the summer. Sometimes rain and wind will cool and mix up the water. With little or no wind action and the intense heat, the thermoclines can reestablish quickly.

Thermoclines can be your friend too. In fact, thermoclines eliminate a large portion of the livable area in the lake and in many cases, will congregate the fish. Using this information to your advantage is critical when fishing right now.

So how do you know if there is a thermocline present? Some graphs with the gain on the highest setting will identify the area with a

dark band at a certain depth. Another surefire method is when fishing with live minnows or shad. When your bait starts to die quickly at a certain depth, you probably need to put your presentation shallower until you can find a "happy" depth where your live bait will not die.

On Lake Granbury, we typically get a thermocline somewhere down around 15 to 25 feet below the surface. Thermoclines can be different on different areas of the reservoir. For instance on Lake Whitney, one area had a thermocline around 25 feet down and another area you could get your bait down to over 30 feet without a problem.

I have located schools of striped bass suspended in a thermocline that were not leaving their location. If you could get a fresh bait down on their nose, you could catch fish. The bait would survive long enough to en-

FISHING REPORT

Lake Granbury water temperatures are in the middle to upper 80s on the main lake and even higher in the shallows. Black bass are good on main lake points and docks on crank baits and soft plastics. Keeper striped bass are slow to fair to 6 pounds on live shad on the lower ends near points and feeding flats. Look for surface schooling action early and late. Sand bass and small striped bass are good on slabs or trolling from Indian Harbor to DeCordova. Look for these sand bass and stripers in shallow water (10 to 15 feet). Crappies on structure are good on small minnows and jigs. Catfish are good on cut shad on many areas of the lake.

Lake Whitney limits of striped bass continue to be good on live bait on the lower ends near the island. Look for feeding fish early and late. Whitney sand bass are good near McCown and near the island. Possum Kingdom Lake striped bass to 10 pounds are good on live shad or down-rigging jigs on the lower ends.

vice a bite. If you didn't get a bite, you might as well reel up and replace the suffocated bait with a fresh one and try again.

As with any summer, your best times are typically early and late. Also, any summer rain will cool the surface and

will more than likely kick off a feeding frenzy. Pray for rain, we could use it.

With the thermocline present, look for humps or structure above the thermocline to locate fish and hopefully you will find some fish willing to feed.

Reno P&Z approves creation of water infrastructure committee

BY MADELYN EDWARDS
madelyn@azlenews.net

The Reno Planning and Zoning Commission approved creating a water infrastructure committee during its meeting earlier this month.

The committee may be made up of P&Z members,

residents, city council members and the city administrator. The committee is tasked with studying the recommendations of engineering studies, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality standards, write grant applications, support council recommendations and assist the city administrator, P&Z

Commission Chairperson Brian Schrader said.

"I believe the city needs more transparency and informed decisions on matters as critical as life sustaining water," Schrader said at the meeting.

Reno City Council is expected to discuss this committee further at the council

meeting in July, Mayor Sam White said. After the committee is established officially, the group is expected to make a report to council.

White said the end goal is to one day have a water board.

"Eventually, we're going to go to a water board," White said. "This is leading

up to a water board."

Schrader proposed forming the committee to give more support to City Administrator Scott Passmore, who also heads up the public works department, as well as transparency to the council and public.

"The city of Reno does not employ a city engineer,"

Schrader said. "Although Mr. Passmore has done a commendable effort maintaining all the city services and infrastructure, I believe he is overloaded and somewhat out of his element in training."

Schrader, who is a civil engineer, was chosen by P&Z to lead this committee.

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BOOK REVIEW

Lessons for leaders from four-legged teachers

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

The guy on the opposing side is many times your weight and more than twice your girth.

He's not happy, either. He's snorting and huffing and pacing, eyes wild, and he might lash out at any minute. Thing is, you have to work with this guy, so there's gotta be a way to get him on your side. With the new book, "Think Like a Horse: Lessons in Life, Leadership, and Empathy from an Unconventional Cowboy" by Grant Gollhofer, why not learn how to make him your partner?

When Wyoming rancher and horseman Grant Gollhofer brings corporate clients

to his historic Diamond Cross Ranch for team-building experiences, execs are often amazed that he can take a horse from terrified to saddle-worthy in a surprisingly short time. During that process, as they stand aside to watch, Gollhofer teaches corporate teams that getting cooperation from an equine is a lot like getting it from a human.

People and horses need many of the same things to succeed, he says: "Trust, patience, firmness, kindness, and respect" are essential, no matter how many legs your "friends" stand on. And "if you don't believe in a horse — or a person, for that matter — you shouldn't be working

with him in the first place." Gollhofer says the best way to deal with human and horse is by "trying to put yourself inside the experience of another." Know what they dislike, what motivates them, and what makes them comfortable enough to trust. If you're surprised by their actions, you weren't paying enough attention.

"Be as soft as you can," says Gollhofer, "but be as firm as necessary."

Don't tolerate attitude, but discipline with love. Give credit to someone who's trying and praise the "smallest change." Don't ask questions if you don't really want the answer. Learn what T-R-U-S-T stands for, then work

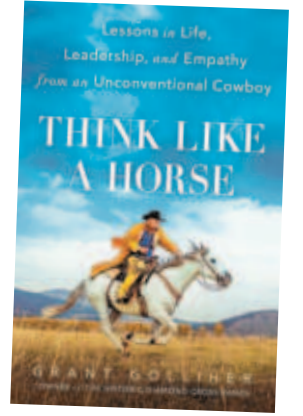
to get it and keep it. Never be afraid to "move your feet." Set clear boundaries and expectations, "Make the right thing easy and the wrong thing difficult," Gollhofer says, and then let them have "the freedom to choose."

The first time you run through "Think Like a Horse," you may believe that the book is little more than the reminiscences of a cowpoke. That should spur you to run through it again because there's a lot more to this book than just horse-flesh.

It is true that author Grant Gollhofer writes primarily about horses here and that, in itself, is very entertaining, in the way that an old-time

western or a weekend ride can make you smile. There's an easy feel to that and it somewhat cloaks the advice, leaving behind lessons that you may not initially realize you've learned. Then again, it's not all happy trails, as readers who are looking specifically for help getting the most out of life with co-workers, employees, kids, neighbors or students will quickly see that they're in the right arena.

And so, if your relationships are anything less than stable, read "Think Like a Horse" and then trot out what you've gleaned. Learn from its methods and let its stories rope you in.



"Think Like a Horse: Lessons in Life, Leadership, and Empathy from an Unconventional Cowboy" by Grant Gollhofer

© 2022, Putnam, \$28.00, 260 pages

CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

Broadband access in rural areas expansion

BROADBAND ACCESS

State Comptroller Glenn Hegar last week released his agency's plan to support the expansion of broadband internet access to areas with limited or no access. Hegar and his agency's Broadband Development Office received feedback through a series of town halls, virtual discussions and more than 16,000 responses to a survey.

"An important, recurring theme has been the reminder that though high-speed internet may once have been a luxury, it is now a necessity," Hegar wrote in a letter to Texas legislators. "Texans need reliable, high-speed connectivity for a wide range of potential applications including public



CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders

Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches and Cedar Park. gborders@texaspress.com.

health, safety, education and modern agriculture."

Census data collected in 2020 indicates as many as 7 million Texans — nearly one-fourth of the state's population — do not have broadband access. The issue disproportionately affects rural communities, low-income families and communities of color, the report said.

The report notes the statewide plan will require additional funding. The Legislature provided \$5 million to jump-start the Broadband Development Office, and the

federal American Rescue Act allocated \$500.5 million for broadband expansion. In addition, the recently passed infrastructure bill allocates at least \$100 million.

By early next year, the BDO will:

Establish a broadband-focused, federally compliant grant program.

Publish a broadband availability map.

Manage recurring coordination and communication opportunities across stakeholder groups.

"Texas faces a huge challenge: Connecting over 1

million households to high-speed broadband, improving connectivity for over 5.6 million households, improving affordability of broadband for 3.6 million households and assisting 3.8 million Texans with digital literacy challenges," Hegar said.

TEST SCORES RISE SLIGHTLY IN THREE SUBJECTS

Test results released last week by the Texas Education Agency showed modest improvement in three subject areas over last year. However, they still are lower than they were before the pandemic.

High school students took the State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness in four subjects required to graduate: algebra, English I

and II, biology and U.S. history. Compared to last year, scores rose in all but English I and II, which were largely unchanged.

Test score results are still short of the pre-pandemic results from 2019. In algebra, for example, scores are 16 points lower than spring 2019.

"We have made some progress to date, but there is still work to be done to fully recover from the academic effects of the COVID slide," TEA Commissioner Mike Morath said.

Results for STAAR tests taken by students in grades 3-8 will be made public this week.

TEXAS AGAIN LEADS NATION IN JOBS CREATED

May employment num-

bers released by the Texas Workforce Commission show the state has added 762,400 nonagricultural jobs since May 2021. The seasonally adjusted jobless rate in May was essentially unchanged at 4.2 percent.

"Texas continues to set records for employment growth with more than 250,000 jobs added from the beginning of this year through May," said TWC Chairman Bryan Daniel. "Training and upskilling are crucial to maintain this level of employment growth, and TWC remains committed to offering innovative training programs."

The job increase is the highest in the nation, with a record 13.357 million Texans employed, according to TWC.

CREATURES THAT GLOW

Light in the Deep

Most of the world's glowing animals live in the sea.

These glowing creatures live down in the inky dark, deepest parts of the sea where sunlight can not reach. Glowing body parts attract prey and scare away predators. Some fish confuse their enemies by blinking on and off while zigzagging through the water. Others attract mates and communicate using their flashing lights.

About half of all kinds of jellyfish are bioluminescent.

Find the jellyfish that match.

Standards Link: Life Science: Students know animals have structures that serve different functions in survival.

Some kinds of deep sea squid squirt glowing ink when they are attacked. In the black depths of the ocean, the glowing cloud blinds and confuses predators and lets the squid escape.

Standards Link: Life Science: Students know examples of diverse life forms in different environment such as oceans.

Angler Fish

This deep-sea creature fishes for food. It has a long, skinny fin on top of its head that works like a fishing rod. A little bulb filled with glowing bioluminescent bacteria sits at the end of the rod.

When it wants to eat, the angler fish dangles the glowing bait in front of its mouth. A curious fish swims up for a closer look and—snap! the angler fish's huge jaws snatch it up!

Angler fish are small, but they can be big eaters. Once, a 3-1/2 inch angler was found with a nearly 7-inch lantern fish in its stretchable stomach!

Help this little fish escape the angler fish.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Light Fantastic

Look through the newspaper to see if you can observe:

- something that lights up
- a word that rhymes with light
- a word that describes light

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Troubled Waters

Fireworms _____ an amazing _____ light show. Most of the time these worms live _____ in holes and _____ at the bottom of the sea. But two nights after each full _____, the fireworms _____ to the surface, all aglow. The females and males swim around in circles. The females send out a glowing _____ of eggs.

Find where each missing word belongs in this paragraph.

MOON CLOUD BURROWS SWIM UNDERWATER QUIETLY PRODUCE

Standards Link: Life Science: Students know animals have structures that serve different functions in reproduction.

Proof It!

Are you an eagle-eyed reader? Read the story below and circle the eight errors you find. Then rewrite the story correctly.

Safety in the Light

Bioluminescence can sometimes work as a great defence mechanism.

One kind of sea cucumber that lives the in deep ocean, can shed its glowing skin if attacked by a predator. This skin then sticks to its attacker, making the attacker a target for other predators?

Double Double Word Search

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

LIGHT
CREATURES
ANGLER
STOMACH
JELLYFISH
SPARKS
CLOUD
CONFUSE
CIRCLES
WORMS
GLOW
HOLES
DANGLES
FIN
SNAP

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

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

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Message in the Dark

Use the letters that spell the word BIOLUMINESCENCE and your newspaper to make a poem about the deep ocean.

Standards Link: Writing Applications: Students write acrostic poems.

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From left, team leaders include Todd Smith, Mackenzie Paseka, Benjamin Cannon, Kate Mitchell, Gabriel Martinez and Luke Holtman. Photo by Jeff Prince

MUSIC LOVERS

Sound of Springtown relies on passion, precision for new season

BY JEFF PRINCE
jeff@azlenews.net

Springtown High School's head drum major isn't a loud person — unless volume is required.

Then, look out.

During a mini camp in early June, Kate Mitchell recalled the audition process that pitted seven members in competition for the band's head drum major post. Mitchell took the honor after an extensive tryout that included interviews, an essay and exhibitions of conducting prowess.

The audition also required applicants to prove how well they can call others to attention.

"You're basically yelling at everyone," said Mitchell, a junior. "It's how loud and commanding you can be and how much they listen to

you."

Yelling at people isn't a way to win a popularity contest, but head drum majors can't worry about that.

"It's not much of a popularity thing," she said. "It's more how well you can lead. A lot of our most popular people don't necessarily want to lead, so they don't try out."

Seniors Benjamin Cannon and Mackenzie Paseka were selected as drum majors. About two dozen of the band's approximately 150 members were appointed to leadership positions.

PASSION PLAYS

Drum majors are known for their interesting arm movements while conducting, and each of those movements has a purpose.

"There are different patterns that make sort of an

arrow," Mitchell said. "Depending on where our hands go, it means a different beat."

During performances, the three drum majors stand on tall platforms to be seen easily, with Mitchell in the middle and Cannon and Paseka flanking her.

"We are at the front of the band, and we conduct," Mitchell said. "We hold the whole band together. We give them the tempo. Everyone is supposed to look to us to stay together."

A love of music attracted Mitchell to band, and she is now in her fifth year.

"My life has revolved around music since intermediate school," she said. "Listening to the radio, dancing in my bedroom — I'm also on the dance team — and playing instruments."

SEE BAND, PAGE 11A.



Kate Mitchell conducts the band at an indoor practice session during summer camp. Photo by Jeff Prince

STATUS QUO: No major rules changes embraced by UIL sports

FROM STAFF REPORTS

What might have been a memorable meeting of the University Interscholastic League's Legislative Council on June 14 turned out to be a relative yawner.

The council considers yearly rules changes that apply to athletics in Texas' public schools. Some of this session's proposals included implementing a shot clock in basketball, excluding freshmen from varsity play, moving soccer from the frigid months to the fall and limiting or eliminating coaches scratching officials.

Each of those ideas would have been controversial if allowed.

The UIL held public hearings in Austin to consider them but took no action. Few observers expected major changes to be implemented. The suggestions were submitted by the public for consideration. Last year, the committee took no action on a similar request to implement shot clocks.

The standing committee on athletics passed the following proposals, according to the UIL website:

- Codify off-season and summer strength and conditioning changes implemented as a response to COVID-19.
- Update a class and add a class to the list of courses for which there is an exception to the UIL rule that limits enrollment in physical education (PE) courses during the school day.
- Increase travel reimbursements for sports officials by \$5 beginning in the 2022-2023 school year.
- Establish a 10-year compensation plan for sports officials.

PROPOSALS THAT WERE DENIED, REJECTED OR RECEIVED NO ACTION:

- Alter the language of softball scrimmages per week.
- Allow the 15-run rule after three innings in bi-district and area softball.
- Prohibit freshmen athletes from participating in varsity competitions.
- Change soccer from a spring sport to a fall sport.
- Limit or eliminate coaches scratching of officials.
- Add a shot clock.
- Adjust track and field scoring to include scoring through eighth place

PROPOSALS THAT WILL CONTINUE TO BE MONITORED:

- Strength and conditioning for in-season athletes.
- Study participation protocol for UIL member schools competing against non-UIL schools

PROPOSALS FOR STUDY:

- Adjust the process of a PAPF (Previous Athletic Participation Form) if the previous school is a private school.
- Allow sixth grade participation at the 1A level (survey).
- Require a best of three series in all rounds of the 5A-6A baseball post season leading up to the state tournament.
- Allow the head golf coach and the assistant golf coach to actively coach during the course of play for all tournaments.
- Amend junior high track meet start times.

BAND, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10A.



A crossing guard blocks traffic while the marching band heads from the practice field to the stadium for a competition in 2021. Photo by Jeff Prince

What keeps her involved most is a sense of belonging.

"It's like a second family," she said. "It's a place to come to where you feel very included. It's like a happy place for me, especially with the music. I have all my friends here. I have my passion. It's great."

A drum major must overlook those friendships at times and be the boss, she said.

"We were told up front, if you are trying out for leadership, sometimes you are going to have to put your friendships aside," she said. "When you're on the clock, you are acting as a leader. You can't go easy on someone just because you've been friends for years or however long. You have to hold everyone accountable the same amount."

SECTION LEADER

Just below drum majors in terms of authority are section leaders. Gabe Martinez, a junior, serves as section leader for trombones and euphoniums.

He joined band in sixth grade and discovered his love of trombone after failed attempts at other instruments.

"I wanted to play the saxophone," he said. "Second was percussion. But I sucked at both of those. I ended up doing the trombone. I liked the tuning method, being slide. I thought it was very interesting and unique. That's why I stuck with it."

Playing trombone comes with added benefits. Not only can he play notes with style during marches, but he can also make funny sounds, such as the glissando used in cartoons and comedy sketches, or mimicking how the adult characters' voices sound to Charlie Brown in "Peanuts" TV cartoons.

His leadership position requires teaching other players about fundamentals, helping people with their music and "just any little task that may come along," he said.

Section leaders go through an audition like drum majors. Martinez thrived despite beginning his band career somewhat unenthusiastically.

"I didn't really care for music a whole lot when I started, but over time, I developed a love for music," he said. "It is pretty much my greatest passion out of everything. It's all I think about all the time, whether it's just listening to songs or playing music."

I, I CAPTAIN

Several captains were selected in addition to section leaders and drum majors, including Luke Holtman, a junior who plays clarinet.

As a captain, he said, "I get to walk around and check on other sections ... and make sure we're doing okay."

He is about to begin his seventh year in band. The extracurricular activity has taught him discipline in both school and life in general.

"I'd say one thing I've gained from doing band, especially in high school, is a drive to do things," he said. "Having that drive to get up and wanting to do things and having to do things and not just hitting that snooze button for five more minutes of sleep. You have a drive to go somewhere, to do something that you love."

SIDEKICKS

The drum majors — Mitchell, Cannon and Paseka — were good friends before and after the auditions, despite the intense competition. Mitchell took the top spot, but the other two have plenty to juggle.

"It's not an assistant, per se," Cannon said. "It's more like, (Mitchell) has a few extra responsibilities that I don't have as just a drum major. I do the same things she does pretty much with the band. And then, of course, when we're on the field, getting ready to play, I'm up there conducting alongside of Kate (Mitchell) and Kenzie (Paseka)."

The audition was stressful but fun, he said.

"It could be anyone's game during the entire process, so it was really surprising for us three to get picked because we are pretty good friends with each other," he said. "It was all announced at the same time. We were in this together and were pretty excited."

During the June band camp,

the drum majors worked overtime welcoming the sea of new faces.

"It's really nice to meet the new freshmen," Paseka said. "There (are) 60 or so new freshmen coming in. That's a lot of names to learn and getting them acclimated into the band and helping them figure things out."

Leaving middle school band and joining SOS can be frightening for some kids. Leadership team members make them feel welcome and secure.

In middle school, "you just sit in the room and play your music," Paseka said. In high school, "you go out on the field with seniors and all these other grades, and it can be very intimidating for them. We do a June camp to introduce them, so they come back in July, because we lose a lot of kids over summer. They just get too scared and don't come."

NEW SHOW

Summer camp was winding down, and the band leaders were still buzzing. They were thinking of the new marching season that begins in August, the new straight-leg marching technique they've been practicing and the new program they are learning.

"We are trying to teach our warmups and fundamentals to the freshmen and re-teach it to the veterans that have been coming," Cannon said. "That's basically what we've been working on these

past three days."

In the mornings, when the weather was cooler, they practiced physical movements outside. Then, in the afternoon, they went inside to practice in their music sections.

Last year's musical presentation, Game of Life, carried the Sound of Springtown far. The band nailed its two performances at the state marching contest and did as well as any other band in school history, finishing as the ninth-best Class 4A marching band in Texas.

This year, the band is doing a show titled Wander.

"It's a marching show about a journey," Cannon said. "It's like a road trip kind of thing."

The program is based on a passage written by author J.R.R. Tolkien:

*All that is gold
does not glitter,
Not all those who
wander are lost;
The old that is strong
does not wither,
Deep roots are not
reached by the frost.*

The band members received their music for Wander at the summer camp but won't begin focusing on it until July.

"We are really going to break it down," Paseka said. "It's a good show. There is really good music."

Parker County Youth Livestock Show results

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Here are the Springtown champions and reserve champions of the 2022 Parker County Livestock Improvement Association's youth livestock show, which ended earlier this month.

Breeding heifer:

Reagan Kelley, Springtown FFA: European Reserve Champion

Breeding lamb:

Kannon Travis, Springtown 4-H: Southdown Champion

Breeding lamb showmanship:

Kannon Travis, Springtown 4-H: second place junior
Emma Hauprich, Springtown 4-H: second place senior

Market lamb:

Kallie Conway, Springtown FFA: Fine Wool Reserve
Paige Winstead, Springtown FFA: Fine Wool Cross Champion

Ava Kelley, Springtown FFA: Southdown Reserve
Summer Conway, Springtown FFA: Market Lamb Reserve Champion and Medium Wool Reserve

Tate Haught, Springtown FFA: Hair Sheep Reserve

Market lamb showmanship:

Kallie Conway, Springtown FFA: first place senior
Kylie Altom, Springtown FFA: second place junior

Breeding dairy goats:

Dylan Hoes, Springtown 4-H: Junior Grand and Senior Reserve

Breeding goat showmanship:

Dylan Hoes, Springtown 4-H: first place junior
Madison Shreves, Springtown 4-H: second place senior

Broiler:

Wyatt Hampe, Springtown 4-H: Reserve Champion

Poultry showmanship results:

Wyatt Hampe, Springtown 4-H: first place senior
Naomi Kilian, Springtown 4-H: third place senior
Preston Cornell, Springtown 4-H: fourth place senior

Breeding rabbits:

Shelby Hampe, Springtown 4-H: Class 4 Reserve
Wyatt Hampe, Springtown 4-H: Breeding Rabbit Reserve Champion and Class 6 Champion

Rabbit showmanship:

Shelby Hampe, Springtown 4-H: first place junior
Wyatt Hampe, Springtown 4-H: first place senior
Bella Feliciano, Springtown 4-H: second place senior

Market swine:

Wyatt Hasty, Springtown FFA: Market Swine Grand Champion, Yorkshire Champion and Dark Cross Champion

Kallie Conway, Springtown FFA: Hampshire Reserve



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817-220-7217 - Springtown - shirley@springtown-epigraph.net

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Shinola's Texas Cafe in Springtown is hiring Cooks! We are continuing to grow as our in house and catering business expands. Please come by and one of our managers will be happy to assist you. 301 Martin Ave. Springtown

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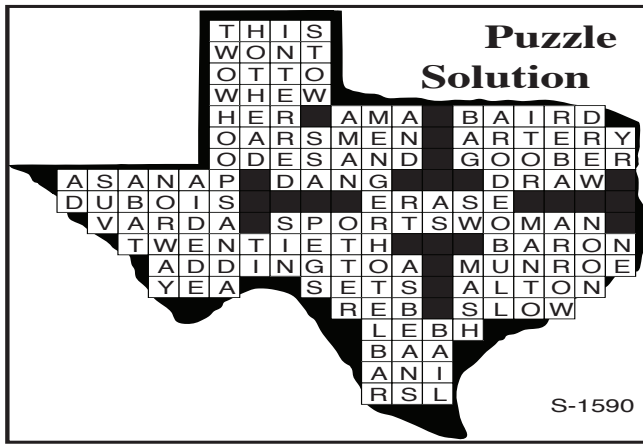
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TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

1 TXism: "in ___ neck of the woods"

5 TXism: "that dog ___ hunt"

6 Texas Ranger pitcher, Glen

7 expression of relief

8 TX Farrah Fawcett film: "Somebody Killed ___ Husband"

9 doctors' org.

12 seat of Callahan County

17 racing team rowing guys

19 blood vessel

21 ___ sonnets (poems)

22 peanut

23 TXism: "quick ___ in church"

28 TX-born Roger Miller 1964 hit: "___ Me"

29 gunfighter skill in early Texas: "quick ___"

30 Lake Ray Roberts area: "isle ___"

31 TXism: "wipe the slate clean"

35 "___ Space" will build first industrial space station

36 TX Simone Biles was "___ of the Year" in 2014

42 TX NFL Hall-of-Famer Forrest Gregg was drafted ___ in 1956

44 Bastrop was named for one

46 ___ will in Texas requires an addendum or a codicil

48 TX Farrah's character Jill on "Charlie's Angels"

49 "___ or nay"

50 "The sun never ___ on Uncle Sam"

51 in Hidalgo County on highway 107

52 CFA soldier: "Johnny ___"

53 "___ but sure"

DOWN

1 TXism: "just ___ holler away" (near)

2 a person who might have "road rage" in Houston? (hnp.)

3 buried

4 place in storage

9 Apollo 11: "one small step for ___"

10 Teddy Roosevelt recruited Rough Riders in this San Antonio site (3 wds.)

11 Cut ___ Shoot, TX golf clubs tote

13 TXism: "mean as ___"

14 in Grand Prairie: "Ripley's Believe ___ Not!"

15 TX Kelly Clarkson is daughter-in-law to this McEntire

16 this former Cowboy, Pearson, is now in NFL Hall of Fame

18 fed. retire. agcy.

20 2022, e.g. (abbr.)

23 business info. in a Texas newspaper

24 Texas "soccer mom" vehicle? (abbr.)

25 "blind as ___"

26 the capital city of this country is Oslo

27 ___-camp

32 TX actor Torn (init.)

33 TXism: "honest ___ the day is long"

34 dir. from Canyon to Hereford

36 TXism: "old as ___"

37 golf tees

38 semiaquatic mammal: river ___

39 TXism: "a ___ walk the river with"

40 bow and

41 classic western: "High ___" (1952)

43 Texas electronics corp.

45 dir. to Cameron from New Braunfels

47 "bland ___ without salt pork"

48 sour ___

55 TXism: "jump ___" (escape)

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